

The Pharisee

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BARBARA BOOKMAN PRESIDENT

“What really matters is that we care about the people we seek to engage. When we genuinely care about people, we will not only welcome them; we will listen to their stories, we will share ours, and we will join together to build a Jewish community that enriches our lives.”

- Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism*

The holiday of Pesach presents the perfect opportunity to engage in both experiential and relational Judaism. Many Jewish people, myself included, have very powerful memories and connections to this holiday. Those memories often take us back to our childhood and how we celebrated seders with our extended family and friends. In addition, we try to create new and powerful memories for our children and grandchildren.

Pesach is an experiential and sensory holiday. We remember the sounds of prayer and song, laughter, and occasional tears. We remember the smells of the wonderful food, and the *maror* bitter herb that was so strong it made our eyes water. We remember the tastes of the sweet charoset and delicious matzoh ball soup. It tasted better than ever because we had to wait until we got to step number 10, *Shulchan Orech* the Festival Meal, to finally enjoy it! We remember the bumpy texture of the matzah that many of us had not touched since last year's Pesach seder. We also remember seeing the festive table, filled with Haggadot, an occasional family heirloom, or even a child's art project. The smiling faces of our friends and family are etched in our memories, as are the faces of those who are no longer at our tables. Combining our senses with our experiences helps seal those memories deep within to leave a lasting impression.

Pesach is also a relational holiday. It's one of the holidays that most Jewish people celebrate. Maybe it's because much of the holiday revolves around a personal and customized experience that happens around the table in the home. The definition of the word Seder, order, asks us to follow each of the steps in the same order. In addition, the seder encourages each of us to be hospitable. The Haggadah says, *“let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are needy come and celebrate the Pesach with us.”*

Our very own Rabbi Mike Uram, author of *Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations*, is quoted in Dr. Ron Wolfson's book, *Creating Sacred Communities*:

“The only way that you can really activate someone Jewishly is through a relationship...If you could really think deeply about the relational piece and you built into your Seder opportunities for people to share their stories, their own take on the Haggadah, you'd have something special.”

By creating our own customs, inviting our relatives, friends, and even the strangers among us, we make Pesach special. We follow the steps, share our stories, build relationships, and include everyone, even the youngest child. Think about the importance of Pesach when you decide how you want to celebrate the holiday this year. Make some plans, create new memories, cherish the ones you're holding on to as you develop new relationships and strengthen existing ones.

Chag Sameach and have a Zissen Pesach!

All leaven must be destroyed!

Of the many customs observed on Pesach, one that I have found the most spiritually fulfilling is the imperative to destroy all hametz. I have fond memories of searching the house as a child, of eating all of the cereal I could stomach before it was time to burn it, of getting to use matches to try and light the last crumbs on fire. As an adult, I find the ritual to be cathartic both physically and spiritually. The mitzvah of burning our hametz is a great one for kids and adults alike and we will be providing a space for it to happen this year in the parking lot of the synagogue.

It is a Biblical command that hametz should be destroyed: “Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day to the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.” (Exodus 12:15) However, the Torah doesn’t give us a reason for the rite. There are many answers offered as to why hametz is forbidden, and I am sure we will talk about them all in the years ahead, but I like the one offered in the Talmud, that hametz represents our barriers to doing good in the world. “Rav Alexandri used to add this prayer after his Amidah, “It is revealed and known before You, God, that it is our will to do Your will. So what’s stopping us? It’s the leaven in the dough.” (Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 17a) Rashi offers an explanation of this prayer, that the leavening in the dough represents the evil inclination that is in our hearts and puffs us up.

According to this reading of the custom then, destroying hametz is a symbol that we can destroy that which keeps us from doing good. We can destroy, at least symbolically, the evil inclination in our hearts that too often causes us to puff ourselves up. We may think that we cannot change our bad habits, cannot keep ourselves on the right path, but the custom of *Biyur Hametz*, burning the hametz, reminds us we can do hard things, we can watch the obstacles to our betterment burn away. I hope that everyone has a meaningful Pesach of eliminating that which puffs us up, so that we can live a more hametz free life in the year ahead.

Burning Hametz can happen at home in the evening before Erev Pesach but it is preferable to be done during the morning of Erev Pesach, this year that is Wednesday, April 5 anytime before 11:48am. There is also a custom to have the burning done in a public space, perhaps as a symbol that the clearing out of our evil inclination is something that is easier with a little help and community. To that end, we will have a *Biyur Hametz* apparatus set up in the parking lot of the synagogue on Wednesday morning from 11:00am to 11:30am, bring some of your hametz to destroy and say the bracha.

Chag Kasher V'Sameach!

EUGENE ROSNER CANTOR

Music article continued from March Issue

I was rather fortunate to be a part of Newtown Public High School's music program in the late 70s. I was in both the senior band and orchestra from the time I was in 10th grade. Under the indefatigable Kay Livolsi's (z"l) leadership, the orchestra was of high caliber. When the Beethoven Fifth Symphony was handed out on our music stands, we looked at each other in disbelief. This was the original Breitkopf and Hartel score. This really cannot be attempted without a good string section, and that we had. One of my favorite memories of Kay was when, the violin section did not quite do what she asked. "Give me that!" she would say, referring to the concertmaster's violin, at which point she would play the most sublime musical line imaginable. At the end of it, rapturous applause ensued. "Stop that!" she would say in the middle of the applause. We would do anything for her.

It was at this time that I developed a greater appreciation for classical music. A close friend in the orchestra graciously lent me his Deutsche Gramophone recording of the Beethoven Fifth and Sixth Symphonies, an LP recording, something that is coming back in style now! Upon arriving home in the afternoon, I would immediately not put on the Fifth, but rather the Sixth Symphony, "The Pastoral." I would do this each day for over a month, feeling like I was going out to the countryside for the afternoon. To this day, I have committed every measure of the piece to memory. I was also learning about the different instruments of the orchestra. I was struck by the oversized viola and the sound it made. Two pieces stand out. You will know the unique sound the viola makes the moment you hear it.



Scan here to listen
Beethoven, Fourth Piano Concerto

The violas, in divisi (31:36-49), accompany the solo cello line below. Gorgeous. Beethoven is under-appreciated as an orchestrator. In the second musical example, catch it quickly! During the climax of the opening movement of Dvorak's Sixth Symphony (a work that is under-appreciated as well,



Scan here to listen
Dvorak's Sixth Symphony

the orchestra slowly quiets: the trumpets descend in horn-thirds, followed by the French horns, and then the violas, to the conductor's right, (12:45-49) alone in thirds. It makes my heart melt.

During this time my Cantor, William Glueck (z"l), invited me to sing with the professional choir on the High Holy Days. I was now truly learning Jewish choral repertoire. I was also leading Shabbat musaf occasionally. When you go to synagogue each week, you do pick up a lot by osmosis. Students, take note! The Jewish center of Jackson Heights was the most important place for my Judaic learning. In the height of the 50s there were well over 1,000 family members. They are down to only a handful at the time of writing. What I have done to keep its legacy alive is to transport the choral music that I learned growing up to Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. So much of our High Holiday choir music is from Jackson Heights. I am proud to have made that contribution.



HALLIE CHANDLER ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mah nishtanah halaylah hazeh mikol halaylot? “Why is this night different from all other nights?” has an entirely new meaning in the Sternberg/Chandler household.

Matan is currently at the stage where “why” is his new favorite word.

“Mama, why is the tree big? Why are there rocket ships? Why do I have to wear a seatbelt?...” the list goes on. (As an aside, for those with children/grandchildren in their lives at a similar stage, consider picking up the children's book *Ada Twist, Scientist*. You will find it to be heartwarmingly reminiscent of your day-to-day life.)

For the majority of the time, I find this to be absolutely beautiful, and I try explaining (repeatedly) what makes trees grow, why there are rocket ships, and the importance of safety. It's quite challenging to find creative and honest, yet age-appropriate answers to the voluminous queries. It does however, allow us to examine the question: Why is “why” one of the earliest words a child develops if they don't yet understand most of the exclamations?

It seems simple, though part of the answer is that without “why,” there is no wondering, no indication of an idea forming. To put it bluntly, no complexity or depth of learning. Even if it takes 30 tries for Matan to receive satisfaction for his answer, the cute “ahhhhh” at the end is all worth it.

We read in Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's Haggadah, the following:

“Socrates (469–399 B.C.E.), the great Greek philosopher and mentor of Plato, was in the habit of asking disconcerting questions. To this day, persistent questioning in search of clarity is known as the Socratic method. For this habit, among other things, he was put on trial by the Athenians, accused of ‘corrupting the young,’ and sentenced to death. Nothing could be less like Judaism, in which teaching the young to ask questions is an essential feature of Pesach, so much so that the Haggadah—the narration—must be in response to a question asked by a child. If there is no child present, adults must ask one another, and if one is eating alone, one must ask oneself. In Judaism, to be without questions is not a sign of faith, but of lack of depth. ‘As for the child who does not know how to ask, you must begin to teach him how.’”

Even if you're not the youngest at your seder this year, singing the *Mah Nishtanah*, I encourage you to find a question to ask, even if it is to oneself. Aim for your “ahhhhh” moment. Matan will be right there alongside you.

Now on to trying to teach my 2-year-old the *Mah Nishtanah*... Wish me luck!



JUDITH MONT SCARANI DIRECTOR OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

My favorite and earliest Jewish memories come from Pesach. I clearly remember sitting under the seder table with my cousin Jon as we collected everyone's shoes while we waited (impatiently) for the seder meal to be served. My grandfather Abe was central to my Jewish memories. Every year at Pesach all the children sat at the head of the table with him, as he called us his 'guests of honor'. It was his strong belief that the story of Pesach was so important it had to be passed down to the next generation, and therefore, we were the most important guests at the table. These are the memories that I wanted for my children, and as such I made sure to create a seder experience for my children that they would always remember. While plastic frogs and flies, red dye and cows played a part in our seders, they are not the central memories that my children have of Pesach. When I ask my children, what they remember most fondly is the entire retelling of the story. They, like me and my cousin Jon, would not let a page in the Haggadah be skipped. Every part of the seder and every song sung brings warm memories of family and pride in being Jewish. Food also plays a central part in the seder. There are favorite dishes that have been passed down from generation to generation. No matter how many potatoes need to be peeled, each one is lovingly prepared the way my great grandmother made it.

These are the sights, sounds and tastes of Pesach— The Haggadah tells the story of four sons, the Wise, the Wicked, the Simple, and the One Who Does Not Know How to Ask. The Simple son asks simply why we have the Seder, and this is given a simple, satisfying answer. While the Wise son is a role model, the Simple son is a moral standard. While some people want to change the world, others do not. It is still important that they ask and want to know why they should be thankful. Here at the ECC our goal is to help our children, most of whom ask simple questions, embrace the story as their own. We hope to bring the Pesach story to life through the five senses just as it is done at your seder table. It is our hope that the children bring what they learn to their seder tables and help teach their parents to create some new memories of their own. It is our hope that our children create the same special memories of Pesach that my cousins and I still fondly recall.

Judith Scarani



LISA RICHMAN DIRECTOR OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our most important Pesach resources

When we, in the Religious School, write lesson plans, there are resources galore that inform our decisions. We have Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, Bloom's and William's taxonomies, lists of action verbs and suggested student products and performances based on the intelligences and taxonomies, formative and summative assessment techniques, and suggested curriculum outcomes. As we approach our celebration of Pesach, however, I highlight several other important, indispensable resources. First, the Haggadah itself.

The Haggadah is probably the world's greatest and oldest lesson plan. There is teaching – young to old, old to young, and there are movement breaks, snack breaks, Socratic method lessons, choral singing, individual readings, parts for every age, delving into personal stories and traditions, creating new traditions, opportunities for interaction, study and, of course, laughter. Wine stains on the Haggadot are really okay. Matzah crumbs in there are okay, too.

A second and equally important resource are our teachers, the ones who come early on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons after long days at work. They come with a myriad of tools for providing our Religious School students with knowledge about Judaism and ways to help provide a positive Jewish identity.

A successful Pesach Seder requires another resource, equally important and indispensable: the adults in our students' lives. As much information, ideas and resources we can provide, it becomes the responsibility of the grownups to convey and reinforce the lessons of Pesach. Here is one of the things that I used to do.

When my daughters were much younger, I hung sea-themed shower curtains from bookshelves lining the walls between my dining room and living room. We usually began the seder in the living room, sitting comfortably, with plenty of nosh available. At the crucial moment (time to eat) we all walked through the "sea" on the way to the table. Our conversations at that point focused on how it felt to go from slavery to freedom.

Ultimately, it is not our goal to simply transmit information but to create experiences and to generate feelings. Maya Angelou once wrote, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." On Pesach, we gather our resources and garner our creative inclinations, all for the purpose of creating a seder experience. Through that experience we hope to generate not just conversations but feelings. Those are the feelings we hope our students, your children, will take with them.

Wishing a חג כשר ושמח, "kosher and happy Pesach," to all of you from my family and me!



DEBBIE GREENBERG SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT

As I write this article, I am enmeshed in preparation for Purim in my classroom at TBH-BE, though it can't be lost on us that the next holiday, Pesach, is right around the corner. This time of year is truly one of my favorites, although I feel like I say that for each change in season and the approach of each Jewish holiday. So much of my life centers around our shul, the calendar, and the holidays as they pass through each season. I look forward to celebrating and having my house alive with the sounds and smells that each holiday brings.

I realize that I also look forward to my time engaging at TBH-BE both socially and spiritually. Whether it's delivering Mishloach Manot to our congregants, attending game night with Sisterhood, or sharing the joy of honoring one of our own women, Lisa Richman, TBH-BE has so much to offer. Sisterhood does a great job of reaching out to the different groups within our synagogue. I like to say "It's not your bubbe's Sisterhood;" there is something for everyone.

As we approach Pesach, I can't help but think of the story in the Torah where our great leader Moshe was saved by several strong, courageous, generous, and compassionate women. These women are often overlooked in the Pesach story. We are too busy focusing on Pharaoh and Moshe, and the women are barely mentioned. These women are the embodiment of Sisterhood. They were considered "godly," acting in ways that are what we generally think of when we consider God's lessons to us. The women of Sisterhood are generous with their time and volunteerism. They are strong and able to work together for a common goal. They are compassionate, always thinking of ways to reach out to one another, whether with a program, activity, or even a phone call. They are also courageous, willing to try new ways to engage with others and working to get our friends and synagogue members involved with Sisterhood.

There are so many ways to get involved. For example, Jane Rosen volunteers her love of yoga and books to run yoga classes and a book club. Diane Hark, an artist, is sharing her talents to lead a watercolor workshop. Do you have a skill you would like to share? We would love to have you join Sisterhood by sharing yourself and your passions with us. Be courageous, strong, compassionate, and generous within Sisterhood.

Keep in touch with us by joining our Facebook page. It is constantly updated with all that is happening with Sisterhood. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/687375861941873>

Please stop in the gift shop during Open Hours on Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:15pm and Sunday mornings from 9:00am to 12:15pm, and other hours during special synagogue wide events. We are stocked with everything for your Pesach seder.

Save the date for our newest event on May 4th, Wedding Bingo. Grab any wedding attire and join in on the Bingo fun! There will be prizes, crazy wedding outfits, and of course wedding cake.

SAM BRINT MEN'S CLUB LIASON



WORLD WIDE WRAP

We came together and wore our caps (yarmulkes, head coverings),
to do a mitzvah at the World Wide Wrap (tefillin).
We davened, we learned, from our hearts to our heads,
And some stayed after to join us for bread (brunch).

There are so many different threads that make up the fabric of our community (think Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat), that provide us with ongoing sustenance in whatever ways that we choose to connect and how we maintain that connection. Growing up in Northeast Philadelphia, I did not envision myself becoming a member of a Main Line shul. I moved here, raised my daughters, and stepped into the inviting waters of TBH-BE (not the mikvah :)). What started as restarting Cook for a Friend, being in my first Synagogue show, playing softball (when I still had game), has led me to positions of leadership and friendship that have become integral to my day-to-day.

Did I (do we) join TBH-BE for the community? My reality was that we joined because my daughter was a few years away from her Bat Mitzvah, and we felt the need to plan accordingly. Over time, I (we) felt comfortable. Over time, there were L'Chaims, home runs hit, and leading roles. And over time, there has developed a sense of familiarity and togetherness with those that I have shared time with.

Men's Club is one community within our larger community. Over the course of the past years that I have been President, we have continued the traditions of Scotch & Steak (Scotch & Take during COVID), World Wide Wrap, Silver Circle, Man of the Year, attending Phillies games, Eagles watch parties, Souper Bowl during COVID, and consistently provide five-star rated grilling services.

I am hopeful that future Men's Club leadership (that could be you, we have an immediate opening for a Co-President, feel free to contact me to discuss... It does not require much time and the benefits are priceless. Aren't I subtle?) along with active Men's Club members, will develop new programs that are fun and meaningful (just being together is meaningful). Possibly we can add more family friendly programming; bringing in sports celebrities to speak (which we have done in the past), and a Daddy Daughter dance (another Men's Club had successfully done this). Perhaps, for example, a program that will primarily attract us forty-and-under. We are all in this together.

Did I (we) join for community? I cannot answer for all of us, but I am thankful and grateful that community happens.

Be seeing you,
Sam

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7 Tzedakah Games

MAY 18 Drinks, Dinner and Discussion with Rabbi Witkovsky

JODI MILLER STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

The Strategic Planning Committee is moving forward with our work as a full committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Len Feldman | Co-Chair

Jodi Miller | Co-Chair

Jill Cantor-Burns

Anna Caplan

Michael Davidson

Paul Fires

Alex Freedman

Rabbi Chaim Galfand

Stephanie Gantman Kaplan

Rena Kopelman

Ariel Lichtenstein

Juliet Spitzer

Michal Wachs

ADVISORS

Caroline Schaeffer Lewis

Beth Rothschild

Laura Solomon

Rabbi Mike Uram

The Co-Chairs are working closely with Barb Bookman, Josh Kohn, Ken Krivitzky and Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky, with regular reports to be given to the Board of Directors. We expect to have the strategic plan completed by Fall 2023 with budget inputs for Fiscal Year 2024 available as necessary by December 2023.

As we began our process, we explored other synagogues' strategic plans and processes for conducting our research. After reviewing strategic planning reports from other synagogues, and in consultation with our team of advisors, it was recommended that we move forward with the guidance of an independent consultant. After interviewing several consultants, we chose to move forward with a local consultant, Fernando Chang-Muy; we felt that Fernando was the best fit for our work.

Our first phase of work currently underway, is Assessment and Data Collection. This involves preparing an environmental scan, consisting of scenario planning and research, preparing for focus groups, and developing a survey that will be distributed to the entire congregation.

CONGREGATION RETREAT
FEBRUARY 2023



COMMUNITY EVENTS

PLEASE RSVP TO ALL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT WWW.TBHBE.ORG

MEN'S CLUB & SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

SATURDAY | APRIL 1

DURING SHABBAT SERVICES

Join us for Shabbat Services honoring members of both the Sisterhood and the Men's Club.

COMMUNITY BIUR HAMETZ

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 5 | 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us in the parking lot of the synagogue to destroy your hametz and say the bracha.

SPRING GALA

SUNDAY | APRIL 16 | 5:30 PM

Lauren and Ken Krivitzky are a couple that lives life with compassion, humility and unparalleled generosity. They are extremely dedicated to family and service to our community. We invite our entire congregation to join us in toasting our gratitude to Lauren and Ken and to celebrate their commitment to TBH-BE for over a decade. It will be a lively evening with great food, cocktails, music, a fabulous auction, and prize drawings. Come enjoy casino games with friends that pay homage to Lauren and Ken's love of boardwalk fun. As role models to the entire community, "They're the shore thing!" and we are lucky to have them in our TBH-BE family.

YOM HASHOAH

MONDAY | APRIL 17 | 7:00 PM

Join us as we commemorate Yom HaShoah with candle lighting, stories, a student choir and closing remarks from Rabbi Witkovsky.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

TUESDAY | APRIL 25 | 6:00 PM

\$36 per family

Falafel, Israeli Dancing, Gaga, and more! Come join us for the 75th birthday of the State of Israel! We will all participate in a small ceremony for Yom Ha'Zikaron followed by a celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Blue and white clothing encouraged! We will have a raffle of Israeli inventions you don't want to miss! GOLDIES WILL BE PROVIDED

COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY | APRIL 28

FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICES

\$15 per person

Join us for a Chinese Food Shabbat Dinner in honor of Israel's 75th birthday!

VOLUNTEER SHABBAT

SATURDAY | APRIL 29

Join us for Shabbat Services where we honor TBH-BE lay-leaders and volunteers.

We invite the entire community and everyone who has volunteered in any capacity at TBH-BE to attend.



SUSTAINABILITY & SPIRIT

THURSDAY | APRIL 20 | 7:45 PM

AT TEMPLE BETH HILLEL - BETH EL

Join us for a dialog between:

RABBI ETHAN WITKOVSKY AND MATHY STANISLAUS

Discussing environmental issues of current concern and the strategies for addressing them locally.

MATHY STANISLAUS

Environmentalist, Vice Provost and inaugural Executive Director of a groundbreaking institute, Drexel's Environmental Collaboratory

Mathy is a recognized environmental thought leader with a knack for getting things done!



| Please visit www.tbhbe.org to RSVP

| This event will follow the Rosh Chodesh program beginning at 6:30 PM that evening

ADULT EDUCATION

PLEASE RSVP TO ALL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT WWW.TBHBE.ORG

PRACTICAL TORAH

With Erin Beser

FRIDAYS | APRIL 14, 28 | 8:35 AM

Whether you are dropping your kids off for school, heading to work, or on your morning run, come join Erin Beser as we explore modern life lessons from our ancient sources.

No previous text study background is necessary. This is a class geared towards women and those who identify as such.

SUSTAINABILITY & SPIRIT

THURSDAY | APRIL 20 | 7:45 PM

Join us for a dialog between Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky and Mathy Stanislaus. Discussing environmental issues of current concern and the strategies for addressing them locally.

OLD HOLIDAYS/NEW TAKES

WEDNESDAYS | 12:00 PM

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky

APRIL 19 | Yom HaShoah

MAY 24 | Shavuot

JEWISH BOOK CLUB MEETING

TUESDAY | MAY 9 | 8:05 PM

Aphrodite and the Rabbis, by Burton Visotzky.

For additional information, please contact

Jonathan Grossberg at

grossberg.jonathan@gmail.com

GLENN “HURRICANE” SCHWARTZ

WEDNESDAY | MAY 17 | 6:00 PM

All are welcome

\$48 per person

Join us for a delicious catered dinner by

Betty the Caterer while we hear from

Glenn “Hurricane” Schwartz, former prize winning Meteorologist on channel 10.

Hosted by the L’Chaim Group

ADULT B’NAI MITZVAH CLASS

FALL 2023

When my grandma was 75 years old, I attended her Bat Mitzvah with 25 other congregants who had never had their B’nai Mitzvot before.

Without being there, it’s hard to express the amount of pride that resonated from the Bimah.

Rabbi Witkovsky, Hazzan Rosner, and I invite you to participate in our Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class this fall. It’s never too late to own your

Judaism! Did you miss your B’nai Mitzvah as a child? Do you want to reclaim this moment for

yourself as an adult? Have you converted to Judaism and want to enhance your

understanding of your new faith? Are you

interested in learning the foundations of

Judaism and the magical skill of chanting from the Torah?

If you answered yes to any of these questions,

please consider joining this experience. An interest meeting will be held in June where

you will learn more about the experience, which

will include a Hebrew intensive series, conversations on Jewish history, life cycles,

holidays, Talmud, Torah, and a service

celebrated with the entire congregation.

Please let me know if you are interested!

–Hallie Chandler

hchandler@tbhbe.org

SISTERHOOD EVENTS

PLEASE RSVP TO ALL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT WWW.TBHBE.ORG

ROSH CHODESH IYAR CELEBRATION

THURSDAY | APRIL 20 | 6:45 PM

Suzanne Salzburg will speak on Banned Books. Suzanne is an educator and children's librarian at the Bala Cynwyd Library, and a member of Sabra Hadassah.

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

With Diane Hark, award winning artist and congregant

MONDAYS | 10:00 AM

APRIL 17, 24 | MAY 1, 8, 15, 22

\$10 per class

We welcome beginners through advanced students. Celebrating color evaluations, value study, perspective, composition, and portraits. Bring your enthusiasm and excitement!

To RSVP, please email Diane at Dianeharkart@aol.com

WEDDING BINGO

THURSDAY | MAY 4 | 7:00 PM

All are invited!

\$36 in advance | \$40 at the door

Join us for cake, raffles and prizes.

Wedding attire is encouraged! (wedding gown, bridesmaid dress, tuxedo, wedding themed t-shirt, groomsmen or attendant attire, parent of the nearly-wed finery)

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

For additional information, please contact

Jane Rosen at jkrosen28@aol.com

A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

By Delia Ephron

WEDNESDAY | MAY 10 | 1:00 PM

Reviewer: Lenore Forsted

THE ROSE CODE

By Kate Quinn

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 14 | 1:00 PM

Reviewer: Elaine Beck

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PLEASE RSVP TO ALL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT WWW.TBHBE.ORG

BOOK CLUB MEETINGS

*For additional information, please contact
David Galinsky at davidgmd@comcast.net*

THE SPY AND THE TRAITOR

By Ben Macintyre

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 26 | 7:00 PM

At the home of Gene Spector

BOOK TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE

TUESDAY | JUNE 19 | 7:00 PM

At the home of Mark Haftel

TZEDAKAH GAMES

SUNDAY | MAY 7 | 11:00 AM

Open to the entire community

Join a fantastic fun-filled family day celebration of athletics and tzedakah! Games, sports activities for every age and ability, great food and entertainment.

With your help we will raise money for the following charities in our community, our synagogue and in Israel:

Beit T'shuvah
Ramah Poconos
Friends of Ofanim
The Good People Fund
Israel Guide Dogs
ART Reach

A big thank you to our expanding list of tzedakah games sponsors. This event is not possible without you and your friendship!



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YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMMING

PLEASE RSVP TO ALL PROGRAMS ONLINE AT WWW.TBHBE.ORG

LIMO SCAVENGER HUNT 2.0 MONDAY | APRIL 3 | 5:30 PM

For 7th- 12th Graders

We will divide into two teams to find the missing pieces of the seder plate lost around town. Solve puzzles, figure out clues, and race to have the first seder plate finished to claim the ultimate Pesach glory!

TEEN & PARENT LEARNING WITH RABBI WITKOVSKY SHABBAT AFTERNOONS | 4:00 PM APRIL 15, MAY 6

*For 8th- 12th Graders and their parents
At the home of Rabbi Witkovsky*

Post B'nai Mitzvah learners and their parents are invited to meet with Rabbi Witkovsky for Shabbat Torah Study, schmoozing, and fun.

ANA BEKOACH FRIDAY EVENINGS | 5:15 PM APRIL 14 | MAY 12 | JUNE 9

*For Young Families with Kindergarteners and younger, siblings welcome
\$48 per family | per shabbat*

Join us for a Family Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with Singer/Songwriter Rory Michelle followed by dinner. Bring your dancing shoes, and Shabbat smiles!

MAGIC MOMENTS | WITH AMY BOTEL FRIDAY MORNINGS APRIL 21, 28 | MAY 5, 12, 19 | JUNE 2, 6, 16 12- 24 MONTHS | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 0- 12 MONTHS | 11:05 AM - 12:05 PM

For Parents and Children

Magic Moments provides an opportunity to learn about your child's development and share experiences while making new friends. The goal of the program is to help support families, so they can feel confident in their role as parents. We look forward to having you join us!

YOM HA'ATZMAUT TUESDAY | APRIL 25 | 5:30 PM

For 7th- 12th Graders

Help run booths for our Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration.

JOURNEY TO BAR/BAT/GIL MITZVAH PROGRAM WEDNESDAY | MAY 24 | 6:00 PM

*Session for 7th Graders and their parents
"M'Shaneh Habriot"*

Individuality "Where do I go from here?"
An opportunity to go beyond learning the synagogue skills that are covered in Bar/Bat/Gil Mitzvah tutoring.



PESACH 2023 INFORMATION SHEETS

SEDER 1 | Wednesday, April 5, light candles at 7:11pm

SEDER 2 | Thursday, April 6, light candles at 7:13pm

DEED OF AUTHORIZATION | REMOVING THE HAMETZ

I hereby authorize Rabbi Ethan Witkovsky to be my agent to sell all kinds of hametz including, but not limited to, any leavened food, dishes, pots, pans, and utensils used with leavened food which may be in my possession at the address below. I understand that the sale will be effective April 5, at 11:58am. I further understand that if the terms of the agreement are not fulfilled by April 13, at 8:20pm the sale will be considered null and void.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please sign and return this form to the synagogue office by April 4th before 5:00pm

SIYYUM PLANNED FOR THE FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

The story of Pesach reminds us that just before the Exodus from Egypt, the Egyptian firstborns were killed. The firstborn Israelites, however, were not harmed. In recognition of this fact, it has become a tradition for the firstborn sons (the eldest child of their mother) to fast on the day before Pesach. This fast is known as *Ta'anit Bekhorim*.

An accompanying tradition is one which nullifies the fast for those who participate in a siyyum. A siyyum is a ceremony of celebration observed upon the completion of study of a tractate of the Talmud or other major volume of study. Those who are present for the siyyum are exempted from the fast.

The congregation is invited to join the first-born sons on Wednesday, April 5 for Shacharit at 7:45am. Rabbi Witkovsky will conduct the siyyum at the end of services.

PESACH HIGHLIGHTS - PESACH 5783 | PREPARING FOR PESACH INCLUDES SELLING AND GIVING

As we prepare our homes for Pesach with cleaning and scouring, we include the ritual of *M'Chirat Hametz*, the ancient tradition of selling hametz. Despite the fact that your hametz (all non-Pesach goods, dishes and utensils) has been put away, those items are still in your possession. The injunction of Pesach requires that these items not remain in your possession. In order to fulfill this requirement, we sell our hametz. This sale is affective either in person or by completing the form at the top of this page. Having received your power-of-attorney to sell your hametz, Rabbi Witkovsky will sell it on your behalf while the items remain in your home or stored away. A second tradition, *Ma'ot Hitim*, accompanies the sale of hametz. This tradition (literally, "wheat money") reminds us that there are some families who will not have the wherewithal for matzah or other needs to celebrate the holiday. *Ma'ot Hitim* money is used to support the Jewish families locally and throughout the world. We will report to you on these funds after Pesach.

As you prepare for Pesach, please consider participating in these traditions. To sell your hametz, please complete the form at the top of this page. Whether you participate or not in selling hametz, we hope you will be a part of our effort to help others in need. Make checks payable to Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, attention, *Ma'ot Hitim*

PREPARING THE HOME FOR PESACH | REMOVING THE HAMETZ

A central law of Pesach observance is the requirement to remove all traces of hametz from our homes. Hametz may be defined as any food containing traces of leavening, any dishes, utensils, pots or pans than may have come into contact with leaven-containing products. The quite stringent laws of kashrut for Pesach, more exacting than the

dietary restrictions during the rest of the year, are designed to eliminate even the slightest possibility that a product containing the minutest trace of hametz would be used or even seen in our homes during Pesach.

There are five steps in the overall process of removing hametz.

1. *M'Chirat Hametz / Selling Hametz* | To be performed before Wednesday, April 5 at 11:58am.

Selling our hametz so that we no longer possess any hametz food, dishes or utensils can be arranged during the weeks before Pesach. (See authorization form)

2. *Bedikat Hametz / Searching for Hametz* | Perform on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:56pm

Following a complete and thorough cleaning of the house, a formal search of the house takes place on the night before the first Seder.

A. Immediately after sundown, ten pieces of hametz (bread, crackers, cereal) are hidden around the house.

B. A candle is lit.

C. Recite the *Bedikat Hametz* blessing, “*al bi’ur hametz.*”

Barukh attah Ad-nai | Praised are You, Ad-nai

Eloheinu melek ha-olam | our God, who rules the universe

Asher kidshanu | who has sanctified us, instilling in us holiness

B'mitzvotav | through the mitzvot

V'tzivanu | by commanding us

Al bi’ur hametz | to remove all hametz

D. Conduct the search, using the candle to illuminate areas. When a piece of hametz is found, sweep it onto the wooden spoon using the feather, and then deposit the crumbs into a bag or onto a paper plate.

E. Be sure you collect the pieces of hametz which were hidden.

3. *Bittul Hametz / Nullifying Hametz* | To be performed on Tuesday, April 4, immediately following *Bedikat Hametz*

This formula is recited which nullifies any hametz that may or may not have been found, as a kind of insurance policy. After the search is concluded, recite the *Bittul Hametz*

Kol hamira va-hami'a d'ka virshuti | All hametz in my possession

D'la hamitei u-d'la va-aritei | which I have not seen or removed

U'd'la yadana lei | or of which I am unaware

Liv-til v'le'hevei hefker | is hereby nullified and ownerless

K'afra d'ara | as the dust of the earth.

4. *Biur Hametz / Burning Hametz* | To be performed on Wednesday, April 5, any time before 11:48 am

The hametz collected the night before is burned. The burning may take place outside. After contents have been burned, they may be swept away. After the burning of hametz, the following is recited:

Kol hamira va-hami'a d'ika virshuti | All hametz in my possession

Da hamitei u'dila va'artei | whether I have seen it or not

Di va'artei u'dila va'artei | whether I have removed it or not

Liv-til v-le'hevei hefker | is hereby nullified and ownerless

K'afra d'ara | as the dust of the earth.

From this point on, all hametz including food, dishes, or utensils that contain or have come into contact with hametz, must be put away. They may not be handled, used, or seen until the end of Pesach, after dark on, Thursday, April 13, at 8:20pm. If you have questions regarding this or any aspect of the preparations for Pesach, please contact Rabbi Witkovsky.

CONTRIBUTIONS

THE ANN ALTUS BRIGHT HORIZONS FUND

In memory of
Michael Belman, beloved
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Jerome and Marlene Fertel

In honor of Lori Cooper
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Gene and Barbara Spector

In honor of Samara
Grossel's graduation
from a Master Program
at Temple University
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In memory of David
Hillsberg, beloved son
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BUILDING FUND

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In loving memory
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David and Beth Galinsky

In honor of Steve
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Paul, Ruth
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On the passing of their brother,
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On the passing of her husband, Michael Belman (z"l),
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