

# Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

April 2024

Adar II/Nisan 5784

## Questions without labels: a prayer for Passover

### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



**David  
Wirtschafter**

God of questions and answers.  
God of children labeled as Wise,  
Wicked, Simple and Unable to Ask.  
In a world full of suffering and

war, we pray for peace and the  
capacity to stop labeling each other.

Give us the open-mindedness to  
see wisdom in questions and answers  
other than our own. Help us to  
empathize with perspectives that  
differ from the opinions we have  
long held and assumptions we tend  
to make.

Grant us the generosity of spirit to  
give the benefit of the doubt to  
questions and comments that strike  
us as mean-spirited or offensive.

**See RABBI, Page 8**

### Coming up

**April 7**

Adult Ed: "Alzheimer's Disease:  
Progress and Complexity," Pg. 2

**April 10-11**

Moosnick Lecture Series, Pg. 4

**April 14**

TAI listening session, Pg. 4

**April 18-May 9**

Judaism 101: Exploring Jewish  
Rituals and Observances, Pg. 3

**April 19-20**

Addison Masters Bat Mitzvah,  
Pg. 3

**April 28**

Community Yom HaShoah  
Commemoration, Pg. 8

**May 4**

Kentucky Derby Party, Pg. 3

**CONGREGATIONAL  
SEDER**

**6 p.m. Tuesday, April 23**  
**Mersack & Stern Social Hall**

**Reservations required:**  
**Bit.ly/2024TAIseder**  
**or call TAI:**  
**(859) 269-2979**

# This is the hardest part of being president

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rich  
Ornstein

As the end of my three-year tenure as Temple Adath Israel president draws near, it seems like a good time for some reflection. Thinking back on my first days in this position, if someone had asked me what the hardest part of the presidency was going to be, I probably would have said dealing with the various personalities. And that would have been correct. If you had asked me what I predicted to be the

second-hardest part of being TAI president, I would have had multiple ideas and all of them would have been very wrong. The second-hardest part of this job is writing this column. For me, someone who loves to write, that was a surprise.

So if you don't ever plan to be TAI president, though it is a wonderful, rewarding experience that I highly recommend, here is a behind-the-scenes look at writing the president's column. While Mary Engel, TAI's head chef and Bulletin editor/publisher, is kind enough to remind me of the important events coming up, that doesn't always help me craft a column. I often have no idea where I'm headed when I sit down to write. I'll sometimes take a piece from one of Rabbi Wirtschafter's columns, and put my own spin on it, or stare at the screen until I get an idea. That is where I often run into trouble; it's not unusual to realize when I start writing that I've already been down that road. For example, Passover is one of my favorite holidays, and it is great subject matter for an article, except I've written

columns about how much I love Passover for the past two years. That topic is out. So what do you do when you have nothing, you just start typing, hope it makes sense and that it is something original? That is this column.

When I mentioned that Passover as subject matter is out, I meant mostly out. That's because last year's second night seder was awesome. It was an opportunity to spend memorable quality time with about 100 of you along with our guests from University of the Cumberland. I enjoyed goading those college students into trying some of Passover's delicacies. Except for a Chinese foreign exchange student who generally loved our traditional foods, the other students, while very polite and appreciative, truly did not care for delicacies like matzo balls or gefilte fish. I don't understand! What's not to love about gelatinous, pale, pressed pieces of fish molded into a cylindrical shape, served cold so you get the full goodness that is gelatinous, pale, pressed pieces of fish? While I don't know if we will be having college students as guests this year, we will be holding a second night Seder on Tuesday, April 23 (see the reservation link on Page 1). I hope you can make it. The food was excellent, and Rabbi Wirtschafter put together a wonderfully interactive program that everyone seemed to enjoy.

Last, I want to mention how excited and happy I am that our friends, TAI Executive Director Nick Fain and former Executive Committee member Debbie Masters' granddaughter, Addison Masters, will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on April 19 and 20. Nick and Debbie are two of our most active congregants and have made such an impact on TAI. And Addison is a gem whom I expect to do great things.

So now you know, when you have to write a column and you don't know what to write about, you write about how hard it is to write the column along with hitting a couple of wonderful upcoming events!

I look forward to seeing you at TAI!

---

## Learn more about Alzheimer's from Dr. Peter Nelson

The TAI Adult Education Committee will present "Alzheimer's Disease: Prospects and Complexity" with Dr. Peter Nelson at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, in the Educational Suite.

Nelson, a temple congregant, is director of the Neuropathology Division and vice chair for Basic Science Research in the University of Kentucky's Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine, and serves as director of operations at the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. His research focuses on ways to combat neurological diseases; in 2022 it led to him receiving a University Research Professorship Award from UK.

According to a UK article about the award, Nelson's grandmother, Sylvia Becker, died with Alzheimer's disease, and that propelled him to his field of study. While at UK, he co-chaired a group of international researchers who discovered a new form of dementia commonly known as LATE. That led to UK directing the world's first clinical trial for LATE. The groundbreaking discovery of LATE was so substantial, according to the UK article, that Nelson and his colleagues were recognized as one of the top science stories of 2019 by Discover magazine.



Dr. Peter Nelson



# FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Elissa Weinstein,**  
**Director**

Shalom! It's difficult to believe that Religious School is getting ready to wind down for the year. In March we enjoyed the March sunshine and warmer temperatures to work in the garden, and ate hamantaschen all month. We also started a new tzedakah collection for the remainder of the school year: collecting items for the emergency shelter at the Hope Center. Over the winter, in addition to collecting items, we made sandwiches for the HopeMobile. Our students donated enough to make more

than 40 full lunches as well as extra granola bars, fruit pouches and water. *Kol ha kavod* to our students and their families.

We also launched out our new monthly Friday night family programming. We're calling it Family Kabbalat Shabbat. We started with a Purim theme and had so much fun. We enjoyed dinner, crafts for the kids, Shabbat music, a presentation by our first/second-grade class, a wonderful performance from Tzipurei Shir (our children's choir) and decorated hamantaschen. Faith McBride-Byrne and Raya Isenstein lead our first/second-grade class. The children have learned about Jewish holidays, mitzvot and Israel.

Our next Family Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, April 12, starting at 5:30 p.m., will have a Passover theme and include pizza and a presentation from our pre-K and kindergarten classes. Can't wait to hear about what they've been up to.

We're looking forward to ending the school year together as a community with more fun events.



## **BAT MITZVAH**

Dennis Masters and Amanda Franklin and Debbie Masters and Nick Fain invite you to share in their great happiness as

**ADDISON BROOKE MASTERS** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024  
at Temple Adath Israel,  
124 N. Ashland Ave.

There will be a kiddush luncheon immediately after the morning service.

Addison also will participate in the Shabbat service at 7 p.m. Friday, April 19.

# JUDAISM 101

**Exploring Jewish Ritual and Observance**  
**6:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 18-May 9**

Judaism is full of rituals and observances. Practicing them enriches our lives and helps us pass Judaism on to future generations. This mini course will provide an overview for participants of all backgrounds to learn and explore together regardless of prior knowledge.

In each session we will discuss the implications of these rituals/observances in light of three overarching constructs:

- God: How we define our relationship to holiness, accountability and truth.
- Torah: the role of sacred texts in progressive Jewish life as sources of guidance and inspiration.
- The People of Israel: what it means to be part of a common history, culture and faith.

Session 1 will explore holidays and festivals, including Passover.

Session 2 will focus on daily life, including how, when, where and why to say prayers; and tzedakah (charity).

Session 3 will be a step-by-step guide to Friday evening services and rituals, and an overview of Saturday morning worship with a focus on the Torah service.

Session 4 will cover transitions and life cycles, such as bris and baby namings; bar and bat mitzvot, conversion, and marriage.

This program, presented by the TAI Adult Education Committee, is free and open to anyone interested in learning more and deepening their knowledge of Judaism. For more information, call the temple office, (859) 269-2979.

KENTUCKY DERBY



**TAI Watch Party**

5 p.m. Saturday, May 4  
Food, drinks and games  
Childcare provided  
More details TBA

# TAI as a safe, healing community; share thoughts at listening session

The TAI Keilim Workgroup will hold a listening session at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 14, about ways to ensure that Temple Adath Israel is a safe and healing community. The listening session will be in the Educational Suite and open to all temple members.

It will provide congregants with an opportunity to share concerns and ideas about protecting all members from abuse, discrimination or harassment; providing a safe space in which to raise concerns; and supporting those who might have experienced such traumas. This is also an opportunity to discuss TAI's response to the 2022 report on sexual misconduct in the Union for Reform Judaism, which named Jon Adland, a former TAI rabbi, and help map out next steps. Rabbi Wirtschafter and other temple leaders will be present for some of the session to hear what participants have to say, then will leave to ensure there is time to speak outside of their presence. Come and listen, share and observe to the extent you feel comfortable.

The Keilim Workgroup is led by Miriam Silman (msilman@foothills.net), Lisa Miller (lisamillerbeautifulday@gmail.com), Colby Cohen-Archer (public.colby@gmail.com), Jane Gris  (janegrise@gmail.com) and Aaron Ann Cole Funfsinn (aaronannrose@gmail.com). It is an open workgroup that welcomes participation if you are interested in addressing this important topic. Feel free to contact any of the workgroup members with your questions or concerns.

To read the URJ report, go to [Bit.ly/URJreport](https://bit.ly/URJreport).



■ **Abby Miller and Gabe Robitaille** were married March 3 at TAI. Abby is the daughter of **Jonathan and Lisa Miller**.

■ **Ken and Melissa Robinson** have joined TAI.

■ **Danielle Harlan** joined TAI after finalizing her conversion at the mikveh in Cincinnati.

■ Also at the mikveh, members **Trevor Burba** finalized his conversion and **Elizabeth Burba** finalized her affirmation of faith.

■ Photographs by **Deb Booker** are featured in "Through the Lens: From Subtle to Sublime," an exhibit that runs through May 4 at the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center Community Gallery.

Moosnick Lectureship in Judaic Studies presents:

## Mira Sucharov

### Jewish Identity in a Season of War and Trauma: Examining October 7 and Beyond

April 10 at 7 p.m. | Transylvania, Carrick Theater

### Reimagining Zionism: How A Confederal Approach to Israel/Palestine Just Might Work

April 11 | Ohavay Zion Synagogue

*(Pre-registration required by April 4. Time will be provided upon registration.)*

Register for both events at:

[www.transy.edu/moosnick](http://www.transy.edu/moosnick)



Dr. Mira Sucharov is a professor of political science at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Her areas of study include Israeli-Palestinian relations and Jewish politics.

She is the founding co-chair of the Jewish Politics Division at the Association for Jewish Studies, and former co-editor of *AJS Perspectives*. Sucharov is the author of "The International Self: Psychoanalysis and the Search for Israeli-Palestinian Peace." She is a regular columnist for the *Canadian Jewish News*, and is a frequent contributor to *Haaretz* and the *Jewish Daily Forward*. Her writing has also appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Daily Beast*, *NOW Toronto* and *The Walrus* (her most recent *Walrus* article, published March 1 online, was "There's a Path to Peace in Israel and Palestine").

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Week II: July 15-19 - Mission Impossible  
Week III: July 22-26 - The Arts  
Week IV: July 29 - Aug 2 - The Olympics



## News From



The Jewish Federation  
OF THE BLUEGRASS

### An Intimate Evening With Steve Dorff

7 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at Temple Adath Israel. Dessert reception and performance with Steve Dorff, an Emmy- and Grammy-nominated



songwriter and composer. He has performed with more than 250 artists, including Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, George Strait and Garth Brooks. Tickets are \$36; they can be purchased at [Bit.ly/Dorff24](http://Bit.ly/Dorff24). Questions: email Joy Fisher at [joy@jewishlexington.org](mailto:joy@jewishlexington.org).

### Yom HaShoah observe

Sunday, April 28. See Page 8 for details.

### Assistance requests

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping or other situations, contact Paula Mertens, Jewish Family Services director, at (859) 269-8244 or [jfs@jewishlexington.org](mailto:jfs@jewishlexington.org).

### Emails and e-news

If you are not receiving our weekly Shabbat or "Beyond the Bluegrass" emails, get on the list by contacting [daniel@jewishlexington.org](mailto:daniel@jewishlexington.org).



# YAHREZEIT ... *These we remember ...*



## April 5

Hennie Abel  
 Jacob Abraham  
 Jay Abraham  
 Millie M. Abramson  
 Michael Adelstein  
 Beverly Stith Bitter  
 Rose Brazin  
 Mortimer I. Cobin  
 Esther Cohen  
 Leonard Granville Doran  
 Lillian Klein Eilenberg  
 Erich Fischer  
 Virginia Floyd  
 Sandor Fried  
 Jean Goldschmidt  
 Leon J. Henry  
 Robert Katz  
 Edward Kessler  
 Maria Lohmeyer  
 Jacob Mandel  
 Ord Matek  
 Gertrude Meyers  
 Louis Nigoff  
 Lucille Paskowitz  
 Hans Julius Sander  
 Rita Sander  
 Jay David Weil  
 Mary Wenneker

## April 12

Leon Amster  
 Nettie Mae Amster  
 Julian Bloomfield  
 Minna H. Bloomfield  
 John Crawford  
 Margaret Efron  
 Selma Feller  
 John Floyd  
 Phillip Gall  
 Marvin Harris  
 Henry A. Hart  
 Rita Kramer  
 Adolph Leichtman  
 Rae G. Levy  
 N.O. McDowell Jr.  
 Harriett Rose  
 Naomi Schottenstein

Donna Silverman  
 Robert E. Sloat  
 Charles Stern  
 Stan Tracy  
 Mary Troxtell  
 Ida Waldman  
 Frances Weinberg

## April 19

Robert Cohen  
 Eleanor Crystal  
 Leon Darlow  
 Mike Engel  
 Prof. Mischa Harry Fayer  
 Bernard Hirsh  
 Dr. Edward D. Levy  
 Sol Levy  
 David Lee  
 MacDuffee  
 Meyer Mendelsohn  
 George Miller  
 Milton Potash  
 Hattie Wittgenstein Rosenberg  
 Mina Rubel  
 Fred Samani  
 Barbara Schultz  
 Stephen Schultz  
 Robert Spickard  
 Jeannette S. Stern  
 Esther A. Weil  
 Fernand J. Weil  
 Herbert L. Weil

## April 26

Adele Aberson  
 Leo Aberson  
 Hannah Madeline Abou-Jaoude  
 Olga Davis  
 Freda Dunn  
 Shari Annette Eldot  
 Celia Flomen  
 Faye Friedman  
 Barbara Hymson Frommer  
 Minna Goldenberg  
 Robert (Bob) Goldman  
 Sara Kreger Grobstein  
 Ballard Hall  
 Arthur Kant

Rabbi Albert Lewis  
 Herbert Liebman  
 Bert Colyar McElroy  
 Nella Fae McElroy  
 Lawrence Miller  
 Sarah Austin Miller  
 Phillip Gillard Nelson  
 Ruth Povzner  
 Leona Rodden  
 Dora Rosenthal  
 Phoebe Schermer  
 William Wenneker

## May 3

Harry L. Alperin  
 Mary Ann Baumstark  
 Bernard Brill  
 Don Buckholtz  
 Philip Dechtenberg  
 Henry Diamond  
 Sonya Fishman  
 Bernice Herman  
 Lee Wayne Hicks  
 Phillip Hurwitz  
 Oscar Kaston  
 Regina L. Landesberg  
 Max Lattin  
 Marjorie B. Leffler  
 John K. McDonald  
 Isadore A. "Jack" Miller  
 Shirley Rattner  
 Richard N. Rose  
 Ernest Rosenzweig  
 Maurice W. Spector  
 Kahlman Stern  
 James Wile Strauss  
 Hattie Weil Thurman

### *In Memoriam ...*

Chad Hughes, husband of  
 Victoria Hughes, father of James  
 and Nevaeh Hughes, son-in-law  
 of Regina and Mike Mizell

*May his memory be  
 for a blessing*



# WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

### April 5

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### April 6

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.  
Parsha 11 a.m.  
Sh'mini— Leviticus 9:1-11:47

### April 12

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### April 13

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.  
Parsha 11 a.m.  
Tazria — Leviticus 12:1-13:59

### April 19

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### April 20

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.  
No Torah Study  
Addison Masters Bat Mitzvah  
10:30 a.m.

### April 26

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### April 27

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.  
Parsha 11 a.m.  
Chol HaMo-eid Pesach — Exodus  
33:12-34:26

### May 3

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### May 4

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.  
Parsha 11 a.m.  
Acharei Mot— Leviticus 16:1-18:30

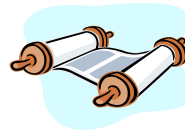
## KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



## JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Executive Committee

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. \*

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

\*Change in usual meeting day

## Directory updates

To protect the privacy of our congregants, updates to the TAI member directory no longer will be published in the bulletin. They will be communicated in a more secure way. Please continue to notify the office about address, email or phone number changes.

## TAI MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: *AVODAH* (Worship); *TALMUD TORAH* (Torah Study); *TZEDEK* (Social Justice); and *KEHILAH* (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.

## RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Remind us that the “wicked” child is so named for using the word “you” instead of “we.” Help us be less judgmental than that. Let us challenge one another to clarify without questioning each other’s integrity.

Lend us the humility to label nothing and no one as simple. There is nothing simple about the simple child’s question. “What is this?” can be deeply profound if we listen intently and respond creatively.

Endow us with the patience, persistence and perseverance to empower those unable to ask with confidence and conviction the questions stirring within their souls. Guide us in providing them with the emotional safety and intellectual freedom to ask their questions without fear of receiving a label that can never be torn off.

May our congregations and our homes, schools and universities, work environments and public spheres be places that foster thought-provoking questions and conscientious answers. May we tear away the labels of the past and welcome the opportunity for learning and growth contained in the gift of a good question. May this be our blessing, and let us say: Amen.

Happy Passover!

# Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration



Highlighting stories and music from  
our Jewish community.

RSVP by April 21:  
[Bit.ly/YHlex2024](https://bit.ly/YHlex2024)



Sunday, April 28 - 10:30am  
Ohavay Zion Synagogue

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### FLOWER FUND

Jeff Rubin in memory of Rose Rubin

Scott and Beth Schumacher in memory of Neoma Mellman and Robert Silverman

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 rabbiw@lextai.org

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 Executive Director  
 nick@lextai.org

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ELECTED/APPOINTED

Anne Banks  
 Bob Belin  
 Debra Booker  
 Carly Conatser  
 Scott Diamond  
 Irene Kleiman  
 Maggie Levine-Schuele  
 Rhonda Miller  
 Smith Schwartz

EX OFFICIO

Stacey Myers-Wilson (Endowment)  
 Vacant (Brotherhood)  
 Vacant (Sisterhood)

**TEMPLE FUNDS**

Contributions may be made to any of the following funds. Acknowledgment will be made to the individual or family honored and will be listed in the Bulletin. Please check the fund of your choice. **All donations not specifically directed to one of the funds listed below will be placed in the Temple Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund.**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> L'Chaim Fund                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tikkun Olam Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn & Arthur Lieber Board Leadership Fund     | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniongram/Sisterhood YES Fund   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anita W. Mersack Woman of Valor Award Fund        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wurmser Family Fund   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mersack Scholarship Fund                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert S. Miller Fund                             |  |

Please accept my enclosed donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the fund checked above.

- For the recovery of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify family of/or \_\_\_\_\_

Address if not a Temple member \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Address  
 If not a Temple member \_\_\_\_\_