

Purim
Celebrate Purim
with Schaarai
Zedek!
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Passover Seder We have something for everyone please join us. Page 8



Deli Night
Save the date for
Brotherhood's
Annual Signature
Event
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Schaarai Zedek News Volume 126 Number 5 March / April 2023 Adar / Iyar 5783

Passover

April 5-13, 2023

Chag Pesach Same'ach! We look forward to celebrating Passover with our Schaarai Zedek family!

Connect with us

Live Streaming

Services are streamed at zedek. org/streaming and are available for a limited time for "on demand" viewing.

Public Access Television

TBCN broadcasts our Shabbat Services on public access television in Hillsborough County. Tune in Fridays at 7 PM to the following channels: Frontier Channel 30, Spectrum Channel 639, and Comcast Channel 20. Replays on the above channels air Sundays at 4 PM.

Roku

Simply plug a Roku Streaming Stick into your TV and search for Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Follow the instructions to add it to your channels.

Facebook

Find us at facebook.com/ CSZtampa. Follow us to like, comment, and share!

YouTube

Watch past services, sermons, and more on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/congregationschaaraizedek.

Podcast

Listen to past sermons on our podcast by searching for Schaarai Zedek on iTunes, SoundCloud, Google Play, and Stitcher.

eNews

Our weekly eNews email goes out Wednesdays with updates on upcoming events. If you are not receiving email communications, please email office@zedek.org to let us know.



A bimonthly newsletter by Congregation Schaarai Zedek

Read the Shofar online: www.zedek.org/shofar

A Message From Your Board President:

Organizational Assessment Project

Scott Shimberg



Scott Shimberg President

n behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am very excited to share with the Congregation that we have begun an Organizational Assessment to explore how to best engage our exemplary staff in the excellent work they do on behalf of the Temple each and every day—both now and in the

days and years to come.

This comprehensive organizational project will demonstrate our strengths as one of the leading congregations in the country, as well as explore opportunities for improvement, as we continue to strive for excellence in our Jewish community.

You might ask, "Why now?" Schaarai Zedek has been very fortunate to continue to grow in membership and programming when many other religious institutions are challenged. It is our obligation to ensure we have a strong foundation to sustain our current successes for generations to come, *L'Dor V'Dor*.

Rabbi Simon, Marc LeVine and I recently attended the URJ Large Congregation Conference in Dallas, along with 28 other large congregations. At nearly 1,300 families, we are now among the largest synagogues in North America. Schaarai Zedek has never been stronger!

With that growth comes the need and desire to take a look at ourselves. When you have this kind of growth/success as an organization you want to ensure it is sustainable. So, to that end, we have hired an outstanding organizational consultant, Renee Dabbs.

Renee and her organizational consultant team will help facilitate this process. They began working with us in January.

Renee has years of regional HR responsibility with Procter & Gamble with

oversight of all HR functions for over 3,000 people and multifunctional teams. She now does extensive work with teams on high performance, process development, ROI and metrics. She is not only an HR practitioner, but a leader who has had accountability for organizational culture and meeting total shareholder returns. She has worked with over 30 nonprofit boards in the Tampa Bay community, either in the capacity of a board member or as a consultant.

Fun fact: She has attended many events at the Synagogue. Ask her about it when you see her.

Renee will be joined by Charlie Imbergamo. A committed life-long learner and a genuinely curious people person, Charlie has nearly 30 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, primarily serving in the education and pastoral ministry fields. Charlie has served in several executive leadership roles and on various boards of directors in New York, New Jersey, Texas, and Florida.

Over the next six months, Renee and her team will be focusing on:

- Organizational sensing assessment. She will be conducting conversations with the Board, Staff and Congregants.
- Working with staff on performance and productivity.
- Working with Rabbi Simon and Marc LeVine on our organizational goals.
- Working with the Performance Review Committee on processes and ensuring we are giving our staff leadership the tools to be successful as they lead the organization.

Renee will be at the Synagogue over the coming months. If you run into her, please make sure to introduce yourself.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at any time. Thank you for all you do to make Congregation Schaarai Zedek a welcoming and inclusive Synagogue.



We Are All Jews By Choice

Rabbi Joel Simon



Joel Simon Senior Rabbi

s an under-graduate at the University of Arizona, I took a class titled German Jewish Literature. The first week of class was spent simply exploring what

our definition of Jewish literature would be. After all, the first author we'd read, Heinrich Heine, converted to Christianity in 1825 at the age of 27 because he aspired to be a professor, and antisemitism in Germany was rising again after the initial acceptance that came as a result of the Enlightenment. Could his poems still be read as Jewish literature? Or what about Franz Kafka, an avowed atheist who wrote in his diary, "What have I in common with Jews? I have hardly anything in common with myself..." Kafka would often distance himself from his Jewish roots, but yet, his works can be read as deeply portraying the Jewish angst of the time, with George Samsa transformed into a bug in *The Metamorphosis*, written in 1915, representing the alienation that can arise from being part of a marginalized community.

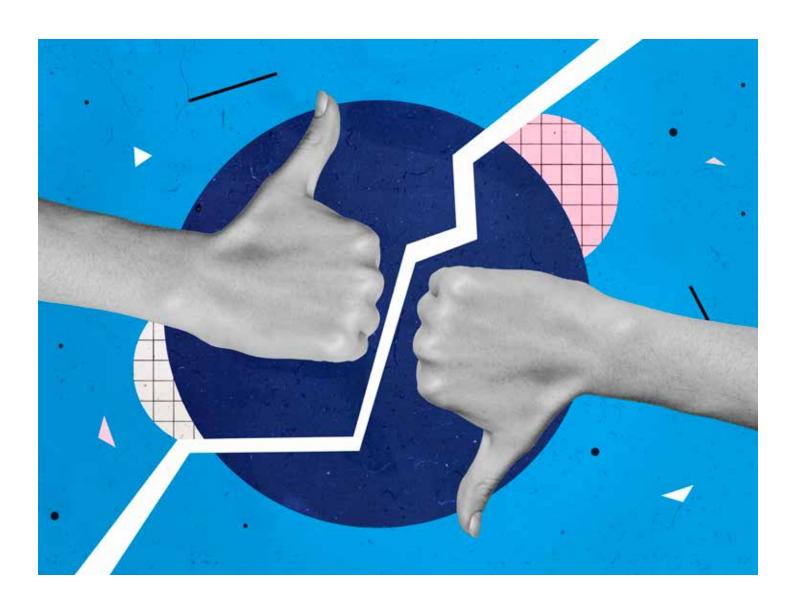
In the end, what made the literature we would read in that class Jewish? On the one hand, it was our professor deciding it was Jewish, but these examples demonstrated the elements of Jewish peoplehood that remain with someone, even if they don't want it to. Rabbi Weiss writes beautifully in his article about those who consider themselves to be "bad Jews," but what about those who opt out of their Judaism completely? Is it right that they are still considered to be part of the Jewish story? In April we commemorate Yom HaShoah,

Holocaust Remembrance Day, and while neither Heine nor Kafka were still living when Hitler came to power in Germany, it was a hatred they had both seen, and as much as that hatred led to their separation from their identity, they both understood, as do we in a world of increasing antisemitism, that often it doesn't matter how one identifies themselves, as another's hatred often transcends any self-identification.

But even as we think about the ways in which many of us are part of the Jewish people simply by birth, acknowledging that there are those who choose *not* to acknowledge that part of their life, we also know that there are many in our community who have chosen to *be* a part of Jewish life.

These past few months, Rabbi Weiss and I have spent several days at Lake Carroll as some of our newest community members have performed the ritual of *mikvah*, immersion in a ritual bath, making a conscious choice to become Jewish. We also celebrate those in our community who, after marrying someone Jewish, have

Continued on back page



Good Jew / Bad Jew

Rabbi Michael Weiss



Michael Weiss Assistant Rabbi

wear a kippah just about everywhere I go. So people know I'm Jewish wherever I go and often that leads to striking up conversations and, inevi-

tably, when someone finds out I'm a rabbi, something interesting happens. I hear things like, "I'm Jewish but I never go to Temple," or "I'm Jewish but I don't keep kosher," or "I'm

Jewish but I don't know any Hebrew."

Faced with a rabbi, people pivot surprisingly quickly to the ways they, themselves, feel inadequate as Jews and the ways they imagine I'll judge them for the parts of Jewish life they have not yet explored. It always makes me a little sad that people find out what I do and start looking for my stamp of disapproval on their Jewish lives. And when a representative of institutional Judaism rejects someone's way of being Jewish, it provides an opportunity to reject Judaism right back. I'm not in the business of declaring "good" or "bad" Jews. Frankly, none of us should be. But I know that telling people they're doing Judaism "wrong" is not a way to get anyone to opt in to doing more Jewish, which is my job and yours, if you choose to accept it.

Not everyone is going to express their Jewishness in exactly the same way. Some people love to eat their family's Jewish recipes. Some love to watch Jewish actors or characters on TV. Some highly value visiting Israel or other Jewish historical sites. And, of course, some people participate in worship, learning, and socializing at their synagogue. I'm obviously biased. I was raised in synagogue life and what I do is helping to enrich and expand it, but our tradition teaches us that Judaism is meant to be done in community, wherever you find it. God forbid that not doing or knowing "enough" Jewishly should keep someone away from one of the places that could help them do and know more. There's no quiz to come through the doors. There's no bar of Jewish

4 SHOFAR March - April, 2023



practice to reach for spending time with a caring Jewish community.

Unfortunately, guilt is a wide-spread feeling in American Jewish life and I can't really stop anyone from feeling guilty. Guilt comes from within a person or perhaps from internalized societal attitudes. One article isn't going to fix all of that. But, I do know that our tradition makes allowances for many levels of knowledge and practice and has for thousands of years.

We can learn this from the Mishnah, a second-century CE compilation of Rabbinic traditions from Eretz Yisrael. We are told that on the holiday of Purim, which celebrates Queen Esther and Mordecai saving the Jews from destruction at the hands of Haman in ancient Persia, that

everyone is obligated to hear the Book of Esther read aloud. It says further that if someone recites the book from memory or reads the book in any language they do not understand, they have not fulfilled that obligation. But someone who hears the book read in their own language or in Hebrew (even if they don't understand it), they have fulfilled the obligation.

What does this teach us? That there is space for Judaism to speak in the languages that we understand and that there is value in hearing and engaging with the ancient words of our tradition, even if we don't fully understand them. We are given decisions to make about how we hear the story and what we do with it, but it is still our obligation to hear the story.

So even when you feel like you don't know or do "enough" in your Jewish life, come hear the story and understand as much as you can. If you keep listening, keep praying, keep celebrating, some of it will start to make sense and you have a whole lifetime to work on the rest. No one is going to label you as a good or bad Jew. That would be a little too simplistic for Jewish tradition anyway. There are simply Jews who have already started their journey of finding meaning in tradition and those who are waiting to start.

Wherever you are, whatever you know or do, I hope that Schaarai Zedek can be a place where we all support each other on those journeys without judgment. Our doors are open and the story of our people is waiting for you to hear it.



Innovation Vs. Tradition

Lindsey Dewey



Lindsey Dewey Director of Engagement & Outreach

have always considered myself "sentimental." Probably a direct correlation to moving around quite a bit throughout my childhood; I have always highly valued tradition, photographic documentation,

and consistency with regard to annual observances and celebration.

Our tradition offers countless opportunities to root ourselves in standard practice. When we mourn, there are guidelines for seven days, for thirty days, for our first year. When we welcome Shabbat, we light the candles, drink the wine, and then uncover and bless the

challah. For those of us who find value in the expected and the comfortable seasonal cycles, the coming months are sure to offer programs and worship opportunities that draw to mind comfort of past celebrations.

I am also highly creative and innovative. If you have ever had the opportunity to assess your Predictive Index, I am a "Maverick." "Mavericks are visionaries who want to achieve what's never been achieved before. They're not fans of the status quo and will shake things up. Mavericks tend to be innovative, influential, daring, and direct—with a remarkably high tolerance for taking chances." I often find myself suggesting a new idea or stating sentiments like "let's try something new and see how it goes."

One would think these two parallel and fundamentally contradictory traits would cause conflict more regularly. How can someone so rooted in tradition find value in innovation? As I wrestle and reconcile these questions daily, I find a lot of comfort, particularly this time of the year, that sets us in a position to look back

and forth between two opposed sides and look to the leaders of our tradition who were put in positions to make decisions for large groups of people, that ultimately offered others the possibility to experience life differently.

As we first look to Purim and the sacrifices made by Esther that offered new and sustaining evolution of Jewish life in Shushan and then next month look to the sacrifices made by Moses that also offered the evolution of Jewish life in Egypt, we can align many of our modern-day observations with this contradiction between what was and what can be. I am so thankful for the foundations of our tradition that simultaneously provide innovative thinkers (with a little help from God) an opportunity to lead "their people" into new and exciting places. It is my hope we will continue to identify foundational and fundamental experiences at Congregation Schaarai Zedek that root us to tradition while also allowing exploration and evolution to new and dynamic visions greater than we can currently imagine.

Experiences First, Explanations Later

Success of Jewish experiences, fostering a love of Judaism in our teens.

Naomi Litwak



Naomi Litwak Director of Youth Programming

whole life my parents have pushed me to experience – to find what I love and to just do it! My parents were constantly exposing my sisters and me to new places, people, and

cultures. However, my love of specifically Jewish experiences began the summer before sixth grade when I attended URJ Camp Coleman for the first time.

I fell in love with being at camp, surrounded by people – people who cared just as deeply about being Jewish as I did. I grew to crave being in that space. That craving continued and intensified when I became involved in NFTY, the Reform Jewish Youth Movement. NFTY was my escape – my oasis from the stress and drama of middle school and high school. NFTY and camp were my opportunities to experience.

Often, we get taught about Jewish communal living before we ever get a

chance to be a part of it; the explanation comes first. But, at camp and through NFTY, Jewish life is lived; it is experienced before it is explained. Experiences push you out of your comfort zone. They allow you to grow, learn and explore who you are, your identity and who you want to be. In an article about Jewish camping, Daniel Greyber fosters a connection to philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein's idea that we learn the meaning of words through the context of life around us. Greyber states, "the language of Jewish life will remain unintelligible without a community of people engaged in Jewish life". This thought offers the reminder that Jewish life cannot be learned solely through classrooms and text studies - it should be lived, it should be experienced.

I have many places and people to thank for the person and leader that I've become. But it's through my experiences – especially in NFTY and at Camp Coleman – where I've learned to love being Jewish. It was through those experiences that I ended up here as the Director of Youth Programming. It was those experiences that I so desperately want to share with your kids. So, whether it be camp, youth group or both, I encourage you to push your children to experience and to find their experiences and their love of being Jewish.



Our December "Why Dialogue Matters" event with Saint Leo University CCJS featured Dr. Matthew Tapie, Friar Henry Fulmer OFM, Rabbi David Maayan, Rabbi Rachel Blatt, and Rabbi Joel Simon.

Thank you to Sisterhood, who baked nearly 5,000 Hamantaschen to raise funds to benefit our Religious School. They will be available for purchase at the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 5.

Important Dates:

8th – 12th grades: NFTY-STR Spring Kallah • April 28-30, 2023 • Riverside Retreat Center, Fort Denaud, FL

8th – 12th grades: Mystery Bus Ride • May 6, 2023 • 8am – 11 p.m. (time subject to change, block out the whole day!)

There are still spaces available at our URJ Summer Programs:

URJ Camp Coleman, Cleveland, GA (our regional URJ camp) - campcoleman.org URJ 6 Points Sports Academy, Asheville, NC - 6pointssports.org URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy, Westchester, PA - 6pointscreativearts.org URJ 6 Points Sci Tech Academy, Byfield, MA - 6pointsscitech.org Yallah! Israel (formerly NFTY in Israel) - yallahisrael.org

Financial Assistance is available for all these programs. Reach out to Rabbi Simon (jsimon@zedek.org) for more information

JOIN US FOR A PASSOVER SEDER

at Congregation Schaarai Zedek

SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 PM \$36 Per Person / Add-On Wine Package \$30 Per Person

Join us for a traditional Passover Seder. Engage in the retelling of the Passover story and learn how we can add a few modern practices. Enjoy a traditional Seder meal catered by Lynn's Catering, with an optional wine package curated by CRU Cellars (Manischewitz and grape juice will be available for all participants at no extra cost).

This Seder is geared toward adults.

20s+30s SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Thursday, April 6, at 8 PM \$36 Per Person

Make your own charoset, sample kosher wines and hors d'oeuvres, and enjoy surprises throughout the evening. This interactive Seder focuses on connection and conversation. Bring friends and meet new friends!

This Seder is geared toward adults 21-39.

PASSOVER BRUNCH FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 AM Adults \$18 / Children FREE

Bring your family and join us for a delicious buffet-style brunch. We'll have options for both adults and children to ensure that everyone enjoys the meal. Passover Seder is family time, so bring the whole crew! Our Seder brunch is sure to be engaging and meaningful for all generations present, while also recognizing the need for age-appropriate activities at the table. Our clergy will lead us through a fun Seder and offer families an opportunity to celebrate Passover together. Catering provided by Lynn's Catering.

WWW.ZEDEK.ORG/PASSOVER - RSVP BY FRIDAY, MARCH 31 - SPACE IS LIMITED!

We want you to attend! If you need financial assistance, please contact Rabbi Simon at (813) 876-2677. Your request will be handled confidentially.

Brotherhood

Marc Holtzberg, Brotherhood President

s we pack and sell out these fantastic events, we will be bringing more new and different programs, please check our emails and the Brotherhood page on Schaarai Zedek's website to stay up to date and to register for any and all Brotherhood events.

In January, we held our NFL playoff game watch party where we had wings, chips and dip, drinks, and everything else that you might want for watching football. We also distributed the oak barrels to the "Barrel Masters" for our Bourbon Event.

Our February Bourbon Event at Merry Makers Club started off with good Southern food and concluded with sampling the improved bourbons provided by our Barrel Masters.

Upcoming events that you don't want to miss:

Brotherhood's Brewhaha on March 15 at Tampa's local health food store, Rollin' Oats. We will serve food and have a selection of beers that you can try. Rollin' Oats has a large, respectable collection of beers in cans, bottles, and on tap. While at our event you can also do some shopping.

We will be helping the less fortunate at Trinity Café on April 8.

On April 22, Brotherhood's annual Signature Event will feature our Deli Night and entertainment. This event is the only Brotherhood fundraiser for the year. **We are looking for sponsors for this event.** Please call Steve Gersten directly to discuss sponsorship at (813) 334-9745.

In May we are planning a tour at Tampa International Airport, so join us to take a look at what goes on behind the scenes.



Sisterhood

Beth Levin & Andi Parker Sisterhood Co-Presidents

isterhood is truly having an amazing year!
We just held our largest fundraiser, the Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event, and we think all would agree that

raiser, the Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event, and we think all would agree that it was a success - great venue, fabulous food, dancing, mingling and inspiring speaker, Jennifer Grey. A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Audrey Maas Shine Leadership Award to Diane Porat, a very well-deserved honor! Of note was Diane's leadership in creating our Sisterhood's Social Action Birthday Party last spring, which won prestigious recognition by the Woman of Reform Judaism (WRJ). Special thanks to our Star Event Chair, Sharon Weiss, and the MANY people who helped to make the Star Event happen after a three-year hiatus. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

We have almost completed our Hamantaschen Extravaganza, led by Pat Taback, and want to extend a huge thank you to all the people who baked and sold nearly 5,000 Hamantaschen
to raise funds to benefit
our Religious School.
If you haven't had a
chance to taste these
delicious Hamantaschen yet, they will
be available for purchase
at the Purim Carnival on Sunday,
March 5. We hope you got a chance to
taste them for yourself!

This month, we are excited for the WRJ Southeast District Convention that is being held in Tampa from March 17-19. There are many activities for our members to participate in, including a YES Fund luncheon featuring Rabbi Richard Birnholz, workshops, a reproductive rights panel, and a social action project. We are proudly hosting a Shabbat Dinner and Services on Friday, March 17. We proudly celebrate our own Faith Alexander, who will be installed as the next WRI Southeast District President and look forward to dining and dancing to local band, South of Kennedy, after the Installation. We also recognize

the dedication of several additional Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood members who will be serving on the WRJ Southeast District Board: Madelyn Davidson, Gayle Geagan, Dana Gruman, Jamie

Dana Gruman, Jamie Haischer, Lynne Merriam, Judith Mish, Mary Osiason, Andi Parker, Diane Porat, and

Pattie Schreiber. What an amazing Sisterhood we have! For more information on the many Convention events and how to register, please visit: https://wrjsoutheast.org/District-Convention.

On March 30, join us for a special Passover program where we will savor the food of the holiday. Bring a dish to share, as we compile and distribute your favorite recipes of the holiday. Cantor Deborah Cannizzaro will lead us in a fun, joyous Seder. Look for our Tuesday emails for the link to register.

Wishing you a Happy Purim, a Zissen Pesach, and all the beauty of Spring!

Amy Gail Buchman Preschool



March 2023

- March 3: Purim Play during Shabbat
- March 6-8: Class and graduation photos
- March 10: Storybook-Themed Shabbat
- March 13-17: Spring Break

April 2023

- April 3: Grandparents Day
- · April 5: Passover Early Closing
- April 6: Passover Non Student Day
- April 10: Passover Play



In January, Dr. Jeffrey Benatar, Assistant Professor of Music at Florida Southern College, presented our seniors with a fantastic lecture-recital highlighting Jewish Jazz composers.

Senior Luncheon

March 16, 11:30 AM

Guest Performer: Keith Coleman

All seniors of Schaarai Zedek are invited to join us for a complimentary lunch, followed by a fun musical program by performer Keith Coleman. Coleman is one of the most versatile performers to ever grace the stage. He does amazing impressions of Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Tom Iones, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, Jimmy Buffett, and more!

April 20, 11:30 AM

Guest Speaker: Tampa Bay Development and Sustainability

As we observe Earth Day and think about how to better care for our world, join us for a Senior Luncheon focusing on the current development in Tampa Bay and how we can impact our world and make more sustainable and healthy long-term decisions for our planet.

Our Senior Luncheons are provided by the Esther N. & Leo M. Weiss Seniors Endowment Fund

Flom Religious School

Interested in teaching or substituting?

Do you have a desire to further Judaism and enjoy spending time with great children? Become a teacher or substitute at our Flom Religious School on Sunday mornings! It's easy and fun. We supply the lesson plans and materials for you. Join the team and start making a difference. For more information, contact Donna Wood at (813) 876-2377, ext. 210 or email dwood@zedek.org.

Café CSZ

All adults are welcome. Have a bagel and a cup of coffee at Café CSZ on Sunday mornings. Join the conversation. Greet friends, fellow parents, and other congregants. Café CSZ will be open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is meeting. See you there!



Lifecycles

B'nei Mitzvah

Julia Frankel

Parents: Michael & Jessica Frankel March 4. 2023

Michael Neward

Parents: Zack & Jannine Neward March 4, 2023

Evelyn Straus

March 11, 2023

Robert Lamattina

Parents: Anthony & Justine Lamattina March 18, 2023

Jaylee Nash

Parents: Floyd & Leah Nash March 18, 2023

Lyla Geller

Parents: Steve & Allison Geller March 25, 2023

Riley Wagner

Parents: Jason & Amanda Wagner March 25, 2023

Tyler Berman

Parents: Russell & Elise Berman April 1, 2023

Addison Powell

Parents: Frank & Laurie Powell April 15, 2023

Eli Rogovin

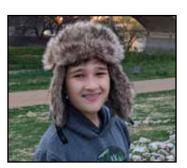
Parent: Amy Rogovin April 15, 2023



Tyler Berman



Jaylee Nash



Michael Neward



Addison Powell



Eli Rogovin

Welcome New Members

Anna & William Bakos
Lauren & Russell Borio
Irina Dutcher
Stacey Scheckner & Matt Ernst
Flor Henk
Emily & Alexander Jenkins
Abigail & Jonathan Katzeff
Alisyn & Ian Sandler
Shaina Linsky & Zac Schultz
Daniella & Jonathan Simon
Jacklyn Steinberg
Judy Rosman & Michael Vogelbaum
Lisa Robbins & Lainey Walsh
Cynthia & Fredric Weiss
Jackie & David Zeckman

RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ



If you would like to contribute to the 2022-2023 Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz Torah Circle, please visit zedek.org/torahcircle. If you have questions about donating, please contact Marc LeVine at mlevine@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377 ext. 206.

Calendar Highlights

Please visit www.zedek.org/RSVP for more information and to register for all events!

MARCH 2 AT 12 PM



ROMEOs + Jew-liets

Join Rabbi Birnholz at Schaarai Zedek for complimentary lunch followed by a lively discussion. Carl Zielonka will present "The Split-How and Why Tampa's Second Synagogue (Rodeph Sholom) Separated from Schaarai Zedek."

MARCH 2 AT 6:30 PM



Movie Night for Newly Married/ **Engaged Couples**

Join us for dinner and a movie! A film about relationships and the power of memories, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a great opportunity to explore how we navigate the good, bad, and ugly from our past. Thank you to Rabbi Jen Gubitz and Modern Jewish Couples for helping sponsor this evening.



No one Mourns the Wicked: Blurring the Line Between Good and Evil in **Jewish Tradition**

As we prepare to see Wicked at Straz, Rabbi Simon and Rabbi Weiss will explore the concepts of good and evil in our tradition, seeing many times when the lines are blurred. The class will be available via Zoom for those who can't join us in person. Dessert will be provided on March 8, and lunch will be provided on March 9. No charge, RSVP requested.



Maestro's Lunch before Wicked

Whether you purchased a ticket on your own or through Schaarai Zedek, if you would like to join us for lunch at Maestro's, please contact Lindsey Dewey to add to our 12:30 PM reservation.

MARCH 19 FROM 12-3 PM



Pride Picnic by the Pool

Show your support for LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. Join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and community!

MARCH 22 AT 7 PM



Judaism & Infertility: From the **Torah to Today**

One of the earliest themes in the Torah, found in the story of Abraham and Sarah, is a couple that is unable to conceive. Rabbi Simon will be joined by Elana Frank, Founder and CEO of the Jewish Fertility Foundation, and other guest speakers as we look at the impact of infertility on a couple and their families from Biblical times to today, along with the resources that JFF is now providing to the Tampa Jewish community. Wine, coffee, and desserts will be provided.



Game Afternoon

There are few things better than spending time with good friends, playing fun games and enjoying good food. Gather your friends and bring your favorite card game or borrow one of ours for an afternoon of conversation and friendly competition. We will provide light snacks and drinks, tables to play cards and more!

MARCH 24 AT 5:30 PM



Primary Shabbat

Focusing on our children in grades K-2 and their siblings, this service will expand upon the base we have developed through years of successful Tot Shabbat programming and parallel the music and prayers being introduced in Religious School. Following services in the Sanctuary, enjoy a complimentary family-friendly Shabbat Dinner for all to enjoy!

MARCH 24 AT 7 PM



Pride Shabbat

Join us to welcome guest speaker Dr. Dani Rosenkranz, an expert in mental health issues facing LGBTQIA+ youth and their families, especially within the Jewish community.

APRIL 2 FROM 12:30 – 5 PM



14th Annual Softball Tournament

Whether you're an all-star slugger or haven't picked up a bat in years, be a part of Schaarai Zedek's team in the Tampa JCCs and Federation Softball Tournament. The team is coed, and up to four teenagers are allowed per team. \$35 includes a t-shirt and snacks throughout the day. For more information or to sign up, please contact Khan Whiteside, Clergy Executive Assistant, and kwhiteside@zedek.org or (813) 876-2377 ext, 202.

APRIL 18 FROM 7 AM - 7 PM



Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Join us to commemorate the six million Jews killed in the Shoah. We will share a service honoring their memory, an opportunity to hear about an Auschwitz survivor's story, and awards for the Shine a Light Art Contest.

MARCH 2023												
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
			12 PM Midday Mussar 1 Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 6 PM SchZFTY Hangout	12 PM ROMEOs + Jew-liets 2 6:30 PM Movie Night for Newly Engaged/Married Couples	5:30 PM Tot Shabbat 3 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 4 10:30 AM Michael Neward Bar Mitzvah 4:30 PM Julia Frankel Bat Mitzvah						
9 AM Religious School 5 10 AM Adult Hebrew 11 AM Children's Purim Carnival	6 PM Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting	7 Purim	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 6 PM Middle School Hangout Night 7 PM Adult Ed - No One Mourns the Wicked	12 PM Lunch & Learn - No 9 One Mourns the Wicked 6 PM 20s+30s Purim Carnival	11:45 AM Exec. Comm. 10 Meeting 4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 7 PM Shabbat Family Service	9 AM Torah Study 11 9:15 AM Shabbat Yoga 10:30 AM Morning Service w/ Evelyn Straus Bat Mitzvah 12:30 PM Maestro's Lunch 2 PM Wicked @ Straz						
Daylight Savings Begins @ 2 AM	13	11:30 AM Sisterhood 14 Board Meeting	12 PM Midday Mussar 15 Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 6 PM Brotherhood Beer Tasting Brewhaha	11:30 AM Senior 16 Luncheon	7 PM Shabbat Service 17 w/ Sisterhood, Band, and Choir	9 AM Torah Study 18 10:30 AM Jaylee Nash Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM Robert Lamattina Bar Mitzvah						
12 PM JCC Pride Picnic 19	7 PM Board of Trustees 20 Meeting First Day of Spring	21	12 PM Midday Mussar 22 Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 7 PM Judaism & Infertility Co-Event with JFF	1 PM Game Afternoon 23	5:30 PM Primary 24 Shabbat 7 PM Pride Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 25 10:30 AM Riley Wagner Bar Mitzvah 4 PM SchZFTY Event 4:30 PM Lyla Geller Bat Mitzvah						
9 AM Religious School 26 10 AM Adult Hebrew 11:30 AM Chaverim Event 11:30 AM CSZDND	27	28	12 PM Midday Mussar 29 Lunch & Learn (Zoom)	6 PM Sisterhood Event 30	7 PM Shabbat Service 31							

APRIL 2023											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
							9 AM Torah Study 1 10:30 AM Tyler Berman Bar Mitzvah				
9 AM Religious School 2 10 AM Adult Hebrew 11:30 AM Jr. SchZFTY Event 12:30 PM JCC Softball	12 PM Sisterhood Book Club 6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting		4 Ere	5 rev Passover – First Seder	5:30 PM Second Night 6 Passover Seder 8 PM 20s+30s Seder Passover - Second Seder	7 PM Shabbat Service 7	8:30 AM Brotherhood Volunteer Opportunity 9 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Passover Brunch Passover				
9 Passover	10 Passover	11:30 AM Sisterhood 1 Board Meeting	12 I Lun	:30 AM Yizkor Service 12 PM Midday Mussar nch & Learn (Zoom) PM SchZFTY Hangout Passover	13 Passover	11:45 AM Exec. Comm. 14 Meeting 4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 5:30 PM Tot Shabbat 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 15 10:30 AM Eli Rogovin Bar Mitzvah 4:30 PM Addison Powell Bat Mitzvah 5 PM SchZFTY Event				
9 AM Religious School 16 10 AM Adult Hebrew 11:30 AM Yeladim Event 11:30 AM CSZDND	17	7 AM Yom HaShoah Commemoration		PM Midday Mussar 19 nch & Learn (Zoom)	11:30 AM Senior 20 Luncheon	7 PM Earth Day Shabbat 21 Service w/ Teen Band	9 AM Torah Study 22 6 PM Brotherhood Deli Night				
9 AM Religious School 23 10 AM Adult Hebrew 11:30 AM Chaverim Event	7 PM Board of Trustees 24 Meeting	2: Yom HaZikaron	6:3	PM Lunch & Learn 26 30 PM SchZFTY Inquet & Installations	1 PM Game Afternoon 27 6 PM B'nei Mitzvah Families Meeting	7 PM Consecration Shabbat Service 28	9 AM Torah Study 29				
9 AM Religious School 30 10 AM Adult Hebrew											

Donations

It is a common Jewish tradition to make a charitable donation both in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and your support of our congregation. Schaarai Zedek is strengthened by your support, and your gift makes a difference - each and every day. The following gifts were received from December 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023.

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

general donation from Flor Henk

in honor of the birth of our Great Granddaughter, Farah Felman, from Al Felman in memory of Luisa Lerman from Ashley Simon Castro & Jason Castro in memory of Luisa Lerman from Cookie & Booky Buchman in memory of Luisa Lerman from Janet & Arthur Simon

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

general donation from Lara Breslow

in honor of Diane Porat from Lyris & Eric Newman

in honor of Eric & Lyris Newman from Merideth & Bobby Newman

in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Ann Mandel

in memory of lan Lynne from Barbara Bond

in memory of Lois Stoler from Barrie & Chuck Slonim

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Frankie & Ron Linsky

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Lori & Alan Rash

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Lyn Meyerson

in memory of Leo Dairs from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Leo Davis from Marcia & Jack Reiber

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Marcia & Jack Reiber

ASSISTANT RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of baby naming ceremony from Becky & Rick Weinberg in memory of Lynn B Felman from Al Felman in memory of Martin Richard Winkler from Cindy & Tony Minetti

BERNIE & BETTY EPSTEIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

in memory of Lucille Shainwald from Karen & Scott Friedman

BIRNHOLZ EDUCATION FUND

in honor of Rabbi Birnholz and Dana Gruman from Marcie & Owen Linder in memory of Gail Hirsch from **Bobbie & Ted Taub** in memory of your Mother and Grandmother, Anita from Mindy Ambler

BROTHERHOOD ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of David & Ann Rosenbach's first grandchild from Nancy & Anthony Weiss

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

general donation from Michelle Wilson Levy in memory of Roger M. Cohen from Amy & Brian Smith in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Evelyn Straus

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Sarah & Mort Richter

DUGLIN FAMILY CAMP COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in honor of Ellie Probasco for Women of Distinction from Heidi & Scott Shimberg in memory of Sylvia Feldman from Kay & Maril Jacobs in memory of Ann Sklar, mother of Leigh Feuer from Kay & Maril Jacobs

ESTELLE & SAM ZBAR YOUTH PROGRAMS ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of Maxwell Keskiner's Bar Mitzvah from Heidi & Scott Shimberg

FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in memory of Lucille Shainwald from Adele & Ralph Ribas in memory of Paul Sherman from Cindy & Tony Minetti in memory of Paul Sherman from Regina Newman

FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TZEDAKAH FUND

in memory of Paul Sherman from Heritage Springs Fun Niners in memory of Sally from The Ambler Family in memory of Gail Hirsch from Tricia & Andy Hirsch

FOOD BANK FUND

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Denise P Federer in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Denise & Ira Federer in memory of Luisa Lerman from Jerilyn & Stu Goldsmith in memory of Gail Hirsch from Mark Carron in memory of Ruth Yadley from Rochelle Buhr in memory of Ruth Yadley from Fred & Mary Sue Rothenberrg

HIRSCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Gail Hirsch and Mollye Gerber Green from Ann Goldman

in memory of Lester Hirsch, Jr from Baird Foundation, Inc.

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Barrie & Chuck Slonim

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Beth Wagner

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Betty Solomon

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Connie Mansfield

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Debbie & Todd Rosenthal

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Diana & Aaron Bloom

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Elaine Stupp

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Heidi & Scott Shimberg

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Janet & Michael Kass

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Joan C. Altshuler & Family

in memory of wonderful Gail Hirsch from Karen & Sergio Waksman

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Kay & Maril Jacobs

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Lori & Stuart Markman

in memory of Gail Hirsch, fellow patron of the arts, bridge player, concert com-

panion, party girl, and lovely human being from Lynn Manos in memory of Gail Hirsch from Marc Bragin & Scott Baker

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Mike & Pat Ertel

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Nancy & Anthony Weiss

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Patricia Locke

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Shannon & Greg Poirier

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Sheila Solomon Rudd

LILLYAN DEE NEUSNER ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Eichberg from Mimi Osiason in memory of Gail Hirsch from Carolann Osiason in memory of Gail Hirsch from **Doris Tishler** in memory of Gail Hirsch from Mimi Osiason

MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of Luisa Lerman from **Daniel & Holly Singer**

RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Bevie & Arnie Tannenbaum in memory of Gail Hirsch from Paula & Carl Zielonka

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

general donation from Mary Kramer

in appreciation for Jack and Miriams's Hebrew Namings from Charlie & Molly Weinberg

in memory of Jean & Ruth Yadley from Alfred N. & Rose W. Schiff Family **Endowment Fund**

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Jolene & Neil Fabricant in memory of Luisa Lerman from Laureen & Scott Jaffe in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Laureen & Scott Jaffe in memory of Gail Hirsch from Laureen & Scott Jaffe

in memory of Ruth Yadley from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz** in memory of Alvin Kaufman from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz** in memory of my sister, Blanche Perris Kahn, who passed on Kislev 14 from **The Perris Kahn Family**

RUTH E WAGNER JEWISH CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of Levi Acosta's birthday from **Melanie & Rudy Acosta** in memory of Ruth Wagner from **Melanie & Rudy Acosta** in memory of Alvin Kaufman from **Melanie & Rudy Acosta**

SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

for the speedy recovery of Grace from Sam Puterman general donation from Ilana Leopold & Jesse Schein general donation from Jerilyn & Stu Goldsmith general donation from Marcia & Jack Cohen general donation from Pamela Davis

in appreciation for Miriam and Jack's Hebrew Namings from **Charlie Weinberg**

in honor of baby naming ceremony from **Becky & Rick Weinberg**

in honor of Rabbi and Donna Birnholz from Jerilyn & Stu Goldsmith

in honor of the Bris from Michelle & Michael Robbins

in honor of the wedding of Rachel Wolfson and Kenny Zweig from ${\bf Myra}~{\bf \&}$

Mark Wolfson

in memory of Gail Hirsch from ${\bf Adrianne}\ {\bf Sundheim}$

in memory of Lynne B Felman from Al Felman

in memory of Louis Greenberg from **Allen Root**

in memory of Stanley Miller from Elaine & Otto Weitzenkorn

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Elizabeth Corwin

in memory of Murray Puterman from Grace & Sam Puterman

in memory of Freeda Puterman from Grace & Sam Puterman

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Karen & Sergio Waksman

in memory of Norman Samuels and Geoffrey Parmer from Marie Parmer,

Joseph Parmer, Stephen & Angi Samuels

in memory of Miriam Bladen from Patty Kalish

in memory of Luisa Lerman from Richard Rudolph

in memory of Ruth Yadley from $\bf Richard\, Rudolph$

in memory of Gail Hirsch from Richard Rudolph

in memory of Michael Roth from Robert Roth

SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

in memory of Lynne Felman from Al Felman

in memory of Dr. Bernard Snydman from Anita & Howard Adlin

in memory of Fay Nachumson from Arlene Berkowitz

in memory of Aaron Getzoff from ${\bf Barbara\ Rosenthal}$

in memory of Alexia Wax from **Becky & Sam Wax** in memory of Jack Goldberg from **Bobbie Reed**

in memory of Jack Goldberg from Bobble Reed

in memory of George Reed from **Bobbie Reed**

in memory of Pearl Lasky from ${\bf Bobbie}\ {\bf Reed}$

in memory of Sarah Shapiro from **Bonnie Saks & Bradley Minnen**

in memory of Mary Safer from Carole Cherry

in memory of Aaron Kenneth Van de Rijn from Carole Cherry

in memory of Barrett Spahn from Cindy Spahn

in memory of Jamie Zitesman from ${\bf Connie\ Mansfield}$

in memory of James G Williams III from Frances Friedman Williams

in memory of Edythe Kasser from Francine & Richard Dobkin

in memory of Sidney Kasser from Francine & Richard Dobkin

in memory of Ben Dobkin from Francine & Richard Dobkin

in memory of Louis J Buchman and Freda Buchman from Gerri & Steve Savitt

in memory of Myrna Friedman from Harry Friedman

in memory of Chava Ladetzky from Ilana & Moshe Ladetzky

in memory of Aaron Ladetzky from Ilana & Moshe Ladetzky

in memory of L Buchman from Jean~&~Leonard~Gilbert

in memory of Freda Buchman from Jean & Leonard Gilbert

in memory of Gabriel George Spector from Jennifer & Jason Salemi

in memory of Vivian Hughes from **Johanna & Sheldon Barat**

in memory of Edith R Oppenheim from Jolene & Neil Fabricant

in memory of Ada Zimmerman and Jerome August from **Karen & Mitchell Bentley**

in memory of George Reed from Kim & Dan Goldberg

in memory of Nathan Weinbren from Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren

in memory of my wonderful mother, Selma M. Kiev from Lisa Kiev-Chen

in memory of Marian Greengold from Liz & Julian Greengold

in memory of Dr. Francis Rosner, Dr. Lester Older, Gertrude Cohen Older, and

Gertrude Leon Rosner from Lois & Jay Older

in memory of Harold Markman from Lori & Stuart Markman

in memory of Rose Evelyn Weiner from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Richard Schanfarber from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Dr. Thomas Newman from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Greg Courson from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Elaine Newman from Lyris & Eric Newman

in memory of Fannie Israeloff from Marcia Israeloff & Paul Jacobsen

in memory of Milton Appel from Marianne Fisher & David Moore

in memory of Steven Richard Loewenthal and William Julius Loewenthal

from Martha Loewenthal

in memory of Jerry Farkas, beloved brother from Nanci Coller

in memory of Dr. Jeff Farkas from Nanci Coller

in memory of Florence Farkas from Nanci Coller

in memory of Anne M Perfit from Rosemary Perfit

in memory of Lorayne Pegler from Sandra & Errol Pegler

in memory of Roberta Golding from Sara & David Scher

in memory of Stuart Golding from Sara & David Scher

in memory of Nathan Klig from Sharon Krackov & Jerome Buff

in memory of Albert Kalmus from **Shelley & Lee Grossbard**

in memory of Albert Raimus from Shelley & Lee Grossbard

in memory of Judith Elwin Ygual from $\bf Sherri~\&~Brian~Cherry$

in memory of Celia Kaplan from **Stephanie & Alan Saunders** in memory of Marilyn Elizabeth Alden from **Susan Alden & Robert Hauser**

in memory of Mary June Hanbury, Doris Bloomston & Myer Bloomston

from Teddi & Benjie Bloomston

in memory of Sylvia Feldman from Vicki Lee & William Paul

SISTERHOOD PROGRAMS

general donation from Sari Romberg

SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of Dana Gruman being named a Woman of Distinction from ${\bf Diane}~\&~{\bf Ron}~{\bf Porat}$

in memory of Ann Sklar from Diane & Ron Porat

SUSTAINING FUND

in honor of Danielle Sonberg's talk for CSZ from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz**

in honor of the bris of Benjamin Friedman from ${\bf Nadine~\&~Dennis~Feldman}$

in honor of Wolfson/Zweig Wedding from ${\bf Nadine~\&~Dennis~Feldman}$

in memory of Priscilla R Root from Allen Root

in memory of Gail Rosalie Hirsch from Dana & Eric Gruman

in memory of Lois Stoler from Dana & Eric Gruman

in memory of Jason Winoker, father of Dillon, Ruth, Kyleigh and Sophie

from Dana & Eric Gruman

in memory of Martin Richard Winkler from Dana & Eric Gruman

in memory of Barbara Netzer from **Linda & Evin Netzer**

in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Lori & David Schwartz

in memory of Renee Silverman, sister of Wendy Katz from **Marilyn & Robert Farber** in memory of Sylvia Feldman, mother of Richard Dobkin from **Marsha & Ste-**

phen Dickey

in memory of Alvin Kaufman from Nadine & Dennis Feldman

in memory of Miriam Hirsch from Paula & Nathan Davis

in memory of Bruce Breslow from **Rhea Hurwitz**

in memory of Ted Kramer from $\bf Rich~\&~Gloria~Lapin$

in memory of Alvin Kaufman from **Richard Rudolph** in memory of Alvin and Iris Bernstein from **Stuart Bernstein**

Schaarai Zedek offers a variety of donation opportunities so all members can participate in the mitzvah of tzedakah at whatever level is comfortable. For more information about our different funds and various ways to give, please visit: www.zedek.org/donate



Congregation Schaarai Zedek

3303 West Swann Avenue Tampa, Florida 33609-4643

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Carla Markowitz, President-Elect / VP Religion, Education, & Youth

Charles Weissman, VP Administration & Building

Dan Singer, VP Fundraising

Allison Singer, VP Membership & Programming

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PRESCHOOL

Lauren Kiernan, Preschool Director

We Are All Jews by Choice Continued from page 3

made the choice to be part of a Jewish family, raising Jewish children, and you all are integral parts of our Schaarai Zedek family, and embracing and supporting interfaith families is such an important part of our congregation's identity.

But according to Sarah Hurwitz, in her book Here All Along, "we are all Jews by choice." Hurwitz recognizes that almost 200 years after Heinrich Heine's conversion and just over 100 years since Kafka wrote about a giant cockroach, there are still so many who remove themselves nearly completely from their Jewish lives, so anyone who is consciously making Judaism a part of their lives, in any way, (again, see Rabbi Weiss' article), is, as Hurwitz so aptly describes, a Jew by choice. At a time in which religious affiliation is declining nationally, please know that our clergy, staff, and lay leaders all recognize that members of our Temple family aren't just choosing to make Judaism a part of their lives; our families are choosing to be part of a congregation, and you are choosing for that congregation to be Schaarai

Zedek. This is not something we take for granted, and this is why this congregation makes it our mission to make sure that within (and outside) our walls there are so many different ways to find connections to one's Judaism and to our community.

While, according to the Pew Research Center, only one in five Jewish Americans may choose to attend a service at a synagogue, 62% will attend some kind of Passover Seder. With the Passover story, we imagine ourselves as part of a people crossing the Sea of Reeds from Egyptian slavery to freedom. This too, at the time, was a journey that one could not choose to opt out of, but as so many make that choice to sit around a Passover table, may this be an opportunity to not only connect to generations of Jews in the past who have made that choice, or not been given the chance to, but hopefully to find meaningful ways to connect to our community today and inspiration to take that story of oppression and engage in Tikkun Olam, repairing this world for all those in need.