

## ANSHE EMETH APRIL E-NEWS



Rabbinic Intern Caitlin  
Brazner

### SHABBAT SERVICE WITH RABBINIC INTERN CAITLIN

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30 @ 10:30 AM for In-person or Zoom**



*Fields in Israel*

**Celebrate soon to be Rabbi Caitlin as she will be ordained in May**, and will receive her Master of Education (MEd) at that time as well, prior to beginning as an Assistant Rabbi in Overland Park, Kansas.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 30 @ 1 PM – CLASS: The Shmita Year**

*Celebrate Earth Day by learning about the Shmita Year - the biblically commanded year of rest for the land of Israel - and Judaism's ancient vision for sustainable, utopian, agrarian life. Offered at no cost, this is the yearly "Judaism 101" class which will be offered in-person and also by Zoom. This class is being promoted to area churches.*

**Registration is needed at [ansheemeth@gmail.com](mailto:ansheemeth@gmail.com) (whether for in-person attendance or Zoom).**

**NEW SERVICE, FRIDAY MAY 13, 7:30 PM** with Rabbi Margie Meyer. Please mark your calendars for this Shabbat service.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

### **Yahrzeits for April**

***Harry Max Asher, Lil Feinstein, Jackson Hogenkamp, Florence Kastner, Lillian Katz, Rusty Litchfield, Hortense Louis and Joe Shuchat.***

### **Yahrzeits for May**

***Sanford Barcus, Lillian Kastner Cohen, Dina Kastner, Samuel Louis, Henry Saeman, Sam Shuchat, Barbara Speraw.***

### **MESSAGE FROM RABBINIC INTERN CAITLIN BRAZNER:**

This month, many of us gathered around our Seder tables to retell the story of the Israelite's Exodus from Egypt – the Jewish people's journey from slavery to redemption and the Promised Land. Amidst the plagues, Four Questions, and familiar refrains of "Let my People go!", we find familiar themes and real, human emotions. We read of despair, fear, and anger; we also experience hope, determination, and faith. The Israelites were told a great change was coming, that the God of Israel would provide for them if they were only willing to take the first steps. In the face of great danger, a recalcitrant Pharaoh, and impossible odds, the Israelites followed Moses (and Miriam!) towards a new place they had never seen before, and ultimately experienced great triumph and reward for their courage.

We also know ‘change,’ while often an opportunity for new beginnings and positive growth, can be scary, difficult, and heartbreaking, as well. Imagining a new way of doing things, a new practice, a new future, can all prompt big emotions, and big questions. What will this new thing look like? How will we navigate it? What if it doesn’t work? What if I loved how we did things before? What if I don’t want to change...

Last Monday, April 10, after 147 years of ordinations, the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC) voted in favor of a proposal to sunset the HUC Cincinnati Rabbinical Program by 2026. As part of their new vision for the campus the national administration of HUC has said they will maintain the resources of the American Jewish Archives, Klau Library, and Skirball Museum, create a “center for research and educational engagement,” and, potentially, ‘host’ a low-residency rabbinical program on the Cincinnati grounds. If you would like to read more about the administration’s plans, please visit <http://huc.edu/about/strategic-planning>.

These changes are big; they hold promises of a reinvigorated and reimagined future. And, these changes are also hard, scary, and heartbreaking. As a rabbinical student, proud of and eager to be ordained on the Cincinnati campus, and (in an effort to maintain transparency) as someone who was not in support of these proposed changes, I am deeply saddened by the decision the Board of Governors has made to sunset the Cincinnati rabbinical program. This change feels impossibly big and overwhelmingly difficult, and I know that many in our Anshe Emeth community are feeling concerned about what comes next, as well.

Over these next months, HUC administrators in Cincinnati, and the national administration, more broadly, will work to lay out the next steps of this change. I know that many good, dedicated people are committed to continuing the important, vital, vibrant relationships the College maintains with its congregational partners at our student pulpits. I have hope that HUC and our midwestern and southern pulpits will find a new way forward, together. Until then, however, we should take the time to mourn. We must acknowledge the deep loss this change represents, we should reflect on all that HUC Cincinnati has offered us in its 147 years of brilliant life (almost as long as Anshe Emeth has been around, but not quite!), and we should allow ourselves to process and feel the emotions this decision has prompted. It is ok to be sad or scared, to be frustrated or angry. It’s ok to not be ok...

Passover tells the story of a people – *our* people – who were resilient and willing to step boldly into an unknown future. With nothing but what they could carry, the hope in their hearts, and a little *matzah* too, the Israelites walked across a divided sea and into the unknown. This spring, as we pass through a wilderness of our own, and take shaky steps into a new future, let us be resilient; may we have the same courage the Israelites showed in our great, Passover tale. Let us remember, as our Shabbat liturgy reminds us, that “that there is a better place, a Promised

Land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness; that there is no way to get from here to there, except by joining hands, marching together.”<sup>1</sup>

*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik* – take strength, and we will strengthen one another.

*Chag Pesach Sameach* – Happy Passover to you, your family, and friends. May we find in this season of growth and renewal hope, resiliency, and the courage we all need to step into this new tomorrow, together.

***JewishDayton.org Check it out for various classes, programs and Zoomopportunities!***

**WITH GRATEFUL THANKS:**

**Jeff Foster; Sharon and Cory Lemmon**

**ZOOM LINK FOR SERVICES (10 AM) OR THE CLASS (1 PM):**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318

Passcode: 0092

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,7643723318#,,,,\*0092# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,7643723318#,,,,\*0092# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318

Passcode: 0092

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<sup>1</sup> Mishkan T'filah: A Reform Siddur: Complete: Shabbat, Weekdays, and Festivals (Transliterated) (p. 73). CCAR Press. Kindle Edition.