



HAR ZION
T E M P L E

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Adar I/Adar II/Nisan 5784

The Bulletin

1500 Hagys Ford Road, Penn Valley, PA 19072-1195 610-667-5000 harziontemple.org



**You should be
Shpielin', Yeah!**

*Join us for a unique Purim
Celebration featuring the
Har Zion Shpielers!*

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

6 PM – Minha

7 PM – Dinner (Enhanced Seudah Shlishit)

8 PM – Ma'ariv, Megillah Reading and Shpiel

10 PM – Dessert and Piano Bar
with Hamentashen (of course!)

No charge for dinner, but RSVP a MUST!

Call 610-667-5000 to make your reservation by March 13

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

9 AM – Morning Minyan and Megillah Reading
at Adath Israel (250 N Highland Ave, Merion Station)
followed by Breakfast

Get Ready to Celebrate!



**Sunday, April 14, 2024
10:30 AM**

**The Installation of
Cantor Randy Herman**

A morning packed with inspiration, fun and interactive
entertainment by Cantor Herman and special guests

Everyone's invited to this lively ceremony that's all about
joy, community, friendship and celebration

Festive complimentary buffet luncheon to follow

Join us for a day of music, building connections,
laughter, great food and lasting memories.

See you there, ready to celebrate!



Message from Rabbi Haaz

Welcome, Rabbi Flax!

I am thrilled to welcome Rabbi Ira Flax to our Har Zion staff as our Chaplain. Previously, Rabbi Flax served with distinction as a United States Air Force Chaplain for twenty-six years, and he served Congregation Hesed Shel Emet in Pottstown. Rabbi Flax has deep roots at

Har Zion and celebrated his own chuppah on the Har Zion bimah. You will occasionally hear Rabbi Flax's engaging sermons Shabbat evenings and mornings, and he will support the pastoral care efforts and life cycle events for the community. Rabbi Flax also teaches youth and adults, and he supports the work of various lay-led committees. Welcome, Rabbi Flax! We look forward to learning with you along our great Har Zion journey!

*Rabbi Flax is beginning a bereavement group on March 19 – please contact Gina Caplan, our Ritual Administrator, at ritual@harziontemple.org for more information.

Community Seder: Second Night of Passover With Rabbi Haaz and Norman Einhorn Tuesday, April 23

5:30-8:00 PM

Last year, Har Zion hosted a wonderful community seder with beautiful participation from all who attended. It was immediately clear that we would host the second night again this year at Har Zion, and we hope that you will join us. This year, as we consider our persecution in Egypt and our freedom through God's blessing, we will focus on the State of Israel. The threats to Israel and the spike in global antisemitism remind us that the Passover narrative is not only a narrative of our history – it is a narrative of our present and our future, as well. The Passover seder provides us with powerful rituals that will help us place recent events in context and consider how our faith, our values, and our strength will carry us forward. Please look for instructions to sign up for the community seder, which will be designed to engage all ages.

PASSOVER . . .

Kashrut for Pesah

Following is a summary of the decisions of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to Passover foods, dishes, and utensils. *Kosher le-Pesah* labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting your rabbi.

Prohibited foods include the following: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and

peas; however, string beans are permitted). The CJLS has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Some Ashkenazic authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state, for example: corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above. Consult a member of the clergy for guidance in the use of these products.

PERMITTED FOODS: A. The following foods require a *kosher le-Pesah* label if purchased before or during Pesah: all baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah); canned or bottled fruit juices (These juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are **not** listed among the ingredients. However, if one knows there are no such agents, the juice may be purchased prior to Pesah without a *kosher le-Pesah* label); wine; vinegar; liquor; oils; dried fruits; candy; chocolate flavored milk; ice cream; yogurt, and soda.

B. The following processed foods (canned, bottled or frozen) require a *kosher le-Pesah* label if purchased during Pesah: milk, butter, juices, milk products, spices, coffee, tea, and fish, as well as all foods listed in Category C.

C. The following foods require no *kosher le-Pesah* label if **purchased prior to Pesah**: unopened packages or containers of natural coffee without cereal additives (however, be aware that coffees produced by General Foods are not kosher for Passover unless marked KP); sugar, pure tea (not herbal tea); salt; pepper, natural spices; frozen fruit juices with no additives; frozen (uncooked) vegetables (for legumes see above); milk; butter; cottage cheese; frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives).

D. The following foods require no *kosher le-Pesah* label if purchased before or during Pesah: fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes see above), eggs, fresh fish, and fresh meat.

DETERGENTS: If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a *kosher le-Pesah* label.

MEDICINE: Since *hametz* binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: if the medicine is required for life sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah. If it is not for life sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit. Consult the clergy. In all cases, capsules are preferable to pills.

KASHERING OF UTENSILS: The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil. Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

A. EARTHENWARE (china, pottery, etc.) may not be kashered.

מכירת חמץ

Sell Your *Hametz*

An integral part of the pre-Passover planning involves the selling of one's *hametz*. According to Jewish law, we are supposed to rid ourselves from all *hametz* and utensils which have been used over the course of the year during Passover. The procedure is simple. We follow the custom of selling our *hametz* and utensils to a non-Jew. In this manner, the Biblical injunction regarding *hametz* is respected.

If you are unable to come into the synagogue to sell your *hametz* in person, kindly complete the form below and return it to me in the synagogue office.

It is customary to make a donation along with selling your *hametz*.

Let me take this opportunity, while well in advance, to wish you and yours an enjoyable and happy Passover.

Dr. Ely Levine, *Ritual Coordinator*

I hereby authorize Dr. Levine to sell my *hametz*. I understand that the *hametz* will no longer be in my possession from **Monday, April 22 at 11 AM until Tuesday, April 30 at 8:45 PM.**

Name _____

Address _____

Note: If there are others for whom you wish to sell *hametz*, please provide names and addresses and their authorization.

Kashrut (continued from page 2)

However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

B. METAL (wholly made of metal) UTENSILS USED IN FIRE (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

C. OVENS AND RANGES: Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be put through the self-cleaning cycle according to the manufacturer's instructions. Continuous cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

Microwave ovens, which do not cook the food by means of heat, should be cleaned, and then two cups of water should be placed inside. Then turn the oven on until one cup of water has boiled away. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

D. GLASSWARE: Drinking glasses require only a thorough scrubbing before Pesah, or putting them through a dishwasher.

Glass cookware: There is a difference of opinion as to whether this item must be kashered. One opinion is that it must be kashered. After a thorough cleansing, there should be water boiled in it, which will overflow the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleansing is required. *Glass bakeware*, like metal bakeware, may not be kashered.

E. DISHWASHER: After not using the machine for a period of 24 hours, the drain/filter should be emptied and cleaned, and a full cycle with detergent should be run.

F. ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES: If the parts that come into contact with hametz are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned.)

G. TABLES, CLOSETS, AND COUNTERS: If used with hametz, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.

H. KITCHEN SINK: A metal sink can be kashered by thoroughly cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

I. HAMETZ AND NON-PASSOVER UTENSILS: Non-Passover dishes, pots, and hametz whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

If you are not comfortable with pouring boiling water, you can use a steamer. If you have any questions about this or other topics, please reach out to Dr. Ely Levine, elvine@harziontemple.org.

Service Schedule for Pesah 5784

Sunday, April 21 – 13 Nisan

Bedikat Hametz – Search for Hametz after nightfall

Monday, April 22 – 14 Nisan – Erev Pesah

Fast of the First Born

7:15 AM – Morning Service and Siyum Bechorim

11 AM – Last time to eat Hametz

11:59 AM – Biur Hametz – Burning the Hametz

1 PM – Minha (Zoom only)

Tuesday, April 23 – 15 Nisan

First Day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Morning Service

1 PM – Minha

5:30 PM – Congregational Second Seder

Wednesday, April 24 – 16 Nisan

Second Day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Morning Service

8 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv

Thursday, April 25 – 17 Nisan

Third Day of Pesah

7:15 AM – Morning Service

6 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv

Friday, April 26 – 18 Nisan

Fourth Day of Pesah – Hol HaMoed

7:15 AM – Morning Service

6 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv

Saturday, April 27 – 19 Nisan

Fifth Day of Pesah – Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Trustees Shabbat

9:15 AM – Morning Service

7:05 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv

Sunday, April 28 – 20 Nisan

Sixth Day of Pesah – Hol HaMoed

9 AM – Morning Service

6 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv for Yom Tov (In-person)

Monday, April 29 – 21 Nisan

Seventh Day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Morning Service

6 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv for Yom Tov – Yizkor Recited

Tuesday, April 30 – 22 Nisan

Eighth Day of Pesah

9:15 AM – Morning Service – Yizkor Recited

8 PM – Minha/Ma'ariv; 8:30 PM Havdalah

Nusach

Message from **Cantor Randy Herman**

A great teacher of mine has passed on. Cantor Charles Davidson, who for 40 years, was the hazzan of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park, died on November 23. During my several years at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC, where I received my cantorial education and ordination, Cantor Davidson (he would always say "Please, please Randy, call me Charles" – something I could never do) was the primary teacher of fundamental cantorial skill and knowledge. He literally *was* the basis of education for decades of cantors in the Conservative movement.

"*Nusach*" is the word cantors and prayer leaders use to describe the music of our liturgical chanting. When cantors chant prayers on Shabbat morning, or at High Holiday services, at weddings or funerals, the scales and musical motifs we use are not random! By the 1600's and the advent of written musical notation, cantors began notating their *nusach*/chanting melodies. We can see, for example, if a 17th century cantor in Odessa changed the minor-3rd of a scale to a major-3rd on a specific word in a particular prayer, and if another cantor was doing the exact same thing in Berlin, and yet another one in Amsterdam – centuries before the existence of recordings, phones, cars or trains – we can begin to imagine how old our synagogue music, our *nusach*, truly is. The Ashkenazic cantorial tradition, rooted in the Middle East then filtered for centuries through Europe, is rich and complex – and Cantor Charles Davidson, my teacher for four years, literally wrote *the book* on our *nusach*. At the seminary, we all had pre-published copies of his *Nusach haTefillah: Theory and Application* – I still have that copy and refer to it. No one has ever written such a comprehensive and useful guide for cantors.

In my first years out in the field, after graduating from JTS in 2008, I would call Cantor Davidson when I had a *nusach* question, or just needed some reassurance. He was the one who told me it was not only acceptable to entirely improvise the *Hineni* on the High Holidays, but it was ultimately the most desirable approach – and if Cantor Davidson said it, it was absolute final authority for me. In our classes, he wanted us to improvise from the get-go; learn the *nusach*, then make it our own and *daven* from our creative hearts – which was frustrating for some. Indeed, Cantor Davidson could at times be quite frustrating as a teacher; we often felt too much left on our own. But in the end, we really and truly learned our stuff – from a master.

I felt so incredibly supported by Cantor Davidson. I believe he saw a kindred spirit in me; he showed great delight in my musicianship. When he discovered my facility at the piano in popular music genres, he hired me to be the rehearsal pianist for a musical he was composing based on Isaac Beshevis Singer's *The Magician of Lublin*. It was always clear to me that he would fully give of himself in order to help me succeed in becoming a cantor – this was an incredible gift. Before my first "Seminar Shabbat," when I was to go out as a student and guest-lead services in a shul, I felt unprepared and somewhat panicked. Cantor Davidson invited me out to his home in Elkins Park, worked with me all night, cooked for me – it was extraordinary, and I will always be
(continued on page 10)



Ritual Matters

Message from **Dr. Ely Levine**,
Ritual Director and Scholar in Residence

According to the Mishna, in the Jewish calendar, there are four occasions on which we mark the turn of the year. On the first of Tishrei, our Rosh Hashanah, we mark the turn of the years corresponding to the beginning of the planting cycle. On the first of Elul (one month earlier), we count our livestock to pay our tithes (something like our Tax Day). On Tu BiShevat, we celebrate the cycle of the trees. Lastly, the first of Nissan marks the beginning of the holiday cycle, the beginning of spring, and the formation of the People of Israel through the Exodus from Egypt.

This year, we have an interesting double-conjunction of two of these new year's celebrations. Tu BiShevat falls on Thursday, January 25, 2024, during the weeks when we read the Torah portions about the exodus from Egypt. Conversely, National Arbor Day falls during Passover. What can we learn from these coincidences?

Of course, trees are crucial to life: like all plants, they provide oxygen for us to breathe; they also provide us with shade, fruit, and wood. They provide other animals with places to nest. Shel Silverstein famously taught us all about this sixty years ago. The freedom we celebrate on Passover provides us with similar – albeit more figurative – necessities. New Hampshire's motto, "Live Free or Die," is an extreme expression of this idea. Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Frederick Douglass each said the same thing in different words.

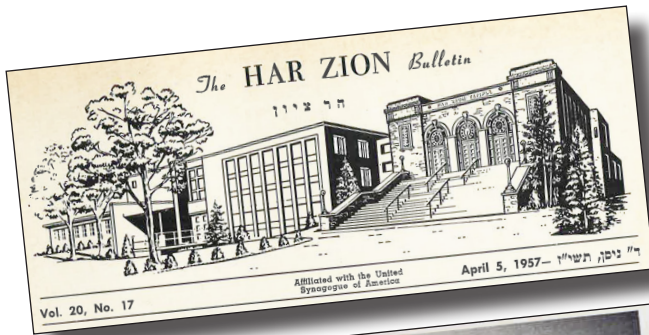
Freedom also seems to be eroding in various parts of our world. While this is perhaps better a theme for the Passover column, it is useful to point out how the Rabbis designed our Passover rituals to focus as little as possible on the exodus from Egypt itself and more on other transitions from slavery and oppression to freedom and self-sufficiency. At the seder we re-enact our own journeys from "This year we are slaves" to "Next year in Jerusalem!" and we are invited to consider the different slaveries that still exist around the world.

In our world today, deforestation progresses at an alarming rate. We need more trees, but we are watching as more trees are cut down than are planted, and the difference continues to rise. To continue to support our life, we need to continue to plant trees. Of course, the Jewish National Fund helps to plant and take care of trees in the State of Israel; however, we should attend to the trees of our own neighborhoods as well. Indeed, careful attention and maintenance is necessary to preserve the life-giving benefits of trees.

With regard both to trees and to our Jewish national identity as free people, we cannot just reap the benefits; we cannot just take and take. We must constantly give back, especially if we want the next generation to be able to benefit as well. This Tu BiShevat, try to find a way to support your local trees, plant some new ones, contribute to an organization like the Arbor Day Foundation. As we learn in the Talmudic story, as there were trees planted for us by our ancestors, so we should ensure that there are trees for our descendants.



Honoring our strong traditions, it is with great pleasure to take a look back at our glorious past.



Vol. 20, No. 17

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of America

ניסן תשי"ז - April 5, 1957



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1073 PURIM PARTY—First row, left to right: Marian Warshar, Susan Targan, Susan Faber, Anna Perchonock, Arlene Parness, Karen Newman. Top row, left to right: Mrs. Sylvia Parness (Leader), Barbara Brownstein, Sandy Segal, Barbara Diamond, Karen Shectman, Libby Kleiman, Hilda Pottash (Troop Assistant), Mrs. Fannie C. Targan (Leader).



Vol. 15, No. 11

Philadelphia, April 25, 1952

30 Nisan, 5712

BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPOINTED FOR NEW HAR ZION CENTER

Mr. Bernath L. Jacobs, president of Har Zion, announced that a Board of Governors has been appointed to supervise and administer the program of the new addition to our Temple buildings. Mr. Joseph N. Gorson is chairman of the Board of Governors. The other Board members are:

Dr. Manuel M. Album; Albert A. Bauer; Samuel Bernstein; Martin Birenbaum; Albert Bonze; Herbert Brodsky; William Chanoff; Mrs. Harry Epstein; Mrs. Joseph First; Mrs. Clarence Fredman; E. Menchy Goldblatt; Mrs. David A. Goldstein; Mrs. Edward Goodman; Victor L. Gralnick; Alex Herskovitz; Mrs. Hurowitz; Theodore Isen.

Edward Jacobs; Josef Jaffe; Herbert Jacobs; Josef Jaffe; Mrs. Joseph Karsch; Maurice A. Kendall; Martin E. Kohn; Manfred Landau; A. Lewis Lichtenstein; Lester Miller; Leon Obus; Irwin A. Parnis; Paul Perlistein; Joseph Rhode; Jay Rosenfeld; Louis Tobin; Herbert Unterberger; Bernard Weinberg; Emanuel Wilf.



JOSEPH N. GORSON

Mr. Gorson informed us that "elaborate planning has been made for the operation of this new addition to Har Zion Temple. There will be provided a full program of cultural, educational, social and athletic activities. We will have Choral groups, Art studies, Lectures, Teen-Age dancing groups, Youth groups of all types, and a variety of athletics.

the supervision of able committees from among the Har Zion membership.

"A survey is being made of the requirements of the community, in order to determine the type and extent of the activities to be undertaken. Cooperation with the Survey Committee is requested from every person contacted. As soon as possible, a program outlining in detail all the activities will be published."

"Each of these undertakings," Mr. Gorson continued, "will be under the direction of competent leaders and under



Vol. 21, No. 13

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of America

ח' אדר, תשי"ח - February 28, 1958

GALA PURIM PARTY PLANNED FOR YOU!

Save Wednesday evening, March 5th, for Har Zion and a good time that you'll long remember. A committee drawn from Men's Club and Sisterhood has been hard at work to prepare a homey, fun-filled Purim festival for all ages and groups of our Har Zion family. The committee in charge is chaired by Mrs. Bernard Axelrod, and consists of the following members: Mrs. Harry Bronstein, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Ellis, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Feldstern, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Jacobs, Mrs. Gerald Schoem, and Mrs. Philip Segal.

The party will start at 6:00 P.M. with a supper, served family style, by a snappy group of our Men's Club's finest. Following the meal and a relaxing few minutes of Purim songs, nine of our teenagers will do the traditional reading of the Megillah. The readers of the scroll will be: Howard Agran, Edward Bronstein, Larry Cohen, Leonard Greenbaum, Louis Guth, Don Hoffrichter, Leonard Klineman, Stephen Sacks and Benjamin Segal. All the

young-in-heart will be given groggers to drown out the name of Haman.

Then comes the next chapter of our Purim fun. Top Har Zion talent gathered from our Men's Club, our Sisterhood and its Junior League, and L.T.F. will entertain with skits, songs, and dances. Door prizes will abound, and the fun is planned to interest young and old. So do bring the children, and their grandparents and make it a truly family party.

There will be a charge of \$2.00 per person (adult or child alike) to help cover the cost of the meal. Though reservations will be accepted until Sunday, March 2nd, it is suggested that, since our Temple membership is a large one, you make your reservations early to insure seating. You can call the office, TR 7-6600 to reserve your places, then follow with your check under separate cover.

Make it a Purim to remember. Join the Har Zion family festival.

ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

Please watch the weekly emails for more info and updates for these classes.

MONDAY

1 PM – NaKh: The Rest of the Bible with Dr. Ely Levine

In-person and Zoom

We spend a lot of time on certain parts of the Bible – chiefly, the Torah. It is time to read through the Prophets and the Writings more carefully. Join this class to read and discuss the rest of the Bible. We will move at a comfortable pace, but include some deep exploration of texts. New participants are welcome at any time! We are looking at the end of King David's career and ready to move onto his successors.

8:30 PM – Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein

Zoom only

Please call Gary (215-290-0405) if you need to pick up new text.

TUESDAY

10:30 AM – Experience the Joys of Yiddish with Gerry Spector

Zoom only

March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21, June 4

These classes are aimed at all ages. Knowledge of Yiddish is not required. The emphasis is Yiddish culture, literature, theater and song. Language is taught using literary and musical examples.

12 PM – Study of the Book of Samuel with Rabbi Gary Charlestein

In-person and Zoom

1710 Romano Dr., Plymouth Meeting

WEDNESDAY

8:15 AM – TISCH with Rabbi Shawn

In-person and Zoom

Join Rabbi Shawn for inspirational learning. In this class we will engage in weekly Halakha (legal text) study from the Rambam's Mishneh Torah.

11 AM – Current Events: Contemporary Israel and Jews in the News with Rabbi Shawn and Norman

In-person only – at the home of Patty Grobman

RSVP to Patty: pgrobman@comcast.net

March 13, April 10, May 1, 22, June 5

Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh – 4 PM

In-person and Zoom – check your emails for updates

Tuesdays: March 5, April 9, May 7 and Thursday, June 6

Warm, interactive, and challenging discussions related to the holidays and themes of each month are led by group members. For more information, please contact Meryl Littman, merylitt@vet.upenn.edu or Janice Katz, rhk101@hotmail.com.

Mussar Journeys with Karen Kripke!

Thursdays, 2:30-4 PM, beginning March 7 (Zoom only)

This class is full – if there is more interest, we will open another class. Please be in touch with Karen, kskripke@comcast.net or 610-574-1511.

THURSDAY

10:30 AM – Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Ira Flax

In-person and Zoom

Join us for an in-depth study of the Book of Exodus. Starting with the commentary of the Hertz and Etz Chaim Chumash we then delve into the insights found in the Talmud, Midrash, and the major commentators spanning the length of Jewish history. It's Torah as you have never studied it!

12:30 PM – Jewish Books in Christian Bibles with Dr. Ely Levine

In-person and Zoom

Ancient Jewish literature was quite varied. What Jews decided to preserve was just a small portion; Christians preserved many, many Jewish texts. Come read through some of these Jewish texts, including the Gospels, Jubilees, and Maccabees. See what other ideas Jews had that may not have been preserved in mainstream Judaism, other ideas that seemed to find a roundabout way into normative Judaism, and still other Jewish ideas that ended up being used against Jews.

6:30-8 PM, March 7 – Jazziness in Judaism with Cantor Randy Herman

In-person and Zoom

Legendary avant-garde jazz sax player Ornette Coleman, a non-Jewish African American, referred to the traditional cantorial music of Yossele Rosenblatt (1882-1933) as essential music listening. Swing legend Benny Goodman breaks into a hora in a live version of one of his classic tunes. Cab Calloway sings a song in Yiddish and breaks into cantorial-style skat singing. Why do these things happen, and what do they mean? You're asking me?? I don't know – let's explore!

FRIDAY

8:15 AM – Legally Speaking with Rabbi Shawn

In-person and Zoom

This class will read, analyze and discuss contemporary issues and how they are handled in Teshuvot/Legal Responsa of the Conservative movement. No prior legal knowledge necessary.

SATURDAY

Following morning services – Milton Pomerantz Interactive Torah Study

This participant-led and organized study group wrestles with the meaning of the weekly Torah portion.

Shabbat Talmud Class with Rabbi Gary Charlestein Saturday afternoon, one hour before Mincha

In-person only in the Rudofker Library

This class is in addition to his Monday evening class

ADULT Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class with Cantor Randy Herman (Beginning spring 2024)

This class will meet weekly, day/time TBD by the participants. Prerequisite: Basic Hebrew-reading ability
If interested, email Gina Caplan, ritual@harziontemple.org.

TIKKUN OLAM . . .

Our MLK Day of Service Was Another Huge Success

Message from **Norma Dworkin and Melissa Sayer**, Co-chairs

On January 15, our Martin Luther King Day of Service, we were successful in collecting for all 12 charities. Students from Villanova University joined Cook for a Friend to prepare 300 meals for the Klein Life Center, and volunteers wrote 65 cards/letters that are being taken to Lone Soldiers in Israel.

Our pop-up cat cafe from the Cat Collaborative was really enjoyed by all! They were happy to have four cats adopted with interest in others.

So many other activities can be done for MLK Day. New chairs are needed for next year. If interested please let us know: Norma Dworkin, Nldworkin58@gmail.com or [Melissa Sayer, msapirosayer@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.Sayer.msapirosayer@gmail.com).

Shul Stitchers – Busy Hands and Warm Hearts

Har Zion Temple congregants and community volunteers had their sleeves rolled up and were eager to start their day of service. Our Har Zion Shul Stitchers were no different! Approximately 20-25 stitchers met in the Levine Room with their knitting needles, crochet hooks and/or sewing needles ready to finish a project in progress or to start a new one. That day, many completed projects were handed in, wrapped and sent off! The awesome charity of Mitzvah Circle was the recipient of seven hats and nine scarves for those in need of some warmth this winter. These hand-stitched items accompanied the winter coats collected by Tikkun Olam. In addition, our stitchers finished nine hats and four blankets for the Lone Soldiers, which were taken to Israel by Maxine & Elliot Rosen when they traveled there in February.

If you are going to Israel and are willing to take some knitted items for the Lone Soldiers, please contact Connie (610-659-3969) or Andy (610-585-1866). We'll prepare a bag for you to take.



Save the Dates!

Cook for a Friend

**Sundays, March 17, April 7, May 19
9:30 AM (Prep to begin at 9 AM)**

**For more info, contact us at
cookforafriend@harziontemple.org**

The Red Cross Blood Drive on January 29 brought in 36 units of blood with our goal being 24! Our collection will go on to help up to as many as 108 people.

EDUCATION . . .

Message from

Dr. Michael Schatz, Principal, JFGRS

Our students and teachers know me as the principal of the religious school, working closely with Rabbi Shawn, Director of Lifelong Learning, in executing the mission of Har Zion as it pertains to our outstanding program of Jewish Education for the K-7 children of our community. Children call me “Dr. Schatz”, and once in a while a child will ask me a medical question! In full disclosure, as the son of a retired gastroenterologist, I was premed for one year of college. But my “Dr.” is a title I earned completing a Doctor of Education degree at Gratz College a decade ago. I’ve been an educator, but also a student, for most of my life. Four years of college, a year of law school (don’t ask), two master’s degrees, and that Ed.D. I have also participated in many seminars and programs that we call “Professional Development”. Similar to how those in other professions need to keep ahead of new developments in their respective fields, Jewish educators have a myriad of opportunities, often grant-funded, to continue their learning.

With support from Har Zion, and from a private funder, I participated in the Pardes Senior Educators Learning Fellowship two years ago. This program, which Rabbi Shawn was part of just last summer, included a three-week learning seminar at the Pardes Institute of Jewish studies in Jerusalem, followed by monthly webinars and funding for a project in the participant’s school. We used our funds to create the Dalet Museum of Jewish Family Heirlooms, and I am pleased that it was so well received that we will be continuing it as a regular part of our Dalet curriculum this year.

I have now been accepted as a fellow in the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute, a three-year course of study to enhance the skills of those Jewish school leaders who guide teachers themselves. According to the MTEI website, “Participants in this program will join a national cadre of educational leaders who share a vision of teaching and learning and who support one another in developing new models of professional development for teachers who work in a variety of settings.” There are regular team meetings and learning, and a series of six three-day seminars, held in Chicago, the first of which is at the beginning of March. Though the program is fully funded, I want to extend my great appreciation to Har Zion Temple for acknowledging the value in these professional development programs, in the great resource that it then brings back to our community, and for affording me the time to participate and for covering certain travel expenses that aren’t included in the grant.

I look forward to sharing with our faculty, and eventually our parent community and the synagogue at large some of the things I will learn.

8 ■ March/April 2024



The NCCECE Explores Purim and Passover

Message from **Sandi Toben**, Director of Early Childhood Education



The early spring season welcomes two big events on the NCCECE calendar. Purim and Passover. Each holiday creates its own special space for celebration and learning.

During Purim, our students are learning about Esther’s bravery and how to be an upstander. Character education is an important pillar in every age group’s curriculum. The story of Purim is a great way to discuss standing up for yourself and others. Our students are also working on retelling literacy skills and our Gan class dives in deep to perform their very own Purim play. The day is filled with fun, games, and laughter. The NCCECE had a successful costume parade last year and we look forward to another one this March.

Passover is another big moment in the NCCECE school year. Each of our classes work hard to delve into the story and discuss the many lessons learned. Our Shorashim, the three-year olds, work collaboratively to retell the story, dress up to act out each part, and create their own picture book. Each age group contributes a special part to our school wide Passover seder which is a culminating celebration of our students’ learning.

In each of these important events, our parents play a significant part. Not only in the planning, decorating, and volunteering, but also in partaking in community moments alongside their child. The NCCECE is dedicated to providing family engagement opportunities throughout the school year. While our events are built on fun, they are also built on education and families learning together. During Purim and Passover, we encourage our parents to make Jewish memories and traditions with their children. The NCCECE is a vibrant community because of what each family contributes from their own unique households. The NCCECE looks forward to celebrating our community fibers that connect us and celebrating the diversity that lies within us.

Har Zion Day Camp is preparing for another fun and exciting summer! Registration and activity planning are well underway. If you or you know high school seniors and graduates looking for a fun, active summer position, please reach out to Sandi at stoben@harziontemple.org.

Upcoming NCCECE/HSA Events

March

- 8 Shabbat Sha-Blue Jeans featuring Prachim and Shorashim
- 10 Move Clocks 1-hour ahead
- 15 Back to Regular Friday Dismissal, 3:05 PM
- 22 In-School Purim Celebration – Costume Parade, 9:15 AM
- 24 Purim
- 29 Professional Development – School Closed

April

- 19 In-School Passover Celebration – 12 PM Dismissal
Families Invited
- 22-30 Passover Break

SISTERHOOD . . .

Sisterhood Update

Message from **Michele Perlstein**, Sisterhood President

As mentioned in my last *Bulletin* update, Sisterhood planned a special project and effort to help our friends and family in Israel. I am proud to say that Sisterhood was very busy during December doing just that as we undertook our [Sisterhood Sends Love to Israel Campaign](#). We worked with Rabbis Shawn and Moriah SimonHazani, who have family and friends in Israel and many personal contacts there, to coordinate two collections (so far).

The first phase of this effort was focused on the purchase of fleece winter coats for artillery soldiers on the Northern border of Israel as it started to get cold, and providing a rainproof large tent for another artillery platoon who had been sleeping in a chicken coop. Rabbi Shawn arrived in Israel in early December and delivered those items along with notes and letters of support. The recipients were very touched and grateful for these items and letters.

The next phase of our efforts to send love and comfort to Israel involved working with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani to assemble



and pack care packages for families and individuals who were displaced from their homes after the October 7 attack. Thanks to the support of so many of you, we were able to assemble 100 care packages, consisting of cozy socks, a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, bath bomb, deodorant, and moisturizing lotion, which

Rabbi Moriah took with her when she went to Israel in late December. The packages also included notes and words of support and love and once again, as with the earlier deliveries, the recipients were so grateful and appreciative of our support.



We also collected funds for this effort and still have some money left to undertake another project which we will hopefully have details about soon. In the meantime, I would like to give a huge shout out to Sheila Klinger for taking the lead on this and working with Rabbi Moriah to coordinate the collections. For the care package assembly on December 15 I'd also like to mention the following people who came out to assemble the packages: Ellen Pries, Sue Ellen Rosenblum, Judy Shrager, Aimee Silverman, Suzanne Waldman, Judy Weinberger, Sheila Schafer and Debby Wolff. Many thanks to all who participated!

Another big event that we look forward to every year was our annual Sisterhood Shabbat. It was held on February 23 and 24 and once again chaired by Andrea Robbins. Many thanks to

Sisterhood Calendar

Open a Book...Open Your Mind
See schedule on next page

**Sisterhood Program with Dr. Marilyn Deitsch
on Humor and Health**
Wednesday, March 13, 1 PM

Mishloah Manot Distribution
Sunday, March 17, 9 AM
(Deadline to purchase is March 8)

Rosh Hodesh Group
Tuesdays, March 5 and April 9
(Zoom/In-person), 4 PM

Sisterhood Book Club
Wednesdays, March 27, May 1, June 5, July 10, 12:30 PM

Save the Dates

Thursday, May 2 – Trip to JTS with Rabbi Haaz
Sunday, May 19, 10 AM – Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 12 PM – Closing Luncheon and Installation

Floral Fund Donation Cards

Minimum contribution: \$10 / Four for \$30

Questions? Please contact Janice Katz,
610-525-1101 or rhk101@hotmail.com.

See contributions page for Floral Fund donations.

**Many thanks to everyone who contributed to
Sisterhood's toiletries collection for the
Mitzvah Food Pantry. The donations
were sincerely appreciated.**

Andrea who always does such a great job to make this weekend so special, and *yasher koach* to all who participated!

Our next major program coming up this month is our Purim Mishloah Manot distribution. We are so excited to have our Mishloah Manot fundraiser in connection with Har Zion's celebration of Purim and we hope you all will participate. We also have other fun events and programs coming up as we head into spring so take a look at the calendar of events above.

Finally, don't forget to shop in our beautiful gift shop, Landau Gift Box, which is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. There is also online shopping available at harziontemple.org/giftshop, and shopping by appointment on Mondays, Fridays, and Sundays by calling 610-667-5000, X126.

March/April 2024 ■ 9

Cantor Herman (continued from page 4)

deeply grateful. He was my thesis advisor, and tried to give me as little stress with it as possible; he made clear to me – I needed to get out in the cantorial field and make my contribution, and he didn't want to add any difficulty to the process.

Charles Davidson was widely respected as a composer. His best known-work, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, set music to poems written by Jewish children in the Terezin Ghetto during World War II. It has been performed more than 2,500 times around the world, including at the White House and the Vatican, and was the subject of two PBS documentaries: *The Journey of Butterfly* and *Butterfly Revisited*. In 1991, Czech President Vaclav Havel hosted a special performance of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* in the town of Terezin, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Nazis' creation of the camp. Davidson's landmark 1966 composition ... *And David Danced Before the Lord*, was one of the first Jewish sacred services in the jazz and blues idiom. He composed more than 300 works including song cycles, choral cantatas, operas, and many choral works that are sung by secular choirs in high schools and colleges to this day.

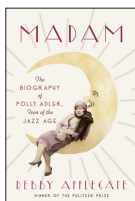
Cantor Charles Davidson's contribution to the world of Jewish music, to the education of Conservative cantors, and to his congregation in Elkins Park is immense. It was a blessing and the greatest of fortune to know him, to learn from and be touched by him; his spirit truly lives on. May his memory be for a blessing.

The Eleventh Annual Open a Book...Open Your Mind

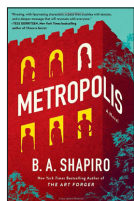
The Sisterhood of Har Zion Temple and the
Department of Lifelong Learning proudly present
"Open a Book...Open Your Mind"

Admission is \$18 per author or \$180 for the series

All programs will be in-person – check your emails
closer to the program date



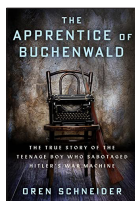
Monday, March 18
7:00 PM
Debby Applegate
Madam



Monday, April 8
11:30 AM Sisterhood Luncheon
B. A. Shapiro
Metropolis: A Novel



Tuesday, April 9
7:00 PM
Judy Rakowsky
Jews in the Garden



Wednesday, April 10
7:00 PM
Oren Schneider
The Apprentice of Buchenwald

**For reservations, call 610-667-5000,
email us at eberton@harziontemple.org
or go to harziontemple.ticketleap.com.**

This program is brought to Har Zion Temple
in collaboration with the
Jewish Book Council.



Har Zion Men's Club Breakfast

featuring

Molly Golubcow

author of *The Hotel on St. James Place*

Sunday, April 7, 2024

The author will tell the story of her parents who escaped the Holocaust and became hotel owners in Atlantic City after WWII.

Sheree Bloch, chair of the Boards of Directors and Trustees of JFCS will discuss their Holocaust Survivor Support program.

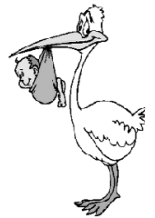
**RSVP by April 2 to Jack Marine, by text: 267-667-1720
or email: recyclejack@gmail.com**

NACHES, ETC . . .

BIRTHS

Welcome to the world to

Avi Eliot Dabrow, son of Valerie & Jason Dabrow, brother to Dara and Xander Dabrow, grandson of Nancy & Daniel Carpey and Lori & Steve Dabrow, and great grandson of Cece & Frank (z"l) Kessler, Al & Sissy (Estelle) (z"l) Carpey, Alan & Louise Dabrow, Lois Dabrow (z"l), and Ernie & Dori Riesenfeld (z"l). Avi is also the nephew of Caroline & Ron Mentel and Liza & Dave Brody. Avi arrived on November 27, 2023.



Asher Lev Kirschner, son of Bryan & Danielle Kirschner, grandson of Hope & Lee Kirschner and Merle & Itzhak Isaac Assour, nephew of Brittany & Blake Rosen and Hannah Assour and Ben Assour, cousin of Sloane Jenna Rosen, and great-grandson of Sharon Feigenbaum (z"l) Beverly Yanoff (z"l), Gloria Concors (z"l) and Marcelle (z"l) and Amram Assour (z"l). Asher Lev is named in loving memory for both his maternal and paternal great-grandfathers, Paul Feigenbaum (z"l) and Edwin Concors (z"l), who had big, loving hearts. Asher arrived on the first night of Hanukkah, December 7, 2023.

ENGAGEMENT

Alexi Michele Several is engaged to Brandon Azus. Alexi is the daughter of Robin & Jay Several, sister of Ariel & Eric Leonard. Brandon is the son of Elyse & David Azus of Melville, New York, brother of Matthew & Allie Azus and Evan & Robyn Azus. A September 2024 wedding is planned.

WEDDING

Hannah Elise Karasick & Nicholas Faroni were married on December 2 at Bluestone Country House officiated by Rabbi Elyssa Cherney. Hannah is the daughter of Dorene & Stephen Karasick and the sister of Abby Karasick. Nicholas is the son of late Maryann & Abraham Faroni. Hannah is also the niece of Sharon & Sheldon Karasick and Madelyn & David Karasick. She is the cousin of Iris, Todd, Adam, Andrew and Michael Karasick. Hannah, her sister, Abby and her cousins are all graduates of what is now the NCCECE!

Do you have other good news to share? Just let us know:
jfetscher@harziontemple.org.

JOIN US FOR HANUKKAH IN ISRAEL! BE THE LIGHT!



A Great Miracle! **Har Zion's Solidarity Hanukkah Trip to Israel**

Led by Rabbi Seth Haaz and Norman Einhorn
December 22, 2024 - January 1, 2025

Trip highlights include parallel itineraries: "choose your own adventure"

Our tour operator is Keshet and you can check out the itinerary and pricing
at www.keshet.co.il/hzt

For more information, contact Norman Einhorn: neinhorn@harziontemple.org

– A Night of Celebration –

A Family Shabbat Salute to Israel

Friday evening, March 29 at 7:00 PM following 6:00 PM services at Har Zion

You are invited to join in a scrumptious, subsidized, catered Shabbat dinner.
Let us make this an evening for Har Zion's sacred and fun-loving community to come out, be together,
celebrate Shabbat, support our beloved Israel, sing and rejoice in that warm, caring Har Zion feeling.

RSVP by Monday, March 18

to Patty Kita at 610-239-6004 or pkita@premierdentalco.com

\$10 per adult; \$25 a family – Israeli wine included

Make checks payable to Gary Charlestein and please indicate
of adults and ages of children.

Please mail check to: Gary Charlestein, Premier Dental,
1710 Romano Drive, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

*This event sponsored by the Charlestein family is in memory of
Malvina & Morton Charlestein on the occasion of Mort's 13th Yahrzeit.*



GIFTS TO THE CONGREGATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

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(continued to next page)

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mother and grandmother, Selma;
Joy & Gary Novick/Mazel tov on the
marriage of Beth & Bruno; Dorene
& Stephen Karasick/Mazel tov and
congratulations on the marriage of
Hannah & Nick; Rachel Wachs and
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father, grandfather and great grand-
father; Lynne Landsburg/wishing
you a mazel tov and happy birthday

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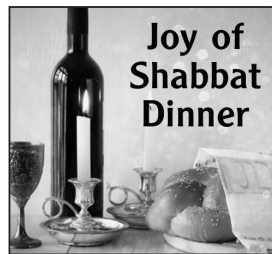


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