



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RABBI...

On April 15, our congregation will gather for a Passover Seder for the first time since 2019. That adds up to 1,092 days between seders. That number seems surreal. Passover has long been one of the most joyous events to take place at Mizpah. The Feinstein Social Hall overflows with people. The whole building smells like a Matzah ball. And children watch closely to see if they can spot where the *Afikoman* is hidden. Music fills the space as food fills our stomachs, and amidst the boisterous excitement, we manage to read the Haggadah and tell our story of freedom. Passover is a great holiday, still one of the most celebrated by Jews around the world, and our seder is always second to none: in participation, excitement, and enthusiasm. (Can you tell I am excited about it??)



Rabbi Craig Lewis

Passover 2020 was the first major event we had to cancel, as the world entered lockdown. Making that decision was difficult. We had only just held raucous Purim celebrations and an unforgettable Catskills Night (truly one for the books). In addition to Passover, more great things were on the horizon. So, pulling the plug on Passover halted our momentum. It hurt having to undo all of the work carried out by volunteers and staff, and the worry over an uncertain future weighed heavy on our minds. Even knowing it unquestionably was the right decision brought little solace. The joy we anticipated turned to disappointment, a promise undelivered, and we had to worry about what would be cancelled next. There was to be a 90th birthday party (Stan Smith) held at Mizpah, and the UTC production of the musical "Parade" was in dress rehearsals in our sanctuary. I was really looking forward to hosting "Parade," showcasing our building to Chattanooga's theatre community. These would have been events that demonstrated that

Mizpah is so much more than a community of worship: we are like family, people who gather to share special moments and who work together to share our gifts and our space with the wider community. None of those truths were lost as we turned to Zoom and streaming to gather as a congregation. In fact, in some ways, they were reinforced. We are a stronger community and congregational family for what we have endured. Now as we cautiously return to more normalcy, we may still have concerns.

To be sure, we still want to mitigate as much as possible against transmission of the virus, but we also may be nervous about getting the Seder right. After all, it will have been 1,092 days since our last seder, and our expectations may be high. We may also feel unfamiliar with the feeling of being together. We might wonder if we can recapture the magic. We might feel pressured to get it right, since we have been thinking about this moment for 1,092 days.

To that, let me say, "Dayenu." It is enough. If we had done what we had to do to protect the health of our congregants, Dayenu. If we had learned how to use the necessary technology, Dayenu. If we had cared for each other when friends and family got sick, Dayenu. If we had comforted one another during times of hardship and loss, Dayenu. If we employed masking policies so we could return to our building, Dayenu. And now, as we come back to have dinner, to read the Haggadah, drink some wine, and most importantly look upon each other surrounded by our congregational family, Dayenu. It is enough that we will be together, so, let us all be glad and rejoice in Passover, 1,092 days late, but worth the wait.

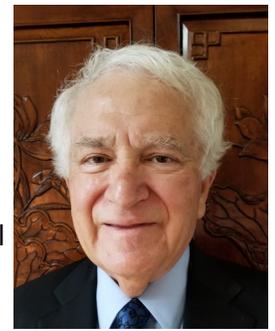
Dayenu!

Rabbi Craig Lewis



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

March has been a busy month for Mizpah. We celebrated **Blayden Schwartz's** Bar Mitzvah with a large crowd that included his family, friends, and many Mizpah congregants. Our Zoom included sixty other links to the service. Thanks to all who attended and made this such a special occasion.



Frank Miller

The Introduction to Judaism classes (Thursdays at 6:30 pm) have been very enlightening, even for one who grew up in the Jewish tradition. This joint effort led by **Rabbi Lewis** and **Rabbi Rotenberg** has been so educational. I highly recommend all congregants join in for these sessions as I learned quite a bit from the presentations. They were low key with much time allotted for questions. Please join in by Zoom every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. You won't regret it!

The joint Mizpah - B'nai Zion Megillah reading and Trivia Contest was fun and entertaining. The format of adding movie lines at random from paper slips written by those attending made for a humorous and light evening. We all laughed at the "lines" and made sure that Haman's name was blotted out for the evening. We were blessed to have our rabbis lead us in this joyful celebration. We then feasted on Hamantaschen and other treats before the Trivia Contest began. Although my table didn't win, we all enjoyed the competition.

This leads us into April in which we will celebrate Passover. Our Pesach committee is working hard to prepare for our Mizpah Congregational Seder (April 15th). We will enjoy a traditional holiday meal as we relive our ancestors' story of slavery and redemption. I look forward to stirring rounds of "Dayenu" and "Chad Gadya". It will be a most memorable evening bringing us back to our ancient Jewish roots. I give an early "Thank you" to those members of our congregation who are making this evening possible.

Our final special April event will be the **Anderson - Sasaki Duo** Concert on Saturday, April 30 at 7:00 pm in Ochs Memorial Sanctuary. The concert is only \$10 per person, as it is subsidized by the **Cohn/Cohen family**. This will be an outstanding evening of music in our acoustically excellent sanctuary. It is open to the entire Chattanooga community, so bring your music loving friends.

It's so nice to have our plate so full! All of these activities could not take place without your financial support. A special "thank you" is due the **Alvin Hodes** family who have made a generous donation to our Endowment Fund in memory of Alvin. May his memory be for a blessing.

Am Yisrael Chai
The People Israel Lives

Dr. Frank Miller
President, Mizpah Congregation

Note from the Schwartz Family....

Editor's note: the following words speak to the wonderful addition to our Sanctuary sound system of six new sanctuary speakers, a new high definition camera for the sanctuary, the installation hardware for those items, and a new amplifier and a desktop pc to run it all



Our donation to the Temple for improvement to the sound system and upgrade/new camera was in honor of our son **Blayden's** Bar Mitzvah. This gift is extra special as it carries on the tradition of giving that **Hal Schwartz**, Skip's late father, established about 10 years or more ago when he first installed a camera so that congregants who were unable to attend services could join the service virtually.

Skip and Holly Schwartz



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDUCATION COORDINATOR...

For those of you who have either logged in or joined me in person for a Family Shabbat, you know I love a good story. I'm not exactly sure how this was fostered, however I am a child of the 80s, and **LeVar Burton** was an icon. Finding a *Reading Rainbow* book in the library was like finding a golden ticket and you knew the book was going to be great because LeVar had deemed it so.



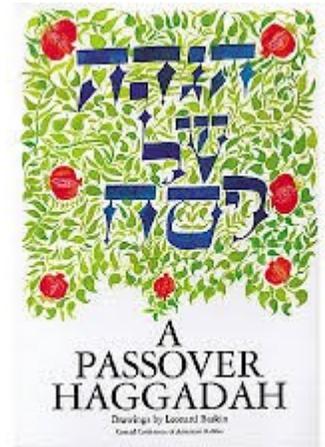
Susan Caminez

My parents of course read to me as a child and I greatly recall how powerful stories moved me, such as *Charlotte's Web*, or how they could transport me to places like *The Island of Blue Dolphins* or off to *Narnia*. As a family, we also tuned in to NPR every Saturday evening to listen to **Garrison Keillor** on *A Prairie Home Companion* while we ate dinner. In college, I even had the pleasure of seeing him spin his tales live onstage in St. Paul, MN.

Stories let our minds do the magic. We are able to go and see anything - whether it's possible or not possible. Stories are how we learn and how we remember. So what makes a good story? In my opinion, I think it's not necessarily the story, but how you tell it (a perfect example is the telling of *Arnie the Donut* by Chris O'Dowd on YouTube with 19M views!).

Then, of course, we have stories that we tell again and again. Especially as a parent, I can say that if I had to read aloud *Snug House*, *Bug House* twenty more times (for BOTH of my children, I might add), I might have given up storytelling altogether. Regardless, when we tell the same story again and again, it changes - that fish gets a little bigger each telling, or perhaps we notice something we didn't notice before.

Every year, we tell our story again during the Passover seder. Maybe you read from the Haggadah that was passed down through your family's generations, or maybe you found your own and made new traditions. How do you help to make the story come alive? How are you making an impression on the next generation through your telling? Are you simply reading aloud or are you *telling a story*?



I challenge you to find your inner storyteller this Passover. Put the stress of the dinner preparations aside. Instead of focusing on what will be on the plate, think instead of how you will tell our people's story. Find the meaning, and mean the words you say. I challenge you to not read this story you've told year after year by rote, but to find the parts you didn't notice before and let it move you and move others.

Dayeinu!

It would have been enough for you to read your Haggadah, but you told our story of freedom.

NEW MEMBERS AND NEW BABY...

We are pleased to announce new members AND a new baby added to our Mizpah family:

Rachel Pohl and Jesse Rosenthal announce the March 3 healthy addition to their family, **Emmett Pohl Rosenthal**. Thanks **Flossie Weill** for sending this in. For added joy...Rachel and Jesse were accepted as New Members on the same day! Talk about your double *simcha*!



Welcome New Members **Angela, Chris and Cora Mae Conn**! Angela moved to Chattanooga from Wyoming 8 years ago and met Chris, who is originally from Memphis. They've been married for 5 years and have a 23-month-old old daughter Cora Mae. Angela is a stay-at-home mom and also has a small jewelry business, while Chris is a carpenter. Angela and Chris enjoy traveling, playing music, and exploring the outdoors.

MIZPAH CONGREGATION YAHRZEITS—March 27— April 31

March 27- April 2

Irma Ross
Howard Young
Julius Cohn
Harry Levin
Anna Raisin
Seamour Shavin
Dena Ariel Schwartz
William Ziv
Rosalind S. Pap
Ezekiel Ryan Kelman
Joan Koplan
Dr. David Merren
Rose Stock
Paula Dropkin
Donald Gold
Lydia Gold Kaset
Bernard Bell
Molly Kopkin

April 3 - April 9

Miriam Morris
Katy Saperstein
Ric Chambers
Charles Cohen
Ethel Kopkin
Naomi Lesser Cohn
Hildegard Schiel
Schubert
Morton Storoff
Sam Goldberg
Isadora Kaset
William Kennan
Frances Herstik
Eleanor Miller
Schwartz
Ann Milen Cooley
Leonard Dubow
Adolph S. Ochs
Sara Greenbaum

April 10 - April 16

Sara Dinberg
Abraham Saul Eisen
Anne Garry
Marion Greenberg
David Monen
Miriam Rockmilovitch
Sylvia S. Sadow
Werner Widman
Joseph W. Chak
Minna Friberg
Fannie Reingold
Michael Brouner
Dr. Tibor Moses
Diana Zaguri
Blanche Check
Scott Dorfman
Leonard Klarich
Aron Szapiro
Samuel Barack
Harry Daneman
Leo Pelofsky
Adeline C. Bernstein

April 17- April 23

Ruth M. Poss
Myer Saul
Estelle Moore
Diamond
Adele Fox Finkel
Bertha Lizbeth Rose
Ruth Vogel
Esther Gordon
Murray Perlman
William Reingold
Helen Sanders
Joanne C. Sandner
Irving Schulman
Lilliam Feldman
Rosemae Gabriel
Helman
William V. Held
Sayde Saul Widman
Anice Childress
Jeanne Weber Scull
David Israel
Myra Mackler
Sarah Schaible
Rose Shalett
Herbert (Herb) Stoloff
Sadie Widman

April 24 - April 30

Meta Kreis Corliss
Anne E. Diamond
Ernest Longway
Martin Young
Florabel Geismar
Bennie Hasden
Caroline Nodell
Herbert M. Abelson
Herman Geismar, Jr.
Dillard Brown
Louis Diamond
Susan Goldman
Stanley Leventhal
Leonard Midler
Norman B. Moore
Ann Morris
Joyce Traeger
Dian Feldstein
Charles J. Nadel
Celia Reingold
Norman M. Fainzin
Meyer (Mike) Fine
William Hill
Louis Liberman
Lula Pierce
E.E. Reisman, Jr.
Miriam Richelson
Louis Roth

First Friday Shabbat Dinner and Services

New 1st Friday Schedule

We are always looking for newer and more efficient ways to offer our various Mizpah events, making it easier for members and families to attend. This is especially true for our younger families with kids. A couple weeks ago, while a few of us were volunteering in the Garden of Life, the subject arose of how we could better structure our 1st Friday Services and Dinner. A quick brainstorming session later, including fortunately our Education Coordinator, **Susan Caminez**, who was in the Garden with Machanooga, and the following new schedule came together for 1st Fridays. Let us know how you like it, and most importantly, brings all the kids!



- 5:30 pm Pizza for all kids 10 and under—Library
 - 6:00 pm Shabbat worship services—Everyone - Sanctuary
 - 7:00 pm 1st Friday dinner—Feinstein Hall
 - 7:00 pm Story Time—Library
- Must RSVP Masks still required!



SOCIAL ACTION AT MIZPAH

Debra Dubow, Social Action Chair

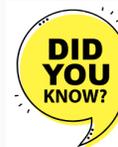
Happy Spring! I know everyone has lots of events on their calendars including our upcoming Mizpah Passover Seder. However, we have a very exciting post Passover Program planned that I am sure you will not want to miss. All your friends and family members are welcome from across the Jewish Community.



Debra Dubow

Please join us for **Repro Freedom Weekend**, April 22-24, sponsored by Mizpah Social Action.

The weekend begins with a special 6:00pm Shabbat service at Mizpah focused on reproductive freedom. The service will be led by **Amy Cohen** and other women of our congregation. We are seeking any and all women of Mizpah who wish to participate in the Service. Please contact either **Amy** or **Debra** to share in this exciting opportunity.



**Tennessee's Teen
Pregnancy rate is the
10th highest in the
nation**



The weekend concludes on Sunday at 4:00 pm in Mizpah's Garden of Life with a panel discussion:

- ◆ **Rachel Schulson**, Founder of [A Step Ahead Chattanooga](#) will discuss how area residents access sex education and reproductive health service
- ◆ **Rabbi Lewis**, will share Reform Judaism's perspective on reproductive freedom
- ◆ **Judith Sachsman** will share Hadassah's political action locally and nationally.

Our goal is to gather, learn more about the issue and identify actions we can take to support reproductive health access. [Please RSVP HERE](#) for Sunday's Panel so that we can provide baked goods and refreshments for all attendees. Thank you! The RSVP address is: <http://evite.me/BUKGhJwpFj> or email Debra at debradubow@gmail.com

Mizpah Book Club

We met on Sunday, March 27th at the home of **Debra Dubow and Tom Lyons**, getting to know each other and discussing the beautifully written Peony, by the amazing Pearl S. Buck. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 15th, at the home of **Jan Barrali**. We will be reading **Strangers in Budapest**, by Jessica Keener. Contact **Amy Cohen** to get on the invite list! Best lunch all month!

"Jessica Keener has written a gorgeous, lyrical, and sweeping novel about the tangled web of past and present; suspenseful, perceptive, fast-paced, and ultimately restorative."



Ava Kaplan Bat Mitzvah



Ava Diane Kaplan will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Ava's theme is "Rainbow Connection." Ava is a 7th grader at Girls Preparatory School and has recently discovered an interest in theater and continues to enjoy clay crafts. Ava is very artistic and loves creating whimsical pieces. She sees her Bat Mitzvah as her beginning as a full member of the Jewish community and looks forward to being more involved. We know Ava will find connections (rainbow, or otherwise) within our welcoming Jewish community. Ava is the daughter of **Caroline and Paul Kaplan** and the little sister of **Eren** (15).

MIZPAH FUNDS: YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

DONATIONS (*Received by the 15th of prior month*) Consider \$18 - "chai" - the minimum donation

Archives
Building
Capital Campaign
Cemetery
Educator
Endowment
Flower
Garden of Life
Goldman/Moses
Mary W. and Jacob L. Levine

Leadership Development
Library
Miller/Lefkoff
Marks Memorial
Mazon (Feed the Hungry)
Miller/Schwartz
Music
NFTY (Youth Group)
Operating
Oneg

Prayer Book
Physical Property
Religious Activities
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Rabbinic Endowment
Rita Russ Speer
Religious School
Social Action
Staff Support

Rita Russ Speer

In Memory of Alvin Hodes

Rae & Bruce Hirsch

In Honor of Jan Fox's Birthday

Philip & Melissa Russ

In Honor of Sheryl Blechner's Birthday

Philip & Melissa Russ

Operating

In Memory of Alvin Hodes

Ismahen Kangles

Rabbi's Discretionary

In Memory of Alvin Hodes

David & Paula Israel

Richard Zachary and Ruth Longway

In Memory of Shelton Goldblatt

David & Paula Israel

In Memory of Greer Brody

David & Paula Israel

Music

In Memory of Joyce Goldfarb

Karen Kruesi

In Memory of Edward & Bernice Shalett

Teddi Shalett Mendel

In Memory of Edward Benjamin Shalett

Teddi Shalett Mendel

Educator

In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Blayden Schwartz

Sam & Dana Banks

Richard Zachary and Ruth Longway

Todah rabah - Thank You....

...to **Vivian Hershey**, who was able to secure four (4) complimentary tickets to ALL performances of the Chattanooga Symphony for the rest of this year AND next year for **Ethan Goldblatt** and his family. Ethan loves and truly enjoys all things musical, especially music theater. Ethan say thanks!





FROM YOUR TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR...

Tidbits from your Administrator.

Well lets see... we have opened back up to doing everything in person again. The building has been full of people. The month of March was busy: new members, a dinner, a concert a new employee. Lot's of things going on around here. April is around the

corner, and It's packed full of activities too. A traditional Passover, events in the Garden of Life and yes, another concert.

Spring has sprung - the lawn is in full color and back to needing weekly mowing. The bleachers in the Garden are in need of repair, and the gazebo could use some love also. Always something to look after, think about and take care of. Poor **Steve**, only one of him. **Betsy** and her group are doing a great job at keeping the garden items in shape. We look forward to lots of time in the Garden of Life this Spring and Summer. We are still waiting for the double doors in the alley way to be worked on, and still waiting on some work to be done in the sanctuary.

I become more familiar with our new ShulCloud database operating system daily; it's definitely different than what we had. It has a lot of features and hopefully will be made available to all real soon. Thank you again for your patience while we work out all the kinks.

It seems like it was just yesterday when B'nai Zion moved in, but in reality it has been almost a year. It has not been without issues, but they all have worked out one way or another. I'm very glad that I was given a piece of advise from a past president (a very smart man). He encouraged me before we even knew that we would be sharing a building with them to get to know their office manager. At the time I did not understand why that would benefit me other than giving me another friend, but it actually has benefited me a lot. She and I had lunch several times and got to know a lot about each other. Since they have moved in, that friendship has helped in many ways to smooth the transition of two synagogues in the same building. I thought one Rabbi to answer to was a lot, now try two! Kidding, just kidding. Both of the Rabbi's are really good to work with. I'm glad that **Rabbi Rotenberg** and **Rabbi Lewis** get along well. They both have a good sense of humor, and are easy to work with.

To sum it up, I love my job, I love the congregants and hate writing this article. Well not really hate it; it's just a learning curve in progress. For me writing is still a work in progress. Always something to learn if I allow myself the opportunity to do so.

Till next time, stay well and keep pressing toward a goal. Always have a goal.

Angela Rickert
Temple Administrator



Angela Rickert

Newsletter Production and Distribution

The March Newsletter encountered some serious Postal Service delivery issues. It appears for no discernable reasons, the Newsletter took up to (30) days to deliver. I spoke on the phone with the local office, and received no clear explanations. That being said, it normally takes 1-3 days to deliver. Over the years, we have discussed the pros and cons of delivering a paper copy Newsletter. Most non-profits have long-since dispensed with a paper version. We at Mizpah are considering the same...keeping the paper version ONLY for those who "opt in". We currently spend about \$50 per month, plus the cost of staff who work on it. Mailing out say 20-30 1st class versions would cost about between \$11-\$16. We currently use Bulk Mail costs, but that carries a minimum of 200 copies. Please offer your opinions...do you like and use the paper copy? Do you prefer an online version? Would you "opt in" to receive a paper version? Do you read the Newsletter? Are you reading this article? We would send the same version out as a monthly email. It is already available on our Website, www.mizpahcongregation.org



Please reply to ZacharyRA@gmail.com, and I will keep track of the responses. I have sent a query to the URJ to see what other congregations are doing. Let me hear from you. This is an important if unscientific survey.

Richard Zachary, Editor, Mizpah Newsletter.



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Mizpah is a Reform Jewish Congregation. We offer worship, learning and social action/programs designed to enhance our lives and improve our world. Mizpah is a welcoming congregation as we embrace interfaith couples, those of all faith-traditions and culturally-diverse backgrounds as well as families in all their forms.

Email: Office@mizpahcongregation.org
www.mizpahcongregation.org
 Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 423-267-9771

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Frank Miller, President
President@mizpahcongregation.org
 Angela Rickert, Administrator
 Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
 Richard Zachary, Newsletter



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MIZPAH WORSHIP, STUDY AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Sundays	Machanooga	9:30 am
Tuesdays	Intro to Judaism Class	6:30 pm
Wednesdays	<i>Mussar</i> (schedule with Rabbi Lewis)	7:30 am
Thursdays	Adult B'nai Mitzvah class - in person	6:30 pm
Fridays	<i>Shabbat</i> worship services	6:00 pm
	April 1st: Shabbat Services and Dinner	5:30 pm
	Note: Special New Times for 1st Friday	
	April 14th: Intriguing Conversation: Cancelled!!	
	April 15th: Passover Seder - Must RSVP	6:00 pm
	April 22: "Repro" Shabbat: Social Action See p. 5	6:00 pm
	April 30: Concert in the Sanctuary	7:00 pm
Saturdays	Torah Study (breakfast prior)	9:15 am
	<i>Shabbat</i> worship services	11:00 am
	April 23th: Bat Mizpah of Ava Kaplan	10:30 am

TEMPLE OFFICERS AND BOARD

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Craig Lewis, Rabbi
 Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
 Angela Rickert, Temple Administrator

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