



# The Shofar

July 2020

Congregation House of Israel

9 Tammuz - 10 Av, 5780

## Please Join Us For Zoom Shabbat Services



While we are all practicing social distancing and are unable to meet at CHI for traditional Shabbat services, we are using modern technology to stay connected. Rabbi Shelly leads services every Friday night. The services begin at 6 p.m., but the doors open at 5:30 and we can sign on and visit and catch up with our Congregation House of Israel family.

Above is a picture of what it looks like on Zoom while we are visiting. When services begin, Rabbi Shelly puts the words of the prayer or song on the screen and we can all follow along. While nothing can replace actually meeting in the synagogue for services, this is the next best thing.

Every week Rabbi Shelly sends out an invitation to the congregation to join for services and also for Saturday morning Torah Study, at 10 a.m. It has direct connect buttons which launch you immediately into the meeting, as well as meeting numbers and passwords for those having difficulty. If for some reason you have tried and are having difficulties signing on, or if you are not getting the invitation, please let Rabbi Shelly know so you can stay connected during this time of social isolation.

Hope to see YOU next Friday night

*Ruth Sedler*

## Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of June 20, 2020)

### General Fund

#### Carol and Shelly Kleinman

*In loving memory of Carol's mother, Marcia Prushansky*

*In loving memory of Shelly's mother, Nancy Kleinman*

*In honor of the confirmation of Louis and Tillie Reagler*

### The Shofar

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## Life and Legacy

One of the most important gifts we, as Jews, can leave to our loved ones after we pass away is a planned gift legacy. It is a charitable gift you commit to today for a future gift, detailed in your estate plan, by beneficiary designations, or by an endowment. Congregation House of Israel can be named in your legacy plan to receive your gift in your name, as a memorial to a loved one, or to honor a special cause or event in which you believe.

As defined by ISJL, the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, "A planned gift stands as a lasting reminder to your children and succeeding generations of the values and charitable works that are important to you."

Preserving our Jewish history can be achieved by creating or updating your Will or Trust to include CHI (or any entity sponsoring or promoting Jewish life). It may be done in other ways, such as naming CHI as a beneficiary of your life insurance benefits, or an IRA or annuity, or as a P.O.D. (Pay on Death) or "T.O.D." (Transfer on Death) designation on your bank and or brokerage accounts.

Your legacy gift to CHI can help ensure a Jewish presence in Hot Springs.

*Sherrill Nicolosi*

## Juneteenth . . .

### By Carol Kleinman

. . . is a holiday celebrating the liberation of those who had been held as slaves in the United States. Originating in Texas, it is now celebrated annually on the 19th of June throughout the United States, with varying official recognition. Specifically, it commemorates Union army general Gordon Granger announcing federal orders in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, proclaiming that all people held as slaves in Texas were free.

The Union's Emancipation Proclamation had officially outlawed slavery in Texas and the other states then in rebellion against the U.S. almost two and a half years earlier, and the defeat of the Confederate States army in April 1865 allowed widespread enforcement of that to begin. But Texas was the most remote of the slave states, with a low presence of Union troops, so enforcement there had been slow and inconsistent before Granger's announcement.

Although Juneteenth is commonly thought of as celebrating the end of slavery in the United States, it was still legal and practiced in Union border states until December 6, 1865, when ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolished non-penal slavery nationwide.

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## Reb Shelly's Desk



### Point of No Return

*Fascinating article by Rabbi Noah Farkas of Temple Valley Beth Shalom in California's San Fernando Valley.*

Aviators tell us that there is a point in the flight plan where you just can't go back. It's the location

along the flight path where the fuel that remains in the gas tank of the airplane just isn't enough to take you back to your origin. Once you've flown to that point in time and space, your options narrow considerably. If something were to go wrong, you could find a safe runway to land nearby and if things go right, you press on to your destination, but one thing is certain — the place where you began is now unreachable. At this moment you can't go back to where you started.

You arrived at the place called the point of no return.

The events that have unfolded over the last several months, including a global pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests, have brought all of us on our journey to our own collective point of no return. For many, life after COVID 19 is going to be different than life before. Whether it's pushing back on having to make hour-long commutes while missing precious family time, or being more scrupulous in our in-person contacts, the difference in work and leisure could take on a permanency that we are only now beginning to realize. For others, the hope for a more racially just country that reckons with all of its systems, symbols, language, perhaps moves us into the "more perfect union" that we seek.

There are options and opportunities in front of us if we choose to accept them, but what we can't choose to do is to return to the place we left; doing so would be fatal.

We are at the point of no return.

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## Happy 78th Birthday to Sir Paul McCartney, the Jewish Beatle

### By Seth Rogovoy (The Forward)

About seven years ago, Sir Paul McCartney, who turned 78 recently, released an album called "New." But given the artist's love affair with all things Jewish for the past half-century — including collaborators, business associates, girlfriends and wives — the title could well be meant as a transliteration of the all-purpose Jewish word "nu."

Recently, McCartney was in New York with his wife Nancy Shevell who is not, in fact, the first Jewish Lady McCartney; that honor belonged to McCartney's first wife, Linda Eastman. Born in New York City and raised in Scarsdale, N.Y., Linda Eastman was the daughter of Lee Eastman — the son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, born Leopold Vail Epstein — and Louise Sara Lindner.

When Linda Eastman and McCartney's daughter, Stella McCartney, became a fashion designer, she followed family footsteps into the rag trade; her maternal grandfather, Max J. Lindner, was founder of the Lindner Company, the largest women's clothing store in Cleveland, Ohio. Lindner was a member of the most prominent Reform temple in Cleveland and president of its Men's Club; active in the Jewish Welfare Fund and in the Jewish country club; and a major philanthropic force in Cleveland's Jewish community. McCartney married Linda Eastman in 1969, and the two famously stayed together as one of rock music's most stable, loving couples until Eastman's death in 1998 due to complications from breast cancer. They made music together: first, on the album "Ram," the cover of which pictures McCartney grasping two ram's horns, and subsequently, in McCartney's post-Beatles group, Wings.

Linda's father, Lee Eastman, was an entertainment lawyer who represented McCartney after the Beatles' long-term manager — coincidentally also an Epstein, named Brian (but no relation) — passed away. McCartney's choice of his father-in-law as manager was famously opposed by fellow Beatle John Lennon, who favored the former

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## ARZA - World Union

### Not By Might, Not By Power

By Rabbi Josh Weinberg

(Joshua and Caleb] said to the whole Israelite community: ‘The land that we traversed and scouted is very, very good.’ Numbers 14:7)

After Caleb and Joshua returned from scouting the Land there were bitter arguments, screams and cries calling out to one another over who owned the truth and what would be the right course of action. Everyone agreed that the land was ‘Good,’ but some were afraid that it wasn’t prudent right now to take it.

With a rash of passion and fervor, Caleb hushed the people before Moses and said, “Let us by all means go up, and we shall gain possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.” (13:30). Then a raucous roar went up from the crowd and the people cowered in the face of this frivolous proposal. They were afraid, or maybe they were just rational because they knew that they would be defeated. The Torah reminds us that they begged and pleaded to return to Egypt and that truth was ultimately with those who favored conquest.

That was then.

In the ancient world, Israel was to become ours only through conquest and occupation. Israel regarded its conquest as meta-historical. It was only done through Divine Providence. The story in Numbers shows us that we would only succeed when God was with us. This notion is, of course, prevalent among certain schools of thought in Israel today that champion the Jewish version of Manifest Destiny, but like its American historical counterpart it does not share unanimous consent.

When we began to return to the land over a century and half ago the thrill of walking the Land of the Bible, of using the Torah as our guidebook to the biblical and ancestral landscape, was like no other.

There is no question that we have biblical ties to the Land and that we could indeed conquer

and possess it – all of it. However, today we are no longer posing the question, as the Israelite community frightfully posed to Caleb and Joshua, of whether or not we are able to overcome the nations currently dwelling there. That we’ve proven time and time again that we can.

Today’s question is one of morality and of the kind of society we choose to establish. Today’s question is not about what we could do, but about what we should do.

As Reform Zionists our commitment to the Land must be unquestionable, unshakable. It is our covenantal relationship with God and our people’s historic ties to the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael) that led us to establish a Jewish and democratic State in our ancestral homeland. It is our same covenantal commitment to the values and teachings of our Torah that must ensure that our society is just and guided by that moral compass.

It is for this reason that we call out against the proposed extension of Israeli sovereignty to lands conquered in war. We cannot support a plan which would be only unilateral, nor can we support a plan which according to PM Netanyahu, would not include the extension of citizenship or rights for Palestinians living in annexed territory. This would be a potentially irreversible fracture and demise of Israel as a Jewish and democratic State. It would cause Israel to be seen in the eyes of the world as having lost its moral compass; to be regarded as a permanent occupier of a people against their will.

As the late Amos Oz expressed in his own articulation of Zionism:

“The land of the Jews could not have come into being and could not have existed anywhere but here. Not in Uganda, not in Ararat and not in Birobidzhan. ... Because there is no other territory to which the Jews would have come in their masses to establish a Jewish homeland.” ... In a nutshell, I am a Zionist in all that concerns the redemption of the Jews, but not when it comes to the ‘redemption of the Holy Land.’ We have come here to live as a free nation, not ‘to liberate the land that groans

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## Sisterhood



Remember the phrase, Summer Reading? The idea of having several months of doing nothing but lying around relaxing, reading books with a cool drink and snack at our fingertips? Well covid-19 quarantining alongside the arrival of summer, has made this dream

an extended reality, and resulted in more time for me to read beyond my normal menu of fiction and memoirs.

I would like to share three of these titles with our sisterhood membership because they each relate to us (women) in a unique way. I'll begin the trio of books with, "You're the only one I can tell: Inside the Language of Women's Friendships" by Deborah Tannen. The author is a linguist and professor at Georgetown University and this book is based on interviews with more than 80 women, ages nine through ninety-seven from diverse backgrounds. I listened to this on audiobook and found it very interesting!

The second book, "Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age" by Mary Pipher has also been an excellent read. Each chapter opens with quotes from women many of us will recognize as she examines the cultural and developmental issues women encounter as they age. I found this book at our local library, appropriately in large print.

The final book, "The Choice: Embrace the Impossible" by Edith Eger was on a list of books recommended for reading during the Pandemic by Bill Gates. The book was published in 2017 and was the winner of the National Jewish Book award. It is this book I would like to suggest we consider reading as a group in the upcoming months for group discussion this fall. The author, Edith Eger was a teenager and sent to Auschwitz in 1944. She survived, migrated to the United States and became an eminent psychologist. Dr. Eger is 92 years old and one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors old enough to remember life in the camps. Her book is a memoir, a weaving of her personal journey with case studies from her work as a psychologist. Her stories illustrate different phases of healing while showing people how to escape the prisons they construct in their minds, harnessing the power of choice to free themselves from past traumas and move forward in forgiveness. A very powerful and thought provoking read.

All three of these books were excellent in their own way and I enjoyed each one for different reasons. As we move into this long, hot summer season, I encourage our membership to join together in taking a vacation for the mind and visiting a book of your own. We can all look forward to hearing where each of us "traveled" this summer!

Patti

## Juneteenth

*Continued from page 2*

Celebrations date to 1866, at first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas. It spread across the South and became more commercialized in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival. During the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, it was eclipsed by the struggle for postwar civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African American freedom and arts.[11] By the 21st century, Juneteenth was celebrated in most major cities across the United States. Activists are campaigning for the United States Congress to recognize

Juneteenth as a national holiday. Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota are the only states that do not recognize Juneteenth, according to the Congressional Research Service[citation needed]. Of the 47 states that do acknowledge Juneteenth in one way or another, Texas, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania are the only ones recognizing it as an official paid holiday for state employees.

## A New Arrival

Meet **Sebastian Seligman Surfas**, grandson of Les and Diana Surfas, and son of Sarah and Steven Surfas



## A Happy Man (In Minnesota)



Here's Yossi (Baron), with his granddaughter **Birdie Burge**, on a recent trip west.

## Help Wanted

### Jackson House

Thursday, July 23rd, we will be volunteering at Jackson House from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is our bi-monthly commitment to help our community. Most of the food is delivered by local restaurants, and our job is to put it in individual boxes or bags, and serve it at the window to Hot Springs residents who count on Jackson House for their lunch.

We normally participate (as most houses of worship do) every other 4th Thursday. It's really a lot of fun – not to mention a chance to catch up with your CHI family. Please be assured that masks are worn and we are all self-distanced. The work is easy and the rewards are great.

If you are available, please call **Sharon Waxler** at 501/844-1221 or email at [shrnwaxler@gmail.com](mailto:shrnwaxler@gmail.com). We normally have 3-4 volunteers.



The CARTOON KRONICLES

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## Jewish Trivia for July Courtesy of Norman Hanenbaum

July 12, 1906 Alfred Dreyfus, a French military officer, is freed from prison after being falsely accused of sharing French military secrets with Germany.

July 19, 1937 Buchenwald Concentration Camp established by Nazis, located near Weimar, Germany.

July 4, 1976 Israel Defense Forces rescues 103 persons from Air France jet hijacked by Palestinian terrorists. The raid was led by Lt. Colonel Yoni Netanyahu.

July 31, 2010 Former President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, marries Mark Mezinsky in a Jewish wedding.

### Deceased

July 2, 2007 Beverly Sills - opera singer

July 2, 2006 Jan Murray - comedian

July 2, 2017 Elie Wiesel - writer

July 3, 1904 Theodore Herzl - politician

July 8, 2012 Ernest Borgnine - actor

July 10, 1979 Arthur Fiedler - Symphony conductor

July 11, 1937 George Gershwin - composer

July 12, 1998 Sid Luckman - quarterback, Chicago Bears

July 12, 1991 Isaac Bashevis Singer - writer

July 13, 2006 Red Buttons - actor

July 16, 2016 Bess Myerson - former Miss America

July 21, 2015 Theodore Bikel - singer, actor

July 28, 1969 Frank Loesser - composer

## ARZA - World Union

*Continued from page 4*

under the desecration of a foreign yoke'...  
The word 'liberation' applies to people, not to  
dust and stone..."

(Amos Oz, *Under This Blazing Light*,  
1979, p. 82-83)

The heroes in the book of Numbers were  
military conquerors. They believed that they  
could defeat the Canaanites and the Anakites  
and drive out the indigenous people with God  
by their side. Today's heroes, according to the  
Rabbis, must be of a different breed.

Who is mighty? Those who conquer their  
own desires. Pirkei Avot 4:1)

Today's heroes must conquer their own  
desires and inclinations. Today's heroes must  
reign in on power unchecked and have the  
sound judgment and rational discernment to  
know when their might and force will cause  
more harm than good. Now is the time to be  
heroic as our tradition understood heroism  
to be. Now is the time to raise our voices that  
this unilateral annexation plan not come to  
fruition.

*Rabbi Josh Weinberg is the Executive Director of  
ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America.  
He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic  
Program in Jerusalem, and is currently living in New  
York.*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### July Anniversaries

(There are no member anniversaries for the month of July)

### July Birthdays

Lou Siegel	July 3
Les Surfes	July 12
Sue Koppel	July 13

## Reb Shelly's Desk

*Continued from page 3*

In the parshah Shelach Lecha, the Israelites  
reached their point of no return. As the Israelites  
crossed the desert, Moses decided to send twelve  
scouts to search out the Promised Land. As they  
returned to the camp, they reported that the very  
land they dreamed of was indeed flowing with milk  
and honey, but was also very dangerous, filled with  
warring nations and even giants. The Israelites  
became frightened. Better to go back to Egypt,  
they thought, then to press forward.

So many of us, like the Israelites, are afraid of  
the future. The point of no return is a challenging  
place. It's when we have to make hard decisions  
about who we are and who we want to be.

Events of the last several weeks, have inspired  
thousands to both stay home because of the virus  
and to take to the streets to demand justice. But  
the point of no return calls for something more  
than enthusiasm, more than wearing a mask, more  
than making a sign or shouting a cheer.

The point of no return calls for more than  
inspiration; it demands transformation.

This is the moment to which we all have arrived.  
While the future remains uncertain, we can't go  
back to that previous life. We can no longer trade  
the prosperity of the few for the paucity of the  
many. We can no longer be a nation born for the  
cause of liberty while at the same time enshrining  
slavery. If we make the decision to feel more than  
simple enthusiasm and hear the call to do the  
actual hard work of change, then we can move from  
inspiration to transformation. We can live with a  
different spirit. We can push through this moment  
to the promised land that has been the dream of so  
many.

We have to move forward. We can't go back.

We have arrived at the point of no return.

## July Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited July 3

**Louis Brown**

*Father of Betty Forshberg*

**Roxanne Smalley Capotosto**

*Sister of Kim Baron*

**John Hearn**

*Husband of Phyllis Hearn*

**Sely Simon Seligman**

*Father of Diana Surfus*

**Dorine Calcote Williams**

*Mother of Dennis Williams*

**Ruth Holtzman**

*Mother-in-law of Fred Korngut*

### Kaddish Recited July 10, 17

*(There are no member yahrzeits for July 10 or 17)*

### Kaddish Recited July 24

**Bernice Lockwood Goltz**

*Mother of Susan Siegel*

*Mother of Diane Goltz*

**Eugene Kirsch**

*Father of Steven Kirsch*

*Uncle of Stuart Fleischner*

*Uncle of Mark Fleischner*

**Flora Meyer Lockwood**

*Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

*Grandmother of Diane Goltz*

**Marcia Prushansky**

*Mother of Carol Kleinman*

**Sandra Boley**

*Sister of Sherrill Nicolosi*

### Kaddish Recited July 31

**Nelly Kass**

*Mother-in-law of Lynda Kass*

## Refuah Sheleimah

*The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:*

- Bill Ginsburg
- Jerry Tanenbaum
- Ken Baim
- Annette Baim
- Art Williams

Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.

If you are aware of anyone needing spiritual or any sort of assistance, please let Carol Kleinman know.

Our Caring Committee is here to help all of our members in any way we possibly can.

## Sir Paul McCartney

*Continued from page 3*

Rolling Stones manager Allen Klein. The dispute over management of the Beatles (which pitted a Jewish lawyer against a Jewish accountant) became a major factor in the ultimate dissolution of the Fab Four. Linda Eastman's brother, John Eastman, later took over from Lee Eastman and remained McCartney's manager for many years.

McCartney wasn't the only Beatle to enjoy a storied and enduring marriage to a Jewish woman. Ringo Starr and one-time Bond girl and Playboy model Barbara Bach — born Barbara Goldbach, a native of Jackson Heights, Queens — recently celebrated 32 years of matrimony.

It was Lennon who once said, "Show business is an extension of the Jewish religion." But it is McCartney — one of the few English rock stars to have defied an unofficial boycott by performing in Israel — who has actually lived it.

# Weekly Parshiot

## July

### Chukat - Balak

July 4, 2020

After forty years of journeying through the desert, the people of Israel arrive in the wilderness of Zin. Miriam dies, and the people thirst for water. G-d tells Moses to speak to a rock and command it to give water. Moses gets angry at the rebellious Israelites and strikes the stone. Water issues forth, but Moses is told by G-d that neither he nor Aaron will enter the Promised Land. Aaron dies at Hor Hahar and is succeeded in the high priesthood by his son Elazar. Venomous snakes attack the Israelite camp after yet another eruption of discontent in which the people “speak against G-d and Moses”;

Balak, the king of Moab, summons the prophet Balaam to curse the people of Israel. On the way, Balaam is berated by his ass, who sees, before Balaam does, the angel that G-d sends to block their way. Three times, from three different vantage points, Balaam attempts to pronounce his curses; each time, blessings issue forth instead. Balaam also prophesies on the end of the days and the coming of Moshiach. The people fall prey to the charms of the daughters of Moab, and are enticed to worship the idol Peor. When a high-ranking Israelite official publicly takes a Midianite princess into the tent of the Tabernacle, Pinchas kills them both, stopping the plague raging among the people.

### Pinchas

July 11, 2020

Aaron's grandson, Pinchas, is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing the Simeonite prince Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour: G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood. The five daughters of Zelophehad

petition Moses that they be granted the portion of the land belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d accepts their claim and incorporates it into the Torah's laws of inheritance. Moses empowers Joshua to succeed him and lead the people

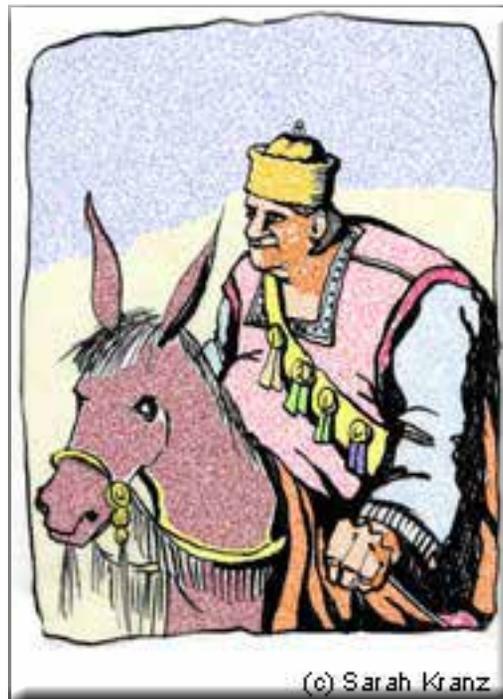
### Matot - Masei

July 18, 2020

Moses conveys the laws governing the annulment of vows to the heads of the tribes of Israel.

War is waged against Midian for their role in plotting the moral destruction of Israel, and the Torah gives a detailed account of the war spoils and how they were allocated amongst the people, the warriors, the Levites and the high priest.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad (later joined by half of the tribe of Menasseh) ask for the lands east of the Jordan as their portion in the Promised Land, these being prime pastureland for their cattle. Moses is initially angered by the request, but subsequently agrees on the condition that they first join, and lead, in Israel's conquest of the lands west of the Jordan.



### Devarim

July 25, 2020

On the 1st of Shevat (37 days before his passing), Moses begins his repetition of the Torah to the assembled Children of Israel, reviewing the events that occurred and the laws that were given in the course of their 40-year journey from Egypt to Sinai to the Promised Land, rebuking the people for their failings and iniquities, and enjoining them to keep the Torah and observe its commandments in the land that G-d is giving them as an eternal heritage, into which they shall cross after his death.