



Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation CONNECTING OUR PATHWAYS

BEHIND THE SCENES

By Ken Bell, HSOSC Co-president

The big news this past month is adding Cantor Alexandra Fox to our future clergy team. We are so excited to have Cantor Fox joining Rabbi Sabath starting July 1 to lead us for years to come.

Further, in addition to our new clergy, we look forward to a better year in so many ways. Hopefully, God willing, the Covid-19 numbers will continue to improve and more and more of us will be able to get vaccinated. Sherri and I are so grateful that we able to receive our second vaccine this past week. Similarly to so many of you, we are looking forward to spending more time with our children and grandchildren. In addition, our Building Reopening Committee will continue to meet and determine when it is safe to reopen our beautiful synagogue that has been closed for far too long. Until we can fully open the building, we will allow some B'nai Mitzvahs indoors with limited numbers with requirements for masks and social distancing. Also, this past week, we have re-installed our tent to allow for outdoor events. The tent will stay up until we can fully reopen the building.

On other fronts, many of our committees are hard at work. The Nominating Committee is working hard to come up with a slate of officers and Board members for the new term starting in July. Hopefully, you saw the notice last week from the Nominating Committee to apply if you are interested in becoming a Board member. We have kicked off the start of Social Action and Social Justice Committees that will help our congregation continue our mis-

sion of Tikkun Olam. A Membership Committee is also forming to look at better ways of engaging our members.

Many of you have also asked what is happening regarding the name for our congregation. After much discussion by the Board over the past several months about how to move forward, it was determined that we will table the naming process discussions until Rabbi Sabath joins us in July. These discussions will most likely not resume until after the High Holy Days. At that time, it will be up to the new Board and officers to determine how to move forward. Until then, we will remain Har Sinai – Oheb Shalom Congregation.

Finally, I would once again like to express our thanks to our clergy, staff, committees, and auxiliaries for making the necessary adjustments to successfully operate in our current virtual world. The programing, remote learning, Shabbat services, Purim bags, and everything else have been above and beyond what we had ever imagined at the start of the pandemic. Mina Wender and I also want to thank all of you for your continued support during this past year in Zooming in and driving by time and time again. You make us so proud to be able to serve you as co-presidents.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, or anything else please always feel free to reach out to either one us; Mina Wender, mwender@mcdonogh.org, and Ken Bell, krbell6mhc@gmail.com.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Officers

Ken Bell, *Co-President*

Mina Wender, *Co-President*

Sam Dansicker, *Co-Vice President*

David Sachs, *Co-Vice President*

Sharon Balan, *Co-Treasurer*

Joan Roth, *Co-Treasurer*

David Buchalter, M.D., *Secretary*

Trustees

Lisa Budlow	Adam Rosenberg
Micah Damareck	Jason Savage
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Mandee Heintz	Glenn Ulick
Abigail Hoffman	Andrew Weinman
Debbi Jacobs	Barry Yaffe
Wendy McChesney	Monroe Zeffert
Richard Milner	

CANTOR ALEXANDRA FOX JOINS AS INAUGURAL HSOSC CANTOR

By Mina Wender and Ken Bell, HSOSC Co-Presidents

The Board of Trustees recently convened another search committee to find a clergy partner for Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, PhD, when she joins us on July 1. With a permanent senior rabbi named and having shown the world that our congregation is serious about our future, our posting was a hit! The committee received an unprecedented number of applications and over the last several weeks conducted interviews, spoke with clergy and congregants from candidates' prior congregations, as well as their seminaries, and reviewed countless audio, video and writing samples.

Our goal was to find a cantor who could reinvigorate our b'nai mitzvah program, provide pastoral counseling, and increase engagement. This candidate must not simply provide the music, but also expand our musical program.

After our exhaustive search and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, we joyfully and proudly announce the selection of Cantor Alexandra S. Fox as Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation's inaugural cantor!

In 2013, Cantor Fox earned a Bachelor of Science in Music History from Hofstra University in New York and served as a Chaplain Intern while undergoing her Clinical Pastoral Education course at Northwest Memorial Hospital in Chicago, earning the Compassionate Cantor Prize from the Reform Cantors of Chicago. Cantor Fox earned a Master of Sacred Music and Cantorial Ordination from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Debbie Friedman School of Music. After graduating at the top of her class, she served for two years as the cantor at Peninsula Temple Sholom in Burlingame, California where she created a pop-up adult choir and a children's choir.

Cantor Fox's journey to the cantorate began when she was eight years old, inspired by her beloved childhood cantor. Originally from Michigan, Cantor Fox is a keyboardist, guitarist, and composer and is particularly excited to work with our many volunteer musicians. She is warm, engaging, experienced, and is looking forward to putting down roots in Baltimore.

We thank the members of the search committee for their incredible dedication, and we are grateful to Rabbi Rachel Sabath who, on her own personal time, was an active participant in the entire process and says, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to have a clergy partner with the talent and experience of Cantor Fox. Because of her musical and many other professional skills, I believe that Cantor Fox will be a wonderful partner. Together with Cantor Fox, and the support and commitment of the HSOSC community, I look forward to leading us toward a bright and inspiring new era."



THE SECOND PASSOVER DURING COVID-19

By Rabbi Jennifer Weiner, Interim Senior Rabbi

This year like last year, Passover feels different. We may clean our houses in preparation like in previous years. We may make our family's favorite Passover recipes. Yet, for the second year in a row, we are not able to gather for a Seder in person. The biggest difference is that now we are seasoned pros at virtual visits.

It really hit me that last year we said, "Next year in Jerusalem! Next year in person!" Once again, though, we will join together online for our seders this year. Last year as Passover approached, most of the Jewish world scrambled to figure out how to create a seder on ZOOM. This year at Har Sinai-Oheb Shalom Congregation, we will have a live seder on the first night and a short recorded seder that may be shared at any time for those watching and joining in together online. We learned a lot of lessons last year and are applying those lessons we to this year's offerings.

Lessons learned and applied:

- Seder is about family and community.
- Short and succinct is better. We will highlight what aspects of the seder most meaningful as relayed to us. When we are back in-person, we may add back in what we "missed" from this year.
- Creating community online is of utmost importance. Creating opportunities for inclusion of all and involvement of members is our focus.
- We will highlight the positive aspects of celebrating together online. When else are we able to have seder with loved ones living all around the world?!
- Seder is not about perfection. Rather, Passover is the time to recall our collective community's history and to remember that there are still individuals needing to be freed from their experience of bondage and slavery.

Celebrating Passover again online in a way is very much like what the Children of Israel experienced

in the desert after leaving Egypt. As they crossed through the Reed Sea, the community was led in song by Miriam. They sang *MiChamocho* to thank God for their deliverance from slavery. Shortly after that period of euphoria, the Israelites began to grumble and complain. They asked Moses why they had been brought out of slavery only to die in the desert. In their collective memory, Egypt had been much better. Slavery no longer seemed so harsh. Then the community was able to start looking towards the Promised Land and a new hope emerged. Along the way, though, there were many times that the community lost sight of its goal of making it to the Promised Land. They lost their way and rebelled. They, too, in a matter of speaking were cut off from the life they had known and had become accustomed to during slavery. Yet, they had their moment of redemption and freedom.

We, too, will have that moment of freedom from quarantine. Life will resume in one way or another. It will not be the same as before. Some will have survived COVID-19 while others will have succumbed to it. We, as a community, will be different. Passover will take on a different meaning for the greater Jewish community. Not only will the Exodus from Egypt be recalled but also the time of quarantine, a confinement in our own time.

In years to come, our children may very well recount to their children the years that Passover seders were ZOOMed instead of in-person. They will tell their children that on those nights a new means of celebrating was discovered, one in which we were both near and far away from each other. It may be the beginning of a new way of including family members and friends unable to join us in person but still joining in through technology.

Thus, as we gather to celebrate Passover at HSOSC this year, we will do so as a community. We will also be wishing each other, "Next year in Jerusalem! Next year in-person together!"

Chag Kasher Pesach...A Happy and Healthy Passover!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

Worship

FRIDAY EVENINGS

6:15 p.m.

Zoom ID: 890 4181 9852

Passcode: shabbat

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Torah Study, 8:45 a.m.

Zoom ID: 829 7806 5295

Passcode: 367046

Service, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom ID: 829 7806 5295

Passcode: 367046

MAZER MORNING MINYAN

8:00 a.m., Monday–Friday

9:00 a.m., Sunday

Zoom ID: 702 627 5137

MAZER MORNING LECTURE

SERIES: Mystical Tradition:

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

Zoom ID: 702 627 5137

This course focuses on mystical literature through the ages, and the great spiritual teachers within each tradition who composed such writings. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Zoom ID: 836 9295 5732

Passcode: BIBLE

Special Shabbats

FAMILY SHABBAT

Friday, March 12, 5:30–6:15 p.m.

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Weiner, song leader Rachel Wolman and the Posner JEM 3rd and 4th Grades class for our monthly Family Shabbat Service filled with music, prayer and spirituality.

TOT SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, March 19

Video available all day

This pre-recorded musical Shabbat experience designed for our youngest members and their families includes a special story each month!

B'nai Mitzvah

BAR MITZVAH OF

NOLAN KLAITMAN-SMALL

Saturday, March 6

10:00–11:30 a.m.

BAR MITZVAH FOR

JUSTIN YANKELLOW

Saturday, March 13

10:00 a.m.–Noon

Adult

MOM'S PASSOVER

PAINT NIGHT OUT!

Saturday, March 20

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Registration for this event must be received by March 16 to make sure we have enough supplies.

Join us for a fun socially-distant Paint Night Out under the tent while we decorate matzah covers with the amazingly talented artist, Juliet Gilden. Space is limited.

THE ANNUAL BALTIMORE QUEER

SEDER PASSOVER

Sunday, March 21

5:00–6:30 p.m.

This virtual Queer Seder is a chance to retell Passover narratives from unique and welcoming perspectives focusing on diverse gender expressions and sexualities and to connect with other LGBTQ Jews and allies in our community. Baltimore

PASSOVER: MATZA, PLAGUES,

CHAMETZ, OH MY...

Monday, March 22

7:30–9:30 p.m.

An overview of the seder, Passover highlights and celebrating the Festival of Freedom with joy led by Rabbi Jennifer Weiner.

Posner JEM

Religious School

Sundays, March 7, 14, 21

9:30–11:00 a.m.

TEEN ELECTIVE: THE EVOLUTION OF JEWS IN AMERICAN SITCOMS

with Nina Pachino

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17

5:00–6:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Thursday, March 4

7:00–8:00 p.m.

GRADE 8 & 9 CLASS

Tuesdays, March 9, 23

5:00–6:00 p.m.

Learning Ladder

Monday–Friday

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

We are offering priority enrollment for current Learning Ladder families and members of HSOSC. If you are looking for child care for the 2021-22 school year please respond as soon as possible, as spaces are limited. Some spaces are still available for the current 2020-21 school year as well.

We are a licensed child care center and preschool for children ranging in ages from 10 weeks through five years old.

Contact Aileen Friedman, (410) 358-9192 or aileen@hsosc-baltimore.org.

Complete information for each program is available on our website.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE.](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

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Family, Youth & Teens

THE SCIENCE GUYS "STAINED GLASS" MILK EXPERIMENT FOR GRADES PRE-K-4

Sunday, March 14
11:15-11:50 a.m.

Join Lindsay Gaister Montague and her friends "The Science Guys" for a virtual science experiment using materials found in your house! Learn how to amaze your friends by uncovering the scientific secrets of soap and creating what looks like "stained glass."

NATIONAL MUFFIN DAY VIRTUAL BAKING FOR TEENS

Sunday, March 14

Noon-2:00 p.m.
Join other teens from HSOSC, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, and 4Front for a virtual baking event in honor of National Muffin Day. This event will be a lot of fun and will focus on fighting against Hunger and Homelessness. Baking supplies will be delivered to you before the event! *All registrations must be submitted by March 9 in order to receive supplies.*

IN-PERSON PASSOVER CRAFT KITS!

Sunday, March 21
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Pre-registration is required
by March 16**

Families with children in Pre-K-4th Grade, join your HSOSC friends in-person, under the tent, for a fun morning of arts & crafts projects that you will be able to use at your Seder!

WEEKEND BACKPACKS FOR TEENS

Monday, March 22
7:00-8:00 p.m.

HSOSC Teens are invited to join Lindsay Gaister Montague at Weekend Backpacks to help pack bags for those less fortunate. Space is limited due to strict social distancing protocols. Masks will be required throughout the entire event.

Get excited for April!

Mark your calendar for a few of our special programs coming your way in April.

Friday, April 9, 6:15 p.m.

Artist Series with Doug Cotler

Saturday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

Artist Series with Marilyn Price

Friday, April 16, 6:15 p.m.

Artist Series with Rick Recht

Saturday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Michelle Azar—One woman play

SPICE COURSES

Let My Clutter Go

Session dates: March 3, 10, 17, 24
10:30 a.m.-Noon

Facilitator: Barbara Blumberg.

Register by April 4 to
sboxerbelle@gmail.com.

Politics, The Media, and The People
Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22, & 29

10:30 a.m.-Noon

Facilitator: Stephen Frantzich

Register by April 7 to
sboxerbelle@gmail.com.



THE ARZA COMMITTEE PRESENTS A VIRTUAL HAVDALAH AND YOUR PIC-ON-A-STICK CONCERT FUNDRAISER

March 13, 7:30 p.m.

Just buy a ticket! NO dress code. NO commute time. NO parking fee.

Just sit back in your home and enjoy the beautiful sounds of classical, Jewish and contemporary arrangements on the harp and piano as played by Wally and Paul.

Tickets: Orchestra Seat \$36 or Grand Tier Seat \$18

CLICK HERE

TO PURCHASE TICKETS



with Wally Ford & Paul Binko

Happy Passover



MOM'S PASSOVER PAINT NIGHT OUT!

Saturday, March 20, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Registration for this event must be received by March 16 to make sure we have enough supplies.

Join us for a fun socially-distant Paint Night Out under the tent while we decorate matzah covers with the amazingly talented artist, Juliet Gilden. Space is limited. Masks must be worn throughout the entire event. No food/drinks permitted, unless medically necessary.

IN-PERSON PASSOVER CRAFT KITS!

Sunday, March 21, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Please register online by March 16.

Join your HSOSC friends in-person, under the tent, for a fun morning of arts & crafts projects that you will be able to use at your Seder! Pre-registration is required, space is limited to ensure social distancing protocols.

THE ANNUAL BALTIMORE QUEER SEDER PASSOVER

Sunday, March 21, 5:00–6:30 p.m.

This virtual Queer Seder is a chance to retell Passover narratives from unique and welcoming perspectives focusing on diverse gender expressions and sexualities and to connect with other LGBTQ Jews and allies in our Baltimore community.

PASSOVER DRIVE-BY

Monday, March 22, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Our Passover drive-by gift bag includes goodies for the whole family. Stop by to participate in Passover with your HSOSC family. If the drive-by times don't work for your family, please email nina@hsosc-baltimore.org to arrange a pick-up in Pikesville or email lindsay@hsosc-baltimore.org to arrange a pick-up in Reisterstown at your convenience.

PASSOVER: MATZA, PLAGUES, CHAMETZ, OH MY...

Monday, March 22, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Led by Rabbi Jennifer Weiner

An overview of the seder, Passover highlights, and celebrating the Festival of Freedom with joy.

ZEFFERT AND GOLD IS OFFERING A SPECIAL PASSOVER MENU

[Click here to see the menu.](#) You may place an order by calling 410-944-4481. Orders should be placed over the phone due to the complexity of the menu. Place your order by Monday, March 22 at noon. Orders will be ready for pick-up or delivery at noon, Friday March 26.

CERAMICS SALE

We are once again partnering with ceramicist Faith Zenker who has beautiful Judaica for sale. Faith will donate 25% of our Temple Etsy sales back to HSOSC. For those who purchased her ceramic pieces for Chanukah, you will be thrilled to see what Faith has designed for Passover. For those unfamiliar with Faith and her ceramics, this is a great opportunity for you to take a look at her ceramics.

When purchasing on Etsy, enter "HSOSC Women's Club" in the notes section on the check-out page. Items will be delivered to HSOSC for pick up. [Click here to shop Faith Zenker Ceramics on Etsy.](#) Discount applies until March 25.



Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

WHO WE ARE

We are the combination of two historic Reform synagogues working together to create one joyful, warm, inclusive, and socially conscious congregation. Because we are striving to live our Jewish values through the lens of a dynamic modern-world, we are constantly growing and evolving in pursuit of that goal.

WHAT WE VALUE

We are a Congregation that...

... Fosters profound connections to one another. We work together in sacred partnership, building a community where all are included, respected, and valued. We celebrate with each other in our happiest moments and lift each other up in our most difficult ones.

... Advances our foundational value of repairing the world at home, in the Baltimore community, and far beyond our walls. We are committed to performing acts of loving kindness, providing service to others, and advocating for justice and peace.

... Appreciates the rich diversity of the Jewish community and invites all who desire a connection to Jewish life to join us. Our doors and hearts are open to interfaith couples and families, as well as people of all backgrounds, ages, races, financial means, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We welcome children and adults with disabilities and their families. We strive to ensure that our programs and facilities are accessible to all, and to accommodate special needs.

... Engages in vibrant, innovative, and transformational experiences that stimulate a lifelong love of Judaism in all generations. Through learning, music, prayer, lifecycle events, and social gatherings, we are creating a spiritual home for all of us.