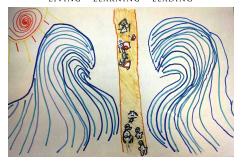


LIVING , LEARNING , LEADING



MARCH 2021 PASSOVER (AND MORE)

From Rabbi Aaron Meyer Senior Rabbi



What's on YOUR Seder Plate?

Preparing to make seder for the first time because their family couldn't gather in large numbers, a young couple pulls up the family recipe for brisket and follows it to letter. Kosher salt, cutting the ends off of the brisket, even some some grape jelly. They can't help but wonder why it's important to remove the ends — the best part of the brisket (maybe they were from Kansas City)! — but they want to keep tradition alive the way the family has always done. The brisket even turned out pretty well for their first attempt. When they finally get to talk to Bubbe over Zoom for the seder, though, they had to ask: "Bubbe, why does your recipe call for cutting the ends off of the brisket?" Bubbe doesn't miss a beat before saying: "Why? So it will fit in the pan!"

This humorous anecdote points out a blessing and a challenge for the Jewish people. We are are people in whom the past endures, whose ancient traditions persist for better and for worse. Maintaining a connection with those who have gone before us? Tremendous blessing. Not always understanding the historical and religious underpinnings of our rituals? Well, that can be a challenge if it holds us in the past.

Consider the seder plate. The Mishnah, the earliest strata of Jewish texts to record the Seder rituals, references only matzah, lettuce, charoset, and two cooked dishes (Pesachim 10:3). Moses Isserles (a veritable 16th century giant of halachic thought) added a roasted egg, a roasted shank bone, marrow, and salt water. Isaac Luria (of Kabbalah fame) dropped the salt water and added a second vegetable. The Vilna Gaon (two hundred years later) said we only need two matzot and should forget the veggies altogether. Who said what is less important than the knowledge that our seder ritual can and does evolve.

It continues to do so in our day. Susannah Heschel added an orange to her seder plate in solidarity with LGBTQ Jews. In the 1970's and 1980's many added a fourth matzah to express solidarity with the oppressed Soviet Jewish community. Many add a beautiful Miriam's Cup full of water to reclaim the place of women in our tradition. And this year, I would encourage us all to think about what we will add to our seder plate to add meaning in a challenging year.

Perhaps it's the laptop or tablet — unknown to the rabbis of the Mishnah but so important to our contemporary Jewish communities — that allows us to safely connect with family and friends. Even when COVID-19 is a distant memory, we will still be the most geographicallymobile Jewish community in history now able to stay connected.

Maybe it's an envelope for Mazon, A Jewish Response to Hunger (https://give.mazon.org/give/326939/#!/donation/checkout) or SHIM (https://shimcares.org/donate/). "Let all who are hungry come and eat" we say during the seder, though communal and personal safety preclude our throwing the doors wide open. We can still fulfill this mitzvah in creative ways.

Could it be a cardboard box, grocery bag, or a piece of fruit? As we celebrate this commemoration of our iblical liberation, we also recognize we are far short of our aspirations to extend safety and security to the vulnerable in our day and age. COVID-19 has forced us to critically confront the low wages and challenging conditions faced by America's essential workers, but to make our gratitude more than lip-service we must turn that recognition into sustained effort.

Our seder plates represent our highest values, serve as inspiration for important conversations, and continue to change throughout Jewish history. What's on YOUR seder plate? Don't let tradition hold you back.

Passover Happenings



Monday, March 22 - Friday, March 26th

Donate your unopened chametz (and other non-perishable food items) to SHIM's food pantry. Drive up and drop off your donations at the ECDC parking lot entrance (center doors) in the specially marked bin weekdays between noon - 4 pm or drop them off in the courtyard vestibule entrance any weekday morning. Thank you in advance for doing this mitzvah to help our neighbors in need.

Women's Seder Thursday, March 25 at 7 pm

You are invited to join Rabbi Locketz for a multi-generational virtual. Women's Seder as we explore our people's journey to freedom from a female perspective. Invite your mothers, daughters, sisters and friends and join us on Zoom.

First Seder Saturday, March 27

Visit ReformJudaism.org for some great tips from the URJ on how to make your online seder lively, engaging and meaningful.

Click here.

Shabbat Morning Service with Yikzor Saturday, April 3 at 8:15 am

Our Saturday morning Shabbat service including Yizkor will be live-streamed only, accessible through Temple's website, Facebook, or Youtube.

Sunday, March 28 Join us all day long!

Yom Tov Morning Service March 28 at 9:15 am

Join our friends at Beth El for services via Zoom using this link and the passcode: bethel or via phone: 301.717.8592 and meeting ID 472628562.

A Walk Through the Seder March 28 at 11 am - 1:30 pm

Join us at Temple for an outdoor, socially-distanced, in-person opportunity where you'll move from station to station to experience the parts of the seder, and maybe even take home a craft to make and a tasty treat or two! As time slots are limited, you MUST sign up in advance by using this link.

In the event of rain, this will be a drive-through experience using the same time slots.

Virtual Second Seder March 28 at 7 pm

Matzah, memory, and music! Join us for a 2nd night virtual seder experience at 7:00pm on Sunday, March 28th. We will retell the story of Passover in a participatory way, consider provocative questions unique to our day and age, and share in the rituals of the seder plate. Consider preparing your own seder plate (that you might feed your body while we nourish our souls together)! Video access can be found by clicking here; audio only by calling (646) 876 9923 and using Meeting ID: 532 677 4310.

T'FILA

Friday Night Shabbat Services, 7:00 pm

Visit Temple's Facebook or Youtube pages.

Saturday Morning Shabbat Services, 8:30 am

Visit Temple's Facebook or Youtube pages.

Saturday Night Havdalah, 8:00 pm

Visit Temple's Facebook page.

Sunday Morning Minyan, 9:30 am On Zoom

Temple's Youtube page:

www.youtube.com/user/TheAmeyer1/videos

Temple's Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/templeemanuelpittsburgh/

Zoom Video Access

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5326774310 or call (312) 626-6799 and enter Meeting ID 532 677 4310.

Beit Midrash - Adult Education Torah Study

on Zoom

Fridays, 1:00 - 1:45 pm

Temple's Shabbat morning Torah Study frequently focuses on a single idea or verse, leaving much on the cutting room floor for further exploration. Curious what else the sages of our tradition were thinking? Join Rabbi Meyer for a sneak peek!

Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 am

Torah Study with Rabbi Meyer will be offered exclusively via Zoom videoconference, allowing the same robust participation as our in-person discussion. Please join us in joyful celebration as our son

Eitan Yonah

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, April 17, 2021 –10:30 am

Rabbi Jessica Locketz & Larry Schwartz

Join us here: http://www.templeemanuelpgh.org/community/virtual/

Temple Family Menschenings

Shalom! New Members

Cassidy & Matthew Gerhardt and their children, Eli, Emma & Ella Aaron Spolter and children, Ariana & Aubree Marilyn & Charles Spirer

Molly and Brandon Connors and their children, Olivia and Nolan

Mazel Tov Births:

Noam Hillel Coven on November 29. Noam is the son of Melody & Avi Coven and grandson of Janet & Jack Mostow.

Asher Levi Pechart on November 30. Asher is the son of Allison & Adam Pechart

Mina Devorah Engel on December 30, Mina is the daughter of Robyn Engel & John Secreto.

Condolences (as of February 28, 2021)

Lorraine M. Simon, mother of Anne (Thomas) Blank (November 18) Barbara Sadkin, sister in law of Esther Kaufman (November 28)

Muriel Shpritz, mother of Eve (William) Fischer, grandmother of Eric (Natalie) Bernstein, great-grandmother of Jacob and Isaac Bernstein (December 9)

Eugene Francolini, father of Gail Francolini (Jeff Warren), grandfather of Kate (December 12)

Leonard Sadkin, brother of Esther Kaufman (December 14)

Ann Snyder, mother of Charles Snyder and Karen (Anthony) Captline (December 26)

Mark J. Julian, father of Marc (Susan) Julian, grandfather of Brandon and Leo (December 31)

Selma Altschul, mother of Martin (Paula) Altschul (January 14)

Linda Rae Zahalsky, mother of Andrew (Amy) Zahalsky, grandmother of Eliana, Abigail, Jonah and Rebecca (February 18)

B'nai Mitzvah Mazel Tov to our spring B'nai Mitzvah students and families:

Ben Sheppard, son of Kelly Sheppard and Paul Sheppard, will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 10.

Eitan Schwartz, son of Rabbi Jessica Locketz and Larry Schwartz, will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 17.

Lauren Ginsburg, daughter of Kathy and Howard Ginsburg, will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 24.

Ari Plutko, son of Barbara and Dante Plutko, will become a Bar Mitzvah on May 1.

Sam Friedman, son of Heather and Darrin Friedman, will become a Bar Mitzvah on May 22.

 ${\bf Addie\ Young,\ }$ daughter of Laura and Jeff Young, will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 29.

Shiloh Bober, son of Lastenia and Mitchell Bober, will become a Bar Mitzvah on June 5.

lan Dvorin, son of Lisa and David Dvorin, will become a Bar Mitzvah on June 12.



Yasher Koach to Temple member David Rosenberg, whose work will be featured in a 6-part series sponsored by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh beginning April 22. Sign up here: https://www.facebook.com/events/338169424186601/

Торан Каван





Team Sandwich - 1,000 Sandwiches and Counting!

Members of Temple made sandwiches for distribution at 3 area shelters. on February 16th and March 16th. Thank you to everyone who participated and to Susan and Rikki Hommel for organizing this mitzvah! If you would like to participate on April 20th, email Susan at shommel46@gmail.com



ECDC's Purim Food Drive

Thank you to the families, educators and ECDC community members who donated food for SHIM during ECDC's Purim food drive.

Mishloach Manot for Senior Members

Thank you to Larry & Brenda Miller Memorial Caring Community Fund and Temple Emanuel volunteers for assembling and delivering Purim gift bags for our most senior members.

Purim 2021 Highlights





Melinda Freed shared her recipe for hamentaschen along with some tips and tricks for making the perfect Purim treat!



Musician Janet Mostow joined Rabbis Meyer and Locketz for a special Shabbat service with just a touch of Purim.



Yom Ha'atzmaut Across North America

April 11 at 2:00 pm

In celebration of Israel's 73rd birthday, communities across North America will come together to co-host and celebrate the 2nd annual Yom Hafatzmaut North Across Americal live virtual concert event

Thanks to Diskin Music Fund for sponsoring our participation!

Watch for an email from Temple Emanuel for a link to this event.

Circles of Giving

Circles of Giving are Temple Emanuel's way of meeting our financial challenges. By contributing over & above basic dues – as you are able – you ensure that Temple continues to serve as the center of your Jewish community. Thank you to all those who are our Circles of Giving participants. For more information, contact Leslie Hoffman, 412.797.7600.

DONOR CIRCLE 1-\$2,934 to \$3,423

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DONOR CIRCLE 5 - \$5.629 to \$7.803

Frica & Bill Goodman

DONOR CIRCLE 6 - \$7,804 to \$10,603

Dorothy & Neal Pollon Amy & Andrew Zahalsky Lori & Robert Shure

DONOR CIRCLE 7 \$10.604 +

Jill & Adam Brufsky

Donations to Temple Funds

Pay tribute to someone special and provide much appreciated financial support for Temple by donating to a Temple Fund. View the list of donors here



Thank you to our Legacy Society donors who have chosen to make Temple Emanuel a part of their enduring Jewish legacy.

Click here to read Roger Liss' legacy story.

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Be remembered forever by Temple Emanuel with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy. Contact Legacy Team Chair Matt Schwartz (mattschw71@gmail.com, 412-951-4962) or Leslie Hoffman (lhoffman@templeemanuelpgh.org, 412-953-1646) for more information.



MAY 2, 2021
SEE HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

DISCOVER

28TH ANNUAL JFILM FESTIVAL* APRIL 22 TO MAY 2, 2021

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 1ST

LIVE ON APRIL 1st -- VIEW THE FILM SCHEDULE WITH DETAILED INFO & TICKET PURCHASE LINK

www.filmpittsburgh.org

Discount Ticket Code for Temple Emanuel: TEMAN21

\$2 off each ticket or pass! (Tickets must be purchased online)

Opening Night Screening-\$36 (This ticket includes a donation to Film Pittsburgh and a post-screening discussion with the director, one of Israel's most celebrated filmmakers.)

Regularly-Priced Screening-\$15

All Festival Pass-\$118 Early Bird All Access Pass through April 16th; \$136 Regular All Access Pass beginning April 17th

Six Pack-\$60 Early Bird Pass through April 16th; \$75 Regular Pass beginning April 17th

TEMPLE EMANUEL OF SOUTH HILLS

1250 BOWER HILL ROAD PITTSBURGH, PA 15243 (412) 279-7600 Website: www.templeemanuelpgh.org

Senior Rabbi: Aaron C. Meyer Rabbi and Director of Education: Jessica Locketz, R.J.E. Rabbi Emeritus: William Sajowitz, D.D. M.A.H.L *Rabbi Emeritus: William Sajowitz, D.D. M. H.L. Executive Director: Leslie Hoffman Early Childhood Development Center Director: Kate Louik

> Temple Emanuel's Plant Sale Orders due by April 16th

Just in time for Mother's Day!
Orders will be available for contactless pick-up on
Tuesday, May 4th and Wednesday, May 5th

in Temple's Courtyard.
For details and order form visit:
http://www.templeemanuelpgh.org/plant-sale2021/