



**THANKS TO THESE INDIVIDUALS  
FOR THEIR WORK ON THE  
2023 INTER-COMMUNITY SEDER**

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# JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR

## Year 2022-23

ROSH HASHANAH	SEPT. 25-27
YOM KIPPUR	OCT. 4-5
SUKKOT	OCT. 9-16
SHEMINI ATZERET	OCT. 16-17
SIMCHAT TORAH	OCT. 17-18
CHANUKAH	DEC. 18-26
TU B'SHEVAT	FEB. 5-6
PURIM	MARCH 6-7
PASSOVER	APRIL 5-13
YOM HA'SHOAH	MAY 1-2
YOM HA'ZIKARON	MAY 7-8
YOM HA'ATZMAUT	MAY 9-10
LAG BA'OMER	MAY 8-9
SHAVUOT	MAY 25-27
TISHA B'AV	JULY 26-27

## Year 2023-24

ROSH HASHANAH	SEPT. 15-17
YOM KIPPUR	SEPT. 24-25
SUKKOT	SEPT. 29-OCT. 6
SHEMINI ATZERET	OCT. 6-7
SIMCHAT TORAH	OCT. 7-8
CHANUKAH	DEC. 7-15
TU B'SHEVAT	JAN.24-25
PURIM	MARCH 23-24
PASSOVER	APRIL 22-30
YOM HA'SHOAH	APRIL 18-19
YOM HA'ZIKARON	APRIL 24-25
YOM HA'ATZMAUT	APRIL 25-26
LAG BA'OMER	MAY 21-22
SHAVUOT	JUNE 11-13
TISHA B'AV	AUG. 12-13

## Year 2024-25

ROSH HASHANAH	OCT. 2-4
YOM KIPPUR	OCT. 11-12
SUKKOT	OCT. 16-23
SHEMINI ATZERET	OCT. 23-24
SIMCHAT TORAH	OCT. 24-25
CHANUKAH	DEC. 25- JAN. 2
TU B'SHEVAT	FEB. 12-13
PURIM	MARCH 13-14
PASSOVER	APRIL 12-20
YOM HA'SHOAH	APRIL 6-7
YOM HA'ZIKARON	APRIL 14-15
YOM HA'ATZMAUT	APRIL 15-16
LAG BA'OMER	MAY 15-16
SHAVUOT	JUNE 1-3
TISHA B'AV	AUG. 2-3

- Rosh Hashanah- celebration of the Jewish New Year,
- Yom Kippur-is the "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. This is considered to be the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.
- Sukkot-refers to the festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest, as well as the commemoration of the huts the Jews lived in while wandering in the desert after Sinai
- Shemini Atzeret-means "Eighth Day of Solemn Assembly" and is celebrated at the end of Sukkot.
- Simchat Torah- means "rejoicing in the Law" and celebrates the completion of the annual reading of the Torah
- Chanukah- The modern home celebration of Chanukah centers around the lighting of the chanukiah, a special menorah for Chanukah.
- Tu B'Shevot-or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the fifteenth (tu) of Sh'vat.
- Purim- celebrated by the reading of the Scroll of Esther (the story of Purim). The reading of the megillah is punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read aloud.
- Passover - is a major Jewish spring festival. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder meaning "order", and a festive meal; the prohibition of chametz (leaven); and the eating of matzah (an unleavened bread).
- Yom HaShoah -Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- Yom HaZikaron- Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism Remembrance Day and is Israel's official Memorial Day.
- Yom Ha'atzmaut- Israeli Independence Day, marks the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. It is observed on the 5th of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in April.
- Lag Ba'Omer- It is celebrated to commemorate the day a plague ended in which thousands of students of Rabbi Akiba, a Talmudic scholar had perished.
- Shavuot- began as an ancient agricultural festival, marking the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest.
- Tisha B'Av-refers to a traditional day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem
- Tu B'Av- refers to the Jewish day of love.

# GUEST READING

## TORRI STANTON GREATER RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### LET MY PEOPLE GO

By James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), a talented poet and novelist, and a head of the NAACP during the 1920s.

Then the Lord said: Listen, Moses,  
The God of Israel will not be mocked,  
Just one more witness of My power  
I'll give hard-hearted Pharaoh.  
This very night about midnight,  
I'll pass over Egypt land,  
In My righteous wrath will I pass over,  
And smite their first-born dead.

And God that night passed over.  
And a cry went up out of Egypt.  
And Pharaoh rose in the middle of the night  
And he sent in a hurry for Moses;  
And he said: Go forth among my people,  
You and all the Hebrew children;  
Take your goods and take your flocks,  
And get away from the land of Egypt.

And, right then, Moses led them out,  
With all their goods and all their flocks;  
And God went on before,  
A guiding pillar of cloud by day,  
And a pillar of fire by night.  
And they journeyed on in the wilderness,  
And came down to the Red Sea.

Now, the Children of Israel, looking back,  
Saw Pharaoh's army coming.  
And the rumble of the chariots was like a thunderstorm,  
And the whirring of the wheels was like a rushing wind,  
And the dust from the horses made a cloud that darked the day,  
And the glittering of the spears was like lightnings in the night.

And Moses lifted up his rod  
Over the Red Sea;  
And God with a blast of His nostrils  
Blew the waters apart,  
And the waves rolled back and stood up in a pile,  
And left a path through the middle of the sea  
Dry as the sand of the desert.  
And the children of Israel all crossed over  
On to the other side.

When Pharaoh saw them crossing dry,  
He dashed on in behind them -  
Old Pharaoh got about half-way cross,  
And God unleashed the waters,  
And the waves rushed back together,  
And Pharaoh and all his army got lost,  
And all his host got drowned.  
And Moses sang and Miriam danced,  
And the people shouted for joy,  
And God led the Hebrew children on  
Till they reached the promised land.



# GUEST READING

## BISHOP PAUL L. LEELAND (RET.), THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Today, we bear our mutual witness in a state of humility since we cannot know fully the way in which God's Spirit will work, nor know in whom the Spirit will be made manifest. Together we proclaim that God spoke through the prophets of Israel and Judah. "God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in scripture. It is expressed in God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, and in the ministry of the prophets" (The United Methodist Book of Discipline, par. 121).

Reading from my tradition The Canticle of Zechariah:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham; to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:68-79)

To guide our feet into the way of peace...to guide our feet into the way of peace.

# GUEST READING

## VICKIE ADAMSON, WAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Quoting the Bible's Old Testament, Washington wrote, every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig-tree and there shall be none to make him afraid. He continues: "For happily the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

So deeply ingrained was the Hebrew Biblical narrative in the minds of the Founding Fathers and Mothers of this country that at the conclusion of the American Revolution in 1783, there was a debate among the American leadership over what was going to be the great seal of the United States of America. There were some American leaders who thought it should be the American bald eagle. But there was another group of American leaders who said no, the image of the United States should show Moses leading the children of Israel out of the Promised Land - out of bondage and into the Promised Land. There was a very intense debate about this over the seal, and America came this close to having Moses as its national symbol. Moses lost out, alas, to the follicly-challenged bird. But you should know that the designers of the Moses seal were none other than Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. That's how deeply they had internalized the Biblical Hebrew narrative.



# GUEST READING

## GUNVANT BHAKTA TRIANGLE AREA HINDU TEMPLES

Tmamaivamso jiva-loke  
jiva-bhutah sanatanah.

“Yatra Vishwam Bhavatveka Needam

The living entities in this world are My eternal, fragmental parts.

All have same origin...we are one family. --

We may belong to different countries and cultures, races and religions, yet we all dwell in the same house. We linked and locked together. The whole world is one nest.”

अयं बन्धुरयंनेतिगणना लघुचेतसाम्  
उदारचरितानां तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥

“This person is my kin, and this one is not” is made only by the narrow-minded. For those of noble conduct, the whole world is one family.

मित्रस्य मा चक्षुषा सर्वाणि भूतानि समीक्षन्ताम्।

मित्रस्याहं चक्षुषा सर्वाणि भूतानि समीक्षे

मित्रस्य चक्षुषा समीक्षामहे ॥

O Infinitely Powerful Ishvar/Almighty! May I see all the living beings with a friendly eye and may the living beings also see me with a friendly eye. May no one be my enemy and may I be no one's enemy.

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत् ॥

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niraamayaahaa ।

Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantuu Maa Kashchiddukhha-Bhaag-Bhavet ॥

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti

May all sentient beings be at peace, may no one suffer from illness,

May all see what is auspicious, may no one suffer.

Om peace, peace, peace.



# THANK YOU

## WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR BEING HERE TODAY

Andrew Davidson & Co.  
Apex Police Department  
Arch MI  
Art of Living Foundation  
BAPS Hindu Temple Morrisville  
BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir  
Capitol Police  
Cary Police Department  
El Centro Hispano  
City of Raleigh  
Communities in Schools  
Consulate of Mexico  
Crossroads Fellowship  
Durham City Council  
From Spirit to Spirit/First Baptist Church  
Garner Police Department  
Greystone Baptist Church  
Habitat for Humanity of Wake County  
Harmony: NC LGBT+ Allied Chamber of Commerce  
Highland UMC  
The Justice Theater Project  
Leadership Triangle  
LGBT Center of Raleigh  
Methodist Home for Children  
Millbrook UMC  
Montessori Community School  
NC Department of Health & Human Services  
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Shannon Rentner & Assoc.  
Soapstone United Methodist Church  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
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Town of Apex  
Town of Cary  
Triangle Area Hindu Temples  
UK Consul  
US Committee on Refugees & Immigrants  
United Methodist Church - Western NC Conference  
Wake County Board of Commissioners  
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Wake County Sheriff's Office  
Wake Forest Police Department  
White Memorial Presbyterian Church

