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May 1, 2020 (5780)

Kol Kehilat

THE NEWSLETTER OF KEHILAT CHAVERIM

KC ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL FALL

Worldwide cancellations of major events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have touched everyone's lives. From the summer Olympics in Tokyo, the Cannes Film Festival in the south of France, Monaco's Grand Prix and Munich's Oktoberfest, Britain's Wimbeldon, and the U.S. Kentucky Derby to Kehilat Chaverim's annual meeting in May, the pandemic has affected us all. Some 2020 events have been cancelled outright; our meeting is rescheduled for early September, either in person or online. We look forward to seeing you then!

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Tzedakah

Because we recognize the acute need for food that so many in our region currently have, this year we are contributing \$2,000 each to the following organizations: Foodshare, which in recent weeks has operated a drive-thru food distribution center at Rentschler Field; Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford, which provides community support to help people of all religions; and Hands on Hartford, founded in 1969 as Center City Churches, a social service nonprofit organization that serves Hartford's neediest residents in the areas of food, housing and health.

Thank you to Linda Busch for organizing KC's donation to **Hands On Hartford Soup Kitchen**. Linda delivered 12 pans of baked ziti, salad, rolls and 106 pounds of non perishables (cans, dry goods, peanut butter, pasta, sauce, cereal, potatoes, etc.). We'll probably do it again on either 5/18 or 6/1.

REMINDER

Please let us know if any of your contact information changes. Periodically, we will send out a membership list, and want to make certain that it is current.

Purim

Although we were not able to hold our Purim celebration this year, as you can see, the Festivals and Shabbat committees had a fun celebration planned with festive party gear -- shiny crowns, colorful beads and sparkly 2020 glasses.

Maggie had baked a beautiful multi-colored braided challah in the shape of a Purim mask complete with feathers and confetti sprinkles. It was really something! Rick and Ellen Coffey can attest that it was also delicious.

Ellen has packed away the party gear for use at a later date. Jordi and Mark have said they look forward to hosting the group for a celebration once COVID-19 is behind us. When we all are able to gather together again, the crowns will be apropos to symbolize the conquering of the "Corona"virus and, with respect to the sparkly glasses, I'm very hopeful that it will still be 2020!

Stay healthy and be well,

Ellen Coffey



Maggie's Purim Challah by Ellen Coffey

Steering Committee

COVID-19 could not keep our intrepid Steering Committee from holding their monthly meeting.



In The Community

How We Feel

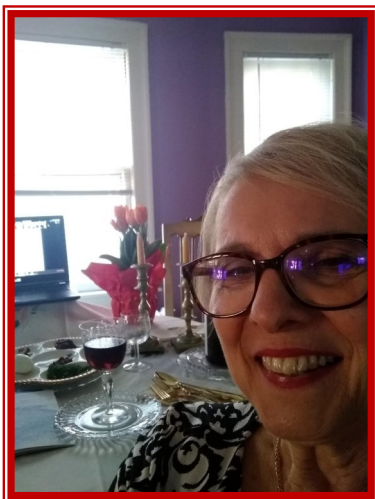
Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and others have urged everyone to download the app “How We Feel” on their phones in order to share how we are feeling and thereby help scientists fight the spread of COVID-19. The effort is supported by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. You will be directed to check in daily to see how other people are feeling in your vicinity and you may choose what you report. It takes a few minutes to set up and asks for location, sex, age, and previous health history, as well as how you are feeling each day.

Passover 2020

When we realized that we would be celebrating Passover without the immediate company of extended family, we put out a call asking for photos of your Seders. Thanks to everyone who took the time to send in photos and comments. Although for some of us, celebrating on Zoom meant that we could share our Seder with family from various time zones, it wasn't quite the same as being in the same room with them. Next year in Jerusalem!



Joan Walden's Seder, 24 members of the Mendelssohn clan and extensions, from Israel, the UK, and around the U.S.



Chag Sameach! From Faith Fuerst

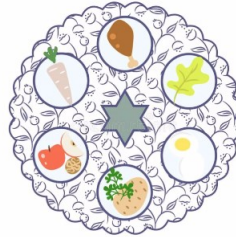


Passover 2020



Jordi Hertz and Mark
Overmyer-Velazquez
Passover Seder

Explaining the Seder Plate



The 11th Plague

From Deborah Szajnberg

Passover 2020

Passover at the home of Clarissa and Alan Basch.

We had a Seder at our house this year where we connected via Zoom to a Seder led by the head of Hillel at Susquehanna University, where Talia is a senior and an active member of Hillel. Here is a picture of us - Clarissa, Alan, Talia and Ethan (both kids home doing their college classes online) - note the computer at the end of the table



Passover at Ellen Coffey's Seder with Rick and Shana and in West Hartford, Shana's boyfriend Zooming in from up-state New York and CeCe and her boyfriend Zooming in from Washington, DC.

Elaine Groundwater's Passover Seder lite!
Matzo ball soup and Charoseth - comfort foods - all is good!



Marcey and Robert Munoz's Seder Plate:

"The rubber dinosaur substituted for the shank bone that we were unable to get."

Passover 2020

Berlin-Sperber Passover Celebration

Richie Sperber, Helene Berlin and Steph Sperber enjoyed a casual Seder meal catered by Zohara. We noted that this year is like the original Pesach, with the emphasis on families staying safe in their own homes until the Angel of Death passes over. We listened to our "Reggae Passover" CD and shared fond memories of previous seders with family and friends. After several cups of Manischewitz, we sang a few of the song parodies we've written over the years. It was a relaxing and satisfying celebration.



Sharon Sklar's Passover Dinner

Passover 2020

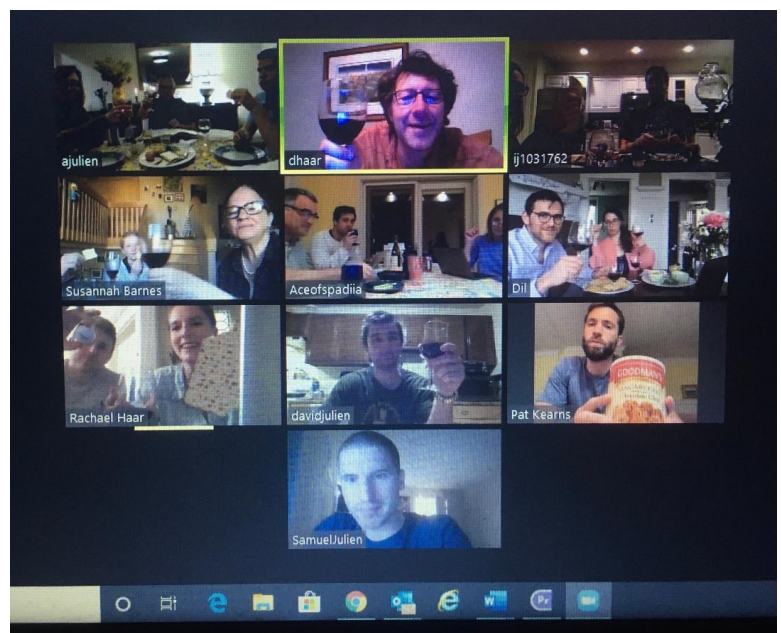


Harriet Winograd makes beautifully artistic food and dishes.

Harriet enjoyed Passover with Deb Szajnberg.



Dan Harr celebrated on Zoom with Rachael in Boston and the clan of Andrew Julien.



Passover 2020

Passover 2020 by John and Ellen Thomas

We were in the 2nd month of our 3 month stay in Key West when the coronavirus took hold. We have celebrated Passover in Key West for the past several years, so being here for Passover wasn't unusual. Our son and his family come at that time. We celebrate with close friends as well using the Kehilat Haggadah which has withstood the test of time. But this year Daniel couldn't come. We will Zoom our children tonight in their respective homes, and do an abbreviated Seder....or as much as the little ones can tolerate. I miss them...I miss my community.....I miss the luxury of choice.



From Debby Szajnberg

Making charoset

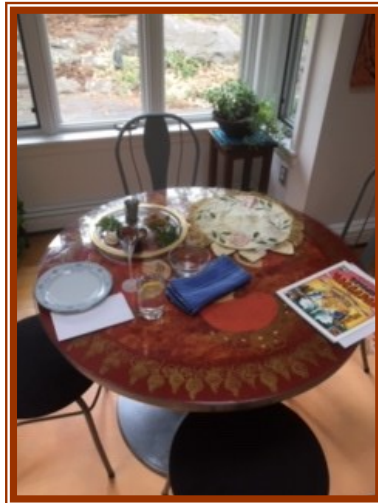
My Seder plate: arugula for my bitter herb, a beet instead of a shank bone (vegetarian), rice crackers instead of matzah.



Matzah cover made by my great aunt Dora, for whom I was named. She lived in Brzozow, Poland, where she was murdered by the Nazis. I visited her town and the site in the forest where the Jews were killed.

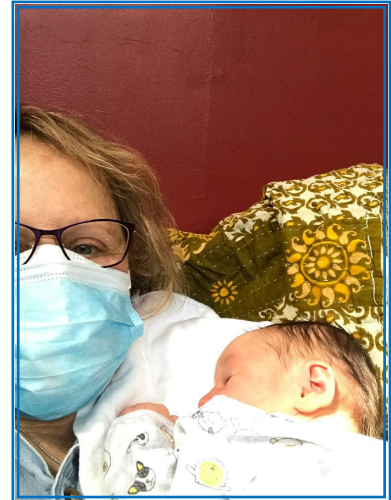
Marcey, Harriet, Ken, and I had a Zoom Seder. Ken took a screen shot of all of us blessing the wine together.

Debby



Naches**Maggie Cohen, Bubbe in the time of Corona.**

Avi (Aviv) Ripps Kauders was born to Markell Ripps and Jack Kauders (son of Maggie Cohen and Allan Kauders) on Friday, April 10, 2020 weighing in at 6 lb 8 oz. in Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital near Hanover NH. Mom and Dad and baby are doing well.



BABY
BOY

Get Well Soon

Wishing a speedy and complete recovery to **Susan Doran** who is recuperating from emergency surgery.

COVID COUTURE

Please submit photos of yourself and your family members in masks &/or doing things that reflect your social distancing for July newsletter.

Thanks.

KC Community

QUITE A COMMUNITY

By Margaret P. Levy

This winter, we had almost no snow after December. Somehow, in January, I managed to slip on black ice on my own driveway. The fall broke my wrist. Luckily the Urgent Care office at Bishop's Corner was already open at 9:00 a.m. that Sunday. They took x-rays and created a temporary cast. A few days later, I developed severe abdominal pain. For the next month I underwent tests and more tests. None of the half dozen doctors involved could figure out what was going on.

Some days I felt well enough to drive myself to medical appointments. Other days, not. When I needed to go the Emergency Room, I called Mary Williams. She recruited Faith Fuerst to drive me to John Dempsey Hospital. Faith sat in my ER cubicle for six hours. At 6:00 p.m. I looked up and saw Rafie Podolsky. Apparently, Mary had recruited him, too.

Rafie stayed until 10:30 and came back at midnight when I was finally discharged. He drove me home. Charlotte Gara drove me to some doctors' appointments. Emma Prokopets called to see how I was doing, then chatted cheerfully. Debby Szajnberg kept in touch every few days offering help from Membership Support.

Eventually, an endoscopy revealed that the little bit of Advil (boo, hiss!), prescribed to relieve swelling from the broken wrist, had caused an ulcer which caused the pain.

When I called a friend in California to let her know of my experience, her comment was, "It sounds like you have quite a community there." Yes – and thank you everyone!

Dear Beloved Fellow Members of Kehilat Chaverim,

I am writing to thank you for your kindness to my family as some of you learned of my terrible suffering over the past several weeks. The various ways in which you reached out to Jane—as I was incommunicado under the throes of the illness—and the gift you sent are appreciated. What our family has always loved about Kehilat Chaverim is your understanding of the ethical dimensions to which we should all be committed not only as Jews but also, simply, as human beings.

I have been doing better for eight days now (stabilized temperatures and excellent oxygen levels), which is why I am writing this note at this time. I did not want to offer, as we say, misleading information from writing early. My plan is to act under the assumption of being ill for another month since there is always danger of relapse, as this is a wily virus and its newness offers too much unpredictability.

I learned a lot about its ability to tailor itself to one's vulnerabilities. Should any of you like to contact me for some of what I learned, please feel free to do so. As is obvious, many in our community are especially vulnerable.

Finally, it's a relief not to hear ambulance sirens. Still, Jane and I—as I'm sure many of you—have lost people to COVID-19. The trauma of sirens continue in NYC, Detroit, and so many places across the country and the globe. We have lit candles for those who have become ancestors, and I think every moment of those still suffering from severe symptoms of this plague.

We learn, however, to appreciate our blessings. Jane and I have, among them, our wisdom of having joined Kehilat Chaverim when we moved to West Hartford.

Wishes of safety, good health, and, in the midst of this pandemic, even moments of joy to each of you. We should never forget to value living life.

Shavua tov, Lewis

In Memoriam

In Memoriam: Paul Francis Schroeder, 59 of Manchester, Connecticut passed away at home on March 16, 2020 from pancreatic cancer. Paul was the devoted husband of Brenda Williams, daughter of KC member Mary Williams.

In Memoriam:

Frances Forstater Mendelsohn of Reading, Penn., mother and mother-in-law of Jake Mendelsohn and Joan Walden died April 16 of natural causes at the age of 96. Survivors include her five children (Jake is eldest), their spouses, 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. "She was the model mother-in-law," said Walden, "and I feel blessed to have had her in my life for over three decades."

Our sincere condolences to Joan and Jake. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this sad time.

Note from Joan:

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, messages and contributions in memory of Jake's mom. Your kind words of condolence are greatly appreciated.

Joan and Jake



In Memoriam: Sincere condolences to Carol Gerjuoy, her daughter Ilana and grandson Ryden (age 3 ½) on the passing of Ilana's husband and Ryden's father, Chris Hall who died on April 7. There was no formal burial, but a public memorial is anticipated once social distancing is no longer recommended. Carol welcomes cards and letters. She is staying with Ilana (Gerjuoy).

Free Masks

Karen Dworski has reached out to our members and their families with a generous offer to make masks for any KC member who would like one or more.

She lives in Unionville and you will need to pick them up by making arrangements with her. Each mask has a pocket for a filter. There is no charge but in return she requests 100% cotton material that is new or



MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

Healing wishes are sent to members who are ill or grieving. If we can help by providing food or sustenance, a ride, or a sympathetic ear, please reach out to one of us.

If you become aware of a member in need please contact one of us. If you are comfortable please ask your friend/member if they mind having a person from membership support reach out. Some people prefer to keep their situation private or only among their inner circle. Thank you for caring.

Debby Szajnberg support@kehilatchaverim.org

Elaine Grounwater support@kehilatchaverim.org

Marcey Munoz marceynews@gmail.com

Joan Walden joan@joanwalden.name

Contact Marcey for General Membership Information

Kehilat Chaverim Contact List

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	Marcie Schwartz*	high.holidays@kehilatchaverim.org

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& Community Engagement	Sue Garten*	suegarten1@gmail.com

Community Support

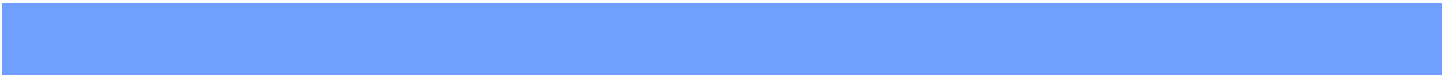
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* Steering Committee Member

Thank you to Joan Walden and Eric Hammerling for proofreading this newsletter.



Kehilat Chaverim

c/o Linda Carlson

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Featured this Month:

- Purim
 - In Memoriam
 - COVID Passover
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