



The Shofar

March, 2018

Congregation House of Israel

14 Adar - 15 Nisan, 5778

You are Invited!!

The CHI Community Seder

**Friday, March 30, 2018
Congregation House of Israel**

**A short service with Yahrzeits will be
held in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.**

Seder begins at 5:30 p.m.

Congregation members and their guests
(included in the same check) will cost \$30.00 per
person.

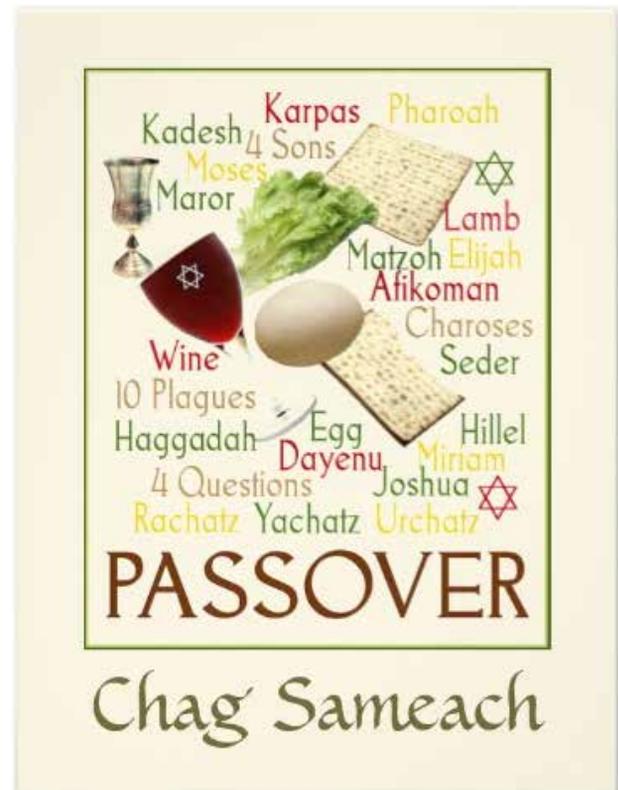
High School and younger children of
MEMBERS are free.

Non-members are \$40.00 per person for adults;
children age 5 through high school are \$20.00.

Children of non-members, under 5, are FREE.

Your check is your reservation.
Reservations need to be in by Monday, March 26.

Mail your checks to:
Ruth Sedler
152 Blue Heron Drive
Hot Springs, AR 71913



Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions (as of February 20, 2018)

General Fund

The following made contributions to CHI in beloved memory of Joanne Reagler;

Bea Chessman and the staff of RMC
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Scott Malin
Sharon and Michael Waxler
Stuart and Kay Fleischner
William Rubenstein

Cynthia Rephan

In beloved memory of Julia L. Bauman and Barbara Schlesinger

In beloved memory of Sara S. Levine

The Shofar

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Lenny Mendel

In Beloved memory of Max Singer and Milan Mendel

Sisterhood Fund

Myrna Taxer

In beloved memory of her father, David Staffin

Barbara Morgan

In beloved memory of Joanne Reagler

Davar - A matter for discussion



Another day in America. Another mass shooting by a child of other innocent children. Are our prayers for their families working?

By now, I would submit that a combination of political interest groups and money is stopping any real efforts on gun control in their tracks. I am not optimistic any action will be taken after this tragedy either. We have made human carnage a statistic rather than a loss of precious lives.

What to say? As a Rabbi I have found these continuous pleas for hope and prayers in the midst of tragedy empty, specious, and meaningless. Action must be taken to make things safer in our country, particularly for our school children. We should not be worrying, after dropping our loved ones off to school in the morning, whether they will possibly endure something as awful as the Florida parents endured on Valentine's Day. There are enough problems in schools these days with adolescents. Murder should not be one of them.

Let's not give up the fight to elect representatives to Congress who are not at the mercy of special interest groups. And let us not forget that human life is sacred. The Talmudic dictum most of us are familiar with says, "If you save one life you save the world." The Talmud also says, "If you destroy one life you destroy the world." We are inadvertently watching the destruction happen. It is to our lasting shame that it continues to happen on a nearly daily basis.

We look forward to our Passover Seder celebration on March 30 at the Temple wherein we recall the struggle for freedom led by Moses on behalf of our people. Let us not forget the struggles of all people that require our participation and commitment today and in all the days to come.

With all good wishes

Rabbi Chapin

Life and Legacy Plan

MAZEL TOV, CHI!

Life and Legacy Plan reached our second goal of securing 18 new commitments to name CHI as a beneficiary in their Will, Trust, life insurance policy, Annuity, or other form of future (post-death) gifting. JFAR and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation will be awarding \$5,000 to CHI, as an incentive grant.

CHI received the first \$5,000 incentive grant when L & L obtained our first 18 commitments (called "Letters of Intent"). A special thanks to Jerry Tanenbaum for helping L & L obtain those final "Letters" (pledges). As always, Jerry came through for CHI!

While the goals for the incentive grants have been met, CHI continues to ask our congregants and friends of the Congregation to remember CHI in their Wills, Trusts, etc. We want CHI to continue to remain a strong Jewish presence in the Hot Springs community, and the State. By leaving a gift to CHI, you are helping secure that presence for future generations.

Life and Legacy committee members, Karen Baim Reagler, Sherrill Nicolosi, and Stuart Fleischner, can be contacted for additional information about how you can include our Congregation as a beneficiary.

THANK YOU to each person and couple who helped make the L & L incentive grant program a success, and please continue to support our Congregation.

ARZA - World Union

Grief, Greed and Giving

Before addressing anything else, we turn our hearts to the victims of the horrific shooting in Florida and their families. As they search for comfort, community and healing, we offer the words of the Israeli poet Moti Hammer, sung every year in memory of Israel's fallen, reminding us that we are all connected as one human family:

When I shall die, something of mine, something of mine will die in you, will die in you.

When you'll die, something of yours, something of yours in me will die with you, will die with you.

Because all of us, yes all of us are all one living human tissue and if one of us goes from us something dies in us - and something, stays with him.

If we'll know, how to comfort, how to comfort the hostility, if only we'd know.

If we'll know, how to quiet our rage (if we'd know how to quiet) upon the fury of our humiliation, to say sorry. If we'd know how to start from the beginning.

May their memories be for a blessing, and may we as a nation act to stop senseless violence and keep each other safe.

This week in Israel brought disappointing, though unsurprising news. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces possible indictment for accepting over a million shekels in gifts in exchange for political favors. What may have started off with a box of cigars here or a bottle of champagne there snowballed until Netanyahu and his wife were demanding extravagant items and peddling influence.

There is a line about absolute power that seems relevant here, because although Netanyahu is the leader of a democratic state, these acts undermine that value. It is the job of the Knesset and the Courts to show the strength of the nation's democracy and demonstrate that, even in the days of King David, the Jewish people have never had a leader above the rule of law.

Though likely unintentional, the recommendation to indict Netanyahu comes at an opportune time in our Torah reading cycle.

“Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart so moves him.” (Exodus 25:2)

On the surface, this line says that anyone should be able to give a gift as long as their heart moves them to do so. However, Rashi explains that the text really implies that the gift should be a voluntary contribution without the expectation of anything in return. The gifts in the text are given for the common good and used to build the Mishkan, the center of our people as they sojourned in the desert. How much more so should we give in the spirit of the common good when building a Jewish State in the Land of Israel?

Early Zionists lauded self-sacrifice and built the State through dedication to the common cause. A collectivist spirit rather than personal greed guided the establishment of Israel. It was the early Zionist leader Joseph Trumpeldor who famously said: “We need people ready to serve at all cost[s]... Is there a wheel lacking? I am that wheel. Nails, screws, a block? Take me. Must the land be dug? I will dig it. Are soldiers needed? I will enlist. Policemen, doctors, lawyers, teachers, water carriers? If you please, I am ready to do it all. I am not a person, I am the pure embodiment of service, prepared for everything. I have no ties. I only know one command: Build.”

Where is this selfless spirit today? What does it mean for the leader of the Jewish State to put his personal tastes and political well-being above all else?

It is our job as religious Zionists to enact the Torah's lesson of giving from our hearts for the common good, to build a center of Jewish life from a place of selflessness and love of our people. Let us be givers and not takers; let us build a brighter future together.

Shabbat Shalom,

Josh

Editor's note: Rabbi Josh Weinberg is the President of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem, and currently lives in New York.

A Sad Goodbye, and a Warm Welcome Home

By Ruth Sedler

At our annual Congregation Meeting our cherished Rabbi Richard Chapin spoke about his thought process in deciding that this current year would be his last year of service to our congregation. Health issues, the desire for more time with his lovely wife Jeanne (and who can blame him) and enrolling in a Master's program in history at Florida Atlantic College near his home in Florida all went into his decision. He has guided our congregation through seven wonderful years. He has led us in Friday night services, Saturday morning Torah Study (a delight for those who could get up early enough to attend), Yiddish classes, Hebrew Classes, not to mention guiding our students to and through their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Passover, Hanukkah, services in the Sukkah, unrolling the Torah for Simcha Torah have all flourished under his leadership. He has been not only our Rabbi, but a participating member of our community. His time here has added to our congregational education, our joyousness, our congregational sense of family and our consciousness in both religious and secular matters. His presence will be missed by our whole congregation, and we hope he will consider visiting us sometime in the future. I know he would love to hear from all of us as our lives move forward. When his last service concludes at the end of June we will all recognize the closing of the door on our time with Rabbi Richard. His time with us has been a blessing, and we wish him all the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

I believe I remember hearing in the Sound of Music, when one door closes, another door opens.

At our same annual Congregation Meeting we unanimously voted to extend to Rabbi Shelly Kleinman a one-year contract to provide our congregation with Rabbinical Services. All of us who have been here for more than two years remember Rabbi Shelly leading services over the previous five years when Rabbi Richard was not in town. His D'Var Torah sermons were always well prepared and certainly added to my knowledge of and understanding of the Torah. Even

Continued on page 7

Sisterhood



The women of Sisterhood have been planning a fun Girl's Night Out for our April meeting. It will be an evening event with dinner and LCR on Monday, April 9th at 6:00. But at our last meeting we decided to become more politically correct and to invite men to join in on the fun too. Actually, we decided that we could invite any guest we wanted to, male or female. And if you don't get an official invitation from another member of sisterhood, you may also just simply request a dinner reservation and you may come too! Dinner will be \$8 and you need to bring TEN one dollar bills to play LCR. If you have never played before, you can learn the game in a guaranteed 14 seconds and could possibly win lots of money! And though we cannot guarantee that you will win, we can guarantee that you will have a lot of fun!

So please plan to join us on Monday, April 9th at 6:00.

Please make your dinner reservations to Millie at Millie487@hotmail.com



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

- Mar 2 Ross and Ruth Sedler
 David and Glenda Kirsch
- Mar 9 Goltz Girls and Cooper Jack
- March 16 Mark and Patti Fleischner
 Mick Stoyanov and Millie Baron
- Mar 23 Michael and Sharon Waxler
 Steven and Clarissa Kirsch
- Mar 30 (No Oneg - Passover Community
 Seder)

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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Anniversaries

Elan and Jennifer Grenman Mar 22

March Birthdays

Michael Waxler Mar 11
Melissa Casteel Mar 15
Oded Grenman Mar 18
Phyllis Hearn Mar 21
John Blumbeks Mar 22

March Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited March 2

Sally Friedlander Boley

Mother of Sherrill Nicolosi

Dorothy Taub

Mother of Betty Feir

Wolfe Gerber

Father of Elaine Gartenberg

Kaddish Recited March 9

William J. Brown

Uncle of Betty Forshberg

Herman Fleischner

Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner

Grandfather of Mark Fleischner

Kaddish Recited on March 16

Jules B. Newman

Grandfather of Brad Wolken

Murray H. Forshberg

Father-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Wanda Burns

Mother of Glenda Kirsch

Kaddish Recited March 23

Imy Marcus, Sr.

Father of Imy Marcus

Julia C. Wigderson

Mother of Sue Koppel

Mother of Ellen Eubanks

Kaddish Recited March 30

Larry Carrington

Son-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Sandra Rans

Sister-in-law of Fred Korngut

Refuah Shelema

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- Louis Kleinman
- Ken Baim
- Rabbi Mark Miller
- Imy Marcus
- Robert Burns
- Sherrill Nicolosi

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.

Sad Goodbye and Warm Welcome Home

Continued from page 5

though he and Carol moved away two years ago, they have been active in our congregation. Shelly has remained the editor of the Shofar we all receive and enjoy each month. He is the administrator for Chaitrack, where all our congregation information, addresses, Yahrzeits, birthdays and anniversaries are stored. Carol not only helps with these endeavors but has done our Memorial book remotely for the two years they were gone.

I know many factors went into their decision to sell their house in the Dallas area and return to Hot Springs, but I cannot help but believe that our warm and loving congregation was one of those factors. By the time this appears in the Shofar they should be happily settled in their lovely new home in Hot Springs, ready to jump back into life at Congregation House of Israel.

I know we all welcome them back with open arms and are looking forward to reconnecting with them on a personal level.

Weekly Parshah

March

Ki Tisa

March 3, 2018

When Moses does not return when expected from Mount Sinai, the people make a Golden Calf and worship it. G-d proposes to destroy the errant nation, but Moses intercedes on their behalf.

Moses descends from the mountain carrying the Tablets of the Testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments; seeing the people dancing about their idol, he breaks the Tablets, destroys the Golden Calf and has the primary culprits put to death. He then returns to G-d to say: "If You do not forgive them, blot me out from the book that You have written."

Vayak'heil

March 10, 2018

Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates to them the commandment to observe the Shabbat. He then conveys G-d's instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver, copper, blue, purple and red-dyed wool, goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moses has to tell them to stop giving.

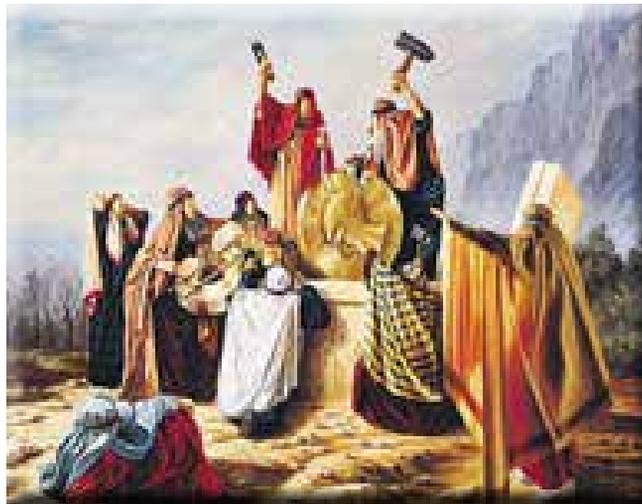
A team of wise-hearted artisans make the Mishkan and its furnishings (as detailed in the previous Torah readings of Terumah, Tetzaveh and Ki Tisa): three layers of roof coverings; 48 gold-plated wall panels, and 100 silver foundation sockets; the Parochet (Veil) that separates between the Sanctuary's two chambers and the Masach (Screen) that fronts it; the Ark and its cover with the Cherubim; the Table and its Showbread; the seven-branched

Menorah with its specially-prepared oil; and the Golden Altar and the incense burned on it; the Anointing Oil; the outdoor Altar for Burnt Offerings and all its implements; the hangings, posts and foundation sockets for the Courtyard; and the Basin and its pedestal, made out of copper mirrors .

Vayikra

March 17, 2018

Moses makes an accounting of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Ahaliav and their assistants make the Eight Priestly Garments -- the Apron, Breastplate, Cloak, Crown, Hat, Tunic, Sash and Breeches -- according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.



The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy Anointing Oil, and initi-

ates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the Divine Presence that has come to dwell within it.

Tzav

March 24, 2018

The fire on the Altar must be kept burning at all times. In it are burned the wholly consumed ascending offering; veins of fat from the peace, sin and guilt offerings; and the "handful" separated from the meal offering. The kohanim eat the meat of the sin and guilt offerings, and the remainder of the meal offering.

The peace offering is eaten by the one who brought it, except for specified portions given to the kohen. The holy meat of the offerings must be eaten by ritually pure persons, in their designated holy place and within their specified time.

Aaron and his sons remain within the Sanctuary compound for seven days, during which Moses initiates them into the priesthood.

To read more complete descriptions of the weekly parsha, visit the CHI Website at http://hschi.org/Parsha_lp.html