

# Shaarey Tzedek

Conservative Jewish Synagogue:  
Montgomery County Texas

**WELCOME~ בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים**



Passover was a time of deep emotional ties and connections, not only with our own families and traditions but also with those who are unable to celebrate due to unfortunate circumstances. We hold a special place in our hearts for the hostages and the IDF soldiers who are unable to partake in the Passover festivities. To honor their sacrifice and show solidarity with their hardships, we set an empty chair at our Seder table, symbolizing their absence. This chair serves as a poignant reminder of their plight and a way for us to acknowledge their sacrifice. Additionally, we make a conscious effort to eat less matzah, recognizing that our freedom and ability to partake in the Passover rituals come at a cost for others. Through these gestures, we strive to strengthen the emotional bonds that unite us and to stand together in support of those who are unable to celebrate with us. Thank you to Rabbi Deborah and Cantor David for a beautiful seder.

In times of difficulty, it is crucial for our Shaarey Tzedek community to stay strong and resilient. We face challenges that test our resolve, but it is through our unity and support for one another that we can overcome these obstacles. However, amidst the trials and tribulations, it is equally important to remember the significance of celebrating joyous occasions. Birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, graduations, and other milestones are moments that bring happiness and light into our lives. By acknowledging and commemorating these special moments, we not only uplift the spirits of those directly involved but also foster a sense of joy and unity within our community. These celebrations serve as reminders of the resilience and strength we possess, and they provide us with the motivation to persevere through difficult times. They allow us to come together, share laughter and love, and remind ourselves of the importance of cherishing life's joys, even in the face of adversity.



Pictured above: Shaarey Tzedek Synagogue Passover Seder.

Picture left: Melanie's baby shower.

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

**May 10, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

*Sponsored by*  
*Arlene & Sol Sachs*  
*in honor of*  
*Sheryl & Wally Riffle's*  
*35th Anniversary*



**May 24, 2024**  
**6:30 PM**

**Shabbat Dinner**

*Sponsored by*  
*Aime Fabrick*  
*In honor of*  
*Miriam Fabrick's*  
*Graduation*



**RSVP**

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This year was challenging celebrating Passover, the festival of our freedom, knowing there are many hostages who are not free, and feeling a painful pit in my stomach because of this awkward reality. If only as we opened the door for Elijah, would the doors of the hostage families have opened with their loved ones poised to enter their homes once again.

Celebrating second night seder together with you in community was meaningful, beautiful, and joyful! How special was our singing together with Cantor David and collectively sharing rituals that Jews around the world were experiencing in community as well. Too close for comfort are our COVID celebrations in isolation from extended family and friends. And how much fun for Autumn who found the *afikomen!* (picture below)

I've been touched by the plethora of poetry written since October 7<sup>th</sup> and would like to share with you a piece written by Rabbi Evan Schultz, the newish senior rabbi of my childhood synagogue whom I met in February the first time I said Kaddish for my father in synagogue. Rabbi Schultz's style reminds me of E.E. Cummings.

<i>my father once taught me</i>	<i>a reminder that life's journey is often messy and bumpy</i>	<i>matzah never breaks evenly along the lines</i>
<i>that matzah never breaks evenly along the lines.</i>	<i>and some days just feel broken and crummy.</i>	<i>so keep on the journey no matter how messy jagged or uneven it may be.</i>
<i>rather each break is jagged uneven and spikey (not to mention very crummy)</i>	<i>but remember it was the matzah that nourished our ancestors on their journey home.</i>	
<i>like the unforgiving hills and mountains in the desert.</i>		

It's a privilege to be on this messy, jagged, uneven journey we call life with each one of you! Looking forward to our Friday night service May 10<sup>th</sup> as well as Miriam's high school graduation dinner and celebration Friday night May 24.

Warmly, Rabbi Deborah



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