



September-October, 2023

Congregation House of Israel 15 Elul, 5783 - 16 Cheshvan, 5784



...In the seventh month, on the first of the month, there shall be a sabbath for you, a remembrance with shofar blasts, a holy convocation. -Leviticus 16:24

L'Shanah Tovah

The complete schedule of High Holiday Services is on page 4 and also on our website at www.hschi.org.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of August 20, 2023)

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In loving memory of Carol's mother, Marcia Prushansky

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*In appreciation of Rabbi Shelly and Carol Kleinman
In honor of Giles Bowden's conversion
In loving memory of Sherrill's sister, Sandra Boley*

Ray and Carol Lockwood Owen

In loving memory of Brucee Howard Brown

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In loving memory of Brucee Howard Brown

Sisterhood Fund

In Memory of Jonathan Morgan

On the 10 anniversary of the passing of Jonathan Morgan, August 8, 2013, **Barbara Morgan** has made a generous donation to Sisterhood. In the later years of his life Jonathan accompanied Barbara to our Sisterhood meetings and enjoyed being an honorary member of our Sisterhood. On behalf of the entire Sisterhood, we thank you Barbara.

The Shofar

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PO Box 20802

300 Quapaw

Hot Springs, AR 71903

(501) 623-5821

Website: <http://hschi.org>

Editor: Shelly Kleinman

Webmaster: Shelly Kleinman

Email to: info@hschi.org

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Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

New Jew



After months of study with the Jewish Spiritual Leasers Institute, Gile Bowden completed his conversion to Judaism with a ceremony at Erev Shabbat services with Rabbi Shelly on Friday, July 14.

Reb Shelly's Desk



Did you know that according to a 2020 survey by the Claims Conference, 60% of New Yorkers did not know six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust; 58% of those polled could not name a single concentration camp; 19% believed Jews caused the Holocaust; and 43% did not

know what Auschwitz was.

These statistics are startling and alarming. We have heard the phrase over and over, “never forget”, but it seems that we have failed at making sure that people “remember”.

Recognizing this serious affront to Holocaust awareness, three new pieces of legislation have been approved into law in the state of New York to improve Holocaust awareness. The legislation will require museums with works of art stolen during the Nazi era in Europe to “prominently place a placard acknowledging such information along with the display.”

I was surprised to learn that many museums currently display stolen art with no recognition of their provenance. The American Alliance of Museums maintains the Nazi-era Provenance Internet Portal, which registers Nazi-era provenance artwork. It lists close to 30,000 objects at 179 participating museums, including 16 museums in New York with 2,370 Nazi-era pieces. The Met, the largest museum in the US, lists 3,403 items in its collection with Nazi-era provenance.

I found this new discovery quite disturbing. While I am glad this artwork is available for people to view, is it truly the museum's right to display the artwork and if it is – has there been remuneration for those who rightfully owned the artwork before the Holocaust?

As in many cases dealing with the Holocaust, there are plenty of murky details. “There were many different ways art was lost during this time. There was wartime theft that was deliberate but often haphazard, there was actual looting and confiscation by Nazi troops, and there were

Continued on page 6

Anti-Semitism on the Rise

By Sherrill Nicolosi

A re-run of the “Dr. Phil” show from late 2022 had a panel of individuals discussing the rise of antisemitism in the United States, as well as worldwide. Sparked by the virulent comments of rapper, Kanye West (who now goes by Ye), the program emphasized that today's antisemitism represents an increase in violence, hate speech, harassment, and threats to Jews.

According to various sources, including the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), CNN, and the FBI, incidents of antisemitism in this country have increased more than one third in one year. Hate based attacks on Jews, especially those directed against “visibly identifiable” Jews such as ultra-Orthodox Jews, have increased as much as 69% in recent years, according to the ADL.

In addition to verbal and written attacks, online, in person, and in different written venues, antisemitism is increasingly expressed in acts of violence. Incidents of vandalism, assault, harassment, even murder, especially in cities with large Jewish populations, are hitting post WWII record high numbers.

Is there any solution to this frightening issue? One of the “Dr. Phil” speakers suggested, “We Jews should be unapologetically Jewish”; police and other crime prevention and law enforcement organizations recommend Jews be on high alert, and discourage complacency among Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Boycotting companies that ignore (or condone, directly or indirectly) anti-Jewish sentiment CAN make a difference. Similarly, supporting commercial enterprises that condemn antisemitism can also make a difference. To illustrate, Addidas fired Kanye West as one of its primary spokesmen, losing millions of dollars of lost revenue for the sale of “Ye” sporting goods and shoes.

Paraphrasing Robert Williams, director of the University of California Shoah Foundation, the Jewish and non-Jewish populations need to stand up against antisemitism: “It is not a Jewish problem it is a collective problem, ... and a threat to our democracy”.

Each of us must do our part to help dispel this contagion.

High Holiday Service Schedule

Rosh Hashanah

Friday	September 15	7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service Oneg to follow
Saturday	September 16	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

Kver Avot *

Sunday	September 17	11:00 a.m.	Kver Avot Service, Jewish Rest Cemetery
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Yom Kippur Services

Sunday	September 24	7:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Monday	September 25	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
		4:00 p.m.	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
		5:00 p.m.	Yizkor Service
			Neilah Service
			Havdalah & Break-the-Fast

Sukkot

Friday	September 29	6:00 p.m.	Oneg Shabbat and service in the sukkah
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Jews Praying In the Synagogue on Yom Kippur

Artist: Maurycy Gottlieb

Year: 1878

Type: Oil on canvas

Location: Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv

Meet Our Cantor

Leslie Melinda Morgan



Rabbi Leslie Melinda Morgan is a born and raised and practicing conservative Jew in the State of Texas, where she currently resides.

She was ordained as a liberal Rabbi in 2013 through the Jewish Spiritual Leadership Institute. She has been active in formal capacities in synagogue life for over 40 years.

Leslie has taught and mentored over 500 students for their B'nai Mitzvah and has been a religious schoolteacher for 30+ years and has taught, elementary, middle school, high school, adults and confirmation classes.

Leslie loves to sing and lead organized prayer and is a regular service leader with a focus on P'sukay D'zimrah, Shacharit, Kabbalat Shabbat and Torah Services. She is a regular Torah reader and Haftarah chanter and has led Family High Holiday Services for over 10 years.

Leslie has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and worked in "Corporate America" for IBM for 34 years. She is currently a small business owner and owns a wheelchair ramp and accessibility franchise in Texas.

However, Leslie's true love is Torah and teaching all aspects of Judaism. She also loves helping those in love "tie the knot" and has officiated over 300 weddings.

Leslie is a proud Mom to 5 grown children and a *Softa* (grandma) to 5 grandchildren.



The Shofar

Congregation House of Israel Board of Directors

Rabbi Sheldon "Shelly" Kleinman
501-282-0055
skleinm2@gmail.com

Michael Richardsson, President
903-278-6453
maheegan@aol.com

Dennis Williams, Vice President
870-230-3529
jwmensch1@gmail.com

Glenda Kirsch, Secretary/Sisterhood President
281-458-2655
ghkirsch@hotmail.com

Hal Koppel, Treasurer
501-525-3238
hjkkrew@yahoo.com

Yossi Baron
501-655-1280
kimyossibaron@yahoo.com

Sherrill Nicolosi
501-984-1517
sherrill@thevillagelawyer.com

Ira Kleinman, Past President
501-520-1323
irakleinman@awisupply.com

Sukkot is Coming

Betty Feir's grandson at his etrog farm, (where he works) in Israel, packaging them up for shipment. Take a look at those beauties. Some of them sell for up to \$1,000 apiece.



Sisterhood



The first Sisterhood meeting of the year will be on Monday, August 28 at 11 a.m. in Burgauer Hall.

Last year, we voted to continue to meet monthly. We also voted to bring our own lunches, so please

plan accordingly.

This is our only meeting sufficiently in advance of Rosh Hashanah for planning our celebration. We normally would meet on September 4, but that is Labor Day, and Rosh Hashanah is the following week. At this meeting, we also will begin planning for the customary Yom Kippur break the fast. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.

We had a wonderful response to our membership drive. We have 25 paid members, including two new members, and 8 daughters of CHI. If you still have not paid your dues but want to, please come to the meeting and join at that time.

I am looking forward to serving as your president this year and to another great year of sisterhood.

Glenda

Sisterhood Mmbers

(As of July 1, 2023)

- Kim Baron
- Millie Baron
- Katina Bowden
- Madeline Bull
- Laura Castillo
- Betty Feir
- Kay Fleischner
- Patti Fleischner
- Betty Forshberg
- Diane Goltz
- Gail Greenberg
- Lynda Kass
- Glenda Kirsch
- Betty Kleinman
- Carol Kleinman
- Mary Klompus
- Sue Koppel
- Barbara Morgan
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Karen Reagler
- Rachel Schulman
- Ruth Sedler
- Susan Siegel
- Diana Surfas
- Myrna Taxer
- Sharon Waxler
- Anita Williams

Daughters of CHI

- Mattea Fleischner
- Leah Fleischner
- Sophie Fleischner
- Sally Nicolosi
- Tillie Reagler
- Hannah Reagler
- Mimi Reagler

ARZA - World Union

How to Support Israel's Democracy

By Josh Greenberg

The aggressive legislative agenda of the Israeli government's ruling coalition is inspiring the most powerful protest movement in Israel's history. We are relieved to share that PM Netanyahu has finally responded by issuing a temporary pause to the legislation. However, this pause came at an exorbitant price, in the formation of a civilian militia, outside the scope of the Israeli police and under the stewardship of far-right extremist leader Itamar Ben-Gvir. This action threatens Israel's democracy and civil security, especially during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan when experienced, responsible policing is essential to prevent violent clashes.

As Israelis, in unprecedented numbers, continue to protest in the streets we as a North American Movement will stand by our siblings as they push for a path forward for Israel to remain a Jewish and democratic state.

Here are some ways you and your community can support Israeli democracy and the Israeli Reform Movement during this critical moment:

1. Call Your Local Israeli Consulate

Israel currently has ten consulates and two embassies across the United States and Canada that serve local Jewish and Israeli communities. Contact them directly to ensure your concerns about the judicial reforms are recorded. A list can be found [here](#).

2. Call for Commitment from All Jewish Members of Congress

Sixteen Jewish representatives signed the Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist letter to Netanyahu and the Coalition Government encouraging compromise and consensual process. Contact the eleven Jewish representatives who did NOT sign the letter to encourage them to express their concern to the Coalition Government, Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, or others where they may have influence. Contact information [here](#).

3. Identify a Congregational Leader

We need organized and effective leaders to help us expand our Movement's mobilization efforts. Every URJ Congregation can appoint a leader/point person to join our network and be a local director for their congregational team.

We are asking for one or two names from each congregation (ideally, point people should not be clergy or NAB members). You can submit the name of your congregation's point of contact [here](#).

4. Donate to the IMPJ & IRAC Emergency Campaign

Members of the new government are threatening to override Israel's core values with insidious racism, extremism, and discrimination. Due to the anti-Reform views of the new government and its ministers, the Israel Reform Movement stands to lose more than \$1.5 million in government funding. Help financially secure an Israel we can be proud of!

5. Become an ARZA Member

Your congregation's formal membership to ARZA acts as your voice in Israel's national institutions, helps our Movement in Israel expand its reach, and creates a strong Reform and liberal Zionist movement in North America. Become an ARZA member today!

6. Activate your Jewish Organization Network

Are you a member of other local, regional, or national Jewish organizations? Utilize your connections and relationships to encourage other Jewish organizations to speak out against the proposed judicial reforms. Please visit [What You Can Do Right Now to Support Israel and Support the Reform Movement](#), where you will find suggested organizations to reach out to and ideas for more actions you can take.

Sincerely,

Josh

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing. Pray that they have a full and complete recovery.:

- Ken Baim
- Sam Banks
- Kathy Bracke
- Mitch Boley
- Camy Crank
- Hy Fishman
- Oded Grenman
- Mindy Lingo
- Pat McCarthy
- Mike Richardson
- Steve Story
- Misty Stricklin
- Steven West
- Anita Williams
-

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

David D. and Karen Reagler	Sept 13
Stuart and Kay Fleischner	Oct 28

Birthdays

Madeline Bull	Sept 2
Susan Siegel	Sept 4
Lynda Kass	Sept 12
Cooper Bull	Sept 18
Jerry Rephan	Sept 27
Betty Feir	Oct 3
Karen Reagler	Oct 3
Betty Forshberg	Oct 8
Jacob Kleinman	Oct 8
Zev Kleinman	Oct 8
Brad Wolken	Oct 12
Steven Kirsch	Oct 16
Westley Kleinman	Oct 29

Reb Shelly's Desk

Continued from page 3

forced sales.” Determining and proving that sales were forced or even proving that a family owned certain artwork can be quite tricky. Jews were often exploited as they fled persecution and were paid less than the purchased objects were worth – but they were often paid something; does that count as a fair sale? These pieces of art often changed hands multiple times before ending up in the hands of a museum.

Once the art is in the possession of a museum it takes a lot of time and money to prove that it was obtained in a less than wholesome way. While I recognize the amount of work it would take for a museum to explore the history of each piece of art it obtains, it feels like there is a moral imperative to do this research. While one can't always be 100% sure that a piece of artwork was obtained illegally, it seems that museums are turning a blind eye because it is lucrative and easier.

I was curious how Judaism would respond from a moral and lawful perspective. In our recent parshah, Ki Teitzei, we learn the law, “if you see your fellow Israelite's ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it; you must take it back to your peer...so too shall you do with anything that your fellow Israelite loses, and you find: you must not remain indifferent.”

Rashi interprets this text as stating that “one must not cover your eyes, pretending not to see it.” This seems to me to be exactly what the museums are doing – they are turning a blind eye. Not only are they pretending that they don't know how the artwork came into their hands, but they are ignoring any level of restitution that should be given to descendants for this looted art.

Around 600,000 pieces of art were looted from the Jews under the Nazi regime. The Nazis wanted to strip the Jewish people of its wealth and heritage and culturally enrich the Third Reich. By not recognizing the crimes committed by the Nazis, it seems that we are allowing the Nazis to win. Removing the history of these looted artworks is denying the truth. Rashi and the rabbis of the Talmud would claim that it is the responsibility of all people to return property that is not ours to claim.

Every visitor to a museum should know that they are enjoying artwork that was part of the attempted genocide of the Jewish people. This law is a great start. It is a step towards increased transparency, and in a way, it helps combat Holocaust denial. Yet, there is so much more to be done. Let us not only “never forget” but be determined “to remember”.

September - October Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited September 1

Bruce Staffin

Brother of Myrna Taxer

Sam Taub

Father of Betty Feir

Edward I Rephan

Grandfather of Jerry Rephan

Margie Tollefson

Mother of Sharon Waxler

Kaddish Recited September 9

Bill Ginsburg

Brother of Millie Baron

Lila Raines

Mother-in-law of Steven Kirsch

Sadye Fleischer

*Grandmother of Mark Fleischer
Grandmother of Stuart Fleischer*

Sybil Fleischer

*Aunt of Mark Fleischer
Aunt of Stuart Fleischer*

Kaddish Recited September 15

Arthur Williams

Brother of Dennis Williams

Kaddish Recited September 22

Jean Gershner

Member of CHI

Kaddish Recited September 29

Helen Poncher Newman

Grandmother of Brad Wolken

Kaddish Recited October 6

Abraham Taub

Grandfather of Betty Feir

Carrie Karnofsky Davis

*Grandmother of Rachel Schulman
Grandmother of David D. Reagler*

Laura Fleischer

*Mother of Mark Fleischer
Mother of Stuart Fleischer*

Seymour Kleinman

Father of Sheldon Kleinman

Kaddish Recited October 13

Robert Fields

*Great Uncle of Mark Fleischer
Great Uncle of Stuart Fleischer*

Rosalind Goltz Hudson

*Sister of Susan Siegel
Sister of Diane Goltz
Mother of Madeline Bull*

Scott Douglas Bull

Uncle of Cooper Bull

Kaddish Recited October 20

Alice Wolken

Grandmother of Brad Wolken

Dale Tollefson

Father of Sharon Waxler

Bernard Levi

Father of Larry Levi

Earl Hudson

*Grandfather of Cooper Bull
Father of Madeline Bull*

Kaddish Recited October 28

Rachel Zucker Reagler

Grandmother of David D. Reagler

Louis Kleinman

*Husband of Betty Kleinman
Father of Ira Kleinman
Grandfather of Westley Kleinman
Grandfather of Jacob Kleinman
Grandfather of Zev Kleinman*

September Parshiot

Ki Tavo

September 2, 2023

Moses instructs the people of Israel: When you enter the land that G-d is giving to you as your eternal heritage, and you settle it and cultivate it, bring the first-ripened fruits (bikkurim) of your orchard to the Holy Temple, and declare your gratitude for all that G-d has done for you.

Our Parshah also includes the laws of the tithes given to the Levites and to the poor, and detailed instructions on how to proclaim the blessings and the curses on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal—as discussed in the beginning of the Parshah of Re'eh. Moses reminds the people that they are G-d's chosen people, and that they, in turn, have chosen G-d.

Nitzavim - Vayelech

September 9, 2023

The Parshah of Nitzavim includes some of the most fundamental principles of the Jewish faith: The unity of Israel: “You stand today, all of you, before the L-rd your G-d: your heads, your tribes, your elders, your officers, and every Israelite man; your young ones, your wives, the stranger in your gate; from your wood-hewer to your water-drawer.”

The Parshah of Vayelech (“And He Went”) recounts the events of Moses' last day of earthly life. “I am one hundred and twenty years old today,” he says to the people, “and I can no longer go forth and come in.” He transfers the leadership

to Joshua, and writes (or concludes writing) the Torah in a scroll which he entrusts to the Levites for safekeeping in the Ark of the Covenant.

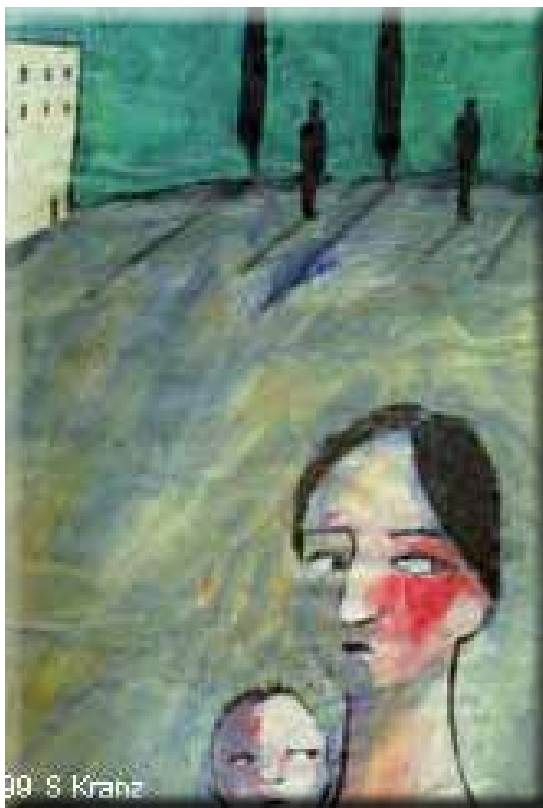
Vayelech concludes with the prediction that the people of Israel will turn away from their covenant with G-d, causing Him to hide His face from them, but also with the promise that the words of the Torah “shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their descendants.”

Haazinu

September 23, 2023

The greater part of the Torah reading of Haazinu (“Listen In”) consists of a 70-line “song” delivered by Moses to the people of Israel on the last day of his earthly life.

Calling heaven and earth as witnesses, Moses exhorts the people to “Remember the days of old / Consider the years of many generations / Ask your father, and he will recount it to you / Your elders, and they will tell you” how G-d “found them in a desert land,” and made them a people.



October Parshiot

Sukkot

September 30 - October 7, 2023

The reading 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 2nd 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 50th 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 "8th day" of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

Bereishit

October 14, 2023

God creates the world in six days. On the first day He makes darkness and light. On the second day He forms the heavens, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He sets the boundaries of land and sea and calls forth trees and greenery from the earth. On the fourth day He fixes the position of the sun, moon and stars as timekeepers and illuminators of the earth. Fish, birds and reptiles are created on the fifth day; land-animals, and then the human being, on the sixth. God ceases work on the seventh day, and sanctifies it as a day of rest.

Noach

October 21, 2023

God instructs Noah -- the only righteous man in a world consumed by violence and corruption -- to build a large wooden *teivah* ("ark"), coated within and

without with pitch. A great deluge, says God, will wipe out all life from the face of the earth; but the ark will float upon the water, sheltering Noah and his family, and two members (male and female) of each animal species.

Rain falls for 40 days and nights, and the waters churn for 150 days more before calming and beginning to recede. The ark settles on Mount Ararat, and from its window Noah dispatches a raven, and then a series of doves, "to see if the waters were abated from the face of the earth." When the ground dries completely-- exactly one solar year (365 days) after the onset of the Flood--God commands Noah to exit the ark and repopulate the earth.



Lech Lecha

October 28, 2023

God speaks to Abram, commanding him, "Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." There, G d says, he will be made into a great nation.

Still childless ten years after their arrival in the Land, Sarai tells Abram to marry her maidservant Hagar. Hagar conceives, becomes insolent toward her mistress, and then flees when Sarai treats her harshly; an angel convinces her to return, and tells her that her son will father a populous nation. Ishmael is born in Abram's eighty-sixth year.

Thirteen years later, God changes Abram's name to Abraham ("father of multitudes"), and Sarai's to Sarah ("princess"), and promises that a son will be born to them; from this child, whom they should call Isaac ("will laugh"), will stem the great nation with which God will establish His special bond.