



The Shofar

May, 2018

Congregation House of Israel

16 Iyar - 7 Sivan, 5778

Sisterhood Meeting

By Ruth Sedler

We had a wonderful Sisterhood meeting on Monday April 9. There were 10 women and 2 men in attendance. Millie provided the food. There were Israeli salads and pita in honor of Israel Independence Day. It was make yourself at home night and everyone just helped themselves. Millie did market research on us by preparing a Tres Leches chocolate cake. It was beautiful as well as delicious.

Following a very brief meeting and dinner we played LRC. In order to play this game, you need to know your left from your right. But no worries because if you took too long to figure which was which your neighbor would just help themselves to the dollar bill that the dice told you to pass to them. No names will be given, but you know who you are.

When the game ended Glenda Kirsch was the big winner. Her winnings were given to Sue to take to Jackson House as a donation. I think the right person won the game.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say it was a delicious and fun filled evening.



Thank You

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

Sisterhood Fund
Jesse Steele

Israel at 70

By Ehud Barak

Of all the many privileges in my life — whether serving as Chief of Staff, Defense Minister, even Prime Minister — the most precious dates back to when I was a small child: I witnessed the birth of the State of Israel.

Even as a six-year-old in the War of Independence, tracing every advance and setback on a map in the tiny room that my parents shared on our kibbutz, I understood that victory, indeed the state's survival, hung in the balance. And it was clear even to the youngest of us that something deeper was at stake. We understood we were living through a historic time, that after centuries of diaspora, and a world war in which millions of Jews had been systematically murdered, we were finally on the brink of being able to take hold of our own destiny.

There was a sense all around us that, if we worked and sacrificed and ultimately prevailed, we had the opportunity to create something truly special. Not just a state that was strong, secure and safe. But, in biblical words that resonated even on non-religious kibbutzim like ours, a light unto other nations as well. And a country that, sooner or later, would find peace with its neighbors.

Israel is now about to turn 70, and in many ways we've succeeded beyond all expectations. Our population has grown twelve-fold. Economically, we have more companies listed on the NASDAQ exchange than any country outside of North America. We are a world leader in technological research and innovation — truly a start-up nation.

It is true we still face well-armed enemies. Almost inevitably, at some stage we will again have to take up arms to defend ourselves. Yet having devoted all my public life to ensuring Israel's security, I can say without hesitation that we are stronger militarily and technologically than we have ever been.

The Shofar

Published monthly by:

Congregation House of Israel

PO Box 20802

300 Quapaw

Hot Springs, AR 71903

(501) 623-5821

Website: <http://hschi.org>

Editor: Shelly Kleinman

Webmaster: Shelly Kleinman

Editorial Assistance: Anita Williams

Email to: info@hschi.org

Submissions due the 15th of the prior month.
Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

Stronger, too, than any combination of enemies that might try to confront or threaten us.

But Israel is at a crossroads. We face critical challenges, going far deeper than the specific policy differences I have with Israel's current government — the most right-wing in our history. They are about what kind of country Israel will be in its next seven decades, and the degree to which we remain true to the struggle, sacrifice and the underlying Jewish values I still vividly remember from Israel's first war in 1948. Whether we remain dedicated to a vision of a country that is not only strong, self-confident and successful, but firmly democratic, governed by the rule of law, economically and socially fair, compassionate, united. And one in which, because of our strength, we are prepared to take the difficult decisions to try, at least, to achieve the ultimate goal of peace.

In the current Israeli political climate, that may seem a tall order. But particularly when I see the engagement among growing numbers of our citizens in making the argument for this kind of Israel, I can't help thinking of Theodor Herzl's famous words: "If you will it, it is not a dream." They've been quoted so often over the years that they've become almost a cliché. But as a small boy on a fledgling kibbutz in 1948, I discovered they also happen to be true.

Ehud Barak served as prime minister of Israel from 1999 - 2001. His book, "My Country, My Life," will be published on May 8.

Davar - A matter for discussion



I know this is May, but I just discovered that March is called the Reading Month. Which is more than a bit amusing to ponder. Do we really need a month to encourage something that should be a regular part of our lives?

On second thought, after 42 years of suggesting books for congregants to read, having a month that calls attention to reading is not a bad thing at all.

What is the state of your reading? I am reminded of a story about a rabbi being interviewed for a congregational position. When asked if he believed in God, the rabbi paused to consider his answer. That was the end of the interview!

I feel the same way about reading. One shouldn't have to pause to consider whether he or she is reading. But one might pause when he or she considers what they are reading. It's the "what" that has always interested me.

We Jews have been aptly called "People of the Book." I have amended that to People of Books. It's not just our Bible that we refer to as our literary and spiritual Guide. It is all the books that accompany that Teaching. Mishnah, Gemara, Midrash, Commentaries -- I think you get my drift. But it's so much more than that. It's also language study -- Hebrew, Aramaic, Ladino, Yiddish. Just recently I began reading a book on Esperanto. Of course, that is the language that was to become the world's universal form of communication. Its invention was going to correct the sin of Babel, when God confounded our speech forever. Is it an accident that a Polish-Jewish ophthalmologist named Zamenhof invented it in the late 19th century? Esther Schor has written a charming book, *Bridge of Words*, about Esperanto -- which means "Hope" -- that is worthy of our attention. One book, one field of study. The study of Judaism is an unending mission. But I have

Continued on page 7

Some Thoughts About Three Holidays

By Jerry Tanenbaum

This past week we read a double Torah portion and also mark one of the saddest days on the Jewish calendar. Recently we marked Yom Ha'Shoah, the day we remember the six million Jews murdered in Europe during World War II. In reality, we should expand the day to remember not only those Jews murdered by Europeans during the Holocaust but also the millions of others Jews murdered over the last two millennia. Then a week later we marked Yom ha'Zicaron (Memorial day) in which we remembered the thousands of soldiers who gave their lives to establish a Jewish nation. Finally this year we went from sadness to joy as on the fifth of Iyar (this year the festivities began at sundown on April 18th) Jews around the world celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the day Israel became Independent.

I believe slander, envy and jealousy are as harmful to a society as a communicable disease like leprosy. Was that not the disease that so afflicted European culture? Might this also be the plague of anti-Semitism that once again threatens the very fabric of our society?

Although we cannot control what others say about us, we do control how we react? How many of us have turned ourselves into victims, have chosen to see the world as a place where everyone is out to get us? In other words, perhaps the worst slander of all is when we choose to allow others to define us rather than defining ourselves.

Yom Ha'Shoah reminds us that for the last 2,000 years we have been victims of slander. Europeans accused us of everything, from being too aggressive to too passive, from being too wealthy to too poor, from being too business minded to too academic. We were (and are) Europe's punching bag, its eternal victims. Jewish independence changed all that and that may be the cause of Europe's anti-Israel bias. Many simply cannot accept the fact that we no longer play the role of victims.

Although we can never control the leprosy of slander and hate, we can control the leprosy of self-victimization. This week we go from the tragedies and darkness of Europe to the hope and light of Israel. May tragedies of the Holocaust never be repeated and may Zion continue to be a light unto the nations

L'Shalom

ARZA - World Union

Shalom,

75 years ago, in the spring of 1943, Jewish rebels took up whatever arms they could secure and orchestrated the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II. Led by Zionist youth groups, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising lasted 3 weeks before it was squashed by the Nazis.

This rebellion offered a glimmer of hope and became an anchor of pride in step with the Zionist narrative of strength and self-defense. Thus, it became the story that the fledgling Jewish State chose to emphasize in creating Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. On this 28th day of Nisan, we remember the heroism of resistance, and we remember the victims who fell at the hands of evil in arguably the lowest moment in human history.

Where are we as a people 75 years later? Today there are 14.5 million Jews worldwide, 2 million fewer than there were on the eve of WWII in 1939. In 2017, 14,428 survivors passed away, bringing us closer to the day when no first-hand witnesses are around to tell their stories. Today, although $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century have passed, we are only at the early stages of unraveling the trauma caused by this devastating loss. Today, we are still asking ourselves what it means to internalize the lessons of the Holocaust.

The cloud of the Holocaust permeates most elements of Israeli society. Our historic victimhood has caused us to see every enemy from Nasser to Nasrallah as Hitler. Politicians and average citizens label and vilify others using Holocaust language, sweeping up everyone from Israeli soldiers to opposing politicians to meat eaters, ad nauseam.

Yet, the awareness of our glaring victimhood also causes us to fill the streets in protest over the treatment of other persecuted peoples, and even to open our homes to hide those at risk of deportation as was done for us. The trauma of living through genocide has fed our collective commitment to the promise of “never again.”

And so, the trauma of the Holocaust manifest in many ways in Israeli society, some good and some bad. As a nation, we must examine ourselves to avoid the claim of Israeli lyricist Yankele Rothblitt

”The pursued has become the brutal pursuer.” Are we a society that cheers the killing caused by a sniper’s bullet? Do we visit concentration camps in Poland in order to build our resolve and strengthen our resistance against our perceived enemies? Or do we focus our efforts towards the eradication of fascism, racism, and intolerance – the gateway to genocide.

We reflect on all of this and more today and throughout the next week. The days between Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut are called Shivat Yemai HeTeudah or the Seven Days of Bearing Witness. Similar to the Yamim Noraim or Days of Awe between Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur, these days are set aside for reflection. We need the opportunity to think about our past and our future, to commemorate our losses and celebrate our survival, to create a vision of a more peaceful future.

Israeli Reform Rabbi Moti Rotem explains the meaning of these days in the following way:

“During the Seven Days of Bearing Witness the nation of Israel needs to, as a community, examine themselves, check from year to year how much they are succeeding in fulfilling the destiny that has fallen to them, their mission, the legacy of death of the Holocaust, and the legacy of life of Independence Day. During these seven days, it is appropriate that the nation of Israel engages in introspection and self-reflection about how they are measuring up to this destiny that stands before them: to build the future of the nation of Israel, for each individual himself.”

This Shabbat, known as Shabbat Tekuma or the Shabbat of Revival, we delve into this reflection as we turn from the tragedy of the Holocaust to the realization of the dream of a Jewish State. We are required to remember and bear witness not just to honor those we lost, but also to ensure that this violence not happen to anyone else. The whole world has fallen short in this mission many times since. May we create a future where that promise is fulfilled.

Shabbat Shalom,

Congregation Seder

By Sue Koppel



We had a lovely Temple Pass-over Seder again this year with 75 people attending. With so many members helping, we've got things down to a science and dinner went very smoothly.

The Sunday School children again set up all the tables and **Patti Fleis-**

chner with her wonderful decorating skills, made beautiful centerpieces for all the tables and also made some wonderful brisket. The food used in the decorations has been donated to Jackson House. Thanks Patti, that food is always needed. She also provided the everlasting shank bone which I think came from Moses in Egypt.

Thanks to **Mary Klompus**, my partner in crime, and my main man **Sharon Waxler** for working themselves to the bone, schlepping and dishing out food. **Ruth Sedler** was right at my side also, doing everything and anything that needed to get done as well as organizing the seating chart and making sure no one snuck in.

But wait, there's more! Mary made all the chicken soup and **Betty Forshberg** made the matzo balls. We had to tie them down or they would have floated away. **Lori Lewis** and **Myrna Taxer**, the awesome twosome, made the charosis. Yum. Eggs were boiled and peeled by Ruth and **Barbara Morgan** and Barbara also set up all of the Seder plates that went on each table. We had some delicious roasted potatoes compliments of **Glenda Kirsch**, **Karen Reagler**, **Anita Williams**, and **Ruth Sedler**. Boy were they good!! Then came the cakes that everyone had wandered in the desert for forty years to get. Thank you **Sharon**, **Stephanie Kleinman**, **Carol Kleinman** (too many Kleinman's???), **Mary**, and last but not never least, **Betty Feir**, all the way from Texarkana.

Many many thanks from me to all those that helped make our Passover Seder very special and meaningful. That being said, thanks to **Rabbi Richard** for a moving service and for the surprise gift to the person that found the Afikoman. A giant chocolate Easter bunny. Can't get any more ecumenical than that.

Note: We were able to make a very large food donation to Jackson House due to the generous donations from our congregation. There was a great deal of food donated that was not on the tables. ~ Patti Fleischer



Congregation House of Israel Board of Directors

Rabbi Richard Chapin
501-623-5821
info@hschi.org

Dennis Williams, President
870-230-3529
jwmenschl@gmail.com

David D. Reagler, Vice President
870-208-4495
david@arkansasrecords.com

Glenda Kirsch, Secretary
281-458-2655
ghkirsch@hotmail.com

Hal Koppel, Treasurer
501-525-3238
hjkkrew@yahoo.com

Barbara Morgan
501- 767-1459
barbara.morgan@mygait.com

Millie Baron, Sisterhood
501-538-6619
millie487@hotmail.com

Ira Kleinman
501-520-1323
irakleinman@hotmail.com

Ruth Sedler
806-789-9362
sedlerlbk@aol.com

Sherrill Nicolosi
501-984-1517
sherriln@suddenlinkmail.com

Jerry Rephan
501-321-1551
jrephan@hotsprings.net

Jerry Tanenbaum, ARZA-World Union
501-262-9770
jerryhotsprings@usa.net

Stuart Fleischner, Immediate Past President
501-617-1761
toothshucker@hotmail.com



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

- May 4 David and Glenda Kirsch
 Ross and Ruth Sedler
- May 11 Yossi and Kim Baron
 Oded Grenman
- May 18 Jerry Tanenbaum and Sharon
 Ball
 Anthony and Sherrill Nicolosi
- May 25 Dennis and Anita Williams

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

May Anniversaries

Jerry and Fran Rephan	May 3
Jerry and Jodi Chalmers	May 8
Les and Diana Surfes	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 Eubanks	May 27

May Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited May 4

Robin Rans

Niece of Fred Korngut

Carol Crow Nanez

Friend of Barbara Morgan

Jeannie Zibrack

Aunt of Sharon Ball

Mark Cohen

Father of David Cohen

Samuel Kirsch

Grandfather of Mark Fleischner

Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner

Grandfather of Steven Kirsch

Helen Kleinman

Mother of Louis Kleinman

Grandmother of Ira Kleinman

Kaddish Recited May 11

Serena Kirsch

Mother of Steven Kirsch

Kaddish Recited on May 18

Frances Koppel

Mother of Hal Koppel

Helen Kleinman

Grandmother of Ira Kleinman

Nathan Davis

Grandfather of Rachel Schulman

Grandfather of David D. Reagler

Louise Levi

Mother of Larry Levi

Kaddish Recited May 25

Morris Reagler

Grandfather of David D. Reagler

Grandfather of Rachel Schulman

Shirley Sedler

Mother of Ross Sedler

George Thornton Ginsburg

Brother of Millie Baron

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- Louis Kleinman
- Ken Baim
- Imy Marcus
- Robert Burns
- Susan Brown
- Jean Gershner
- Nancy Unowsky

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.

From the Rabbi

Continued from page 3

found it eminently fulfilling.

I've always found that reading serves as the foundation for everything I do. I would be less of a rabbi if I read less. I could apply that to everything I do and say.

As always, I am happy to recommend books for your Jewish edification. And I am always happy to talk about your reading interests as well.

In faith,

Richard Chapin

Weekly Parshah

May, 2018

Emor

May 5, 2018

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 12, 2018

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.

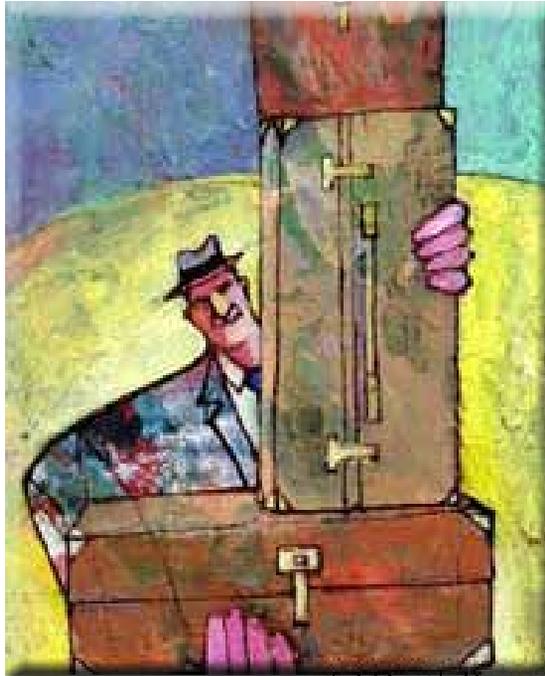
Nevertheless, “Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away; nor will I

ever abhor them, to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the L-rd their G-d.”

Bamidbar

May 19, 2018

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.

Naso

May 26, 2018

Completing the headcount of the Children of Israel taken in the Sinai Desert, a total of 8,580 Levite men between the ages of 30 and 50 are counted in a tally of those who will be doing the actual work of transporting the Tabernacle.

G-d communicates to Moses the law of the sotah, the wayward wife suspected of unfaithfulness to her husband. Also given is the law of the nazir, who forswears wine, lets his or her hair grow long, and is forbidden to become contaminated through contact with a dead body. Aaron and his descendants, the kohanim, are instructed on how to bless the people of Israel.

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