

# BET CHAVERIM

(206) 577-0403 April 2018

“To provide a forum for news and editorials relevant to  
Bet Chaverim and its Jewish Community”

Editor: Barbara Roessler      Proofreader: Carrie Bagatell  
Services with Rabbi Emily Meyer  
Always at 7:30 p.m.



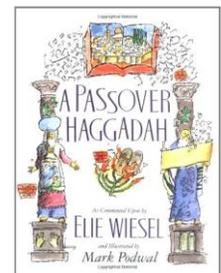
## From Our Rabbi

Emily Meyer [emilymeyer18@gmail.com](mailto:emilymeyer18@gmail.com)

Asking questions is at the heart of what it means to be Jewish. Without those who have poked and prodded at faith, tradition, and dogma throughout the centuries, Judaism may not have survived and certainly would not have flourished in the ways it has. From the questions of the Torah to those of the rabbi scholars to those informing modern Jewish life, we can glean the values that guide us, especially when it comes to questioning God.

The Torah is filled with questions that make us think. From the rhetorical question of fratricidal Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" to Abraham's challenge to God's decision to destroy Sodom, "Would you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" to the humble leadership of Moses, "Who am I that I should go before Pharaoh?" our leaders question who God is, what God does, what God wants, and what God knows. Each of our ancestors understands the answers to these questions differently, showing us that we each get to develop our own relationship with God.

Passover is the holiday of questions. Our Haggadah is designed to make us ask questions - not only the four questions recited formally, but all of the questions that arise when we tackle the challenging subjects of freedom and redemption. In his outstanding Haggadah, Rabbi Michael Zion quotes Rabbi Steven Greenberg, who puts the sentiment beautifully: "Autocrats hate questions. We train children at the Passover Seder to ask why, because tyrants are undone and liberty is won with a good question. It is for this reason that God loves it when we ask why." Our questions strengthen our relationship with God because they ensure that we retell and revive the story of freedom in every generation.



This Passover, may we rekindle our relationship with God by asking tough questions. Whether we ask at our own Seder tables, at the Bet Chaverim community Seder, or just as we move about our lives, may our questions reframe our understanding of the world in a way that inspires us to take action. Whether we question God's identity, expression, or impact, may our questions remind us that we are part of a chain of tradition proudly questioning that which is beyond our understanding. May our questions lead both to understanding and to more questions!

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this article. We have recently lost two members of our synagogue family. Donna Mullins husband, Stephen Mullins died recently. We also recently lost Jack Kornberg. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Donna and Peggy.

Jack Kornberg was instrumental in my decision to run for board president. We both served on the rabbi search committee and we worked closely on formulating the interview questions. Jack encouraged me to step into the vacant vice-president position. He had confidence in my abilities which gave me the confidence to step into the position. Even when Jack was sick, he still had lots of energy and ideas. Whenever we needed something constructed – Jack was our man. He figured out how to assemble our new sukkah and after the storage shed door and lock was damaged, he fixed it. Jack was also instrumental in starting up our Bet Chaverim mens’ group. At our March board meeting, Jack talked about the idea of purchasing a memorial “tree of life” that we would mount on our Torah ark.

I have been reading the book Relational Judaism by Ron Wolfson. He talks about how it isn’t the programming that attracts and retains congregational members – it is the relationships that are important. The support that we get from each other as a sacred community is important to me and particularly since we are so small, each loss is deeply felt.

A small group of us went to tour the Federal Way Day Center last week. On average, 40 to 50 homeless people a day come to the shelter to take showers, do their laundry and get assistance with finding employment and housing. As part of our Tikkun Olam efforts, we are working with the Saltwater congregation to provide supplies for the Day Center. Needed supplies include: 30-gallon garbage bags, latex gloves, towels, laundry detergent, sugar, aspirin, and outdoor furniture. More details will be forthcoming.

Don’t forget that the Priceless Auction is on May 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser as well as fun event so please mark your calendars.

Please give an extra hug to your loved ones – you never know how much time you will have to be with them.

**News , Notes, and Thank you’s**

- Thank you to Brian and Christina Sher for their donation in honor of Sophia's baby naming
- Thank you to Deborah and Sam Appel for their donation to the Rabbi Discretionary fund in appreciation of Rabbi Emily, in honor of Brenda and Dave LaPoint's new granddaughter and in memory of Jack Kornberg.
- Thank you to Rabbi Emily for conducting two memorial services two days in a row!
- Mazel Tov to Brenda and Dave LaPoint on the birth of their new granddaughter -- Shayla.



**The Happenings**



March 13th Shayla Grace Meaker was born at 8:34 p.m., weighing 4 lbs, 1 oz. and was 16.5 in long. Parents Alan and Crystal Meaker are on cloud nine as are grandparents Dave and Brenda La Point. Being six weeks early Shayla had to stay in NICU for several weeks until she could maintain her body temperature. It gave mom, Crystal a little extra time to begin healing from her C-section. All are doing well.

Our deepest condolences are extended to Peggy Kornberg on the loss of her husband Jack Kornberg and Donna Mullins on the loss of her husband Stephen Mullins.



## Would you Like to Learn to Chant Torah?

Come to this fun 4-part class to be able to perform the mitzvah of chanting Torah. The class will be taught by Rabbi Emily and Deena Siegler.

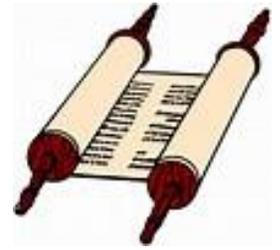
Dates: Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$50

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: synagogue classroom – located behind the main building

Text: The Art of Torah Cantillation – A Step by Step Guide by Marshall Portnoy and Josee Wolff. The book and CD can be ordered from Amazon.



Please mail your registration form and check by April 9<sup>th</sup>

### Torah class registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this along with your payment to:

**Bet Chaverim 1911 SW Campus Drive PMB #562 Federal Way, WA 98023**

#### This month we remember:

- 4/6 Bernice G. Shaw, mother of Peggy Kornberg
- 4/19 Jaclynn Sandler, mother of Brian Sandler

#### April Birthdays

- 4/12 Brian Cohen

#### April Anniversaries

- 4/28 Sherwin & Robyn Alpert

#### Stay in touch with a Sunshine Card!

You can order a hand stamped card for any occasion: birthday to bar mitzvah, births to funerals, get well and greetings! Support Sisterhood with Sunshine cards for only \$3.00; this covers the card and postage.

To order, contact Vickie Burns by phone, 206 878-6926 or email [mvblburns@comcast.net](mailto:mvblburns@comcast.net). Just tell her the name and address of the recipient, the occasion and how you want the card signed. Send payment to Sisterhood treasurer, Judy Schainen.

#### Our Temple Board:

<b>President:</b>	Melissa Brooks
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Banks
<b>Secretary:</b>	Robyn Alpert
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Archie Levine
<b>Members at Large:</b>	Jack Kornberg
	Eytan Olivier
	Judy Schainen
	Rick Siegler
	Peter Smith

#### Caring Committee

Some of you might not be aware that our synagogue has a "caring committee". The purpose of the committee is to help coordinate assistance to any congregation members who might need additional support due to illness or other life events. Judy Schainen is the current chair of this committee.

If you are in need of assistance: please e-mail:  
[caringcommittee@betchaverim.org](mailto:caringcommittee@betchaverim.org).

Our services are held at:  
Saltwater Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
25701 14th Pl. S.  
Des Moines, WA 98198



# April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 Erev 8 <sup>th</sup> Night Of Passover  Candle Lighting 7:28 pm	7
8	9	10	11 Temple Board Mtg - 7:00 pm	12	13 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm with Rabbi Emily  Torah Reading: Shemini  Candle Lighting 7:38 pm	14
15	16 Chant Torah Class 7:00 pm	17	18	19	20 Torah Reading: Tazria-Metzora  Candle Lighting 7:48 pm	21 Israeli Potluck Followed by Havdalah and Bowling 6:00 pm
22	23 Chant Torah Class 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27 Torah Reading: Acharei- Kedoshim  Candle Lighting 7:58 pm	28
29	30 Chant Torah Class 7:00 pm	May 1	2	3	4 Torah Reading: Emor  Candle Lighting 8:08 pm	5

