

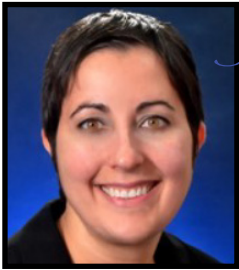
the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

March 2021

Adar/Nisan 5781



from the desk of

Rabbi Nadia Siritsky, LCSW, BCC

The Torah of another Zoom Passover

One year ago, we were hugging each other (I almost wanted to rename us Temple Bet Huggy) because we were so warm and effusive, even our beloved security officer, John Tedder, would greet us with a warm hug when we entered our beautiful synagogue...

One year ago, we were enjoying Temple Bet Yummy's famous onegs as I would gather all of the children together to put their hands on the challah and challenge them to see "who will get the biggest piece?"... And now we look back upon those idyllic days... stunned by their innocence... will we ever feel safe to do any of that again?

One year ago, we gathered for services or chose not to do so... believing that there would be another one a few weeks later... One year ago... we did not know... we never would have imagined March 2021... we did not know to be grateful for those things that we took for granted... even those of us who practiced gratitude diligently... we did not know what the future would bring to make us look back upon that last Shabbat that we spent together... with awe and wonder and sadness and grief and longing... Perhaps some of us were remembering a time prior to March 2020, and were too consumed with what was no longer, to appreciate what we had at that moment?

And so it is, March 2021... will we focus on what we have lost? Or will we focus on what

we do have? On the opportunities that have been made possible to us this year- the ability to gather through Zoom across geographic boundaries... to experience worship in a new way... the ability to gather in a way far more inclusive than anything we have ever been able to do before... ability to drive or mobility or other barriers to access suddenly gone... we can each connect to our TBY family from the comfort of our own homes...

The Torah tells us that when the Children of Israel were wandering through the desert, free for the first time in centuries, receiving revelation and being fed miraculous manna that fell from the Heavens, with perfect nourishment and a taste that changed depending on who was eating it... for children it tasted like milk and for adults it tasted like honey... and yet, the rabbis describe that the Children of Israel complained, because they missed the leeks and onions of ancient Egypt.

Indeed, contemporary psychologists tell us that this phenomenon is completely normal- it is a defense mechanism to keep us from being "fully in the present" by keeping us always looking to the past or the future... we do it to try to avoid the pain of loss by never connecting to begin with... but the sad truth is that, it keeps us from fully living... and leaves us with only regrets.

The message of Passover is that we must let go of the past and embrace the present,

THE SHOFAR

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because it is the only thing we can truly have. We are supposed to get rid of our "chametz" (left over bread). We are not supposed to put it in a cupboard and then tape it shut, so that we can use it after Passover, because then we are living for the future instead of truly embracing the experience of Passover... the experience of not having bread. Because while bread is wonderful and we bless it and thrive on it... we need to go without it, to truly appreciate it. Like the popular 1980's song, "Don't know what you got (till it's gone)", the rabbis teach that true freedom is only possible when we are fully present in the "here and now".

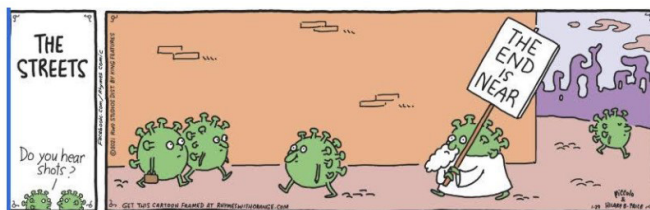
As we prepare for another Zoom Passover, we pray for liberation and redemption... for healing and strength... for miracles and courage... for the raging waters to split open that we may walk forward once again on dry land... But we also take this time to give thanks for those blessings that we have been given... May we learn new lessons of gratitude and appreciation that teach us new lessons of freedom. May we never take the blessings we are given for granted... postponing for an imagined tomorrow what must be treasured and savored today...

This is precisely the reason why Reform Judaism names its synagogues "temples"... when the first Jewish settlers to America arrived, they decided that this would be their land of milk and honey.. that they would live this opportunity as fully as possible... rather than waiting for a Messiah to come and help them rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, right here and right now, they would build their temple, and do everything necessary to make this moment of time the Messianic Era.

This was our movement's founders' legacy... this was their interpretation of this same Torah wisdom that continues to challenge us in our own day... How can we embrace the opportunities of the "here and now" without wishing for something that we imagine might be better? What will we do to sanctify this unique moment in time?



from the President – Ruth Kurlandsky



As I write this article in the middle of February, there is good news on the COVID-19 front - declining numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths -

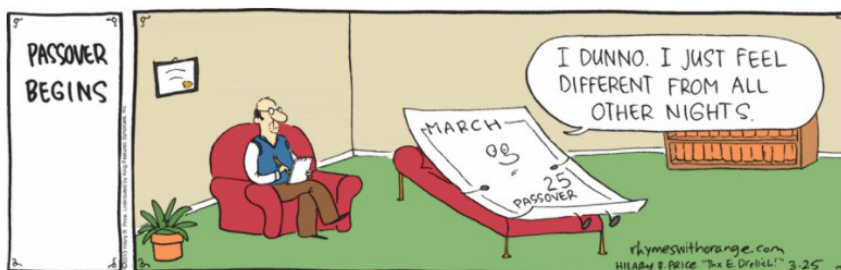
and still lots of cautions. Some people are getting vaccinated, but we are also waiting to see if there will be a surge of cases following the Superbowl. And, there are recommendations to continue wearing masks, even after being vaccinated. Why? Because the evidence of what happens is too meager to know anything for sure at this point. Not everyone will have an optimal vaccine response; it's possible that even a vaccinated person could be exposed and pass something on; the variant forms might behave differently. So, as you can imagine, it's going to be difficult to come to a decision about when to re-open our building for in-person gatherings.

Here are some of my thoughts: while people over 65 are being vaccinated now, (in a very fluky, chaotic system), remember how many people there are between 64 and 18. It's not clear when they'll be included. The age group following that will be 17-12, which is a group that is apparently being tested now. I know of a 12 year old who has volunteered to be a test subject, back in Central New York. Vaccination plans for children younger than 12 are still unknown. And, of course, there are people who will not be vaccinated at all, for a variety of reasons.

Once we do gather, I believe we will still need to be wearing masks. We will probably not have food, not because food is bad, but because a buffet table such as we have at our Onegs causes people to come together without masks on. The research has shown that the virus aerosol particles can travel in the air for more than the six feet we've been trying to give each other. It's also not clear when a choir can sing together.

So, what will Temple Bet Yam do? We will consider a decision very carefully. I'm thinking we may need some committees. For instance, a committee to develop protocols for how we will gather, and perhaps a committee to figure out how we want to be in-person and somehow virtual as well - since there are always people who, for one reason or another, can't come in person.

In the meantime, we are going to celebrate our escape from Egypt! This is a theme that occurs throughout our liturgy, reminding us to remember we were slaves, and should act accordingly. Our Temple Seder this year will take place on the 14th of Nisan, as always, and will be March 27. It's a Saturday night, which is a rare occurrence. It will be on Zoom. I know we're tired of Zoom, but we need to hang in there, until times are better. We want us to still be here when this is over (or as over as it's going to get).



In Memoriam - May their memory be a blessing

March 1st, Max Heilweil

Father of Art Heilweil

March 2nd, Lily Kaufman

Great Aunt of Dinah McNamara

March 3rd, Nathan Carr

Father of Bud Carr

March 3rd, Florence Rubin

Mother of Dinah McNamara

March 4th, George Goldberg

Husband of Eileen Goldberg

March 5th, Joanne Palm

Sister of Carol Gladstone

March 9th, Blanche DeCastro

Mother of Norma Tinkoff

March 10th, Ben Broudy

Father of Martin Broudy

March 10th, Sandy Jacobson

Sister of Frank Kinkela

March 10th, Bernard D. Levine

Father of Ava Glicksteen

March 10th, Rose Satz

Mother of Phyllis Greenfield

March 11th, Harry Hurdy

Uncle of Barbara Kushner

March 13th, Isadore Berman

Father in law of Sara Berman

March 14th, Paul Zucker

Father of Samuel Zucker

March 15th, Cheryl Ann Feldman-Hill

Daughter of Roberta Feldman

March 15th, Joseph Gardi

Father of Dorit Cohen

March 15th, Della Strock Hershon

Aunt of Rabbi Fred Raskind

March 15th, Minnie Karp

Mother of Philip Karp

March 15th, Rebecca Levine

Mother of Arnie Levine

March 15th, Maurice A. Spiegleman

Father of Isabel Sherman &

Grandfather of Dave Sherman

March 16th, John Davis

Husband of Noreen Davis

March 16th, Nettie Kushner

Mother of Phil Kushner

March 17th, Warren Harris

Brother of Roberta Feldman

March 18th, John Colbert

Brother of Margaret Brown &

Uncle of Emily Brown

March 18th, Henry Goldstein

Grandfather of Chuck Meiselman

March 18th, Albert Swickle

Grandfather of Jane Seiden

March 18th, Lillian Weintraub

Mother of Stan Weintraub

March 20th, Sadie Botnick

Mother-in-law of Rhona Botnick

March 21st, Sidney Sirkin

Father of Arthur Sirkin

March 21st, Jules Swickle

Uncle of Jane Seiden

March 21st, Bernard Weintraub

Father of Stan Weintraub

March 22nd, Jacob Tinkoff

Grandson of Norma Tinkoff

March 23rd, Constance Newman

Mother of Ellen Grolman

March 25th, Edward Raskind

Father of Rabbi Fred Raskind

March 26th, Asher Pressman

Husband of Gig Pressman

March 27th, Ben Rubner

Grandfather of Jaime Combs

March 28th, Inge Banat

Grandmother of Ron Banat

March 28th, Louis Marx

Grandfather of Joe Marx

March 30th, Yvette Cohen

Grandmother of Meryl Goldman

March 30th, Sonia Comisar

Grandmother of Ileine Hoffman

March 30th, Perry Satz

Brother of Phyllis Greenfield

March 31st, Jan Kovacs

Friend of Ileine and Harvey Hoffman

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam

General Fund

Sharon & Rod Rice - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Shirley Altimore - In memory of Myron Mensh

Ronnie Botnick - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Earl & Maggie Brown, Emily Brown - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Paul & Phyllis Greenfield - In memory of Myron Mensh, a life well lived;
Sheldon Beasley, everyone's friend

Phyllis & Maury Keiser - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Elaine & Peter Lipman - In memory of Myron Mensh

Jane & Henry Seiden - In memory of our dear friend Sheldon Beasley,
husband of Terri & father of Aaron

Susan & David Mack - In memory of Myron Mensh

Denise Mensh & Richard Zicht - In memory of Marc Gladstone &
Sheldon Beasley

Ellen Mensh - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Bill Rosenthal - In loving memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Norma & Ronald Maller - In memory of Myron Mensh

Deborah & Stephen Saunders - In loving memory of Myron Mensh

Barbara Carman - In memory of Mildred Firestone, Aunt of Barbara Carman
& Terre Wallach; Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh

Cathy & David Kasriel - In memory of Mary Catherine Rhodes, mother of Cathy
& J.R. Rhodes, brother of Cathy; Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Sue & Frank Kinkela - In memory of Frank Kinkela, Sr.

Tom & Rose Mary Hamilton - In memory of Myron Mensh

David & Deanna Lousche - In memory of Myron Mensh

Walt & Kathy Martin - In memory of Myron Mensh

Jeff & Jacque McCullough - In memory of Myron Mensh

Skip Shippey & Donna Simpson - In memory of Myron Mensh

Bruce & Nancy Swenson - In memory of Myron Mensh

Chris & Carolyn Tamborski - In memory of Myron Mensh

Doyle & Becky Young - In memory of Myron Mensh

Donations continued

General Fund continued

Ronnie Botnick

Nancy Sorkin - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, father of Renee Speisman

Sharon & Rod Rice - In memory of Renee Speisman's father, Nathan Weinberger

Patty & Barry Savage - In memory of Renee Speisman's father,
Nathan Weinberger

Ruth & Larry Kurlandsky - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Marygrace Drucker - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, father of
Renee Speisman

Herb & Alene Goldstein - In memory of Myron Mensh

Dinah McNamara - In memory of Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh

Barbara & Art Rogove - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, father of
Renee Speisman

Religious School Fund

Sue & Frank Kinkela - In memory of Myron Mensh

Andrea & Joe Marx - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Religious School Fund

Phyllis & Leon Feirman - In memory of Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh;
In honor of the birth of Asher Thomas Merwin Henderson, grandson of
Karen Selig & Jack Merwin, and great-grandson of Mimi Selig

Sanctuary Fund

Ileine & Harvey Hoffman - In memory of Sheldon Beasley, a wonderful & joyous
person, he will be missed

Sue & Frank Kinkela - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Mitzvah Fund

Noreen Davis & Alan Gramet - In memory of Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh

Murray Weiss Fund

Susan and Martin Newman - In memory of Myron Mensh, husband of
Ellen Mensh, Sheldon Beasley, husband of Terri and father of Aaron

Jane & Henry Seiden - In loving memory of Myron Mensh, husband of Ellen,
father of Denise, and grandfather of Lucy & Oliver Zicht

Jane & Henry Seiden - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, father of
Renee Speisman

Donations continued

Murray Weiss Fund continued

Bernice Cruise - In memory of Myron Mensh, a terrible loss & Sheldon Beasley, a terrible loss. I will miss you

Ellen & Harold Miller - In memory of Renee Speisman's father, Nathan Weinberger

Rabbinic Leadership Fund

Shelly & Marty Cohen - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Patty & Barry Savage - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Terre Wallach - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Jacqueline Witte - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Jacqueline Witte - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, beloved father of Renee Speisman

Cathy & David Kasriel - In memory of Sarita Kasriel, sister of David & Victor Kasriel, uncle of David

Carol & Bernie Levy - In memory of Nathan Weinberger, father of Renee Speisman

Shelly & Marty Cohen - Mazel Tov to Nancy Sorkin on her granddaughter's engagement

JNF Trees Fund

Eleanor Sussman - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Toby & Stan Weintraub - In memory of Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh; In honor of Steven Weintraub for Tu B'Shvat

Music Program Fund

Rabbi Fred Faskind & Judy Holmes - In memory of Sheldon Beasley, Myron Mensh, & Marc Gladstone

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Naomi & Michael Kaplan - In honor of Skyler Kaplan's Bar Mitzvah

Denise Mensh & Richard Zicht - In memory of Myron Mensh

Ellen Mensh - Thank you to Rabbi Nadia & In memory of Myron Mensh

Teresa Freedman - In memory of Sheldon Beasley & Myron Mensh

Let's Celebrate!

March Anniversaries

March 27th, Donna & Elliott Palevsky, 39th anniversary

March 31st, Denise Mensh & Richard Zicht, 15th anniversary

March Birthdays

March 1st, Samuel Zucker

March 2nd, Colleen Banat

March 5th, Stan Weintraub

March 8th, Aaron Beasley

March 8th, Denise Mensh

March 8th, Madison Toro, 6th birthday

March 9th, Joe Marx

March 9th, Ellen Mensh

March 9th, Ellie Sussman

March 13th, Cathy Kasriel

March 13th, Sherry Toy

March 16th, Barbara Carman

March 16th, Teresa Freedman

March 20th, Terre Wallach

March 21st, Bob Feldheim

March 27th, Harvey Hoffman

March 31st, Dr. Cynthia Conley

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Laura Weiss at (805) 705-6266 or l.s.weiss@comacast.net.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

TEMPLE BET YAM

PO BOX 860098

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DONOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF (OR OTHER DESIGNATION)

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TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION	_____
*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	_____

**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

Upcoming Events for March. Mark your calendar!

Please note all services and functions will be via Zoom until further notice.



Tuesday, March 2nd, 6:30pm, Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 3rd, 3:30pm, Jewish Meditation

Sunday, March 7th, 10:00am, Religious School

Wednesday, March 10th, Sisterhood Meeting

Friday, March 12th, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 13th, 11:00am, Torah Portion/Bible Study

Monday, March 15th, 5:00pm, Dining with Dignity

Wednesday, March 17th, 3:30pm, Jewish Meditation

Thursday, March 18th, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Book Club: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman, discussion led by Cathy Kasriel

Friday, March 26th, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 27th, 6:00pm, First Seder

Tuesday, March 30th, 5:00pm, Executive Committee Meeting

More Upcoming Events. Mark your calendar!



The April Sisterhood Book Club is scheduled for Thursday, April 22 at 1:00 PM. Jackie Witte will lead the discussion of Lisa See's *The Island of the Sea Women*.



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