



A very zissen start to Pesach

Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel and Jewish Family & Child Service partnered in mid-April to provide a pre-Passover Community Seder twice the size of last year's. Cantors Ida Rae Cahana and Rayna Green ran the Seder for 60 JFCS clients while JFCS' Alla Piatski, bilingual case manager, translated from English to Russian for Holocaust Survivors from the Former Soviet Union. Chef Noah Jacob and his talented culinary team (Olga, Siobain and the chef's wife Dori) crafted a delicious menu, including a client favorite: PNW gefilte fish. Kate Gillespie chaired the joint WRJ/Sisterhood and JFCS event and helped round out the meal with homemade charoset. A total of eight JFCS volunteers alongside 16 WRJ/Sisterhood members, CBI congregants and staff members were on hand to drive clients to and from the event, and they supported JFCS clients throughout the Community Seder held in Goodman Hall. Said Sisterhood volunteer Rosi Marshall: "Seeing those who might not get a seder or have a difficulty in life, we're enabling them to feel good." Myra, a JFCS client, said, "To be at a Jewish communal event is important at this time. I'm very concerned about the Jew-hatred and political insanity. So it feels good to be with other Jews, especially now." The financial support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) helped make the Community Seder possible. (Courtesy Jewish Family & Child Service)

Shaarie Torah B'Mitzvah event for all June 2

Congregation Shaarie Torah
Congregation Shaarie Torah is thrilled to invite all current fifth graders and current middle schoolers and their guardians to a special event taking place on June 2 at 12:15 pm at the synagogue for those interested in co-creating a unique B' Mitzvah experience for your child. We do not believe in a one-size – fits-all model.

At Congregation Shaarie Torah, we value the power of inclusivity and the significance of each individual's journey. That's why we've chosen to use the term B' Mitzvah, emphasizing the transition from a Jewish child to a responsible member of the Jewish community. Through this inclusive approach, we aim

to foster a sense of belonging and empowerment for all participants.

The B' Mitzvah event is more than just a ceremony. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of our students. It's a commencement, not an endpoint, as they continue to engage with their Jewish tradition and contribute meaningfully to their community and the world at large.

To prepare for this milestone, we offer a comprehensive educational approach that encourages questioning, debate, and a deep connection to Torah. Our students delve into the rich tapestry of Jewish wisdom, exploring texts and ideas that have sustained our people for generations. They become

collaborators in the mission of tikkun, working to repair the world and make it a better place for all.

Parents Ashley and Ouri said, "The B' Mitzvah process at Shaarie Torah helped us slow down and think about what cultural and spiritual aspects are important to us. It clarified our belief that B' Mitzvah is one of the most important events for a Jewish child as it allows us, their parents and community, to support their autonomy and confidence. Most importantly, it reminded us of our key role in supporting her to be a member of her community who supports others and shares her talents with pride. It was a lot of work - and the Shaarie Torah team

were all incredible to work with."

The event will feature a range of activities and opportunities for both students and their families. Lunch will be served.

"We believe that reaching this milestone is a family affair," says Rabbi Gary Oren. "That's why we offer a personalized approach that honors each student's unique background and learning goals. Our values of Fun, Character, Community, and Confidence guide our collaboration with families every step of the way."

Attendance at this event is open to all, regardless of membership status. For more please contact Education Director Cara Abrams at cara@shaarietorah.org.