

Shabbat Shalom

Pesach

April 19 | 21 Nisan 5785

Pesach Candlelighting: 8:45pm

April 20 | 22 Nisan 5785

Havdallah 8:47pm

Welcome to Beth Jacob Congregation, a Jewish community that comes together to nurture relationships with God and each other. We are a Conservative synagogue that values Torah (study), Avodah (reverential service) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness). We believe every person has an equal opportunity to be part of our community regardless of age, race, ability, special needs, financial status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We're glad you've joined us this Shabbat!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Shabbat services this week.

Gabbaim:

Laura Honan, Hannah Hofrichter,
Leonard Oppenheimer

Davenners:

Jonathan Ehrlich
Jo Pasternack

Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah	Exodus 13:17-19	p. 399	Arielle Ehrlich
Second / Levi Aliyah	Exodus 13:20-22	p. 400	Marguerite Krause
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Exodus 14:1-4	p. 401	Nina Samuels
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Exodus 14:5-8	p. 401	Eliza Levitan
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Exodus 14:9-14	p. 402	Ben Rogovin
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Exodus 14:15-25	p. 403	Eliana Chavkin
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Exodus 14:26-15:26	p. 405	Rosanne Zaidenweber
Maftir	Numbers 28:19- 25	p. 932	Hannah Hofrichter
Haftarah	II Samuel 22:1-51	p. 1311	Hannah Hofrichter

Shir Hashirim--(Orange Book)

1	p. 5	Giulia Girgenti
2	p. 6	Giulia Girgenti
3	p. 8	Jonathan Ehrlich
4	p. 9	Sara Lynn Newberger
5	p. 11	Brad Elkin
6	p. 13	Natan Paradise
7	p. 14	Arielle Ehrlich
8	p. 16	Louis Hunter

Mashgiach: Carolyn Levy

Kitchen Crew:

Ely & Shayna Sheinfeld, Sean & Benjamin Reisman,
Jeffrey & Opal Rosenfeld, Stephen & Katharina Liston,
Saul & Kate Snowise, Keven Fischer

Greeters & Security:

Barbie Levine, Bruce Kessler, Roy Kay, Lydia Schultz,
Mike Keller

Acting Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
RabbiTamar@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Learning:

Rabbi Justin Held
RabbiJustinHeld@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport
Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer
Frances@Beth-Jacob.org

Interim Youth and Education Coordinator:

Marisa Goffman
Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

Co-Presidents:

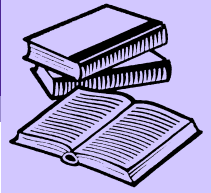
Leonard Oppenheimer & Tessa Silver
President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

D'var Torah

Sheldon Berkowitz
& Carolyn Levy



Why Jews Read the Song of Songs on Passover

Song of Songs is an erotic poem that compares young love to gazelles frolicking in the field. So why is it read on the holiday of liberation?

By Rachel Scheinerman

The third and final section of the Tanakh, Ketuvim, contains five megillahs that are read in synagogue on different Jewish holidays. For obvious reasons, Esther is read on Purim. Lamentations, is read on Tisha B'Av because it evokes the suffering of the Jews in the wake of the destruction of the Temple. There are less obvious reasons that Ruth is read on Shavuot and Ecclesiastes is read by some communities on Sukkot.

Perhaps the most elusive connection of all is the one between Song of Songs (Shir Hashirim) and Passover. Song of Songs is an erotic poem, traditionally understood to symbolize the love between God and the Jewish people. Passover is a celebration of the freeing of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. So what's the deep connection between the two?

The traditional explanation is that Song of Songs is set in springtime, just as Passover is. The season is not incidental to the holiday — it is integral — and Song of Songs beautifully evokes it: “Arise, my darling, my fair one, come away! For now the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.” (Song of Songs 2:8–11) This breathless exclamation, found early in the book, conjures a pastoral landscape in which the rains, characteristic of winter weather in the land of Israel, have receded and the lovers are so energized they bound over hills like young gazelles (spring is also the season for fawns).

There is also one mention of Pharaoh in Song of Songs that connects it to the Passover story, though this connection is fairly incidental to the whole. Song of Songs 1:9 reads: “I have likened you, my darling, to a mare in Pharaoh's chariots.” It's a surprisingly positive comment on Pharaoh (or, at least, his mares) but it was enough to establish a connection between this megillah and Passover.

There is a deeper connection between Song of Songs and Passover. Since ancient times Song of Songs has been understood in religious terms as an expression of the ardent covenantal love between God and the Jewish people.

The saga of the Exodus from Egypt and the subsequent revelation at Mount Sinai is reminiscent of a larger-than-life love affair, complete with forced separation at the hands of a villain (Pharaoh), gallant rescue (the Exodus) and eventual marriage (entering into the covenant at Sinai). In fact, read this way, the Exodus narrative becomes so romantic that it makes one expect a happily-ever-after (at least, until one turns the page to the Golden Calf story). In reading Song of Songs on Passover, Jews are simply rehearsing — albeit in a very different key — the same story of passionate love threatened, rescued and ultimately consummated. It adds emotional charge to the celebration of Passover.

The rabbis seem repeatedly drawn to interpret Song of Songs through the lens of the Exodus and future redemptions modeled on it. For the rabbis, practically every verse in Song of Songs reminds them of the Exodus and is an occasion to consider it from another angle — perhaps many angles.

Torah Commentary

CONT.

In Song of Songs, the male lover is compared to an apple tree in whose shade the female lover gleefully basks. In the rabbis' hands, we are suddenly talking not about lovers in an orchard, but about Israel's willingness to sit in God's metaphorical shadow at Sinai while the other nations of the world fled.

R. Aha b. R. Zeira made two statements. First, an apple produces blossoms before leaves, "so the Israelites in Egypt declared their faith before they heard the message: "And the people believed, and they heard the Lord had remembered." (Exodus 4:31) His second statement: Just as an apple produces blossoms before leaves, so the Israelites at Mount Sinai undertook to do even before they had heard what they were supposed to do: "We will do and we will hear." (Exodus 24:7)

Rabbi Azaria points out that an apple tree takes 50 days to ripen — just as the Israelites received the Torah 50 days after they left Egypt. Rabbi Judah ben Simon points out that just as an apple costs very little but you can enjoy its fragrance multiple times, Moses promised the Israelites they could be redeemed in return for a small act. And so on: The rabbis heap interpretations on the first few words of this verse, nearly all of them a new insight about the Exodus saga. When they finish with that clause, they do the same for the next. And the next.

When you consider this remarkable commentary, it becomes patently obvious why Song of Songs is read on Passover. The rabbis turned the Bible's best love poem into a veritable disco ball of hidden references to the Exodus, one that reflected and refracted a dazzling assortment of insights that go far beyond the story as recounted in either the Book of Exodus or the seder. When they heard Song of Songs read in synagogue on the intermediate Shabbat of Passover, it would have evoked all of that for them, making the Exodus story come alive in new ways with every word. If we learn to speak their language, it can do the same for us.

Pesach Services

D'var Torah:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

April 20 | 22 Nisan 5785 - Havdalah: 8:47pm

First / Kohen Aliyah	Deuteronomy 15:19-23	p. 1080	Jonathan Ehrlich
Second / Levi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 16:1-3	p. 1081	Randi Roth
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 16:4-8	p. 1082	Razele Hofrichter
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Deuteronomy 16:9-12	p. 1083	Hannah Hofrichter
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 16:13-17	p. 1084	Hannah Hofrichter
Maftir	Numbers 28:19- 25	p. 932	Jonathan Ehrlich
Haftarah	Isaiah 10:32-12:6	p. 1316	Rabbi Lynn Liberman

Pesach Gabbaim:

Mike Keller, Barb Curchack

Pesach Davenners:

Emery Sher

Pesach Mashgiach:

David Zehavi

Pesach Kitchen Crew:

Rabbi Lynn Liberman,
Elizabeth Barnard, Kristine
Handsart

Pesach Greeters & Security:

Geoff Marshall, Steve Ukes,
Lou Leichter, Laurie
Radovsky, Mitch Multer,

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning April 19, 2025 / 21 Nisan 5785

The seventh aliyah is reserved for those observing yahrzeits during the coming week. If you are observing a yahrzeit this week, please come forward at the seventh aliyah and give your Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Masks are required on the bimah during the Torah service. If you do not have one, please get one from the basket by the greeter.

If you are coming up for the 7th aliyah, please give your full Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Your full Hebrew name includes your name and then ben/bat/mibeit and your parents' names or Avraham and Sarah. Say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

April 19 / 21 Nisan

Molly Alpert
Ruth Berger
Samuel Bergman
William Blaine
David Cohen
Jack Cooper
Chashe Feldstein
Ida Frank
Joseph Garber
Goldie Gottlieb
Reva Jacobs
Abraham Schwartz
Elliott Karasov
William Segal

April 20 / 22 Nisan

Joe Cohen
Anna Eichen
Ida Garrish

April 20 / 22 Nisan, cont'd.

Judah Gersh
Mr. S. Lifshitz
Mrs S. Lifshitz
Louis Robins
Robert Sadoff
Esther Failer
Samuel E. Bernstein
Louis Ornstein
Simon Winnick

April 21 / 23 Nisan

Michel Feldman
Robert Forbush, Jr.
Joseph Gersh
Sharlene Hjorissen
Rae Korman
Joseph Lubow
Paul Sheldon
Esther Winburgh
Harry Malinoff
Hannah Miller

April 22 / 24 Nisan

Jack Kosoy
Dorie Rothberg

April 23 / 25 Nisan

Ida Agulnik
Beatrice Berkovitz
Rose Fine
Martin Louis Firestone
Stanley Frank
Ken Kohnstamm
Joseph Lowinger
Rachel Paster



April 24 / 26 Nisan

Albert Blumenfeld
Betty Fink
Minnie Lechtman
Sam Nisker
Jeff Pomeranz
Minnie Rosenfeld
Morris Taffel
Ida Werner
Anna Wolfe
Hannah Naiditch
Samuel Kaufman

April 25 / 27 Nisan

Sarah Rose Goldman
Pauline Greenberg
Samuel Ringold
Jennie Simon
Edith Toles

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated prayerbook (siddur) found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. We have large print books, braille prayerbooks, and listening devices available on the bookshelf in the lobby. There is also a sensory-friendly room just off the sanctuary with a speaker and window from which services can be experienced. Please ask the greeter near the sanctuary door if you need help locating any of these. Please reach out to our office if there are needs that aren't being met.

This weekends kiddushes are unsponsored and supported by donations made to the Kiddush Fund. Please consider making a donation to the at Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush to help Beth Jacob's kiddush tradition to continue.

Events and Announcements

Making Your Voice Heard in Israel

VOTE MERCAZ--SLATE 17--Deadline is May 4

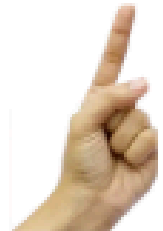
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What is Chironomy?

A Post-Kiddush Learning, April 26

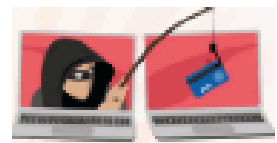
Learn from Barb Curchack what she and Natan are doing with those secret hand signals during the Torah service! It's called Chironomy, it is a sign language for trope. Barb will demonstrate and give us the basics. If there is interest, she will offer a class later in the year.



Don't Get Scammed

A Post-Kiddush Learning, May 3

Hear from experts in Medicare/Social Security Scams, Computer and Phone Scams, Internet Safety for Adults, Identity Theft, and Phishing. Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud.



Nava Tehila in Concert May 4

Do not miss this amazing musical experience! Direct from Israel, Nava Tehila shares their original music--recognizable in synagogues throughout the world! Tickets will go quickly, get yours today! Beth-Jacob.org/Nava



Selfie Directory

Don't forget to submit your selfie and enter your information for our new membership directory coming out in June: Beth-Jacob.org/Directory



Upcoming Community Events:

Yom HaShoah April 23, 7:00pm, Beth El Synagogue

Yom HaZikaron April 29, 7:00pm, Beth Jacob Congregation

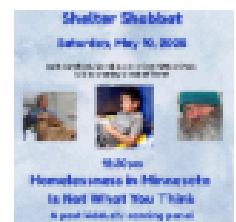
Yom Ha'Atzmaut May 4, 2:00-5:00pm, Sabes JCC

Go to Beth-Jacob.org/Days for more information and to register



Shelter Shabbat, May 10

Barb Curchack will give the D'var Torah, and after kiddush we will have a learning panel to learn about homelessness in the Twin Cities. Expand your knowledge as Louis Hunter moderates this panel of individuals who have experienced homelessness and people who fight it.




Beth Jacob Reads a Book--May 17

My Father's Paradise, by Ariel Sabar

After kiddush we will discuss My Father's Paradise. A powerful story about the meaning of family and tradition in a Kurdish-Jewish family.



[Upcoming at Beth Jacob](#) - April 19, 2025

Ongoing	
<p>For the Jew in the Pew - TODAY Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the Saide Chapel Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman in the Chapel for some thoughtful text study. For beginners and experts alike.</p>	
<p>Tot Shabbat First Shabbat of every month 10:00 - 10:30 am in The Nursery Join us on the first Shabbat of the month in the nursery for Tot Shabbat. We will have a song-filled Shabbat Morning Service for BJC's littlest ones (0-3 years old). We will then have an <u>oneg</u> and playtime for parents to schmooze and kids to play.</p>	
<p>Pre-Shul Playgroup—Every Friday at 10:30 am Join our open play time for young children and their caregivers. Meet in the nursery every Friday morning from 10:30am until naptime.</p>	
<p><u>ADULT EDUCATION:</u> End of Life: Planning, Care, Rituals, and More with Eric & Jo Pasternack Tuesdays at 6:30 - March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13 This series will bring in experts to cover topics including preplanning, hospice and end-of-life care, burial and mourning rituals, and personal reflections on death. Morning Mishnah, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm Wednesdays at around 8:00 am (after minyan) in the <u>Saide Chapel</u> and online Join on Zoom at Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan Talmud Class, with Rabbi Justin Held Mondays, 6:00-7:00, Saide Chapel</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">▼</div> 
<p>Shabbatluck Friday, May 2, 2025 Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat, and stay for a pot luck Shabbat dinner. Register and let us know what you are bringing: Beth-Jacob.org/Shabbatluck</p>	

Events and Announcements	
<p>40th Anniversary Celebrations May 18: Annual Spring Gala We will celebrate our 40th anniversary in style this year with silent and live auctions and entertainment from comedian Jackie Kashhian! Thursday, June 12: 40th Anniversary Dinner and Annual Meeting Our festive dinner starts at 5:45pm, followed at 7:00 by a celebration of our 40 years of history and our Annual Meeting.</p>	