

Kayruv



קירוב

“Judaism for Today In a Warm and Caring Environment”

April 2020

Nisan/Iyar 5780

FROM THE RABBI



Dear Friends,

Why is this Passover different from any other Passovers?

On all other Passovers, when we say, “All that are hungry come and eat,” we can imagine that that is actually possible: to open our homes and hearts to the unknown poor in the street. On this Passover, we know that this is not true.

On all other Passovers, when we say, “This is the bread of affliction,” we can imagine that those are just words, that we are just reenacting for the sake of the children our affliction. On this Passover, we know that there is affliction all over the world.

On all other Passovers, when we say, “We were slaves to Pharaoh and now we are free,” we can pretend we are free people remembering being trapped. On this Passover we know we are trapped in our homes.

On all other Passovers, when we say the ten plagues, we don't really think about them as realities in the world bringing fear and dread to us personally. On this Passover, we pray that it will pass over our own house, and the house of those whom we love.

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***Kayruv* means “Welcoming.”**

To make this Passover meaningful, we need first to admit its differences from all the other times we have celebrated Passover. For many of us, the Passover seder means gathering with lots of friends and family, sometimes making new acquaintances and friends. It is completely different this year, and even in those houses where the seder will be through zoom, we know that it is not the same. There is distance, loneliness, separation.



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Even in the land of Goshen, as soon-to-be-ex-slaves, we were separated but together, in the process of becoming a people, we were finding our common core: smearing blood on the lintels, eating the lamb, matza and bitter herbs in haste, having our belongings all packed ready for the trip. All the families were cowering inside their houses, wanting to believe that all this man Moses was saying was true, hoping that another miracle would happen, barely believing that the last miracle had just happened.

Now, I want to venture, we are together but separated: our core is already there, since we know the story, our houses are ready without chametz, we have our haggadahs and our traditions, we will read words and ideas that connect us with our people. But we are physically apart. And some of us will be doing a seder of one. "And if we are all wise, we still ask the questions" – or so says the Haggadah. And this year we add: even if we are all alone, we still ask the questions. To whom? To yourself and to the others you invite – if not by zoom, then by memory and imagination. Whom would you invite to your seder if time and space were not concerns? To whom do you still have questions? Moses? Maimonides? King David? David Kimchi? Nachmanides? Reb Nachman? Your grandmother? Your grandfather? Their parents?

When we finish our seders, the last words are, "Next year in Jerusalem." As some of you know, in six months, at the end of Yom Kippur, we will repeat those same words. Because Jerusalem, just like the promised land, does not mean only a place, it means an ideal. The ideal of redemption. Redemption is the promise that things will get better, and that this – whatever "this" is – is not forever.

And I pray that this experience will bring us the awareness, the deep, all-consuming awareness of the mystics, that everything is a gift. That our families, our friends, our traditions, even as we chafe and find them difficult, all that is a gift. Reb Dov Ber of Metzrich brings an incredible idea:

The general rule is: all that you see and hear, and all that happens to you, everything comes to wake you up – be it something towards love, be it something towards awe, or balance, endurance, glories, connections or general behaviors in the world¹.

How different could our experience of living be if we could, at every moment, including the most difficult ones, embrace it as a gift? With what changes in our reactions could we experiment? What changes could we embrace?

One of the teachings of this Passover to me is that we are not alone, even when we are physically apart. One of my teachers, Reb Mimi Feigelson, may she be blessed with a long life, brought an important teaching through her *havruta*, whom I had the pleasure and merit to know, Reb Miki Rosen z"l². The teaching is: *אנן אתכא דרחמנא סמכינן* – *Anan Atcha DeRachaman Semechinan* – we rely on the Table of the Holy One of Blessing. We are there, with the Holy One, even if we are just one.

And this is because our sages tell us: even if only one person is sitting and reading words of our tradition, the Shechinah is there, since we have a verse that says, "In every place where I cause My name to be mentioned I will come to you and bless you."³ And this is a verse from Exodus, the book of this particular season.

Our seders are about connection and love. Let us keep that flowing. And once this is all over, may our encounters and hugs and kisses be all the sweeter.

Warmly,
Rabbi Nelly Altenburger

RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS

Rabbi Altenburger invites you to meet with her and will be available any day except Thursday and Shabbat. Please feel free to call or stop by.

¹ Maggid Devarav LeYaakov, siman 213

² And Reb Miki Rosen brought it from some other sage: Tosfot, Mishnah Berurah, Shem MiShmuel...

³ Pirkei Avot 3:6

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Usually it seems like time has flown since last month's Kayruv. This time it seems like forever since we last had this chat. Awful things often happen in far away

places, but when the same awful things strike your home town, your schools, your synagogues, your friends, they take on a more serious and urgent feeling. I lost a colleague of over 30 years this past week due to the virus. I think when 9/11 happened everyone knew someone impacted by that disaster. 2,977 people died on 9/11. That day changed our lives forever. As I write this, globally, 39,014 people have died, and in our country, 3,021 have died. We are hearing numbers that predict 200,000 casualties.

It is very easy to discuss this with someone of like mind and thoughts. If however, you have a friend or relative who feels strongly about things that you can't believe someone can possibly believe, it is very hard to listen to opposing thoughts and stay in your "cool zone"! Nearly impossible!

I am completely overwhelmed by the "warriors on the front lines fighting our war"! The doctors, nurses, hospital workers, volunteers, custodial staff, all are teaching us why life is worth living. I have been struggling with a way to "do something" and have been wondering what can I possibly do. The stories of retired nurses, doctors, and health care workers coming out of retirement and willing to help, even in the absence of proper protective wear, shows the best of humanity. I honestly don't know if I didn't have protective wear, would I make the choice to take care of others. I think about this a lot, and wonder what kind of person I am.

Here I am, president of our synagogue, wondering what I can do for our synagogue, and for our community. I have thought about what my strong points are, and how can I utilize them during these times. I realize we are all housebound, and a great many of our congregation are at risk, in the "elderly category," myself included. I have concluded that I can organize, and perhaps facilitate any needs of our congregation. I understand that we are social

beings, and have a need to interact and connect with people. I think we can help each other through this. Here are some thoughts.

1. **We are going to send out daily emails, or a one page daily Mini Kayruv.** It might include a link to an uplifting video, or even humorous video.

2. **I know many of you find something hysterical on the internet.** Please share these and send them to cbi193clap@gmail.com so we may include them in our Mini Kayruv.

3. **We will make time for a daily chat.** At a set time you can email or phone me for a personal chat, or just to talk about anything.

4. **At a set time if you wish to join a zoom talk, a link will be sent via our daily Kayruv,** and when you press the link you can check in daily for a video chat. Hopefully, small in size 4 - 6 people. You can talk about anything, or each day it can have a specific topic to chat about.

5. **A Schmooze and Booze via zoom.** Once again, a time will be established and all you need do is at that time click on the link and join the schmooze!

6. **The daily Kayruv will include links for those who would like to attend virtual Passover services, and Shabbat services, etc.** Please look for the note from Sharilynn about joining a virtual Passover seder.

7. **Do you need anything?** Please call or email CBI if you do and we will try to facilitate your needs. For example, if you need matzah, please give a call.

Our Rabbi search committee is busy and an update from Paul Simon, committee chair, is on page .

Keep in touch with an email, or schmooze, or zoom chat! Oh, **one last thing!** It is a matter of **apples!** (This refers to an earlier Kayruv, its translation is money!) This is such an awful time to tell you we are in need of some apples when I know no one can go out and get more apples. I recognize many are out of work now. Yet our synagogue has fixed expenses and needs that continue through this

period. If you are at all able to pay your dues to the synagogue or send in a payment towards your dues, it is needed and appreciated. We cannot get through this alone. We need each other, and if you have an extra apple or two to spare, please remember **B'nai Israel cannot continue to exist without adding to our supply of apples!** (P.S. If you have no idea what this talk of apples is about email CBI with your bewilderment, and you will be forwarded the Kayrux edition that explained our obsession with “apples.”)

I am sure you also have ideas to share! Send these, any pictures, or any interesting links to CBI, and perhaps we can share these in our Mini Kayruxs!

Prayers for you, your family, our community, and our country and best wishes to all!

Glen Lebetkin

A Note About CBI's Food Drive



Although our food donation program cannot continue during this period. As soon as we are able to come together at the synagogue, we will resume this program.

Rabbi Search Committee Update

Your search committee has been busy continuing it's important task in searching for the best Rabbi for our shul.

We have completed Step 1 – First Conversation – These sessions with each of the candidates were very helpful providing us an introduction to the applicant and for the applicant to learn about us.

We have scheduled Step 2 – Second Conversation – Video call. This interview will be with the entire committee. These conversations will be held by the time this issue is published. We are asking each candidate the same series of questions and will have opportunity for follow-up and for the candidate to ask us questions.

Additionally, each will offer us a *d'var torah*. Each person has seen audio files so we can assess the person singing.

Once step 2 is completed, we will make a recommendation of one or two candidates to provide a video conference with any members of the CBI family who want to meet the candidates.

They will present a different *d'var torah* and answer congregants' questions. This is in leiu of the person spending the weekend with us. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Paul M Simon
Search Committee Chair

HOW TO JOIN A VIRTUAL SEDER

Google Forms

FILL OUT IN GOOGLE FORMS

Having trouble viewing or submitting this form?

I've invited you to fill out a form:

NHC Virtual Seder Matching 2020

Skip questions if you have no preference. Questions/clarification, email Shari Lynn Kochman at virtualsexder2020@havurah.org.

Top of Form

Email address *

Please submit this form by 8 PM EDT Sunday, April 5, 2020

Name *

Phone number *

Your Time Zone *

Best time to call *

Continue »

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SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

☆ **Shabbat, 17 Nisan, April 11, Pesah Day 3:**

Haftarah: Ezek. 37:1-14

☆ **Shabbat, 24 Nisan, April 18, Shemini:** The dedication of the sanctuary and the death of Aaron's sons. *Haftarah: 2 Sam. 6:1-7:17*

☆ **Shabbat, 1 Iyar, April 25, Tazria-Metzora:** The laws and boundaries regarding ritual purity of the human body. *Haftarah: Isa. 66:1-24*

☆ **Shabbat, 9 Iyar, May 2, Aharey Mot-Kedoshim:** The establishment of the annual atonement ritual for the People of Israel (*Yom Kippur*) and the ethical laws that govern Jewish society in the Holiness Code. *Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15*

☆ **Shabbat, 15 Iyar, May 9, Emor:** We read of the holiness among the priestly class followed by description of holiness in time: The Jewish Holy Days. *Haftarah: Ezek. 44:15-31*

☆ **Shabbat, 22 Iyar, May 16, B'har-B'hukotai:** The blessings and the curses "If you walk in My ways or not." *Haftarah: Jer. 16:19-17:14*

YAHZRZEITS

27 Nisan, April 21, 2020

Ida Goldman (Alvin Goldman)

5 Iyar, April 29, 2020

Ralph B. Osnoss (Kenneth Osnoss)

8 Iyar, May 2, 2020

Rose Friedman (Melvin Friedman)

14 Iyar, May 8, 2020

Milton Steinberg (F. Richard Steinberg)

18 Iyar, May 12, 2020

Evelyn Weiner (Marlene Gittlitz)

23 Iyar, May 17, 2020

Betta Pagrach Smeer (Dina Essinger)

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 14, 2020	Seventh Day of Passover	7:16 PM
April 15, 2020	Eight Day of Passover	8:18 PM
April 16, 2020	Holiday Ends:	8:19 PM
April 17, 2020		7:19 PM
April 24, 2020		7:27 PM
April 25, 2020		8:30 PM
May 1, 2020		7:34 PM
May 2, 2020		8:39 PM
May 8, 2020		7:42 PM
May 9, 2020		8:47 PM
May 15, 2020		7:49 PM