

TEMPLE SINAI NEWS :  
Passover edition

Passover





### A Passover message from Rabbi Wohlberg

- Kadesh, u'rchatz, karpas, yachatz . . . This is how we begin the Passover seder; reciting the steps of the seder, the order of things about to unfold.
- *Kadesh* – we sanctify the day by reciting the blessing over the wine.
  - *Ur'chatz* – we wash our hands before eating a green vegetable
  - *Karpas* – we bless and then eat a green vegetable (a sign of spring) but not before dipping it into salt water (a reminder of the salty tears shed by our ancestors during their enslavement)
  - *Yachatz* – we break the middle matzah, half of which will become the afikomen
  - *Magid, rachtzah, motzi, matzah* . . .
  - *Magid* – we tell the story of having been slaves in Egypt and then miraculously liberated by the God of Israel
  - *Rachtzah* – time to wash again, this time as a prelude to eating matzah and this time with a blessing
  - *Motzi, Matzah* – the customary blessing over bread with which we begin a meal is followed-up by the blessing reminding us that this is a holiday when we are commanded to eat not bread, but *matzah*
  - *Maror, korech, shulchan orech, tzafun, barech, hallel, nirtzah.*
  - *Maror* – we bless and then eat a bitter herb dipped in a sweet mixture of apples, cinnamon, nuts and wine (*charoset*).
  - *Korech* – as a reminder of the sandwich that Hillel ate with the paschal lamb and bitter herbs on top of matzah, we eat our own sandwich of matzah with maror and charoset
  - *Shulchan orech* – the celebratory meal
  - *Tzafun* – we can't end the seder until the afikomen is found and eaten
  - *Barech* – the after-a-meal blessing
  - *Hallel* – psalms of praise
  - *Nirtzah* – the seder ends with a final prayer and a lot of singing

There are underlying messages to be found – and a variety of interpretations layered upon - practically everything we say, do and eat at the seder. Take the charoset, the sweet condiment into which we dip the *maror* (bitter herbs). Consuming maror is a Biblical commandment, yet *charoset* is never mentioned in the Torah. So why do we eat *charoset*? The most common explanation is that the charoset serve as a reminder of the mortar which our enslaved ancestors used to create bricks of clay. But consider sharing this explanation at your seder. According to Rabbi Akiva:

*The apples in the charoset are a reminder of how Jewish women in Egypt used to entice their husbands to make love and bear children. He bases this on a verse from the Song of Songs where we are told, "Under the apple trees I ran through, it was there your mother conceived you." Pharaoh had sentenced all male children to death. The Jewish men despaired and said: under these circumstances let's not have any more children. But their wives never gave up or lost hope. The maror dipped in charoset reminds us how important it is that even when confronting bitterness, we must not give up the dream of a sweet life. The charoset reminds us of the power of positive thinking!* (Smart Seder: Bringing Your Seder into the 21st Century by Rabbi Mitchell Wohlberg, 2018)

When life is trying and world events give us reason to despair, Passover reminds us not to lose hope and to keep searching for the good that is daily with us, even if sometimes it feels hidden (like the afikomen) and we must look for it diligently. Just at our springtime holiday is a harbinger of warmer weather and the rebirth of plants which have lain dormant, there is reason to believe that the future holds great promise and that all of us are moving towards redemption.

Shira, Tamar, Hana and I wish you a *chag kasher v'sameach* – a joyous, kosher, meaningful and uplifting *Pesach!*

# B'nai Mitzvah



Cara Dubin • 3/9/2019

*Daughter of Stephanie & Ben Dubin*



Cara is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Sandy Run Middle School. She began her Jewish education at the Newman Preschool. Cara enjoys spending time with her friends, and being part of sports teams such as basketball and volleyball.

Cara spends her summers at Pine Forest Camp and has grown to love the traditions and friendships she has made there. For her mitzvah project, Cara volunteered at the Philly Mitzvah Circle. This organization allows children of all ages, some with and without disabilities, to build friendships. Through engaging programming inclusive friendships evolve. The entire experience made an important impact on Cara and she hopes to volunteer in the future as well. Our congregation extends a *Mazal Tov* to Cara and her family upon her becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

Melissa Canter • 3/23/2019

*Daughter of Sondra & Craig Canter*



Melissa is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Sandy Run Middle School, and she attended Temple Sinai's Ann Newman Preschool, Religious School, and Camp Maccabee.

Melissa likes acting, cooking, and riding her bike with her family. Melissa has always enjoyed helping others with special needs which is why for her mitzvah project she chose to volunteer at the Philly Friendship Circle. The Philly Friendship Circle is an organization that offers social opportunities for children and young adults with special needs. Melissa participated in the Philly Friendship circle MVP program which helped train her to volunteer at the Sunday Circle.

At the Sunday Circle, she has fun meeting new people and spending time with the kids while participating in camp-like activities. Melissa's work at the Philly Friendship Circle is very important to her and has opened her eyes to what she can do to help people who need it most.

Our congregation extends a *Mazal Tov* to Melissa and her family upon her becoming a Bat Mitzvah!



Rachel Sherman • 3/30/2019

*Daughter of Nicole & David Sherman*



Rachel is a 7th grade distinguished honor roll student at Pennbrook Middle School. She enjoys basketball and listening to music as well as performing in the competitive jazz ensemble as the only seventh grade flutist. Rachel also enjoys animals, nature, and traveling to the national parks from Mt. Rainier, Olympic, Yellowstone, and Acadia, to the Great Smoky Mountains with her family and friends.

She took part in 2 mitzvah projects; for the first one she chose to assist at JRA. During this project, Rachel packed boxes with food, and then delivered the boxes to people in need of assistance. The second project was leading services on Friday nights at Dresher Estates.

Rachel would also play ukulele, and flute to entertain residents.

Her mom and dad, Nicole and David, are thrilled to share in Rachel's simcha along with her sisters, Samantha and Diana. Rachel is grateful to be able to share her special day with her family and friends. We are very proud of the dedication Rachel has shown in preparing for this milestone.

Jake Ivker • 4/13/2019

*Son of Robyn & Andy Ivker*



Jake is in the 7th grade at the Woodlynde School. He attends Camp Nock-A-Mixon every summer, and his favorite activity is playing his video games. He's also a longtime tennis player and has recently started playing the piano.

For Jake's mitzvah project, he wanted to help members of the community in need. The Jewish Relief Agency really interested him because it combats hunger. Volunteers of this organization meet once a month, pack up over 3,000 boxes of food, and delivers them directly to those in need. By packing the food and then meeting the people who would have otherwise gone hungry, it gives him a sense of being a part of something good and gives him an appreciation for all that he has in his life. Jake and his family will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah in April.



## Kashering your kitchen: an overview

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of hametz during *Pesach*, and since many common foods contain some mixture of hametz, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesach. Prohibited foods include: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees with cereal derivatives in them, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

Most *Ashkenazic* authorities have added the following foods to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans, peas and soy; however, string beans are permitted). The consumption of legumes (*kitniyot*) and rice – which are not actually chametz – have been prohibited by most *Ashkenazi* authorities for centuries. Our movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has now issued a ruling which permits one to eat kitniyot and rice on Pesach. Additional details can be found on the Rabbinical Assembly's website: [www.rabbinicalassembly.org/holidays/pesah-prep](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/holidays/pesah-prep)





## BEDIKAT HAMETZ: The Search for Leaven

Before Passover, our homes are cleaned thoroughly. On the evening before the first night of Passover (this year, Thursday, April 18), we search our homes for any signs of leavened items. But because our homes have been cleaned so well, traces of leaven, such as a few crumbs of bread, are placed in the corners of our homes and we “search” for them. A candle is lit to use as a searchlight and the children lead the parents through the house for the search. All particles of leaven are placed in a paper bag, so that they may be burned on the morning of the first Seder.

Recite the following blessing before you begin your search:

BLESSED ARE YOU, ADONAI OUR GOD, RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO  
SANCTIFIED US WITH YOUR  
COMMANDMENTS, COMMANDING US  
TO REMOVE ALL *HAMETZ*.

After completing the search, the crumbs, together with the receptacle used to collect them, are put away in a safe place until the following morning when they are burned in a ceremony called *Biyur Hametz*, the burning of the leaven. While tradition has it that we are to burn the *hametz*, if that is not possible, it can be disposed of in another manner. After the burning or disposing of the *hametz*, the following is recited:

ANY KIND OF LEAVEN  
THAT IS IN MY POSSESSION THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN OR REMOVED SHALL  
BE CONSIDERED NON-EXISTENT OR AS DUST OF THE EARTH.

This year, the burning of the *hametz* takes place Friday, April 19.



## M'CHIRAT HAMETZ: Selling the *Hametz*

Since we may not possess any leavened food from the morning prior to the first *Seder* through the entire Pesach holiday, we must give up ownership of this food.

Because it is impossible to destroy all of the *hametz* in one's possession, rabbinic authorities used a legal concept embodying a special sale called *m'chirat hametz* which is arranged through a rabbi. Since the *hametz* is sold to a non-Jew, it does not belong to a Jew during Passover. All material to be sold is isolated from the food and utensils used on Passover.

The sale may be arranged by filling out the form below and sending it to the synagogue at any time before or during the week preceding Passover, but not later than Friday morning, April 19.

### Authorization for the Sale of *Hametz*

I do hereby authorize and designate **Rabbi Wohlberg** as my agent to act on my behalf to sell and to transfer by transactions all *hametz* (as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic Law) of whatever kind and wherever situated at my residence/business at: \_\_\_\_\_

All of the aforesaid *Hametz* will be sold in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law and also in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is intended as a binding legal transaction.

I (We) further state that the *hametz* covered by this agreement will be stored away at the above address and not used for my personal benefit during the period commencing no later than 10:44 a.m. on the morning of Friday, April 19, and concluding no earlier than 8:35 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dated:

\_\_\_\_\_, 2019





# FAST OF THE FIRST BORN

Friday morning, April 19  
7:00 a.m.

Because the first-born of the Israelites were saved from the tenth plague, tradition requires all first-born Jewish males to fast on Erev Pesach until the seder.

This fast is called Taanit Bechorim. However, the Law states that if a first-born hears the completion of a tractate of the Talmud, a siyyum, he is no longer responsible to fast. Therefore, on the morning of the first seder, a special service is held for all first-born sons, during which they hear the completion of a tractate of the Talmud and then they are no longer responsible to fast on that day. As this is the season when we single out our first-born sons, it is very appropriate that all our first-born be represented.

The service is, of course, not limited to the first-born sons alone.  
All are welcome!



# SCHEDULE OF PESACH SERVICES

## Friday, April 19 First Night of Passover

Morning *Minyan* with *Siyyum* for First-Born Sons 7:00 a.m.  
No evening service

## Saturday, April 20 First Day of Passover

*Shabbat/Yom Tov* Service 9:30 a.m.  
*Mincha* Service 12:15 p.m.  
No evening service

## Sunday, April 21 Second Day of Passover

*Shacharit* Service 9:30 a.m.  
*Mincha/Ma'ariv* Service 7:45 p.m.

## Monday, April 22 Third Day of Passover

Morning *Minyan* 7:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.



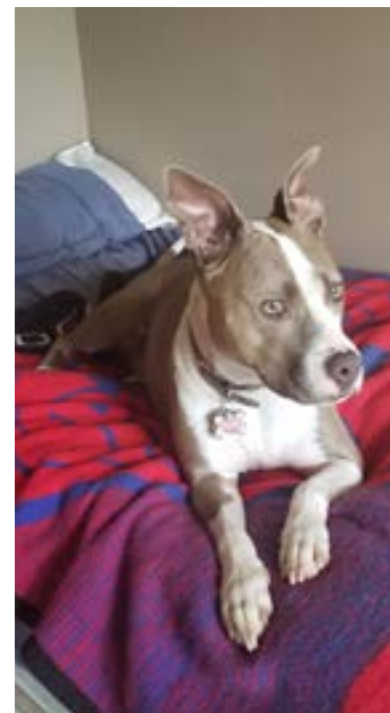


## SCHEDULE OF PESACH SERVICES cont.

	<b>Tuesday, April 23</b> Fourth Day of Passover	
Morning <i>Minyan</i> Evening Service		7:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
	<b>Wednesday, April 24</b> Fifth Day of Passover	
Morning <i>Minyan</i> Evening Service		7:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
	<b>Thursday, April 25</b> Sixth Day of Passover	
Morning <i>Minyan</i> <i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i> Service		7:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
	<b>Friday, April 26</b> Seventh Day of Passover	
<i>Shacharit</i> Service <i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i> Service		9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	<b>Saturday, April 27</b> Eighth Day of Passover	
<i>Shabbat/Yom Tov</i> Morning Service with <i>Yizkor</i> <i>Mincha/Ma'ariv</i> Service		9:30 a.m. 8:00 p.m.



## DOG, VIOLET, AVAILBLE FOR ADOPTION



Violet is an AMAZING, friendly 6 year old spayed, female Pitt Bull Terrier mix. Due to tragic family changes, she is in need of IMMEDIATE placement in a new forever home. My home is to be sold at Sherriff Sale 5/29/19 & I cannot take Violet with me. She is adult, child & dog friendly, but CANNOT be in a home with CATS. Violet likes almost every dog she meets, but I advise caution with small breeds due to her prey drive with cats.

Violet is used to a working home & can wait for your return to go outside to relieve herself. She is microchipped, professionally trained & is current with all shots. Violet sleeps in my or my son's bed & sits on my sofa. But she will easily sleep in her dog bed & can be trained not to go on a sofa if needed.

When adopted, I will provide a new owner with Violet's crate & crate liner, elevated food & water bowls, sleeping bed & 2 blankets, food storage container that holds a forty pound bag of dry dog food, toys & Veterinary records.

Call congregational member Karen @ 267-250-8520, if interested. Located in Fort Washington.

# Project H.O.P.E

## SUNDAY, APRIL 14

### Volunteers & Drivers Needed

Distributing Passover food to 700 of our most needy, elderly & isolated.

Family Mitzvah Opportunity!

**Temple Sinai**  
1401 N. Limekiln Pike  
Dresher, PA 19025



B'nai B'rith  
Liberty Region



Contact: [samueldomsky@gmail.com](mailto:samueldomsky@gmail.com)



## TEMPLE SINAI

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Temple Sinai

Dresher, PA



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215-643-6510

Adam Wohlberg, Senior Rabbi

Sidney Greenberg z"l, Founding Rabbi

Stephen Freedman, Cantor

Nathan Chaitovsky, Cantor Emeritus

Ben Wachstein, Executive Director

Shira Weissbach, Director of Education

Beth Rabinowitz, Early Childhood Director

Sydney Ciment, Youth Coordinator

Faith Rubin, Coordinator of Enhanced Education

Edy Israel, Rabbi's Assistant

Alison Houghton, Executive Assistant & Communication Specialist

Beth Berkowitz, Religious School Assistant

Marcy Lyons Gohen, Accounting

Ellen McGrother, Accounting

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