



# The Shofar

May, 2019

Congregation House of Israel

26 Nisan - 26 Iyar, 5779



## What a Seder!

By Sue Koppel

**Thank you, thank you, thank you,** all the congregants of the House of Israel for a beautiful Seder.

Everyone comes up and thanks me for the wonderful Seder, but I'm just the person with the book. Everyone in the book deserves thanks because without you, there wouldn't be a Seder.

First, thanks to **Stephanie Kleinman**, my

co-leader. She came over and together we made all those briskets. Even with goggles on. She was great to help me organize everything and even helped make the carrots and potatoes. But wait!! She also made a chocolate cake!!!

**Ruth Sedler** organized the seating (maybe

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# Thank You

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*In loving memory of Sandy Carrington  
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*In loving memory of David's mother, Roslyn Kirsch  
In loving memory of Glenda's mother, Wanda Burns*

### Mark and Patti Fleischner

*In loving memory of Sharon Ball*

### Linda Fisch and Family

*In loving memory of Louis Kleinman*

## The Shofar

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### Carol and Shelly Kleinman

*In celebration of the birth of Sharon and Michael Waxler's new grandson, Brooks Eric Baker*

### Mark and Patti Fleischner

*In celebration of the birth of Sharon and Michael Waxler's new grandson, Brooks Eric Baker*

## Sisterhood Fund

### Betty Kleinman

*In appreciation of the CHI Sisterhood for the lovely Oneg prepared for the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Westley Kleinman*

# Mazel Tov

Meet **Brooks Eric Baker**, son of Carli and Chris Baker, and the newest grandson of Michael and Sharon Waxler.

Brooks arrived on the scene on March 29, 2019, weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19 1/2 inches long.

(The attentive dog is Finley.)



# Passover Seder

*Continued from page 1*

two or three times) and put the names on each table so everyone could find their seat. Ruth, your organizational skills are above and beyond what anyone else could do.

**Patti Fleischner** (dragging Mark along because his golf day was rained out) not only decorated the tables with canned goods and beautiful flowers, but also set all of the tables with silverware and glasses.

You are my hero. Lest I forget, she also set up the Passover plate as she does every year and in her spare time made a cake.

**Mary Klompus**, my partner in crime, made 300 gallons (maybe not) of yummy chicken soup, and was always right behind me, or right in front of me in the kitchen, making sure that everything was prepped and ready to be served. Mary, you can't leave town again, we need you.

**Betty Forshberg**, our matzo ball maven, came through again with all the matzo balls for the soup. Fantastic again this year as they are all the time. One of them even floated away when we weren't looking

**Myrna Taxer and Lori Lewis**, I think you know each other, and again made the great charosis that you are famous for. Yum! Don't lose your recipe.

The Cake Ladies. **Stephanie Kleinman, Glenda Kirsch** (she made not only one but TWO cakes, one regular and one sugar free), **Carol Kleinman, Gail Greenberg, and Patti Fleischner**. I tried to convince them that we had enough to eat and didn't need the cakes so I would take them off their hands but no one was buying that.

**Carol Kleinman, Cynthia Rephan, and Barbara Morgan** boiled and PEELED 70 eggs. I saw four chickens walking behind them when they walked into Burgauer Hall.

**Barbara Morgan** was our individual Passover plate coach and worker, along with **Carol Kleinman**. Together they put the eggs and salt water in 70 cups, put the gefilte fish and a cup of horseradish on the plate, added the charosis, and then the parsley to cap it off. Trying to count 70 plates and each thing that is supposed to be on it is not an easy task. Mazel tov to you both.



**Sherrill Nicolosi** was my twin and took over getting everything on the plates and out to the tables and back, so that I could sit like a queen and visit with my and Mary's guests.

**The Kids!!!** Wow did they jump up and help. They helped serve, they helped clear, they did whatever needed doing and had a smile on their faces all the time. You were so very much appreciated and I can't thank you enough.

To all the other guests that helped with serving and clearing and whatever else had to be done, I thank you from the bottom of my heart as does the whole congregation

Lastly but should be firstly, our **Rabbi Shelly** is such a blessing to us. He conducted a beautiful Seder, tried to include everyone in the readings, and is an inspiration and a model of what all rabbis should be. Thank you for all that you do that we know of, and all that you do that we don't know.

If I have forgotten anyone, I am so sorry and you can beat me with a hagaddah for forgetting. Chag Pesach Sameach to ALL

*Sue Koppel*

## Reb Shelly's Desk



### Not Good If Detached

Having experienced our wonderful Congregational Seder last month, I was reminded of this delightful anonymous essay I read recently.

“The next time you purchase a ticket which has a perforation in it, look at the small print. Usually you will find the words: “Not good if detached.” You have probably seen this phrase many times, but have you ever thought about its implications.

When something is cut off from its source, it often becomes quite worthless. Something detached from that which gives it life and spirit is apt to just shrivel up and die.

A branch, as long as it is part of the main trunk of the tree, grows and produces leaves and fruit; but the moment it is cut off, it begins to decay. When a brook is part of the mainstream, it is always fresh and clear because it is constantly replenished with flowing waters; but the instant it is cut off from its source, it begins to dry up.

When a person feels themselves to be part of a family, and joins in the celebration of family events, they draw strength from the family circle. And that is part of why it is so important to get together periodically for family events and simchas, for it is not good to become detached.

The human being is like the moon. It cannot generate its own light or its own spiritual energy. We must receive it from a source beyond ourselves, and greater than ourselves.

Rituals and ceremonies are the strings that tie us to our source of faith. They become a form of permanent attachment to God. When we lose them, we also find that we are “not good if detached.”

Words to live by.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### May Anniversaries

Jerry and Fran Rephan	May 3
Jerry and Jodi Chalmers	May 8
Les and Diana Surfas	May 18
Dennis and Anita Williams	May 25
Larry and Carol Levi	May 27

### May Birthdays

Jodi Chalmers	May 13
Ira Kleinman	May 13
Mark Fleischner	May 14
Sharon Waxler	May 14
Elaine Wolken	May 16
Patti Fleischner	May 17
Glenda Kirsch	May 23
Rachel Schulman	May 26
Ellen Eubanks	May 27



## Pesach - The Great Balancing Act

The holiday of Pesach. It is the holiday of Spring and the holiday of freedom. The moment when we celebrate our redemption from slavery and share our collective narrative and tell our story to our children, our family and to each other. We remind ourselves that our people were born not out of entrenched royalty but as slaves who had to endure oppression and subjugation before tasting freedom. We had to know what it was to be ruled over prior to being the masters of our own destiny.

As we sit down to Seder and tell our story, I would like to suggest that there are two distinct messages to draw from the Haggadah. The first is the oft-quoted standard message that: "In Every Generation, we must see ourselves as if we personally went out from Egypt"

This critical statement puts us right back in the moment no matter how much time has passed. It serves as a reminder that we were slaves, and that no matter how removed we may be from that reality we must know one thing: compassion. We have suffered and must be compassionate to the suffering of others. We must be specifically conscious of suffering that is caused or perpetuated by us. Let me be clear, that the Haggadah sends a clear message about the ongoing reality in the State of Israel.

Yes, there is a continued occupation of the Palestinian people. Yes, we continue to sit year by year and sing freedom and liberation songs, while another people continues to suffer. We talk about justice, freedom, and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel while another people remains under a military rule. The old adage is true that "None of us is free until all of us are free."

This is our moment to listen to the words of the Haggadah and look in our national collective mirror at the reality on the ground. It is not good and doesn't look like it is ending anytime soon. However, that does not mean that we need to bow our heads and roam the earth in shame and not stand up for ourselves. The V'hi She'amdah section of the Haggadah offers us a different perspective and a stark

contrast from the previous message: "In Every Generation, an Enemy Rises Up to Destroy Us"

Just like we are taught to be compassionate we remember that our freedom came not through some negotiated arrangement and not through the interlocation of an appeasing court Jew to speak on our behalf seeking the mercy of a Lord, Master or Pharaoh.

Our story tells us that we took it by fight and by might. God was right in rebuking us that God's creation was drowning in the sea and we were rejoicing in song. But nonetheless, we stood up, spoke our truth to power, left Egypt and didn't look back. The generation that knew slavery saw its last days in the desert and a new generation entered the Promised Land to build a new free and strong nation. Our story in this section of the Haggadah tells us to be strong and proud. It reminds us that in every generation an enemy will rise to obliterate us, and we do not have the luxury to be naïve or to let our guard down. That it's not only ok but in fact obligatory to stand up to bullies and that while we are particularly sensitive to the victimhood of others, that should explicitly not come at the expense of our own.

The enduring message of the Haggadah is that of 'Yes, and...' not 'either-or'. That we must both see ourselves as having left Egypt and know that we have enemies who seek our destruction. It tells us that to be a Jew is to balance between the two. To have compassion and to not be naïve. To be strong and to be sensitive to the suffering of others. If we are weak and live at the mercy of others, then we are not free, while at the same time if we perpetuate the suffering of others, we can never free ourselves completely.

This year on Pesach, let us affirm these two lessons. Tell our story as one of accomplishment and of freedom, and as an unfinished story whose message leaves us with much work to do.

Chag Sameach

Josh

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

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## Oneg Thanks



Thank you to the following for sponsoring an Oneg during the month of May:

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 3  | David and Glenda Kirsch<br>Ross and Ruth Sedler |
| May 10 | Kim and Yossi Baron<br>Oded Grenman             |
| May 17 | Lynda Kass<br>Ira and Stephanie Kleinman        |
| May 24 | Dennis and Anita Williams<br>Betty Forshberg    |
| May 31 | Carol Levi<br>Mary Klompus                      |

**Reminder:** If you are scheduled for an upcoming Oneg and need to change dates, please find someone to switch with and then let Carol Kleinman know so the information printed in the bulletin will be correct.

## Refuah Shelemah

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

- Robert Burns
- Jerry Tanenbaum
- Ken Baim
- Annette Baim
- Ira Brand
- Irwin Kleinman
- Kathy Klein
- Kate Tobakos

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

## May Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited May 3

**Hannah Taub**

*Grandmother of Betty Feir*

**Robin Rans**

*Niece of Fred Korngut*

**Carol Crow Nanez**

*Friend of Congregation House of Israel*

**Mark Cohen**

*Father of David Cohen*

**Samuel Kirsch**

*Grandfather of Mark Fleischner*

*Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner*

*Grandfather of Steven Kirsch*

### Kaddish Recited May 10

**Serena Kirsch**

*Mother of Steven Kirsch*

### Kaddish Recited May 17

**Frances Koppel**

*Mother of Hal Koppel*

**Helen Kleinman**

*Grandmother of Ira Kleinman*

**Nathan Davis**

*Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

*Grandfather of David D. Reagler*

**Louise Levi**

*Mother of Larry Levi*

### Kaddish Recited May 24

**Morris Reagler**

*Grandfather of David D. Reagler*

*Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

**Shirley Sedler**

*Mother of Ross Sedler*

**George Thornton Ginsburg**

*Brother of Millie Baron*

### Kaddish Recited May 31

**Norman "Dick" Franklin**

*Step-father of David Cohen*

**Annie Marcus**

*Grandmother of Carol Kleinman*

**Nancy Kleinman**

*Mother of Sheldon Kleinman*

## Chicken Enchiladas

### *Elaine Gartenberg's recipe*

4 C. chicken

1 ½ C chopped onion

½ C butter (a little less)

2 - 10 oz cans of Rotel tomatoes, drained and reserve the juice

2 lb. box Velveeta cheese

30 corn tortillas

2 C sour cream

Boil 3-4 lb chicken. Cool and tear off meat.

Sauté 1-½ C. chopped onion in a little less than ½ C butter. Add the tomatoes to the onion and cook.

**Don't add the juice.** Add the Velveeta and the chicken and cook till it's melted. Let it cool. It

will thicken as it cools.

Soften each tortilla in hot oil (1 inch deep) for 30 seconds and then drain each. Add chicken mixture to each tortilla and roll up and put in a lightly greased casserole. Pour any remaining chicken on the top. Spread the sour cream over the top and bake for 30 min. at 350 degrees.

You may want extra sauce and if you do, add ½ of the cheese, onion, Rotel recipe and pour it over the top.

*I just noticed that it doesn't say what to do with the Rotel juice so you're on your own with that. You could pour it over the top of the enchiladas before cooking. ~ Sue Koppel*

## Weekly Parshah

### Acharaei

May 4, 2019

Following the deaths of Nadav and Avihu, G-d warns against unauthorized entry “into the holy.” Only one person, the kohen gadol (“high priest”), may, but once a year, on Yom Kippur, enter the innermost chamber in the Sanctuary to offer the sacred ketoret to G-d.

Another feature of the Day of Atonement service is the casting of lots over two goats, to determine which should be offered to G-d and which should be dispatched to carry off the sins of Israel to the wilderness.

The parshah of Acharei also warns against bringing korbanot (animal or meal offerings) anywhere but in the Holy Temple, forbids the consumption of blood, and details the laws prohibiting incest and other deviant sexual relations.

### Kedoshim

May 11, 2019

The parshah of Kedoshim begins with the statement: “You shall be holy, for I, the L-rd your G-d, am holy.” This is followed by dozens of mitzvot (divine commandments) through which the Jew sanctifies him- or-herself and relates to the holiness of G-d.

These include: the prohibition against idolatry, the mitzvah of charity, the principle of equality before the law, Shabbat, sexual morality, honesty in business, honor and awe of one’s parents, and the sacredness of life.

Also in Kedoshim is the dictum which the great sage Rabbi Akiva called a cardinal principle of Torah, and of which Hillel said, “This is the entire Torah, the rest is commentary”—“Love your fellow as yourself.”

### Emor

May 18, 2019

The second part of Emor lists the annual Callings of Holiness—the festivals of the Jewish calendar: the weekly Shabbat; the bringing of the Passover offering on 14 Nissan; the seven-day Passover festival beginning on 15 Nissan; the bringing of the Omer offering from the first barley harvest on the second day of Passover, and the commencement, on that day, of the 49-day Counting of the Omer, culminating in the festival of Shavuot on the fiftieth day; a “remembrance of shofar blowing” on 1 Tishrei; a solemn fast day on 10 Tishrei; the Sukkot festival—during which we are to dwell

in huts for seven days and take the “Four Kinds”—beginning on 15 Tishrei; and the immediately following holiday of the “eighth day” of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

Next the Torah discusses the lighting of the menorah in the Temple, and the showbread (lechem hapanim) placed weekly on the table there.

### B’har

May 25, 2019

G-d promises that if the people of Israel will keep His commandments, they will enjoy material prosperity and

dwell secure in their homeland. But He also delivers a harsh “rebuke,” warning of the exile, persecution and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their covenant with Him.

Nevertheless, “Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away; nor will I ever abhor them, to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the L-rd their G-d.”

The Parshah concludes with the rules on how to calculate the value of different types of pledges made to G-d, and the mitzvah of tithing produce and livestock.”

