



Purim

Join us for laughter, costumes, and a fabulous spiel!

Page 4



Passover

Share in our traditions and rituals!

Page 5



Rabbi David Wolpe

Renowned Rabbi makes Special Visit to Schaarai Zedek.

Page 7

SHOFAR

Schaarai Zedek News

Volume 127

Number 5

March-April 2024

Adar I - Adar II, 5784



ESTHER'S STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION)

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 - ONE NIGHT ONLY!

5:30 PM DINNER / 6:30 PM SHABBAT SERVICE / 7 PM PURIM SPIEL & ONEG

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.

Welcome!



Carla Markowitz
President

Congregation Schaarai Zedek always has exciting things happening, but something I am extra excited about is our upcoming Strategic Planning process.

We have created a small **Strategic Planning Leadership Team** who will select the initial Strategic Planning Participants,

consisting of 20-25 congregants and staff, who will attend an all-day workshop in March.

That workshop will result in the identity and development of 4-5 focus areas, and in April 2024 the Strategic Planning Leadership Team will select group leaders and recommended focus group members who will meet in April to build out the strategic plan. The results from those meetings will be presented to the Board of Trustees and the Congregation in June 2024.

We will also conduct a Congregational Survey to coincide with the strategic planning process, so be looking for that email in April or May 2024.

This strategic planning process is very exciting, as it will allow us to identify where we are as a congregation and where we hope to be in the next 3-5 years. Our synagogue looked very different the last time a strategic plan was done a decade or so ago. With over 1200 families in our membership, our lay leadership, along with our clergy and staff teams, want to ensure we are meeting the needs of our congregants and will continue to do so in the near future. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the Strategic Plan process, or have any input you would like to share in what I hope will be a very enlightening and productive endeavor to bring our vibrant synagogue to the next phase of our long and meaningful history. ●

Social Action

Be a Lifesaver at the Big Red Bus Blood Drive!

The iconic **Big Red Bus** rolls into our parking lot on **Sunday, March 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, and it's your chance to be a real-life superhero: donate blood and save lives!

Give the gift of life and get something awesome in return: every donor scores a cool Big Red Bus t-shirt and a \$20 e-gift card to fuel your post-donation shopping spree. Please contact Amanda Marks at amarks@zedek.org with any questions. Register online: https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1412364

Make a Difference with Metropolitan Ministries!

Join Congregation Schaarai Zedek and Metropolitan Ministries on **Saturday, March 30, from 2-5 p.m.** for a rewarding volunteer opportunity!

- **Fashionistas unite!** Sort through donations, curate treasures for the shelves, and help others find the perfect outfit. Collaborate with fellow volunteers to keep the store organized and welcoming. This is a fun chance for anyone 8 and older to express their creativity and give back through fashion. (8 spots available)
- **Calling all culinary heroes!** Lend a hand in the community kitchen, assisting with prepping, cooking, and serving delicious meals to those in need. This opportunity is open to teens 13 and up with parent, or 14 and up without a parent. (7 spots available)

Don't miss this chance to connect with your community and make a lasting impact! Contact Amanda Marks at amarks@zedek.org by Wednesday, March 20 to secure your spot.

SHOFAR



A bimonthly newsletter by
Congregation Schaarai Zedek

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



Purim painting, untitled. Safed, Israel, 19th century. Hasidic Jews celebrating Purim with a Sephardic Jew (left). The inscription is part of a passage from the Talmud urging Jews to imbibe enough alcohol so that they will not know the difference between the phrases “cursed is Haman” and “blessed is Mordechai.” Collection of Isaac Einhorn, Tel Aviv. (Erich Lessing/Art Resource NY)

Laughter and Hope

Rabbi Michael Weiss

Purim with its festive, irreverent, and carnivalesque spirit is a beloved holiday for the Jews, but there have been those through Jewish history who have suggested that our celebration of Esther and the salvation of the Jews of Persia should finally be put to bed.

For those who know about the history of Judaism in the modern era, this is to be expected. More assimilated European Jews despised the lack of decorum, seeing it as a desecration of Judaism’s sacred spirit while early Zionists took it as a celebration of Jewish dependence on foreign rule for their protection. In fact, the Jewish writer I.L. Peretz, a titan of Hebrew and Yiddish literature wrote regarding Purim:

Purim is a joyous day for beggars, klezmer musicians, masqueraders ... and for the nation like them!

Dance on strange beds, wretched soul, on the grave of your former glory—drink and forget, if you can!

For Peretz, Purim was a festival for Jews in exile and, in a time when hopes for a Jewish state were bubbling up from below, a way of forgetting our national responsibilities.

Even in the Talmud, that ancient compendium of Jewish law and tradition, we find some distress at the lack of inhibition that Purim inspired for some of those ancient rabbis in some cases were, to use a technical term, party poopers. We read in Tractate Megillah, which discusses the laws of Purim:

Rava said: a person is obligated to drink on Purim until he can’t tell the difference between Cursed be Haman and Blessed be Mordechai. Rava and Rabbi Zeira were having the Purim meal together. **Rava got drunk and accidentally killed Rabbi Zeira.** The next day, he petitioned God, who resurrected Rabbi Zeira. The next year, Rava again asked Rabbi Zeira if he wanted to make the Purim meal together with him. **Rabbi Zeira said, “Miracles do not happen on every occasion.”**

The rabbinic criticism of Purim here is two-fold. The obvious critique is that, because we are commanded to drink and be joyful, we may engage in harmful behavior that we might not do otherwise, as with Rava killing Rabbi Zeira in his drunkenness. And there are certainly conversations for us to have about the celebration of Purim and attitudes towards

and treatment of substance abuse disorders in the Jewish community.

The other argument lies below the surface. It was certainly a miracle that God intervened to resurrect Rabbi Zeira in this story. Likewise, Purim is a story of a time when the Jewish people were miraculously saved from genocide, through the perfectly timed coincidence of Esther rising to the throne. Rabbi Zeira knew that the Jewish people had been threatened before and that likely they would be threatened again. It is all too easy to become complacent by relying on miracles, when in reality, we need to muster our courage and work hard to protect our people. Perhaps the story of Purim, then, was dangerous after all. Perhaps...

And so the case against Purim grew and some of the arguments make sense. In certain communities, Purim is a time for debauchery and excess. It is certainly a story and holiday that celebrates a moment of Jewish diaspora as a vassal people under a foolish foreign king. And it may be a story that gives us false hope that by being in the right place at the right time, a miracle can protect our people once again.

Continued on back page

Purim at Schaarai Zedek

Don your groggers and glitter - Purim magic awaits at Schaarai Zedek!

Lunch & Learn - The Secret Life of Esther

Thursday, March 14, Noon

Purim's familiar heroine gets a makeover! Join Rabbi Simon as we dissect translations and dive into the "secret life" of Esther, revealing hidden depths and challenging assumptions. Unmask a nuanced heroine and rediscover a story richer than you ever imagined.

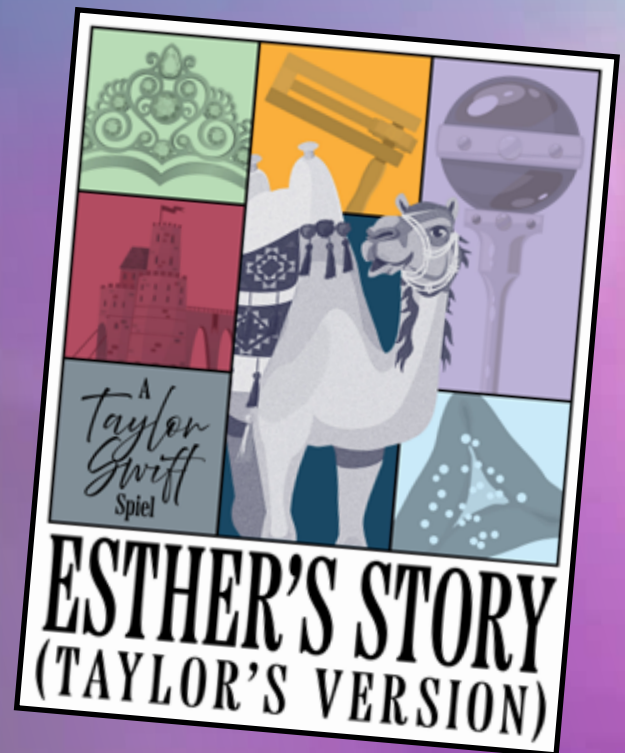
Purim Dinner, Shabbat, and Spiel

Friday, March 22

Calling all Swifties and Purim enthusiasts! Get ready to Shake it Off at our epic Taylor Swift-themed Purim celebration on Friday, March 22. This magical evening is packed with fun for the whole family:

- Family Dinner (5:30 PM): Fuel up for Purim festivities with a delicious family-friendly meal.
- Services (6:30 PM): Join us a brief Shabbat service before the spiel begins!
- Spiel & Oneg (7 PM): Get ready for a unique Purim spiel re-imagined with a Swiftian twist! Don your sparkliest outfits and friendship bracelets! Sing along to beloved Taylor Swift tunes as we follow Esther's courageous journey. Celebrate the triumph of good over evil with delicious treats.

Will Esther's story be a "Love Story" for the ages, or will Haman's cruelty prevail? Shake off the suspense and join us for this unforgettable Purim experience!



Purim Royale - A Casino Carnival

Saturday, March 23, 6-9 PM

Put on your poker face for Purim Royale! Adults 21+ are invited to this festive casino carnival with games, heavy apps, drinks, and more. No real money involved, just Shushan Shekels and Purim fun! RSVP by March 20. Let the games begin!

Annual Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 24, 11 AM - 1 PM

Celebrate Purim with Carnival fun! Enjoy games, face painting, petting zoo, music, and more! Free hot dog lunch, early dismissal for Religious School students. All ages welcome!

Please let us know if you plan to attend at www.zedek.org/RSVP.



JOIN US FOR PASSOVER

Senior Luncheon - A Passover Exploration

Thursday, April 18, at 11:30 AM

Dive into the heart of the holiday, discussing its personal significance and evolving traditions. Share stories, insights, and cherished family recipes with fellow seniors and dedicated staff members. Learn how they connect with Passover and gain new perspectives on this cherished tradition. Enjoy a delicious meal infused with holiday spirit and build connections within the Schaarai Zedek community.

Passover Second Night Seder

Tuesday, April 23, at 6 PM (Doors open at 5:30 PM)

Celebrate Passover with a traditional Seder for adults! Relive the story, explore modern interpretations, and savor a catered meal 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. \$45 per person / Add-On Wine Package \$30 per person.

20s+30s Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 23, at 7 PM

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. \$36 per person.

Family Passover Seder Brunch

Saturday, April 27, at 10:30 AM

Celebrate Passover with an interactive family brunch! Enjoy a delicious buffet, engaging activities, and a fun Seder led by clergy. Perfect for all ages. \$24 per adult, children are FREE.

WWW.ZEDEK.ORG/RSVP - RSVP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 12 - 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.



Moses parting the Red Sea, Vincent Malo (I), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Finding a Response to This Moment's Most Difficult Call

Rabbi Joel Simon

When we begin our service with *Bar'chu*, our tradition gives us a daily model of a call and response. The prayer leader calls out, "*Bar'chu et Adonai ha-m'vorach - Pray to God, the One who is praised,*" and the community responds to the call, praying, "*Baruch Adonai ha-m'vorach l'olam vaed - Praised is God who is praised forever.*"

The Passover story presents us with a national moment of call and response. We are a people emerging from a time in which we were sitting at the top of the world. Joseph had saved Egypt from

famine, he reconciled with his brothers, and they were building a home in their new homeland of Egypt.

Generations passed and life only continued to improve for the children of Israel, until an event arose that never could have been foreseen. A new King of Egypt, a new Pharaoh came to power who, the Torah tells us, knew not of Joseph, and he was afraid of these Israelites who were numerous and strong, and so it is that we were enslaved. But this moment of new vulnerability was a call, and what was our response? The more the Israelites were oppressed, the Torah tells us, the more they increased and spread. Pharaoh was afraid of our size

and strength, so what did we do? We got bigger and stronger.

So Pharaoh declared that all boys born to Hebrew mothers would be killed. This too was a call, and how did the midwives, Shiprah and Pu-ah respond? They ignored Pharaoh, and the Israelites continued to grow. Conditions became worse, and a baby boy was born. His mother responded to her call by ensuring his safety, sending him down the river under his sister's care to Pharaoh's palace where he would be raised as a Prince.

That boy would grow, and Moses would see something he, too, could not believe, or at least could not understand, the enslavement and treatment of those same



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

RABBI
DAVID
WOLPE

MARCH 8-9, 2024



Renowned Rabbi David Wolpe to Visit as Scholar-in-Residence

Los Angeles' Max Webb Senior Rabbi David Wolpe, recognized by Newsweek as America's most influential rabbi, will join as Scholar-in-Residence from March 8-9, 2024.

Known for his insightful responses to critical moments, Rabbi Wolpe will offer his perspective on current issues during his visit. He serves as Max Webb Senior Rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, is a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Divinity School, and serves as a Rabbinic Fellow for the Anti-Defamation League.

Friday evening: Meet Rabbi Wolpe at a "pre-neg" at 6 p.m., followed by a Shabbat service 7 p.m. Enjoy a friendly gathering afterwards at our Oneg Shabbat.

Saturday morning: Fuel your body and mind with a delicious bagel breakfast at 10:30 a.m., followed by an engaging learning session with Rabbi Wolpe. This is your chance to ask questions and explore topics in a relaxed setting.

Engage with Rabbi Wolpe's thought-provoking ideas and gain a deeper understanding of contemporary challenges through Jewish scholarship and ethical guidance. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired by his unique perspective.

children of Israel, to which he did not know he belonged. This would be Moses' call, and he would respond by seeking change, standing up for the oppressed, leading us to our freedom.

On October 7, Hamas painfully reminded us of the danger of the Pharaohs that exist today. The attacks gave Jews around the world a moment of vulnerability the likes of which we haven't felt in decades, and the immediate response was a renewed and strengthened connection to, and support of Israel and an inspired unification of the wider Jewish community.

Since those early days, we have encountered more Pharaohs, those

seemingly fearful of the newest generation of the descendants of Jacob becoming too numerous and strong. A war has emerged, horrific yet necessary, as a response to the call of an existential threat, and it has been painful to encounter those who don't understand that. This response is a call in itself, and we struggle like no other time in most of our memories to know how to respond.

In his book, *Exodus and Revolution*, political philosopher and professor Dr. Michael Walzer writes the following:

"Standing on the parted shores of history we still believe what we were taught before ever we stood at Sinai's foot; that wherever we go, it is eternally

Egypt; that there is a better place, a promised land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness. That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together."

As we stand at the shores of our own Sea of Reeds, even as we can still hardly imagine what it must have been like for the Israelites - the fear the uncertainty must have caused, the infighting that must have occurred among those viewed as leaders and within families as they struggled with their response - we too must strive, as our ancestors did, each continuing to find our own response, while crossing our sea together. ●

Flom Religious School

Students engaged in community service, learning, and religious milestones at Religious School

Debbie Steinfeld
Religious School Director

We are having a great time at Religious School! Over the past two months, our 7th and 8th graders have participated in some really great community service projects and field trips. Our confirmation class has been preparing for their confirmation service on May 19. Our Pre-K through 6th grade classes have been super busy learning Hebrew and about our Jewish Holidays and Torah Stories.

Mark your calendars for the Purim Carnival on March 24. Dismissal on that day will be at 11 a.m., allowing families to enjoy the carnival together.

Arrival and Dismissal:

Please make sure you allow yourself plenty of time to arrive at school as we are using metal detectors upon arrival, and we want the students to be in class, promptly at 9 a.m. Please also use your car tags in the car line at dismissal as it helps us move the line much quicker. If you need a new tag, just let us know and we will get it to you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Important Dates:

- March 24 – Early Dismissal for Purim Carnival
- April 12 – 3rd Grade Family Shabbat
- May 5 – Last Day of Religious School
- May 19 – 9th Grade Confirmation

Interested in teaching next year?

Do you want to further Judaism and enjoy spending time with great children? Then become a 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 me at (813) 876-2377, ext. 246, or email dsteinfeld@zedek.org.



In January, several of our SchZFTY teens traveled to Washington D.C. for L'Taken - the Religious Action Center's Social Justice Seminar.

Amy Gail Buchman Preschool



March 2024

- Mar. 1: Storybook Character Themed Shabbat
- Mar. 4-6: Class & Graduation Pictures
- Mar. 11-15: *Spring Break/Non-Student Day (for part-time & school day students)
- Mar. 22: Purim Play during Shabbat

*Indicates school is closed / **indicates school is closing early.

School Shabbat Schedule

- 9:30-9:50 AM: Pre-K & Threes
- 10:00-10:15 AM: Toddlers & Twos

April 2024

- Apr. 8: Grandparents Day
- Apr. 19: Passover Play during Shabbat
- Apr. 22: **Passover Early Closing
- Apr. 23: *Passover Holiday/Non-Student Day



The Power of Memory

Lindsey Dewey
Director of Engagement & Outreach

In each of our day-to-day interactions we rely heavily on our trained memory. Understanding of social norms, personal relationships, generally accepted rules, in varied environments, and spaces in which we interact are all linked to developing memory. Regularly we have moments when something deep within our subconscious alerts us to the “I have been here before” feeling or an autopilot that helps you navigate through a space you were unaware you could traverse. This is all linked and interconnected to the way our brains are wired and how we mentally program our lived and felt experiences.

Have you ever stopped to think about HOW memory works? Our brains are complex pathways that rely heavily on our senses to not only program these memories but cause triggers in our brain that allow us to pull memories from our internal filing system. The repetition of childhood, often noted as teaching and training, is the very first foundational memory-building. Children learn which grown-ups in their lives serve different functions, how they are expected to act in different settings and what foods taste like or feel like and how those foods make them feel physically and emotionally.

I have long been deemed ‘the most sentimental person in the world.’ I have a memory that is deeply tied to emotion and one of the most powerful experiential emotions for me is the consistency year over year we experience this time of the year. Both Purim and Passover bring up familial experiences that deeply tie me to our spring months and invite me to create experiences that not only bring these memories to my own family—but extend to our congregational community. It is my hope that in the touchpoints we create, regardless of your age or life stage, you are powerfully connected to Congregation Schaarai Zedek as a source of positive recall and memory both in festival celebrations and our daily interactions.

It’s relatively easy to smile and recall the joy in finding the afikomen when you smell the simmering matzah ball soup or roasting shank bone for our seder plate. Most of us likely have a story from a childhood Purim carnival. That memory may or may not involve winning a live fish, a costume contest, or the vibrato chorus chanting over Haman’s name. The cycle of our Jewish year is deeply tied to memory and generational connections. What might be more powerful, more importantly, are the seemingly simple interactions that recall an equally powerful joy.

This year we have built out a program for our Active Adult community that we

intentionally left slightly ambiguous and open to growth and interpretation. We are trying many new activities and each month learn about who wants to connect through our community and what they hope to gain in these spaces. There are moments of recall this year, of winning a round of trivia at The Blind Goat and being offered a round of drinks for our win, our first Sunday morning Pickleball lesson where nearly 100% of our attendees had never played before, or the Museum Monday when 20 of us boarded the motorcoach for 58 passengers to immerse ourselves in The Dali Experience. Each of these events builds a foundational memory that connects our congregation to positive lived experiences of each participant. When we sit on a Thursday afternoon playing Mexican Train Dominoes at a Game Afternoon—it’s far more than a table game.

If you haven’t yet ventured into our new programming, I invite you to broaden your connections within our congregational community. We love seeing you for Shabbat and holiday celebrations and we want you to know we are here for that. And so much more. We welcome ideas for additional points of connection and perhaps some of your favorite memories can connect you with others as we adventure and build opportunities for interaction together. ●

Sisterhood

Beth Levin & Sharon Weiss
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

As we approach the celebrations of Purim and Pesach, we reflect on the ability of our people to overcome and persevere, with our Jewish women at the forefront of moving us forward as agents of support and change. Sisterhood is fortunate to have over 500 amazing and involved women, and we are grateful for each one of you.

On January 29, at our annual Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event, Sisterhood honored Andi Parker with the Audrey Maas Shine Award, named in memory of Audrey, who held many leadership positions and continued to be an active Sisterhood and Board member beyond her 100th birthday. This award is presented to a Sisterhood member who embodies the mission and ideals of Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood, and whose efforts have proven to be above and beyond expectations.

Andi has been serving on Sisterhood and temple boards for over 20 years. She joined the Sisterhood Board in 2016, after serving in numerous roles at her previous synagogues, including Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando, and Temple Beth Torah in Wellington, where she first served as Sisterhood President. She went on to serve as Sisterhood President two more times, initially with a two-year term at Schaarai Zedek beginning in 2018, and

then stepping up for another one-year term in 2022. Throughout her Sisterhood journey, she served in numerous other positions, including Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President of Social Programming, and Vice President of Administration.

Over the years, Andi has helped our Sisterhood in many ways, always stepping up wherever she is needed, not for the accolades, but to help things run smoothly. In recent years, she has been instrumental in assisting in the Judaica Shop and is widely known as our “Hamantaschen Maven.” During COVID, when we were unable to hold our annual Star Event, our biggest fundraiser, Andi created and chaired a new event called “Elevate You” to continue the tradition of bringing new and inspiring speakers to our community. In January 2021, she created our first virtual Elevate You event, followed a year later by a hybrid event. Collectively, she helped our Sisterhood raise nearly \$35,000 for these two events—a huge accomplishment considering the smaller scope and limited attendance! With the funds raised at these events, our Sisterhood continued to donate to nonprofits in our community when they needed help and resources more than ever.

Andi’s accomplishments are numerous, extending beyond our Sisterhood. She believes that leadership, in her own words, “is about making sure everyone has what they need to do their job.” Her dedication to sisterhood and helping others makes her a role model for the



Andi Parker and Judith Rosenkranz at the Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event.

rest of us. We are fortunate that Andi has brought her wealth of talents, knowledge, creativity, and passion to Schaarai Zedek, and we are truly grateful for everything she does and will continue to do.

Mazel Tov, Andi! We look forward to many more wonderful years of your leadership, service, and support in our amazing Sisterhood.

Sisterhood has several exciting events planned over the next few months. These include a Sisterhood Shabbat, a Passover program, a social gathering, the YES Fund annual program, and our famous and delicious Hamantaschen baking and selling in advance of Purim. Please look for these and many other programs and events in your Sisterhood Tuesday emails. If you are not currently receiving these, please reach out. ●

Brotherhood

Chuck Goldstein, Brotherhood President

We are delighted by how Brotherhood has united as “Brothers” to support our congregation. Our programs continue to grow, and together, we’ve significantly increased our presence.

In January, our Brotherhood Speaker Series had the honor of hosting two military generals who shared information, experience, and clarity regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict, leaving us with a better understanding of how to support Israel. We extend our gratitude to Anthony

Weiss and Marc Rosenthal for arranging this insightful opportunity.

In February, we enjoyed “Finish the Bourbon” at the Merrymakers Club on Davis Island. We learned the art of making bourbon and had a fantastic time together, filled with lots of laughs! A big “Yasher Koach” to Jack Rosenkranz for his hard work.

As always, Brotherhood holds its monthly meetings on the first Monday evening of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the synagogue. Please join us for dinner, share your thoughts, and contribute your ideas. The more, the better!

Looking ahead to March, we have two exciting events. On Thursday, March 21, we’re hosting our second Annual Brew-Ha-Ha at Rolling Oats Market. Details and RSVP information will be sent via email. Additionally, Schaarai Zedek’s annual Purim Carnival is scheduled for March 24, and this year, Brotherhood will provide desserts and drinks. Please sign up to volunteer; we’re proud to be a part of it. In April, we’re planning a “Behind the Scenes” surprise event, so save the date - you’ll be glad you did. More information will follow.

I look forward to seeing all of you at each event! ●

Lifecycles

B'nei Mitzvah

Isaac Thompson

Parents: Deborah Cohen & Joshua Thompson
March 2, 2024

Raymond Thomas

Parents: Melody & Ray Thomas
March 9, 2024

Hampton Haber

Parents: Kellie & Michael Haber
March 30, 2024

Gage Haber

Parents: Kellie & Michael Haber
March 30, 2024

Isla Bruner

Parents: Michelle & Jonathan Bruner
April 6, 2024

Abigail Langlass

Parents: Jennifer & Rick Langlass
April 6, 2024

Stella Robins

Parents: Jennifer & Benjamin Robins
April 13, 2024

Elliot Warren

Parents: Alex & Andrew Warren
April 13, 2024

Henry Cohen

Parents: Dana & Jonathan Cohen
April 20, 2024

Chloe Jonas

Parents: Jenie Liang Jonas & Brian Jonas
April 20, 2024



Henry Cohen



Stella Robins



Issac Thompson



Elliot Warren

Welcome New Members

Sandi Ancona & Will Lazenby	Cassandra & Adam McCall	Julie & Dylan Shean
Jenna Stoehr & Tal Binder	Erica Miller & Paul Cavallaro	Katherine & Reed Shimberg
Lina Moore & Rich Cohen	Judy Miller	Jay Johnston & Spencer Simon
Robyn & Jay Gellman	Emily & Dwight Price	Dana & Christopher Terrigino
Mykie & Carson Hardy	Emily Price & Joe Naffziger	David Toback
Anne & Ariel Klein	Lorielle & David Rosen	Alexis Yohros & Evan OConnor
Karen Kuhn	Catherine & Evan Rubinson	

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to congregant **Cindy Spahn** for being awarded the esteemed *Tikkun Olam* Award during the Annual President's Dinner! *Tikkun Olam* means "repairing the world" and recipients are given the award based on their demonstrated commitment and leadership to making our community and our world a better place.

JOIN OUR CARING COMMUNITY

The Caring Community is a group of congregants who are dedicated to providing support and compassion to their fellow members. We offer a variety of outreach services, including phone calls, cards, and visits.

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the lives of others. Whether you can commit to a one-time project or an ongoing commitment, your time and energy are greatly appreciated.

More Information : Contact Rabbi Weiss

 (813) 876-2377, ext. 229  mweiss@zedek.org

Calendar Highlights

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

MARCH 6, 7-9 PM



Active Adults Trivia

Calling all trivia buffs! Join us at The Blind Goat's Wednesday night trivia starting with 7 PM apps! Compete, win, and stay late for brainwaves and prizes!

MARCH 7 & APRIL 4, 1-3 PM



Game Afternoon

Craving laughs and friendly competition? Bring your card game (or borrow one!) for an afternoon of fun with friends. Snacks and tables are provided.

MARCH 11, 9 AM - 4 PM



Active Adults Day Trip

Bok Tower Gardens: Join us for a captivating journey through 250 acres of lush gardens, a soaring Singing Tower, and captivating history. Board a comfortable bus from Tampa and embark on a scenic journey to the gardens. Explore the grounds at your own pace. Savor a delicious lunch (not included) at the on-site Blue Palmetto Café, offering both indoor and outdoor seating. Unwind and soak in the ambiance before our return trip to Tampa. Tickets: \$20 per person.

MARCH 16, 10 AM - 12 PM



Active Adults Hiking

Explore Weedon Island's diverse trails with us! Meet at the Cultural Center, enjoy nature walks, and pack a picnic for afterwards. All levels welcome! (1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg)

MARCH 17 & APRIL 14, 10-11:30 AM



Active Adults Pickleball

Calling active adults! Learn pickleball or find new partners at this fun event. Instruction offered! Sign up: limited spots available. No equipment needed, just bring your enthusiasm! (1701 E. 2nd Ave, Tampa)

MARCH 19, 4:30 PM



Turandot at St. Petersburg Opera

Immerse yourself in the thrilling and captivating opera, Turandot, by Puccini, with St. Pete Opera! Join a group for a convenient and hassle-free experience that includes a comfortable bus ride, a delicious dinner, and premium opera seats, all for an unforgettable evening. All in Italian with English subtitles. Reserve your spot now! Tickets: \$35, additional \$30 for dinner.

MARCH 21, 11:30 AM



Senior Luncheon

Doo-wop your way to fun! Join us for a Senior Luncheon featuring The Boomerz's classic tunes. Get ready for infectious melodies and nostalgic memories!

APRIL 1, 7-9 PM



Active Adults Shuffleboard

Join us at Shuffle in the Heights for games, socializing, dinner, and drinks. Schaarai Zedek covers the court reservation and appetizers, \$10/person.

APRIL 8, 9 AM - 3 PM



Active Adults Museum Monday

Explore Selby Gardens with fellow museum enthusiasts! This trip includes transportation, a guided tour, and free time to explore at your own pace. Lunch is not included, but you can enjoy it at the Selby House Café. Tickets: \$25 per person.

APRIL 13, 10 AM - NOON



Active Adults Biking

Enjoy a scenic bike ride with fellow adults at Flatwoods Park! Choose paved or off-road trails on the 7-mile loop at Morris Bridge Road entrance. (14302 Morris Bridge Rd, Thonotosassa)

APRIL 19, 5:45 PM



Primary Shabbat & Dinner

Enjoy an age-appropriate Shabbat service for grades K-2 and siblings, followed by a family-friendly dinner!

MAY 4, 2 PM



Peter Pan at the Straz

Soar to Neverland with fellow Schaarai Zedek members! Join us for a special matinee performance of Peter Pan. Seats are limited, so reserve yours today. Don't miss this chance to rekindle your youthful spirit and share the magic with loved ones! Tickets: \$80 per person. *Please note: transportation is not provided for this daytime show.*

MARCH 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					7 PM Shabbat Service 1	9 AM Torah Study 2 10:30 AM Isaac Thompson Bar Mitzvah
8 AM Blood Drive 3 9 AM Religious School 9 AM Sisterhood Judaica Shop Grand Reopening	6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 4	5	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 6 6 PM SchZFTY Hang Out Night 7 PM Active Adults Trivia	1 PM Game Afternoon 7	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 8 6 PM Preneg 7 PM Shabbat Service International Women's Day	9:15 AM Shabbat Yoga 9 10:30 AM Brunch & Learn 2:30 PM SchZFTY Event 4:30 PM Raymond Thomas Bar Mitzvah
10 Daylight Savings Begins	9 AM Active Adults Day Trip 11 7 PM Adult Ed. w/ St. Leo	12	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 13	12 PM Lunch & Learn 14	7 PM Shabbat Service 15	9 AM Torah Study 16 10 AM Active Adults Hiking
10 AM Active Adults Pickleball 17	12 PM Sisterhood Book Club 18 7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	4:30 PM Turandot at St. Pete Opera 19 First Day of Spring	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 20	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon 21 6:30 PM Brotherhood Event	5:30 PM Purim Family Dinner 22 6:30 PM Shabbat Service 7 PM Purim Spiel & Oneg	9 AM Torah Study 23 5 PM Purim Royale Purim
9 AM Religious School 24 11 AM Purim Carnival Purim	25	26	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 27	12 PM ROMEOs + Jewl-liets 28	5 PM Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner 29 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 30 10:30 AM Gage & Hampton Haber B'nei Mitzvah 2 PM Metropolitan Ministries Volunteering
31						

APRIL 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting 1 7 PM Active Adults Shuffleboard April Fool's Day	2	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 3 6 PM SchZFTY Hangout Night	1 PM Game Afternoon 4	7 PM Shabbat Service 5 8 PM Newly Married/Engaged Couples Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 6 10:30 AM Isla Bruner Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM Abigail Langlass Bat Mitzvah
9 AM Religious School 7 11:30 AM Jr. SchZFTY Event	9 AM Active Adults Museum Monday 8 6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting	9	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 10	12 PM Lunch & Learn 11 7 PM Beit Teshuvah "Freedom Song" Performance at Kol Ami	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 12 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 13 10 AM Active Adults Biking 10:30 AM Stella Robins Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM Elliot Warren Bat Mitzvah 5 PM SchZFTY Event
9 AM Religious School 14 10 AM Active Adults Pickleball 11 AM Chaverim Event 11:30 AM B'nei Mitzvah Meeting & Lunch	12 PM Sisterhood Book Club 15 7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	16	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 17 6 PM Sisterhood Passover Program 6 PM Middle School Hangout Night	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon 18 4 PM Brotherhood Behind the Scenes Tour	5:45 PM Primary Shabbat 19 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 20 10:30 AM Chloe Jonas Bat Mitzvah 4:30 PM Henry Cohen Bar Mitzvah
9 AM Religious School 21 11:30 AM Yeladim Event	22	6 PM Second Night Seder 23 7 PM 20s+30s Second Night Seder Passover	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 24 Passover	12 PM ROMEOs + Jewl-liets 25 Passover	7 PM Shabbat Service 26 Passover	9 AM Torah Study 27 10:30 AM Family Passover Brunch Passover
9 AM Religious School 28 Passover	10:30 AM Passover Yizkor Service and Lunch 29 6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting Passover	30				

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, 2023 - January 31, 2024.

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

from **Jamil Daoud**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Cookie & Booky Buchman**
in memory of Amy Gail from **Eugene Beck**

AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

in memory of Dr. Seymour Grupp and Claire Grupp from **Alice & Stanley Rosenthal**
in memory of Ian Lynne from **Barbara Bond**
in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Lori & Alan Rash**
in memory of Johanna Barat from **Susan & Robin Schwartz**

ASSOCIATE RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

from **Karen Haubenstock & Artie Jacobowitz**
from **Rachel Rivera**
in memory of Lynne Felman from **Al Felman**
in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Brina Einstein**
in memory of Dr. Louis Schwartz from **Janine & Mike Schwartz**
in memory of Lynne Felman from **Judy & Dave Felman**
with gratitude for Seth's Bar Mitzvah from **Natasha Rieger**

BROTHERHOOD ENDOWMENT FUND

in appreciation for the work of Steve Gerstein from **Jonathan Mines**

CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of Maria Miranda and Robert King's wedding from **Margarita Almorza**
in honor of Cantor Cannizzaro's milestone anniversary from **Maxine & Jerry Rosen**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Elaine Stupp**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Evelyn Straus**
in memory of Freeda Puterman from **Grace & Sam Puterman**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Julie Z Kittredge**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Lina Moore & Rich Cohen**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Phyllis & Gary Gould**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Scott & Heidi Shimberg**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **The Bomstein Family**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Traci & Daniel Klein**
with gratitude for Cantor's guidance and care with Seth's Bar Mitzvah from **Natasha Rieger**

EDUCATION PILLAR FUND

in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Salzer from **Bonnie & Chuck May**

FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

for the speedy recovery of Lynne Merriam from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**
in memory of Mollye Gerber Green from **Ann Goldman**

FOOD BANK FUND

for the speedy recovery of June Kraff from **Diana L Winoker**
in honor of Chanukah from **Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Goldsmith**
in memory of William Joseph Kahn from **Evelyn Straus**
in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Joan & Fred Weinstein**

HIRSCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Gail and Les Hirsch from **Andy, Tricia, Lauren & Rachel Hirsch**
in memory of Gail and Lester Hirsch from **Baird Foundation**
in memory of Mary F Kramer from **Mary Dolcimascolo**

LAWRENCE D. HOFFMAN MITZVAH ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Miriam Karlin Nordlinger from **Sheila Winett**

MEMORIAL FUND

in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Art Nordlinger**
in memory of Miriam Karlin Nordlinger from **Judy Rainbow Cohn**

RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in honor of Alicia LeVine's special birthday from **Ellen Richter & Martin Schachter**
in honor of Paula Zielonka's good health from **Michelle & Steven Passon**
in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Michelle & Steven Passon**

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for blessing our new mezuzah and home from **Suzanne Gellens**
in memory of William Joseph Kahn from **Laureen & Scott Jaffe**

SCHAARAI ZEDEK PILLAR FUND

from **Jacob Babbin**

SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

from **Karen Haubenstock & Artie Jacobowitz**
from **Leah & Floyd Nash**
from **Marcia & Jack Cohen**
from **Shoshana & Joshua Pomerantz**
for the speedy recovery of June Kraff from **Diana L Winoker**
in honor of baby naming from **Karen & Brian Shanberg**
in memory of Priscilla R. Root from **Allen Root**
in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Brenda Shore**
in memory of Michael A. Roth from **Claire & Robert Roth**
in memory of Josie Chico from **Cynthia & Fred Weiss**
in memory of Herbert Blumenthal from **Russell Blumenthal**
in memory of William Joseph Kahn from **Susie & Lex Goldenberg**
with gratitude to Rabbi Simon from **Arlene Greene**
with gratitude for Seth's Bar Mitzvah from **Jarett & Natasha Rieger**
with gratitude to Rabbi Simon from **Karen Greene**

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.**

SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

for the speedy recovery of Lynne Merriam from **Elaine & Geoffrey Gross**

SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

in memory of Marilyn Elizabeth Alden from **Susan Alden & Robert Hauser**

in memory of Lynne Felman from **Al Felman**

in memory of Dr. Bernard Snyderman from **Anita & Howard Adlin**

in memory of David Nachumson from **Arlene Berkowitz**

in memory of Fay Nachumson from **Arlene Berkowitz**

in memory of Aaron Getzoff from **Barbara Rosenthal**

in memory of Myer Bloomston and Mary June Hanbury from **Ben Bloomston**

in memory of Aaron Kenneth Van de Rijn from **Carole Cherry**

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in memory of Sidney Kasser from **Francine & Richard Dobkin**

in memory of Ben Dobkin from **Francine & Richard Dobkin**

in memory of Edythe Kasser from **Francine & Richard Dobkin**

in memory of Aaron Ladetzky from **Ilana & Moshe Ladetzky**

in memory of Chava Ladetzky from **Ilana & Moshe Ladetzky**

in memory of Freda Buchman from **Jean & Leonard Gilbert**

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in memory of Seymour Goldsmith **Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Goldsmith**

in memory of Edith R Oppenheim from **Jolene & Neil Fabricant**

in memory of Miriam Nordlinger from **Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim**

in memory of Jack Goldberg from **Kim & Dan Goldberg**

In memory of George Reed from **Kim & Dan Goldberg**

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in memory of Joseph Charles Nagelsen from **Lee & Saul Rachelson**

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in memory of Selma Kiev from **Lisa Kiev-Chen**

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SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of Nancy Seigal's birthday from **Lisa Kiev-Chen**

in memory of Rose Cannizzaro from **Diane & Ron Porat**

with gratitude to Cindy Sper from **Sasha & Jon Sper**

SUSTAINING FUND

from **Jimmy Lebron Gonzalez**

in honor of the engagement of Dr. Rob Zamore and Dr. Brielle Weinstein from **Linda & Steve Grau**

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in memory of Miriam L Hirsch from **Paula & Nathan Davis**

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

RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ

Torah Circle

A N N U A L G I V I N G

If you would like to contribute to the
2023-2024 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.



Congregation Schaarai Zedek

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Laughter and Hope *Continued from page 3*

One more argument comes to mind for our own time. In a serious moment for the Jews, can we be so unserious? When our homeland is under attack from within and without, when our people are living in fear and insecurity, when the Jewish heart is strained to the point of breaking, how can we drink and be merry?

Let me be clear. I see the merit of these arguments in their historical context and fully disagree. Purim is perhaps the most fitting holiday for a time like this. Think about this: one of the most common human reactions to a moment of fear or tension is to laugh or joke, to bring breath into a breathless room, smiles to grimacing faces. We need to laugh and be joyful like we need air or food or water. Stress, after all, is a killer of both the mind and the body. We are meant to celebrate, not to forget our worries, but to fortify ourselves to face them, so we can return to the fight reinvigorated.

And we celebrate a holiday about Jews in Diaspora, not to snub our national

aspirations, but to acknowledge reality. Jews live all over the world in non-Jewish societies. In this story, we can begin to see ourselves and understand how to find our place wherever we are.

As for miracles, we can both believe in them and work to make them happen. The Jewish people are not sitting back and waiting. In January, I went with some of our young people to Washington D.C. where they had the opportunity to deliver lobbying speeches to Congress on some of the most important issues in our nation, including the rise of antisemitism. None of them waited to be in the right place at the right time, like Esther. They signed up to be in the halls of power to defend the tribe.

So, Modernity be damned! Purim is precisely the ancient festival we need right now to inspire laughter and joy which help us hone the keenest weapon that the Jewish people have wielded righteously for millennia: hope for the future.

Chag Purim sameach! ●