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e Bulletin

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

Bringing It Forward

Message from Rabbi Haaz

I remember having coffee with a prominent Jewish marketing executive 16 months ago to draw on his perspective on the American Jewish community. He remarked that, in order for synagogue life to be relevant, synagogues need to pursue 'total disruption.' His words struck me at the time, and I was simultaneously terrified and intrigued. Recently, I have found myself reflecting on those words again because the disruption that I imagined at that time was nothing compared to the disruption of this past year and the experience of bringing a synagogue through the COVID-19



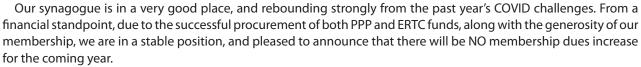
pandemic. How could we, sitting in that café, have guessed what was in store: High Holy Day "Mosaics," virtual Passover Seders, weddings postponed, Bar/Bat Mitzvah guests limited, children wearing masks in preschool, and months and months of online prayer services, education classes, and social gatherings. Yet, through all of these experiences, we witnessed the resilience and recreation of Jewish ritual and practice.

While our Jewish souls were, in some ways, impoverished by not being able to gather physically, they were, in other ways, enriched by new expressions of our sacred tradition. I look forward to engaging in deep and meaningful conversation with you about what learned expressions of Judaism from the pandemic should remain or be incorporated into our regular synagogue practice. Har Zion has been, and will continue to be, among the synagogues leading the way forward for American Jewry, and your voices, reflections, and suggestions will help make this so.

In the meantime, please get excited about an incredible year to come. More and more congregants are coming onto our campus each week, we have strong enrollment in our camp and schools, and we are hopeful that the national and global trends toward health will continue. Our excellent team of professional staff and committed lay leaders has been working tirelessly to plan a year that inspires and connects people in meaningful ways. We will, undoubtedly, still be wearing our masks and maintaining our safety protocols for months to come, but we will absolutely find great blessing in all the ways in which we will soon be together. Thank you for continuing your Jewish journey with me and all of your friends at Har Zion; we have an incredible path to walk together as we emerge, step-by-step, from the pandemic and bring forward all that we have learned.

Message from Our Co-Presidents, Arthur Berkowitz and Dorene Karasick

We will be completing our terms as Co-Presidents, and along with the existing Officer corps, will be turning over the leadership of HZT to a new group of Officers on June 12. We want to take this opportunity to thank our congregants, clergy, and senior and support staff, for the honor of serving the Har Zion Temple community.





In addition, a game-changing gift from the Kramer Family will permit us to REDUCE tuition costs for our younger family members, for the summer camp, next year's Noreen Cook Center for Early Childhood Education students, and the students in the Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School. Enrollment in all our programs has exceeded our expectations and we are pleased to see new members joining Har Zion. A recent, large gift from the Lundy Trust has been received, and is earmarked for scholarship funds for the Religious School – again, an opportunity to help our younger family members.

A commitment to long-term planning and the recognition and celebration of our upcoming 100th anniversary of HZT have begun as well. New agreements for our Cantor, Executive Director, and Director of Lifelong Learning will ensure the continuity of our professional leadership.

Again, Yasher Koach to our outgoing Officers and Directors, and Mazel Tov to our new and incoming leadership. We are pleased to have supported your efforts and look forward to participating in your expected future successes.

The Nominating Committee has placed the following names in nomination for the terms indicated:

OFFICERS – two-year term, June 2021 - June 2023:

Dr. Joshua Friedman President

Henry Shrager Vice President, Administration Meredith Moss Vice President, Lifelong Learning Ken Brownstein

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External Affairs

Elliot Rosen Vice President, Ritual &

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Leigh-Ann Maltz-Dichter Secretary Harry Landsburg Treasurer

Jeffrey Barrack **Associate Treasurer**

Evan Lechtman Counsel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – election for three-year term expiring June 2024:

Sara Horowitz Abby Siegel-Greenberg

Alan Seeherman

ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021, 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

In accordance with Section 904 of the By-laws, "additional nominations for the position of Director may be made only by petition signed by at least fifty (50) Members in good standing and additional nominations for any Officer position may be made only by petition signed by at least ten (10) Directors in good standing. All petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Congregation at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. If additional nominations of eligible candidates are made by petition, as herein provided, notice of the names of all candidates so nominated shall be posted at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting." Such petitions should be sent to the synagogue office, attn. Gavi Miller, for Henry Shrager, Secretary.

> Zoom Meeting Information: Meeting ID: 984 4473 5215 Passcode: 18 Dial-in: (929) 205-6099

NACHES, ETC...

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to the following families and welcome to their new arrivals!

Dr. Lori Eve Lovitz is thrilled to announce the birth of her daughter, **Cora Brynn**, on December 10, 2020 in Chicago. Sharing in her joy are grandparents Florence & Arnold Lovitz, aunts and uncles Dara and Josh Van Naarden, HopeAllyson and Jeremy Dwiggins and Shannen and Jordan

Lovitz; and cousins Kovey, Annie, Becca, Noah, Joey, Tal and Eden. Miriam Perilstein, daughter of Erika & Alex Perilstein, sister of Rena and Ari, granddaughter of Liz & Billy Shaid and Jayne & Ron Perilstein, and great-granddaughter of Barbara & Ken Chapman, Donna & Gene Shaid, Mildred Davis, and Cookie & Billy Perilstein. Miriam arrived April 27, 2021.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov!

Elysa Danielle Charlestein is engaged to Nir Fertig. Elysa is the daughter of Rabbi Gary Charlestein and Ritasue Charlestein, granddaughter of Malvina & Morton Charlestein (z"l), and Ruth & Dr. Seymour Birnbach (z"l), and mother of Mia Dream. A spring wedding is planned.

Bryan Kirschner is engaged to Danielle Assour. Bryan is the son of Hope & Lee Kirschner, and brother of Brittany Kirschner (Blake Rosen). Danielle Assour, is the daughter of Merle & Isaac Assour and sister of Hannah and Ben. A 2022 wedding is planned.

Jamie Gorson is engaged to Paul Benario. Jamie is the daughter of Phyllis & Murray (z"l) Gorson, sister of Michelle and Eric Gorson, granddaughter of Janice & S. Marshall (z"l) Gorson and Selma & Norman (z"l) Linefsky, and niece of Lynne Gorson Cohen and Sherrie Willner. Paul is the son of Julie & Howard Benario, and brother of Steven Benario. A December 2021 wedding is planned.

CONGRATULATIONS

Eliot Micah Feierstein, son of Aimee and Mackie Feierstein, and grandson of Roni Feierstein, and Stephanie and Philip Lerner, became a Bar Mitzvah on March 13, 2021, in Weston, FL.

Remember to call or email Jane F. Kontopodias, 610-667-5000, ext 107 or jfetscher@harziontemple.org, with all your happy news!

Thank You to Our Pesah Greeting Callers

We would like to thank the 33 congregants who volunteered to make phone calls or send e-mails in order to wish all of our congregants a Sweet Pesah and check in to make sure everyone was doing okay during the continuing Coronavirus pandemic. We attempted to contact everyone and we hope you were reached! These calls have always been well received, and help to make Har Zion a warm and welcoming Shul, and were even more important during these difficult times.

The volunteers were: Jeff Barrack, Arthur Berkowitz, Lisa Berkowitz, Steve Chopnick, Leigh-Ann Maltz-Dichter, Marcia Epstein, Josh Friedman, Jay Gorodetzer, Lew Grafman, Susan Gross, Michael Grossman, Jane Herling, Madelyn Karasick, Sheila Kliger, Susan Kochman, Bill Landsburg, Harry Landsburg, Lynne Landsburg, Meryl Littman, Bev Moskowitz, Steve Moskowitz, Charlotte Muchnick, Michele Perlstein, Cindy Reisner, Debbie Rose, Elliot Rosen, Susan Shapiro, Judy Shrager, Henry Shrager, Rachel Steerman, Maxine Waxman, Reisel Weinberger, and Sherrie Willner.

TIKKUN OLAM ...

Message from Norma Dworkin and Melissa Sayer, Co-Chairs

As we all start to return to a more interactive life, we look forward to picking up our activities once again and expanding our outreach.

In the meantime, our provision of 50 meals dropped off every other month to the Life Center in Eastern Delaware County has continued. We are eternally grateful to Andy Deitch for driving the food there! Also, our committee has proven to have a lot of excellent bakers that have graciously helped with our desserts!

The Caring Committee under Sue Ellen Rosenblum has recently reorganized with Norman Einhorn and are gearing up to begin their outreach to those in need.

Shul Stitchers have never stopped producing blankets of all sizes, scarves, and hats. Being home has been very productive! Andy Coren and Connie Handen have held regular outside dropoffs and pick-ups of materials at Har Zion.

Lastly, we will keep everyone posted when Cook for a Friend can safely resume.

Please take care as we are finally reaching a new normal. Don't hesitate to contact us (Norma Dworkin nldworkin58@gmail.com or Melissa Sayer msapirosayer@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in any of these or other activities.

HZ Volunteers and Kids Caring Connection Stay in Touch with Inglis House Residents

Although our volunteers were not able to host the Inglis House Seder this year, Har Zion was still a part of Inglis' celebration of Passover. Volunteers were able to Zoom the Inglis House Seder along with residents, families and friends.

Also, the Kids Caring Connection made colorful Passover cards with personal notes inside for each participating resident – they loved them! Teens – thank you for this!



ADULT JEWISH LEARNING . . .

Online Learning through the Week...

(Check weekly emails for scheduling for the summer)

MONDAYS

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

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!

8:30 PM – Talmud Study with Rabbi Gary Charlestein

Call Gary (215-290-0405) if you need to pick up the text.

TUESDAYS

10 AM – Experience the Joys of Yiddish with Gerry Spector May 11, 25; June 8

You do not have to be able to speak or understand Yiddish to experience the Joys of Yiddish culture. Enjoy Yiddish literature, poetry, folk songs, art songs, theater songs, opera, drama, comedy, movies, and incidentally learn the language.

4 PM – Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh May 11, June 8, July 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.

WEDNESDAYS

8:30 AM - Tisch with Rabbi Shawn

Together we will read and discuss the legal writings of the Rambam.

12:30 PM – The Book of Psalms – One at a Time with Dr. Ely Levine

Our familiarity with the Book of Psalms is often limited to the selections that the rabbis made for our liturgy. The book is much more extensive than that. We will look at the Psalms one by one, understanding what each says, how it may have been used originally, and how it may remain meaningful to us. For previously recorded classes, visit the Adult Learning page on our website.

THURSDAYS

10 AM - Popular Commentaries on Exodus with Rabbi Ira Flax

We will study the commentaries found in the Hertz Chumash, the Etz Hayim Chumash, and the commentaries of modern biblical scholars to deepen our understanding of the second book of the Bible.

FRIDAYS

12 Noon – Studies in the Weekly Torah Portion with Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani

Join Rabbi Moriah in reading the weekly parasha and drawing on our tradition's wisdom to inform and enrich our understanding of today's world.

EDUCATION ...

Message from Dr. Michael Schatz, JFGRS Director of Curriculum and Instruction

As we have moved through the spring during this pandemic year, we have tried to keep up our Jewish calendar through programming in the school. We devoted much of our time to preparing for Pesach and the Keiser-Wilf Model Seder, held this year on Zoom. In some classes where holidays are a major feature of curriculum, the children continued their learning about Pesach and its observances and celebrations. All of our Elementary school classes prepared for the songs and *brachot* of the Seder, building on skills learned in the past. This effort paid off in the participation in our Model Seder, as well as in your home Sedarim! Each child took home a Seder Goody Bag, containing various items needed, such as grape juice, matzah and a kiddush cup. We also sent home activity sheets and an art project – to make Ten Plagues finger puppets!

After our Pesach break, we turn our attention to celebrating Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut. The Middle School participated in an Israel-themed Escape Room with a company called "Bagels and Locks." The Elementary School enjoyed an interactive performance celebrating Israel with The Bible Players. This duo who are Philadelphia natives and graduates of Akiba Hebrew Academy, bring humor and participation to their teaching, and all of the students were able to join in on Zoom.

As we wind down the school year, we are anticipating a full return to normal in-person Religious School in the fall. Registration is well underway, and thanks to a generous gift from the Kramer Family, tuition is even more affordable to all of our Har Zion Temple families. We are hopeful to take what we learned about small group instruction for Hebrew, and utilizing technology to enhance all of our curriculum, as we return to being a community all together in our spacious building.

Rabbi Shawn, the JFGRS faculty, and I wish all of our families Kayitz Na-im, a very pleasant summer!



Cameron and Logan Baritz and Preston and Daniella Winokur enjoying the Wilf-Keiser Seder via Zoom.



Ava and Melanie Horowitz enjoy the Mishloach Manot package they received as part of Mishloach Manot Match.

Mazel Tov to Our Confirmands!

This year, the Confirmation Class experienced a year of study and social action opportunities. The second Monday of each month was Confirmation Class Day! The theme and class topics studied with Rabbi Shawn this year had to do with Acts of *Chesed*/Kindness. Rabbi Shawn was able to combine contemporary scenarios along with ancient text to allow the students to grasp the importance of *Chesed*/Kindness as a timeless theme in living a Jewish life. To compliment their study, Confirmation students were able to perform acts of *chesed* as well. The students spent a class session writing letters of support and companionship to Israeli Lone Soldiers. In addition, another class session included putting together over 100 snack bags to support The Breathing Room Foundation, an organization that offers help to families battling cancer. All in all, it was a wonderful year of study and action.

We wish a hearty *Mazel Tov* to our confirmands, Noah Berger, Zachary Bookbinder, Sam Goldberg, and Sofia Strayer and to all of their families as well!



Picture here top left to right: Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani - Director of Lifelong Learning, Noah Berger, Zachary Bookbinder; bottom, left to right: Sam Goldberg, Sofia Strayer, Steven Goldberg - Confirmation Teacher

SISTERHOOD ...

Message from

Lynne Landsburg, Sisterhood President

On Sunday, April 25, Sisterhood had a wonderful virtual Torah Fund event. There were greetings from Debbi Goldich, International President of Women's League; Lori Snow, President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Women's League; and Marsha Wasserman, Mid-Atlantic Region Vice President for Torah Fund. This was followed by a beautiful D'var Torah by Bonnie Rose Schulman. We then heard remarks from Shuly Rubin Schwartz, the new Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Lastly, we were entertained by the fabulous voices of the Shabbatones, the University of Pennsylvania Jewish a cappella group.

Thank you to Judy Shrager and Michele Perlstein, Sisterhood Vice Presidents for Ways and Means who chaired the event. Thank you to Reisel Weinberger who handled all the donations. For those of you who were able to pick up the delicious treat from Betty the Caterer, we hope you enjoyed it.

A special thank you to all of our generous contributors. Har Zion Sisterhood has always been one of the major contributors to Torah Fund. This year we raised over \$19,000.

I hope everyone will be able to join us for our **Closing Event on Wednesday, June 2 at 7 PM**. We will take a guided virtual tour of some of the Philadelphia Mural Arts projects. Look for details in upcoming emails.

Floral Fund Donation Cards

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

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

SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

Rabbi Gary Charlestein Fay Bass/in memory of your mother, Miriam

₋ieberman

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Sisterhood thanks the following who have contributed to this year's Torah Fund:

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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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IN HONOR OF

Her aliyah, Clergy and Staff for all their tireless efforts during this challenging year

Their aliyahs in honor of both their birthdays and anniversary
David Romanoff's recommendation to use Har Zion's Livestream His birthday Aliyah

Cantor Vogel saving a blessing on the occasion of her first COVID vaccination

Paul Siegel's 91st birthday Adult education programs and to Mervl Littman for sharing them Andee & Alan Greenbaum's 50th anniversary, engagement of Davida Vogel, Arthur & Lisa Berkowitz becoming grandparents and Arthur becoming Co-President of HZT. Dorene Karasick becoming Co-President of HZT

Harvey & Judy Zalesne and with thanks to Rabbi David Wolpe IN MEMORY OF

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