



March, 2015

Congregation House of Israel

10 Adar - 11 Nisan, 5775



### March Schedule of Events

Mon	Mar 2	11:00 am	Sisterhood Meeting
Fri	Mar 6	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Chapin*
Sat	Mar 7	9:30 am	Torah Study
Mon	Mar 9	5:30 pm	Board Meeting
Fri	Mar 13	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Chapin *
Sat	Mar 14	9:30 am	Torah Study
Fri	Mar 20	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Kleinman *
Fri	Mar 27	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Kleinman *

\* All Erev Shabbat services are preceded by an Oneg Shabbat at 5:15 pm



# Thank You

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

## General Fund

**Lenny Mendel**

*In loving memory of Milan Mendel*

**Carol and Shelly Kleinman**

*Get well wishes to Mike Waxler, Ken Baim. David Reagler and Bill Eisenkramer*

**Hal and Sue Koppel**

*In loving memory of Katrina Williams*

**Hal and Sue Koppel**

*In loving memory of Julia Wigderson*

**Mary and Stuart Klompus**

*Get well wishes to Ken Baim, Mike Waxler and Bill Eisenkramer*

**Mary and Stuart Klompus**

*In honor of Cynthia Rephan receiving the Tikun Olam Award*

**Dennis and Anita Williams**

*In honor of the 80th birthday of Jerry Tanenbaum*

**Irvin Moscowitz**

*In honor of Cynthia Rephan receiving the Tikun Olam Award*

**Louise Levi**

*In loving memory of Bernice W. Sherman*

## Building Fund

**Lenny Mendel**

*In loving memory of Max Singer*

## Sisterhood Wall of History

**Betty and Louis Kleinman**

*Get well wishes to David Reagler, Mike Waxler and Ken Baim.*

**Betty and Louis Kleinman**

*In loving memory of Katrina Williams*

## The Shofar

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Congregation House of Israel

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## Congregation House of Israel

# Rabbinical History

1956 - present

1956 - 1974	Rabbi Albert Michels
1974 - 1981	Rabbi Percy Selvin Goldberg
1983 - 1985	Rabbi Thomas Friedman
1986 - 1988	Rabbi Jay Heyman
1988 - 1989	Student Rabbi Brett Isserow
1989 - 1991	Rabbi Angela Graboys-Rudner
1991 - 1994	Rabbi Matthew L. Friedman
1994 - 2001	Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman
2001 - 2002	Student Rabbi Debra Dressler
2003 - 2007	Rabbi Vicki Hollander
2007 - 2011	Rabbi Jerome Fox
2011 - 2016*	Rabbi Richard Chapin
2013 - 2016*	Rabbi Sheldon Kleinman

\* Part Time

## From the Rabbi



Walking into Belle Arti, the monthly meeting place for the Hot Springs Fellowship of Clergy, I met one of our congregants finishing her lunch. After a friendly exchange of good wishes, she departed and I was met by Rev. Dr. Michael L. Mattox of

First United Methodist Church. Michael offered preprandial blessings and we then enjoyed both the food and non-secular conversation. Near the end of our repast the good Reverend noticed two of his parishioners, husband and wife, sitting down at an adjoining table. The husband had just undergone an operation and his head was bandaged. Rev. Mattox immediately repaired to their table and expressed his sympathy and concern for his congregant. I followed in tow and wished him a “speedy recovery” (which we call *refuah shelemah*).

We returned to our table and smiled. All in a day’s experience. Yet a few minutes later our waitress informed us that our bill had been paid for by Rev. Mattox’s church members. We were surprised and delighted by their generosity.

This episode reminded me of a special trip to New Orleans I once took with Josh. He was 8 or 9. Coming back on an early morning flight to New York and facing a delaying fog, we were first in a long line of customers anxious to confirm their passage. The gentleman behind the desk was harried, already fatigued by the crowd assembled before him. I motioned to Josh to keep silent. We waited patiently as the gentleman prepared himself for the onslaught. Minutes went by. We were silent.

Finally, he looked up and acknowledged us. I said, “Good morning. We’re the Chapins. How are you?” And for some reason, that relaxed him. He took our tickets and said, “You’ve been so patient. I’m going to switch you to First Class.”

We, of course, expressed our gratitude. And then I said to my son, “Josh, it says in the Pirkei Avot that we should never do something so that we should receive a material reward. But sometimes, you will receive one, just by being patient and kind.” Acts of random kindness. Today, and every day.

## Sisterhood



Our February meeting was sharing pictures of our favorite vacation places. Thank you to the people who remembered to bring their pictures (it dawned on me just as I was parking my car!!). The pictures that were shared were great with many interesting and fun destinations.

Thank you Millie and Phyllis for a wonderful lunch. We all enjoyed the crepes and salad. Aren’t we lucky to have such good cooks in our Sisterhood.

I received a lovely thank you from the Bridges of Hope group for the lunches we provided the students. These are people who are working on their skills for getting ahead and being self sufficient.

Our March meeting on the 2nd will be our annual organizational meeting. We will present a slate of officers as well as nominations from the floor. There are so many capable women in our group to chose from. We hope to also start planning for next year. So, please bring your appetites as well as ideas.



(L - R) Ruth, Annette, Sue, Carla Mouton, Joanne, Betty and Carol celebrating Joanne Reagler’s birthday at Phil’s Restaurant.

## Religious School

The religious school is continuing to set educational records.

We are studying the Torah portion each week. This coming Sunday morning we will be doing a skit on Tetzaveh. It addresses Moses' receiving of the 10 commandments, the building of the Tabernacle and the creation of the Eternal light, and other monumental developments in our faith.

The students have to study their Hebrew every day for a few minutes – our children do theirs during breakfast. We will be moving faster and faster, and studying outside of class will be necessary to keep up with the pace.

We continue to learn various blessings, and are transitioning from looking at the transliteration to looking at the Hebrew.

We planted an oak tree at Hollywood Park for Tu b'shvat.

We look forward to warmer weather so we can study outside!

Please Join the  
Jewish Federation of Arkansas for  
the 2015



Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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.

## ARZA - World Union

### Reminder WZO Election

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to vote for ARZA in the World Zionist Organization election. This is very important.

It's very easy to vote via internet; enter [reformjews4israel.org](http://reformjews4israel.org) in the address bar of your browser. You can vote online using a credit card, or copy the ballot and mail it in with your check for \$10.00 per person

#### What is ARZA?

- ARZA strengthens and enriches the Jewish identity of Reform Jews in the United States by ensuring that a connection with Eretz Yisrael is a fundamental part of that identity.
- ARZA develops support for and strengthens the Reform movement in Israel and promotes advocacy for a Jewish, pluralistic, just and democratic society in the State of Israel.
- ARZA links the people and institutions of the Reform Movements in Israel and the United States, informed by a love of Israel and a belief in K'lal Yisrael – Jewish peoplehood.
- ARZA works in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), and their affiliates.
- ARZA represents United States Reform Jews in national and international Zionist organizations.

**Remember:** Anyone in your family or household can and should vote.

**Requirements:** They must be Jewish ( belonging to a congregation is not required )

## The Secret Jewish History of Mardi Gras

*Fat Tuesday owes more to Purim than you might think.*

By Seth Rogovoy

At first glance, Mardi Gras — the New Orleans version of the worldwide Carnival celebrations — seems anything but Jewish. Its quintessential elements, including public masquerade, the imbibing of copious amounts of alcoholic beverages, and second-line parade music aren't stereotypical territory for the people of the book, outside of a few bar mitzvah parties that went on way too long.

On second glance, however, Mardi Gras takes on a different cast. A Jewish one.

For one, there is the holiday's proximity in the calendar to the Jewish festival of Purim. And just as Easter has elements of Passover, and Christmas is basically Hanukkah 2.0, so too does Mardi Gras resemble Purim in more ways than one.

In fact, masquerading, drinking, making noise and all sorts of revelry are essential elements of Purim, one of the only days of the year when Jews are actually encouraged to party like it's 1999. It's an upside-down day, much like Mardi Gras, when men dress up as women and vice versa, when the meek are encouraged to be rowdy, when adults are supposed to act like kids, and when you are encouraged to poke fun at sacred cows.

Purim of course has its serious legal obligations: Jews are required to hear the public reading of every word of the Megillat Esther, or the Book of Esther. But at the same time, by custom they are urged to interrupt the reading with cheers and boos, noise and music. Every time the name of the evil Haman is read, it is to be blotted out with graggers and kazoos and other noisemakers, which, if you think about it, could be the prototype instruments of New Orleans jazz. And by the end of the reading, according to the Talmud, you are supposed to have drunk enough schnapps such that you cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordechai," which a scientific survey found to be equal to the exact level of drunkenness of the aver-

age Mardi Gras reveler.

New Orleans's Mardi Gras celebrations date back to the early 19th century. By mid-century, social organizations, or "krewes," had begun to form. They were men's social clubs, like the Temple Brotherhood, that adopted mythologies, secret handshakes, and themes for their costumes. One such organization was Rex, whose king also acts as the official King of Carnival. The first such man thusly honored with the title "Rex" was Louis Solomon in 1872. Solomon, a prominent Jewish businessman, is said to have been a descendant of Haym Salomon, the financier of the American Revolution.



After the Civil War, things got worse for the Jews along with other victims of racial and religious prejudice. With the rise of Jim Crow and anti-immigrant sentiment in the early 20th century, Jews as well as blacks were banned from most of the New Orleans krewes.

Eventually blacks and Jews formed their own krewes. The first African-American krewe, Zulu, was founded in 1909, although its Mardi Gras parade route was confined to black neighborhoods well into the 1960s. Zulu's approach was a Purim-like grotesquerie, in which participants appropriated the very look and behavior attributed to them by racist Southerners as a kind of mockery or send-up.

It was supposedly the sight of this cultural subversion in action, as well as the sound of a marching band playing klezmer — the New Orleans Klezmer Allstars — that inspired a young Jewish newcomer to New Orleans named L.J. Goldstein to form the modern-day Krewe du Jieus in 1995. And like the Zulus, they appropriated anti-Semitic iconography for their costumes, wearing fake hooked noses and horns, dressed as bankers and lawyers, and built a float that promoted the "Jieus World Order." Instead of coconuts, they threw bagels.

And just as the establishment of the first synagogue in town eventually must lead to the establishment of a second, in order that Jews have a place in which they won't set foot, so too did a group of members split off from the Krewe du Jieus in order to form the Krewe du Mishigas, bringing the secret Jewish history of Mardi Gras to its ultimate and perfect conclusion.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### *Birthdays*

Michael Waxler	Mar 1
Melissa Casteel	Mar 15
Oded Grenman	Mar 18
John Blumbeks	Mar 22
Saralee Stark	Mar 24
Carol Crow-Nanez	Mar 31

## Refuah Shelemah

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

- David Major
- Bill Eisenkramer
- David Reagler
- Ken Baim
- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Barbara Diebel
- Louis Kleinman

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



*Patti Fleischner and her pal Sadye running trails at Entergy Park. Patti is sporting the shirt Kathy Klein surprised her with. It says, "forget the glass slippers, this princess wears running shoes"*



*Mimi Reagler joining Lex Rofes and Rabbi Shelly for the Aleinu during Erev Shabbat Services. This was Lex's final visit to CHI as ISJL Fellow.*

## Todah Rabah

To **Lex Rofes** for being our ISJL Fellow and friend for the past 2 years.

To **Barbara Morgan** for all her 'care and concern'

To **David D. Reagler** for all his hard work with our Religious School.

To **Our Outgoing Board** for all their time and effort and to the **INCOMING BOARD** for taking on all the responsibilities of making CHI such a wonderful place to belong to.

To **Ruth Sedler** for all of her ideas, work and everything else she does (way too much to list)

## Oneg Thanks

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

- March 6 Diane Goltz, Susan Siegel, Madeline Bull
- March 13 Kathy Klein, Stephanie Kleinman
- March 20 Betty Kleinman, Carol Kleinman
- March 27 Mary Klompus, Sue Koppel

**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.

## March Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited March 6

**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 Fleischner**

*Grandfather of Mark and Stuart Fleischner*

### Kaddish Recited March 13

**Jules B. Newman**

*Grandfather of Brad Wolken*

**Murray H. Forshberg**

*Father-in-law of Betty Forshberg*

### Kaddish Recited March 20

**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 and Ellen Eubanks*

## Mazel Tov



To **Fran and Jerry Rephan** on the birth of their grand-daughter and to the excited great-grandmother, **Cynthia Rephan** who also celebrated receiving the Tikkun Olam Award the following week! Proud parents are **Jacob Rephan** and **Rosie**. **Aubrey Willow Rephan** weighed 7 lbs.

To **Ken and Annette Baim** on the engagement of their daughter **Laurie Friedman** to **Albert Levin**.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

To our wonderful friends at CHI. Thank you so much for your thoughtful concern for both of us. We are so appreciative of your phone calls, visits, food, contributions and just you all. Kenneth is very slowly getting his strength back but it has certainly been a difficult struggle. We are thankful to be a part of this very caring community.

With love to you all,

*Annette*

## Mazel Tov, Cameron Diaz! At least, we think so.



The non-Jewish actress tied the knot in a Jewish ceremony with Good Charlotte's Benji Madden. Yes, you read that right. Two celebrities with no apparent connection to Judaism decided it would be fun to say "I do" under a chuppah.

The ceremony, attended by 100 guests and planned by Yifat Oren and Stefanie Cove (aha! the Jewish connection), was held on a stage in Diaz's home.

The traditional seven blessings were recited, and Benji crushed the glass as twin Joel Madden and his wife Nicole Ritchie looked on.

But wait, it gets weirder. Per, Us Weekly:

After the vows, Madden requested personal time with Diaz, during which they entered a private room for about 30 minutes, asking not to be disturbed — a Jewish wedding ritual known as *Yichud*.

Is Good Charlotte a good Jewish band? Or Is Judaism just the new kale?

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