



A Message from the Rabbi

Pesach, Matzah, and Marror. In a just a few short days we will gather around our own table, or the table of family and friends, and celebrate the holiday of Pesach. To do so we will engage in the Seder and the critical component of retelling the story. The Maggid section of the seder found in our Haggadah has this element brought forth by Rabbi Gamliel who would say: "Anyone who doesn't say these three things on Pesach, has not fulfilled his/her obligation, and these are they: Pesach, Matzah, and Marror.

What is so significant about these three elements of the seder? To answer this question, I think we first

must ask ourselves what is the goal of the seder of the holiday itself? The short answer and direct answer is we must tell the story. But who are we retelling the story for?

Is the story being re-told as a means of reminiscing the glory days of years past so many of us do when telling stories of our high school and college years to the next generation?

Is the story being re-told as a method to compare and contrast the challenges/struggles one generation feels it has experienced more so than the next generation? Our Rabbis teach it is something much more.

The story is for us, the generation of now and for the generation to come. We tell the story to the next generation to impart history and identity and to weave the connective tissue of our people into their psyches. At the same time, telling the story internalizes it for us as well. It provides us the opportunity to externalize the story, the rituals, the customs to make it concrete that this is ours and not in an abstract way.

The Pesach lamb symbolizes freedom. The bitter herbs symbolize slavery and oppression. The matzah combines both. Our generation has seen the freedom of being a proud Jew in *(continued next page)*

the highest expression of that for the bulk of our lives personified in the State of Israel. A place where every Jew can live freely without persecution. Our generation saw and lived through the changing tide of assimilation into most western societies where the constraints on opportunity in education and vocation were lifted if not altogether removed for Jews in places like: France, the United States, and England. Jews reached the apex of possibilities. Sadly, the generation we are raising are experiencing the opposite. Critical thinking and discussion on college campuses and even in our high schools has been eroded. The Jew and Israel are the roots of all evil. Being a proud Jew who demonstrates that identity is something the next generation must give pause to consider. While not slavery, this isn't freedom. So as we gather around the Pesach table let us not only tell the story but give the next generation a chance to tell their story so we can hear their maggid and offer an opportunity for us to reassure them when they choose to externalize with pride their Jewish identity. We are there with them.

**Pesach Sameach,
Rav Chaim**

President's Message

Dear Members,
As we prepare to celebrate the holiday of Passover, we are reminded of one of the most powerful and enduring stories of the Jewish people - the journey from slavery to freedom. Each year, as we gather around our Seder tables, we do more than recount a story from long ago, we relive it. We remember the courage, faith, and perseverance that carried our ancestors through hardship toward hope and redemption.

Passover invites us to pause and reflect on what freedom truly means. It reminds us to be grateful for the blessings we have, to care for those in need, and to continue striving toward a more compassionate and just world. The rituals of the Seder, the questions asked by the youngest among us, and the traditions passed from generation to generation connect us not only to our history, but also to one another.

Our congregation is a living reflection of that same spirit of community and continuity. I encourage you to join us for our upcoming Shabbat services and Passover gatherings, where we can celebrate together, strengthen our bonds, and share in the joy and meaning of this special season.

May this Passover bring renewed inspiration to your homes and hearts. May your Seders be filled with meaningful conversation, laughter and the warmth of family and friends. On behalf of the Board, I wish you and your families a Chag Pesach Sameach - a Passover filled with peace, warmth and the blessings of freedom. Warm regards,

**Dr. Sharon I. Monter
President**



Purchase a gift card from Sisterhood and help support Temple Beth Or. 5% of the purchase prices goes to TBO at no extra cost to you. Cards are available in \$25, \$50, or \$100 amounts. Call or email the office for more information.

Golden Books

Celebrate Simchas by sending a Golden Book

\$5 each

Call or email the office for more information.



Shabbat Services

Friday - 7:15 pm
Saturday - 9:30 am
Havdallah - 7:30 pm

In person and on Zoom

Saturday, April 4 - Chol Hamoed
Shacharit Services (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 9:30 am
Ma'ariv/Havdallah (Zoom) - 8:05 pm

Weekday Minyan on Zoom - 6:30 PM

Pesach Services

Erev Passover: Wednesday, April 1

Morning Minyan (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 7:30 am
Siyum of the Fast of the Firstborn - 8:15 am
Burning of the Chametz (Shabbat Entrance) - 8:30-9:30 am
Candle lighting - 7:02 pm

Passover Day 1: Thursday, April 2

Yom Tov Services (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 9:30 am
Candle Lighting - 7:21 pm

Passover Day 2: Friday, April 3

Yom Tov Services (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 9:30 am
Mincha/Ma'ariv (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 7:15 pm
Candle Lighting Shabbat - 7:04 pm

Erev Yom Tov: Tuesday, April 7

Mincha/Ma'ariv (Zoom) - 7:15 pm
Candle Lighting - 7:08 pm

Passover Day 7: Wednesday April 8

Yom Tov Services (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 9:30 am
Mincha/Ma'ariv (Zoom) - 7:15 pm
Candle Lighting - 7:10 pm

Passover Day 8: Thursday, April 9

Yom Tov Services – (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 9:30 am
Yizkor (Sanctuary and Zoom) - 10:45 am (approximate)
Ma'ariv and Havdalah Zoom Only - 8:10 pm

Eat Chametz after 8:41 pm



Congregational News

On March 3, 2026, Temple Beth Or celebrated Purim with the reading of the Megillah. The attendees noshed on Hamantashen and other snacks, and per tradition, some of our congregants dressed up for the occasion!

On March 10, Sisterhood had their General Meeting and had a fun time celebrating Purim by preparing Hamantaschen to take home and bake.

On March 15, the Temple hosted a Lunch and Learn featuring Geoffrey Cohen, Vice President of Marketing for the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mr. Cohen was interviewed by Rabbi Respes, and provided insight into marketing post-Covid, getting the youth involved, and an insider's view of the orchestra.

April Events

April 14 - Yom Hashoah

April 17 - Simcha Shabbat
Pro-neg at 6:30

April 21 - Yom
HaZikaron/Israel Memorial
Day

April 22 - Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel Independence Day

April 26 - General Board
Meeting at 10 am

Sisterhood News

On March 22, Sisterhood hosted the Annual Women's Seder. The Board would like to thank all who helped and sponsored to make this year's Seder a success.

Our sponsors: Sara Askin, Deanna Burke, Ruth Fierstien, Rosa Geller, Peggy Ostrove, Harrite Riss, Sandi Silber, Gilda Stroger, Marlene Vogel and Susan Zwiebel

Simcha Corner

Birthdays

5 Deanna Burke
19 Scott Peters

Yahrtzeit Donations



Sophie Flecker - Beloved grandmother of Rich Goldman

Gerald Ira Kalb - Beloved uncle of Larry Kalb

Louis Kanner - Beloved grandfather of Larry Kalb

Annette G. Kalb - Beloved aunt of Larry Kalb

Benjamin Tanenblatt - Beloved father of Deanna Burke

Ida Wolfe - Beloved grandmother of Anne Katz

Rose Vogel - Beloved grandmother of Marlene & Adrienne Vogel

The human soul is a light from G-d. May it be Your will that the soul of our loved ones enjoy eternal life, along with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, and the rest of the righteous that are in Gan Eden. Amen.

Upcoming Events

May 8 - Sisterhood Dinner and Shabbat Service - see weekly Sparks for RSVP details

May 12 - Sisterhood Board Elections

May 15 - Simcha Shabbat and Pro-Neg

May 21-23 - Shavuot (*office closed May 22*)

May 25 - Memorial Day (*office closed*)

June 12 - Graduation Cake and Celebration Shabbat



Rabbi Chaim Respes

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