



The Shofar

May, 2017

Congregation House of Israel

5 Iyar - 6 Sivan, 5777

CHI Jewish Dog Show

Join Us For Bring-Your-Own Picnic Dinner, Havdalah Service and
Blessing-of-the-Dogs

Saturday, May 13, 2017

5:00 p.m., CHI parking lot



See page 5 for important information concerning this event.

Thank You

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

General Fund

Ruth and Ross Sedler

In beloved memory of Ruth's mother, Craney Bellin

Ruth and Ross Sedler

In memory of the passing of Glenda Kirsch's mother, Wanda Burns

Stuart Fleischer

In honor of the birth of Milo Paz Gordon, Grandson of Betty and Louis Kleinman and Nephew of Ira Kleinman

Steven and Clarissa Kirsch

*In beloved memory of his mother, Serena Kirsch
In beloved memory of his grandfather, Samuel Kirsch*

Sisterhood Fund

Larry Levi

In beloved memory of his mother, Louise Levi

Building Fund

Saralee Stark and Wayne Phillips

In beloved memory of Wayne's wife, Gloria Phillips



Betty Kleinman with her new grandson, Milo Paz Gordon, born Friday, April 7, 9:30 a.m. He is 20 inches long and weighs eight pounds ten ounces.

The Shofar

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Congregation House of Israel

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

A Thank You Letter

Dear Stuart,

My wife and I are now safely back home in Philadelphia and I'm now catching up on e-mail.

Thank you very much for sending me the history of rabbis at House of Israel in Hot Springs. Although my book on Jewish Life in Small-Town America is already in print, I remain interested in learning about the history of communities all over the country. Thank you also for welcoming us so warmly when we were in Hot Springs, and please convey our gratitude to the other members of your congregation who were present when we attended Friday evening services, as well.

With very best wishes for the upcoming Passover holiday,

Lee Shai

Lee Shai Weissbach, Professor of History Emeritus

University of Louisville

1919 Chestnut St., apt. 1904

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(502) 387-3675

Davar

“A Matter for Discussion”



Passover has come and gone, but the message lives on. The Seder narration begins: “Our history moves from slavery toward freedom. Our story begins with degradation and rises to dignity. Our service opens with the rule of evil and advances toward the kingdom of God.”

Lest you forget the supreme importance of this holiday in our lives, we are reminded, each Friday night as we recite Kiddush, to remember the Exodus from Egypt.

We are a people who are obliged to remember our past. Yet we are also instructed to see each observance of Pesach as a chance to renew our strength and our commitment to the Jewish people and to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. It is no accident that one of the first rituals of the Seder, called YACHATZ, has us break the middle matzo and say: HA LACHMA ANYA, “This is the bread of affliction, the poor bread, which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in want share the hope of Passover...Now we are still in bonds. Next year may all be free.”

Words can inspire us. But they must move us to action. The rabbis believed that performing one good deed could tip the scales of justice and ward off the forces of evil. There has always been evil in the world, and it is never too late to confront it by acts of loving-kindness.

It was a joy to celebrate my sixth Seder with the CHI community. May the lessons we internalize from our commemoration of this holy day lead all of us from strength to strength and blessing to blessing.

B'Shalom,

Richard Chapin

From the President



Judaism is a religion that can be defined by our famous important prayer, i.e. the Sh'ma. We are commanded to say it when we lie down at night before we sleep and when we rise-up in the morning. Also, we are instructed to place the words of the Sh'ma on the

gates and doorposts of our home, i.e. *mezuzot*.

This marks the beginning of home ritual. Judaism revolves around the community and the home.

We are required to teach our children the Sh'ma. Beyond this, home rituals may vary. Home and family are important values in Judaism. According to the rabbis the home is a *mikdash me'at* (a small sanctuary). There is a broad range of ritual practices that are specifically earmarked for the home, rituals and prayers meant to be performed within the family circle.

Home worship practices range from the lighting of candles and reciting the kiddish to welcome the Sabbath and the Havdalah at the end of Sabbath and Festivals. Prayers are said before eating anything and grace afterwards. Depending how observant a Jew is, all types of blessings can be said. There are blessings for different types of food and drink, natural phenomena such as lightening, and fragrances. In short there is no aspect of life for which a Jew cannot thank and bless our Creator.

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to **Isaac Cabibi-Wilkin** on his Bar Mitzvah, March 18, 2017.

Mazel Tov to him, and to his parents and siblings.

Sisterhood



Happy Passover (belated) What a wonderful Seder we had!!! Rabbi Richard again conducted a very special and meaningful service which was enjoyed by all. Help from all the children was a special treat.

The list of all those who helped make the Seder dinner possible could fill up the whole bulletin. It starts with all the Sunday School kids who set up the tables and to **Patti Fleischner** who used her usual and creative talents decorating with flowers and canned goods that will be donated to Jackson House. She also prepared the Seder plate for the head table and then helped with kitchen duty.

Mary Klompus and **Betty Forshberg**, oh my gosh! The queens of the matzo ball soup. Mary made enough soup to feed most of the Jews in New York, and it was up to her usual standards of deliciousness. Betty's matzo balls were so light, they floated around in the air till we grabbed them for the soup. **Myrna Taxer** and **Lori Lewis** chopped up an orchard full of apples and nuts for the charosis and I saw lots of our members going back for seconds and thirds. Yum! **Barbara Morgan** and **Ruth Sedler** boiled and peeled all of the eggs which is no small feat. I know there are some mad chickens out there somewhere.

The prep queens were **Barbara Morgan** and **Sara-lee Stark** who put together the individual gefilte fish and Seder ingredients plates for each person. Good job. But wait there's more. Roasted potatoes were cooked by the team of **Cynthia Rephan**, **Kim Baron**, and **Gail Greenberg** and they can cook for me anytime. **Anita Williams** bought, washed and dried all the parsley, and brought all the wine.

Last but not least (although every crumb was eaten) The dessert! **Karen Reagler** and **Sharon Waxler** were the best at dessert making and I'm still licking my fingers over that. And the chocolate covered matzo was an import from **Rachel Schulman**, one of our special out of town members and Joanne Reagler's daughter. How thoughtful of you. Again, a last thank you so much to Mary for being my right and left hand girl and to Ruth for seating ar-

rangements and just in general, remembering and doing anything that I or anyone else forgot.

Our last Sisterhood meeting will be May 1st at 11:00 with Myrna Taxer and Lori Lewis as hostesses. Y'all come and welcome Millie as our incoming President. Mazel tov.

Sue Koppel

And, speaking of Millie....

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? I am so proud of our Sisterhood for continuing to search for ways to enrich our sense of community. Our upcoming DOG SHOW on Saturday, May 13th is promising to prove just that! A very special thank you to **Kathy Klein** for presenting this new idea and for working so hard on the planning! We have had a very exciting response to this event, even from people who aren't so attracted to dogs. We will look forward to seeing everyone and their dogs.

And of course we must thank our fabulous Seder Crew who pulled off an amazingly successful Passover Seder! Under the direction of **Sue Koppel**, who also single handedly made all that delicious brisket, many people pitched in to ensure that everyone had an enjoyable time. And of course, we continue to thank our Rabbi Richard for making us all feel so warm and welcome, and making this a very meaningful moment for us all!

Wishing you all a pleasant summer and be on the lookout for all those fall sign-up sheets that will be flying around before you know it!

Millie Baron



*"Now let me get this straight,
the Arabs get the oil,
and we have to cut off the ends of our what"*

CHI Jewish Dog Show

Saturday, May 13, 5:00 p.m.



Join us for the CHI Jewish Dog Show and BYO Picnic, followed by Havdalah Service and Blessing-of-the-dogs by Rabbi Chapin.

Sisterhood will provide tea, lemonade, ice water, and plastic cups. Feel free to bring your own “festive beverages.” Attendance does not require entering a dog, so all are invited to what promises to be a wonderful event. (*If you ARE entering a dog, be sure to bring bags for clean up*

as necessary.) Also, James and Marie will not be here, so please bring paper or plastic ware for the picnic.

Dog Show Manners

By Sherrill Nicolosi

Our Congregation Dog Show undoubtedly will be a huge success. That success depends on “dog show manners” and a lot of common sense.

Local dog handler and trainer, Jackie Paul, reminded one of our congregants whose pup is in training that even the sweetest and best trained dog can be nervous at a show. The dog will be exposed to new and different sounds, sights, smells, food aromas, environments, and people. Owners should be prepared.

Dogs and owners should use dog manners, including keeping control of the dog at all times. Children (and adults) should use their doggy manners too, and ask as they approach the dog to greet or pet the animal. As tempting as those doggy kisses might be, never get in a dog’s face. Remember, the dog is surrounded by other pets, strangers, barking and other loud sounds such as traffic and talking, and no one knows what the pet might do if it feels in any way compromised.

Parents, please keep your children calm, reminding them throughout the show that dogs can’t rationalize! Doggy parents, please keep your pooch on a leash at all times and be alert to the strange environment surrounding the dog.

Let’s make the show a fantastic, fun and safe event!

Life and Legacy Plan

The dictionary defines “legacy” as something handed down. The mission of the Life and Legacy program is just that: to secure post-death commitments to ensure CHI will remain a presence in our community, to pass down our rich Jewish traditions to future generations.

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”. **No funds are asked to be given now!** JFAR asks only that you sign a “Letter of Intent,” committing to make a future gift. These pledges are made in your Will, Trust, beneficiary designation on an IRA, annuity or life insurance policy, or any other form of future gifting.

JFAR has offered a monetary incentive program for CHI. If L & L receives 18 (new) executed Letters of Intent, CHI will receive \$5,000 to use any way it determines. CHI has already received the first of the two incentives, as L & L secured 18 commitments in the first year.

To learn more about how you can be a part of the program, contact Karen Reagler, Sherrill Nicolosi, or Stuart Fleischner. We encourage our members, and friends of CHI, to help us attain our goal by the March, 2018 deadline for the incentive gift.

This month, L & L is “spotlighting” **Stuart Fleischner** for his commitment to the L & L program. Stuart is one of our most devoted congregants, representing a multi-generation family of CHI members. His “fingerprints” are all over numerous programs (including L & L) designed to ensure CHI’s viability in Hot Springs. As a past president, a board member, and tireless committee member, Stuart and his family enrich our Jewish community.

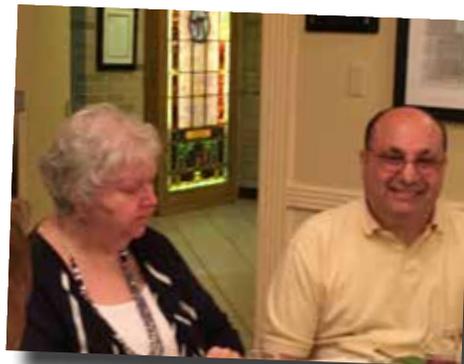
A Zissen Pesach

By Ruth Sedler



I hope everyone enjoyed our community Seder as much as I did. We all owe a big thanks to Sue Koppel for organizing the event. Also if there is anyone who I did not thank during the seder, I am sorry. I was trying to remember everyone but am sure I forgot several important participants. I know

I did not thank Anita Williams for washing and drying all the parsley for the Seder. Sounds easy, but it is not. It took our whole community to make last night such a successful event. So thanks again.



The Dark Side of Kosher Wine

By Zeev Smilansky

Note: Zeev Smilansky is a scientist, writer and winemaker from Meishar, Israel

It's not easy to be an Israeli: the weather, the taxes, the situation, the government... It's even more difficult to be an Israeli winemaker: the weather, the taxes, the situation, the government — and the kosher protection network...

But all of this pales in comparison to the challenge of making non-kosher wine in Israel, as I do. I have good reason for making the decision to shun the kosher laws surrounding wine production. I did so on moral grounds.

I'm not sure if you, dear reader, are aware, or care, about what exactly kosher wine is; but whether you are Jew or Gentile, Israeli or not, you should be aware that wine from Israel is at the center of a maelstrom of religion, identity, social pressure, politics, law and the intense tension between tradition and modernity.

The Jewish religion centers on separation and on distinction. We should separate flax from wool, meat from dairy, Shabbat from workdays — but first and foremost we separate the Jews from the Gentiles: “the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations” (Numbers 23:9), a verse that every Israeli knows. The regulations underpinning food consumption were set millennia ago, and compiled, formalized, deepened and tightened over millennia of tumultuous Jewish history. Thus, for example, the simple rule that “Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk” (Exodus 23:19) turned, over the centuries, into utter and complete separation of any meat product from any dairy product, including separate kitchen sinks, eating hours and utensils. The complete rulebook discussing this command would fill a community library.

As for wine, the question of its kashrut (“kosherness”) has a history of its own. Similar to rules of food consumption, restrictions evolved

over the centuries. In the first chapter of Daniel, Daniel and his companions refused to drink “libation wine” — wine that was used by the ancient peoples of the Middle East for idolatry. Today, it is accepted by all that the custom of libation is extinct, and, specifically, wine made and used by Christians is not “libation wine.”

Nevertheless, the popular feeling against the “goyim” (gentiles) led to the custom that a goy should not be allowed to touch a barrel or a bottle of wine, lest it lose its kashrut. Rashi, the chief commentator on Jewish law, could not find a legal basis for this tradition in the written scriptures. Rashi studied in what is today Mainz, Germany, a well-known wine region; in the 11th Century, the time of Rashi, the economy of the region was based on grape



The writer surveying his vinyard

growing and winemaking. After much deliberation, not being able to find the justification he sought, but respectful of the popular feeling against non-Jews, Rashi noted that a container of wine touched by a gentile is “forbidden of enjoyment” — meaning, not only is the Jewish owner of the wine not allowed to drink it, but he is even forbidden to sell it (say, to the goy who touched it) and enjoy the proceeds of the deal, and must pour the expensive liquid down the drain. This even if the goy touched the barrel inadvertently (you would be surprised by the depth of discussion, over the centuries, of the fine points of barrel-touching by goys).

Rashi relayed that the main reason, originating in the Talmud, was “because of their daughters,” meaning that if you drink wine with a goy, you'll soon become friends with him, and before you know it your son will be married to his daughter, and the offspring of this union will not be Jewish. Thus, separation of wine ensures separation of its drinkers. It is sensible to believe that the girls of south Germany and Alsace were as beautiful and attractive in the 12th Century as they are today, and Rashi's reasoning makes sense, if the Jewish people were to remain undiluted among a larger, stronger, different population.

Continued on page 10

Stand Against Hate

Reprinted from the Letters to the Editor section of the Hot Springs Sentinel Record, March 19, 2017

Over the past several months, hate and anger have risen to levels not seen in decades in the United States. This hate and anger has been expressed in many ways and has resulted in many minority groups finding themselves living in fear. Perhaps the expression of hate drawing the most attention of late is the despicable desecration of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues. These hateful acts have been accompanied by hundreds of telephone and email bomb threats to Jewish Community Centers and other Jewish institutions throughout the country. Our Jewish neighbors have just celebrated Purim, the recollection of heroic acts to save the entirety of the Jewish population from destruction, as told in the biblical Book of Esther. As leaders of the faith community of Hot Springs, we stand in solidarity with our Jewish friends adamantly opposed to the hate, destruction and fear being spread by some.

While the threats and actions taken toward our Jewish citizens garner much attention, Jews are not the only group living in fear. There have been instances of people who are not caucasian being told to "Get out of my country," before being murdered or wounded. Immigrant families live in fear of children being separated from their parents. Gay, lesbian and transgender people are fearful of being the target of violence. In a country that has always stood for freedom of religion, our Muslim brothers and sisters continue to worry about being targets simply for worshipping God in their own tradition.

The undersigned represent Judaism and many different strands of Christianity and have different theological perspectives on any number of issues. However we can and do speak with one voice in saying that all people are children of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We can say also with one voice that all people, no matter race, gender, ethnicity, religion or any other category, have a right to live free of the fear of violence simply because they are who they are. We pray that the people of Hot Springs will join us in support of all God's children.

The Rev. C.B. Baker
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Gregory C. Nettles
Historic Visitors Chapel
African American Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joyce A. Campbell
St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. William J. Sappenfield
Community of Joy Lutheran Church (HSV)

The Rev. David M. Fleming
Grand Avenue United Methodist Church

Rabbi Richard Chapin
Congregation House of Israel

The Rev. Warren D. Freiheit
Christ Lutheran Church (HSV)

The Rev. David Moseley
First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Sara Milford
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Zach Roberts
First United Methodist Church

May 2017 Parshiot

Acharaei Mot/K'doshim

May 6, 2017

Following the deaths of Nadav and Avihu, G-d warns against unauthorized entry “into the holy.” Only one person, the *kohen gadol* (“high priest”), may, but once a year, on Yom Kippur, enter the innermost chamber in the Sanctuary to offer the sacred *ketoret* to G-d..

The Parshah of Kedoshim begins with the statement: “You shall be holy, for I, the L-rd your G-d, am holy.” This is followed by dozens of *mitzvot* (divine commandments) through which the Jew sanctifies him- or herself and relates to the holiness of G-d.

Emor

May 13, 2017

The second part of Emor lists the annual Callings of Holiness—the festivals of the Jewish calendar: the weekly Shabbat; the bringing of the Passover offering on 14 Nissan; the seven-day Passover festival beginning on 15 Nissan; the bringing of the Omer offering from the first barley harvest on the second day of Passover, and the commencement, on that day, of the 49-day Counting of the Omer, culminating in the festival of Shavuot on the fiftieth day; a “remembrance of shofar blowing” on 1 Tishrei; a solemn fast day on 10 Tishrei; the Sukkot festival—during which we are to dwell in huts for seven days and take the “Four Kinds”—beginning on 15 Tishrei; and the immediately following holiday of the “eighth day” of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

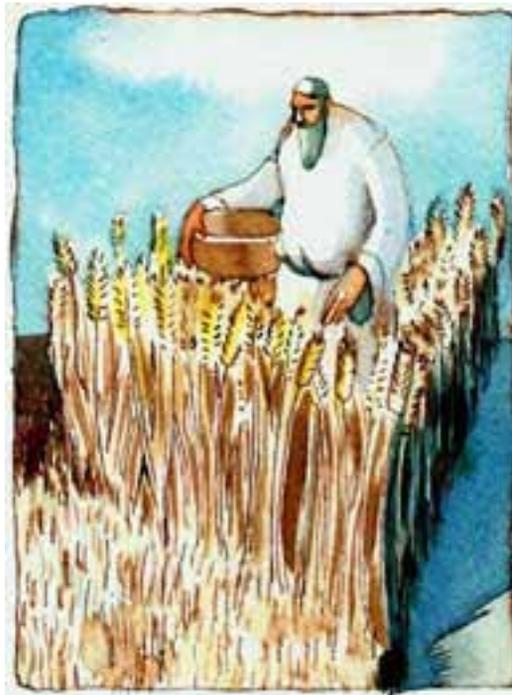
Next the Torah discusses the lighting of the menorah in the Temple, and the showbread (*lechem hapanim*) placed weekly on the table there.

B'har/B'chukotai

May 20, 2017

G-d promises that if the people of Israel will keep His commandments, they will enjoy material prosperity and dwell secure in their homeland. But He also delivers a harsh “rebuke,” warning of the exile, persecution and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their covenant with Him.

Nevertheless, “Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away; nor will I ever abhor them, to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the L-rd their G-d.”



B'midbar

May 27, 2017

In the Sinai Desert, G-d says to conduct a census of the twelve tribes of Israel. Moses counts 603,550 men of draftable age (20 to 60 years); the tribe of Levi, numbering 22,300 males age one month and older, is counted separately. The Levites are to serve in the Sanctuary, replacing the firstborn, whose number they approximated, who were disqualified when they participated in the worshipping of the Golden Calf. The 273 firstborn who lacked a Levite to replace them had to pay a five-shekel “ransom” to redeem

themselves.

When the people broke camp, the three Levite clans dismantled and transported the Sanctuary, and reassembled it at the center of the next encampment. They then erected their own tents around it: the Kohathites, who carried the Sanctuary’s vessels (the ark, menorah, etc.) in their specially designed coverings on their shoulders, camped to its south; the Gershonites, in charge of its tapestries and roof coverings, to its west; and the families of Merari, who transported its wall panels and pillars, to its north. Before the Sanctuary’s entranceway, to its east, were the tents of Moses, Aaron, and Aaron’s sons.

Beyond the Levite circle, the twelve tribes camped in four groups of three tribes each.

Kosher Wine

Continued from page 7

In the evolution of the Jewish observance, kashrut demands have tightened dramatically. In strict communities such as Chabad, toy bears and bedsheets printed with cute bunnies are forbidden — you should not let children even see the creatures they are not allowed to eat, thus keeping their environment “pure.”

And in some kosher wineries around the world, the clear wine pipes running through the filling room will be covered by the officiating rabbi with opaque aluminum foil, lest the local workers even direct their unpure eyes at the kosher wine running through them. What is not kosher — including bears, bunnies and goys — is considered unclean; despicable. And, more pertinent for us non-observant Israeli Jews — if you are not a “formal” Jew and do not follow the Orthodox ways to the last detail — then you are as good as a goy, meaning that if you touch a barrel of wine, it loses its kosher status.

Thus, in Israel, where kashrut is wielded by the government, if you are a winemaker and wish to make kosher wine, you have to hire a “first class” Jew (you being second class); give him (always him — a woman would certainly not be allowed in the winery) the keys to the winery; and whenever you want to taste a glass from a wine tank or barrel, you have to ask him to get it for you — to interpose between you and your wine, lest your unclean touch will foul it.

Indeed, with the increasing conservatism, ethnicism and religious feelings in Israel, it is not easy today to find supermarkets and shops that will offer non-kosher wine. Even restaurants that are open on Shabbat are reluctant to show non-kosher wine on their menus. Most Israeli wineries have turned kosher — including those in kibbutzim (socialist, often anti-religious communities) and wineries owned by non-Jews.

What is a winemaker to do? For many wineries, catering to the eccentricities of modern Jewish law is the only choice. For the few who really care about their Jewish identity, yet are not prepared to consider themselves second-class Jews (my wife and I would sooner pull out our beautiful vineyard and stop making wine than give in to the notion that we are second-class Jews, whose mere touch would foul up its kosherness), an important uphill struggle awaits — a struggle for what it means to be a Jew in Israel in the 21st Century.

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Louis Kleinman
- Carol Crow-Nanez
- JoAnne Reagler
- Robert Burns
- Rabbi Mark Miller

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.

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Larry Carrington, son-in-law of Betty Forshberg and husband of Betty's daughter Sandy.

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Wanda Burns, Mother of Glenda Kirsch and mother-in-law of David Kirsch.

May God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

May 2017 Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited May 5

Robin Rans

Niece of Fred Korngut

Jeannie Zibrack

Aunt of Sharon Ball

Mark Cohen

Father of David Cohen

Samuel Kirsch

*Grandfather of Steven Kirsch
Grandfather of Mark Fleischner
Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner*

Kaddish Recited May 12

Serena Kirsch

Mother of Steven Kirsch

Frances Koppel

Mother of Hal Koppel

Helen Kleinman

*Mother of Louis Kleinman
Grandmother of Ira Kleinman*

Kaddish Recited May 19

Nathan Davis

*Father of Joanne Reagler
Grandfather of David D. Reagler
Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

Louise Levi

Mother of Larry Levi

Kaddish Recited May 26

Morris Reagler

*Grandfather of David D. Reagler
Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

Shirley Sedler

Mother of Ross Sedler

George Thornton Ginsburg

Brother of Millie Baron

Norman "Dick" Franklin

Step-father of David Cohen

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Anniversaries

Jerry and Fran Rephan	May 3
Jerry and Jodi Chalmers	May 8
Les and Diana Surfas	May 18
Dennis and Anita Williams	May 25
Larry and Carol Levi	May 27

May Birthdays

Jodi Chalmers	May 13
Ira Kleinman	May 13
Mark Fleischner	May 14
Sharon Waxler	May 14
Elaine Wolken	May 16
Patti Fleischner	May 17
Rachel Schulman	May 26
Ellen Ebanks	May 27

Oneg Sponsors

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

May 5	David and Glenda Kirsch Ross and Ruth Sedler
May 12	Michael and Sharon Waxler Mark and Patti Fleischner
May 19	Jerry Tanenbaum Sharon Ball
May 26	Dennis and Anita Williams David and Cheryl Cohen

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.

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