

Mishpachtenu

Nisan 5786 / April 2026

Passover 5786 Edition

Hag Pesah Sameah



Congregation Beth Shalom

5915 Beacon Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

412.421.2288

www.bethshalompgh.org



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

5915 Beacon Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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412.421.2288

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Message from Our Senior Rabbi 3
Pesah: A Festival of Love

Message from Our President 4

Message from Our Executive Director 5

Message from Our Associate Rabbi 6

Message from Our ELC Director 7
Growing with the ELC

Message from Our URS Director 8
Learning with Unified Religious School

Message from Our Derekh Coordinator ... 9

Beth Shalom Youth Zone 10

Countdown to *Pesah* 5786/2026 11

The Sisterhood Says 17

The Men's Club 18

Staff Directory 19



Pesaḥ: A Festival of Love

Rabbi Seth Adelson
Senior Rabbi
 rav@bethshalompgh.org



In her thoughtful haggadah and discussion guide titled *Seder Talk*, Dr. Erica Brown describes the Pesaḥ tale as follows:

The Exodus story is, on one level, a national romance. An enslaved people find a protector and love in a God who redeems them from their misery and creates the conditions for redemption in a new covenantal love together.

Our departure from Egypt and slavery is something like our betrothal as a people to God, and receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai is not unlike a wedding, with our ancestors reciting “Na’aseh venishma,” “We will do and we will listen” (Shemot / Exodus 24:7), as our vows.

This is, after all, Ḥag haAviv: the Festival of Spring, and what season could be more obviously tied to love? To reinforce this point, the festival megillah which we read on Shabbat Ḥol haMoed, this year the third day of Pesaḥ, is Shir haShirim, the biblical book Song of Songs, which features two lovers as an erotic metaphor for God and Israel. Spring is the season in which we renew our vows with God, in the language of Shir haShirim (8:6):

Let me be a seal upon your heart,
 Like the seal upon your hand.
 For love is fierce as death,
 Passion is mighty as Sheol;
 Its darts are darts of fire,
 A blazing flame.

And, of course, preparation for a wedding, or even the renewal of vows, requires some elbow grease, as we “redd up” our homes for Pesaḥ. How do we demonstrate our love for God, our commitment to the stability of our covenant? By eliminating foods which

puff up as if in arrogance and pride; by swapping out our plates and cookware to ensure that every dish is prepared with pristine love and dedication; by scrubbing surfaces to create a wholesome, pure environment in which we can demonstrate our commitment.

The wedding feast, also known as a seder, teaches us that love requires communication, that relationship must be nourished by each partner speaking to the sanctity of the union. In this light, Pesaḥ is neither a burden nor eight days of self-denial. It is rather an extended honeymoon, a time apart devoted to holy matrimony. Ḥag Kasher veSameaḥ!



Shari Woldenberg, Rabbi Gleiberman, Marissa Tait, Rabbi Mark Goodman and Rabbi Seth Adelson dressed as Taylor Swift during the Purim festivities on Monday, March 2.



Karen Gal-Or with her parents, Esther & Mordechai Gal-Or, during the Purim festivities on March 2.

OUR LEADERSHIP

A Message from Our President

Paul Teplitz
President
pteplitz@me.com



The first indication that Passover is approaching, the arrival of schmura matzah at Costco, passed some time ago! Soon we will gather around tables with family and friends to tell and retell the story of our journey from oppression to freedom and to reflect on the many blessings in our lives – community, resilience, and tradition.

I am constantly amazed by the cycle of the Jewish year. Every year we make the same journey, read from the same texts, and skim through the same commentaries should we choose. So, too, it is with Passover. It is the same journey. We move from the constriction of Egypt to the freedom of the promised land. The four questions never change. The twelve plagues are immutable. You either love matzah or cannot wait to have the first piece of bread after navigating a yeast free world for eight days. We end each cycle comforted by the knowledge that the story begins anew.

The specialness is derived from the meaning, learning, and growth that each journey provides. Will we see our world differently after we relive the Passover journey from bondage to freedom? And, equally important, with whom do we embark upon this journey? We undertake this journey with loved ones, friends, and community. We do this together at our spiritual home, Beth Shalom.

Beth Shalom is not simply a building. It is a vital, living, breathing community that is shaped by each of you. Your kindness when you greet a newcomer, your willingness to volunteer your time, your generosity in supporting our programs, and your commitment to enriching Beth Shalom makes certain that we can continue to be a warm, vibrant, welcoming, and growing community. Your

dedication ensures that our spiritual home at the corner of Shady and Beacon continues to be a place of holiness, connection, learning, prayer, and care for every person who walks through our doors.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for continuing to support our spiritual home and wish you and your loved ones a Hag Pesah Sameah. I hope that your holiday is filled with joy, meaning, and renewal.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in Shul!



**PRE-PASSOVER
PIZZA DINNER**

**Tuesday, March 31
5:30 p.m.**

SAMUEL & MINNIE HYMAN BALLROOM

Registration is required. To register, go to:
BethShalomPgh.org/2026PrePassoverPizza
or scan the QR code below.



**Adults - \$10/each
Children - \$5/each
Family - \$25/each**

Sponsored by
Beth Shalom Men's Club



**Beth Shalom
Men's Club**

A Message from our Executive Director

PURIM WAS GREAT, AND WITH PASSOVER COMING

Robert Gleiberman
Executive Director
ExecDir@bethshalompgh.org

Beth Shalom is the place to be...



As I am writing this article between the holidays of Purim and Passover, I am struck by a comment made by someone who is not a member of Beth Shalom. He is here a lot but a member of another synagogue in the area. He said to me several times in the last few months “Beth Shalom has got it going on”. What a true statement that is. He has rightfully observed all our members coming and participating in the wonderful opportunities our congregational family has to get together. He sees the joy in those in attendance.

I want to give a shout out and hearty mazel tov to everyone who took part in all our Purim festivities. From the Purim Celebration, which included the theme of Taylor Swift to the amazing Mishloah Manot Project, we hit a home run. Please look at the fantastic pictures on this page and in other parts of this publication.

Starting in January our Mishloah Manot committee planned out our annual yearly project of making sure all our members, ELC families, and staff receive a bag of goodies to help celebrate and participate in the mitzvah of giving to others.

We get wonderful comments during this great Purim tradition from those receiving these holiday treats. I received an email stating “I was pleasantly surprised when one of the Beth Shalom members came to my door and gave me a Purim basket”.

Hours go into planning this yearly project. Coordinating the timeline, readying the database, purchasing all the supplies and goodies, mapping out all the delivery routes, and soliciting all the volunteers, packers, and deliverers. A big thank you to the over 40 volunteers that make it all possible.

I also want to acknowledge and thank all our members who financially supported this program by sending baskets to others. A special shout out to all our donors who helped turn this project into a successful fundraiser for the shul.

The Purim Celebration held on erev Purim, with over 300 in attendance, was a huge hit. The evening began at 5pm in the ballroom as families with young children came in amazing costumes and participated in special games and activities as well as enjoyed a light dinner. At 6:30pm all the families joined the rest of the congregation in the sanctuary for the Megillah reading, songs, the great hamantashen race, and a costume contest for kids and adults. The evening ended in the ballroom with hamantashen and socializing.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers that worked extremely hard to provide a fun evening of celebration for all.

Please see all the Passover information included in this publication of Mishpachtenu. We would love to see you at all the holiday services as well as our annual 2nd Night Seder.

I want to wish everyone a safe, joyous, healthy, and kosher Pesah!



Kenny Steinberg with his son Max during the Purim festivities on March 2, 2026.

OUR LEADERSHIP

A Message from our Associate Rabbi

Gratitude

Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman
Associate Rabbi
mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org



As my time at Beth Shalom winds to a close, I want to start by saying thanks to all the folks that make CBS such a great place to work. From the staff to the congregants, I've been blessed to serve this community these past 5 years – 7 if you count the two years I taught Intro to Judaism and Life and Text as 'adjunct faculty'.

Beth Shalom is a holy place for so many reasons. I'll get an email from a mother scheduling an appointment for her daughter to prepare for her bat mitzvah, and an hour later, pass a dusty plaque with that mother's grandparents name on it. I see the faces of folks in services when someone walks in with a little black kriyah ribbon - faces of compassion and support - as we mourn our losses together. We seek spirituality in prayer and we search for understanding of this life in Torah and Talmud and rabbinic texts. This place has a million reasons to be special and a million points of connection. And being clergy here means that I'm operating the switchboard for many of those connections, and what a joy that is.

'Modim anachnu lach' - 'We are grateful to You' says the 18th of the 19 benedictions of the Weekday Amidah (6th of 7 on Shabbat, if you're scoring at home). I am grateful to all of you for my time here and for being so wonderful. May you celebrate many more years as a kehillah kedosha, a sacred community.



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2026-2027 Enrollment opens this summer!

Find out more at rodefshalom.org/school



Pre-Benei Mitzvah Retreat

Friday, May 15, 2026
to Sunday, May 17, 2026

Emma Kaufmann Camp, Morgantown, WV

The Pre-Benei Mitzvah retreat will be here before you know it!



We strongly encourage all of our 5th and 6th grade families to join us for this retreat, one of several membership milestones at Beth Shalom. This is an essential way to create connection among our younger families. The price is \$360/family.

Registration is required. To register or for more info, scan QR code.



Growing with the ELC

Hilary Yeckel
 Director of the ELC
 hyeckel@bethshalompg.org



Hello Congregants-

I hope that you have all had a safe, healthy, and happy start to 2026. The first half of our academic year at Beth Shalom Early Learning Center was full of enrichment and learning, not only for the students but for educators and parents as well.

One of my long-term goals for our program is to offer parent learning and engagement opportunities. I was thrilled to be able to offer two opportunities this fall for families. The first session was in November with Erin Troup, Licensed Professional Counselor, and the Owner of Sprout Center for Emotional Growth and Development. Her session was titled, A Journey Toward Neurodiversity- Affirming Parenting. This interactive presentation was in conjunction with work that our staff is doing with ElevatEd, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. The second learning opportunity was in January of 2026 with an alumni parent, Dr. Deborah Gilboa, M.D., whose presentation was titled, How to Get the Behavior You Want. Without Being the Parent, You Hate. It was wonderful to see families take advantage of these sessions, and we were able to collect feedback to help us in planning for future offers.

In October, a group of 11 Beth Shalom educators and administrators joined with professionals from 10 Jewish early childhood programs, for a kick-off event of the Traveling Educator Program through our work with ElevatEd. Together we learned about Trying Together's Early Intervention Toolkit and listened to a presentation on Neurodiversity- Affirming Practices conducted by Sprout. It was a wonderful evening of learning, and we are excited for this program and what it can bring to our full faculty and classrooms.

In the coming Spring months, we look forward to more learning in our classrooms and some exciting programs including our Grandparents and Special Friends Day, as well as PreK Graduation. A group from

Beth Shalom Early Learning Center will also attend Trying Together's 30th Annual Celebration Dinner for Early Childhood Educators at the end of April.

As always, if you have a question or would like to inquire about how you can support the ELC please call the office at 412-421-8857. I look forward to hearing from you!



ELC Calendar

April - August 2026

Thursday, April 2 - Thursday, April 9

Passover Break - ELC Closed

Friday, May 8

ELC Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Friday, May 22

Shavu'ot Day 1 - ELC Closed

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day - ELC Closed

Thursday, June 11

Last Day of Academic Year
 Pre-kindergarten Graduation

Friday, June 12

ELC Closed

Monday, June 15

Teacher In-Service Day

Tuesday, June 16

Camp Gan Shalom Session 1 Begins

Friday, June 19

Juneteenth - ELC Closed

Friday, July 3

Fourth of July Observance - ELC Closed

Monday, July 13

Camp Gan Shalom Session 2 Begins

Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14

Teacher In-Service Week

Monday, August 17

First Day of 2026-2027 School Year

OUR LEADERSHIP

Learning with URS

Rabbi Larry Freedman

Director of Unified Religious School
RabbiLF@jjep.org



Every year the religious school welcomes in members of Beth Shalom to teach our oldest students about tefillin. It is always a fun day with students excited to figure out how to wind and twist and wrap.

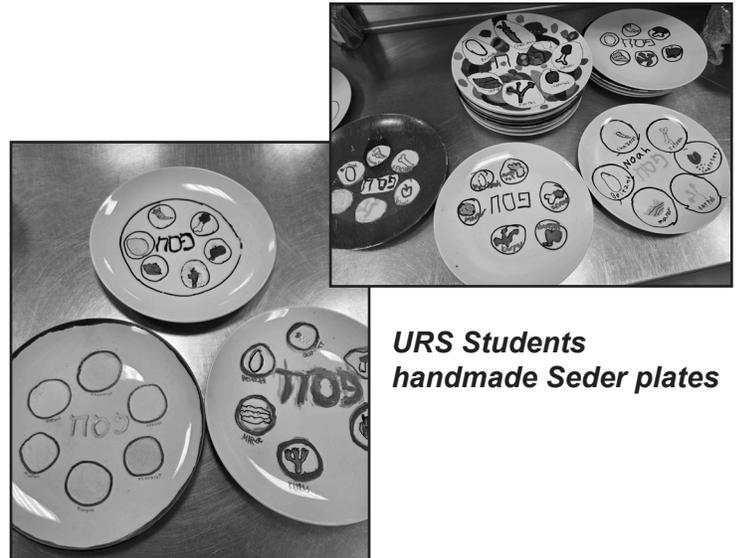
For a number of years we've expanded the World Wide Wrap to become Yom Klei Kodesh, a whole day dedicated to making ritual objects. The children create instant heirlooms to be used for years to come. (I know I still have the afikomen bag my son made at Beth Shalom's Early Learning Center.) I hope you'll enjoy this sampling of photos that capture the creativity and enthusiasm of the day. You will see kippot, mezuzot, Seder plates and, of course, tefillin.



Bailey Tallon (left) and Leo Sigal (right) holding their own handmade mezuzah.



URS Students handmade kippot



URS Students handmade Seder plates



Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman with URS students (from left to right: Rachel Goldblatt, Ellen Gusenoff, Sadye Herckis McCarthy)



Photo taken during World Wide Wrap held at Rodef Shalom Congregation on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

A Message from our Derekh Coordinator

Shari Rapowitz Woldenberg

Derekh Coordinator

swoldenberg@bethshalompgh.org



Every spring we retell our story of Exodus and often try to find new meaning or add an artistic lens. Joining them together in the same feelings, and indispensable for the life and progress toward well-being of individuals and of humanity,” said Leo Tolstoy. Art can provide transformative value, foster connections, reveal deep truths and act as an escape. “The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off of our souls,” said Pablo Picasso.

The value of art is critical in this divisive time, where antisemitism is increasing and Jewish authors have been blacklisted and dropped by their publishers. One Derekh priority has been supporting Jewish authors and providing a platform where they can present their work. This was highlighted by our 2025 Pittsburgh Jewish Book Festival, which featured Jewish music, culture, food, history and current events.

We began on November 8th with Havdalah and a moment of silence commemorating the 18th of Cheshvan, the deadliest Jewish attack on American soil at the Tree of Life. Then, as only art can do, we transitioned to author Sam Sussman, who presented his New York Times reviewed book, *Boy From the North Country*. Sam wrote a tender and intimate novel about mother-son relationships and truths revealed when he learned he might be Bob Dylan’s son. We listened to Bob Dylan’s music as we mused about its meaning by a Jewish artist.

The next day, we welcomed a children’s program with PJ Library and held an all-day Jewish Book Sale in our lobby. During that day, we hosted a Local Author Bookshelf, starting with Dr. Jonathan Zisook, who presented his book, *From Centre to Periphery*. Dr. Richard Weinberg then presented his book, *Law Literature & History*, which examined pre-Shoah laws and literature which led to the

genocide in World War II. Then on a lighter note, Audrey Glickman presented her book, *Pockets*, and Howie Ehrlichman presented, *Not a Bad Trip: A Pittsburgh Cab Story*. Both authors engaged the audience with humor and laughter. After that, Ilene Winn-Lederer presented her beautiful, *Between Heaven & Earth: An Illuminated Torah Commentary*, and Chris Hall presented his book, *Mythic Judaism*, exploring text through role playing. Finally, our headliner, Dr. Ilan Stavans, discussed his book, *Sabor Judío: The Jewish Mexican Cookbook*, which explored in great depth both recipes and the history of Jews in Central and South America.

Day three welcomed Joshua Leifer, who presented his book, *Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life*. Moderated by Rabbi Adelson, the author explored many of our most challenging questions and we experienced how civil discourse is essential in our polarized time. Day five was co-sponsored by the Rauh Jewish History & Archives and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Pittsburgh, and Featured Adam Sobsey’s, *A Jewish Appendix*, moderated by Eric Lidji. Day six was both light and heavy, starting with *The Joy of Costco*, by David & Susan Schwartz, and ending with *Unveiled*, by Jonathan Harounoff and introduced by Lidush Goldschmidt. We learned about both the Jewish founders of Costco and their worldwide cultural journey (and the evolution of the kosher section at our Waterfront Costco!), and the struggle of Iranian Women against tyranny through the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement.

Finally, we ended with Jewish humor and music. A room of over 200 people enjoyed dancing to a Klezmer band, after which distinguished Yiddish and Jewish Humor Historian Dr. Jeremy Dauber discussed his book *Jewish Comedy: A Quick History from Abraham to Zero Mostel*. He spoke about the inception of Fiddler on the Roof, a classic combination of Jewish history, tragedy, music, humor and resilience, a perfect ending to our Jewish Book Festival.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Beth Shalom Youth Zone

**Spring Is Here.
Passover is Around
the Corner.**

Marissa Tait

Director of Youth Programs
mtait@bethshalompgh.org



At some point every year, you notice the change. The sun stays out a little longer. The air feels different. Windows start opening again after months of being shut. And suddenly Passover is right around the corner.

Recently, I asked a group of teens a simple question: What is your favorite Jewish holiday, or which one makes you feel the most connected? About 75% said Passover. That answer did not surprise me. I have always felt the same way.

Passover has a way of bringing people in. The preparation starts early. Cabinets get reorganized; special dishes come out of storage, and grocery lists grow longer. At some point someone asks how much cleaning is really necessary. It can feel like a lot, but it also builds anticipation for the holiday.

What makes Passover stand out is how active it is. The Seder invites people to participate. Children ask questions. Families debate which charoset recipe is best. Someone searches for the afikomen. Grandparents share stories that only seem to come out on this night each year.

If you are looking to add something meaningful to your Seder this year, try one small addition. Invite each person at the table to share a moment when they felt a sense of freedom. Ask one new question about what freedom means today. Even something simple—like adding fresh flowers or herbs to the table—can highlight that Passover is also a spring holiday about renewal.

Every family experiences the holiday a little differently. Some Seders are large and lively. Others are smaller and quieter. But the purpose is the same: to

gather around the table, tell our story, and pass it on to the next generation.

As the season changes outside, Passover gives us a chance to pause, reconnect with tradition, and start the spring together.



ELC teachers Michelle Mark and Raychel Franey during the Purim festivities.



ELC music teacher Debbey Altman (right) with Lisa Schlar during the Purim festivities.

Countdown to Pesah 5786/2026

MA'OT HITTIN - PASSOVER TZEDAKAH FUND

From the beginning of the month of Nisan, we are especially sensitive to the needs of fellow Jews who may need our special help and support toward fulfilling all the *mitzvot* of the Pesah season. If you or another member are in need of financial assistance to purchase Passover food, please contact Tika Bonner at 412-421-2288 x114 or tbonner@bethshalompgh.org. All requests will be kept confidential.

A form for donating to our Ma'ot Hittin fund is available on page 14.

FAST OF THE FIRST BORN & SIYYUM BEKHORIM: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

All first-borns should fast on this day, usually the day before Pesah in commemoration of the deliverance from Egypt of the Israelite firstborn. The Rabbi offers a *siyyum* (public completion of study) which is followed by a festive meal at which all present may eat, and once having eaten, a first born need not fast that day. The *siyyum* and the *se'udat mitzvah* will be held this year on Wednesday morning in person at 8:15 a.m., following the 7:30 a.m. morning minyan.

**The *Siyyum* Breakfast is sponsored by Stanley (z"l) & Cherie Maharam.
in loving memory of beloved parents and grandparents Bess & Aaron Maharam.**

BEDIKAT HAMETZ: TUESDAY NIGHT, MARCH 31

The traditional search for hametz on the night before Pesah falls this year on Tuesday night immediately after sunset. The blessings for *bedikat hametz*, found at the beginning of most *Haggadot*, are recited and the *kol hamira* formula nullifying unseen hametz may be recited. Hold any found hametz for ritual burning the following morning, April 1. If you need help finding these prayers, please contact Rabbi Adelson.

SALE OF HAMETZ: WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, before 11:00 A.M.

One of the central commandments of Pesah is that we rid ourselves of all forbidden hametz in our possession. Individuals who fully observe Pesah do their best to eliminate hametz as far as possible and then traditionally resort to the procedure of "selling" any hametz which may have been packed away or missed. All hametz must be removed or sold by 11:00 a.m. A form for selling your hametz is available on page 14.

Please return it to our office by April 1 first thing in the morning.

BI'UR HAMETZ - WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 1

The ritual burning of the hametz found during Tuesday night's search should be completed by 11:00 a.m. The stove should be fully kashered and all cooking proceeds in Pesah pots with Pesah utensils only. Traditionally no hametz or matzah is eaten after this time until the seder.

Candle Lighting Blessing

BLESSINGS FOR KINDLING FESTIVAL LIGHTS FOR YOM TOV EVENINGS

#1 - Yom Tov Candle Lighting Blessing (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th nights)

ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של יום טוב.
Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kiddeshanu bemitzvotav, vetsivanu lehadlik ner shel Yom Tov.

#2 - Sheheheyenu Blessing (1st night only)

ברוך אתה ה' א-להינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגייענו לזמן הזה.
Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, sheheheyenu, vekiyyemanu, vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh.

The Search for Ḥametz

A formal search for leaven (*bedikat ḥametz*) is conducted on the night before Pesah. This symbolizes the final removal of leaven (*ḥametz*) from the home. Before the search, it is customary to deposit small pieces of bread (ten pieces, according to kabbalistic lore) in strategic places so that the inspection should have a purpose. It is traditionally carried out by the light of a candle, with a feather and a wooden spoon to collect the *ḥametz*; all this is set aside until morning. If *erev Pesah* occurs on Shabbat, we search for *ḥametz* on Thursday evening. Why do we use a candle? "The spirit of man is the lamp of Adonai, searching all the inward parts" (Proverbs 20:27). If we scrutinize our premises so punctiliously, how much more scrupulously should we examine the crevices and crannies of our hearts?



Before the search, recite:

Praised are You, Adonai our God, King of the universe who has sanctified us through His commandments, commanding us to remove all *ḥametz*.

After the search, recite:

All *ḥametz* in my possession which I have not seen or removed, or of which I am unaware, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

Recitation of this declaration, and a similar one the following day, prevents us from violating the prohibition against ḥametz (Exodus 13:7). In the morning, after the last meal of ḥametz, leftovers are added to the crumbs gathered the previous night. These are burned or thrown out. This concludes the ritual of banishing ḥametz from our dwellings.

In the morning, recite:

All *ḥametz* in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have removed it or not, is hereby nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth.

Before the search, recite:

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו
במצותיו וצונו על בעור חמץ.

After the search, recite:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי, דלא חמיתה
ודלא בערתה, ודלא ידענא לה, לבטיל ולחוי הפקר
בעפרא דארעא.

In the morning, recite:

כל חמירא וחמיעא דאכא ברשותי, דחמיתה ודלא
חמיתה, דבערתה ודלא בערתה, לבטיל ולחוי
הפקר בעפרא דארעא.

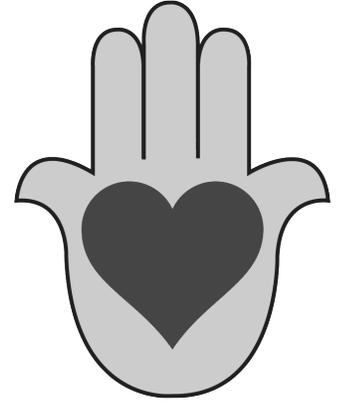
From The Rabbinical Assembly, "Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom", Rachel Anne Rabinowicz, ed., 1982, pp. 14-15.

Pesah Yizkor Appeal 5786

Each year, during the holidays of Pesah, Shavu'ot, Yom Kippur, and Shemini Atzeret, a special Memorial Service is held. It is a time when we honor the memory of our beloved departed family members. Yizkor Services are held on these four holidays and, in the tradition of the mitzvah of giving, an appeal is made for funds during the *Yizkor* Service.

Our Passover Yizkor Service will take place on Thursday morning, April 9, at approximately 10:30 am. It is appropriate to make a contribution in order to link the memory of dear ones to an act of loving kindness. If you wish, please fill out the form below with the name of the loved ones you wish to honor.

If you would like additional information regarding the *Yizkor* Appeal, please call the office at 412-421-2288. With grateful thanks for your continued support of our synagogue, and with all good wishes for the coming Festival.



Please tear off and mail to:
Congregation Beth Shalom
5915 Beacon Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217



I/We wish to contribute to the Passover Yizkor Appeal
Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/Passover-Yizkor-Appeal-5786

In memory of: _____

(Please Print)

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Ma'ot Hittin - Passover Tzedakah Fund

With the approach of spring and Passover, it has always been the tradition of our congregation to establish a Ma'ot Hittin fund which will be used to help the impoverished Jews of our city and others in need to prepare for the great festival of liberation. It is our communal responsibility to provide the necessary food for a Passover Seder and for the observance of the holiday in general. If you or another member are in need of financial assistance to purchase Passover food, please contact Tika Bonner at 412-421-2288. All requests are kept confidential.

Please send us your contribution (checks should be made payable to Beth Shalom Ma'ot Hittin Fund) so that we have adequate funds to help the many Jews who will be turning to us prior to Passover. Your generosity will help make other Jewish families happy as they celebrate this holiday of freedom. Thank you.

MA'OT HITTIN - PASSOVER TZEDAKAH FUND

Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/maot-hittin-5786

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$_____ for the Ma'ot Hittin Fund. Please make check payable to Congregation Beth Shalom Ma'ot Hittin Fund. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

✂ - - - - - PLEASE CUT AND RETURN EACH FORM SEPARATELY - - - - -

SELLING OF HAMETZ - מכירת חמץ

Hametz, not explicitly defined in the Torah, is described in rabbinic literature as being these five species of grain: wheat, spelt, oats, barley, and rye. Although matzah must be made from one of these, we are forbidden by *halakhah* (Jewish law) to eat, own, see, or benefit from any other form of these grains on Pesah. (Please note: rice, legumes, quinoa, corn, etc. are not hametz. See pg. 15 for more details.)

Please take the opportunity to fill out the form below and return it to the synagogue **no later than 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1** in order to have your hametz included in the sale.

It is customary to include a donation to support the vulnerable in our community. These funds will be contributed to Rabbi Adelson's Discretionary Fund which is used to provide scholarships, offer assistance to those in need and to promote Jewish cultural, educational and religious activities.

Hag kasher vesameah (A Happy and Kosher Pesah)!

Rabbi Seth Adelson

CONTRACT FOR THE SELLING OF HAMETZ 2026/5786

Online form available at www.bethshalompgh.org/selling-hametz-5786

I (We) _____ hereby fully empower and authorize Rabbi Seth Adelson to dispose of all hametz that may be in my (our) possession – wherever it may be: at home, place of business or elsewhere (knowingly or unknowingly). Rabbi Adelson has the full right to sell, dispose of and conduct all transactions in accordance with the detailed terms explained in the Hebrew contracts. The above power hereby given is meant to conform with all Torah and Rabbinic regulations to meet the requirements of Jewish law.

Name(s): _____

Location of Hametz: _____

Amount donated: _____

Sign Here: _____

A Brief Pesah Kashrut Guide

A full description of kashering processes and listing of permitted foods can be found at:
<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-law/holidays/pesah/pesah-prep-and-resources/5786-2026>

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil (*kevalo kakh polto*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used for only cold food are kashered by rinsing in cold water.

A. Earthenware (china, pottery, etc.) may not be kashered. However, fine translucent chinaware which has not been used for over one year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

B. Metal utensils (wholly made of metal) used in fire (spit or broiler) must first be scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should have water boiled in them which will overflow the rim. The utensils should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

C. Oven and Ranges - Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, the oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous-cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens. A microwave oven, which does not cook the food by means of heat, should be cleaned and then a cup of water should be placed in it. Then the oven should be turned on until the water "boils." A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesah.

D. Glassware - Authorities disagree as to the method of kashering drinking utensils. One opinion requires soaking in water for 3 days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesach, or putting it through the dishwasher.

E. Dishwasher - After not using the dishwasher for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run. It may then be used for Pesah.

F. Electrical Appliances - If the parts that come in contact with *hametz* are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (All exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned).

G. Tables, closets and counters - If used for *chametz*, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered and then they may be used.

H. Kitchen Sink - A metal sink can be kashered by a thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

I. Hametz and non-Passover utensils - Non-Passover dishes, pots and *hametz*, whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked so as to prevent accidental use.

Permitted Foods

A. The following foods require no *kasher lePesah* label when purchased before or during Pesah: fresh fruits and vegetables that have not been coated, eggs, unflavored tea bags, unflavored regular coffee, 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil, whole or raw tree nuts, whole (unground) spices, fresh fish from a kosher source and fresh kosher meat or frozen, raw hekshered meat (other than ground products as ground products with prohibited materials could be made on the same equipment).

B. The following products require reliable *kasher lePesah* certification (regular kosher supervision not being sufficient) whether bought before or during Pesach: all baked goods (farfel, matzah, any product containing matzah, matzah flour, matzah meal, Pesach cakes), all frozen processed foods, candy, canned tuna, cheeses, chocolate milk, decaf coffee, decaf tea, dried fruits, herbal tea, ice cream, liquor, non Grade A butter, oils, soda, vinegar, wine, yogurt.

C. The following foods require no *kasher lePesah* label but do require kashrut supervision if purchased new and unopened before Pesach: all pure fruit juices in plastic or glass bottles, filleted fish, frozen fruit (no additives), non-iodized salt, pure white sugar (no additives), unsalted Grade A butter, white milk

D. Any processed food bought during Pesah must have a *kasher lePesah* label.

E. Any detergent, because it is not a food and it is not eaten, may be used for Pesah as long as it has valid kosher supervision.

Medicines: Since *hametz* binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesah. If it is not for life sustaining therapy, authorities differ in their approaches. Please consult with your rabbi. Capsules, because they do not need binders, are preferable to pills.

In December 2015, the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards ruled kitniyot, or non-*hametz* grains and legumes such as rice, millet, chickpeas, fenugreek, etc., are acceptable for Ashkenazim to consume during Pesah provided the kitniyot have been checked 3 times before Pesah and were not stored with *hametz*.

2026 FESTIVAL OF PESAH 5786

Pre-Pesah Preparations

Tue., Mar. 31	Home Search for Hametz	Evening	At Home
Wed., Apr. 1	Morning Service	7:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom

Fast of First-Born: Following the service, there will be a siyyum to allow bekhorim to eat. Breakfast will be served.

Bi'ur Hametz – All remaining hametz must be burned or sold by 11:00 a.m.
Pesah candle lighting at 7:26 p.m. (with blessings #1 and #2 on page 11)

FIRST SEDER

No evening service at Beth Shalom

DAY 1

Thu., Apr. 2	Early Morning Pesah Service with <i>Tal</i>	6:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel
	Morning Pesah Service with <i>Tal</i>	9:00 a.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom
	Youth Tefillah	11:00 a.m.	Stofman Zweig Libraries
	<i>Minhah</i> Service	1:00 p.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom

Candle lighting after Havdalah from an existing flame at 8:27 p.m. - Blessings #1 and #2 on page 11

SECOND SEDER

No evening service at Beth Shalom

COMMUNAL SECOND SEDER (Must RSVP) 6:00 p.m. Samuel and Minnie Hyman Ballroom

DAY 2

Fri., Apr. 3	Early Morning Pesah Service	6:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel
	Morning Pesah Service	9:15 a.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom
	Youth Tefillah	11:00 a.m.	Stofman Zweig Libraries

Shabbat Hol Hamoed

Minhah / Shabbat 6:00 p.m. Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom

Friday night candle lighting is 7:28 p.m.

Sat., Apr. 4	Early Morning Shabbat/Pesah Service	6:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
	Shabbat/Pesah Service	9:00 a.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom
	<i>Minhah</i> /Discussion/ <i>Ma'ariv</i>	7:30 p.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom

Havdalah 8:29 p.m.

Hol Hamoed – Intermediate Days

Sun., Apr. 5	Morning Minyan	8:00 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
Sun.4/5-Mon.4/6	Evening Minyan	7:00 p.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
Mon.4/6-Tue.4/7	Morning Minyan	7:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
Tue., Apr. 7	Evening Pesah Service	6:00 p.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom

Pesah candle lighting at 7:32 p.m. - Blessing #1 on page 11

DAY 7

Wed., Apr. 8	Early Morning Pesah Service	6:30 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
	Morning Pesah Service	9:15 a.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom
	Youth Tefillah	11:00 a.m.	Stofman Zweig Libraries
	Pesah Evening Service	6:00 p.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom

Candle lighting at 8:33 p.m. from an existing flame - Blessing #1 on page 11

DAY 8

Thu., Apr. 9	Early Morning Pesah Service with <i>Yizkor</i>	6:00 a.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom
	Morning Pesah Service with <i>Yizkor</i>	9:00 a.m.	Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary and Zoom
	Youth Tefillah	11:00 a.m.	Stofman Zweig Libraries
	<i>Minhah / Ma'ariv</i>	7:55 p.m.	Homestead Hebrew Chapel and Zoom

Havdalah 8:35 p.m.

OUR LEADERSHIP

The Sisterhood Says

Judy Kornblith Kobell
Sisterhood President
jayeko@msn.com



Spring is on its way and Sisterhood continues with our ongoing activities.

We recently celebrated our annual Sisterhood Shabbat. There was wonderful attendance and many of our members participated in the service. We were delighted to have Erica Fox Zabusky as our featured speaker. Erica is a versatile artist, performer and educator and we are so appreciative that she shared her perspectives with us.

This year we were thrilled to honor three longtime, accomplished Sisterhood members, Rhoda Judd, Barbara Kaiserman and Yvonne Stein. These women have shared and continue to share their time and abilities over many years to Sisterhood and Beth Shalom.

A special thank you to Helen Feder for organizing the service and its participants. Helen has put this together for Sisterhood for a number of years and we are very grateful. Thank you as well to Linda Newman for arranging publicity, biographical material and the Shabbat program. It is a lot of effort and always so well done. A deep appreciation to Dina Rayzberg, Sandy Hirsch and Pat Weiss for organizing all the details for the delicious Kiddush luncheon.

Sisterhood continues to offer Latin Cardio classes with Connie Pollack and our ongoing Book Club. As usual, our Judaica Shop is open by appointment with Judy Kobell (412-725-5566) or Ronna Askin (412-889-4842). We have lots of holiday merchandise as well as year-round Judaica, competitively priced with proceeds going to support Beth Shalom and its youth. Also, don't forget that Sisterhood, along with Men's Club, supports youth activities, Mishloah Manot, monthly Shabbat dinners, and other Beth Shalom fund raising.

Sisterhood is always looking for new members and new ideas, so please be in touch.

All best wishes for a sweet and joyous Pesah.

Judy Kornblith Kobell
Sabina Robinson
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP



BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL
RONNA HARRIS ASKIN AT 412-889-4842.

Pesah Seder

A key step to a meaningful Seder is to get a good haggadah. If you stick with whatever you have but people complain, well, it might be time to invest in something more up to date. Your rabbi can help with suggestions or ask friends if they have a version that they enjoy.



The Men's Club

Ira Frank
Men's Club President
natfabira@juno.com



The Beth Shalom Men's Club has been very active in the first two months of 2026.

On Sunday, February 1, we held our Annual Sports Luncheon. Beth Shalom welcomed over 500 people including special needs groups and local university college and professional athletes and mascots from Pitt and Carlow as well as the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Riverhounds and Pittsburgh Passion.

On February 8, the Men's Club and Unified Religious School (URS) held the Annual World Wide Wrap. Thanks to Rabbi Larry Freedman for his Tallit and Tefillin explanation and instruction.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, March 31 for a Pre-Passover Pizza dinner. Registration is required. To register, see details on page 4.

This year, Yom Hashoah falls on the evening of Monday, April 13. Please remember to light the yellow candle delivered with the Purim bags.

On Saturday, April 18, we will celebrate Men's Club Shabbat featuring guest speaker Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the highest-ranking Presbyterian minister in Pittsburgh.

Finally, please join us on Sunday, May 24 for Flag Planting at Beth Shalom's Cemetery as we place flags on all of the veterans' graves as we commemorate Memorial Day. Adults and children are welcome.

Ira Frank, Men's Club President



Men's Club Shabbat

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 1 Iyar 5786
9:00 a.m. • Faye Rubenstein Weiss Sanctuary

Special Guest Speaker
Rev. Jessica McClure Archer



Join us for Men's Club Shabbat with guest speaker, Rev. Jessica McClure Archer the General Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Jessica comes to the work of the presbytery after serving as a pastor within the congregational setting for over fifteen years both as an associate pastor outside of Washington, D.C. and locally as a solo pastor in the Mon Valley. She brings her wisdom and experience as a pastor to lead our presbytery providing strengthen and support to the mission and ministry, new worshipping communities and other fresh expressions of the church. Jessica is married to Andy, who is a cartographer for the Federal Government's Department of the Interior, and is mom to two young adults, Evan and Cami.

Donations are being accepted. To donate, go to:
<https://bethshalompgh.org/mens-club-shabbat-5786/>
or by scanning the QR code above.

2025/5786 Men's Club Hanukkah Gelt Winners

Congratulations to the Hanukkah Sweepstakes Winners!

Mid-day Winners

12/16/2025: Scott Leib
12/17/2025: Efrem Grail
12/19/2025: Ann Adler
12/22/2025: Ben Relis



Evening Winners

12/14/2025: James Cohen
12/15/2025: Scott Leib
12/16/2025: Kenny Steinberg
12/19/2025: Howard Valinsky

Thank you for your support of our fundraiser this year.
Beth Shalom Hanukkah Gelt Committee

STAFF DIRECTORY

Please reference this directory for professional leadership contact information.

We look forward to speaking with you!

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*
* Staff schedules vary

Clergy & Program Staff



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412.421.2288 x115
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John Williams
Facilities Manager
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Congregational Second Night Seder

with
Rabbi Seth Adelson

**Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.
Samuel & Minnie Hyman Ballroom**

**Adults - \$55/each
Children ages 3-13 - \$25/each
Children under 3 - FREE**



**Registration Required. To register, go to:
BethShalomPgh.org/2026SecondNightSeder or scan QR code.
RSVP deadline is Monday, March 23, 2026.**

