

Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2019 Nisan - Iyar 5779

Congregation Etz Chaim's

Mission Statement is:

Passionate and participatory, our supportive Jewish community engages each individual in a life-long Jewish journey. We embrace diverse experiences that span both traditional and contemporary ideas while learning and pursuing spiritual growth.

Executive Committee:

Terry Brodof
Russ Rosen
Aaron Schechtman
Stephany Schechtman
Steve Segerman

Staff:

Hank Lerer, Executive Director
Chava Vidal, Program Director

Men's Club:

Aaron Schechtman, President

Sisterhood:

Sandy Baden & Laura Maxwell
Co-Directors

Ritual Co-Chairs:

Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg



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Cincinnati, OH 45249

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Message from your Vice President – Aaron Schechtman



Terry Brodof has given me the opportunity to share some thoughts with you today. As I look back at the 2 years of my vice presidency, I am constantly amazed at all the positive accomplishments that have taken place because of our outstanding Etz Chaim community. I think that as members of this community, we should all have the opportunity to be a part of our future. We seem to get a better perspective of life when we look inward and try to express our feelings about our Judaism, Torah,

and social environment, that we as Jews share.

I did not have to look far to know what I wanted to say about our congregation. We are a very proud group of people, standing tall, believing in our shul and not afraid to work hard to make it the best in Cincinnati. This year there has been so many positive events taking place at Etz Chaim, it is hard to pick one that stands out, but the one that stands out like a shining star for me is our Friday night services. It started as a small sapling tree and now it is a strong and meaningful part of Etz Chaim. Seven years ago, I listened to board members say that we might have to eliminate weekly Friday night services, and now, seven years later we have had 364 consecutive services every Friday night. I asked myself why these services were in jeopardy of being discontinued. Many of us desired these services but did not know how to motivate others to join in. Through hard work, dedicated staff, and great lay leaders, we have accomplished our mission. It shows that we are one of the most determined congregations in Cincinnati.

The spirit of Judaism is strong when we galvanize our energy. In today's world we face many challenging issues that confront us as Jews. When we view the calendar during the spring, we see the holiday of Passover. For many Jewish families, this is an exciting time to share with family and friends. We celebrate the Seder with many special dishes, songs, and prayers of our ancient people. We have exciting conversations with family from the oldest to the youngest. It is also an important time to examine what freedom meant in ancient times and what it means today. A freedom that many of us take for granted, a freedom that has fundamental truths that are true for all times and all people. The question I ask you, "will you have a Seder that will be marred by fear, or one by freedom of expression and action?"

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the front page...

Our broadcasters and reporters have written articles about antisemitic activities within the United States and throughout the world. We read about Jews not being permitted to place a mezuzah on their doorway, forbidding the koshering of meat by certain countries, or trying to stop the ritual of circumcision.

I ask myself how this Anti-Semitic atmosphere could have happened overnight. I sometimes feel that we try to shelter our children from the realities of life. It is easier to say that this type of hatred happened only in ancient times, which we read about during Seder. No longer is it a problem just in the middle east or in other parts of the world. It is a problem that we are facing here in the United States. Let our great leaders never succumb to fear, and let our people be guided by leaders that are qualified to lead.

As individuals, communities and countries, we must create a positive feeling of integrity, respect, and self-discipline. During our Sederim, we must challenge these ideas and many more, in order to build a stronger and vital freedom. During this Passover season, may you find love, peace and happiness with your love ones.

Aaron Schechtman
Vice President



MATZAH FUND

PESACH DELIVERY PROJECT



Every year at this time, we ask your help in providing funds so that those less able can afford to have a kosher, meaningful Pesach. We ask that you send a special contribution to our Matzah Fund. The monies will be used for two things. First, we will use the money so that Etz Chaim can participate in the Cincinnati Pesach Delivery Project. This award-winning program provides Pesach food and Seder supplies to needy families in the Cincinnati Jewish Community. Second, the monies will be used to meet the special requests for assistance which are received during this special time of the year. Please send your contributions to:

Matzah Fund
Congregation Etz Chaim
8100 Cornell Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45249

Sale of Chametz

The heart of Pesach preparations focuses on the removal of 1) ownership, 2) benefit and 3) eating of 'chametz' (leaven products). This term refers to food prepared from five species of grain-wheat, barley, oats, spelt and rye that has been allowed to leaven or 'rise'. Any food on Pesach that is mixed with the above grains is also considered chametz and cannot be eaten. What differentiates 'chametz' from matzah? Matzah is *unleavened* bread made from the five grains, but customarily made from wheat flour that is kept dry and therefore not allowed to rise. (The term chametz also refers to all dishes and utensils in which foods are prepared or served during the year.)

Accordingly, the following foods are prohibited during Pesach: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees containing cereal derivatives and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. Ashkenazic authorities also prohibit* the following legumes (kitniyot): i.e. rice, corn, millet, beans and peas, peanuts, sunflower seeds etc. (String beans are permitted). This prohibition also applies to corn sweeteners, corn oil and soy oil. To fulfill the halachic (Jewish legal) requirements regarding chameitz, one is required to sell chameitz (m'chirat chametz), search for chameitz the night before Pesach (b'dikat chametz), nullify the chameitz (bitul chameitz-the wording is found at the beginning of the Hagaddah) and burn the chameitz (biur chametz). (*Note the Conservative Movement has now made an allowance for kitniyot to be consumed – however please follow your personal traditions – the shul has not accepted this halachik ordinance)

On Pesach we are not permitted to 'own' chametz. Both at home and in business, this could result in a financial loss. Therefore, to prevent such economic loss, one may 'sell' ownership of all leaven through the legal, monetary transaction of 'm'chirat chametz'. There is a person who serves as a 'shaliach', an agent who sells the chametz to a non-Jew who is not required to observe the laws of Pesach.
(Even if a person will be away during Pesach, one is still required to sell chametz).

CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CHAMEITZ (M'CHIRAT CHAMEITZ)

I, (We)** the undersigned, fully empower and permit Hank Lerer to act in my (Our) behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me (us)-knowingly and unknowingly-as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein chametz owned may be found. This transaction will be in effect beginning Friday, April 19, 2019 and continues up to the evening of Saturday, April 27, 2019.

And to this I hereby affix my signature(s) on this _____ day of _____, in the year 2019.



Signature_____

Address _____

City_____ State_____

Telephone_____

**Husband and Wife, specify names

Complete and return to Hank Lerer no later than 10 AM on Friday, April 19, 2019

It is customary, prior to Pesach, to provide Tzedakah (Ma-ot Chittim-wheat money) for the needy in our community.



Ritual Matters

Ritual Committee members: Co-Chairs: Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg; Members: Emmy Friedenberg, Lynne Haber, Candy Kwiatek, Hank Lerer, Chava Vidal, Robyn Wolfe

We hope everyone had a joyous Purim – perhaps you're noshing on some hamentaschen or other shalach manot as you read this bulletin, unless you've eaten it all up?!

Besides all of the fun Purim festivities for which we thank all involved, speaking from a ritual lens we also thank everyone involved in the services that evening. Thanks to Hank Lerer for his davening of Maariv, thanks to our Megillah readers – Chava, Audrey, Victor, Barbara, Lynne and Hank – and thanks to all of you who attended. We especially want to applaud you for your consideration and respect of the Megillah reading – for Jewish law commands us to hear the entire Megillah being read as well as it being a mitzvah for us too.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Cantor Abe Lubin will once again be joining us for the High Holy Days. We know that Cantor Lubin is very popular with our congregation and are sure that you, like us, welcome his return to Etz Chaim in the fall. The High Holy Days begin later in September this year and so we will talk more about them in a future bulletin.

Purim is over...we move on to Passover. But even before Pesach we have – and have been having - four special Shabbatot leading up to this holiday. Starting with Shabbat Shekalim, Shabbat Zachor and Shabbat Parah in March, we finish out the series with Shabbat Hahodesh on April 6th. Then there's Shabbat Hagadol, known as the Great Shabbat, the Shabbat preceding Pesach. That's a lot of special Shabbatot leading up to this important holiday.

Pesach begins Friday evening, April 19th and we celebrate this holiday through Saturday, April 27. Pesach services will be held on Saturday morning, April 20th (during normal Shabbat services) and Sunday morning, April 21st for the first two days of Chag. For the last two days of Chag, morning services will be held on Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th (again during normal Shabbat services). All morning services start at 9:30 a.m. Oh, and don't forget the 2nd Seder held at Etz Chaim – always a great religious experience besides all else!

Yahrzeit minyan services continue to go well and we thank all of you who have attended. Your support of your fellow congregants is much appreciated!

We look forward to and wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach!

Barbara and Barry



Weekday Yarzheit Minyanim

At the beginning of June, 2018, we launched the Minyan Committee, a sub-committee of Ritual. A new system was put in place following the retirement of Julie Kaufman who did an incredible job over several years. Members of the Committee are: Barry Joffe and Barbara Taggart Milberg as co-chairs and Emmy Friedenberg, Marianne Nidich, Carol Friedman and Barb Rosen. Since its inception in June, the Committee has arranged more than 40 minyanim for congregants wishing to recite Kaddish! We thank all those congregants who have regularly attended to support their fellow congregants.

How to Request a Yarzheit Minyan?

Twice a month the office sends out letters advising you of an upcoming Yarzheit. If you would like to schedule a minyan service either send over an email request to CECMinyan@gmail.com or call Barbara at 513-708-5208 or Barry at 513-373-1552 or leave a message with the office and they will pass it on to the committee. One of the committee members will be assigned to arrange your minyan for you.

When you make your request, it is helpful if you tell us which family members and friends will be attending to support you. That way the committee member knows how many additional congregants are needed. We ask that you **make your request 10 days before the anticipated Minyan date** to afford the committee ample time to make arrangements. We do not send out any notices on Shabbat so we need the 10 days of turnaround time.

Do you want to get notification when minyan attendees are sought?

Let Barbara or Barry or any member of the committee know and we'll add you to the database. That way you will always be notified of an upcoming minyan. We've had congregants tell us that they would have liked to attend a minyan for a particular congregant but did not know it was taking place. By adding your name, you will always stay informed. You only need to respond to a request if you can attend.

Please let us know if you have any questions – and when you need your next minyan service arranged!

Barry and Barbara

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Congregation Etz Chaim

*The Annual Congregational meeting
will take place on
Sunday morning, April 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM*

KASHERING THE KITCHEN!!!

Passover is almost upon us. And with that comes the “The Great Event: Passover Kitchen Cleaning”. But this is like no cleaning you have seen. This is kitchen cleaning on steroids, and we can really use your help. Please join members of the Board of Directors on April 11 at 6 PM as we “CEBR-p” our CEC kitchen to prepare it from top to bottom for Passover.

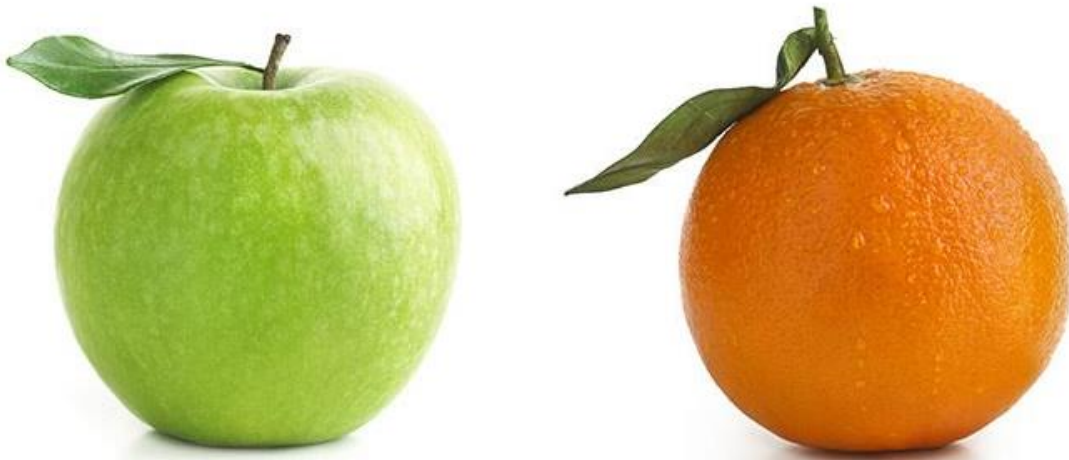
CEB you say? What does that mean? Glad you asked:

- C – Clean Top to bottom, left to right, front to back we clean it. Everything off the counters and shelves, cleaned and packed away. Everything in the fridge moved, swept and covered.
- E – Eat If it is open, we eat it. Chips, cookies, crackers, popcorn, snacks galore. If it is open, we eat. Good news. Apparently, there is some special dispensation that the calories don’t count if you are eating it in preparation for Passover instead of wasting it.
- R – wRap Just like a present, we wrap up the kitchen. Hanging brown paper to seal off all the area of the kitchen that are off-limits.
- B – Blowtorch Yes – FIRE! We torch the place. It’s the one time we have a fire and no smores. But we really do bring out the blowtorches out and burn off every last crumb and morsel.
- P – ??? (find out what this means April 11th at 6 pm)

As if you couldn’t tell, this is a pretty hefty event and your help is needed. The more hands we have the faster this whole thing goes and doesn’t place a burden on few people. Now you might think, April 11th is a whole week before Passover. And you are correct. However, the 2nd night community seder is April 20th and we just need all that time to prepare. Plus, it gives you time to rest up for your own cleaning? Now isn’t that nice of us?

So – Once again. Please join members of the Board of Directors, fellow congregants and other volunteers on April 11, 2019 at 6pm
For “The Great Event: Passover Kitchen Cleaning”





Fruit for the Fortuneless

On Thursday, April 4 & Friday, April 5

We are making it easy for you to participate in a beautiful mitzvah. When you come to services for morning Minyan on Thursday, or Kab Shab on Friday simply bring with you a bag of apples, oranges or a bag of each.

Our goal is to collect 200 pieces of fruit!

With about 10 pieces of fruit in the bag

That's only 20 people stepping up.

This fruit will then travel down to the Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen on Sunday, April 7th and the patrons of the soup kitchen will be able to have something fresh and not processed.

Please – take a moment to realize how blessed you are then commit to helping someone less fortunate than you.

Tear this page out of the bulletin, write fruit on your shopping list – and don't forget to participate in this feel good, vitamin C filled mitzvah!



IMPORTANT **PASSOVER DATES 5779:**

Fast of the Firstborn

Friday, April 19 – 7AM Minyan
Service and learning session

In order to absolve the firstborns
from fasting. Followed by a breakfast
with the last morsels of Chametz.

Sell Your Chametz by:

10am on Friday, April 19

First Seder at home – Friday, April 19

*Note – Friday Night services will be canceled in
deference to the Seder to ensure all families are able
to be together and fulfill the mitzvah. If you are in
need of a host family please contact the office

Pesach Day 1

Saturday, April 20 – 9:30AM Services

Second Seder at Etz Chaim

Saturday, April 20 – 6:30pm

RSVPs are required – Save your spot today!

Pesach Day 2

Sunday, April 21 – 9:30AM Services

*The office and building will be closed
During the Week of Passover except for services.*

Morning Minyan

Thursday, April 25 – 7AM Services

Pesach Day 7

Friday, April 26 – 9:30AM Services

Friday Night – April 26

Shabbat Services with Passover Twist - 6:00pm

Pesach Day 8

Saturday, April 27 – 9:30AM Services
Yizkor will be at approximately 10:45AM

Passover Ends

Saturday, April 27 - 9:10pm



Passover

Second Seder



**This seder is made possible by
funding from the
Revella & Sidney Meyers
Pesach Fund**

On the second night of Passover
Saturday, April 20, 2019

Our Family Friendly Seder
will start at 6:30 pm

Spend seder with your Etz Chaim family, read the haggadah & watch it come to life, share your traditions, recount the miracles, sing the familiar songs and enjoy a delicious meal catered by Bernstein's Kosher Catering.

Don't miss the exodus as only
Etz Chaim can tell it...

Cost: \$30.00 per person
RSVP to the Office 489-3399

**FIRM DEADLINE
of April 10, 2019**

OUR CEC SEDER IS AWARD WINNING!

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WON AN INTERNATIONAL GRANT FROM NJOP NATIONAL JEWISH OUTREACH PROGRAM IN RECOGNITION OF OUR INTERACTIVE & INNOVATIVE SEDER EXPERIENCE.



HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH & BE PROUD.

WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WE OFFER GREAT PROGRAMS HERE AT CEC AND THIS IS JUST ONE MORE WAY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS TAKING NOTICE. FROM RECEIVING THE KALLAH GRANT, TO OUR SCHECHTER AWARDS (PLURAL) TO THIS. WAY TO GO CEC!

Israeli Shabbat Dinner

Friday Night, May 10, 2019

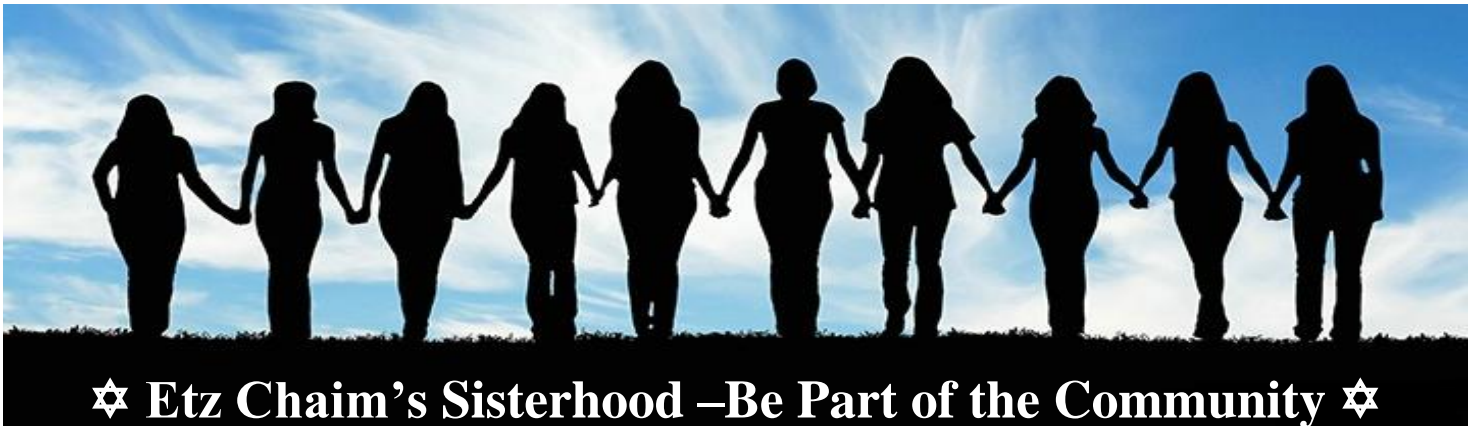


Ruach Filled Service at 6pm
Delicious Israeli Dinner at 7pm

We are delighted to welcome
Amnon Maggid the
Shaliach for Cincinnati.
Following dinner Amnon
will give an educational talk.



If you rsvp by May 1st cost is
\$12 per person. After that date
we'd still love for you to attend,
but the cost is raised to \$15
RSVP to the office # 513-489-3399



☆ Etz Chaim's Sisterhood –Be Part of the Community ☆

On a recent Sunday evening, a group of congregants gathered to demonstrate their competitive skills. Sisterhood and Men's Club co-sponsored a Games Night. We had tables of people playing Mahjong, Rummy Kube, Cribbage, and Meshugenah 8's.

Those who didn't know how to play, were taught by those who did.

Snacking, schmoozing, and laughing was observed throughout the evening. There was no charge for the event, but people could drop some change in a bucket to help pay for the refreshments. Additionally, we had a split the pot, which was won by Audrey Martin, who graciously donated her winnings back to Sisterhood. I think it's safe to say that a good time was had by all.

By: Emmy Friedenberg





☆ Etz Chaim's Sisterhood –Be Part of the Community ☆

This past month has been a very busy one for Sisterhood. Our catering group handled three Kiddushim, while managing to bake over 2400 Hamentaschen and prepare 180 Mishloach Manot boxes for our congregation!

This month, on April 14, we will sponsor a tour of the brand-new Holocaust & Humanity Center at the Cincinnati Museum Center at the newly renovated Union Terminal. The tour will include a visit to the Holocaust Museum, an interactive museum that incorporates media, artifacts and art to share this history and its lessons, and to the Humanity Gallery where you will see examples of individuals who worked toward making positive changes in their communities. Sisterhood members, Stephany Schechtman and Sandy Baden, are exhibit interpreters and will lead the tour.

The tour will take about 2 hours, and there will be a **speaker** following it, provided by the Holocaust Center. We will meet in the synagogue parking lot at 11:15 AM and carpool from there. Reservations were due on March 29, but if you haven't made yours, you can check with Sandy Baden to see if there's still room for you.

Join the talented women of Sisterhood for a special Sisterhood Shabbat on May 4. Our women will lead the service, chant from the Torah, open the ark, read English prayers and lead our congregation in tefillah. If you would like to help with this service or would like a role that morning please contact Stephany Schechtman. Please be sure to join us that Shabbat and stay for a delicious kiddush luncheon following the services.

With undying love for Etz Chaim,

Sandy & Laura

Sandy Baden sbaden@cinci.rr.com 513-470-6428

Laura Maxwell Lauramaxwell1313@gmail.com 513-368-2465

Building Bridges, Closing Gaps

By: Brian Wolfe

Genetic testing has been advertising up a storm lately, particularly with the Holiday season having just concluded. Not THE Holiday Season, the shopping one. Genetic testing? Holiday Season? Yep. People can now "Give the Gift of DNA testing" to find out where you are from. Isn't that cool? Now you can find out if you're from Cleveland – Not that there is anything wrong with Cleveland. My "mom" is from there.

To be honest, I am just not that interested in "learning the percentage breakdown of my origins from ancestors that lived up to 500 years ago", nor am I interested in "connecting with relatives around the world" or having my "DNA compared to DNA found at archaeological sites". What use is it to me other than curiosity?

For a while I was interested in our family tree thanks to a cousin who a small number of years back started a family tree at www.geni.com. It is only my mothers' side of the family and it was interesting to see how far and wide the family connection extended. The earliest date I have seen is of my third great grandmother Feiga (no last name) and she was born in 1811, in Mogilev in eastern Belarus. And since she had to have parents and it is doubtful her mother was under the age of 11 when she was born, I am safe saying "traced back to the late 1700's".

I remember a couple of moves ago people would ask where I was from and I didn't know how to answer. Should I answer my previous city, the one before that, where my parents were from or where I grew up? (truth be told, I haven't grown up). At the time I thought it was to determine if I had any street cred (I don't) by identifying where my family was from. I usually muttered someplace followed by "you wouldn't know my family". I didn't realize until a few years later we were playing Jewish geography. And somehow, we always manage to find a connection. Like the time a parent of a classmates of Jacob introduced themselves to us and said their name was Terman. (my mother's maiden name). We discovered we were related and had relatives in Chicago – which nobody else figured out.

So, to answer where am I from, I was born in New Orleans, lived in Arizona, lived in Kansas City (Missouri), Memphis, TN, spent a short time in Harrisburg, PA, a few years in Salt Lake City, and now Cincinnati. The follow-up question is something like "wow do you have relatives in all those places?" and I say "no relatives, but lots of family." Because every shul becomes like family. It is our home, and between services, events, meetings, fun and games, it is probably third in line where we spend all of our time. And there is plenty of family here.

There's all the kinfolk we see each week whether it's cooking, cleaning, setting up, in services, sharing a meal. And don't forget shots with "Uncles" Marty & Fred with "Aunts" Edee and Arlene and all the other relatives.

My point is that I don't need to know where I am from. I know where I have been, I know where I am going, but most importantly, I know where home is.

If you haven't been "home" in a while, stop on by. We'd love to see you.



MEN'S CLUB

Men's club has been working out, getting ready for the baseball season. We have purchased tickets along with the Cincinnati Jewish Community – for Jewish Community Night with the Reds. The date of the game is May 28, 2019 at 6:40pm vs. the Pirates. We purchased 15 tickets that will be first come first serve. Reserve tickets can be bought by calling Aaron Schechtman 513-544-8474

Dates to place on your calendar

April 29, Poker Party 6:30pm in the Etz Chaim Lobby

May 28, Baseball outing to Great American Ballpark

June 2, Pet Festival – volunteers needed.

Jewish Community Night at the Reds Game

CINCINNATI
REDS™



Legacy Team Members

*Sandy Baden
Russell Rosen
Steven N. Segerman
Randy T. Slovin*

*Please remember the
Jewish community with
a gift in your will, trust, IRA,
or life insurance policy.*

CYJL Bulletin Article

by: Russ Rosen

I am proud to be a member of Congregation Etz Chaim for so many reasons. We are a model congregation as we strive to achieve our goals.

March 29, 2019 will be our fourth anniversary. We have come together as one community to improve our Jewish lives in so many ways. Four years ago, we were two struggling congregations with mortgages and deficit budgeting. We needed daveners, Torah readers and service leaders. Today we have an abundant and growing ritual leadership. Our budget has balanced each of our first three years and this year is on course to do the same. Our reserves were growing, today we have about \$300,000 additional on our balance sheet with an additional \$450,000 pledged thanks to YOU and our leadership team. Our strong board and staff support, plan, and lead all of our outstanding programs, all of which have record numbers of attendance. One of our goals was to expand fundraising to the larger community and we have been successful thanks to all of our volunteers and our outreach.

Our CYJL goal for our first year (2017-2018) of 25 LOIs (Letters of Intent) was achieved resulting in a \$13,000 award from the Jewish Federation. In our second year (2018-2019) our goal of 21 LOIs was surpassed as we have received 22 LOIs which will result in another \$13,000 for us from the Jewish Federation. We are receiving much recognition from the Jewish community for our success. Deb Steinbuch, the Federation's Director of Planned Giving & Endowment recently had this to say "I have to say that I hold Congregation Etz Chaim up as one of the best examples of organizations that have embraced legacy...I am so happy to see the work that is being done in the synagogue to perpetuate its future.

What is especially interesting is that our CYJL contributors range from teens who want to follow their parents' lead, to millennials, to seniors.

Only a congregation that understands the value of legacy for future generations can achieve this success.

The CYJL effort will be a perpetual one and everyone who has not yet given will have the opportunity to do so.



CYJL Bulletin Article

continued...

Thanks to all of our CYJL contributors:

Year 2: 4/2018-2/2019 (* Legacy made in memory)



CREATE YOUR JEWISH
LEGACY

Legacy Team Members

*Sandy Baden
Russell Rosen
Steven N. Segerman
Randy T. Slovin*

*Please remember the
Jewish community with
a gift in your will, trust, IRA,
or life insurance policy.*

Paul & Marianne Nidich	Michael Taplits	Mike & Miki Moskowitz
Bonnie & Ben Silverstein*	Steven M. Cohn	Carol Friedman
Marlene Penny Manes	Lauren Brodof	David & Chie Weil
Ray Kantor*	Mark Rogoff	Barbara Rosen
Rochelle Steele	Alec Baden	Matthew Slovin
Aaron Slovin	Joey Slovin	
Michelle & Stan Cohen-Fesman-Timmer		
Anonymous	Anonymous	
Anonymous	Anonymous	

Year 1: 4/2016-3/2018 (* Legacy made in memory)

Bob & Marlene Tulch*	Terry Brodof	Russ & Arlene Rosen
Lynne Haber	Randy Slovin	Steve & Sue Segerman
Chava Vidal	Hank Lerer	Richard & Sara Behrman
Barbara Taggart Milberg	Matt Brodof	Simon & Pam Newman
Barry & Melanie Joffe	Ed & Lynda Fox	Allen & Maureen Fox
Dan & Ellen Fox	Irv & Donna Fox	Robert Lemlich*
Aaron & Stephany Schechtman	Sandy Baden	Kim & Candy Kwiatek
Harvey & Jane Cohen	Philip B. Friedman	Samantha Segerman
Robert & Emmy Friedenberg		

Activating the Exodus

energizing the seder experience



The February Passover workshop offered by Marianne and Candy was filled with myriad ideas designed to energize and personalize the seder experience, whether as leaders, guests, or families with young children.



Accompanying the presentation was a wide range of hands-on materials to explore; Haggadot to peruse for new commentaries, themes, and stories; games, activities, even

skits for both kids AND adults, many of which were demonstrated throughout the session; recipes to taste-test; and even table decoration ideas, filling the Etz Chaim lobby.



Although the crowd was small – after all, Sunday afternoons in late winter are the busy season! – it was very enthusiastic and appreciative of all the possibilities that were presented. Attendees went home with a multi-page handout filled with



skits, game directions, recipes, online resources, and even directions for “turning water into blood,” demonstrated by Candy at the session. All-in-all it was a great afternoon!

From Shepherd to Musician to Giant-Slayer

Although a military success, Saul disobeys G-d time and again, and as a consequence he loses the right for his sons to follow in his footsteps. Increasingly troubled by evil spirits (and perhaps a bit of guilt as well?), Saul invites a young shepherd to soothe him with his renowned harp music. Unknown to Saul, David the shepherd harpist, has already been anointed as the future king in his stead...

And then comes the famous battle of David vs Goliath. What is the significance of this standoff?



Why does Saul not recognize David on the battlefield? How do the Philistines keep popping up like a carnival whack-a-mole? Is there a connection between Goliath and the giants originally described by the 12 spies sent to scout out the Promised Land? And where does the story of David take the reader into a chronological biblical tale that weaves together the books of Samuel, Psalms, and Chronicles?

Join us for learning, laughter, and conversation. Each April and May session we'll explore a selection from the First and Second Books of Samuel – along with Psalms and Chronicles – and also get some insight into the weekly Torah portion in preparation for Shabbat.

No Hebrew is necessary, but please bring a Tanakh – a Bible – to use.

Wisdom on Wednesday at Bronte Bistro

Inside Joseph Beth Books @ Rookwood 3:00-4:30_{pm}

followed by optional dinner & conversation

April 3, 10, 24* (no class April 17)

May 8, 15, 22, 29 (no class May 1)

**April 24 will be held at the Etz Chaim Synagogue lobby due to Passover.*

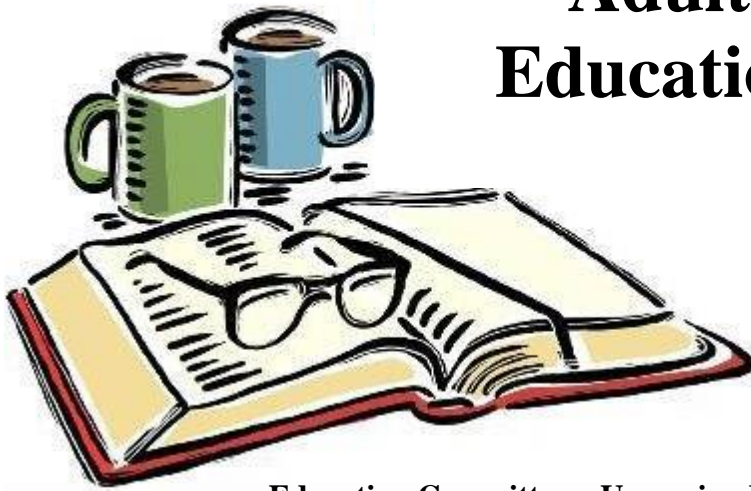
To receive email updates including last minute changes or cancellation notices, and directions to "Susan's Clubhouse," contact Candy at KITANDCABOODLE@GMAIL.COM



Our new Tree of Life has
been installed in the lobby.

leaves are available to commemorate simchat,
yahrzeits, honor friends or loved ones
or recognize special milestones.

Leaves are \$ 126 each---
contact the shul office
if you are interested.



Adult Education

Education Committee – Upcoming Programs **“Providing a spiritually meaningful and educationally stimulating environment”**

The Education Committee has had a busy two months.

In February, Candy Kwiatek and Marianne Nidich led a stimulating program on ways to enhance our seders, complete with games, program ideas, more Haggadot than you'll see in most Jewish bookstores, and special Passover food and recipes. We've already had requests to repeat the program in the future, but Marianne and Candy and others who attended the program would be happy to share some tidbits and highlights in the meantime.

We also had well-attended discussions for the Shabbat speaker series on storytelling and “Are we our DNA.” March ended with a visit and Sunday presentation from Rabbi Heinemann of the Cincinnati Kollel, speaking on Chesed/Kindness.

In April, we encourage you to attend the Sisterhood-sponsored visit to the new Holocaust Museum on April 14. And of course, Passover provides many opportunities for learning of many different types.

Save the date for Friday night, May 10. Coming immediately on the heels of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, we will be welcoming our shaliach/emissary from Israel, Amnon Maggid. After our energetic Friday night services, we will have an Israel-themed dinner, followed by a presentation from the shaliach. We look forward to a stimulating evening. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to committee members Israella Ginsburg, Penny Manes, Diane Marcus, and Candy Kwiatek for sharing your many ideas and taking leadership on program planning. If you have ideas for Shabbat or weekday educational programs, please share them with one of the committee co-chairs. New members to the committee are also welcome.

Lynne Haber and Marianne Nidich - Education Committee Cochairs

YAHREZEITS

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.

This April (Nisan - Iyar) we remember:

April 1—II Adar 25
Gertrude Holtzman*
Harriet Komer

April 2—II Adar 26
David Weitzman*

April 3—II Adar 27
Frank Holtzman*
Sam Kruke*

April 4—II Adar 28
Abe Goldberg
Charles Goldberg

April 5—II Adar 29

April 6—Nissan 1
Libby Cohn
Sidney Edelstein
Ben Hoffman*
Louis Oxlander*

April 7—Nissan 2
Rose Gendelman*
John Lerer*

April 8—Nissan 3
Beila Fingerhut*
Anna Franklin*
Dove Funk*
Nora Siegel
Miriam Warm*

April 9—Nissan 4
Alex Chaiken*
Naomi Hepker
David Levine*
Dora Stoller*

April 10 - Nissan 5
Jacob Dreyer
Abraham Levy*
Reizel Linn*
Joseph Spitzer*
Dorothy Turteltaub*

April 11 - Nissan 6
Yetta Baverman
Ann Freiden*
Chaya Gershenfish*
Reva Jacobs*
Michael Nogen*
Joseph Stoller*
Ben Weitzman*

April 12 - Nissan 7
Aaron Friedenberg
Aaron Gurfine*
Herb Haber
Binim Linn*

April 13 - Nissan 8
Thelma Lipsky*
Esther Saal
Eva Skurow*
David Tunick*

April 14 - Nissan 9
Anna Dorfman*
Sam Funk*
Harry Kruke*
Nathan Steinberg*

April 15 - Nissan 10
Allen Brown
Manual Cohen
Gertrude Dannenberg*

Reva Epstein
Stella Glicklich*
Marlene Kraus
Naomi Kraus*
Louis Nogen*
Henry Rolnick*
Fanny Singer*
Nicholas Weiner*

April 16 - Nissan 11
Rae Alter
Betty Chandler
William Jaeger*
Lillian Mellman
Mary Parkin*
Shirley Ruth Plotnick
Ivy Sawdai*
Herman Weiss
David Youngerman*

April 17 - Nissan 12
Albert Baneth*
Rebecca Golding
Rachel Lipsky*

April 18 - Nissan 13
Rebecca Aronoff

April 19 - Nissan 14
Morris Kauffman*
Clara Kuresman*
Rachel Lerer*
Jacob Nedelman
Louis Rothchild
Ellen Sorger

April 20 - Nissan 15
Donald Kuhr
Frances Landman
Sylvia Max
Sol Rosenbaum*
Harry Simkin*
Harry Stoller*

April 21 - Nissan 16
Abraham Fleischman
Elaine Ninio
Samuel Prager*
Rebecca Rosen*
Helene Zwerdling

April 22 - Nissan 17
Samuel Cohen*
Tillie Fleisher

Marlene Glicklich*
Jeanette Grossman*
Rose Meister
Jack Pinsky*

April 23—Nissan 18
Max Barg*
Sadie Grossman*
Gene Kichler*
Marvin Linder*
Mary Lee Ratner*
Nellie Russo
Harry Schiff

April 24—Nissan 19
Samuel Gendelman*
Sadie Katz*
William West

April 25—Nissan 20
Samuel Belin
Edith Binik*
Israel Meyer*
Rebecca Schatz*
Morris Stuhlbarg*

April 26—Nissan 21
Johanna Bernstein
Harriet Chodash*
Bessie Feldman*
Gilbert Fingerman*
Lois Fried*
Isadore Greenland*
Rick Porter
Jennie Robfogel*

April 27—Nissan 22
Edward Berman*
Bezalel Goren*
Gustav Linder*
Boris Sacks
Morris Schneider

April 28 - Nissan 23
Ralph Franklin*
Beila Hershkowitz*
Melvin Shapiro*

April 29 - Nissan 24
Helen Barnett*
Robert Litwin*
Bessie Malkis*
Arthur Neuer
Melvin Neuerman

April 30 - Nissan 25
Leonard Borden*
Edward Chaikin*
Jack Kessler*
Louis Kestin*
Gerald Lerer*
Ida Mell*
Harry Revelson*
Sol Rosenblatt*
Arnold Stein

** Names are in the Sanctuary*

YAHREZEIT - Begins the evening before the date listed above. Kaddish should be recited the evening before the above listed date, and the following day at both morning and afternoon services.



Our Next Fundraising Event:

Join us for a one-day pet festival on Sunday, June 2, 2019. The event will run from 9am to 3pm and will be fun for everyone. We are opening this event to the larger Cincinnati area (Jews and Non-Jews, Cats and Dogs, furry friends and their animals!) We have an awesome DJ, food vendors, arts and crafts for kids, photo ops, merchandise, vendors, raffles, hourly door prizes, and we welcome everything fur to this fun filled day. This event is open to pets and their people. (Leashes please!)

Please note we won't have live adoptions at the festival (because we'd want to keep them all) but there will be several rescue organizations present that day.

Our Goal:

Host a one-day pet festival to celebrate everything fur and to party with like-minded pet people!!! Since this is our inaugural year – we are making this event as user friendly as possible. We want this to be an annual celebration that grows each year.

Where YOU Come In:

We're looking for people to lend a hand pre-during-and-post event for all sorts of tasks large and small. Like making calls? Affixing labels, making goodie bags, cutting out signs, talking to congregants and other community members, crafting with kids, helping in booths, prepping food, petting furry animals, setting up tables and tents, lending us tents, selling raffle tickets, hanging flyers, walking dogs, and so so so so much more. We literally have every task imaginable as an option. Why not get involved – as much or as little as you'd like. We promise to be grateful for any and all help you can give us. We just positively (or should we say pawsitively) can't do it without you!

Contact Hank or Chava for more information about how you can help!



Hi Folks,

This is your Synagogue pet festival committee reporting to you live from our Pet Festival Headquarters (aka CEC) and we have exciting news to share.

Our festival planning is going great but we could really use your help:

Share our event page on Facebook, comment on the photos – this helps us increase views and boosts the buzz on the streets.

Tell your friends, family, neighbors, butcher, baker and candlestick maker about this event. Seriously it will be fun for everyone and is open the Community. We are working to raise external fundraising dollars so spread the word.

Flyers are now available in the office so grab a couple and hang them up at local stores, pass them out to friends and attach one to your refrigerator because we need **you** there that day too!

Thanks for lending us a hand...

or should we say a paw?

SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Synagogue General Fund

Yahrzeit

Sara M. Tessel, Mother
Rhoda Tessel Ulas

Betty F. Harris, Grandmother
Cheryl Harris

Samuel Schraeder, Uncle
Hatsy Lerer

David Licht, Grandfather
Hatsy Lerer

Sarah Klayman, Mother-in-Law
Dorothy Klayman

Bertha Cohen, Sister-in-Law
Louise Stein

Abraham B. Zuber, Father
Fred Zuber

Flora Schatz, Mother-in-Law
Harlene Schatz

Dorothy Freckman, Grandmother
Carol Friedman

Meyer Siegel, Father
Leah Cohen

Aleeta Goodson, Cousin
Steven, Sasha & Rachel Cohn

Phillip Zakem, Step-Father-in-Law
Carol Friedman

Gerry Yarmush, Sister
Bob Dreyer

George Camins, Father
Larry & Sharon Dugan

Anna Lerer, Aunt
Hatsy Lerer

Betty Harris, Mother
Cheryl Harris
Shelley Harris

David Cohn, Grandfather
Harold & Helene Kirzner
Lillian Scheer, Mother
Judi & Ed Ruben

Anna Ornstein, Mother
Esther Zwerdling

Emma Chemha Perez Belhassen, Mother
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Marcell Aimee Castiglione, Sister
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Milton & Ida Bloch, Parents
Joel Bloch

Moshe Herszage, Father
Fabiana Sandow & Family

Josef Saal, Father
Howard Saal & Family

**Generous Donations Were Received for
Yahrzeits of**

Irv Merdinger, Father
Barb Rosen

Lee Goldfarb, Father
Nancy Goldfarb

Memory

To Melanie & Brian Cable
IMO Posh Cable
From Sheila & Robert Lipsky

To Penny Manes
IMO Mother
From Stuart & Faye Tobin
Lynn Haber

To Pam Novick
IMO Mother
From Carol Friedman

To Stanley Chassin
IMO Sister
From Louise Stein

To Cindy Schneider
IMO Mother
From Bob & Emmy Friedenberg
Lynn Haber
Aaron & Stephany Schechtman
Sandy Baden
Terry Brodof

Honor

To Shirley Dreyer
IHO Birthday
From Tom Rinsky

To Mr. & Mrs. L. Sirkin
IHO Granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
From Rona Peerless

To Bob & Emmy Friedenberg
Thank you for always being there for me
From Audrey Martin

SIMCHAS ✧ REMEMBRANCES ✧ CONGRATULATIONS

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Sandor Kutas Hunger Fund

**A Very Generous Donation Was
Received
IHO Ori Goldstein's Recovery
From Esther Goldstein**

Recovery
To Marty Ruben
From Shirley & Bob Dreyer

To Dana Kolovson
From Diane & Elliot Chandler

To Arlene Rosen
From Diane & Elliot Chandler

Aliyot
**A Generous Donation was received from
Barb Rosen**

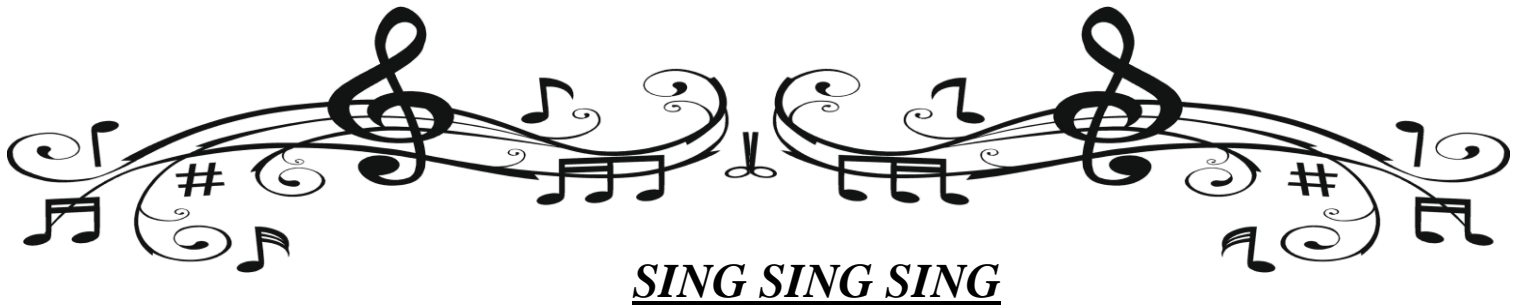
Yahrzeit
Arthur Feldstein, Husband
Stuart Fox, Husband
Sharyn Foxf

David Brenner, Father
Tsila Evers

Minette Goldstein, Mother
Barry Goldstein

Marvin Skurow, Brother
Marc & Elaine Skurow

Irving Troy, Father & Grandfather
Donna Kabakoff



Since our participation at the Etz Chaim Kallah, Ruach Etz Chaim has not been quiet. We have been meeting to practice for our upcoming Choir Shabbat on May 18, which will showcase our women's, Pri Yadeiha choir, as well as reviewing and possibly learning some new melodies for the High Holy Day services.

As always, we welcome new members to the choir - either year-round or HHD only participation. Prerequisites are to be able to carry a tune and have a love of music. We have choir members who can read Hebrew and some who can't. We have choir members who can read music and some who can't. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Barbara or Emmy.

Musically Yours,
Barbara and Emmy



We will be Cleaning & Kashering our Kitchen for Passover on Thursday, April 11, 2019 starting at 6pm. If you can spare an hour or two it really helps to lighten the stress and make the evening go by quickly – Contact Hank if you can help!

Matzah, Marror & Macaroons – HERE WE COME!

Will you be our friend?



Did you know that Congregation Etz Chaim has its own Facebook Page? Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/etzchaimcincinnati/?fref=ts> "Friend" the page and "like" event notifications, photos or videos that are posted there. The more traffic our page gets, the greater the likelihood is that other people will be drawn to it. Don't ask how, that's just how Facebook works. It's a way to get people outside of the Etz Chaim Community to learn that we are a vibrant and active congregation.

Congregation Etz Chaim is proud to offer minyanim upon request. If you would like to observe the Yahrzeit of a loved one and it occurs on a date that we do not have services scheduled, please email our Minyan Committee at CECMinyan@gmail.com or call 513-373-1552 and leave a message.

A member of our Minyan Committee will work on arranging your minyan. If you would like to request a minyan please do so ten (10) days in advance of the date you will need the minyan. When a minyan is requested a member of the committee will send out an email to people who have signed up to help us ensure we always have ten people in attendance.

If you would like to sign up to help us ensure minyanim please contact Barbara Taggart Milberg or Barry Joffe and ask to add your name to the list. We are a community and we are strengthened by each other. Thank you in advance for helping us perform and fulfill these good deeds.

April

Synagogue Happenings

We wish Speedy Recoveries to:

Phyllis Mellman

Rachel Rachovitsky

We extend condolences to:

The family of Hannah Deutscher z"l

David & Chie Weil on the loss of
David's mother, Irmi Weil z"l

A New Leaf:

Was purchased by Dear Friends of
Phyllis Novick in her memory

Mazel Tov to:

Marty Ruben on the birth of his great-
grand daughter in Florida

Russ & Arlene Rosen on the
birth of their granddaughter

SATURDAY KIDDUSH LUNCH **ONLY HAPPENS** **BECAUSE OF VOLUNTEERS!**

Check the calendar and your weekly
e-blast to find out which Thursday
nights we'll be cooking.

Then – show up!
It's that simple.

We'll find a job for you....

Cooking,
Chopping,
Sautéing,
Cleaning,

Setting up Tables,
Unwrapping,
Washing Veggies,

Seriously folks – something for
everyone. All skill levels welcome.

ANISH/OKRENT

REMEMBRANCE WALL

The Anish/Okrent Remembrance Wall is
dedicated in memory of:

**Harry & Ethel Anish
and
Joseph & Ida Okrent**

whose bequests provided for the purchase of the
Cornell Road property. Bricks of Remembrance are
available for purchase. Have your significant events
and dedications permanently inscribed and made a
part of ETZ CHAIM Bricks on the Remembrance Wall
are available for \$250 each. Please contact the office if
interested at 489-3399.

Shabbat Kiddush Opportunities

Kiddush Sponsorships are available for any
occasion. Many menu choices are available and
Sisterhood will accommodate special requests.
Our catering kitchen crew is delighted to be
cooking for larger Shabbat kiddush lunches.

The price to sponsor a basic kiddush lunch will
now be \$118. This will consist of 1 salad, a
protein dish, bread & a dessert.

The standard enhanced dairy
Kiddush will be \$225.

To add smoked salmon and the accompaniments
or to add special requests, the additional
enhancements will raise the costs
slightly to \$300.

To sponsor a meat kiddush the cost will be \$450.

Please contact the office to book your
Kiddush and share your simchat
with your synagogue family.

Kitchen Volunteers are always welcome!
Check your eblast for weekly cooking dates.
It's a pretty safe assumption if we have a
sponsored kiddush or Friday Night Dinner
we'll be cooking the Thursday before the
event from 6pm on!

IN THE ETZ CHAIM FAMILY

Special Thank You to:

Rona Peerless for sponsoring the kiddush on Saturday, March 2 on the occasion of the yahrzeit of her husband Mel z"l.

Barry & Melanie Joffe for sponsoring the kiddush on Saturday, March 16 in honor of their 42nd wedding anniversary. Mazel Tov

Paul and Tsila Evers for sponsoring the kiddush on Saturday, March 30 in honor of Michael's birthday. Yom Huledet Sameach!

Congratulations to all our April Birthdays!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Michael Evers | 18 Adele Nagler |
| 2 Jonathan Cohen | 19 Mitch Katz |
| 4 Shirley Goldfarb | 22 Joyce Liberman |
| 5 Julie Kaufman | 23 Edith Rosen |
| 9 Susan Littman | 23 Diane Yasgur |
| 11 Hal Arenstein | 27 Cindy Schneider |
| 12 Rachel Cohn | 27 Eleanor Segal |
| 12 Daniel Franklin | 30 Orly Segal |
| 12 Oscar Jarnicki | |
| 14 Paul Evers | |
| 14 Melissa Goldstein | |
| 16 Tsila Evers | |
| 17 Karen Sawdai | |
| 18 William Meister | |



Happy Anniversary to:

- April 6 Simon & Pam Newman
April 11 David & Chie Weil
April 13 Andrew & Laura Maxwell
April 21 Lawrence & Betty Dannenberg



We look forward to celebrating
with you at our
April Simcha Shabbat!

Friday Night, April 5, 2019
Kabbalat Shabbat services start at
6pm in the chapel then at 7pm we'll
have cake in honor of all our
April Simchas!
We'll see you there!

** If you have a birthday or
anniversary and it is not listed
above, please call the office so we
can put it in our database.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 The office is closed	2	3 Wisdom on Wednesday at 3pm	4 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast	5 Fruit for the Fortuneless Simcha Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm & celebratory cake!	6 9:30am Shabbat Services
7 Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen Volunteering 10:45am Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 The office is closed	9	10 Wisdom on Wednesday at 3pm Board of Directors Meeting is moved to 4/11 to allowed for board members to help kasher the kitchen →	11 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast Kitchen Kashering for Passover 6pm onwards – all are welcome & needed!	12 Kabbalat Shabat Services 6pm	13 9:30am Shabbat Services
14 Sisterhood trip to the Holocaust and Humanities Center	15 The office is closed	16	17	18 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast	19 Fast of the firstborn. – become exempt by attending Minyan/learning 7am. Please Note There are no evening services in deference to the 1 st night seder	20 Shabbat and Day 1 Passover Services at 9:30am CEC's Second Seder 6:30pm
21 Day II Passover Services at 9:30am With Macaroons and more	22 The office is closed	23	24 Cedar Village Trivia 6:30pm with Hank	25 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast	26 Day VII of Passover Services at 9:30am Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	27 Day VIII of Passover & Shabbat Services at 9:30am Yizkor at ~10:45
24 Congregational Meeting 10am Choir Practice 12:30pm	29 The office is closed Men's Club Poker Party 6:30pm	30	<div>APRIL 2019</div>			

COMING SOON



Save these Important May Dates:

Sisterhood Shabbat

Saturday, May 4, 2019 – 9:30am

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 7:30pm

Israeli Friday Night Dinner &

Visit from the Shaliach

Friday Night, May 10, 2019
6pm Services & 7pm Dinner

May Simcha Shabbat

Friday Night, May 17 – 6PM

Join us for cake services

Choir Shabbat

Saturday, May 18 – 9:30am

Men's Club Night at Red's Game

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Upcoming Events: April

April Simcha Shabbat

Friday Night, April 5 – 6PM

Join us for cake following our
one-hour Friday night service

PLUS PARTICIPATE IN A MITZVAH
FRUIT FOR THE FORTUNELESS
Bring a bag of apples or oranges so that
we can donate fresh fruit to the over the
Rhine Soup Kitchen

Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen

Sunday, April 7 – Contact Matt Brodof
for more details. This endeavor is made
possible by the Sandor Kutas
Fund for Hunger.

Board of Directors Meeting

Will be in the Kitchen on April 11 to help
kasher and prep our building for Passover
Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 6pm

Kasher the Kitchen for Passover

Join us for a fun spring cleaning it's a fun
night full of snacks, drinks, elbow grease
and blow torches! April 11 at 6pm

Sisterhood trip to the Holocaust and Humanities Center at Union Terminal

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Contact Sandy Baden for more details.

Congregational Second Seder

Saturday Night, April 20 - 6:30pm

Men's Club Poker Party Night

Monday Night, April 29 - 6:30pm
RSVP to Aaron Schechtman

Congregation

ETZ CHAIM



“like” us on
facebook

Etz Chaim isn't just a synagogue... it's a home...



*Wishing you and yours a Kosher and
Happy Passover. Hope to see you at our
Second Night Seder or one of our other
exciting spring events!*

Contact the office at 513-489-3399