

# The Temple Beth Torah Times

April 2026

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Temple Beth Torah celebrated Purim with chocolate-covered treats and a Sesame Street theme, where Cantor Sokol (Cookie Monster), Rabbi Dermer (Big Bird) and friends taught us about this “sunny day.”



# Off the Bimah

## Chag Kasher V'Sameach by Rabbi Jack Dermer



Dear Friends,  
Happy Passover! When we open Chapter 12 of the Book of Exodus, the chapter that describes the night of what our sages called *pesach mitzrayim* – Passover in Egypt – the first Passover all those generations ago, we find a Torah text that is concerned not with abstract speculation

about what it means to be free but a text that is filled with ritual instructions – concrete actions regarding what the night should look like and in particular, dinner preparations.

According to the Torah, the Passover lamb was to be prepared *tzli esh*, roasted over the fire, specifically not boiled, *matzah u'maror* – with matza and bitter herbs.

Caca tochlu, the Torah proclaims, “and this is how you must eat it,” everything according to seder, everything according to its proper order.

There was an order to that night, which we all recognize, I hope, is the meaning of the Hebrew word *seder*.

That night of the first Passover, brought with it tremendous uncertainty and fear about what was to come, would we escape or would we remain slaves forever, would we even make it through the night? What the people of Israel needed from God and from Moses more than anything in that moment was *seder*, order – a reassurance that there is a plan and a structure, that this world is not just chaos.

My friends, our tradition gives us a great gift at all times but in moments of trial in particular when we need it most, the gift of *seder* in a larger sense – of structure, ritual, of familiar words from familiar blessings, of familiar tastes and scents, familiar dishes we use year in year out, ingredients and recipes which ground us, which help us to stay rooted in who we are, where we've been, in what we've accomplished and what we've endured.

As we embrace the Passover season in all its attendant emotions, of familiarity and joy, of missing loved ones, of worry about the state of our world and the Jewish people, a question I would like everyone

## The Four Children Within Us by Cantor Scott Sokol



One of the most beloved passages of the Passover Haggadah describes the *Arba'ah Banim*, traditionally translated as the “Four Sons.” Many communities today prefer the more inclusive phrase Four Children, a reminder that the message of the Seder belongs to everyone gathered around the table.

The Haggadah famously describes a “wise,” “wicked,” “simple,” and “one who does not know how to ask.” Yet the so-called “wicked” child may not be wicked at all. His question, “*Mah ha-avodah hazot lachem?*” (“What does this service mean to you?”) often sounds confrontational, but these are actually the precise words the Torah anticipates a child will someday ask about the rituals of Passover (Exodus 12:26). In other words, the Haggadah is not surprised by the question; the Torah itself expects it.

Perhaps the deeper lesson is that the Four Children are not four different people. They are all of us. At times we approach our traditions with wisdom and curiosity. At other times we feel simple, confused, skeptical, or unsure how even to begin asking questions. This is not only true of religious life, it reflects the way all human learning unfolds.

The Haggadah's response is instructive: we answer each child differently. Jewish tradition calls this teaching “*ba'asher hu sham*,” meeting a person where they are. In many ways, this principle lies at the heart of modern education and special education alike.

Over the course of my own professional life as a Jewish educator, cantor, and neuropsychologist, I have seen how transformative this approach can be. The Seder reminds us that meaningful learning begins not with a single answer, but with listening carefully to the questioner sitting before us.

May we each have the privilege of learning and teaching, experiencing the richness of our tradition and passing it along midor ledor.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

We've included Cantor Sokol's  
mandel bread recipe on page 3!

Continued on Page 4

# Press from Our Leaders

## Press from the President by Ken Maltz, President



As has been said so often, the Torah is indeed our Tree of Life, an *Eitz Hayim*. It is the core of our beliefs, the very foundation upon which the Jewish People rests. Some hold that the Torah is the word of God; some say it is the work of Man; while others maintain that it is the word of God as interpreted by Man.

Whatever view you subscribe to, as a People, without the Torah, there is no "us."

As timeless as the Torah is, each scroll accumulates wear as it is lovingly and respectfully rolled and unrolled each week. Just as a tree needs looking after as it ages, so do our Torahs. Parchment can tear, letters can fade, stains can appear and even the wooden *Eitzei Hayim* (dowels) can break (as one has on one of our scrolls). Hence, our Torahs need looking after in order that they remain Kosher, and this care must be rendered by a Sofer, a scribe, who is specially trained in performing this holy work.

The first step in this process involves engaging a sofer who will carefully examine each scroll (we have five); identifying which repairs, if any, need to be made and providing us with an estimate of the costs involved to perform the needed work. While fees for these individuals can be very pricey, thanks to Joe at Unique Judaica, we have located a very highly respected and expert sofer who will provide these services at a very reasonable cost. Once the defects have been located and reported to our Rabbi and Ritual Committee, we will determine if the Congregation is best served by executing the repairs or, in extreme cases, simply replacing the Torah with an already Kosher one. It is hoped that any necessary repairs will be relatively minor, but I must point out that even one defective letter can render an entire Torah unusable! Temple Beth Torah needs three Kosher Torahs as there are some services during the year where two and even three Torahs are used. We must ensure that of our five scrolls, at least three must be maintained in Kosher condition, while it's desirable to have one other as a backup.

We will keep you informed as the process moves forward and, for those of you who may be interested, we will let you know how you can help us complete this task.

## Recipe from Our Clergy: Cantor Sokol's Mandel Bread

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup sugar (or a full cup if you like it sweet)
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup almond flour (you can eliminate the almond flour and use 3 cups of regular instead)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup raisins or dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup slivered or shaved almonds
- 1/4 cup pumpkin seeds
- Ground cinnamon and granulated sugar for dusting

1. Mix together oil and sugar until combined in a stand or hand mixer on low, then add eggs one at a time. After the eggs are combined, add vanilla and almond extract.
2. Mix together all the dry ingredients and add them slowly to the sugar/egg mixture.
3. Once the dough is smooth and sticky, pour in the chocolate chips, raisins, nuts and seeds and combine it all.
4. Cover the dough with plastic wrap and place it in the refrigerator for 2 or more hours.
5. Form 4 long rows with the dough onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper (you may want to use two cookie sheets, as the dough will spread a lot. Each strip of dough should be 3-4 inches wide.
6. Bake at 350 for 25 minutes. While mandel bread is baking, in a flat shallow dish, combine 1/2 cup of sugar with enough cinnamon to turn the mixture light brown.
7. Take the mandel bread out and turn the oven down to 250 degrees. Slice the mandel bread into biscotti sized pieces.
8. Sprinkle each cookie into the cinnamon sugar mixture. Bake at 250 degrees for another fifteen minutes.

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As Proverbs 3:18 reminds us: *The Torah is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and those who support it are fulfilled and happy.*

# Around the Congregation

## RAYS of this + that!

Our condolences to the Rosenfeld and Sachs families on the passing of Gloria Rosenfeld, sister of Sheldon Polner Z"l and sister-in-law of Florine, beloved mother of Lisa and Eric, grandmother of Caroline, Danielle, Emma, and Kate.

Our condolences to the Steinberg family on the passing of Pearl Ginsburg, mother and mother in law of Arnie and Roz Steinberg.

Our condolences to the Adwar family on the passing of Harry Adwar, father and father in law of Keith and Lila, grandfather of Mikaela and Julia.

### Rabbi (Continued from Page 2)

to ask yourself and to meditate on whatever is going on your life right now: What from our tradition will you hold close – what word, or ritual, or concept, or prayer will be your life preserver in the days to come, your sense or order in a world too often chaotic.

Perhaps you'll hold onto the words of *dayenu* – words which express our gratitude and remind us of all the many things we have to cherish in this moment despite the challenges we have faced.

Or perhaps you'll be more focused on the *matza* – *lechem oni* as it is called in our tradition, bread of affliction, and you'll make space in your heart all those who are struggling and broken with empathy, and with a desire to help.

My friends ours is a chaotic and complicated world, about that fact there is no doubt. However for us as Jews it doesn't end there – there is an order that gives meaning to the ups and downs of the journey of life, a rhythm to our prayers, our rituals, and our traditions that helped our ancestors find direction as they do us, that strengthen us and carry us when we look toward them earnestly.

May the beautiful traditions, melodies, and recipes of our people grant comfort and strength to all those in need this Passover season, and may they inspire us to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors, as we journey toward a promised land of greater blessing and goodness in our own lives.

Chag Kasher V'Sameach, a Kosher and Happy Passover to all,  
Rabbi Dermer

Mazel tov to Linda and Mitchell Pochtar on the birth of their granddaughter Emily Goldie Alson, born to parents Randy and Jay Alson.

### Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Kosher for Passover Lemon Bars

Submitted by: Randie Mishan

#### Ingredients:

- 7 tablespoons unsalted melted butter
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 vanilla bean scraped or 2 teaspoons extract
- ¼ teaspoon kosher or sea salt
- ½ cup finely ground almonds
- ½ cup matzo cake meal
- Zest from 1 lemon
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons potato starch
- 3 large eggs
- Finely grated zest from 2 lemons
- ½ cup lemon juice  
(from about 2-3 medium lemons)
- Pinch of kosher or sea salt
- 1 vanilla bean scraped or 2 teaspoons extract
- 2-3 tablespoons powdered sugar for dusting

#### Instructions for the crust:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line an 8- x 8-inch baking dish with parchment paper or foil. Grease the parchment or foil.
2. Heat butter until hot. Add sugar, vanilla, salt, almonds, cake meal, and lemon zest. Stir just to combine. Transfer crust to lined pan and press into the pan.
3. Bake at 350°F until lightly browned, about 20 to 25 minutes. Set aside.

#### Instructions for the filling:

1. Decrease oven to 300°F.
2. Whisk together sugar, starch, eggs, zest, juice, salt, and vanilla until well combined.
3. Gently pour filling into baked crust. Bake the bars for 20 to 25 minutes until the center is no longer jiggly.
4. Cool completely before garnishing with powdered sugar.

# Recent Events

**Temple Beth Torah Celebrates Purim:** Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Temple Beth Torah street? This year, Cantor Sokol was Cookie Monster, Rabbi Dermer was Big Bird, little Max Dermer was Elmo, and we celebrated the “sunny day” when the Jews were saved from destruction. Did “Haman the Grouch” stop our fun? No way! Temple Beth Torah would like to thank our Megillah readers: Betty Nusb-lat, Yona Gonen, Randie Mishan, Cantor Scott Sokol, Rocey Lester, Irwin Scharf, Nancy Roth, Joan Roth, Marty Mishan, Allison Rothstein, Rabbi Jack Dermer, Rabbi Kayley Romick, Carolyn Newman, Linda Gu-ber, Debbie Chumsky, Nancy Marshall, Nancy Maltz, and Barry Shorten. We’d also like to thank Wendy Gray for teaching us how to make her famous chocolate-covered pretzels and Oreos as a special Purim treat during the Chocolate POP (Pretzels, Oreos and Purim) Event on Thursday, February 26.

**A Note from Your Purim Fairies, Marissa Lorintz and Rocey Lester:** When Hamantashen Mon-ster, Big Bird, Queen Esther, Oscar the Grouch and the Count (and little Elmo) visited TBT this Purim they were greeted by congregants who reveled in the Purim festivities. But before the party and after the read- ing of the megillah, TBTERS collected their Mishloach Manot bags which were lovingly prepared by your Purim fairies along with their helpers, **Joe Lorintz** and **Darrell Lester**. Thank you also, **Randy Marber**, who helped distribute bags erev Purim while party-goers were enjoying schmoozing and noshing in the social hall. An enormous thank you goes to our generous member, **Cary Rubin**, who enriched our bags with his donation of big, juicy oranges and apples. Thank you also to **Lauren** who always honors our requests and to **Juan** and **Ada** for their continued help in whatever we need to set up for our bags. Our appreciation also goes out to everyone who ordered a Purim bag and to those who donated their bags as well. You all contributed to making our fundraiser a success. Toda rabbah!

*Follow Temple Beth Torah on Facebook to see additional pictures.*



# Recent Events



# Recent Events



# Upcoming Events: April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			<b>Fast of the First Born</b> 1 <b>Erev Passover</b> <b>First Seder</b>  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
<b>Chol Hamoed</b> 5  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Chol Hamoed</b> 6  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Chol Hamoed</b> 7  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Passover Seventh Day</b> 8  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
12  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	13  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Yom Hashoah</b> 14 <b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b>  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	15  Pizza & Parsha, 6:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
19  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	20  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Yom Ha'zikaron</b> 21 <b>Israel Memorial Day</b> Celebrate Israel's Independence, 7:00 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Yom Ha'atzmaut</b> 22 <b>Israel Independence Day</b>  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
26  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	27  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	28  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	29  Pizza & Parsha, 6:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.

# Upcoming Events: April 2026

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Passover First Day Second Seder</p> <p>2</p> <p>Second Night Community Seder Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Passover Second Day</p> <p>3</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:04 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Chol Hamoed</p> <p>4</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Passover Eighth Day Yizkor</p> <p>9</p> <p>Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:12 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 7:10 p.m.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Rosh Chodesh Iyar</p> <p>17</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:19 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Rosh Chodesh Iyar</p> <p>18</p> <p>Men's Club Shabbat, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 7:15 p.m.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Table Talk, 7:00 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:26 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 7:25 p.m.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.</p>		

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

Temple Beth Torah is 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 Executive Board and/or our clergy.

# Upcoming Events

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

## April Calendar

Wednesday, 4/1- Siyyum Bechorim-Fast of the Firstborn  
Search for Chametz  
Thursday, 4/2 - Thursday, 4/9 - Passover  
Thursday, 4/2- Second Night Community Seder  
Wednesday, 4/1, Thursday, 4/2 & Friday, 4/3 - Office Closed  
Sunday, 4/5 - Easter  
Monday, 4/6 - Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, 4/8 & Thursday, 4/9 - Office Closed  
Thursday, 4/9 - Yizkor  
Saturday, 4/11 - TBTots  
Tuesday, 4/14 - Yom Hashoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day  
Wednesday, 4/15 - Pizza & Parashah @ Shelter Rock JC  
Thursday, 4/16 & Friday, 4/17 - Rosh Chodesh Iyar  
Saturday, 4/18 - Men's Club Shabbat  
Monday, 4/20 - Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, 4/21 - Yom HaZikaron - Israel Memorial Day  
Wednesday, 4/22 - Yom HaAtzma'ut - Israel Independence Day  
Thursday, 4/23 - Table Talk  
Wednesday, 4/29 - Pizza & Parashah @ Plainview JC



## PIZZA & PARASHAH DATES



4/15  
6:30pm

Shelter Rock Jewish Center  
272 Shelter Rock Rd., Roslyn  
RSVP to Rochelle @  
administrator@srjc.org

4/29  
6:30pm

Plainview Jewish Center  
95 Floral Drive West, Plainview  
RSVP to Sandra @  
pjcli@optonline.net

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE INAGURAL *Men's Club Shabbat*

Saturday, April 18  
9:30AM

Kiddush Luncheon  
to follow

For more information or to  
participate, please contact  
Robert Shapiro or  
Andy Silverman.



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## PURCHASE TORAH CARDS

Contact Linda Pochtar, Betty Weiss or the  
Temple office for additional information



## TEMPLE FRIENDS INITIATIVE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

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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, 9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY MINHAH/HAYDALAH, SUNDOWN

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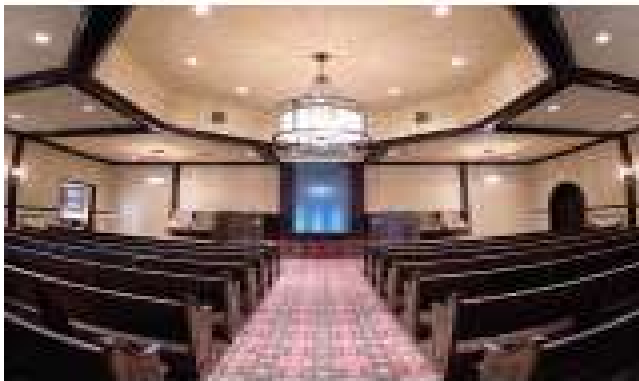
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