

Mid-June 2020



**TEMPLE  
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center



Reconstructionist  
Congregation  
Beth Israel A Contemporary  
Look at Tradition

# Temple Talk "LITE"

Bits of News to Stay Connected to the TI-JCC community

**Editor's note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to bring you short Temple Talk newsletters to help stay everyone stay connected until we return to TI-JCC.**



## FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

### FILL OUT YOUR CENSUS FORM!

In the Torah reading cycle we are currently reading the Book of Numbers. The "numbers" that the title refers to is the number of the army-eligible people in each tribe for the census

of the ancient Israelites. Thousands of years later, we are asked to respond to the census. Our census asks for every person living in our homes, and the purpose is redirected. Rather than wanting to know how many of us can serve the government, the census aims to help the government best serve us, which is through proper equitable representation.

We are experiencing a painful but important chapter in our nation's history as the legacy of the notorious "three fifths compromise" in the Constitution continues to be felt. Today, Americans across the nation are insisting that we are all equal. One way to make that true is to ensure that every person is counted so that the Congress better represents everyone.

While I have devoted my career to the rabbinate, I must share that my first official job was as a U.S. census worker. (If you were wondering, it was thirty years ago and my "boss" was George H. W. Bush.) I had a take and pass the Civil Service Exam, pass an FBI background check, and swear to defend the Constitution of the United States. I assume I would still pass the exam and the background check. I know I still defend our Constitution. That is why the census is so important. The way our government is constituted depends on it.

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## WORDS FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

It is never easy deciding when to exercise one's right to protest, and that is doubly true in the midst of a pandemic. In the weeks since the video of George Floyd's horrific death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer ignited a massive outcry against racist policing in this country, everywhere I look I have seen people wrestling with this dilemma: online, among my fellow clergy members, in our synagogue community, in my own family and household.



For many, the need to stand up, to speak out, to take concrete action to address the systems of racial injustice that put Black lives in danger every day in America, is an expression of the basic Jewish value of *tikkun olam*—that is, the obligation to acknowledge God's sovereignty by repairing that which we find broken in this world of ours. And yet, the obligation to limit any contact that could contribute to the spread of COVID-19 is also reflective of the high degree of importance our tradition places on the preservation of human life.

In Leviticus 24:22, as elsewhere, the Torah proclaims: "You shall have one law for stranger and citizen alike, for I the Lord am your God." It does not reflect well on us as a society that the Torah does not appear to even consider the possibility that the law might not even be applied equally *among fellow citizens*. In the end, what tips the balance in favor of action is the awareness that millions of Americans are not afforded the same range of choices when it comes to preserving their own lives and the lives of their loved ones, purely on account of the color of their skin. For Black communities forced to cope with police violence on top of an already higher-than-average rate of death due to COVID-19, the option does not exist

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you may know, we recently held our annual General Membership Meeting where we elected our officers for the coming year, which is July 1 – June 30<sup>th</sup>. We have an incredibly dedicated and talented group of board members. They dedicate a lot of time to manage our business, guide our programs, help make decisions pertaining to our security, safely manage our pandemic response, and bring in a broad spectrum of viewpoints to complicated issues. I, for one, am grateful to have such a strong team behind me.

I would like to personally thank all those member/volunteers who are stepping off the board after serving as a director; Steve Frank, Joe Freedland, and David Volin. Evan Weitz will continue to serve but I'd like to thank him for all of his dedication as our retiring 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. I would also like to thank Caryn Starr-Gates for many years of managing our Temple Talk and new Temple Talk Lite, as she has been nothing short of terrific and very professional in this endeavor. I am delighted that Lorissa Lightman will be taking

over this task and have all the confidence she will continue the great work that Caryn has accomplished.

I'm sure you are all wondering when we will be able to "safely" return to our shul. There are many details for us to work out and regulations are changing often. Of course, we have our sights set on the High Holidays as well. We have had several meetings about returning and I can assure you that it is complicated, especially when our members' health is foremost in our minds. Jose and Tina continue to do long-term repairs and maintenance, which is much easier when the building is closed. When we return, I am sure we will see a beautiful clean building and hopefully, buzzing with activity again. I am glad to advise you that RCBI wants to remain with us; their original agreement with us expires June 30, 2020 and a new agreement is being concluded now. All our programs offered by both congregations are open to each other. That is the beauty of a larger Jewish community!

You will see in this issue of TT Lite, several Zoom programs hosted by our members and Rabbi Fine, that will be of interest to many of us. If you have a special profession, hobby, or interest and you would like to host a Zoom meeting to share it, please let me know and I'm glad to schedule you in.

We continue to have Shabbat services on Zoom, Tuesday evening minyanim at 7:00 sponsored by our Men's Club, Sunday morning Minyan at 9:30, and other random programs also on Zoom, until we can reconvene in our building. While we are still social distancing, at least we can still learn and enjoy each other's company in a virtual world. Let's hope we can be together in person before long!

*L'hitraot,  
Howard Schreiber, President*

## RITUAL ROUNDUP

*Shavuot* worked out great, starting out with our multi-rabbi *tikkun*. Hurray for technology! Meanwhile, our regularly scheduled virtual Zoom services have been flowing along, and several people have stepped up to lead a service and chant a *haftarah*. Volunteers are always welcome!

Now with a Tuesday evening service supported by the Brandeis Men's Club, here are the days/times/links for our weekly offerings:

Friday evening (6:30pm):	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/112730866">https://zoom.us/j/112730866</a>
Shabbat morning (9:00am):	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/429158661">https://zoom.us/j/429158661</a>
Sunday morning (9:30am):	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/810221010">https://zoom.us/j/810221010</a>
Tuesday evening (7:00pm):	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89279443572">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89279443572</a>

Although we cannot offer Summer Sunday minyanim at member houses this year, we will be having our seasonal kickoff of a virtual **Shabbat Under the Summer Sky** with live contests and musical entertainment. The event kicks off on June 26 at 5:45pm with the following Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/112730866>.

Please note that efforts are underway to explore opportunities to hold services at the synagogue within safety and regulatory guidelines. Meanwhile, thanks again to all who attend services through the stream and Zoom access. There's a picture of a recent Sunday minyan on page 8.

*David Millman, Ritual chair*

**The Temple Israel & JCC Music  
Committee presents:**

***zoom\****

***Shabbat Under the Summer Sky  
on June 26, 2020***

***Back by popular demand: Name That Jew #4!***  
Guess the Jewish connection to the songs. Prizes for  
the most correct answers and the funniest answers.  
Submit your answers by Sunday, June 28, 10:00 a.m.  
to Marc Cantor [marccan999@gmail.com](mailto:marccan999@gmail.com)

**Featuring :**

**Debbie Cantor, flute and vocals,  
Marc Cantor, guitar and vocals,  
Tamara Freeman, violin, and  
Artie Bressler, woodwinds**

- 5:45 pm:** zoom window opens to welcome guests  
and give contest instructions
- 6:00-6:30 pm:** musical program , *Starts Promptly!*
- 6:30-7:30 pm:** zoom Shabbat services led by Rabbi  
Fine
- 7:30 pm:** Shabbat dinner separately in our  
homes, together in our hearts

**\* [hyperlink to zoom website for viewing](#)**

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE TIME OF COVID

This has been a difficult time for everyone. We are inventing new ways to be a part of community: services, funerals, shivas, via Zoom. Phone calls from our board of trustees to our members to check in, Facetime with friends, phone calls and email. Despite these challenges, our community at Temple Israel continues to be strong.

We note, with great sadness, the passing of two of our members, Leonard Trugman and Walter Hertzberg, due to the coronavirus. May their names be for a blessing and may their families and friends be comforted by their memories and by us as a community. In addition, many of our members have lost family members and friends to COVID-19. We share their sadness and find ourselves needing our family, friends, and community for support. While we may be virtual for the present time, Temple Israel as a community is here for you. Please contact Rabbi Fine or our office, if you are in need of help and support.

### Gift of Membership

The High Holidays are just a few months away. This is usually the time unaffiliated people look to join synagogues. To that end, we are continuing our Gift of Membership program. This program is geared to you, our members. We want you to invite your friends, who are not affiliated with any synagogues, to come with you and try out Temple Israel. The premise is that friends want to be in a community with other friends and that once they are part of our community, they will (we hope) want to join on their own the following year. Hence, you are extending to your friends a gift: the first year of membership is free. And hopefully, you will engage as mentors and invite them to those activities you are attending at our shul.

There are details as to who can and cannot participate and what this gift entitles them to (High Holiday tickets and the opportunity to attend our programs and services all year.) But please call us if you have someone you'd like to invite to join us under this program since there are some limitations.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer.

**Jo Rosen, Co-chair – 201-805-3989**  
**Elissa and Jay Hynes – Co-chairs**

## Reconstructing Judaism's Virtual Shabbat Box

As a pandemic resource, Reconstructing Judaism sends out a weekly virtual Shabbat box to foster Reconstructionist community, with materials, essays, meditations, and other resources to add some joy, comfort, and inspiration. Access the weekly virtual Shabbat box at <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/Connect>Pandemic Resources>.

## RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM MARKING RABBIS' RETIREMENTS WITH HIGHLY TOPICAL CONVERSATIONS

Please join us in honoring **Rabbi Mordechai Liebling** and **Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Ph.D.** at two conversations via Zoom on the occasion of their retirements from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC). Rabbi Liebling is the founder of RRC's Social Justice Organizing Program and Rabbi Kreimer is the founder of RRC's Department of Multi-faith Studies. They will reflect on their experiences as teachers and practitioners in the social justice and multi-faith realms. Both conversations have been organized by Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations, an initiative of Reconstructing Judaism. Evolve presents respectful, sacred conversations on contemporary issues for people interested in a vibrant Jewish future and a more just and compassionate world. The conversations will be recorded for future viewing. [Register for either conversation at https://bit.ly/3e2viRv](https://bit.ly/3e2viRv)

### Reflections on the Field of Jewish Social Justice After Ten Years of Training Rabbis for Activism

**Thursday, June 18, 1 - 2:15 p.m.**

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling will discuss his Evolve essay, "Reflections on the Field of Jewish Social Justice After Ten Years of Training Rabbis for Activism."

### Multifaith Relations - Four Decades of an Evolving Field

**Thursday, June 25, 1 - 2:15 p.m.**

Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, Ph.D. will discuss her Evolve essay, "Multifaith Relations: Four Decades of an Evolving Field."

## ADULT EDUCATION

### LECTURE BY RABBI DAVID FINE

**Topic: The Plot Against America by Philip Roth**

**When: Tuesday, June 23 at 8:00 pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87463549543>**

Join Rabbi Fine for the second "teaser" lecture for the new adult ed series on Alternative Jewish History. Rabbi Fine will discuss Philip Roth's novel about American Jews in the 1940s if FDR had not been elected to a third term and anti-Semitism exploded in America. The book was recently adapted as a miniseries for HBO.

### LECTURES BY ALAIN SANDERS

**Topic: What Makes News and Why?**

**When: Thursday, June 18, 2020 08:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85782938466>**

Forget the rhetoric about the liberal media, the conservative media, and fake news. What's on TV and radio, in the papers, and on the internet is driven by what attracts a news audience. Come and learn what that is and become your own media reviewer.

**Topic: The Elements For a Good Political Campaign**

**When: Thursday, Jun 25, 2020 08:00 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85461746701>**

Whether it's for a Democrat or a Republican, the presidency, the Congress, a governorship, or a city council member, a successful campaign needs to be a well-oiled machine that can navigate rough and uncertain terrain. Find out what are the complex interlocking parts, and stand ready to assess the 2020 races like a pro.

### *MORE EDUCATION.....*

#### **RABBI LEIAH'S CLASSES CONTINUE VIA ZOOM:**

Rabbi Leah's **Wednesday evening "David" reading group** meet on alternating weeks and her **Thursday afternoon midrash class** meets at 3:00 p.m. online. Check the online calendar and emails for log-in information, which changes weekly, as well as any course materials for the Thursday class.

#### **And if you missed the June 17th Cooking Class with Tamara Freeman...**

**Here is the recipe for HEALTHY EGGPLANT ROLLATINI:**

No fryer or gallons of oil in sight! Learn how to make flavorful, easy, and healthy eggplant rollatini with Tamara. Thirty minutes of prep, 30 minutes to bake, a delicious dairy meal that guarantees compliments and kisses! (Recipe serves 6-8 people.)

#### **Ingredients:**

2 large male eggplants (the bottoms should have a little bulge)

16 ounces of ricotta cheese

About 1 cup of grated parmesan cheese

8 oz. fresh or grated mozzarella

1/2 cup fresh herbs of your choice (e.g., parsley and basil)

A jar of your favorite tomato sauce

#### **Supplies:**

9"x11 baking pan or casserole dish

Large sharp knife, potato peeler, cutting board

Pastry brush, large sheet pan

(The slices of eggplant get broiled, so you'll need your oven, too.)

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

I hope this Sisterhood column finds everyone healthy and well.

Now, get out your calendar and make a note: **Sisterhood's Annual General Meeting will be on July 9 at 7:30 pm.** This will be on Zoom, so watch your e-mail, the link will be provided there. We'll be discussing our upcoming year, budget, etc. and socializing as well.

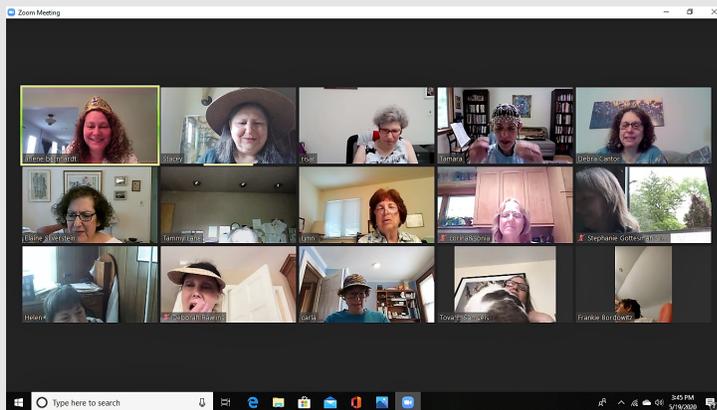
**You should also put July 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar**—Women's League for Conservative Judaism is holding their convention virtually. You will need to register now for this free event, and can spend the day online with their many different activities and classes. It will run from 10 am to 6 pm, and you can get on and off as your schedule allows. If you haven't already received an e-mail with the registration link, please contact Arlene at [arleneb@yahoo.com](mailto:arleneb@yahoo.com).

**Also upcoming is Sisterhood's annual Honey Sale!** This is a great way to send greetings for a sweet New Year. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at [stephaniegottesman@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniegottesman@gmail.com). The deadline for placing an order is August 7.

Many people joined in for Sisterhood's virtual meeting in May, some of us in our finest headgear. Elaine Silverstein led in a wonderful session where we discussed how to plant and care for herbs. We all got specific instructions on planting the basil that Sisterhood provided for contactless pickup at the steps of the synagogue. Everyone learned how to harvest and care for the plants so they last all summer along.

Finally, a booklet of new recipes was distributed electronically of course, so we can all try some new ideas while we quarantine. I think everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with our Sisterhood friends and have a welcome bit of normality. It was truly hard to say goodbye to everyone and end our virtual meetup.

***B'Shalom,  
Arlene Bernhardt***



## BRANDEIS MEN'S CLUB

The Brandeis Men's Club had its final meeting of the year. The club would like to thank everyone who supported us as we tried to support the community. We are looking forward to another great year ahead. Our executive board for the year ahead will be:

Scott Baslaw – President  
Evan Fleischmann – Vice President  
David Millman - Treasurer  
Bob Dworkin – Secretary

***Scott Baslaw,  
President***



## NNJA News



Mazal tov to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade NNJA graduates! This class was full of mensches. Each one of these students is kind, caring, and always has a smile on their face. We are really going to miss you Jett Lincoln, Jacob Berger, Sebastian Delgado, Ryan Levi, and Julia Jacobs. This congregation and our school will always welcome you warmly with open arms. We will help you continue your path of Jewish education and offer you the loving support of community. B'hatzlacha, good luck, on your next steps.

If you can believe it, our registration for fall is already open! The sooner our students register, the sooner we will be able to make plans for future. Registration is here: <https://www.familyid.com/nnja-northern-new-jersey-jewish-academy>

We learned a lot during this pandemic, and our students who have been working diligently on their tefilah goals will be able to continue to do so throughout the summer with our educators. We are really excited to be able to offer these sessions, especially because we learned how helpful it is for our students to get individual attention. Our fall plans keep this in mind as we reimagine what our school can provide and how to best meet the needs of our families. To that end, if you are a congregant who would like to get involved in Hebrew school by teaching tefilot to our students (via Zoom or Facetime) and you have approximately two hours a month to commit, please send me a note: [JSpiegel@synagogue.org](mailto:JSpiegel@synagogue.org). We'd love your help!

Our pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students also have great programming to look forward to over the summer. Students will "zoom" with Morah Marta, our Tot Shabbat teacher, three more times this summer. The first meeting they had on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> was great! Students learned the concept of *betzelem Elohim*, the idea that all people were created in G-d's image. We don't know what G-d looks like, which is why treating all people, no matter of their looks, respectfully and kindly is the Jewish way to do things. Everyone is special because everyone is made in G-d's image. *Future sessions are scheduled for 9:30am on Sunday: 6/28, 7/19 and 8/9.*

**Mazal tov to our BCHSJS graduates: Jacob Krebs, Emma Matthews, and Ilana Whittaker**

**We wish everyone safe and wonderful summers filled with moments that create fond memories. See you all soon!**

## Ritual Well — A Reconstructionist Resource for Ritual, Healing, Lifecycles and More

### Healing & Hard Times

Hard times are inevitable. But support and healing are available in many forms. Rituals—from *mikveh* to meditation—can help us move from darkness to light.

"Comfort, comfort My people, *nachamu nachamu ami*" (Isaiah 40:1).

The prophet Isaiah offered these simple but profound words from God to the Jewish people after the Temple was destroyed and all hope seemed lost. For Isaiah, comfort existed in the belief that a better day was coming and in the certainty that good would triumph over evil. Today, many of us struggle to find meaning during illness, death, divorce, violence, and even natural disasters. While we may long for something as unwavering as Isaiah's faith, few of us have that. So we search for tools to help us confront the truth of hardship and begin the process of healing.

If we withdraw into our own private pain, ritual has the power to pull us out. It connects us with community—however large or small—and provides us with the hope, love, and wisdom others can offer. As we build new rituals for healing and hard times, Isaiah's ancient words remind us that we can find great comfort *among people* and in actions that support and soothe, even if they don't solve.

Find more on the website at <https://www.ritualwell.org/healing-hard-times>



## Tikkun Olam

### Ways to support our greater community

This is a time not only to stay safe ourselves but also to help others in our community who are much less fortunate than we are. Here are some things you can do:

#### Donate

When the coronavirus emergency was first declared, the food pantry at **Social Services of Ridgewood** was cleaned out. Through community donations, it's been restocked, but the need is ongoing. Go to the website at <https://www.ssaridgewood.org/>. Your donation will go directly to people in need in our community.

Many of the residents of **Ridgecrest Senior Housing** are food-insecure and rely on the food pantry and donations to get by. Out of an abundance of caution, Ridgecrest can no longer accept in-kind donations. However, Ridgecrest is in need of financial donations to help offset the cost of the care packages that are being distributed to residents. Here is a link to the website where donations can be made: <https://www.ridgecrestseniorhousing.org/get-involved>

**S.H.A.R.E., Inc.** is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3, non-denominational corporation which provides an affordable home-like environment for independent seniors within the Ridgewood community. You can donate or become a weekend chef at <https://shareridgewood.org/covid-19-impacts/>



**Family Promise of Bergen County** provides housing and food assistance to people in need throughout Bergen County. Find out about the many programs they provide and click the Donation link at <https://www.bergenfamilypromise.org/>.

**Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern NJ** runs the kosher Meals-on-Wheels program and provides many other services throughout the local community. Donate at <https://www.jfcsnj.org/>.

#### Give Blood

Despite the current shelter-in-place regulations, FEMA has specifically identified blood donation as an "essential and integral component of the emergency support function." Blood drives are not gatherings: they are blood donation operations that are key to our public health and safety. Many additional precautions are in place to safeguard donors and staff.

Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General, said Americans need to donate blood to help stave off deaths caused by the pandemic. "One person giving blood can help up to three people and possibly save a life," he said. While the CDC has cautioned against nonessential travel and gatherings, Dr. Adams encourages healthy people to visit blood donation sites.

There are several ways to donate blood in our community. You can give blood through Vitalant, which has locations in Paramus and Montvale. It takes less than an hour to give whole blood. Make an appointment online at <https://www.vitalant.org/Home.aspx>. You can also donate through the Red Cross. Find a location and make an appointment at this website: <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>



Friday and Saturday services as well as Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings have been held on Zoom. Here's a picture of a recent Sunday morning minyan.



*Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from p. 1*

Voting is critical (and if you haven't yet voted in the primary, please do so!). Counting in the census is in some respects even more critical because it affects our representation before we even get to the polls on election days. We are blessed to live in a country where we do count, but that takes some (small) effort on our part. We can be counted, but we must 1) complete the census; and 2) vote in elections. Those are the two steps to civic participation.

Just like in Judaism where being bar/bat mitzvah means that we may count in a minyan, we do still have to show up (at least virtually these days) to be counted. The Torah commanded a census of the Israelites as they marched through the wilderness. The requests from the Census Bureau to complete our online forms are just as important for us. Thank you for counting!

**Rabbi Fine**

### Oh How The Times, They Are A Changin' by Bob Dworkin

I recently telephoned the Ridgewood Stop & Shop customer service desk to find out if their beer/wine/liquor department was still open for shopping and was told, "Yes." My next question was, "Are there any special requirements I need to know about?" The response was, "Just show an ID and wear a mask." That made me laugh out loud. Just a couple months ago, if you walked into a liquor store with a mask on, the clerk wouldn't hesitate to trigger a silent alarm to summon the police. Nowadays, if you don't wear a mask, the police will likely be summoned.

Apparently, since April 11<sup>th</sup> you cannot enter the Glen Rock Bottle King store. You must place an online order and pick up your selection curbside at an appointed time slot.

*Don't gather 'round people  
Wear your masks when you roam  
And admit that the virus  
Around you has grown  
And accept it that soon  
You could be bored to be home  
If your lives to you  
Are worth savin'  
Then you better stay home  
Or you'll risk the Coron'  
For the times they are a-changin'*

*Come writers and critics  
Don't scare us with your pen  
Stick to the facts  
Your chance won't come again  
And don't listen to fools  
Who ignore all the truth  
For there's no tellin' who  
Will be sick next  
The heroes out there now  
Will help us later to win  
For the times they are a-changin'*

*Come senators, congressmen  
Please help us one and all  
Don't just stand in the way  
Don't block votes for relief  
For we that get hurt  
Will not vote you again  
There's a battle outside*

*And it is ragin'  
It'll soon shake freedom's windows  
And rattle its walls  
For the times they are a-changin'*

*Come mothers and fathers  
Throughout the land  
And don't hurt each other for  
What you can't understand  
Teach your sons and your daughters  
To obey your commands  
Conspiracy theories are  
Rapidly fadin'  
Please act like a hero  
And lend us a hand  
For the times they are a-changin'*

*The line it is drawn  
The curse it is cast  
The slow economy now  
Will later be fast  
As the present now  
Will later be past  
This pandemic will  
Rapidly be fadin'  
And the first cure now  
Will help us to last  
For the times they are a-changin'  
Yes, the times they are a changin'*

*Rabbi Moser, cont'd. from p. 1*

to simply bide their time until a more convenient moment for seeking justice presents itself. The crisis of systematic racism is every bit as pressing as that of the pandemic, and so thousands of courageous souls have taken to the streets in spite of the danger involved. What can we possibly do but support them in any way we can?

Does that support mean taking to the street and joining the protests despite the risk to our own health? For some of us, it certainly does. But each of us has a different set of circumstances to cope with in terms of health, resources, family and personal obligations, and there are many different ways in which we can contribute to the struggle for racial justice in America. For some of us, it means contributing financially to organizations working for change. For others, it means educating ourselves and others about the realities of systemic racism in this country and working to unravel the racist attitudes we find in ourselves and in those closest to us. For some of us it means supporting those fighting for racial justice through art, or words, or music. For all of us in the Jewish community in particular, it means listening to the voices of Black Jews and Jews of Color, particularly when they tell us about the ways they have been made to feel uncomfortable or excluded in Jewish spaces. Whatever our circumstances and the resources we have to contribute, one thing above all is certain—we cannot stand idly by the blood of our neighbor.

*L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Leiah Moser*

### **What Time is It? A Glazel Tei Time!** **By Bob Dworkin**

What was it about my Grandma Helen, of blessed memory, when I saw her enjoying Sweet-Touch-Nee tea brewed in a very thick glass when I was a young boy in Brooklyn? I was too immature to understand or appreciate it, but that changed after my Bar Mitzvah, when I was allowed to drink tea, and even have an occasional tiny taste of my grandma's home-made Polish-style kirschwasser ("cherry water").



As a child, I often saw Grandma Helen add carefully rinsed Bing cherries to a one-gallon narrow-mouth glass bottle of grain alcohol. After several weeks, she finally allowed her sons, my uncles, to gather around for the first taste of each new batch of this clear, wonderfully cherry-tasting, very strong brandy.

Truth be told, I have preferred tea to kirschwasser all my life.

One of my favorite way to relax is to sit back and drink a nice big mug of hot tea. I don't drink it the European way anymore, where you take a Domino's sugar cube in your mouth and sip the tea through the cube. In fact, I haven't put sugar in my tea (or coffee) since I was in my 20's. Of course, a heaping teaspoon of honey and a teaspoon or two of lemon juice in hot tea has always been my "go to" when I feel a cold or sore throat coming on.

Through the years I have tried and enjoyed so many types of tea, it's hard to recall them all, but my favorites definitely changed with the decades. As a college student I relied on a big pot of black tea to keep me alert as I studied late into the night for exams. Thanks to my Chinese college buddies, I was introduced to oolong tea and enjoyed that when I wasn't studying.

After graduating college, I got a job in a laboratory and stocked my desk with a variety of teas, which I was always glad to share with my co-workers, introducing them to my then-favorite teas, Darjeeling and Lapsang Souchong.

I brought my collection with me to my next job, but something unexpected happened. On my first day, my new boss insisted on treating me to a cup of coffee from the food service cart that was rolled along all the office hallways. I had had coffee before, but there was something special about getting a cup every day from the cart and being warmly greeted by the smiling man who provided this service.

I kinda got hooked on coffee until a lab buddy introduced me to yerba mate. The tan-colored chopped leaves looked like some sort of Amazon rainforest sweepings, but the taste was refreshingly different and very pleasant.

Through the past 15 years I've tried and enjoyed white, green, chamomile, ginger, chai and a host of herbal teas, yet I always go back to either jasmine green tea or Earl Grey. And I was introduced to the very tasty rooibos tea at the Temple before the COVID-19 pandemic. Staying home all these weeks, I still have been drinking a lot more tea than coffee, but I long for the time when we can once again meet, pray, and socialize at the synagogue. And as much as I love Jose's and Tina's coffee, when we return to TI&JCC, I'm gonna go for a glazel tei.

Want to learn all about teas? Go to this amazing website that offers a wealth of knowledge with its dozens of lessons on tea: <https://www.teaclass.com/>.

Enjoy!

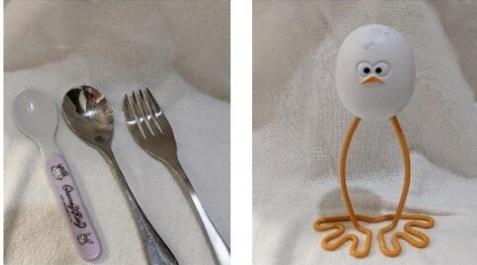
**“Let’s Get Together For A Dinner Party” – Via Zoom**

When seeing each other on a computer monitor over Zoom during Friday night and Saturday morning synagogue services and Sunday Minyanim there is little time for talking with one another. Having services this way is far better than no services at all, but when we are not able to have a relaxing conversation like we used to over food and drink at a Friday Oneg Shabbat or Saturday Kiddush, it is emotionally painful.

Annemarie Roscello and Evan Fleishmann and Stacey Scott came up with an idea so wonderful, that those of us they mentioned it to did not hesitate a second to agree to put the plan into action: to have a dinner party over Zoom. We can each prepare our dinner in time to eat together at 7:00 while seeing and talking to each other over a Zoom meeting format.

For a little fun, Annemarie said, “Before dinner, find one item in a kitchen drawer that is odd, quirky, or outlandish to share with the group why you own it, how often you use it, and why you chose it for the game. Remember, drawers only!”

It was a wonderful opportunity on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to socialize and have a few laughs from the safety of our respective homes for 2-1/2 hours. Time well spent and we encourage all of you to arrange something similar this week. Have fun! - Bob Dworkin & the Zoom Dinner Party Gang.

DINNER PARTY ATTENDEES	MENUS	KITCHEN DRAWER ITEMS
	<p>Annemarie Roscello &amp; Evan Fleishmann:</p> <p>Bali Bowls with peanut tofu and pao de queso.</p>	<p>Annemarie’s favorite personal utensils &amp; Eggbert (Egg salad masher)</p> 
	<p>Stacey Scott:</p> <p>Matar paneer with basmati rice; geen salad w/ beets, yellow pepper and homemade salad dressing; sugar-free (red) Jell-O</p>	<p>Joseph Joseph CanDo clean-cut can opener</p> 
	<p>Tova Samuels &amp; Rob Kern:</p> <p>Salad; chopped turkey sautéed w/ zucchini, carrots, garlic, cauliflower</p>	<p>Metal object that is supposed to prevent onion &amp; garlic odors from bothering your eyes when you rub it in your hands under water</p> 
	<p>Bob Dworkin:</p> <p>Sautéed chicken breast with a balsamic vinegar/red wine reduction, asparagus and cream of coconut-flavored jasmine rice; Mallomars cookies and jasmine green tea</p>	<p>A smidgeon, a pinch and a dash measuring spoons and a pickle fork</p> 