



# The Shofar

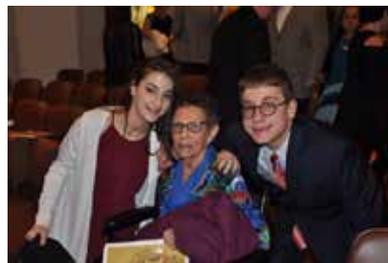
July - August, 2017

Congregation House of Israel

7 Tammuz - 9 Elul, 5777

## Better Late Than Never

(Photos from the February B'nai Mitzvah of Louis and Tillie Reagler)



## Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions during the month of May (as of June 20)

### General Fund

#### Ross and Ruth Sedler

*In loving memory of Ruth's father, Charles Bellin  
In memory of the passing of Carol Crow-Nanez*

#### Barbara Morgan

*In loving memory of her husband, Jonathan Morgan*

#### Susan and Lou Siegel, the Goltz, Hudson and Bull family

*In loving memory of Bernice Lockwood Goltz and Flora Meyer Lockwood*

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In loving memory of his mother-in-law, Ruth Holtzman*

#### Cynthia Rephan

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*In loving memory of Faye Kirsch, Grandmother of Steve Kirsch*

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*In loving memory of Marcia Prushansky, Carol's mother*

#### Michael and Sharon Waxler

*In memory of the passing of Carol Crow-Nanez*

#### Mark and Patti Fleischner

*In memory of the passing of Carol Crow-Nanez  
In honor of the birth of Milo Paz Gordon, grandson of Betty and Louis Kleinman*

#### Dennis and Anita Williams

*A special and generous contribution in honor and appreciation of Congregation House of Israel*

### Cemetery Fund

#### Steven and Clarissa Kirsch

*In loving memory of Steven's father, Eugene Kirsch*

## From the President



This may seem irreverent but the development of Judaism to a monotheistic faith over the last several millennia seems fascinating. The first verse of Genesis we are told: in the beginning, the gods created the two heavens and earth. This gives the appearance to be a belief in many gods. Later in the same chapter of Genesis, the gods said let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves both male and female.

While in bondage in Egypt, in the tenth plague Hashem slays the first born and executes judgment against all the gods of Egypt. When we get to the ten commandments in Exodus, we learn that Hashem who brought us out of Egypt and bondage does not want us to have any other gods before him. This may indicate a move toward monolatry or henotheism where other gods not only exist, they may be respected and worshiped so long as we do not do it in Hashem's face.

Jewish history has shown this to be the case. We as a people did not adhere strictly to monotheism before the Babylon exile. Many Israelites chose to worship gods and engage in polytheistic cults rather than be monotheistic. In exile, the psalmist laments that Hashem is to be worshipped above all other gods because the other gods are mere idols.

It was with the discovery of the book of Deuteronomy that we move from monolatry to monotheism. In Deuteronomy 6:4 is the Shema. The Shema is central to our faith: "Hear Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One."

*Dennis*

# Davar

“A Matter for Discussion”



It's been a troubling year. Whether or not you supported the election of Donald Trump, it is clear his behavior has been disruptive and his vision short-sighted. There is a dark cloud over his presidency,

At the temple, a number of congregants have suffered debilitating illnesses. We continue to pray for them and hope God will bring consolation to their loved ones.

Does Judaism have answers for our *tzurris*, our troubles? Yes. We have always considered ourselves *aseeray tikvah*. “Prisoners of Hope.” A fascinating term to be sure. It is built into our Jewish psyches that we must be optimistic and hopeful despite the many problems we face in life. I find this one of the great glories of Judaism.

So let us pray for good things during these summer months -- for our people, for our country, for our loved ones, and for the members of our community we hold so dear. May all of us take heart, and may we go from strength to strength and blessing to blessing.

Jeanne and I will be on vacation in July but look forward to seeing you all in August.

B'Shalom,

*Richard Chapin*

# Life and Legacy Plan

We've all heard the saying, “Don't put off until tomorrow what we can do today.” So many of us have good intentions to leave a gift to CHI, but procrastinate. This article is a little nudge to ask our congregants and friends of CHI to commit to making an after-life gift to CHI by signing a “Letter of Intent” through the Life and Legacy program. **NO FUNDS ARE ASKED TO BE GIVEN NOW.**

L & L is a partnership among CHI, JFAR (Jewish Federation of Arkansas) and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, to establish and promote a legacy that “ensures Jewish tomorrows.” JFAR asks that you sign a Letter of Intent, available from an L & L committee member, pledging to make a future gift, to be given after you pass away. The pledge can be in a bequest in your Will or Trust, a beneficiary designation on an IRA, Annuity, or life insurance policy, or any other form of future gifting. Then, don't procrastinate: follow up by including the gift in your Will or Trust or on a beneficiary form, etc.

JFAR has promised a monetary incentive grant of \$5,000 to CHI if L & L receives 18 new, additional Letters of Intent by March, 2018. Thanks to our CHI family and friends, JFAR is giving a \$5,000 gift for the previous year, as 18 Letters were presented to JFAR.

Contact any of our L & L team members, Karen Reagler, Sherrill Nicolosi, Stuart Fleischner, and Rabbi Chapin for information about L and L and how your Letter of Intent can help CHI remain a presence in our community, to maintain our rich Jewish traditions, and pass them on to future generations.



The famous question is asked for the first time.

## July 2017 Parshiot

### Chukat

July 1, 2017

After forty years of journeying through the desert, the people of Israel arrive in the wilderness of Zin. Miriam dies, and the people thirst for water. G-d tells Moses to speak to a rock and command it to give water. Moses gets angry at the rebellious Israelites and strikes the stone. Water issues forth, but Moses is told by G-d that neither he nor Aaron will enter the Promised Land.

### Balak

July 8, 2017

Balak, the king of Moab, summons the prophet Balaam to curse the people of Israel. On the way, Balaam is berated by his ass, who sees, before Balaam does, the angel that G-d sends to block their way. Three times, from three different vantage points, Balaam attempts to pronounce his curses; each time, blessings issue forth instead. The people fall prey to the charms of the daughters of Moab, and are enticed to worship the idol Peor. When a high-ranking Israelite official publicly takes a Midianite princess into a tent, Pinchas kills them both, stopping the plague raging among the people.

### Pinchas

July 15, 2017

Aaron's grandson, Pinchas, is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing the Simeonite prince Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour: G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood. The five daughters of Zelophehad petition Moses that they be granted the portion of the land belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d accepts their claim and incorporates it into the

Torah's laws of inheritance.

Moses empowers Joshua to succeed him and lead the people into the Land of Israel.

### Matot - Massei

July 22, 2017

War is waged against Midian for their role in plotting the moral destruction of Israel, and the Torah gives a detailed account of the war spoils and how they were allocated amongst the people, the warriors, the Levites and the high priest.



The tribes of Reuben and Gad (later joined by half of the tribe of Menasseh) ask for the lands east of the Jordan as their portion in the Promised Land, these being prime pastureland for their cattle. Moses is initially angered by the request, but subsequently agrees on the condition that they first join, and lead, in Israel's conquest of the lands west of the Jordan.

### Devarim

July 29, 2017

On the 1st of Shevat (37 days before his passing), Moses begins his repetition of the Torah to the assembled Children of Israel, reviewing the events that occurred and the laws that were given in the course of their 40-year journey from Egypt to Sinai to the Promised Land, rebuking the people for their failings and iniquities, and enjoining them to keep the Torah and observe its commandments in the land that G-d is giving them as an eternal heritage, into which they shall cross after his death. Moses recalls his appointment of judges and magistrates to ease his burden of meting out justice to the people and teaching them the word of G-d; the journey from Sinai through the great and fearsome desert; the sending of the Spies and the people's subsequent spurning of the Promised Land, so that G-d decreed that the entire generation of the Exodus shall die out in the desert. "Also against me," says Moses, "was G-d angry for your sakes, saying: You, too, shall not go in there."

## August 2017 Parshiot

### Va'etchanan

August 5, 2017

Continuing his “review of the Torah,” Moses describes the Exodus from Egypt and the Giving of the Torah, declaring them unprecedented events in human history. Moses predicts that, in future generations, the people will turn away from G-d, worship idols, and be exiled from their land and scattered amongst the nations; but from there they will seek G-d, and return to obey His commandments.

Our Parshah also includes a repetition of the Ten Commandments, and the verses of the Shema, which declare the fundamentals of the Jewish faith: the unity of G-d (“Hear O Israel: the L-rd our G-d, the L-rd is one”); the mitzvot to love G-d, to study His Torah, and to bind “these words” as tefillin on our arms and heads, and inscribe them in the mezuzot affixed on the doorposts of our homes.

### Eikev

August 12, 2017

Moses rebukes the Children of Israel for their failings in their first generation as a people, recalling their worship of the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, the sin of the Spies, their angering of G-d at Taveirah, Massah and Kivrot Hataavah (“The Graves of Lust”); “You have been rebellious against G-d,” he says to them, “since the day I knew you.” But he also speaks of G-d’s forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Tablets which G-d inscribed and gave to them following their repentance.

Moses describes the land they are about to enter

as “flowing with milk and honey,” blessed with the “Seven Kinds” (wheat and barley, grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates), and the place that is the focus of G-d’s providence of His world.

### Re'eh

August 19, 2017

“See,” says Moses to the people of Israel, “I place before you today a blessing and a curse” -- the blessing that will come when they fulfill G-d’s commandments, and the curse if they abandon them. These should be proclaimed on Mount Gerizim and Mount Eibal when the people cross over into the Holy Land.

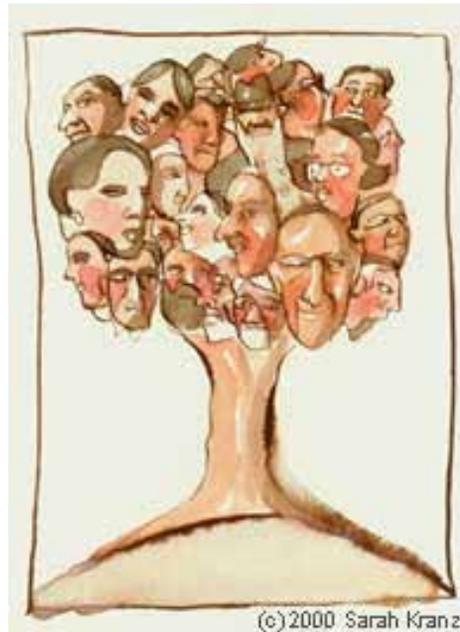
A Temple should be established in “the place that G-d will choose to make dwell His name there” where the people should bring their sacrifices to Him. The mitzvah of charity obligates a Jew to aid a needy fellow with a gift or loan. On the Sabbatical year (occurring every seventh year) all loans are to be forgiven. All indentured servants are to be set free after six years of service.

### Shoftim

August 26, 2017

Moses instructs the people of Israel to appoint judges and law-enforcement officers in every city; “Justice, justice shall you pursue,”

he commands them, and you must administer it without corruption or favoritism. Crimes must be meticulously investigated and evidence thoroughly examined -- a minimum of two credible witnesses is required for conviction and punishment. Shoftim also includes the prohibitions against idolatry and sorcery; guidelines for the creation of “cities of refuge” for the inadvertent murderer. Also set forth are many of the rules of war: the exemption from battle for one who has just married, built a home, planted a vineyard or is “afraid and soft-hearted”; the requirement to offer terms of peace before attacking a city; the prohibition against wanton destruction of something of value, exemplified by the law that forbids to cut down a fruit tree when laying siege (in this context the Torah makes the famous statement “For man is a tree of the field”).



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### July - August Anniversaries

Mick Stoyanov and Millie Baron	July 14
Barbara and Norm Bushee	July 15
Yossi and Kim Baron	August 16
Ken and Annette Baim	August 19

### July - August Birthdays

Lou Siegel	July 3
Les Surfas	July 12
Sue Koppel	July 13
Barbara Schlesinger	August 2
Melissa Lax	August 8
Millie Baron	August 12
Anthony Nicolosi	August 21
Fran Rephan	August 21
Diana Surfas	August 24
Cynthia Rephan	August 28
Hal Koppel	August 30
Fred Korngut	August 30
Sheldon (Shep) Taxer	August 30
Hannah Reagler	August 31
Miriam (Mimi) Reagler	August 31
Ruth Sedler	August 31

## Oneg Sponsors

Thank you to the following for sponsoring an Oneg during the months of July and August:

July 7	Dennis and Anita Williams Barbara Morgan
July 14	Jerry Tanenbaum Sharon Ball
July 21	Millie Baron and Mick Stoyanov Cynthia Rephan
July 28	Kim and Yossi Baron Oded Grenman
August 4	Kay and Stuart Fleischner Carol and Larry Levi
August 11	Goltz Girls and Cooper Jack Bull
August 18	Sue and Hal Koppel Betty Forshberg
August 25	Jodi and Jerry Chalmers Clarissa and Steven 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.

## Refuah Shelemah

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

- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Ken Baim
- Sue Koppel
- Louis Kleinman
- JoAnne Reagler
- Robert Burns
- Rabbi Mark Miller
- Saralee Stark

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

### The Shofar

Published monthly by:

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Submissions due the 15th of the prior month.

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

# July - August Yahrzeits

## Kaddish Recited July 7

**Sely Simon Seligman**

*Father of Diana Surfes*

**Dorine Calcote Williams**

*Mother of Dennis Williams*

**Ruth Holtzman**

*Mother-in-law of Fred Korngut*

**Morris Schlesinger**

*Father-in-law of Barbara Schlesinger*

## Kaddish Recited July 14

**William Kaufman**

*Father of Barbara Bushee*

## Kaddish Recited July 21

**Gertrude Kaufman**

*Step-mother of Barbara Bushee*

**Jim Stark**

*Husband of Saralee Stark*

**Virginia Gottlieb**

*Aunt of Barbara Morgan*

**Bernice Lockwood Goltz**

*Mother of Diane Goltz*

*Mother of Susan Siegel*

**Eugene Kirsch**

*Father of Steven Kirsch*

*Uncle of Stuart Fleischner*

*Uncle of Mark Fleischner*

## Kaddish Recited July 28

**Flora Meyer Lockwood**

*Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

*Grandmother of Diane Goltz*

**Marcia Prushansky**

*Mother of Carol Kleinman*

**Sandra Boley**

*Sister of Sherrill Nicolosi*

**Joseph Zibrack**

*Father of Sharon Ball*

**Robert Gartenberg**

*Husband of Elaine Gartenberg*

## Kaddish Recited August 4

**Nelly Kass**

*Mother-in-law of Lynda Kass*

**Etta L. Jacobson**

*Mother of Harriett Marcus*

**Jacob Falk**

*Grandfather of Louis Kleinman*

**Israel Barenblat**

*Grandfather of Ira Kleinman*

*Father of Betty Kleinman*

**Rachel Barenblat**

*Mother of Betty Kleinman*

*Grandmother of Ira Kleinman*

**Deanna Berkun**

*Wife of Ed Berkun*

## Kaddish Recited August 11

**Jonathan Byrd Morgan**

*Husband of Barbara Morgan*

**Jerry Garland**

*Father of Saralee Stark*

**Philip Taxer**

*Father of Sheldon (Shep) Taxer*

## Kaddish Recited August 18

**Lee Staffin**

*Mother of Myrna Taxer*

**Herman Glen Hobbs**

*Father of Glenda Kirsch*

**Meier Baron**

*Father of Yossi Baron*

**Alton R. Colombe**

*Step-father of Donovan Ball*

**Paula Hirsch**

*Sister of David Kirsch*

**Selma Schneider**

*Grandmother of Elaine Wolken*

## Kaddish Recited August 25

**Albert Louis Ruskin**

*Father of Phyllis Hearn*

**Herbert Erwin Harris**

*Father of Barbara Morgan*

**Samuel Jacobson**

*Father of Harriett Marcus*

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