



# The Shofar

February, 2016

Congregation House of Israel

22 Shevat - 9 Adar, 5776

Tu BiSh'vat - Jan 24th - Jan 25th



Tu Bi'Sh'vat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat. Scholars believe that originally Tu BiSh'vat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiSh'vat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu BiSh'vat seder each year. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.

*Courtesy of ReformJudaism.org*

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	Fri	5-Feb	Erev Shabbat Svc	Rabbi Chapin	6:00 PM
	Sat	6-Feb	Torah Study	Rabbi Chapin	9:30 AM
	Sun	7-Feb	Religious School	David Reagler	9:30 AM
	Mon	8-Feb	Sisterhood	All	11:00 AM
	Wed	10-Feb	Yiddish Class	All at CHI	7:00 PM
	Fri	12-Feb	Erev Shabbat Svc	Rabbi Chapin	6:00 PM
	Sat	13-Feb	Torah Study	Rabbi Chapin	9:30 AM
	Sun	14-Feb	Religious School	David Reagler	9:30 AM
	Fri	19-Feb	Erev Shabbat Svc	Rabbi Chapin	6:00 PM
	Sat	20-Feb	Torah Study	Rabbi Chapin	9:30 AM
	Sun	21-Feb	Religious School	David Reagler	9:30 AM
	Fri	26-Feb	Erev Shabbat Svc	David Reagler	6:00 PM
	Sun	28-Feb	Religious School	David Reagler	9:30 AM

# Thank You

We would like to thank the following

## General Fund

### Donation from Fred Korngut

*In memory of his grandmother Fanny Fiel-schmidt, and for a speedy recovery of his wife, Harriette, who is in the hospital.*

### Donation from Fred Korngut

*For the healing and speedy recovery of Harriette Korngut*

## Building Fund

### Barbara Morgan

*In memory of her husband Jonathan Morgan*

### Lenny Mendel

*In memory of David Reagler*

### Rabbi Shelly and Carol Kleinman

*In memory of David Reagler*

### Saralee Stark and Wayne Phillips

## Sisterhood Fund

### Barbara Morgan

*In memory of David Reagler*

## Yahrzeit Contribution

### David and Joanne Reagler

*In loving memory of Mildred Ruben, sister of David Reagler*

### David and Joanne Reagler

*In loving memory of Percy Creim and Sam Karnofsky*

### Dr. Hal and Sue Koppel

*In loving memory of David Wigderson*



## The Shofar

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David D. and Karen Reagler

## ISJL Board Chair's Message



*An interview with David and Joanne Reagler, parents of Board Chair Rachel Reagler Schulman*

Over the holidays, ISJL Board Chair Rachel Reagler Schulman visited her parents, who now live in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She talked with them about legacy, Jewish identity, their Southern Jewish roots, and what they think of the ISJL.

### Where did you grow up?

**Joanne Reagler:** New Iberia, Louisiana.

**David Reagler:** Wynne, Arkansas.

### Talk about where you raised your family (us!) and the challenges and rewards of being in the community where we lived...

**Joanne:** We raised our family in Wynne, Arkansas. Certainly our challenge as a Jewish family there was to give our children a real sense of their Judaism.

**David:** Joanne drove the children to religious school [in Memphis, Tennessee] every weekend.

**Joanne:** We tried to create a Jewish home, celebrating Jewish holidays. We were fortunate that the Reaglers were well known in Wynne, and respected, so it was fairly easy to give the children a feeling of self worth. It was important to me that our children feel a part of our Jewish families, both in Wynne and in New Iberia where I grew up, but also a part of the entire Jewish community as a whole.

**David:** I had very little, if any, "Jewish training." I never had the opportunity to attend religious school. My family and teachers in Wynne, who were not Jewish, encouraged me to go to a university with a Jewish population and opportunity to make Jewish friends. I found that at Louisiana State University, but Wynne was still home. When I was born, Wynne had a Jewish population of approximately 10-12 families. When we were raising Robin, David and you, there were only 10 Jewish people in Wynne. There was still a sense of community, and in Wynne, our family had a group of

non-Jewish friends that loved and cherished us, as well as a very small group of Jewish friends who were like family.

### What do you think of the ISJL?

**Joanne:** I became aware of the ISJL when Macy Hart started the organization. I had such high regard for Macy and what he accomplished at Henry S. Jacobs Camp, I had high hopes for what the ISJL would accomplish as well. When we moved to Hot Springs, I learned of the many activities of the ISJL and its importance in bringing Jewish cultural events to the rural South. The most important effect it has had on our congregation is the education program, which has benefitted both the adult and youth congregants.

**David:** It has been a wonderful thing for our families. It has enabled my son to teach religious school to his four children and others in our Hot Springs community, which I never could have imagined he would be able to do.

### What's your favorite Southern Jewish memory?

**David:** Making chopped liver with my mother in a wooden chopping bowl with a steel chopper for Jewish holidays, back in Wynne. **Joanne:** Being confirmed at age 13 at Temple Gates of Prayer in New Iberia, Louisiana, with all of my family there, being so proud of me.

### What does "legacy" mean to you?

**Joanne:** It makes us realize we are a part of a continuum of a set of values and beliefs that we transmit to our children that we are part of a meaningful and beautiful tradition.

**David:** Amen.



*Joanne and David Reagler with grandchildren Sarah and Max Schulman. Photo courtesy of The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life and Ruth Sedler*

*Note : David Reagler passed away on Thursday Jan. 14th. This article is a tribute to the Reagler family.*

## From the Rabbi



Martin Luther King day always evokes memories of the Jewish involvement and concern for the betterment of the Afro-American community. I was profoundly influenced by King's writings and

speeches as a college student. When I saw a number of rabbis marching with MLK in Selma, Alabama I became more inclined to enter the rabbinate. It was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, holding hands with MLK that fateful day who said, "We were praying with our feet." Reform Judaism has always held up the themes of Social Justice as the primary teachings of the biblical prophets. Our movement has always been at the forefront of helping our neighbors help themselves.

I have taught a Bible Study class at Rev. Gregory Nettle's AME Church this January. In April, Rev. Nettles and members of his historic church will join us in a Model Seder to be commemorated at Rev. Michael Mattox's First United Methodist Church. Hopefully, we will have numerous volunteers to prepare the Passover repast. It promises to be a significant occasion of Interfaith brotherhood and sisterhood. More details will follow in the coming months.

And may all of us recall and cling to the words of Isaiah, who said: "We are a House of Prayer for All Peoples." These universal words of antiquity applied to the Jewish people then and now. May they always inspire our congregants to perform acts of love, grace and inclusion.

Warmest Wishes,

Richard Chapin

## Sisterhood



The Sisterhood membership mourns the loss of David Reagler, beloved husband of Joanne, and father of David D. and Karen. We will miss his warm personality and his wonderful smile and wit.

Sisterhood had planned to provide a brunch for the annual congregational meeting but that was cancelled to a later date. A lovely lunch was provided for our January meeting by Glenda Kirsch and Millie Baron. Our Federation representative, Cindy Brown, joined us again for lunch.

Sue Koppel

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### Twelve Angry Men

**Sunday Feb 28th. 2:00 PM**

The room is tense with violent conflict of the jurors' differing opinions, while a young man's life hangs in the balance. Will one man's reasonable thoughts make a difference? Come experience this compelling drama in a Theater-in-the-Round setting at the Coronado Community Center. Don't miss this exciting Players' production.

Tickets are \$12.00 in advance, \$14.00 at the door. Please send an email to me, dayno90@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.

Let's plan on meeting at Noon on Feb 28th at the Home Plate Cafe on Hwy 7 just 1/2 mile past the Village West Gate for lunch.

Please mail your check for tickets to David Kirsch at 23 Almazan Way, HSV, AR 71909.

Cut off day will be Feb 14th as I will try to purchase a block of tickets together.

We hope to see you there!

## From the President



"May the door of this synagogue be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for fellowship.

May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.

May the door of this synagogue be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or straying feet.

May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness, and harshness.

May this synagogue be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life."

*Michael A. Gold*

Sincerely,

**Stuart Fleischer**

### A Special "Thank You"

To all the members at Congregation House Of Israel, James & Marie say thank you for the lovely gift, and we appreciate each of you. It feels good to be appreciated.

Love,

James & Marie

## Getting to Know

### David Reagler



How I ended up in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Karen and I were married in 1997. She commuted every day and worked at a law firm in downtown Memphis, and I worked in the family business in Wynne, Arkansas. I started out, primarily, focusing on the retail business. It did well, but as I

continued to grow the self-storage business, I figured out that self-storage was more user-friendly, and more profitable.

Eventually, Karen took a position as trust officer and in-house attorney for a Wynne bank, and we were happy as two bugs in a rug, living in Wynne. We were involved in every facet of that community. We led the economic development efforts, and Karen started a county-wide community foundation, and raised over \$750,000.00.

So over time, we developed self-storage facilities in West Memphis, Hot Springs, and Hot Springs Village, in addition to Wynne. I had learned about the records and information management business at a self-storage tradeshow, and felt it showed promise. We decided to move to Hot Springs for several reasons:

1. We had four children, and Hot Springs had strong school districts.
2. We wanted to live where there was a synagogue, and a Jewish community.
3. We wanted to develop the records management business.
4. Karen's parents already lived in Hot Springs, and my parents had agreed to move here, as well.

We've loved every minute in Hot Springs. Our children have built strong bonds with their grandparents, Congregation House of Israel, Henry S. Jacobs Camp, Arkansas, and each other. Karen and I feel completely at home. If all goes well, we will grow old and gray at 120 Roberts Ridge Terrace.

## The Simple Truth about Black-Jewish Relations: A Conversation with Julius Lester

Aron Hirt-Manheimer

**Discussion on ReformJudaism.org**

In his autobiographical book *Lovesong: Becoming a Jew*, scholar and author Julius Lester wrote about his spiritual journey to Judaism. It began while on a retreat, when a Trappist monk told him, "When you know the name by which God knows you, you will know who you are." Lester searched for that name and discovered it to be Yaakov Daniel ben Avraham v'Sarah. "I have become who I am," he wrote, "I am who I always was. I am no longer deceived by the black face which stares at me from the mirror. I am a Jew."

The following interview is adapted from an article by Julius Lester in *Reform Judaism* magazine. His analysis remains just as relevant today as it was in 1989.

**ReformJudaism.org: Would you say that Jews and blacks share a common historical experience of persecution?**

**Lester:** While in the broadest sense that is true, many blacks find it offensive and historically inaccurate.

"How can that be?" I can hear many Jews asking. "Look at all that Jews have suffered throughout history. There are no two peoples in Western history who have suffered as much as Jews and blacks."

**Isn't it true that Jews and blacks have been among the most oppressed peoples in history?**

When one looks at blacks and Jews in the context of American history, that commonality of experience ceases. Jews came to America seeking freedom from religious persecution. Blacks were brought to America to be enslaved. From the very beginning, America represented diametrically opposed value systems to Jews and blacks.

Saying this is not to disregard the anti-Semitism to which Jews were subjected in America. But I doubt that anyone would say that anti-Semitism in America was equivalent to 200 years of slavery and its legacy.

**Do Jews and blacks experience oppression in significantly different ways today?**

Yes. For most blacks, oppression is physical and manifests itself first economically. The simple truth is that most Jews are among the "haves" of American society; blacks comprise a significant portion of the "have-nots."

For Jews, oppression is social and psychological. It is a feeling of not quite belonging, of not

quite being an American like all other Americans. Non-Jews regard Jews as being different in some indefinable way. They see us as "Jews" and not as persons. They hold us personally responsible for every action of the Israeli government.

The black response to the social and psychological oppression of Jews is a shrug of the shoulders, as if to say, "So what?" On a crowded street, most Jews are not identifiable as Jews. Blacks are always identifiable. The social and psychological oppression to which blacks are subjected is of a different order.

**Was there a time in American history when it was easier for blacks to regard Jews as fellow victims?**

With the rise in Jewish affluence and Israel's victory in the Six-Day War, the image of Jew-as-victim ceased to match the reality.

Many Jews, however, continue to see themselves as victims. So important is this self-image that some Jews borrow it through identification with Holocaust victims or with American blacks.

Blacks in America do not need to borrow suffering from the past or from other groups. Anti-black racism stalks the land daily. Jews in this country are fortunate enough that they do not have to live on terms of intimacy with anti-Semitism.

**What can Jews do to improve relations with blacks?**

Jews will create new possibilities for black-Jewish relations by ridding themselves of prior assumptions.

Rather than assuming that they know what blacks and Jews share, it is wiser for Jews to assume that they know nothing and are willing to listen and learn. What they will hear may be painful, and it might take much effort to learn a new truth or two. Listening is very central in Judaism and as Jews, we know that it is not only a physical act; it is an act of attentiveness to that which is without and that which is within. Listening is a way of expressing the sacred and receiving the sacred.

How healing it would be if American Jews listened to blacks. If they did, what they would hear is a deep and excruciating agony, which comes when it is felt that no one cares, the loneliness experienced when no one seems to be listening.

*Aron Hirt-Manheimer is the Union for Reform Judaism's editor-at-large.*

*Courtesy of Jerry Tanenbaum*

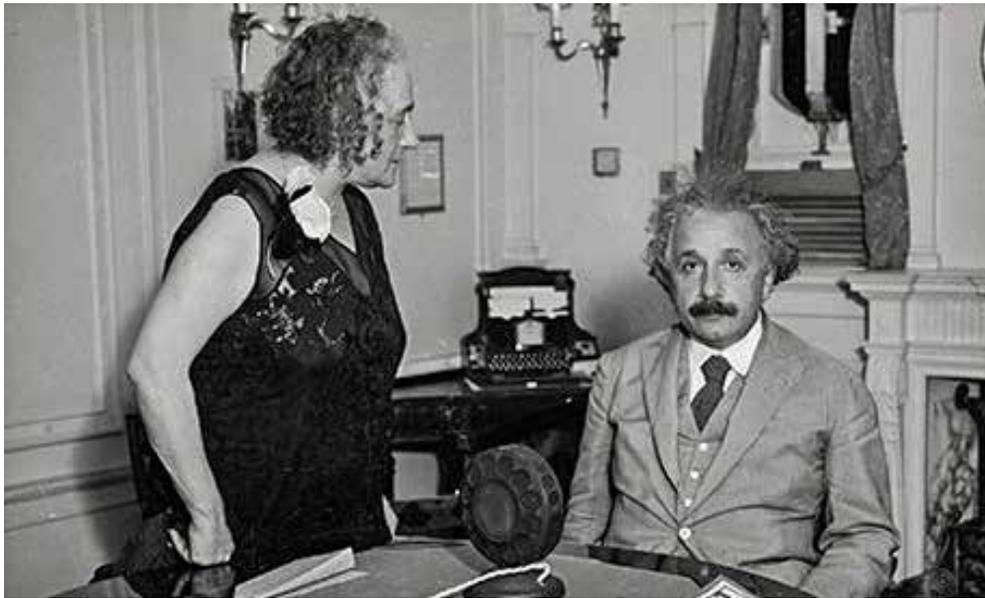
# CHI Hanukkah 2015



A wonderful time was had by all during the holiday season. From making latkes to hosting a Star Wars based Hanukkah play or a trip to Garvin Gardens, our CHI family was busy showing their warmth and spirit. Have a Happy and Healthy 2016!



*In January, Rabbi Chapin had the privilege of hosting a confirmation class from Rev. Michael Mattox's First United Methodist Church for Shabbat Services.  
Photo by David Kirsch*



No matter if you're Albert Einstein, you can't always keep your wife happy.  
**Happy Valentine's Day**

## What does the Pope's synagogue visit mean for Jews and Christians?

Pope Francis's visit to a synagogue in Rome comes amid questions about the shifting status of Jewish-Catholic relations.

*By Ben Thompson, Staff January 17, 2016*



Pope Francis visited the Great Synagogue of Rome Sunday, becoming only the third Catholic leader in modern times to visit the Jewish house of prayer. Francis spoke at the synagogue in an effort to demonstrate interfaith solidarity in the wake of recent religiously motivated violence around the world, and to condemn anti-Semitism. The Pope's remarks were met with a generally positive response, according to the Associated Press.

"The hatred that comes from racism and bias or worse which uses God's name or words to kill deserves our contempt and our firm condemnation," said Ruth Dureghello, president of the Rome's Jewish community, according to the AP.

Francis's visit followed previous Great Synagogue papal appearances by Pope John Paul II in 1986 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, both made in times of strained relations between the two religions.

Rome's chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, hosted Francis's visit and was also present when Benedict attended. Before the Sunday event, Rabbi Di Segni expressed hope that the visit could accentuate the friendship between Jews and Christians while also criticizing recent moves by the Vatican, saying they "cannot be so appreciated by the Jewish community."

While relations between Jews and Catholics are relatively calm now, some believe the Vatican has not acknowledged Israel properly while giving Palestine recognition.

In 2015, the Catholic Church signed a treaty recognizing a "State of Palestine." And Francis had previously visited the West Bank prior to Israel when traveling through the region, as well as possibly having likened Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas to an "angel of peace."

Despite these tensions, the Vatican released an update on the status of Catholic-Jewish relations last month, 50 years after the Church's first declaration on relations with non-Christian religions – the *Nostra aetate* – was published. The December reflection pertained to the "special" dialogue between Jews and Christians and where the Catholic Church hopes to take it.

The release also made new points that the Church should not actively try to convert Jews, and acknowledged that the two religions share a unique historical and theological connection. "This document is very significant," Rabbi David Rosen of the American Jewish Committee told the AP.

The Pope's Sunday visit also included an acknowledgment of Holocaust survivors and Francis's repetition of John Paul's assertion that Jews are Christians' "elder brothers" in the family of God.

But the top Catholic's main message was the condemnation of recent violence perpetrated by and directed at religious people.

"Violence of man against man is in contradiction to every religion that merits the name, in particular the three monotheistic religions," Francis said, according to the AP. "Every human being, as a creature of God, is our brother regardless of his origins or religious belief," he said.

*Courtesy of the Christian Science Monitor Jan. 2016 edition*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Anniversaries

Norm and Barbara Bushee Feb 11

### Birthdays

Ken Baim Feb 1  
Louis Reagler Feb 2  
Tillie Reagler Feb 2  
Kathy Klein Feb 10  
Diane Goltz Feb 12  
Elan Grenman Feb 13  
Joanne Reagler Feb 17  
David D. Reagler Feb 18  
Imy Marcus Feb 21  
Mark Koppel Feb 22

## Todah Rabah

To **the Sisterhood** for preparing the delicious Hanukkah latkes and meal.

To **Rabbi Chapin** for promoting CHI to the interfaith ministries.

To **David Reagler** for his work directing our Hanukkah play and preparing the thespians.

To all the participants and hosts/hostesses for our **Yiddish Class - Kina Hora!**

## Refuah Sheleimah

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

John Hearn  
John and Leslie Jamieson  
Carol Crow-Nanez  
John Blumbeks

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



## Oneg Thanks

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

Feb 5 Kathy Klein  
Anthony & Sherrill Nicolosi  
Feb 12 Barbara Morgan  
Feb 19 Steven & Clarissa Kirsch  
Stuart & Kay Kleischner  
Feb 26 Lynda Kass  
Louis & Betty Kleinman

**Reminder:** If you are scheduled for an upcoming Oneg and need to change dates, bear in mind that it is YOUR responsibility to find someone to switch with.

# February Yahrzeits

## Kaddish Recited February 5

**Milan Mandel**  
*Stepfather of Lenny Mendel*

**Pinhas Grenman**  
*Father of Oded Grenman*

## Kaddish Recited February 12

**Eric Ross**  
*Father of Elaine Wolken*

**Rose Ginsburg**  
*Grandmother of Millie Baron*

**Max Singer**  
*Father-in-law of Lenny Mendel*

**Jason Kandel**  
*Cousin of Stuart Klompus*

**Julia Levine Bauman**  
*Mother of Cynthia Rephan*

**Roy D. Dutch Schlosberg**  
*Grandfather of Jeff Schlosberg*

## Kaddish Recited February 19

**William Boswell**  
*Father of Anita Williams*

**Ani Hannah Grenman**  
*Mother of Oded Grenman*

## Kaddish Recited February 26

**Sally Friedlander Boley**  
*Mother of Sherrill Nicolosi*

## Condolences

We mourn the loss of beloved CHI member David Reagler, who passed away on January 14th. Our condolences to his wife Joanne, as well as his children and grandchildren.



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