



# The Shofar

April, 2014

Congregation House of Israel

1 Nisan - 30 Nisan, 5774

## Purim Carnival

### Hot Dogs, Hamantaschen and Haman

CHI will host an exciting Purim Carnival Saturday, March 15! We will kick off our event at 5:00 pm with Havdalah lead by our Sunday School. The carnival will feature all the Purim favorites! Face painting, bean bag toss, musical chairs, a photo booth, a cake walk, costume contests, Hamantaschen bake off, and the whole Megillah.!

Our incredibly talented ISJL fellow Lex Rolfes will be here to sing and play for us and read the story of Esther in different character voices. There will be prizes for the adult and children's costume contest - so don't forget to dress up! And if you really want to show off your skills, come enter our Hamantaschen Bake Off! We will be sampling and voting for the Queen Esther or Mordechai of the Kitchen!

The carnival is \$20.00 per family and \$10.00 per individual at the door for all you can eat and play. The proceeds from the event will benefit CHI's Building Fund. The carnival will close with a bang when a Haman Pinata is destroyed. It will be a hit! We hope everyone can come out and join us Saturday March 15th at 5pm. Come one, come all. There will be great fun for both children and adults.

For further information, please contact Karen Johnson at 318/210-4498 or email [karen.gail.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:karen.gail.johnson@gmail.com)



# Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of February 20, 2014)

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*In honor of the ordination of Shelly Kleinman*

**The Shofar**

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**Mike and Sharon Waxler**

*In honor of Mary Klompus receiving the Tikkun Olam Award*

**Mike and Sharon Waxler**

*In honor of the ordination of Shelly Kleinman*

**Pat and Bill Welch**

*In honor of the ordination of Shelly Kleinman*

## Sisterhood Cookbook Fund

**Carol Kleinman**

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## Building Fund

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## Davar

*“A Matter for Discussion”*



With March comes the Fast of Esther, better known to all of us as Purim. A biblical “fable” to be sure, the story of the evil Haman, the noble Mordecai, King Ahashuerus and the righteous Esther has enthralled countless generations of parents and children, inspiring Purim

shpiels and varieties of hamantashen in whatever country we have inhabited. Yet to see the festival simply as a day of “fun and games” is to miss one of the salient points explicated in the book of Esther: Purim commemorates the Jewish struggle for acceptance of our people in the midst of a hostile world. Haman’s accusation, “There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples...they do not keep the king’s laws, so that it is not for the king’s profit to tolerate them. If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed....” (Esther 3:8-9) has followed and plagued the Jewish people throughout the ages. Esther’s clever victory over Haman delights us each year on temple stages, yet underlying her individual triumph is the religious and national hope that Judaism and Israel will continue to maintain the strength to stand up against our adversaries and fulfill our divine promises.

Continue to support our community. There is strength in numbers, and even more strengthen in people who share a conviction that Judaism is worth preserving for all the generations to come. Join us in a celebration of Purim at the temple on Saturday evening, March 15. And on Thursday, March 20, join us at St. Luke’s for an Interfaith Service of Hope and Commemoration.

Warmest wishes to you all.

*Rabbi Chapin*

## Sisterhood



What an incredibly busy and exciting February we had at CHI. Between the ordination of Shelly, the awarding of the Tikkun Olam Award to Mary and the Religious School Shabbat Around

the Table, it was a wonderful month filled with all the warmth and comraderie we, at CHI, are known for.

March will celebrate our annual luncheon with the residents of Levi Towers. Betty Forshberg and her group of chefs promise a wonderful luncheon.

Our program will be led by Robert Raines who authored the nationally acclaimed book, “Hot Springs From Cappone to Costello.” Robert is also the owner of the Hot Springs Gangster Museum. He promises a lively and interesting program -- along with a few surprises!

This is truly the most amazing and productive Sisterhood I’ve ever been involved in. Nothing is too much for us and our slogan of “We Can Do It” doesn’t begin to address all that we do and all that we WILL do in the future.

Thank you to everyone. Not just for being a part of CHI Sisterhood, but for all that each of us contributes to our Temple. We might be small in number, but we are strong in our love for our congregation and how much of ourselves we give to each other.

*Carol*

# The Genesis of Our Future

## Rabbi Rick Jacobs address at the URJ Biennial in San Diego

On December 12, 2013, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, addressed thousands of people assembled for the URJ Biennial conference in San Diego Biennial. His speech was fascinating, commenting on both the progress and challenges facing the Reform movement and Jewish society in general. There is far too much information to be covered in the short space available in this month's issue of the Shofar, but the entire speech as well as a video of the address is available at the URJ website. A link to the website follows, and you can rest assured it's well worth a read or look.

[http://urj.org/about/union/leadership/rabbijacobs/?syspage=article&item\\_id=109240](http://urj.org/about/union/leadership/rabbijacobs/?syspage=article&item_id=109240)

## Mazel Tov



Congratulations to Eli Simkin of Dallas, son of Prudence and Jason Simkin, grandson of Ross and Ruth Sedler. Eli is a 4th grade student at Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet School in the Richardson school district. He won first place in the science fair, 3rd and 4th grade division. His project was mummification of a hot dog. It involved measurements taken over several days.

# A Purim Story

*Thank you to Yossi Baron and Mary Klompus for sharing this beautiful story.*

The brand new Rabbi and his wife were newly assigned to their first congregation to reopen a Shul in suburban Brooklyn. They arrived in early February excited about their opportunities. When they saw their Shul, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Erev Purim. They worked hard, repairing aged pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on 8th of the Adar (February 17th) they were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On February 19 a terrible snowstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the Rabbi went over to the Shul. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The Rabbi cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Erev Purim service, headed home.

On the way home, he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Mogen David embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the Shul. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The Rabbi invited her to wait in the warm Shul for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the Rabbi while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The Rabbi could hardly believe how beautiful it looked, and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then the Rabbi noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Rabbi, "she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The Rabbi explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Poland. The woman could hardly believe it as the Rabbi told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth."

*Continued on page 10*

# For New Jersey 'Monuments Man' Nazi Art Hunter, Munich Trove Brings It All Back

## *Harry Ettlinger Not Surprised at Secrets of Reich*

When news of a hidden trove of Nazi-looted art in Munich came to light this month, an 87-year-old man in a quiet retirement community in New Jersey straightened a copy of a Rembrandt self-portrait hanging on his wall, completely unsurprised.

The picture is a constant reminder to Harry Ettlinger of his days with the "Monuments Men," the allied forces team tasked with returning looted art to its rightful owners at the end of World War Two.

The Munich discovery helped reveal a little-known fact about the Monuments Men.

Just as their operation was being shut down, they were forced to return some of the recovered art to known Nazi dealers who could document they had owned the pieces before the war.

With so much art left unrecovered, and so many pieces not returned to their rightful owners, it was inevitable a hoard of lost works would be unearthed in the future, Ettlinger said.

"I think this is the beginning," Ettlinger said outside his New Jersey condominium. "It was anticipated by the Monuments Men that I knew that these things were going to come to the surface in the future, and it's happening."

The Nazis were instructed by Adolf Hitler to seize art in every territory they occupied. Pieces were confiscated because they were either deemed "degenerate," had been chosen for display in Hitler's museum, or could be sold through the Nazis' art dealers to fund the Third Reich.

The Munich collection contained about 1,400 pieces from the apartment of Cornelius Gurlitt, son of known Nazi art dealer Hildebrand Gurlitt. U.S.

records show the Monuments Men returned 165 pieces to Gurlitt, though it was unknown whether any more than one of those - a work by German artist Otto Dix - surfaced in Munich.

Gurlitt showed papers that he had owned the 165 pieces before the war, said Robert Edsel, author of "The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History," the book the upcoming film "The Monuments Men" is based on.

Reuters has since discovered archives showing other known Nazi art dealers had work returned

to them by the Monuments Men, including Karl Haberstock, who received 29 unnamed paintings, and Maria Almas-Dietrich, who received 22 tapestries. Ettlinger, a German Jew whose family fled to the United States to escape the Nazis, is one of the few surviving Monuments Men who can recall the chaotic process

of tracking down and returning millions of pieces of Nazi-confiscated art.

With about 350 people working over six years, the assignment was impossible to complete by the time the Monuments Men were called back in 1951, Ettlinger said.

Many, including his boss, Senior Monuments officer Lieutenant Commander Jim Rorimer, (played by Matt Damon in the upcoming movie) estimated they were leaving approximately three-quarters of a million pieces of art unaccounted for.

Ettlinger said his association with the Monuments Men began in Munich one day in 1945, when, because of his German language skills, he was pulled off a truck headed to the Battle of the Bulge to join the frantic operation.

"I opened the door and there was a captain," Ettlinger said. "He pointed to a desk and a chair and said, 'This guy at the next desk, he will tell you what to do.' And that was my entry into the Monuments Men."

Interrogating men such as Hildebrand Gurlitt



*Continued on page 9*

# *Celebrating at CHI*

## Shelly Kleinman's Ordination



# Celebrating at CHI

## Tikkun Olam Award Honoring Mary Klompus



## Upcoming Events

Sun	Mar 2	Religious School
Mon	Mar 3	Sisterhood Hosts the residents of Levi Towers. Guest Speaker Robert Raines
Sun	Mar 9	Religious School
Mon	Mar 10	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Fri	Mar 14	Erev Purim Services. Guest speaker ISJL Representative Lex Rojas
Sat	Mar 15	Torah Study, 9:30 a.m. Purim Carnival and reading of the Megillah sponsored by our Religious School and hosted by Lex Rojas. 5:00 p.m.
Thu	Mar 20	Interfaith Service ( <i>see page 3</i> )
Fri	Mar 21	Erev Shabbat Services
Sat	Mar 22	Torah Study, 9:30 a.m.
Sun	Mar 23	Religious School

## CHI Cookbook

The CHI "Jewish Foodies Cookbook" is going to print in just a few days! We have 444 recipes and it's going to be a great cookbook, also featuring history, prayers, holiday information and much more. We are accepting advance orders at this time. Please consider placing your orders now and include extras for friends and family. They are \$20.00 each and make great gifts!

You can reserve your copy or copies by e-mailing Ruth Sedler at [sedlerblk@aol.com](mailto:sedlerblk@aol.com). A sincere thank you from your CHI cookbook committee!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### March Birthdays

Michael Waxler	Mar 1
Dan Wolken	Mar 2
Jared Cohen	Mar 2
Melissa Casteel	Mar 10
Oded Grenman	Mar 11
Zach Chalmers	Mar 12
John Blumbeks	Mar 22
Saralee Stark	Mar 24
Carol Crow-Nanex	Mar 17

## Oneg Thanks

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

Mar. 7	Sherrill Nicolosi Barbara Bushee
Mar. 14	Saralee Stark Kathy Klein
Mar. 21	Mary and Stuart Klompus Steven, Clarissa and Gene Kirsch
Mar. 28	Jo Carroll and Alfred Lewald Phyllis and John Hearn

What better way to celebrate Shabbat or special events than with the CHI Community. If you are scheduled for an upcoming Oneg and need to switch dates, please find someone to switch with and let Carol Kleinman know of the change.





## Thumbs Up



A big thumbs up to Annette Baim for doing a great job in proofing the cookbook. She was amazing, spending many hours correcting our mistakes.

Please Join the  
Jewish Federation of Arkansas for  
the 2014



Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**NEW LOCATION:**

**War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, AR**

The festivities kick off with a classic Jewish breakfast of lox, bagels and cream cheese, plus blintzes and kugel, at 8:30 a.m.

**The festival begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.**

Admission to the festival is free.

## Monuments Man

*Continued from page 5*

to track lost art took time and resources that the group simply lacked, Ettlinger said.

Ettlinger interrogated Heinrich Hoffmann, a personal photographer and art collector for Hitler, whose testimony was cagey and impossible to verify, he said.

“It was not easy,” Ettlinger said. “There is no central record in any place where a particular piece of art - and there were literally millions of them - of where the current owner of that particular item is.”

Documents from the U.S. National Archives verify his claim. In a May 1946 report from the Monuments Men to the U.S. War Department, they asked for more time to continue investigations, saying: “Determination of the scope of the activity of such men as ... Hildebrand Gurlitt ... is vital to the satisfactory resolution of the whole looting problem.”

Under pressure to return U.S. troops home, the government ordered the Monuments Men to cease operations. Under Military Government Law 59, they were forced to return art to anyone who had documentation.

“It was the best we could do,” Ettlinger said

## A Gimpy Thank You



Haverim,,

Between the beautiful Ordination Ceremony held on my behalf, the much-needed contributions made to CHI in my name, and the outpouring of support for my “foot ordeal” of late, I’m simply overwhelmed. Thanks to CHI for the beautiful Tallit, and to Sisterhood for the exquisite Jerusalem clock hanging on our wall. What a blessing it is to be a part of this wonderful community. I can’t thank you all enough.

And a special thank you to Mike Waxler for the lovely portrait of me (top-left) taken during the reception after my ordination. He’s a true artist.

*“Reb” Shelly*

## From the President

Life is full of twists and turns, ups and downs, and both sad and happy times. About fifteen years ago, I was asked to become president of the board of Congregation House of Israel. At the time, I lacked confidence and was not prepared to take on such a significant role because my energy was needed elsewhere. That was then, this is now. Today, I am ready.

Over the course of the last decade, our family has waged war with cancer. We have triumphed in certain battles and in others, we have lost - but always, we keep on fighting. After having taken a step back from my involvement in the temple to help those I love fight for their lives, I understand more now than ever, it is possible to exceed expectations, to push limits and to accomplish more than I ever thought I could – when I engage the strength and support of those around me.

I may not possess every skill ideally needed for this position, but I do know my strengths and weaknesses. I love to learn, I believe in our organization, and I am committed to building on the capacity of an amazing board and congregation, who together, with complementary talents and skills, will steward all the good work of the past and move forward with purpose. As a team, with everyone working together, we will meet and exceed the challenges that are before us. I will need and am asking for everyone's support.

I will close with three of my favorite sayings. They come from close friends.

“We all bring something different to the table.”

“We have to invest in the future.”

Finally, from my dear friend Mark, “If it is to be, it's up to me.”

We cannot change the past, nor can we predict the future, but today we can work together and make a difference. Let's make Congregation House of Israel the best temple in Arkansas. We can strive to be the most welcoming, involved, active and financially secure organization possible.

We will do this by working together. Are you ready?

*Mary Klompus*

## A Purim Story

*Continued from page 4*

The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Poland. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to a camp and she never saw her husband or her home again. The Rabbi wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the Rabbi keep it for the Shul. The Rabbi insisted on driving her home.

That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Erev Purim. The Shul was almost full. The Service was great. At the end of the service, the Rabbi and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the Rabbi recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the Rabbi wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Poland before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the Rabbi how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a camp. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between.

The Rabbi asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the Rabbi had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Erev Purim reunion he could ever imagine.

# Remembrance: March Yahrtzeits

~ *Zichronam Livracha - May their memories be for blessing* ~

## Kaddish Recited on March 7

**Sam Gartenberg**  
*Uncle of Bob Gartenberg*

**Wolfe Gerber**  
*Father of Elaine Gartenberg*

**Peter Gartenberg**  
*Grandfather of Bob Gartenberg*

**William J. Brown**  
*Uncle of Betty Forshberg*

**Herman Fleischer**  
*Grandfather of Mark and Stuart Fleischer*

**Sol Alexander**

**Irving Lester Edelstein**

**Simon London**

**Henrietta Moscovitz**

**Leonard Abraham Sockel**

**Bessie Leiber**

## Kaddish Recited on March 14

**Murray H. Forshberg**  
*Father-in-law of Betty Forshberg*

**Jules B. Newman**  
*Grandfather of Brad Wolken*

**Himes Schwartz**

**Leo Heimann**

**Edith Lease Nathan**

## Kaddish Recited on March 21

**Jesse Albert Lippert**  
*Uncle of Bob Gartenberg*

**Herman I. Marcus**  
*Father of Imy Marcus*

**Bernice W. Sherman**  
*Sister of Louise Levi*

**Julia C. Wigderson**  
*Mother of Sue Koppel*

**Jack Lasky**

**Sidney Brockman**

**Harold Turberg**

## Kaddish Recited on March 28

**Robert L. Lewald**  
*Son of Alfred Lewald*

**Nathan Klatskin**

**Mildred Fuld**

## Refuah Shelemah

*Please remember to contact Carol Kleinman or Betty Forshberg if you or someone you know is ill, in need of help or has experienced a death in the family. We are here to help.*

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

- *Louis Kleinman*
- *Frances Iverson*
- *John and Leslie Jameson*
- *Kate Tobakas*
- *Maara Wolfe*

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