#### APRIL 2024 | ADAR II - NISAN | 5784 | VOL. 94 | NO. 4



בית שלום

# Feel the Bitterness and Eat It Anyway: A Seder Beyond Shtick

### BY RABBI DAVID M. GLICKMAN

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov wrote: "But no matter how far you have fallen, it is still forbidden to give up hope. Repentance *(teshu-vah)* is higher even than the Torah – therefore there is absolutely no place for despair."

It is easy to say these words with the benefit of hindsight. We often say aphorisms like "things turn out for the best," after we are on the other side of hardship. But when we are in the midst of hardship, a positive outcome is not obvious.



Susan Jeffers, an American psychologist titles her book on living with anxiety, "Feel the fear and do it anyway." In other words – action and pain, fear and choice, can both live within us. The mitzvah of maror is to actually taste the bitterness itself. On the night of seder, we need to eat the maror with a blessing before we eat the satisfying meal. We literally thank God for commanding us to eat bitterness, before we eat the festive meal that has no unique blessing unto itself.

The teaching of Rebbe Nachman about despair teaches us not to look over and or ignore pain. Rather, even within a dark space, we feel bitterness we ought not have despair. Despair is not the feeling of pain, it is the lack of hope for any betterment in the future.

This Pesach, I encourage us to do what we can to be as fully present as possible within our seders. Taste the bitterness of the maror. Experience the salty wetness and crunch of the karpas. Allow your tongue to savor the sweetness of the haroset, even while the food in your mouth has the feel of mud. Really ask one another "Why is this night different from all the other nights?" Strive to see yourself, "as if" we were taken out Egypt.

I have heard many times complaints that a Passover seder is too long or too boring. The reaction to this is often: make it short and fun. Though the opposite of long is short, the opposite of boring is not fun. The oppo-

site of boring is engaging. Engagement comes from really getting to know the guests around your table and hearing their Exodus story. Engagement comes from imagining yourself at all-night study sessions like the rabbis describe, and thinking of what would be so powerful in the Jewish story that you would stay up all night for it.

Getting to the emotional heart of the words of the seder won't come only from creating games and purchasing toys to entertain the guests. Use this time – this year of all years – to get to the heart of the matters that lie deep within our people's story. Don't be afraid to talk about the painful parts, and don't be embarrassed to celebrate the joyful parts. Our people will need engaging, meaningful, painful and inspiring stories to move us beyond the moment of now – and we will need you to craft these stories with the people you love this Passover.

# **Passover Prep at PRS**

## BY CIVIA WHITE PRS DIRECTOR

Many thanks to our clergy for their work in preparing the Polsky Religious School students and families for Pesach. On Sunday, April 14, there will be something for everyone! Rabbi Glickman and the parents of HBHA and PRS Kindergarteners will be sharing ideas on how to make the Seder engaging for young kids. At the same time, children in grades K-8 will sit in mixed-age groups for our model seder in Goldsmith Hall. Hazzan Ben-Yehuda has been teaching seder songs and traditions to the classes. Rabbi Kaplan will lead the kids in fun creative group activities and guide them in reflecting on what Jewish concepts they can take away from a seder. Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to prepare the food and set up our seder!

Participation in the PRS Pesach Art Contest has been outstanding! Art teacher Stella Shapiro prepared the students for the project by teaching about holiday symbols and mixed media. Come to the Sisterhood gift shop through April 14 to vote on your favorite entry (and to shop, of course).

Enrollment for next school year is now open. You can access the forms on the synagogue website or email me at cwhite@bethshalomkc.org for details. In the works are electives for students in grades 8 and 9, college credit for high school students, and many opportunities for families to volunteer in the school.

# We Must Face Discomfort to Grow

BY HAZZAN TAHL BEN-YEHUDA

Imagine that you are on a road trip headed to the Grand Canyon, to which you have never been before. You have heard that the views are breathtaking, that no picture can do it justice. You arrive at the park, leave your car, and begin to walk toward a lookout point. You slow your pace as you



approach the edge, the railing that keeps you safely on the top of the cliff, and you look out at the vast chasm before you. You look out and slightly down and contemplate the beauty, the colors, the textures that lie before you. You are terrified and at the same time, transfixed.

To an educator, this is the perfect metaphor for the Proximal Zone of Development, PZD. Your PZD is the edge of your own knowledge – everything you know is the safe flat area behind you - where your car is parked, the road that brought you here. Everything you do not yet know is before you – the breathtaking view, the colors, the textures, so close you can imagine being there, but you have not yet experienced it. THIS is the exciting moment, when you realize that what is before you is beyond your reach and also within your grasp if you just take one... more... step...

According to this metaphor, you continuously approach the cliff as you learn, and the square footage of land behind you keeps increasing as you walk forward, always so close to the edge of the cliff. Continuing to move forward in that place of slight discomfort but also curiosity enough to propel you forward is called LEARNING.

Pesach begs us to learn, as we are encouraged to ask questions of each other and ourselves. If you find your seder to be boring, I encourage you to take it upon yourself to move (at least some of) your seder to the cliff! Find that place where you are uncomfortable enough to wonder at the flavor and texture of what you might just learn! Invite other adults at the table to ask hard questions. And remember – you don't have to have the answers. Sometimes just asking the questions and pondering the possibilities is satisfying enough.

## Beth Shalom Sisterhood Notice of Election Per Our Bylaws

The installation will take place on Sunday, May 5 at our May event.

The Nominating Committee, which is co-chaired by Shira Wajcman and Dini Freed, met with our committee in January 2024 to fill the 3-year Board Member positions.

Those on the committee are: Shira Wajcman, Dini Freed, Berenice Haberman, Jill Goldstein, Sally Gordon, Naomi Silverman, Debbie Rosenberg, Stefanie Williams and Mari Anne Birnbaum.

## **Three-Year Board** (2024-2027) Amy Goldstein Alisa Meireis Jennifer Schmidt Connie Simon

## Two-Year Board (2024-2026)

Francine Farkas Lynne Feinberg Suzanne Lange Amy Schultz Rita Shapiro

### One Year Board (2024-2025)

Mari Anne Birnbaum Lynda Hirsekorn Donna Katz Carol Yarmo

## Pesach with Young Children

## BY JUDY JACKS-BERMAN, RFECEC DIRECTOR

Being a Baba is the best! Baba is what my five grandchildren call me!

My grandchildren are 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2! My favorite ages!

Thinking about Pesach and planning for seder, knowing that at least two of my grandchildren will be here, fills my heart with joy!

I think about the foods they will like, the songs they will love singing and the service that will be meaningful to them! I also like to think about all the ways they can help me prepare.

My 5-year-old and 3-year-old will be here. They can help wash vegetables, help make the soup, make salt water as well as create name cards for the table. They can help set the table. They can tear parsley and break off the ends of the asparagus! Have frogs and other plagues available to play with when talking about the 10 plagues.

Feel free to email me at jjb@bethshalomkc.org if you would like Pesach songs to sing with young children or Civia White at cwhite@bethshalomkc.org for songs for elementary age kids. You can find some of them on YouTube:

- Lots and Lots of Matzah by Ellen Allard
- Frog Songs by Miss Nina or Doda Mollie
- Where is Baby Moses by Liezel Richey
- Listen King Pharaoh by Siralala

I bet you can find even more songs, too. Wishing you a Chag Pesach Sameach!



## TORAH WW FUND WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM TORAH FUND BRUNCH TO HONOR CAROL GOLDSTEIN

BY DINI FREED

We are proud to announce this year's recipient of the 'Sisterhood Past Presidents' Leadership Recognition Award 2024' goes to Carol Goldstein. She was a past president of Beth Shalom Sisterhood and a vice president of the Intra-Continental Region of Women's League of Conservative Judaism. She is a Congregation Beth Shalom Life Board Member. She has also remained involved on various diverse committees such as: Banishing Bullying, Prayer-Works, Safe Home, Sisterhood Torah Fund, Jewish Family Services Food Pantry, Jewish Federation solicitor, and an advisor of the SDT Sororities. She also helped raise money for the Honor Campaign for Sheffield Cemetery. Carol is married to Marvin Goldstein. They are proud of their two children and three grandchildren.

# Sisterhood Donates Handmade Afghans to Synergy



From left to right: Rhea Salasche, Robin Winner, Amber Banner, Sally Gordon and Naomi Silverman

BY NAOMI SILVERMAN

On Thursday, February 15, three members of Beth Shalom Sisterhood drove to Parkville, Missouri to donate 10 handmade afghans to Synergy Services. Synergy is one of the many charitable organizations that have been the beneficiary of the afghans knitted by Warm Up America, an arm of Sisterhood's Community Service Committee.

While there, Synergy treated us to a guided tour of one of their buildings and highlighted the amazing work they are doing. Halfway through the tour, Robin Winner, executive director of Synergy, joined the group to give additional input. Synergy's goal is to create a community free of violence. It treats physical, mental, medical and dental problems. In addition, it helps clients to develop skills to move forward from the turmoil and violence in their lives.

The Warm Up America project is open to the community. We provide the yarn and instruction if needed. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Goldsmith Hall from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Contact Naomi Silverman at naomisilverman@att.net for more information.



Please join Sisterbood for our annual Torah Fund Brunch Sunday, April 7 10:30 am Goldsmith Hall

## **TODAH RABAH!** Contributions through March 9 are listed below. Thank you for thinking of us.

#### BETH SHALOM GENERAL FUND

In Honor of The marriage of Hazzan Tahl Ben-Yehuda and Luke McGlynn Sandra Aaron

#### In Honor of

My birthday Mark Litchman

#### In Honor of

Stef Williams Arthur & Diane Federman

#### In Memory of

Iliya Aizenberg Natan & Alexandra Kolb

In Memory of

Jack Baraban Marvin Denton

#### In Memory of

Yetta Barsky Bernard Barsky

In Memory of J. Leon Bernstein & Shirley Bernstein Eric & Amy Schultz

In Memory of

Harvey Bodker Ken & Sheila Sonnenschein

#### In Memory of

Charlene Kaswan Brutman

Louis & Marilyn Kessler In Memory of

## Khana Eisenberg

Natan & Alexandra Kolb In Memory of

Ann Federman Arthur & Diane Federman

#### In Memory of

Bea Gershon Susie Gershon

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## In Memory of

Clarence Gershon Susie Gershon In Memory of Paul Gershon Susie Gershon

*In Memory of* Charlotte Glass *Sheldon & Janice* 

#### Steinhauser In Memory of

Stanley Goldberg John Goldberg & Marla Brockman

## In Memory of

Morris Gordon, MD Nadine Gordon

In Memory of Ida Harlow Greenstein Michael & Marlene Fishman

#### In Memory of

Daniel Kass Laurie Duhan Stuart & Sharon Pase

*In Memory of* Ann Katz

Marvin Denton In Memory of

Harry Kaufman Robert Kaufman

#### *In Memory of* Sophie Levin

Lee & Esther Pearlmutter

## In Memory of

Dolores Miller Bernard Barsky

#### *In Memory of* Andy Reiz *Ken & Sheila*

Sonnenschein In Memory of Mrs. Soferenko

Naomi Virginia Levi Cohen

Mazel Tov to Our April

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Joel & Glenna Markus, . . . . . . . .

Peter & Amy Shapiro

Nathan & Jaimi Hermanson. . . . . .

Mark Eisemann & Leslie Mark . . . . . . . . .

Robert & Bette Grossman . . . . . . . . . . .

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Steven & Diane Azorsky .

Matthew & Rhea Nadler

#### *In Memory of* Leo Stein

Leo Stein Pamela Stein

#### *In Memory of* Sol Stolov

Ronald Schifman & Shelia Stolov

#### In Memory of

Wolf Turec Ben Turec

#### In Memory of

Herman Winer Roberta Arenson BETH SHALOM

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In Memory of Bob & Beverly Hoffman Bruce & Susan Winston

## In Memory of Ed & Barbara Krigel

Sheila & David Matz

#### *In Memory of* Carl & Bertha Matters

Gabriel & Sandra Seidman

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#### In Memory of

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Carl Nusbaum Scott & Carla Oppenheimer

#### *In Memory of* Katie Kleinstein Tenenbaum

Bryna Sorkin

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## In Honor of

Sue Vile's 90th birthday Richard & Charlotte Brockman

#### ELEANOR & JOSEPH KOPIN ENDOWMENT FUND

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#### FUND In Memory of Morley Steinberg

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*In Honor of* Tahl Ben-Yehuda's

wedding

#### Jeffrey & Cathy Alpert KIDDISH FUND (RHEA SALASCHE & HAROLD KASEFF)

Anniversaries

David & Carol Porter

#### *In Memory of* Gertrude Kaseff

Harold & Salasche Kaseff

#### *In Memory of* Daniel Kass *Carol Peltzie*

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Mike & Naomi Silverman Mari Anne Birnbaum

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Hyman Seiffer

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Henry Katz

In Memory of

Shirley Levine

In Memory of

**FUND** 

In Memory of

David Faain

Marcia Fagin

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CENTER

In Memory of

Estelle Berman

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Andy Reiz

YIZKOR

In Memory of

Estelle Schneider

Alan Schneider

**ROSE FAMILY** 

CHILDHOOD

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Milton Silverman

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**RABBI PADORR'S** 

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Mark & Trudy Slatkin

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Tahl Ben-Yehuda & Luke

Larry & Cheryl Silverman

In Memory of

Roslyn Kaplan

RABBI

FUND

McGlvnn

Joshua & Allison Glickman . . . .

Steven & Marcia Schorr....

Clarence & Alice Winer

Rick & Alisa Meireis

Valery & Sofia Tokar . . . . . . . . . . . .

. . . . . . .

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Glickman

## **BARUCH DAYAN HAEMET** PLAQUES HAVE BEEN DEDICATED In Memory Of ...

lda Blender

ברוך דין האמת

Praised is the True Judge

Yahrtzeits Join us for morning or evening minyan to say Kaddish for your loved one. Check our website for service schedule.

APR 1-22 ADAR II

Yetta L. Ginsberg

#### APR 2-23 ADAR II

Ben Bloustine Mary Cohn Harry Krantz Adolph Loeffler

#### APR 3-24 ADAR II

Mary Goller Melvin Z. Hoffman Max Morris Harry Rittmaster Will Swerdloff

#### APR 4-25 ADAR II

Stanley Brozen Richard Alan Hurst Albert Bernard Lipsey Rosa Pfeffer Chiel White

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#### APR 6-27 ADAR II

Ella Bassin Ezra Kowalskv

APR 7-28 ADAR II **Gilbert Cohen** 

Max Stein

#### APR 8-29 ADAR II

Stephanie Bordy Lipman Anna Rose Peltzman Helen Rudner Marie Traxler

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#### APR 10-2 NISAN Goodman Ace

Ben Benjamin

Thomas Cohen **Rob Daniels** Esther Gilberl Fannie Glass Herman Goldwasser Morris Hammer Harry Harding Vera'Levy Hershman Clara Kahn Mever Lerner Donna Rachel Levine Louis Levy Ida Jean Luchen Elisabeth Sorkin Martha Stern Jeanette Wishna

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#### APR 17-9 NISAN

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#### APR 18-10 NISAN

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## APR 19-11 NISAN

Harry Deutch Abraham Himelstein Bertha C. Holtzer Tillie Pelofsky Clara Rappaport Minnie Schlein Anna Goldie Shapiro Esther Steinberg Hannah Steinzeig

#### APR 20-12 NISAN

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#### APR 21-13 NISAN

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#### APR 22-14 NISAN

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APR 23-15 NISAN

Rabbi Sholom Ayser

#### APR 24-16 NISAN

Bessie E. Benjamin Sandra Bock Arthur Braverman Sam Dubinsky Doris Flam Kurt Gerson Leah Ray Grollman Stanley Katz Jameś Levinson Hillel Litman Gertrude Rabinowitz Roberta Schlozman Ferne Searles Annie Shafton Sam Solsky Estelle Leah Traxler Toby Waldner Joséph Waxman

#### APR 25-17 NISAN

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#### APR 26-18 NISAN

Sheldon Wishna

Irving Baum Phillip Bretton Melvin Brown Isaac Ellis Rose Finkelstein Sydney Ginsberg Harris Greenberg Lawrence Kalender Julius Meyer Lerner Rosalind Mogol Edith Schwartz

Joseph Adelman Abe Baier Joseph A. Barrish Leonard J. Brooks Shirley Epsten Eve Fichman Samuel Ginden Maurice Goldberg Leah Jacobs Rose Katz Elias Koralchik Helen Markowitz Louis Passman Joseph William Pucker

APR 27-19 NISAN

#### APR 28-20 NISAN

Henry Cumonow Annié Glaser Rachmiel Goller Elsie Hipsh Ben Kaufman Reva Kort Evelvn Lerner Abraham Pinsker Theodore Silverman Morton Sosland

#### APR 29-21 NISAN

Helyne Cohan Marian Durbin Sol Forman Hannah Freed Leah N. Friedman Isadore Gale Samuel I. Goldstein Sam B. Hoffman Paul Hoffman Vera Levitch Lottie Rothberg

#### APR 30-22 NISAN

Anna Baellow Minna Berger Goldie Bovos Ethel Cohn Mary Davidson Samuel Baer Devins Egon E. Fisher Sarah Forman David Glass Harry Kaplan Rose Karbank Gertrude Rostov Charles Schere Joseph Shniderman

# SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE SETS UP HOME FOR BETH SHALOM'S REFUGEE FAMILY



#### BY DEB FINKELSTEIN

I am so happy and proud to let you know that the Habibullah family will be walking into a nicely furnished (thanks donors!) and fully equipped (thanks shoppers!) apartment on Thursday.

We had the most amazing team today who arranged everything in the apartment. My personal thanks to our Ambassadors Debbie Sosland-Edelman, Cindy Daniels, Hannah Harris, Lloyd Stahl, and Josh Stein for the cleanup and setups. And to Alan Edelman who now can add "UHaul driver" to his resume. Alan and his team picked up furniture from Andy and Terri Miro and from Hazzan Tahl Ben-Yehuda, then delivered it to the apartment.

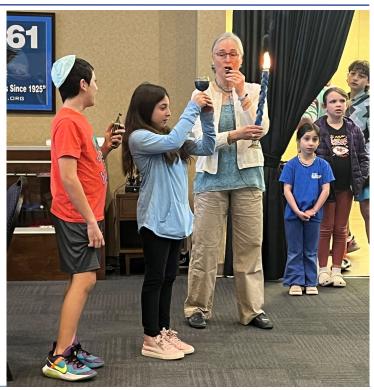
A special shout-out to Marco Santana, Joanne Sinsky (Hannah Harris' sister), Jonah Stein, and Richard Simon who brought their muscles and skills to the task. Leora Stein put together an amazing collection of toiletries for the family. Marco heard the plea from the bimah and volunteered that evening and we are SO grateful!

I also want to acknowledge Jessie Chastain from JVS who met us at the apartment and stepped right in to help with the setup and to JVS' Lauren Weinhold and Sean Reilly who have "walked alongside" us to get us to this day!

My deepest gratitude to our team, not only for their skills and muscles, but also for the spirit they brought to this meaningful expression of the Jewish value of Welcoming the Stranger.

Havdalah with Hazzan Hazzan Tahl Ben-Yehuda taught our PRS students how to make havdalah. Photos by Lindsey Lipsky





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בית שלום



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David M. Glickman *Senior Rabbi* 

Talia Kaplan Rabbinic Fellow

Tahl Ben-Yehuda *Hazzan* 

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Congregation Beth Shalom, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue, is a welcoming community of individuals from diverse backgrounds, strengthening connections with God, Torah and the Jewish people through communal commitment to prayer, study and acts of loving kindness. Jewish Living Experiences from the new, blended community of Beth Shalom and the former Ohev Sholom.



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Closed on Federal Holidays	
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MONDAY & WEDNESDAY	8:00 am - 4:30 pm
TUESDAY & THURSDAY	CLOSED
FRIDAY & SUNDAY	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
SATURDAY	CLOSED
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
JEWISH HOLIDAYS	CLOSED
Exceptions: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day & Easter	
Sisterhood Gift Shop Hou	Irs
Gift Shop Schedule	913-647-7298
TUESDAY	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
THURSDAY	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
SUNDAY	9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
(When Sunday school is in session)	
Other Hours	
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Daily Minyan	
	7 AM AND 6 PM
	7 AM AND O PM 7 AM
	8 AM AND 6 PM
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(Morning Minyan is in Goldsmith H	Hall and on Zoom.
Evening Minyan is on Zoom exclusively.)	
Locining minigun is on Loom cachasi	