# The Temple Beth Torah Times Volume LV No. 48 Nisan / Jyar 5783 April 2023



We hosted our grooviest Purim ever as Beatlemania came to Temple Beth Torah! Congregants wore their tie-dye shirts and we chanted from the Megillah and sang Purim-themed versions of our favorite songs.



# Off the Bimah

### Celebrate Israel Shabbat at TBT by Rabbi Jack Dermer



### Dear Friends,

While so much of our energy is spent during the month of April preparing for and celebrating Pesach, let me remind you that the end of the month captures an important spiritual energy all its own. Yom haZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's memorial day for fallen IDF soldiers

and victims of terror, followed by Israel's celebration of Independence, come after Pesach at the end of the month of April to remind us that our freedom as Jews finds great expression in the holiness and the promise of our Holy Land.

This year in particular, there is so much going on socially and politically in Eretz Yisrael, and a need for our community to come together to learn and to discuss. On the Shabbat weekend of April 21-22, we will be holding a "Celebrate Israel Shabbat." On Friday night, April 21, an Israeli-themed Shabbat dinner (with RSVP information going out by email soon) will kick

off the celebration. On Shabbat morning, April 22, we encourage everyone to come to services in blue and white as we feature throughout the service special melodies and prayers for Israel, as well as a sermon on the future of the U.S. and Israel relations. On Sunday, April 23, we will conclude the weekend with a deeply meaningful community



trip to the Irving Roth Holocaust Resource Center at Temple Judea in Manhasset – an opportunity to recall the horrors of the Shoah so that we might remember the blessing, and the necessity, of a secure Jewish homeland.

With prayers for a meaningful Pesach season, I look forward to sharing the joys of our festival of Freedom, as well as the celebration of our Jewish homeland, with all of you through the month of April.

B'Shalom and Chag Sameach, Rabbi Dermer

### Pesach a la Mano / Passover is at Hand by Cantor Scott Sokol



Did you ever notice how Jews are always preparing to do something? We have preliminary services before the "real" service, we count the days leading up to Shavuot from Passover, we mark three weeks and then later nine days leading up to Tisha B'av, we have a whole month of preparation – Elul –

prior to the High Holidays where we spiritually prepare for the holidays. One particular preparation moment that used to amuse me was with a former rabbinic colleague, who liked to say things like, "We will now prepare for the chanting of Adon Olam." I always wondered, how does one prepare for Adon Olam anyway? But I digress.

The time we are in right now is also its own preparation, the period of time between Purim and Pesach. Local supermarkets have had their *pesadike* stuff out for weeks already; we are in the midst of spring cleaning (or at least thinking about spring cleaning), we're preparing seder menus and the seder itself. A feminist scholar I know refers to this period of time as the Women's Omer, since so much of the preparation for the *chag* has traditionally fallen onto the shoulders of women. In the Sephardic Jewish musical culture, this season has been chronicled in a lovely Ladino folk song written by Flory Jagoda, a heroine and witness of the Jewish community of Sarajevo. You might know the song; it's entitled Pesach a la mano. It goes like this:

Purim Purim Purim lano, Pesach Pesach a la mano. Las mazas si stan faziendo, los yaprakis si stan coziendo. Aman Aman Aman Aman Aman, el Dio bendicho mos da mazal!

"Purim is over, Pesach is at hand, the matzah is being made; the stuffed leaves are being baked. The grandmother tells the children, Clean the dust, corners and ceilings, and the rabbi reminds us not to eat bread for eight days."

Although these lyrics speak to practical aspects of the preparation, the song underscores an important metaphoric aspect to our Passover preparation that I think is quite important. Similar in a way to the

# Press from Our Leaders

Press from the President by Michael Cohen, Co-President



Hello from sunny Florida, where my spies tell me that a great time was had on Monday, March 6, when over 100 members and friends enjoyed a groovy Purim in their tie-dyed clothes straight from the 60s. Purim 2023 was truly a blast from the past.

Many of our congregants and friends brought

loud groggers and full boxes of pasta to amp up the noise level at the mention of the evil Hamen. Those boxes doubled in value, as they were donated to the Temple's food drive at the conclusion of the evening.



So many people helped to make for a most memorable and entertaining evening – from a series of very special guest appearances by our Cantor Emeritus Kalman Fliegelman, to beautiful jazz music from a trio including Ken Maltz, to Cantor Sokol's wonderful song parodies of Beatles music from the 1960s, and more. In addition, the evening brought out our own very special Purim Fairies, Marissa Lorintz and Rocey Lester, whose efforts on our Shelach Manot program not only provided fundraising for Temple Beth Torah but also gave congregants the opportunity to exchange festive baskets with each other. Those baskets that were not picked up were another mitzvah project, as they were donated to those in need – so very typical of the heimish Temple Beth Torah that we all love.

Lastly, we held a successful raffle, which was



won by none other than our security guard, John. He promptly announced he was donating the prize back to the Temple. What a true mensch. That's why we all feel he is part of the Temple Beth Torah family. Next time you see him in

the building, make sure to thank him for his service and generosity.

### Religious School Update by Adele Lalo, Educator

While this past month was a shorter one at Temple Beth Torah, our Vav students have managed to



spend quality time practicing their Hebrew reading. They have also carved out time to complete their Hebrew reading homework, which undoubtedly strengthens and hones their skills. Moreover, I am glad that

students are arriving consistently, both on Wednesdays and for our Monday tutorials.

Since the last update, our Vav class students have mastered the reading of another important prayer goal, namely the Ein Kelohenu prayer. Our students should take pride in their accomplishments thus far, as since the start of the year they have mastered the reading of the full Torah blessings (before and after), full Haftarah blessings (before and after), the Ashrei prayer, and, this past month, the Ein Kelohenu prayer. We are confident that our Vav class students will receive credit for mastering other prayers soon.

During our review of the weekly Torah portions, we discussed Beshalach, Yitro, and Mishpatim. In Beshalach, we learn about the miracle of the splitting of the Sea of Reeds. Here we learn that G-d performed this miracle only after Moses and the Israelites took actions of their own – specifically, Moses raising his staff and arm over the sea and the Israelites taking a step forward into the sea. Both actions reflect faith in G-d and G-d wanting us to take some action, as well as put in some effort, before G-d's help arrives. This is a great lesson for us since we all face our own unique challenges in life.

In Yitro, we learn about how Yitro, Moses' fatherin-law, advises him to appoint a hierarchy of magistrates and judges to help him govern and administer justice to the people. Moses agrees with this advice, and we learn that we should always be open to hearing suggestions from others, even, as in Moses' case, if we have achieved great things. Moses had achieved the highest level of spirituality, and even he was open to learning from others.

In Mishpatim, we learn about the Israelites' proclamation "we will do and we will hear." They said this a day before they received the Torah, and it showed their willingness to accept what G-d commanded even



# Around the Congregation

### School (Continued from Page 3)

before they knew all the details. We learn from this that while it's normal to question things, it is important to display a strong faith in G-d. We look forward to reviewing more Torah portions in the coming weeks.

With regard to Jewish holidays, last month we introduced Tu B'Shevat briefly, and this past month we delved more deeply into this special day known as the holiday for trees. We learned about how this is the time of year when secular Jews choose to emphasize the importance of caring for the environment and planet Earth, even though this concern should be at the forefront of our minds all year long.

We also learned about how the early Israeli pioneers worked the land and made it the fruitful and fertile land that it is today. In addition, we reviewed their collaboration with the JNF (Jewish National Fund), which not only organized the planting of trees but also bought land to encourage Jews to settle in the land of Israel in the early 20th century.

Finally, we reviewed the role of the 16th century Kabbalists, who celebrated Tu B'Shevat with a special seder, eating all kinds of fruits, especially the seven species mentioned in the Torah. They believed that every living thing possesses a divine spark inside, and by doing acts of kindness, the divine sparks are released. It was thought that the inner seeds of the fruits symbolically represent the inner sparks in all living things – specifically the inner soul of a human being.

Relatedly, our Vav class got the chance to enjoy a Tu B'Shevat seder, whereby we ate various types of fruits and drank the four cups of grape juice, which varied in color from deep red to white, and which represent the four seasons.

Also, our class wrote a brief essay on our Jewish value of the month, namely Kehillah – translated to community – which was hung on Temple Beth Torah's hall bulletin board. Our students appreciated the notion that while working alone might be preferable at times, being part of a larger Jewish community is very beneficial, especially when trying to achieve acts of loving kindness and engaging in charity work. There are also psychological benefits to being part of a larger group, as it leads to more positive feelings.

Indeed, it is hard to imagine celebrating Tu B'Shevat alone, and nearly all the related activities are made easier with the help of a larger community. Our Vav class students will also receive larger wooden trees, which they can decorate on their own in any way they choose.

### A Note from the Purim Fairies Marissa Lorintz and Rocey Lester



In the spirit of Purim and fulfilling the mitzvah of sharing Mishloach Manot bags with friends and family, we extend a hearty todah rabbah to all the Temple members who did just that through our fundraiser to help make it a success. We also want to extend a huge thank you to **Cary Rubin** for once again so generously donating the fresh apples and oranges to our Purim bags. Our home away from home is truly a sanctuary filled with warmth and caring from our members. Thank you also to those volunteers who helped in one way or another: **Darrell Lester, Joe Lorintz, Randy Marber, Craig and Nancy Marshall, and Wendy Marx**.

As always, thanks to our hard workers – Lauren, for being our Johnny-on-the-spot with our endless questions and requests; **Rose**, for always being on top of distributing bags to the students and congregants who come in; **Juan**, for wholeheartedly setting up and always honoring my requests and getting it all right; **Ada**, for kindly being our go-between, and both of you for everything else you graciously do; **Nancy Marshall** for answering questions and being readily available to put out fires; and to **Rabbi Dermer** and **Cantor Sokol** for your guidance and continued support. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

### Rabbi Dermer's Study Sessions

Join Rabbi Dermer each and every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall for *Davening 101: An Introduction to Jewish Prayer*, where we learn the how and why of Jewish prayer. We will cover everything from the basic history and structure of our daily liturgy, to the deeper meanings of the Hebrew, to the big philosophical questions about whether G-d is listening and why we should pray at all.



# Around the Congregation

Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Matzo Stuffing

### Submitted By: Rabbi Kayley Romick

### Ingredients:

1 14 oz. canister Matzo Farfel 1 yellow onion, diced 1/2 carrot, peeled and cut into half-circles 1 stalk celery or 2 celery hearts, washed, trimmed and chopped 1/4 cup white wine 2 1/2 cups chicken or vegetable broth, divided 3 eggs, beaten 3 Tbs margarine Garlic powder Rubbed sage Salt and Pepper

- 1. Prepare and chop vegetables.
- Sauté onions in margarine until translucent, then add carrots and celery. Season with pepper, garlic and rubbed sage to taste. Add salt, but be mindful of the sodium content in the broth.
- 3. Deglaze the sauté pan with white white and add the broth. Let simmer until the vegetables soften.
- 4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour Matzo Farfel into 9x13 baking dish or aluminum tray.
- Gradually, add eggs, sautéed vegetables and broth to the dish. Mix with a fork or tongs until ingredients are evenly distributed. Add 1/2 cup broth to the pan if the mixture looks too dry.
- 6. Cover with aluminum foil and bake 30-35 mins. Serve hot with your favorite poultry main course.

### Cantor (Continued from Page 2)

period of time leading to the High Holidays, this period of time is one in which we traditionally try to clean out the excesses in our lives, the chametz, and prepare ourselves to lead lives that are more in line with our core values, recommitting ourselves to that which yields value and meaning. In other words, the season of Pesach marks new beginnings. More generally, the fact that we do have to prepare so much for the holiday reminds us of an important psychological and existential principle in which we understand that the journey may be even more important than the arrival.

And of course Judaism not only values anticipation but reflection, that is memory. And so we constantly create ritual and other moments to remember

### The Next Step

### Bar Mitzvah of Luke Friedman Son of Mark and Leigh Friedman



My name is Luke Friedman and I am a 7th grader at Jericho Middle School. I live with my parents, Leigh and Mark, and my brother, Cole. We have two dogs named Tucker and Dash. My two favorite sports are football and lacrosse. I will be playing lacrosse for Jericho Middle School in the spring.

I cannot believe my Bar Mitzvah is almost here. I have put so much time and hard work into my preparation. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means so much to me. In the Jewish religion I am now viewed as an adult. I take this responsibility seriously and hope to continue to contribute to the Jewish community.

Preparing for my Bar Mitzvah has been challenging. I would like to thank Rabbi Jack Dermer for everything. I truly learned so much from you. I appreciate all your time, patience, and help. I would also like to thank Cantor Sokol and his wife. This special day would not be possible without all of you.

For my Mitzvah project, I chose to set up a fundraiser for the North Shore Animal League America. For as long as I can remember, my love for animals has been a big part of my life. North Shore Animal League is the world's largest no-kill animal rescue and adoption organization. The money I raise will go toward rescue efforts, nurturing of animals, adoption and education. Anything I can do to help these furry creatures, since they have no voice, means so much to me!

and code important lessons. Our Passover seder is basically an opportunity to ritualize memory, and it takes advantage of all of our senses: seeing the symbols, hearing the stories and songs, smelling and tasting the ritual food, feeling the pillow under our bottoms and noting our body's posture as we recline. These are all *aides memoire* as well as primary experiences.

So as we approach the Season of Our Freedom, I wish for all of us to approach this time with anticipation, with joy and with appreciation for our many gifts, including the gift of memory.

### **Recent Events**

Our next meeting of Hearing Men's Voices, a new monthly meeting for men in the community to discuss important topics and issues with each other and the Rabbi, was held in February. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Dermer for more information about this new program or to suggest a topic.

In addition, we would like to thank our Temple Beth Torah Sisterhood for hosting their annual Passover Wine Tasting on Sunday, March 5 in the social hall. Congregants were able to enjoy some delicious kosher for Passover wines and liquors before placing their orders.

Then, on Monday, March 6, congregants wore their tie-dye shirts as Beatlemania came to Temple

Beth Torah and we hosted our grooviest Purim ever! Between chanting



chapters of the Megillah, Cantor Sokol led a sing-a-long to Purim-themed versions of our favorite Beatles songs. Yasher koach to our wonderful Megillah readers: Betty Nusblat, Yona Gonen, Randie Mishan, Cantor Scott Sokol, Francene Sokol, Rocey Lester, Ally Tash, Lori Penchuck, Nancy Roth, Jane Roth, Rab-



bi Kayley Romick, Allison Rothstein, Jesse Lebolt, Ivan Ziegler, Sheila Ziegler, Carolyn Newman, Wendy Marx, Linda Guber, Marjorie Elbaum, Molly Lebolt, Debbie Chumsky, Nancy Marshall, Oliver Hazen, Ilana Lebolt, Nancy Maltz and Cantor Emeritus Kalman Fliegelman. Afterwards, we were treated to drinks, snacks, hamentashen and festive musical performances by the Ken Matz and Friends Band, who were accompanied by Cantor Sokol.

Follow Temple Beth Torah on Facebook to see additional pictures.



# Recent Events



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# Upcoming Events for April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	З Evening Minyan, 8:30 р.т.	Search for <b>4</b> Chametz Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Fast of the 5 First Born Erev Passover First Seder Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
Chol <b>9</b> Hamoed	Chol <b>10</b> Hamoed	Chol <b>11</b> Hamoed	Passover <b>12</b> Seventh Day
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
16	17	Yom Hashoah <b>18</b> Holocaust Memorial Day	19
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
23 Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Irving Roth Holocaust Resource Center Trip, 1 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	24 UJA Witness Project Art Exhibit & Performance at the Tilles Center, 6 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Yom 25 Ha'Zikaron Israel Memorial Day Community Yom Ha'Zikaron & Yom Ha'Atzmaut Event Midway JC, 7:00 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Yom 26 Ha'Atzmaut Israel Independence Day Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.

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# Upcoming Events for April 2023

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Shabbat <b>1</b> Hagadol Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Luke Friedman Minha Services, 7:00 p.m.
Passover 6 First Day Second Seder Community Passover Seder	Passover <b>7</b> Second Day Candle Lighting,	Chol 8 Hamoed
7:00 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	7:08 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 7:10 p.m.
Yizkor <b>13</b> Passover Eighth Day	14	15
Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Candle Lighting, 7:16 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 7:15 p.m.
20	Rosh 21 Chodesh Iyar Candle Lighting, 7:23 p.m.	Rosh 22 Chodesh Iyar
Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Shabbat Šervices, 6:30 p.m. Israeli-Themed Shabbat Dinner	Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 7:25 p.m.
27	28	29
Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Candle Lighting, 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 7:30 p.m.

### Upcoming Event Spotlight

Our leadership and clergy work tirelessly to craft experiences which will be inspirational, meaningful and safe for all involved.

Temple Beth Torah is still active and thriving. If you haven't come by lately, please do! There's always something going on here at Temple Beth Torah!

We value our members and your opinions.

If you have ideas for future programs or events, or if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office, our co-presidents and/or our clergy.

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# Upcoming Events

### Temple Beth Torah Is Going on a Trip! by Sandy Wasserman

Temple Beth Torah has a trip planned to visit the Irving Roth Holocaust Resource Center on Sunday, April 23, promptly at 1 p.m. Our visit will last approximately two hours.

In our own backyard, the Holocaust Research Center at Temple Judea in Manhasset is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust. Over the years, it has been developed to be a magnificent home of Holocaust history and education for all members of the community – servicing public schools, private schools of all denominations, synagogues and temples.

Dr. Richard Quinlan is the Scholar-in-Residence, and he'll be our docent and tour guide, beginning with an introductory talk followed by a tour of the meaningful art on display that's been an outgrowth through the years.

Perhaps you may remember that just as the pandemic was starting, Irving Roth spoke with our members and families via Zoom, relaying his personal Holocaust story; he was the founding Director of the Holocaust Center. Just a few months after that Zoom, Irv died in February 2021; a memorial took place a few months ago and the Holocaust Center was renamed in his memory.

We hope many congregants will take advantage of this special visit and tour. Please plan your own transportation or carpool arrangements to the Holocaust Center, which is about a 20 minute drive from Temple Beth Torah. Please arrive a few minutes early, so we can start on time. Children are welcome and encouraged. We hope to see you there!



Sunday, April 23rd, 1-3pm The Resource Center is located at Temple Judea - 333 Searingtown Rd., Manhasset Please make your own driving arrangements and make sure to arrive on time!

The Resource Center is dedicated to the memory of six million Jewish men, women, and children who were murdered. The mission of the Center is to educate all on the evils of prejudice, to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, and to combat ignorance, hatred, and violence. Donations to support the Center are appreciated. For more information on the Center & Directions, Visit: https://www.temple-judea.com/holocaust-center Temple Beth Toroh BOOK TALK Wednesday, May 3rd @ 7pm

ice Deiter Labo

Join Alice Laby, author of

### THE SECRET WAR OF HENRY REBBENOFF, as she reveals her secrets to the Congregants of Temple Beth Torah.

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Alice is a life long Long Islander, having only ventured off the Island for her Master's Degree at Fordham University. She is a Board member of The Long Island Authors Group.

Contact Lauren @ TBT to RSVP or for more information: 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

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Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and the lighting of a candle allows us to reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust. The Yellow Candle reminds us of the Yellow Star that Jews were forced to wear. On the night of Yom HaShoah (4/18/23) we light these candles to shine a light of memory, a light of education, and a light that we

will never forget. By participating in this program, you are helping to keep the memory of the Shoah alive. Join us in remembering and light a Yellow Yom HaShoah candle to remember the 6,000,000 who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Candles can be purchased for \$10 each and picked up in the Temple Office on M, W & Th from 9am-2pm between March 1st and April 17th. Checks should be made out to TBT. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Self Help Holocaust Survivor Program.

> For more information, Contact Lauren: 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

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Co-Presidents Michael Cohen & Nancy Marshall president@templebethtorahli.org

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TEMPLE BETH TORAH IS MORE THAN JUST A TEMPLE; WE ARE A RELIGIOUS FAMILY WHO CARES ABOUT EACH OTHER. WE HAVE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, IN ADDITION TO OUR CLERGY, WHO TAKE TIME TO ASSIST TEMPLE MEMBERS IN NEED. WHETHER IT'S A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL, VISITS FROM FULLY VACCINATED VOLUNTEERS, PRESCRIPTION PICK UP, KOSHER SNACKS AND HOMEMADE TREATS DELIVERED, POST-SHIVA AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - AT TEMPLE BETH TORAH, WE ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. ALL INFORMATION SHARED IS CONFIDENTIAL. CONTACT MICHELE LIPPMAN OR RABBI DERMER.



# SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### DAILY SERVICES

EVENING MINYANS (SUN - THURS), 8:30 P.M. SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, 9:00 A.M.

### SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENING, 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY MORNING, 9:45 A.M. SATURDAY MINHAH/HAVDALAH, SUNDOWN (SAME TIME AS CANDLE LIGHTING)

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