

# contact



*For the Jews who survived the Holocaust, the end of World War II brought new challenges. Many could not or would not return to their former homelands, and options for legal immigration were limited. In spite of these difficulties, these Jewish survivors sought to rebuild their shattered lives by creating flourishing communities in displaced persons camps in Germany, Austria, and Italy. In an unparalleled six-year period between 1945 and 1951, European Jewish life was reborn in camps such as Mariendorf.*

*In this picture, a young Jewish girl in the JDC-supported Berlin-Mariendorf DP Camp shares matzahs with Captain J. Robbins, Jewish Chaplain for Berlin. Berlin, c 1946.*

Photo courtesy of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

# VIRTUAL EVENTS

During the month of April, we are taking all services and events online. We are using the application Zoom, our Facebook page, as well as our YouTube channel to stream these offerings. Each service and event will indicate which platform we are using for streaming.

## FRIDAY 4/3 at 6pm

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi, April, Amira, and Aryeh Haas streaming live on Facebook, 6pm

## FRIDAY 4/17 at 6pm

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi, April, Amira, and Aryeh Haas streaming live on Facebook, 6pm

Weekly Torah Study  
Fridays, April 3, 10, 17, & 24 1pm  
Access class at  
[zoom.us/j/898299995](https://zoom.us/j/898299995)  
Password: 009694

## SATURDAY 4/4 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed live from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

## SATURDAY 4/18 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed live from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

Study Session with Rabbi Haas  
Tuesday, April 7, 14, 21, & 28 1pm  
Access class at  
[zoom.us/j/898299995](https://zoom.us/j/898299995)  
Password: 009694

## FRIDAY 4/10 at 6pm

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi, April, Amira, and Aryeh Haas streaming live on Facebook, 6pm

## FRIDAY 4/25 at 6pm

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi, April, Amira, and Aryeh Haas streaming live on Facebook, 6pm

Virtual Passover Seder  
April 9, 6pm  
Join us for a virtual seder  
We will be streaming live on our Facebook page as well as our Youtube Channel.

## SATURDAY 4/11 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed live from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

## SATURDAY 4/26 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed live from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

Virtual Children's Seder  
April 10, 5pm  
We will be streaming live on our Young Jewish Families Facebook page

## Here are some tips for accessing each platform:

To access Zoom, open your computer internet browser, Type in [join.zoom.us](https://join.zoom.us), then type in the Meeting ID and password provided in the class description. You can join the meeting via video and audio or just audio.

To access our YouTube channel, open your browser, type in [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) Type in Congregation Mickve Israel Savannah in the search bar. Our channel will come up with a circle photo of our sanctuary on the left of the page. Click on Congregation Mickve Israel to open our channel page. Subscribe to the channel for easy future access.

To access our Facebook page, go to Facebook, type in Congregation Mickve Israel, click on our name. Our page has our address listed in the description.

If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please email Jennifer Rich at [jennifer.rich@mickveisrael.org](mailto:jennifer.rich@mickveisrael.org)

# MEMBERSHIP

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## Welcome New Members:

Previous members, Joel and Mary Homansky, are delighted to be returning to Congregation Mickve Israel. They look forward to becoming more active in the congregation and have expressed interest in becoming docents as well as participating on the membership committee. A retired dentist, Joel was born and brought up in Savannah, where he and Mary raised their two sons, David and Eric. They are related to and friends with a number of Mickve Israel members.

# OF BLESSED MEMORY

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Judy Kaplan

Wife of Jud Kaplan (z"l),  
mother of Marjorie (Paul) Felser and Ronald Kaplan,  
grandmother of Mya and Jake Felser.

February 20, 2020

Will Taylor

Husband of Lauri Taylor  
and father of Lance Taylor

March 16, 2020

Bernice Kravitch Mazo

Wife of Edwin Mazo (z"l)

March 18, 2020

Fred S. Clark

Husband of Nancie Clark (z"l)

March 31, 2020

# MAZEL TOV

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Mazel tov to James and Liz Massey on the birth of their son Wade Authur Massey, who was born January 13th. James and Liz are the owners of Two Tides Brewery and have made a wonderful addition to the Starland District as well as to the Mickve Israel family!

# MAZEL TOV

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Mazel tov to Cherie Dennis, a 10-year veteran of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, who was named the 2021 Teacher of the Year at the district's annual gala on Friday, Feb. 21.

Dennis is an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESOL) teacher at Hesse K-8 School, a post she has held for three years. Prior to that, she taught third grade in the district.

Teaching is a second career for Dennis. Upon graduating from Georgetown University in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in Japanese and a minor in teaching, and then from Stanford University in 1995 with a master's degree in East Asian Studies, she intended to become a Japanese language teacher. Instead of landing a teaching position, she ended up working with advertising firms handling accounts such as national campaigns for Toyota and Clorox.

However, her heart remained in teaching. She moved to Savannah in 2004, and completed a master's degree in teaching and early childhood education from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 2010. During her tenure with the district, Dennis has completed endorsements in Gifted Education and ESOL; and in August 2019, she completed her education specialist degree in teacher leadership with a coaching endorsement from Mercer University. In addition to her teaching duties at Hesse, she serves on the leadership team, the school council, and chairs the school writing team. She is also Hesse's site-based induction specialist and professional learning liaison. In September 2017, the Exchange Club of Savannah named her Teacher of the Month. Dennis, as District Teacher of the Year, will be the district representative for the Georgia State Teacher of the Year program and receive an array of gifts including a new iPad, the Teacher of the Year name badge and a Teacher of the Year ring presented by Ric Roderick of Herff Jones. At Friday night's event, Savannah Harbor Foundation President Dan Pavlin presented Dennis with a \$5,000 check to be used either for her classroom or the school.

## A Different Kind of Passover

For the last several years, Passover represented a time a unparalleled excitement at Mickve Israel. From the moment we added a first night community Seder to our already programmed second night Seder, the holiday has evolved into a blur of Pesach preparation: dinner menus, Haggada choices, room set up, number of people, prizes, discussion items, songs to sing, jokes to tell, and prizes for the Afikomen, one for every kid, of course. Should we sing “Coming to America” by Neil Diamond, or play a video of a sequin clad Neil Diamond singing this ballad of ballads. The most difficult question each year became “Which pages would we skip?” The most controversial decision morphed into the “Matzah Ball incident of 2015.”

As we enter into the Passover week, we feel a very atypical trepidation this year, perhaps one unfamiliar to all of us. I can’t remember the last time I celebrated a Seder with just four people. In fact, as I reach back into my history, save possibly for the year of my birth, I doubt it ever happened before. Yet, now as we suffer from this terrible plague, the irony of our situation becomes all the more obvious to our eyes. At times of strife, Passover has always remained a tradition we shared with various friends and family members and even strangers. A time in which we would gather together to mourn and comfort each other even as we celebrated.

Of course, this year will be different. We will eat matzah and read the four questions with just a family member or two, or perhaps even alone. We will possibly feel unconnected to the rest of the community in ways rarely seen even in days of old. As has been mentioned to me, a plague will prevent us from sitting down with friends and family to read about the Ten Plagues.

However, the truth is we are not alone. Even though we might physically celebrate the holiday with only a few, we remain connected. This year we will just need to find creative ways to remind us of this connection. For those of us who feel comfortable using modern technology, this is the year we should all go virtual. That’s right. Using Zoom,

Facebook, or various other modes, we will share Gefilta fish with our grandparents or sing Dayeinu with our friends on the other coast, but why limit this Passover connection to the Seders. Break out that Passover cookbook and share a cooking session with your grandkids or share funny stories from Seders past via

Snapchat days before. If we lack technological savviness, we must then use the phone as sword which combats the loneliness that may envelop us in such times. In other words, we must not give the Coronavirus the power to change us into spiritual hermits.

This is the year to create new and interesting questions for Passover. How can we assist others when we can’t leave the home? When Elijah comes to the door, will we open it, tell him to wash his hands

for 20 seconds, or allow him to enter as long as he doesn’t touch anything, wears a mask and gloves and stays six feet from us. Of course, we will have to translate feet into cubits.

This is the year we should reach out like never before to ensure everyone stays connected. If we know of people who live alone and maybe a bit more on the introverted side, stay in contact with them. If we happen to be less open to calling others on our own, let’s challenge ourselves during these challenging times.

As for Congregation Mickve Israel, we are here for you. If you are in need or know of someone who may need assistance, please let us know. We are currently working on several ways to assist everyone this season, including the creation of our first virtual Seder. Always remember, there are people who care about us, even if we need to reach out for this care sometimes.

Whether we feel it at every moment or not, we remain connected to each other in obvious ways and in ways, we can only imagine. Let’s go the extra mile to seek out those ties that bind us to our community. Let’s find ways to celebrate Passover together, and let’s pray that Elijah is immune to the Coronavirus.



*The above photo is of a Passover seder of the Solomon Gardner and Jacob Birnbaum families taken around 1897.*

## Extraordinary Measures for Extraordinary Times

Living in Savannah the past several years, we've become accustomed to being prepared to evacuate if a hurricane hits our area. We watch the Weather Channel, we watch our phone apps, and we restlessly pace as the radar shows the hurricane's cone and its eventual path as it lumbers towards us. It's distressing but we know that we can drive away to safety (or hunker down). Even if it hits our area, in a couple of days we'll be back home and get settled back into life.

Covid-19 is like a massive category 5 storm, but one that we can't see on any radar. Its invisibility makes it elusive and unknowable - what we can't see, makes us even more fearful. We can't drive away from this storm. Whereas a hurricane only impacts a small part of our country, Covid-19 is impacting us all. So, we follow the recommendations of the medical experts and scientists and we're hunkering down. We're socially distancing.

For a Synagogue, social distancing is the opposite of what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to bring people together for prayer, for joy, for spiritual connection. We've built a Synagogue community to deepen the meaning and practice of our faith, to cushion the blows we all face in life and to enrich our relationships with each other. As a Synagogue, during this extraordinary time, we must find ways to continue to connect with you and to help you connect with each other.

We've been very busy during the past two weeks putting together the following technological pieces to continue our connections with you:

- Mickve Israel now has a Congregation Mickve Israel YouTube Channel.
  - Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)
  - In the Search box, type Congregation Mickve Israel Savannah GA



*Virtual classes and worship services*

- On the main page of the channel, you'll be able to access the current week's Saturday Shabbat Service link, as well as links to other CMI content.

- We have a Zoom account. Through our e-news each week, you can find the listing of current classes and a link to join a class during its specific day and time. The classes are live and are a fantastic way to connect with fellow congregants!

- We have updated our website with the links to our YouTube channel, as well as links to Judaic classes and websites.

- Go to [www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org)
- Click on CMI Online in the horizontal menu bar
- The CMI Online page contains all our online resource links in one place.

In addition to our recent technological advances, we are continuing to maintain our physical building. We consolidated all the food in the freezers and refrigerators and were able to temporarily shut down one of our commercial fridges and four of our freezers. We've made sure that only essential computers are running at this time and we've raised all the thermostats in the main buildings to 78 deg. Additionally, the AC unit for the third floor of the Mordechai Sheftall Memorial building broke down and we had it replaced with a new, efficient unit and had some small roof repairs done at the same time.

During the coming weeks, we will continue to provide all that we can to keep connected with you. We hope you'll join with us online! Please connect with us to let us know if there's anything we can do to be of assistance

during this extraordinary time.

My best wishes to you for safety and good health!

Jennifer



*How do you put a large a/c unit on a historic building? Very carefully.*

# How to Create a Meaningful Shabbat Experience at Home

By: Chris Harrison,  
from ReformJudaism.org

As the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, we're all on high alert and getting used to life spent mostly at home, even on Shabbat.

So long as you're feeling well, why not take some time to plan a meaningful at-home Shabbat experience? Here are just a few ways you can make the most of Shabbat and feel like part of a larger Jewish community – even when you can't leave the house.

## 1. Make Shabbat your own.

Many Reform Jews see Kabbalat Shabbat services as an integral part of Jewish living, but when synagogue isn't an option, there's nothing quite like a cozy Shabbat at home.

Try to see this time as an opportunity for personal observance, whether alone or with your loved ones. Even if you've never lit Shabbat candles or recited blessings over your wine and bread, now is the perfect time to begin.

## 2. Watch services online.

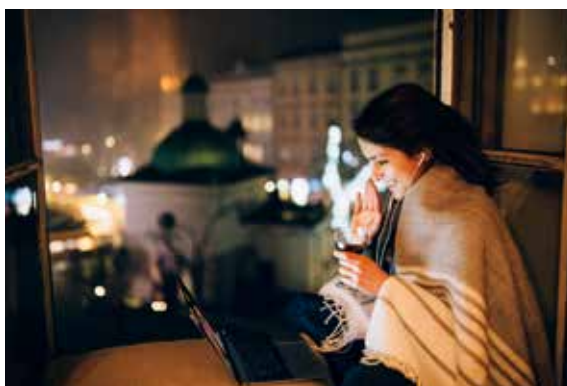
If you can't leave home but don't want to miss the joy of Shabbat services, you're in luck. Many congregations livestream services each week, and even amid safety-related cancellations, some congregations are offering online worship opportunities.

For those who are comfortable using technology on Shabbat, "attending" services online is a great alternative to being there in person (and you don't even have to change out of your pajamas!) As your congregational leadership whether your synagogue is hosting any online opportunities, or search for a congregation online to identify synagogues near you that might be offering virtual services. (Ours is: [youtu.be/uPQgFtEuFv4](https://youtu.be/uPQgFtEuFv4))

## 3. Spend time talking Torah.

Observing Shabbat from the comfort of home provides an opportunity to have thought-provoking and enriching discussions with your family about Torah.

Brush up on this week's Torah portion, then choose one of our many modern commentaries to read and



discuss; this week's episode of our podcast *On the Other Hand* is about the Torah portion, as well. Talking Torah with kids? Try Torah for Tots, Torah for Tweens, and Torah for Teens.

You can facilitate a meaningful, productive Shabbat conversation with your family by fostering participation, encouraging questions, and en-

gaging with Jewish text and learning in unique ways. For guidance in doing so, check out "Tips for Leading Weekly Family Discussions."

## 4. Cook a special meal.

With nowhere to go, why not take the time to cook a memorable Shabbat meal? Browse our many Jewish recipes to find a dish that will make this evening special for you and your family, from Ashkenazi staples like kugel and brisket to entrees, sides, and desserts inspired by global Jewish cuisine.

To try your hand at baking challah, choose from our plethora of unique challah recipes – and don't forget to say HaMotzi before you enjoy the delicious fruits of your labor!

## 5. Try a fun family activity.

During Shabbat, a time when we set aside time for meaningful engagement, doing a Jewishly themed arts-and-crafts projects can inspire kids' creativity while helping them engage more deeply with their Judaism.

BimBam's animated videos will guide you in making a paper hamsa, learning the art of Jewishly inspired papercutting, and even creating "Jewish slime." Don't forget to turn on our favorite Shabbat playlist for some fami-

ly-friendly background music!

No matter how you decide to observe Shabbat, take a moment to say the Mi Shebeirach prayer, which wishes a r'fuah sh'leimah (complete healing) to all those suffering from coronavirus. You may also wish to say a prayer for the wisdom and skills of medical scientists, researchers, and public health officials around the world as they fight the spread of virus.

May we soon see an end to these uncertain times.



# Thank you!

The generosity we receive does not go unnoticed. We thank everyone who supports Congregation Mickve Israel through contributions, participation, volunteerism and other means. A special thank you to those listed below who have given Honor Dues. Please consider joining this special group by giving Honor Dues in 2020.

## PILLAR

(\$10,000 and above)  
The Solomons Family

## BENEFACTOR

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

## SUSTAINER

(\$3,600-\$4,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kole  
Mr. & Mrs. B. H. Levy, Jr.

## LEADER

(\$1,800-\$3,599)

Anonymous  
Ms. Nancy Green  
Mrs. Toby Hollenberg

## PATRON

(\$720-\$1799)

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Mr. Julian Friedman  
Mrs. Peggy Good

Mr. & Mrs. David House  
Mr. & Mrs. Mires Rosenthal, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Siegel  
Mr. & Mrs. William Sklar

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(\$360-\$719)

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Mr. & Mrs. Martin Grossman  
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Mrs. Joan Levy  
Dr. & Mrs. Jules Paderewski  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Silbermann  
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Sinoff

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(\$100-359)

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Mr. & Mrs. Kayton Smith, Jr.  
Ms. Sue Solomon  
Col. & Mrs. Edward Wexler

## WE REMEMBER THOSE WITH YAHRZEITS

*Only those names with Memorial plaques are published. For information on purchasing a plaque or to request that a loved one's name be read during Shabbat services, contact Jennifer Rich at 912-233-1547, ext. 302 or [jennifer.rich@mickveisrael.org](mailto:jennifer.rich@mickveisrael.org)*

### APRIL 3 & 4

Rose Minkoff Berman  
Alexe Mendel Block  
Frankie J. Kelly  
Donald Lewanda  
Arthur Lewis Weil

### APRIL 10 & 11

Olga Hannah Adler  
Sylvan M Byck Jr.  
Eugenia Coleman  
Washington Falk Jr.  
Max D. Hirsch  
Jack Homans  
Dorothy Isaac Krapf  
Aaron Kravitch  
Martin Leffler  
Rollie Raskin Mendel

Maude H. Michels  
Pearl M. Mincey  
Kate Holitser Robinson  
Bertha Smith  
Edna Lilienthal Traub  
Rebecca Levington Zerman

### APRIL 17 & 18

Fredrica M. Eisenberg  
Stanley Wolf Feiler  
Hugo I. Frank  
Kenneth Gold  
Milton Leonard Hymes  
Daniel Kerness  
Amalia Einstoss Lieblich  
Sol Mekler  
Louis Mirsky  
Jacob A. Salkin

Joseph A. Salkin  
Lorraine Schwager  
Alvin Shoeng  
Julia Feist Solomon

### APRIL 24 & 25

Goldie Berger  
Wallace T. Brown  
David A. Byck Jr.  
Isaiah M. Falk  
Marsha Gould  
Valerie Stern Meyer  
Jeanette Oelsner  
Luba Shmaltz  
Blanche Sternberg Simon  
Esther Ungar  
Casper Wiseman

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