



THE JEWISH CENTER  
PRE-PESACH NEWSLETTER  
2024/5784



The Jewish Center: The Modern Orthodox Center for Jewish Life and Learning  
131 W. 86th Street, New York, New York 10024  
[www.jewishcenter.org](http://www.jewishcenter.org)  
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## **CLERGY**

Dr. Yosie Levine  
Rabbi

Kalman Laufer  
Assistant Rabbi

Jonathan Green  
Cantor

Raizi Chechik  
Community Scholar

Basya Goldstein  
Community Educator

Dr. Nava Silton  
Community Outreach Director

Aaron Strum  
Executive Director

Tali Etra  
Program Coordinator

Izzy Selter  
Youth Director

Mordy Blau  
William Fischman Rabbinic Intern  
& Teen Coordinator

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212-724-2700 x555

UWS Mikvah  
212-579-2011

Hatzoloh  
212-230-1000

Manhattan Eruv  
Visit eruv.nyc

# Jewish Center Committees

<b>Advanced Leadership Committee</b>	Rose Lynn Sherr	al@jewishcenter.org
<b>Archives Committee</b>	Seth Jonas	archives@jewishcenter.org
<b>Bikur Cholim Committee</b>	Leah Albek, Ariel Jerushalmy Nava Silton Shira Silton	bikurcholim@jewishcenter.org
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<b>Education Committee</b>	Bernard Falk Steven Wilf	education@jewishcenter.org
<b>Hospitality Committee</b>	Chani Segall	chanisegall@aol.com
<b>Inclusivity Committee</b>	Elana Kaminetzky Leora Botnick Jason Lieberman	inclusivity@jewishcenter.org
<b>Israel Activism Committee</b>	Tehillah Blech Harris	israelmission@jewishcenter.org
<b>New Members Committee</b>	Benjy Levi (YL) Alanna Schwartz	membership@jewishcenter.org
<b>Oneg Shabbat Committee</b>	Sherry Fessel	fess5@aol.com, onegshabbat.org
<b>Safety/Security Committee</b>	Jeffrey Smith Steve Graber	jeffrey89@aol.com
<b>Shivah Committee</b>	Adina Wagman Yael Green	adina@jewishcenter.org
<b>Sisterhood Committee</b>	Gilda Chodosh Rachel Lurie Angela Sacks	sisterhood@jewishcenter.org
<b>Ushers Committee</b>	Amy Latkin Dana Markow	ushers@jewishcenter.org
<b>Women's Tehillim Group</b>	Naomi Goldman	chesed@jewishcenter.org
<b>Young Couples and Families Committee</b>	Numi Katz & Avi Cooper Lea Dahan Nathaniel Kukurudz Lauren Korolnik Eli Frishman Jodi & Phil Levin	yfc@jewishcenter.org
<b>Young Leadership Committee</b>	Matthew Feiler Leah Feygel Jonathan Golstein Ayelet Golubtchik Ben Levi Michelle Schechter Ilana Sherizen Pinchas Teitz Leah Weintraub	yl@jewishcenter.org
<b>Youth Department Committee</b>	Amy Latkin David Menchel	izzy@jewishcenter.org

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MARK SEGALL



Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree" is not just about an apple tree and a boy. Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are" is not just about little Max dressing in a wolf suit and going on a romp with the Wild Things. And E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web" is certainly not just about a caring spider saving a pig.

As young parents and (young) Grandparents, we love the opportunity to revisit our childhood stories. While our little ones revel in the simple plots and lively stories, we pause to appreciate at the second and third readings, much deeper and nuanced meanings. That's part of what makes these children's stories classics – and sometimes controversial ones at that.

One of the true hidden gems in The Jewish Center Adult Education program these past few months has been Basya Goldstein's scintillating class on Shmuel Alef. I personally had not spent any meaningful time with this text since I was first introduced to the stories of Eli, Chana, Shmuel, Shaul, Agag, and David in 6th grade day school.

Back then, it was simple storytelling about relatively two-dimensional characters.

But this time around, with Basya's thoughtful and textured reading, the stories, the characters and the lessons behind them have truly come to life.

The stark contrast of the depraved state of Bnai Yisroel before Shmuel and their misplaced demands for a king, juxtaposed against the religious renaissance under Shaul and his early promise of being Hashem's faithful "conduit" of the people, make for riveting reading and spirited debate. The misgivings of Shmuel in seeking out a leader for the Jewish people, and then finding one who he truly befriended and believed in at first, only to have to coldly abandon him in the end, make for unparalleled drama and human tension.

The constant play on words and the subtle and not so subtle allusions to earlier biblical stories make for masterful literature. When befriending Shaul, Shmuel communes with Shaul in the strangest of places, on a roof – a high location and a protective structure – a "gag" in Hebrew.

Later, Shaul's downfall is sealed by his failure to carry out Hashem's explicit command to completely destroy Amalek and their king, Agag.

Agag!

*Continued on page 5*

## THE FOUR SONS AND THE STORY OF THE JEW IN EXILE: A HAGGADAH REFLECTION RAIZI CHECHIK JEWISH CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOLAR



Perhaps because I have had the blessing of spending so many years working in Jewish day schools, I have always found the evocative imagery of the four sons, each engaging so differently with the narrative of Yetziat Mitzrayim, to be a particularly compelling segment of the Haggadah. Years ago, I came across a poignant and powerful reflection attributed

to Rabbi Joseph Isaac Schneerson, the Rebbe Rayatz, on the curious and non-intuitive order of the four sons in the Haggadah text. They do not follow a classic hierarchy, direct or inverse, of righteousness, nor do they seem to be in a progression of dialogue with each other. The Rebbe Rayatz sees instead the order of the four sons through the lens of Jewish history, as a metaphoric retelling of the story of the Jew arriving in exile, and, contemporaneous to his own experience, particularly the story of the Jew arriving on American soil.

The first generation, the Chacham, arrives with legacy to Torah intact. His children, the Rasha in this

parable, reject the foreign customs of their immigrant father as they try to acclimate to their new land. The grandchildren parallel the Tam. They do not have the visceral rejection of tradition of their parent's generation, and have some fond memories of traditions and customs of a beloved grandparent. But the great grandchildren, raised with no Jewish education and not even a living grandparent with nostalgic Jewish practice, become She'eno Yodea Lish'ol, completely assimilated into their new land.

Over two decades ago, I found myself in a windswept cemetery on the outskirts of Cologne, Germany, searching for the grave of my maternal great-grandfather, Aaron Reich. Family lore, and subsequent research in the Buchenwald archives, told the story of how Aaron, arrested during Kristallnacht, died in Buchenwald in 1938, and how his ashes were sent back to his family in Cologne for burial.

Aaron had arrived in Germany from Poland in the early twentieth century. Like so many of the immigrants of his generation, he turned for solace to the religious texts and traditions of his childhood. Aaron's children, also true to the mores of their generation, looked in frustration and detachment at their father's religious commitments. "Do you not see that the ground burning beneath us, Tatte? Your prayers are not the answer." Aaron's two daughters joined the Chalutzim building the secular *Continued on page 5*

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## PROFESSOR SHMUEL FEINER

Professor Emeritus of Modern Jewish History at Bar Ilan University and the Head of the Samuel Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia.

Public Lecture: *Religion and Modernity at the Turn of the 20th Century: Two Jewish Perspectives*  
*Seudah Shlishit: A Biography of a Century? A New Approach to The Jewish Eighteenth Century*

**Shabbat, March 30th 11:00AM & 7:15PM**



## BOOK LAUNCH: The Promise of Liberty: A Passover Haggadah

Adam Kirsch, Features Editor at the Wall Street Journal and Literary Critic in conversation with Rabbi Dr. Stu Halpern, Senior Advisor to the Provost of Yeshiva University & Deputy Director of the Straus Center. They will discuss, *The Promise of Liberty: A Passover Haggadah*, written by Rabbi Dr. Halpern and Jacob Kupietzky, the only Haggadah the Koren press is issuing this year.

**The Haggadah will be available at no charge to all event attendees. Please register at [www.JewishCenter.org](http://www.JewishCenter.org)**

**Sunday, March 31st at 7:30PM**



## PROFESSOR BENNY PORAT

Senior lecturer on the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the director of the Matz Institute for Jewish Law. Public Lecture: *Israel's Judicial Reform Controversy: Honoring the Dual Commitments of a Jewish and Democratic State*

Seudah Shlishit: *The Journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Land of Israel: A New Perspective*

**Shabbat, April 13th 11:00AM & 7:15PM**



## LETS MEET-YOUNG COUPLES VOLUNTEERING WITH DOROT

Join the Jewish Center's Young Couples committee for a morning of volunteering, birthday card making, and breakfast followed by Passover Package delivery at noon at Dorot on 85th Street.

**Sunday, April 7th 10:30AM (4th Floor)**

## MODEL MATZAH BAKERY

The countdown begins! Get ready for an exciting and hands-on Matzah Bake workshop, designed to get you into the spirit of Pesach! Join us as we explore significance of this important holiday, and learn how to make your own Matzah from scratch.

All ages welcome.

**Sunday, April 14th 11:45AM**



## SEDER PEARLS

Join the Jewish Center Clergy as we offer gems of insight to the different pieces of the Haggadah that you can share at your Pesach Seder.

**Tuesday, April 16th at 7:45PM**



## FIRST NIGHT SEDER AT THE JEWISH CENTER

Talia's is hosting a communal Seder on the first Passover at The Jewish Center. The Seder is open to the public. Please email [info@taliassteakhouse.com](mailto:info@taliassteakhouse.com) or call 212-580-3770 to make a reservation or for more information.



**Monday, April 22nd**

## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: DR. TAL BECKER

The members of The Jewish Center are honored to host Dr. Tal Becker, Senior Fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute and Legal Advisor, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a public lecture, *Between Aspirations and Reality: Israel After Oct 7th* with a luncheon and moderated Q&A following services.



### Event Sponsors:

- Chaya & Adam Berkowitz
- Rachel Stone & Rob Bernstein
- Vivian & Daniel Chill
- Bettina Schein & Alan Futerfas

**Shabbat, May 4th**

## SAVE THE DATE: INVENTOLOGY

Access your creativity with Developmental Psychologist and Game Creator Dr. Nava R. Siltan, Ph.D. Discover the secrets of your innovation, ignite your creativity and explore where it can take you.

**May 5th**



## FROM JERUSALEM WITH LIGHT:

**RAV KOOK'S 1924 VISIT TO WEST 86TH ST.**

Rabbi Dr. Yosie Levine's public lecture in honor of Yom Haatzmaut.

**Shabbat, May 11th**



## UWS COMMUNITY, YOM HAZIKARON COMMEMORATION, YOM HAATZMAUT CELEBRATION

At the Jewish Center - More information to follow.

**Monday, May 13th 7:00PM-10:00PM**

## ANNUAL NORPAC MISSION TO WASHINGTON

Join the NORPAC annual Mission to Washington to make your voice heard. Reach out to Daniel Feder at [dfeder613@gmail.com](mailto:dfeder613@gmail.com) with any questions.



**Wednesday, May 15th**

Register for upcoming events at [www.jewishcenter.org](http://www.jewishcenter.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED

*Continued from page 3* The sound of the comparison between the gag, where Shmuel sealed his friendship with Shaul, and the moniker of the Amalekite king, whose name alludes to his high status or to his perceived protection of his tribe, is unmistakable.

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Today we are living through gut wrenching times for the Jewish people. The physical attacks on our nation and the resurgence of Jew hatred around the world are unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. But if the stories in Shmuel Alef teach us anything, it is that we have been through these ups and downs before. And there is much still to learn from the highs and the lows, in the victories and in the defeats of our ancestors.

Here at The Jewish Center, our dedicated clergy, staff and extraordinary cadre of volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide comprehensive and immersive programming in response to these very dark times. We have collected and shipped hundreds of duffels of provisions for Israeli soldiers; we have adopted an abandoned southern Israel community; we have organized programs to help our college students cope with the rampant antisemitism on campus; we have sponsored and helped to organize dozens of community gatherings; we have maintained weekly communal Tehillim; we have

brought in a plethora of famous writers and thinkers to help make sense of the situation; we have featured elected officials and have hosted former hostages and their families in some of the most heart-wrenching words ever spoken in our sanctuary. We have organized two (and soon to be three) missions to Israel. The list goes on. For us, there is nothing extraordinary in all that our clergy, staff and volunteers continue to do. It is simply what we must do.

So as we go into the Spring months, which we continue to pray will bring better times for all, please make sure to join us and show your active participation in the resolve and unity of the Jewish people. Make sure you are an integral part of The Jewish Center.

As Shaul chases after Shmuel and tears his robe, Shmuel, in perhaps his most famous words, says to Shaul, "Netzach Yisroel, lo y'shaker..." "The Glory of Israel does not lie." The commentators have broadly interpreted this line simply to mean that the Jewish people are eternal. While our survival as a people is not even remotely in doubt, as Mordechai tells Esther in the historical conclusion of the Shaul/Agag story, the only real question is what will be YOUR role in that narrative.

Chag Kasher V'sameach,

Mark Segall  
President

## THE FOUR SONS AND THE STORY OF THE JEW IN EXILE: A HAGGADAH REFLECTION RAIZI CHECHIK JEWISH CENTER COMMUNITY SCHOLAR, CONTINUED

*Continued from page 3* kibbutz Bet haShitah. Aaron's son arrived in the United States in 1940, where his father's tefillin lay unused in a dresser drawer. My mother and her siblings grew up hearing stories of Poland from their grandmother, who lit candles in their home on Friday nights. Aaron's world, however, and his commitment to Torah and Mitzvot, were but a distant dream and inherited memory for them in the American Midwest.

My family's Jewish story should have ended there, on the Wisconsin plains. The trajectory from a righteous son, my great grandfather, to his completely non-observant children, to his grandchildren, like the simple son, with just some fond nostalgic associations, should have culminated in my cousins and siblings and me being too distant to even have questions to ask. But a small group of

fellow Jews who lived in Milwaukee and cared enough to reach out and inspire the children of the immigrant arrivals, the curiosity and commitment of my mother and her siblings, and perhaps the prayers and ancestral merits of my great-grandfather Aaron, shifted that trajectory.

When I located Aaron's grave, my eyes filled with tears, and I leaned over the worn stone offering silent words of nechama, of solace, to the great-grandfather I never knew, who died only having seen the assimilatory chapter of his family's history. I told Aaron of his more than one hundred descendants, living, learning, and some even teaching Torah in both America and in Israel. The trajectory of the four sons proffered by the Rebbe Rayatz may be descriptive, but it is not destiny. Instead, it obligates us to ensure that this progression away from the Jewish community is halted. Through our own

personal commitments to spiritual growth, whatever our backgrounds, and through our collective commitment to Jewish education, outreach and community, we have the capacity to shift this trajectory, and provide ourselves and all of our Jewish brothers and sisters the gift of Jewish tradition, knowledge and legacy, and an honored place both at the seder and in the eternal Jewish story.

May the collective merits of all of our actions, spiritual and practical, during this season of geu'lah, be a zechut for our brothers and sisters in Israel under fire, our mothers, fathers, grandfathers, sons and daughters in captivity, our young soldiers on the front lines, our families in mourning, and our communities from the north and south desperate to return in safety to their homes, and may we merit to dwell in our land in peace and tranquility, ka'yamim ha'hem, bazman ha'zeh.

# PRE-PESACH MINI-MESTER

For more information contact Rabbi Laufer at [klaufer@jewishcenter.org](mailto:klaufer@jewishcenter.org)  
Missed a class? Listen online at [www.jewishcenter.org](http://www.jewishcenter.org).

**Young Leadership Beit Midrash**  
**The Transformational Power of Shira**  
Mondays, March 25th, April 1st at 7:45PM  
Rabbi Kalman Laufer

**Young Leadership Beit Midrash**  
**Mastering Pesach: A Halakhic Crash Course**  
Monday, April 8th at 7:45PM  
Rabbi Mordy Blau

**Telling Our Family Stories: Three Themes in the Passover Haggadah**  
Monday, April 15th at 8:10PM on Zoom  
Community Scholar, Raizi Chechik

**"The Sister Who Stayed"**  
Wednesday, April 17th at 8:10PM on Zoom  
Community Educator, Basya Goldstein

**DAILY**  
8:00AM **Israel Friedman Daf Yomi**  
with rotating JCU Faculty

**MONDAYS**  
7:00PM **Women's Tehillim**  
To have a name added to our list, please email [chesed@jewishcenter.org](mailto:chesed@jewishcenter.org).

**TUESDAYS**  
at 10:45AM **Nosh and Drash**  
with Rabbanit Adena Berkowitz  
**Spiritual and Practical Tips to Enhance your Sedarim**

**WEDNESDAYS**  
11:00AM **Women of the Bible**  
with Rabbi Dr. Yosie Levine  
**Why Midrash Matters**

**SEDER PEARLS**  
Join The Jewish Center Clergy as we offer insight to the different pieces of the Haggadah and hear some of the tunes that energize and animate the Seder Night!  
Tuesday April 16th, Following Maariv at 7:45pm

**FIRST NIGHT SEDER AT THE JEWISH CENTER**  
**Monday, April 22nd**  
Talia's will be hosting a communal Seder on the first night of Passover at The Jewish Center.  
The Seder is open to the public. Please email [info@taliassteakhouse.com](mailto:info@taliassteakhouse.com) or call 212-580-3770 to make a reservation or for more information.

## Chesed Opportunities @ The Jewish Center

Consider volunteering for upcoming Chesed opportunities! Whether you have a few hours to spare or can commit to a regular volunteer schedule, there is a Chesed opportunity for you. Get involved and make a difference in your community today!

Email [chesed@jewishcenter.org](mailto:chesed@jewishcenter.org) to join the Chesed committee and get involved.

## SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

**Shabbat, April 20th at 1:00AM**  
**With Rabbi Dr. Yosie Levine**



**We are All Zionists Now: The Appearance, Disappearance and Reappearance of Israel on Seder Night**

**Sponsored by**  
**Vivian & Bernard Falk and Family**

# PESACH SCHEDULE 2024/5784

## Sale of Chametz:

Rabbi Levine will be available at The Jewish Center at the following times:

- Before/after minyanim
- Regular office hours
- Sunday, April 14 9:30AM - 11:30AM

## Sunday, April 14

### Pre-Pesach Kashering

Kasher Utensils for Pesach at The Jewish Center on Sunday 9:30AM-11:30AM

## Sunday, April 21

Daf Yomi 7:45AM

Shacharit 8:30AM

Minchah/Maariv 7:30PM

Search for Chametz after 8:25PM

## Monday, April 22

### Taanit Bechorot /

### Erev Pesach / First Seder

Shacharit 7:15AM/8:00AM

Siyum 7:45AM

Last time to eat chametz 10:14AM

Burn chametz before 11:34AM

Candle Lighting 7:25PM

Mincha/Maariv 7:30PM

Kiddush after 8:27PM

Chatzot 12:54AM

## Tuesday, April 23

### Pesach 1/Second Seder

Shacharit 9:30AM

Minchah 7:30PM

Candle lighting after 8:28PM

Chatzot 12:54AM

## Wednesday, April 24

### Pesach 2

### 1st Day Omer

Shacharit 9:30AM

Minchah/Maariv 7:30PM

Yom Tov Concludes 8:30PM

## Thursday, April 25

### Chol Ha-Moed Pesach

### 2nd Day Omer

Shacharit 7:00AM

Minchah/Maariv 7:30PM

## Friday, April 26

### Chol Ha-Moed Pesach

### 3rd Day Omer

Shacharit 7:00AM

Minchah/Maariv 7:00PM

Candle Lighting 7:30PM

## Shabbat, April 27

### Chol Ha-Moed Pesach

### 4th Day Omer

Shacharit 9:00AM

Minchah 7:20PM

Shabbat Concludes 8:31PM

## Sunday, April 28

### Chol Ha-Moed Pesach

### 5th Day Omer

Daf Yomi 7:45AM

Shacharit 8:30AM

Candle Lighting 7:32PM

Minchah 7:35PM

## Monday, April 29

### Pesach 7

### 6th Day Omer

Shacharit 9:00AM

Minchah 7:35PM

Candle lighting 8:33PM

## Tuesday, April 30

### Pesach 8

### 7th Day Omer

Shacharit 9:00AM

Yizkor

Minchah 7:35PM

Yom Tov Concludes 8:35PM

Do not consume sold Chametz before 10:00PM

### Bracha for Counting the Omer:

ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו  
במצותיו וצונו על ספירת העומר  
*Blessed are you, Hashem, our G-d, King  
of the universe, Who has sanctified us with  
His commandments and has  
commanded us regarding the counting of  
the Omer.*

## Pre-Pesach Checklist

o Sell Chametz

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o Maot Chittim

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o Siyum for Firstborn

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o Nullify & Burn Chametz

(page 11)

o Prepare for Seder

(page 7)

### Become a Jewish Center Volunteer

#### Get Involved Today

The Jewish Center is full of talented, creative people, all of whom have areas of expertise and something special to offer. We encourage and depend on volunteers to help with event planning, writing, graphic design, marketing, fundraising, technology/website and other projects. **Please contact us by emailing [tali@jewishcenter.org](mailto:tali@jewishcenter.org)** to tell us about your talents and interests and get involved today. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Hospitality at

#### The Jewish Center

The Hospitality Committee promotes the value of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests, and creates an environment of warmth in the shul by welcoming newcomers and members each week.

If you would like to invite guests to your home for Shabbat meals, if you would like an invitation, or if you like to be a part of this committee, please contact:

[hospitality@jewishcenter.org](mailto:hospitality@jewishcenter.org).

# YOUTH DEPARTMENT



Members of our Youth Department joined Emma & Chloe Pfeffermann for The Great Hamantaschen Bake.

Members of our Youth Department's epic Glow Party.



The Jewish Center's Annual Thanksgiving Firehouse Visit, where families showed gratitude to our firefighters, with thanks-cards and baked goods.

Kids showed off their costumes in last year's Youth Departments Purim Costume Contest.



Upcoming Youth Department Passover Events. Join us in making our Youth Department's very own Pesach companion.

The Upper West Side's longest and prettiest Israeli Flag.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR IZZY SELTER

The Jewish Center Youth Department is excited for our many upcoming events and programs. Our focus on diverse and creative programming, along with our dedication to learning, Chesed, and community engagement has and continues to be our priority. Our Shabbat morning youth groups have been a success, featuring beautiful Tefillah, Parsha programming, and engaging activities. Looking ahead, we will be having our Purim Costume Contest and Ice Cream Party on March 23rd with Parent-Child Learning, Teen Minyan, Matzah Bake, Popsicles in the Park and Yom Ha'atzmaut BBQ all to follow. In anticipation of warmer weather, we are looking forward to adding more outdoor programming for all ages. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to The Jewish Center. Without your support, our youth and teen programs and events would not be possible. If you are interested in volunteering, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [izzy@jewishcenter.org](mailto:izzy@jewishcenter.org).



# ISRAEL MISSIONS



The Jewish Center sent two missions to Israel to share our love and support our brothers and sisters.



## ISRAEL SOLIDARITY MISSION MAY 19-23



Join us for a meaningful, impactful trip to Israel.

**Now more than at any time in the history of the State of Israel, our support and solidarity are desperately needed.**

**\$2390 - per person**  
**Single occupancy supplement \$770**

**All inclusive trip includes -**

- Transfers to / from airport from 'group flights'
- 4 nights at the David Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem
- All experiences and activities
- All meals (5 dinners, 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts)
- Private chartered bus with licensed tour guide and armed security guard/medic
- Emergency medical coverage.

**\$1500 - per person without accommodations**

- includes full mission except for hotel/breakfast

**ITINERARY IN FORMATION** Reach out with questions to [israelmission@jewishcenter.org](mailto:israelmission@jewishcenter.org)

**Group flight: 5/18 EIAI - 11:50 PM departure from EWR or JFK**  
**Returning - 5/24 - LY027 @12:30 AM to EWR or LY01 @1:00 AM to JFK**

FOR HELP WITH FLIGHTS

Book early for advantageous pricing

For help booking travel on the group flights, please send an email with your phone number, info & dates to Judy at Plane Talk Travel [info@planetalktravel.com](mailto:info@planetalktravel.com) with the subject line **Jewish Center Mission**. Upon receipt of the information, they will book at the lowest fare and forward to you an email confirmation.



We cooked, we hugged, we cried and we listened to stories of both horror and heroism.



**Registration are now open for our upcoming mission to Israel May 18-23.**

**Visit [www.jewishcenter.org](http://www.jewishcenter.org) to sign up.**

We hope you can join us on this very special trip!

Thank you to everyone who supported the tzedakah projects on our recent Israel solidarity mission. It was a special trip and so much of what we were able to contribute was made possible thanks to your generosity.

The funds we raised were also used to support a number of individuals and grass roots projects. Our community's contributions were met with an overwhelming sense of thankfulness and appreciation.

## Pesach in Ten Easy Steps

### By Rabbi Kalman Laufer

#### Appliances:

**Gas Cooktop:** On a gas range, the metal grates upon which the pots on the range sit may be kashered by turning the flame on high for 15 minutes. In order to spread the flame over the entire grate, it is advisable to cover the grates with a blech, a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil, or a pot full of water during the kashering. The rest of the range (the area between the burners) should be cleaned and covered with a double layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil. The burners themselves do not need koshering or covering, just cleaning. The drip pans should be thoroughly cleaned and need not be kashered.

**Electric cooktop:** One need only turn the burners to the high-heat setting for a few minutes in order to kasher them, since the burners come to a glow in a few minutes. The remaining cooktop areas should be covered.



**Glass Covered Tops:** Please speak with Rabbi Yosie Levine.

**Conventional oven:** Whether gas or electric, the oven must be completely cleaned before kashering. Oven cleaner may be necessary to remove baked-on grease. Once the oven and racks have been cleaned, they may be kashered by "Libbun Kal," i.e., turning the oven to the broil setting for forty minutes. In a gas oven, the broil setting will allow the flame to burn continuously. In a conventional electric oven, the highest setting (broil or 550°F) kashers the oven.

**"Continuous-cleaning" oven:** One cannot assume that the oven is clean simply because the manufacturer claims it to be continuously clean. A visual inspection is required. The oven should then be kashered by turning it to the broil setting for forty minutes.

**Self-cleaning oven:** The self-cleaning cycle cleans and kashers the oven simultaneously. This is true for convection ovens with a self-cleaning feature as well. The oven need not be carefully cleaned beforehand, because everything inside the oven is reduced to ash. The oven door and rubber around the door should, however, be completely clean before the self-clean cycle.

**Broiler:** The broiler pan and grill cannot be kashered by just turning on the gas or electricity. Since food is cooked directly on the pan or grill, they must be heated to a glow ("Libbun Gamur") in order to be used on Pesach. An alternate method is to replace the pan with a new pan and kasher the empty broiler cavity by cleaning and setting it to broil for forty minutes. If one does not intend to use the broiler on Pesach, one may still use the oven, even without kashering the broiler, provided that the broiler has been thoroughly

cleaned or covered with heavy-duty tin foil. Similarly, other cooktop inserts, such as a griddle or a barbecue broiler, would require heating the surface to a red glow before usage ("Libbun Gamur").

**Microwave Ovens:** Microwaves whose inside is made of metal may be kashered by first cleaning them out thoroughly, then placing a container filled with water in the oven and boiling it until the oven fills with steam. Microwave ovens whose inside is made of plastic present a kashering problem. Fortunately, many do not heat up the oven walls enough to cause a real kashrut concern. Clean the microwave well, then boil a cup of water on the highest setting for 10 minutes. Quickly insert your hand and touch the oven ceiling: if it is too hot to touch, the microwave should not be used for Pesach. If it is relatively cool (or even warm), the oven may be used and has just been kashered. The glass plate (if you have one) should be covered with steel, or granite.



Sinks are generally made from china, corian, porcelain, stainless steel, or granite. China sinks cannot be kashered at all. Porcelain or corian sinks are treated like china sinks, since there is a controversy whether these materials can be kashered. These sinks should be cleaned, not used for twenty-four hours, and completely lined with contact paper or foil. The dishes that are to be washed should not be placed directly into the sink. They must be washed in a Pesach dish pan that is placed on a Pesach rack. Alternatively, a sink insert can be purchased, allowing for the placement of either milk or meat dishes directly into the sink. Stainless steel sinks can be kashered by the following method: clean the sink thoroughly. Hot water should not be used or poured in the sink for twenty-four hours prior to kashering. It is recommended that the hot shut-off valve under the sink be turned off twenty-four hours before kashering. Kashering is accomplished by pouring boiling water from a Pesach kettle/pot over every part of the stainless steel sink. The poured water must touch every part of the sink, including the drain and the spout of the water faucet. It is likely that the kashering kettle will need to be refilled a few times before the kashering can be completed. Granite sinks can be kashered like stainless steel.



Countertops made of granite may also be kashered. Formica countertops should be cleaned and covered with a waterproof material. The same goes for tables with synthetic tops. Wood tables can theoretically be kashered with boiling water, but the custom is to clean and cover them. Refrigerators should be washed. (shelves, walls and compartments)

#### Utensils:

It is preferred to have utensils reserved for Pesach use.

If one is unable to use special utensils for Pesach, many utensils used throughout the year may be kashered for Pesach. These include metal utensils which are not difficult to clean (a sieve, for example, or a utensil which has parts that are glued together, would not be kasherable) and glass utensils that were used strictly for cold food.

According to Ashkenazic custom, glassware used for cooking, as well as earthenware, pottery, porcelain, pyrex, and chinaware may not be kashered. Arcolac, Duralax, Corelle should be treated as glass for kashering purposes. Plastic utensils are not kashered. Glass utensils which came into contact with only cold chametz should be cleaned with a cleaning solution and then immersed in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours.

Kashering may be done either at home or at The Jewish Center.



There are two different procedures for kashering:

1. Metal utensils which came into contact with heated chametz in a medium of water (i.e., utensils in which chametz was cooked; pots are a good example) may be kashered via the procedure known as hag'alah, which involves immersion in boiling water, as explained below.

2. Metal utensils which came into direct contact with heated chametz without the medium of water (e.g., a broiler) may be kashered by heating them until they are literally "red-hot," or by placing them in a self-cleaning oven during the self-clean cycle. tongs are used to grip the utensil, the utensil will have to be immersed a second time with the tong in a different position so that the boiling water will touch the initially gripped area. The entire utensil does not have to be kashered at once; it may be done in parts.

The procedure for hag'alah is as follows:

1. Metal utensils that have been used for cooking, serving or eating hot chometz may be kashered by cleaning them thoroughly, waiting twenty-four hours, and then immersing them one by one in a large pot (which has not been used for chametz within the last 24 hours) full of water which maintains a rolling boil when the vessel is immersed. Note that we do not kasher pans coated with Teflon.

2. The utensils undergoing kashering may not touch each other on the way in to the pot. In other words, cleaning them thoroughly, waiting

*Continued on page 10*

## Pesach in Ten Easy Steps

By Rabbi Kalman Laufer

twenty-four hours, and then immersing them one by one in a large pot (which has not been used for chametz within the last 24 hours) full of water which maintains a rolling boil when the vessel is immersed. Note that we do not kasher pans coated with Teflon.

2. The utensils undergoing kashering may not touch each other on the way into the pot. In other words, if a set of flatware is being kashered, one cannot take all the knives, forks and spoons and put them in the boiling water together. They should be placed into the boiling water one by one. The process is finalized by rinsing the kashered items in cold water.

3. Please watch out for utensils that are rusty or difficult to clean properly. Silverware made of two parts (a handle and a blade, for instance) should most often not be kashered.

4. A non-Kosher-for-Pesach pot may also be used for the purpose of kashering, provided that it is thoroughly clean and has not been used for twenty-four (24) hours. However, the custom is to make the pot Kosher-for-Pesach before using it for kashering. This can be accomplished by cleaning the pot, leaving it dormant for twenty-four (24) hours, filling the pot completely with water, waiting until the water comes to a rolling boil, and putting in a hot stone or brick which has been heated on another burner. The hot rock will cause the water to bubble more furiously and run over the top ridge of the pot on all sides at one time. The pot is now kashered.

### STEP #2: Cleaning for Pesach

Although the official search for chametz is performed on Sunday, April 21st, 2024 this year (see Step #4 below), we all begin cleaning well before then.

Where to clean: Cleaning should extend to every place into which chametz is brought (including all rooms into which chametz is brought even periodically), pockets in clothing, book bags and briefcases, pocketbooks, tallit bags, under and behind furniture, and under and between furniture cushions. Heavy appliances which are not moved during the year, such as stoves and refrigerators, need not be moved in order to clean away chametz under them. Special care should be taken if little children live on the premises, since they tend to bring food everywhere. Any chametz one owns which is located at one's workplace or in one's car must be either destroyed or sold.

Note that the goal is to clean away pieces of chametz of significant size (larger than an olive's worth); while any chametz you find should be destroyed, there is no need to search for crumbs.



Non-"Pesachdik" dishes: Dishes and utensils should be cleaned and stored away in such a manner that they cannot be accidentally used during Pesach. It is good to tape or tie shut cabinets that contain things you cannot use.

### STEP #3: Maot Chittim

One of the most important ways to prepare for Pesach is through the obligation of giving "Maot Chittim," or funds to allow those less fortunate to prepare for the holiday with dignity. This obligation can be fulfilled through checks made out to the Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung Fund, or online.

### STEP #4: Fast of the First-Born

On Erev Pesach, first born males fast to commemorate their having been saved from the last and most terrible of the ten plagues of Egypt.

Halakhah provides, however, that if a bechor attends a celebration such as a siyyum (a meal following the completion of a Talmudic tractate), he is exempted from this fast. As such, a siyyum will take place at The Jewish Center on Monday, April 22nd, 2024 between the two Shacharit minyanim around 7:50 AM.

### STEP #5: The Search for Chametz

Time: The usual time for bedikat chametz (searching for chametz) is the night before the Seder night. This year, bedikat chametz takes place on Sunday, April 21st, 2024 after tzeit hakochavim (when it gets dark), which is at 8:26 PM.



### STEP #6: The Sale of Chametz

If you own chametz which you prefer not to destroy, you may authorize Rabbi Levine to sell these items to a non-Jew for you. Please note that the chametz is not sold to the Rabbi; one is merely authorizing the Rabbi to sell it for him.

Chametz which you will be selling should be placed in specific locations and sealed off with string, tape, or a lock and a sign indicating that chametz is present there.

After Pesach, please allow one hour for the Rabbi to arrange the re-purchase of your chametz for you before you begin to use it. Please take special care to discuss the sale with Rabbi Levine if you will be in a different time zone for Pesach.

The Rabbis are available for authorizing the sale of Chametz during office hours and after regular minyanim from Sunday, April 14th through Friday morning, April 19th.

One may no longer partake of Chametz after 10:14 AM on Monday, April 22nd, 2024.

### STEP #7: Burning the Chametz

Chametz is burned on Erev Pesach at a specific time during the mid-morning. This year, the final time to burn the Chametz is 11:34 AM on Monday, April 22nd, 2024.

You may bring your chametz to The Jewish Center on Monday morning before 11:34 AM to be burned.



### STEP #8: Preparations for the Seder

On years when it is a 3 day Yom Tov - the first two days of Pesach are immediately followed by Shabbat - an Eruv Tavshilin must be prepared. The Eruv should consist of any two cooked foods but is traditionally made of a piece of matzah and a hard boiled egg. The Eruv is then eaten at Seudah Shelishit of Shabbat. The procedure for making an Eruv Tavshilin can be found on page 654 of the Artscroll Siddur.

Other preparations for the Seder plate that should be made before the holiday begins are:

The shankbone, or "zero'a," is a small piece of roasted meat, placed on the Seder plate to commemorate the Paschal sacrifice.

### STEP #9: Shopping and using sold chametz after Pesach.

Chametz owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be eaten by a Jew even after Pesach. Care must therefore be taken after Pesach to purchase chametz with this issue in view. Stores owned by non-Jews present no problem; products in stores owned by Jews may be purchased if the proprietor sells the chametz for Pesach, or once enough time has passed that the items owned over Pesach have been purchased by other customers and have been replaced by new products from the store's suppliers.

### STEP #10: Next year in Jerusalem! Pesach begins on Saturday night, April 12th, 2025.



Continued on page 10

# A LOOK BACK



## A MAGICAL SHABBAT OF SONG

Chazzan Jonathan Green, West Side Simcha and an outstanding lay committee hosted an unforgettable Shabbat of Song at The Jewish Center. A special IDF-themed davening took center stage as members and guests of all ages enjoyed a sold-out Friday night dinner, lively Oneg, youth programming and musical Havdalah. Thanks to the dozens of sponsors and hundreds of participants.



## YOUNG COUPLES COMMITTEE

The Jewish Center Young Couple's Committee is excited to report a great start to 2024. This year twenty two young couples participated in our Shabbat Dinner Mix-n-Match and Dessert Oneg. These two events allowed many couples to connect for the first time and continue building this strong subset of the Jewish Center community. Make sure to check the shul bulletin and your email for future social, chesed and educational events – including a morning of volunteering with Dorot. The Young Couple's Committee would like to extend its gratitude to all the couples that have participated so far, and especially to the couples who hosted meals for the mix-n-match, and to Adina and Phil Wagman for opening their home for a dessert Oneg.

If you're interested in being notified about future events, helping plan an event or want to join the committee, write to [ycf@jewishcenter.org](mailto:ycf@jewishcenter.org). We'd love to hear from you!

**The Jewish Center Young Couples Committee:**  
Lea and Nathaniel Kukurudz  
Lauren Koralnik and Eli Frishman  
Numi Katz and Avi Cooper  
Rona & Andrew Steinerman (Committee Advisors)

Pre-shabbat picture of delicious Oneg desserts.



Jewish Center Young Couples Event

*Let's Meet*

Join us for a morning of  
volunteering with Dorot

**SUNDAY APRIL 7th**  
Birthday Card Making Activity & Breakfast  
Starting at 10:30am @ Jewish Center 4th Floor

Followed by a Passover Package Delivery  
@ Dorot HQ (85th street) at 12pm

If you need any special accommodations to attend this event please contact [inclusivity@jewishcenter.org](mailto:inclusivity@jewishcenter.org)

## YOUNG LEADERSHIP



We would like to thank everyone who joined in our community-wide meals including Mix N' Matches, YL and MJE's joint dinner, and The Shabbat of Song meal. It was fantastic to come together to share a meal in a community-wide setting.



It was wonderful to come together to pray, celebrate chagim, and give of ourselves. Davening together is always special during Shabbat, Chagim, and Rosh Chodesh Musical Hallel davening.



We also held a Challah Bake with Babayit where we raised money for Sharsheret, danced together for Simchat Torah Hakafot, and held a Winter X Games event for Hanukkah. We want to shout out Rabbi Laufer for being there to provide Chizuk, answer our halachic questions, and lead Monday Night YL Beit Midrash.

Young Leadership (YL) is so grateful to all who attended our events this past year and is thankful to all who make the community feel warm, welcoming, and inclusive. We are always looking for more individuals to be involved; for any questions of how to get involved, reach out to [yl@jewishcenter.org](mailto:yl@jewishcenter.org).

## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

### SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: DR. TAL BECKER

The members of The Jewish Center are honored to host Dr. Tal Becker, Senior Fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute and Legal Advisor, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a public lecture, *Between Aspirations and Reality: Israel After Oct 7th*. A luncheon and moderated Q&A will follow services.

#### Event Sponsors:

Chaya & Adam Berkowitz  
Rachel Stone & Rob Bernstein  
Vivian & Daniel Chill  
Bettina Schein & Alan Futerfas



## SEUDAH SHLISHIT SPEAKERS

### March 30: Professor Shmuel Feiner

Professor Shmuel Feiner is Professor Emeritus of Modern Jewish History at Bar Ilan University and is head of the Samuel Braun Chair for the History of the Jews in Prussia. He is also Chairman of the Historical Society of Israel. He is author of *Haskalah and History; The Emergence of a Modern Jewish Historical Consciousness; The Jewish Enlightenment; Moses Mendelssohn, Sage of Modernity; and The Origins of Jewish Secularization*.  
Public Lecture: *Religion and Modernity at the Turn of the 20th Century: Two Jewish Perspectives*  
Seudah Shlishit: *A Biography of a Century? A New Approach to The Jewish Eighteenth Century*



### April 13: Professor Benny Porat

Benjamin Porat is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of the Israel Matz Institute for Research in Jewish Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Law. After completing his doctorate in 2010, he was a Halbert Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto. Dr. Porat focuses on the areas of theory of Jewish law, contract law, and distributive justice. He is a coeditor of the *Jewish Law Annual*. He is currently completing a book entitled, "The Principles of Welfare Regulations: From Biblical Law to Rabbinic Literature."  
Public Lecture: *Israel's Judicial Reform Controversy: Honoring the Dual Commitments of a Jewish and Democratic State*  
Seudah Shlishit: *The Journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Land of Israel: A New Perspective*



### May 4: Holocaust Survivor, Ruth Zimblor

Ruth was born in Vienna in 1928. On November 10, 1938, during Kristallnacht, she and her brother Walter watched the destruction of the largest synagogue in Vienna from their apartment. Ruth and Walter were on the first Kindertransport out of Vienna in December 1938.



### May 11: Dan Goldman

Dan is an American attorney and politician. He is the member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York's 10th congressional district. A member of the Democratic Party, he previously served as lead majority counsel in the first impeachment inquiry against Donald Trump and lead counsel to House Managers in Trump's subsequent impeachment trial. A graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School, in 2005 he was an Olympics researcher and a writer for NBC Sports.



### MA'OT CHITTIM

Help us help others enjoy and find meaning in the Passover holiday.

Help our needy Jewish brothers and sisters observe Passover with dignity, in their homes by fulfilling the mission of Ma'ot Chittim, "money for wheat" by sending in a generous donation. **Donate online** or

Make your **check payable** to the **Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung Memorial Fund** and mail it to The Jewish Center office.

# Sale of Chametz Form

One way to avoid the prohibition of owning *chametz* on Pesach is to sell it to a non-Jew. It is customary to appoint the Rabbi as one's agent to transact this sale. You may use this form to appoint Rabbi Yosie Levine your agent. Since ideally, one should appoint one's agent directly, it is best to give this form to Rabbi Yosie Levine.

**The Rabbis are available for authorizing the sale of Chametz during office hours and after regular minyanim starting Sunday, April 7th until Friday morning, April 19th and on Sunday morning, April 14th, from 9:30AM - 11:30AM.**

*If it is impossible for you to see any of the rabbis personally, please fill out the form below and make sure it reaches the synagogue office by **Friday, April 19th**. If you do not receive confirmation of our receipt of this form, please call the office.*

The sale of *chametz* is a legal transaction in which the buyer becomes the full owner of the *chametz*. For the sale to be considered a serious transaction, the buyer must be able to have access to his goods. If you are going away for Pesach, please indicate where your keys can be found (e.g., doorman, super) in the form.

## Power of Attorney

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Yosie Levine to act in my place and stead and on my behalf to sell all *chametz* possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly, as defined by Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places in which *chametz* owned by me may be found, especially at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**and (Second address, if applicable)**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINTED NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you will be in Israel, Europe or the Far East for Pesach.

If you will be away for all of Pesach, please check here and complete the following:

The keys to my home can be found with:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Many follow the custom of making a donation at this time, which will be distributed to the needy. Please make checks payable to the Rabbi Dr. Leo Jung Memorial Fund.**



The Jewish Center – 131 West 86th Street, New York, NY 10024

# SAVE THE DATE

## The Jewish Center Annual Dinner

Sunday June 2nd, 6:30PM

The Moise Safra Center

Join us for the announcement of our honorees  
on Shabbat Hagadol.

*CHAG KASHER V'SAMEACH!*



The Jewish Center - The Modern Orthodox Center for Jewish Life and Learning  
131 W. 86th Street, New York, New York 10024 [www.jewishcenter.org](http://www.jewishcenter.org) (212) 724-2700