



The Shofar

June, 2015

Congregation House of Israel

14 Sivan - 13 Tammuz, 5775



Mazel Tov to **Jerry Tanenbaum**, shown here being honored in Rio De Janeiro for his chairmanship of the WUPJ's Yad B'Yad Task Force, and to belatedly celebrate his 80th birthday. Standing next to him is his grandson Adam, who accompanied him to Brazil.

Schedule of Events

Fri	June 5	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Chapin.
Sat	June 6	9:30 am	Torah Study
Fri	June 12	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Chapin
Sat	June 13	9:30 am	Torah Study
Fri	June 19	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Kleinman
Fri	June 26	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Kleinman

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of May 20, 2015)

General Fund

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In honor of the wedding anniversary of Steven and Sarah Surfas

Mark and Patti Fleischer

In honor of the commitment ceremony of Saralee Stark and Wayne Phillips

In loving memory of Bill Eisenkramer

In honor of Stuart Fleischer's 60th birthday

In honor of Mattea Fleischer, Masters graduate of the Clinton School of Public Service

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In honor of Sue Koppel and to thank her for all her help

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Barbara Morgan

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The Shofar

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Cynthia Rephan

In loving memory of Louise Levi

In loving memory of Morris Nathan Bauman

In honor of the births of Aubrey Willow Rephan and Loretta Rae Stanley

Dennis and Anita Williams

In loving memory of Louise Levi

Betty Forschberg

In loving memory of Louise Levi

Sisterhood Fund

Louise Levi

In loving memory of Joseph Weisman

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David and Joanne Reagler

In loving memory of Nathan Davis and Morris Reagler

Mensch Donation

Ellen S. Krane

From the Rabbi



Most temples, including rabbis, regard the celebration of Shavuot, commemorating God's Giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, as the end of the Jewish calendar year. Certainly, there are reasons for this, but they are secular, not religious. Living in America, we

are ruled by the secular calendar. Children finish school in June (or even earlier) and enjoy summer vacation until the fall. Parents also seek time to "recharge their batteries" at this time of year.

But looking at the Jewish calendar brings a different conclusion. Shavuot is not the third, or final pilgrimage festival. It comes second in our calendar. Pesach is first. The third and concluding festival is the harvest holiday of Sukkot. We have, historically speaking, left Egypt on Passover and 50 days later arrived at Sinai. Then, as the Bible relates, we begin our 40 year period in the Wilderness. The festival of Sukkot, which we commemorate five days after Yom Kippur, reminds us of that desert journey. Our greatest philosopher, Maimonides, notes that the purpose of remembering the days in the Wilderness is "to teach man to remember his days of pain and difficulty during his days of prosperity. He will thereby be induced to thank God repeatedly and to lead a modest and humble life."

I find this comment instructive. Following the Jewish calendar and observing the Jewish life cycle not only make us better Jews, but more reflective and philosophical people. The old Union Prayerbook began its Sabbath morning service with the words: "Lord of all worlds, what are we, what is our life, what our goodness, what our power?" These are the questions that we should ask ourselves not only during the "season," not only during the High Holy Days, but every season, and every day of our lives. As Jews we are compelled to examine our deeds on a daily basis. Why not make that commitment today? Remember the words of Hillel: "If not now, when?"

Sisterhood



Just when we all thought it was over and the sun was going to shine and the flowers were going to bloom – here it comes again! All this rain gives me an opportunity to reflect on the wonderful and busy Temple Spring.

Once again, our Temple Seder was an extraordinary evening.

We had 96 people sharing in all the holiday delicacies and prayers. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Our Schaliach, Lior Rom, visited and gave an informative and interesting talk on Israel – immigration into Israel from so many countries and the challenges that has brought.

Starting out the month of May, we had a presentation from Dr. Nancy Hendricks followed by a wine and cheese reception. Dr. Nancy appeared in period costume to give us stories of Jews in Arkansas during the Civil War. Who knew that the Burgauer Family was so important during the war. We had a lively question and answer period after the program and many books were sold and signed by the author.

If you haven't read the book, look for *Terrible Swift Sword: Long Road to the Sultana*. Her previous book, *Senator Hattie Caraway – An American Legend* is also available and is another celebration of women.

I'm worn out just thinking about all the events that our small congregation has enjoyed in the past month or two. Now we will have a few months to collect ourselves and gear up for the Fall Frenzy and another fun-filled year at CHI.

Don't forget – Sisterhood dues will be due (of course) at the end of August. Ruth will be sending out a reminder and we look forward to lots of good times.

Sue Koppel

10 Ways Busy Parents Can Share Judaism With Their Kids

Rabbi Erin Polansky

We all lead busy lives, running here and there and everywhere. It can be difficult to find time for ourselves, let alone to nurture a spiritual or religious life. But there are many ways to feel Jewish and to impart Jewish feelings, customs, and knowledge to our children without investing much more time into our already-busy schedules.

Play Jewish music in the car

Driving from school to soccer, baseball, dance, art class, Hebrew school... for many parents, time spent in the car seems never-ending. What if that time could also be Jewish time? Instead of "Mom, are we almost there?" your family could be rocking out to Rick Recht's "Free to Be the Jew in Me," or Julie Silver's "Halleluyah."

Sing prayers as lullabies

One of the times we recite the *Sh'ma* is before going to sleep at night. It can be sung in many different tunes, many which sound like lullabies. I tell my daughter that the words of the *Sh'ma* remind her about God when she's going to sleep, so it helps to keep the bad dreams away.

As a new mom, I began singing *Sh'ma* at bedtime to my son when he was six months old. When he was two, he surprised me one day by breaking out in the *Sh'ma*. He knew all the Hebrew words! (Well, they were close.) I realized that a young mind is like a sponge and could absorb anything, so I began singing the Four Questions at bedtime, slowed down to lullaby speed. Six months later, at age 2 ½, he impressed all of our relatives by asking the *Mah Nishtanah* at the seder table on Passover.

Express grateful sentiments often

I learned from a friend how easy it is to infuse gratefulness into our kids' lives. While driving her kids between activities, she made a point of expressing awe and thankfulness at the beautiful world around her. "Wow, what a gorgeous tree that is," she would say, "Aren't we lucky to have a God who made such a beautiful world?" This helps to raise the children's consciousness about God every day and to see that there's a lot to be thankful for

– no matter how difficult today's math test was or how mean that popular kid was at recess.

Light candles on Friday night

It's hard to take an entire day and make a full stop. But how about 10 minutes? Gathering together even for a short moment to acknowledge the Sabbath, connect with each other, offer some blessings, and wish each other a "*Shabbat shalom*" can have a profound impact on children. It doesn't even matter if dinner is take-out! Shabbat can be whatever you can handle. Just don't skip it.

Read Jewish books

If your child is 7 years old or under, check whether your city has PJ Library®, a service that sends families with young children a Jewish book, DVD, or CD every month – for free! If PJ Library isn't available in your community, or if your children are older, help them find books with Jewish themes, characters, or storylines. Tablet offers a great list of suggestions.

Require kids to donate part of their allowance to *tzedakah* (charity)

Historically in Biblical times, 10% of our earnings were tithed (paid as taxes to the Temple). Today, we have translated tithing into a requirement to donate to charity. In Jewish tradition, this is an obligation, not a suggestion. Even the poorest person who receives charity him- or herself must donate to others.

Try this: 10% of your child's allowance goes to a cause of their choosing, 30% goes to savings, and the rest is theirs to do with as they please. (Maybe they'll even donate more of it!) Choosing a charity can be a terrific exercise, giving parents the opportunity to engage with kids about Jewish values and help them see that even a young person has the potential to do good in the world.

Put a *mezuzah* on your door

This is an easy one that keeps us aware of our Judaism every day. You can buy a *mezuzah* at any Judaica store, along with a scroll to go inside. Hang it on the right side of your door (when entering from outside), with the top of the *mezuzah* pointing slightly into the home. You might consider letting your children select a *mezuzah* for

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Mazel Tov

To **David Reagler** on being honored by the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club as an “honorary rotarian” after many years of service above self. This distinction is a public recognition of his service for over 60 years, both in Wynne and Hot Springs.

To **Mattea Fleischner** on becoming a Masters graduate of the Clinton School of Public Service. Proud parents are Mark and Patti Fleischner.

To **Jeff Schlosberg** and **Margaret Meyers** on their recent engagement. A Fall wedding is planned in Memphis.

To **Sara Reagler Schulman** on her graduation from high school. She is the daughter of Rachel Reagler Schulman and the granddaughter of David and Joanne Reagler.

To **Joel and Nancy Unowsky** on selling their home in Hot Springs and moving closer to family. We'll miss them both.

To **Cynthia Rephan** on the births of her TWO great-grand-daughters – Aubrey Willow Rephan and Loretta Rae Stanley.

To **Lynda Kass** on the graduation of her grandson, Joshua Daniel Wuhrman. Josh will be attending Miramar College in San Diego studying Accounting and Business.



Won't you please share your good news with the congregation. It's such fun for everyone to hear about good things happening to their friends.

URJ/MUM

Thank you for the April 2015 MUM membership support from Congregation House of Israel for the Union for Reform Judaism and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

It is a very exciting time at the URJ. We are refining our mission and refocusing on Strengthening Congregations, Audacious Hospitality, and Tikkun Olam. We are developing new ways of working: through consultation, community, and network services.

Congregations, our core constituents, will be enhanced by a new Leadership Institute, expansion of Communities of Practice, self-assessment programs, a suite of online tools, and consultative services. The Tent is a collaboration platform for the 21st century with more than 2,000 members, and fosters open discussion groups and private group capabilities.

As we look toward the implementation and improvement of services, we thank Congregation House of Israel for its role in catalyzing the Jewish experience in your local community and throughout North America. Thank you for your active participation in our sacred mission.

From the Editor

The next issue of The Shofar will be a combined issue for July and August, arriving the last week of July. Deadline for submissions will be June 15th.

We are still in need of a CHI photographer. We have had so many wonderful events, and no pictures taken to share.

HELP!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Clarissa Kirsch	Jun 1
Shelly Kleinman	Jun 4
Carol Kleinman	Jun 8
Ben Klompus	Jun 8
Andrea Parker	Jun 9
David Reagler	Jun 11
Mary Klompus	Jun 20
David Cohen	Jun 21
Kathryn Eisenkramer	Jun 23
Yossi Baron	Jun 28
Jerry Chalmers	Jun 30

Anniversaries

Steven and Sarah Surfes	Jun 1
Ira and Stephanie Kleinman	Jun 8
Mark and Patti Fleischner	Jun 12
Anthony and Sherrill Nicolosi	Jun 14
Stuart and Mary Klompus	Jun 15
Ross and Ruth Sedler	Jun 16
David and Cheryl Cohen	Jun 27

Refuah Shelema

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- David Reagler
- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Barbara Diebel
- Louis Kleinman
- Sally Nicolosi
- Edith Reiter
- Imy Marcus
- Jerry Tanenbaum

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.

Oneg Thanks

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

Jun 5	Annette Baim Anita Williams
Jun 12	Millie Baron Sharon Waxler
Jun 19	Sue Koppel Saralee Stark
Jun 26	Betty Forshberg Carol 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 and to advise Carol Kleinman of the change.



We want to thank **Diana Surfes, Michael Waxler, Millie Baron, and Anita Williams** for their help in our booth at the Jewish Food Festival. We were incredibly successful this year selling our cookbooks and aprons. We had a prime location, thanks to Shelly Baron, who by the way, rocks as a leader in her community. She was instrumental in the organization of this event. War Memorial was packed!! It was a beautiful day and quite delightful seeing the Little Rock community partaking in our Jewish culture.

And, of course, thank you to **Mary Klompus** for all her hard work and ideas for the aprons and the cookbooks.

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June Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited June 3

Nancy Kleinman

Mother of Shelly Kleinman

Anna Marcus

Grandmother of Carol Kleinman

Kaddish Recited June 12

Tillie Creim

Aunt of Joanne Reagler

Dora Korngut

Mother of Fred Korngut

Fay Kirsch

Grandmother of Steven Kirsch, Mark Fleischer and Stuart Fleischer

Samuel Schudmak Sr.

Uncle of Louis Kleinman

Kaddish Recited June 19

Charles Bellin

Father of Ruth Sedler

Estee Klompus

Mother of Stuart Klompus

Patricia Tanenbaum

Wife of Jerry Tanenbaum

Sterling Frances Gottlieb

Uncle of Barbara Morgan

Condolences

We mourn the passing of Louise Levi, mother of Larry Levi, Mother-In-Law of Carol Levi, and Grandmother of Mark Levi.

May her memory be for blessing.

10 Ways

Continued from page 4

their bedroom door. Every time you walk through your doorways, you will be reminded that this is a Jewish home – and so will everyone who visits you. Some people kiss the *mezuzah* every time they walk through the door as a way of acknowledging love for God, the commandments, and our tradition.

Light *yahrzeit* (memorial) candles and talk about your ancestors

Judaism gives us many meaningful times to remember our loved ones who have died. The anniversary of one's death is called the *yahrzeit*, and we light a candle on the evening leading into this day. The candle burns for a full day, and no blessing needs to be said. It gives us the opportunity to talk about our loved one, remember them, and share memories with family members who may not have known them. In addition to the *yahrzeit*, we light the same kind of candle at Yom Kippur and the three festivals: Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

Hang Jewish art on your walls

A blessing for the home, a *mizrach* (art depicting Israel placed on the eastern wall in a home to remind us of Jerusalem), Jewish symbols and scenes – any of these items on our walls give the feeling of a Jewish home and remind us of our Judaism every time we see them... which is every day.

Use the word “*mensch*”

Mensch literally means “man,” but we use it to refer to a good person of any gender. When you praise our kids for good behavior, good choices, and kind words, try calling this behavior “*mensch*-like.” Not only will children understand that they have done or said something of which you are proud, but they will also understand that they are being good Jews. Caught doing a favor for a sibling? “What a *mensch*!” Helping set the table without being asked? “What a *mensch*!” Standing up for the underdog? Now there's a *mensch*. Let's make sure our kids know that Judaism values these small acts of kindness.

Judaism doesn't have to be limited to inside the walls of the synagogue. As we learn in Deuteronomy, from the *V'ahavta*, we can and should make it part of our everyday lives “when we are sitting in our homes, and when we are going on our way.”

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