



The Shofar

December, 2016

Congregation House of Israel

1 Kislev - 2 Tevet, 5777



CHI Hanukkah Party

Although the first night of Hanukkah falls this year on Saturday December 24, our party will be:

Sunday, December 18, 4:30 TO 6:30 p.m.

Burgauer Hall.

Sisterhood will be providing latkes, spaghetti casserole, and fixings for a make your own sundae bar.

Cost is \$10.00 per adult, Children of CHI members are free. We have several volunteers bringing vegetable dishes but a few more would be appreciated.

Also latke makers will be meeting Sunday, December 18, at 1 p.m. in the kitchen to make the latkes and set up Burgauer Hall for dinner. If you wish to help with this part of the dinner please come and join the fun.

Please plan on attending. Please mail your check made out to:

Sisterhood

C/O Ruth Sedler

152 Blue Heron Drive

Hot Springs AR 71913

Your check is your reservation. Making your reservations early will help us make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of November 20, 2016)

General Fund

Irv and Gail Greenberg

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The Shofar

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Submissions due the 15th of the prior month. Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

Non-Perishable Food Drive to Benefit Jackson House

Sisterhood is conducting a non perishable food drive to benefit Jackson House. It will run until our Hanukkah Dinner on December 18.

Please bring your donations anytime you are at temple, and we will gather them and get them to Jackson house following the dinner. We usually have this drive during the High Holy Days, but this year we are collecting in December.

Remember Our Cookbook, the Jewish Foodies Cookbook, This Holiday Giving Season

We still have a limited number of cookbooks left and they would make an excellent gift for someone on your list who does not already have a copy. You can pick one up the next time you are at Temple or contact Ruth Sedler, 525- 4534 for a copy. Please be sure to turn in the money for the cookbooks to Sisterhood Treasurer, Ruth Sedler, 152 Blue Heron Drive Hot Springs, AR 71913. Checks should be made out to Sisterhood

Refuah Shelema

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

Please pray that they all have a full and speedy recovery.

- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Stuart Klompus
- Louis Kleinman
- Carol Crow-Nanez
- John Blumbeks
- JoAnne Reagler
- Lynda Kass

If you are aware of anyone needing spiritual or any sort of assistance, please let Barbara Morgan know. Our Caring Committee is here to help all of our members in any way we possibly can.

Davar

“A Matter for Discussion”



For many of us the November election was devastating. Let's pray our country can move forward with concern for all its citizens. At this time, I have my doubts.

But we continue to turn the pages of the Jewish calendar year. A very late December

Hannukah, coinciding with Christmas week, will actually conclude on New Year's Day, 2017. This confluence of holidays reminds us of how mixed our respective traditions and religions have become in the 21st century. Jews and Christians have intermarried at the rate of over 50% and that statistic has dramatically influenced both of these great world religions.

Whereas many Jewish commentators believe this has diluted the modern expression of Judaism, I am of the belief that it has changed our provincial perspective and our insularity. Our reform congregations have seen this first hand, and we remain grateful for the enthusiasm brought to our shuls by "mixed couples" and their families.

What of course is necessary is continued education in our faith. Judaism is a religion that requires study as well as practice. There is no way around that fact, but it is hard to convince congregants of its necessity. Those who want to learn in happy environs, please know there is a place and a time for Jewish study right here at CHI.

May Jeanne and I wish all of you a happy holiday season. May the approaching secular New Year bring all of us health, prosperity and peace.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Chapin

From the President



To Temple Membership:

We have scheduled the Annual meeting for CHI on Sunday, January 22, 2017, from 11 am to 1 pm. It will be a potluck at the Temple. Please put this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend. It is important that we all participate for the future of our congregation.

Also, Kay, Sophie and I wish everyone a Happy Hannukah and Healthy New Year.

Our rabbis taught the rule of Chanukkah: ... on the first day one [candle] is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased ... [because] we increase in sanctity but do not reduce. -Shabbat 21b, Babylonian Talmud

Help Wanted

Board of Directors

A vibrant congregation (like CHI) needs a vibrant Board of Directors to guide it. Terms are limited, and replacements are always needed from year to year.

If you would be interested in serving and want more information, please contact Dennis Williams at jwmensch1@gmail.com.

Congregation Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will also be a potluck lunch, and all members are seriously encouraged to attend, as the election of officers for the coming year as well as other issues of vital interest to the congregation are dealt with.

Save the date!

A Trip To Israel

By Carol Kleinman

It's often said that a trip to Israel can be a life altering experience. How true.

How quickly everything changes in this land. From city to desert, from one religion to another, from intense culture to untouched nature...this is a land of extremes all packed into a very small space.

And in order to experience this country, you need to be prepared to process every one of those extremes, and to then rest and recover before you move on to the next.

We learned this quickly during our recent trip to Israel, a trip that was far too short to get a full understanding of what a traveler can experience here, but that offered an eye-opening glimpse nonetheless.



Just imagine... You enter Jerusalem and head over to the walled Old City. In just one small area, about a third of a mile, you will wander around four very different quarters – Muslim,

Jewish, Christian and Armenian.

The main focal point is the Temple Mount, home to some of the holiest sites, not only in Judaism, but also Islam and Christianity. As is quite clear, this one area is where important events from all three religions have taken place, and it's all right up here, where, despite a few restrictions and an Israeli armed security presence, visitors can wander around in an attempt to grab a peek at the core of religious history.

Surrounding the Temple Mount is a wall, much of which was built as a retaining wall when the Second Temple was constructed some 2,000 years ago. In our tradition, a section of this wall, the Western Wall, is now considered the holiest site for prayer given its proximity to the original temple. Men and women pray in separate sections, but visitors are welcome to approach the wall, pray or just walk around. And it's open 24 hours per day, every day.

Again, that's all in one tiny, tiny area. It's intense and mind-blowing and fascinating all wrapped

together. And then there's Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. There's no way to describe it in a short article here. It's something you have to experience for yourself. By the way, I won't dwell on the fact that upon leaving, our tour bus smashed into a taxi (no one was hurt).

Of course, as incredible of a destination as this city is, there's more to Israel than Jerusalem.

Once you venture out into the rest of the country, for example, you may find yourself standing at ancient, fortified Masada, built by Herod the Great high above the Judean desert, situated on a rock mountain. This is where 900 Jewish rebels, along with their families, committed suicide rather than face defeat at the hands of the Romans at the end of the First Jewish-Roman War in 73 AD.



An hour later, you could be as low as you can possibly go on this planet, floating in the Dead Sea, just bobbing around without any effort, giddy as can be, covering your entire body with its salty, therapeutic mud, and enjoying the view of the mountains in the distance, on the Jordanian side of the sea.

But a short time later, after a drive south, you could also be lying down among the crowds of sunbathers on the beaches of Tel-Aviv or dining at one of the literally hundreds of sidewalk cafés that are everywhere in what the Visitors' Book describes as the "Party Capital of the Middle East."

There is much to see here. Much to do. Much to take in. For such a small country, there is a never-ending list of experiences to be had, and again, our trip was unfortunately a short one. Just imagine what you can do with a longer stay. I think that's part of the reason why, when it came time for our trip to Israel to end, we found ourselves wanting to stay longer, much longer. We simply were not finished with the experience. It's the kind of country where one's experience can never be complete. There are simply too many of those beautiful, conflicted, encouraging, bleeding and amazing layers of this land to learn about and to try to process as best you can.

Meet Our Members

Les and Diana Surfes

Note: The following article, about our own Diana and Les Surfes, is a partial reprint from the current Gourmet Retailer magazine.

Sometimes it takes major seismic activity to shake up a business and lead it in a new direction. That's part of what pushed Surfes Culinary district, a family owned and operated business in Los Angeles since 1937, to become a culinary hub that now serves everyone from chefs to celebrities to food lovers. Today's 18,000 square foot store and headquarters in LA is one of three locations, with another similarly sized store in Costa Mesa and a smaller outpost in Hot Springs, Ark.

Many shoppers dub the LA store, located in the west side neighborhood of Culver City, a culinary paradise. What its current patrons might not know is that it grew from humble beginnings in an abandoned garage. Originally, Surfes' whole business focused on refrigeration and repair for commercial and restaurant customers. "This store (in Culver City) is the fourth location we've occupied since my father began the business," says Les Surfes, who co-owns with his wife Diana. "After World War II, the restaurant business boomed in LA and Surfes grew. I've worked in the business created by my father, Gerald Surfes, all my life."

In the early 90s Surfes began selling some cash and carry items to the public in a location close to where the store resides today. Many of the restaurant customers purchased food and supplies from Van Rex Gourmet Foods, a local store and distributor in the foodservice industry. Chefs would mention they stopped at Van Rex when they came to Surfes, sparking an idea to create a one stop solution. "I wanted to get into the gourmet food business" Les says, "But I didn't know where to start.

The Surfes were friends with the owners of Van Rex and approached them with the idea to join the

Culver City location, but the timing wasn't right for the busy food distributor. All that changed when the area was hit by a destructive force of nature. By the time the 1994 Northridge earthquake shook the city, the Surfes family had passionately been serving the area's restaurant community for more than a half century. While no one was happy to see the city of LA suffer great damage at the hands of the 6.7 magnitude quake, it brought about a set of events that would help shape the Surfes' business into the three retail locations; commercial kitchen design center, event spaces and cafes it encompasses today.



"When the earthquake hit, the Santa Monica Freeway collapsed just two blocks away from Van Rex and cut the business off from its customers and significantly damaged their location," said Les. "The owner contacted me and said, 'do you still have room for us?' I told him they could locate here and everything was done on a handshake. The arrangement we made helped us increase our cash and carry by triple what it had been, all in just six months."

And because the Surfes were catering to chefs and serious food lovers, they didn't feel the need to stock just anything, adds Diana. "We've never been a grocery store. We didn't even have to sell food, because equipment had been the mainstay of the business. We started by only bringing in what we were excited about. That philosophy continues to this day."

A large selection of quality olive oils and vinegars made up some of the first products Surfes offered, which was much more uncommon at the time. "We loved being able to introduce people to the complexity of olive oils from all over the world because it was so new. You just didn't find a lot of olive oil in the grocery store," Diana says, pointing to a wall of oils and vinegars that now provides both high quality domestic and international options alongside a case that offers fine cheese and charcuterie.

The Surfes knew they wanted to pursue their love of food and also take advantage of the changing culinary climate in LA, which was becoming much more sophisticated.

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ADL President Says U.S. Anti-semitism Worst Since the 30s.

November 17, 2016

At the opening to the Anti-Defamation League's conference on anti-Semitism, the organization's national director said anti-Jewish hatred in America is worse than at any point since the 1930s.

Jonathan Greenblatt, speaking Thursday at the opening of the ADL's "Never Is Now" summit in New York, said currents on both the far right and far left have led to anti-Semitism's resurgence.

Greenblatt also detailed the anti-Semitic attacks that rose during the 2016 presidential campaign, mentioning the appointment of Stephen Bannon as the chief strategist to President-elect Donald Trump. Bannon was the chairman of Breitbart News, a website Bannon called the "platform for the alt-right," a loose movement of the far right whose followers traffic variously in white nationalism, anti-immigration sentiment, anti-Semitism and a disdain for "political correctness."

"The American Jewish community, our community, has not seen this level of anti-Semitism in mainstream political and public discourse since the 1930s," Greenblatt said. "Sadly, it is only being matched with escalating levels of hate toward other minorities today."

Addressing reports that Trump's transition team is considering creating a registry of Muslims in the United States, Greenblatt pledged that he would sign up as a Muslim. He referred to the apocryphal story about the king of Denmark promising to wear a yellow star if it would be required of the Scandinavian country's Jews.

"As Jews, we know what it means to be registered, or targeted, held out as different from our fellow citizens," Greenblatt said. "We as Jews know the right and just response. I pledge to you right here and now, because I'm committed to the fight against anti-Semitism, if one day American Muslims will be forced to register their identity, that is the day this proud Jew will register as a Muslim."

December Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited December 2

Warner Kass
Husband of Lynda Kass

Sharona Grenman
Wife of Oded Grenman
Mother of Elan Grenman

Alyce Brand
Sister of Carol Kleinman

Kaddish Recited December 9

Alfred Schewe
Father of Richard Alan

Bernice Waxler
Mother of Michael Waxler

Kaddish Recited December 16

Naomi Tanenbaum
Mother of Jerry Tanenbaum

Minnie Schlesinger
Mother-in-law of Barbara Schlesinger

Kaddish Recited December 23

Gertrude Katchen
Mother of Carole Katchen

Lynn Raines Kirsch
Wife of Steven Kirsch

Nellie Sheets
Mother of Mary Klompus

Eunice Hutchinson
Mother of Lori Hutchinson

Kaddish Recited December 30

Dora Taxer
Mother of Sheldon (Shep) Taxer

Katie Fielschmidt
Aunt of Fred Korngut

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

Imy and Harriett Marcus	Dec 17
Brad and Elaine Wolken	Dec 26

December Birthdays

Sally Nicolosi	Dec 6
Sophie Fleischner	Dec 7
Ed Berkun	Dec 17
Sherrill Nicolosi	Dec 20
Kim Baron	Dec 22
Frances Iverson	Dec 30
Stuart Klompus	Dec 31

Oneg Sponsors

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

Dec 2	Ross and Ruth Sedler
Dec 9	Yossi and Kim Baron Oded Grenman
Dec 16	Cynthia Rephan Saralee Stark and Wayne Phillips
Dec 23	Hal and Sue Koppel Kathy Klein
Dec 30	Barbara Morgan David and Glenda Kirsch

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

December Parshiot

Toldot

December 2-3

Isaac marries Rebecca. After twenty childless years their prayers are answered and Rebecca conceives. She experiences a difficult pregnancy as the “children struggle inside her”; G-d tells her that “there are two nations in your womb,” and that the younger will prevail over the elder.

Esau emerges first; Jacob is born clutching Esau’s heel. Esau grows up to be “a cunning hunter, a man of the field”; Jacob is “a wholesome man,” a dweller in the tents of learning. Isaac favors Esau; Rebecca loves Jacob.

Returning exhausted and hungry from the hunt one day, Esau sells his birthright (his rights as the firstborn) to Jacob for a bowl of red lentil stew .

Vayetzei

December 9 - 10

Jacob leaves his hometown Be’er Sheva and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters “the place” and sleeps there, dreaming of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with angels climbing and descending on it; G-d appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his descendents. In the morning, Jacob raises the stone on which he laid his head as an altar and monument, pledging that it will be made the house of G-d.

In Charan, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban, tending Laban’s sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter Rachel -- whom Jacob loves -- in marriage, in return for seven years’ labor. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead -- a deception Jacob discovers only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, a week later, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.

Vayishlach

December 16 - 17

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends emissaries to Esau in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of sheep and cattle) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Yabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means “He who prevails over the Divine.”

Vayeishev

December 23-24

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is 17-year-old Joseph, whose brothers are jealous of the preferential treatment he receives from his father, such as a precious many-colored coat that Jacob makes for Joseph. Joseph relates to his brothers two dreams he has which foretell that he is destined to rule over them, increasing their envy and hatred towards him.

Shimon and Levi plot to kill him, but Reuben suggests that they throw him into a pit instead, intending to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, Judah has him sold to a band of passing Ishmaelites. The brothers dip Joseph’s special coat in the blood of a goat and show it to their father, leading him to believe that his most beloved son was devoured by a wild beast.



(c) 1999 Sarah Kranz

Mikeitz

December 30-31

Joseph’s imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of hunger, and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt. Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt. Ten of Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety. Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage. Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.