Judaism - Not A Spectator Sport
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz
Temple Sholom - Vancouver BC
April 7, 2023

1. Did you host or attend a Seder this year? Who did both?
2. I have a confession which is also an observation, before I became a rabbi I'd never hosted or led a Seder.
    a. Bubbie always did it, papa always led, then my parents.
3. Problem with this is if I wasn't a rabbi and leading one here with all of you I'd probably still be only a passenger, never taking the Seder wheel and driving to my own Seder destination.
    a. That's true for many and not just Seder
        i. Wedding couples - family Shabbat dinners.
        ii. Temple membership - until we created NextGen and stopped selling/giving tickets to adult children this shul had only a handful of members under 35 without kids.
4. What's the future of Judaism if the future of Judaism doesn't know how to lead a Seder?
5. Most celebrated and sustaining holiday of the calendar.
6. We read at Seder, "in every generation the rise up to destroy us" what's the antidote? That every generation rises and stands against them. Not through war and conflict, though sometimes that too, but through ownership and presence.
7. This worry is nothing new. It goes back to the four sons of the Seder,
    a. the wicked who asks what does all this mean to YOU
    b. The simple who doesn't understand
    c. The one who doesn't know how to even ask a question.
        i. Our rabbis worried that only 25% of the next generation would know enough to actually lead a Seder.
            1. Their math was right then and now.
8. The greatest threat to Judaism is not what is happening in Israel, intermarriage it's illiteracy. We are the people of the book but we have stopped teaching the next generation how to read.
9. Medical schools and shows - watch one, do one, teach one.
    a. We are stuck at watching. 75% or more are spectators.
10. Lead kiddush, buy your own synagogue membership, host your own Seder.
    a. Stop inviting your kids to both Seders
    b. Send them a Haggadah or show them how to mane their own.