



# The Shofar

November, 2015

Congregation House of Israel

19 Heshvan - 18 Kislev, 5776

## Mzi Thanxgiving!



### Thanksgiving 2015

Thursday, November 26th

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, King of the universe,  
Who by His Word brings about all things.  
(SheHakol Blessing)

### Schedule of Events

Mon	Nov 2	11:00 am	Sisterhood Meeting -Burgauer Hall
Fri	Nov 6	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Chapin
Sat	Nov 7	9:30 am	Torah study
Sun	Nov 8	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon	Nov 9	5:30 pm	Board Meeting - CHI Board Room
Wed	Nov 11	7:00 pm	Intoduction to Yiddish
Fri	Nov 13	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Chapin
Sat	Nov 14	9:30 am	Torah study
Sun	Nov 15	9:30 am	Religious School
Fri	Nov 20	6:00 pm	Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Chapin
Sat	Nov 21	9:30 am	Torah study
Sun	Nov 22	9:30 am	Religious School

# Thank You

**We would like to thank the following donors (as of October 29, 2015)**

## General Fund

### **Sarah Gordons**

*In memory of Bob Gartenberg (A childhood friend)*

### **David and Joanne Reagler**

*In memory of Bob Gartenberg*

### **David and Karen Reagler**

*In memory of Bob Gartenberg*

### **Larry and Carol Levi**

*In memory of Larry's father, Bernard Levi.*

### **Barbara Bushee-Kaufman**

### **Levi Lance**

### **Carol & Sheldon Kleinman**

*In memory of Seymour Kleinman*

### **Michael & Sharon Waxler**

*In memory of Dale Tollefson*

## **The Shofar**

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## **Dennis and Anita Williams**

*In memory of Leland H. Williams, father of Dennis Williams and Joyce B. Boswell, mother of Anita Williams*

## Sisterhood Fund

### **CHI Sisterhood Income**

***The following policies were established by the Board of Trustees of Congregation House of Israel at a Board Meeting on September 9, 2015 (The following supercede earlier polices)***

#### **Policy Regarding Congregational Dues Assessment**

The Board has set a requested Fair Dues payment from each household of our congregation to be two percent (2%) of adjusted gross personal income, with a minimum dues requirement of fifty dollars (\$50) per month. Any member who is unable to meet this requirement is asked to petition the Board, on an annual basis, for dues relief. All requests for dues relief are due by the Annual Congregation meeting. This request will be kept confidential.

**Policy Regarding Attendance at Religious School**  
Religious School attendance is open to children of members. For families who have not yet joined the Congregation House of Israel now is the time to do so. Fees are set by the religious school and are due at the time of enrollment unless specific arrangements have been made prior to enrollment.

## From the Rabbi



And suddenly it's November. The Holy Days have flown by and we find ourselves watching leaves turn radiant colors before they fall faintly to the earth.

The change of seasons is always instructive. Particularly if we possess a philosophical bent. We don't have to be a psalmist to recognize that time pauses for no one and that our "days are as a shadow that passeth away."

The question remains: how to learn how to "number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom." That's the challenge, dear community. In my first year of high school Latin, my teacher, apparently frustrated by students who kept staring at the clock, covered it with paper upon which he wrote: "Time will pass, will you?" I've laughed about that quip, nostalgically, for the last half century! Now I'm taking the words more literally.

What are we doing with our lives? These are the questions Jews ask each other not just "in" season, but in "any" season. Are we giving ourselves to our community? Are we becoming more learned, are we becoming kinder, more thoughtful people? Old questions, but the value in asking them never changes. The questions may remain the same, but we do change in our lifetimes.

Be mindful of the changes in life; respond to them with courage and with commitment to remaining active in all areas of life -- including your religion.

Warmest Wishes,

Richard Chapin

## Sisterhood



Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Monday, November 2nd at 11:00. Patti Fleischner will be doing a book review on the book "The Family", by David Laskin. It tells the history of a Jewish family from the ghettos of Eastern Europe to modern day life in America. It's a fascinating account of the family of the

founder of Maidenform Bras and if you haven't read the book yet..get going.

Joanne and Karen Reagler will be our luncheon hostesses so thank you in advance. We will have our annual Hanukkah dinner on Sunday, December 6th so save the date. Our intrepid latke maker, Karen Reagler will be manning the grease so anyone that can help out, let her know. We will have more information and chances to volunteer for the dinner at our Sisterhood meeting. Get your pens out.

Hope to see everyone at Sisterhood with big appetites and ideas for meetings to come

Sue Koppel

## Editor's Corner

Now that it is Simchat Torah - how about a new way of interacting with the Holy Bible? Well if you have a Kindle or iPad you are in luck. First you need to download a copy of the Bible. There are free versions as well as more in depth interpretive versions for purchase in the store. Now for the fun part - look in your settings for something called "Text to Speech" and turn it on. Now your electronic device will read the Bible to you! You can choose either male or female voices. Give it a try!

Sincerely,

*David Kirsch*

## From the President



Dear Membership,

You will note on page 2 of this month's Shofar that the Board has passed a minimum dues increase to \$50 per month per household/family.

This is the first minimum increase in at least 25 years. I would like to compliment the board and the membership

for managing the finances of our congregation over the years. But, times are changing. Our costs are going up and our revenue has remained fairly constant. That does not equate to a "Balanced Budget".

Therefore, as President, I ask each of you to consider increasing your annual pledge and giving for the years to come. The minimum was not put in place so each of us gives only that amount. It was put in place for initial membership pledging with future plans to increase each member's commitment to our congregation.

We have a wonderful institution with great congregants. It is each of our responsibility to perpetuate this house of worship for those who will come after us. If you have concerns about meeting your pledge please express them in the upcoming CHI pledge letter that will be mailed out to you in the coming months.

Please consider what you can do to fulfill this challenge. I look forward to each of your positive responses to increase our revenue.

Thanks in advance for your support of our Temple.

Sincerely,

*Stuart Fleischner*

## Growing Up In the Sixties

By David Kirsch

My family growing up in the Sixties.....

You can be my aunts and uncles, my cousins, brothers and sisters.....

I bet you have some of the same memories.... The memories of old men slouching in chairs, pants unbuckled, drinking seltzer, burping, farting, sleeping with the top bridge of their teeth out, choking on phlegm while everyone else is kibitzing....

The women flaunting their fur coats and jewelry smelling like the perfume counter at Macy's mixed with a cloud of cigarette smoke.....

The ballgame on TV....for me it was Yankees and Mets, Giants and Jets.and who's Bar Mitzvah-was on Sunday November 17th, 1968 when a very famous football game took place? Mine of course! I was watching.....

Lox and bagels and cream cheese, chopped liver and cold cuts, pastrami, corned beef and tongue, rye bread, pickles and onions, essig fleisch and whitefish, chicken soup, kreplach or Matzoh ball soup, kinishes, latkes, kishka, brisket, mandelbrot, rugalach for dessert....

My dad eating borscht (yuuch) and herring... (double yucch) with sour cream.

Unfortunately we didn't have a lot of money..... my dad worked two and sometimes three jobs and my Mom also worked. My mother's parents lived with us as the house was two story (built for them) and they lived upstairs.

The difficult thing was that my Mom had a younger sister and younger brother who visited often. Both of them were entrepreneurial types - one was a furrier in NYC and the other imported costume jewelry and sold it to department

*Continued on page 11*

**“Progressive Judaism, For Our Modern World”  
Presentation by Jerry Tanenbaum**

**Tuesday, November 10th, 11:30 am**

**Congregation B’nai Israel Library**

**3700 N Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock**

Sponsored by Congregation B’nai Israel and Jewish Federation of Arkansas

Bring your own lunch. B’nai Israel and JFAR will provide coffee and dessert.  
Please join us! All are invited  
Coffee, Cake, and Conversation

Jerry Tanenbaum is a member of the Jewish community in Hot Springs. He was honored earlier this year by the World Union for Progressive Judaism when he stepped down from a lifetime of service as the Chairman of the Union’s Yad B’Yad Task Force for growing and strengthening Latin American Jewry. In 2000, he was the recipient of the World Union’s highest honor, the International Humanitarian Award. Jerry is an Honorary Life Member and serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Union of Reform Judaism. He is also an Honorary Life Member of the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion.

## Hannukah Party

Save the date and mark your calendar now for Sunday December 6. We will be having an evening Hanukkah party. Thanks to Karen Reagler who will be heading the latke committee again and David Reagler who will have the Religious School Players ready to entertain us with a short play.

Further details of exact time, cost and food will be sent later. But make plans now to participate in this delicious and fun evening.

*Ruth Sedler*

## Mazel Tov (New Zealand Style)

Prince Charles is coming to Wellington, NZ next week and one of his visits is to the high school of Hal and Sue Koppel’s grandson, Jake Keats. Jake has been selected to escort Prince Charles through the music department. (That’s Jake on the left). Tea and crumpets for everyone.



## New JFAR President's Message

*Editor's Note: Much nachos goes to Millie and Yossi Baron who must be kvelling as their lovely daughter Shelly was named the new President of the Jewish Federation of Arkansas. That is quite an honor and achievement and we at CHI hope for nothing but the best for Shelly and her family in the upcoming months and years. The following article is a reprint from the JFAR Action Newsletter.*

As the Jewish community in Arkansas prepares for a new year, we at the Jewish Federation of Arkansas (JFAR) have been working hard for months on our new year, which began July 1. In July, I became president of JFAR and I am so honored to be serving in this position and so excited about all of the work that JFAR is doing. We have a strong dedicated group of board members, many of whom have served our community for years, and a dedicated office staff that fully supports and strengthens the mission of JFAR.

Although our community in Arkansas is small, and I have lived here most of my life, I know there are many people I have yet to meet, so I would like to tell you a little about myself and why this position and this organization are so important to me.

I was born and raised in Hot Springs. I was one week old on my first day of Sunday School and went with my mother, who was the Hebrew teacher. I grew up in a small, but very close Jewish community where I learned early on that if you wanted your congregation to survive and thrive, you were responsible for making that happen. Both of my parents and step parents remain active members of Congregation House of Israel to this day, and although that congregation has shrunk in size since I grew up, it remains a strong and vibrant community thanks to the many members who give their time, money, and dedication to make sure it stays that way.

I have lived in Little Rock for ten years now, and I have been involved with JFAR for most of those

years. I am a member at B'nai Israel and have worked with the local youth group for about six years. Through both JFAR and B'nai Israel, I have been welcomed into this community with as much love as the one I grew up in, and very much look forward to establishing more relationships across the state.

As you read through this edition of Action, you will learn about lay leaders throughout Arkansas whose dedication to their communities is vital to their congregations. Many of the leaders in Hot

Springs and Little Rock are people I admire and look up to, and they are people who taught me and continue to teach me the importance of being involved in our Jewish community. It is a top priority for me that JFAR continues to help strengthen the communities and leaders who do so much to keep our Arkansas Jewish community vibrant and strong.

I hope you become familiar with the work JFAR does across the state to strengthen, support and sustain our community. In addition, JFAR continues to care for those in need, ensure a Jewish future in Arkansas and support global Jewry. I look forward to another productive, exciting year ahead, and I hope you all will find a connection with JFAR in some way in the coming year.

L'shanah tovah,

Shelly Baron



# Leading Locally and in Latin America

## Jerry Tanenbaum

*Editors Note: A special thanks to the World Union for Progressive Judaism for allowing us to reprint portions of previous articles on Jerry Tanenbaum.*

Jerry Tanenbaum has long been a leader in the Arkansas Jewish community. He has served on the board of Congregation House of Israel and on the Board of Trustees of Levi Hospital, both in Hot Springs. For the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, he has been Chairman of the Small Congregations Committee and President of the Southwest Council.

Jerry's leadership has been vital for the Jewish community not only locally in Arkansas but also internationally in Latin America. This past May in Rio de Janeiro he was honored with a celebration by the World Union for Progressive Judaism when he stepped down from a lifetime of service as the Chairman of the Union's Yad B'Yad Task Force, responsible for growing and strengthening the Latin American Jewish Community. Jerry helped create the task force with his late wife Pat Tanenbaum z"l and with Steve and Sandy z"l Breslauer. Since then, he has supported, sustained and led the task force with verve and dynamism.

As a result of the Task Force, there are now numerous reform and progressive congregations in Latin America, whereas a decade ago, there were just a few. Under Jerry's leadership, Yad B'Yad has facilitated the flowering of the Latin American community through missions, fundraising and strategic planning. With the help of Yad B'Yad, the WUPJ-Latin America region has been able to send emerging leaders to the Saltz Center in Jerusalem for training as well as provide the means for cantors to establish the La Shir B'Nefesh cantorial chorale, which travels throughout Latin America, performing Judaic music.

Other highlights of Jerry's Chairmanship include the beginning of the translation of the Plaut Torah Commentary into Portuguese; the hiring a full-time executive director; and working with Fundacion Judaica in Argentina to expand the WUPJ's impact in the community.

At the celebration in his honor, Yad B'Yad Fund

Task Force was officially renamed the Pat z"l and Jerry Tanenbaum Yad B'Yad Fund for Latin America.

In addition, he is an Honorary Life member of the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion. In 2000, Jerry was the Recipient of the World Union of Progressive Judaism's highest honor (International Humanitarian Award). Previously, Jerry was the Founding Chairman of the Association of Reform Zionist of America/World Union North America (ARZA/WUNA) and Chairman of the North American Board/World Union of Progressive Judaism.



Jerry Tannenbaum being honored by the WUPJ in Rio de Janeiro for his work on behalf of Latin American Jewry.

**In honor of Jerry Tanenbaum's recognition by the WUPJ, the Jewish Federation of Arkansas Board has voted to make a special contribution to the Pat z"l and Jerry Tanenbaum Yad B'yad Fund for Latin American Jewry at the World Union for Progressive Judaism**

# Sukkot 2015

# Simchat Torah



A great time was had by all at the CHI Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations.

Thanks to all who helped with the setup and all the participants.

Special Thanks goes to Millie Baron for the wonderful food and cakes for Sukkot.

Here is to a healthy and prosperous New Year!

*Photos courtesy of Ross Sedler, Glenda Kirsch and Karen Baim Reagler*

## Getting to Know ...



### Dr. Hal Koppel

Hal was born in Warren, Arkansas, in August 30, 1938, possibly the only Jew born in Bradley County. He moved to Benton, Arkansas, in 1942 where he grew up, also the only Jewish family in Benton.

He graduated high school at Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois, and then attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He obtained his B.A. there and then went to Northwestern Dental School in Chicago, graduating in 1963 with a D.D.S.

He married Sue Wigderson (Sue's Maiden name) on January 12th, 1963 and upon completion of Dental school, entered the U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas, where he served two years in the dental corps. Following completion of his military obligation and after the birth of his first child, Wendy, he entered the residency program in Orthodontics at Baylor University in Dallas, Texas. Two years later, after completion of his residency, the Koppels moved to Hot Springs to open up his practice. They were blessed with a second child, Jodi, in 1967, and a third, Mark, in 1970.

Hal and Sue have been active members of CHI since their arrival in Hot Springs and both have served in official roles in the Temple and the Temple Sisterhood. Outside interests have included serving on various community civic boards including Jackson House, Ouachita Children's Center, CASA, Fifty For the Future, and the Hot Springs Planning Commission.

Hal has not retired but still works several days each week in the orthodontic practice which he sold some five years ago.

## Yiddish Class

*Oy vey iz mir!*



It is not too late to join the fun with the Yiddish group. Our next meeting will be on November 11 at the home of Ross and Ruth Sedler, 152 Blue Heron Drive. Meeting time is 7 PM and the fun lasts about an hour and a half. In our first meeting we barely scratched the surface so please plan on attending next month and in the months to come. If you are like me, hearing and speaking Yiddish will bring back fond family memories of years gone by. Hope to see you there.

And remember folks...

*Gehakteh leber iz besser vi gehakteh tsores.*

(Chopped liver is better than miserable troubles.)

*Photos courtesy of Mark Fleischner*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### *Birthdays*

Mark Levi	Nov 3
Wendy Kohn	Nov 4
Jodi Sule	Nov 4
David Kirsch	Nov 7
Anita Williams	Nov 10
Louis Kleinman	Nov 14
Dennis Williams	Nov 21
Jerry Tenenbaum	Nov 26
Lenny Mendel	Nov 27
Harriett Marcus	Nov 29

### *Anniversaries*

Sheldon & Carol Kleinman	Nov 4
Louis & Betty Kleinman	Nov 10
Steven & Clarissa Kirsch	Nov 26
Michael & Sharon Waxler	Nov 27

## Oneg Thanks

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

Nov 6	Phyllis Hearn/Millie Baron
Nov 13	Cynthia Rephan/Mary Klompus
Nov 20	Joanne Reagler/Sue Koppel
Nov 27	Fran Rephan/Carol Crow-Nanez

**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 Sharon Waxler of the change..

## Todah Rabah

**Rabbi Chapin** for all he does for CHI and the Yiddish Class

**Ruth and Ross Sedler** for help with Eblasts and building and dismantling of the Sukkah

**Millie Baron** for all the cakes and treats she spoils us with.

**Lex Rofes** for his beautiful voice and his leadership at CHI during the High Holy Days.

## Refuah Shelemah

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

John Hearn  
Sally Nicolosi  
Barbara Diebel  
John and Leslie Jamieson  
Marci Smith  
Carol Crow-Nanez  
John Blumbeks

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

## November Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited Nov 6

**Leland H. Williams**

*Father of Dennis Williams*

**Ella Falk**

*Grandmother of Louis Kleinman*

**Dr. Martin Lax**

*Father of Gary Lax*

**Rachel Leah Goltz**

*Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

*Grandmother of Diane Goltz*

### Kaddish Recited Nov 13

**Joseph Wolken**

*Grandfather of Brad Wolken*

**Al Ginsburg**

*Father of Millie Baron*

**Joyce B. Boswell**

*Mother of Anita Williams*

### Kaddish Recited Nov 20

**Alan R. Klompus**

*Father of Stuart Klompus*

**Jacob Koppel**

*Father of Dr. Hal Koppel*

**Molly Forshberg**

*Mother-in-law of Betty Forshberg*

**Hyman Kirsch**

*Father of David Kirsch*

### Kadish Recited Nov 27

**Leon Peterson**

*Father of Cheryl Cohen*

**Dr. Theodore Gottlieb**

*Grandfather of Barbara Morgan*

**Adolph Korngut**

*Father of Fred Korngut*

**Fletcher Young**

*Grandfather of Gary Lax*

## Growing Up in the 60s

*Continued from page 4*

stores. They did very well, big houses, lots of \$\$\$.

Needless to say they didn't get along well with my father.

My father was from a different world. His family was poor and they immigrated from Europe in the early 1900's. They spoke only Yiddish. Lots of dysfunction. Dad's family lived in Far Rockaway. They passed in the 1960's and early 70's.

Oh...did I say Bar Mitzvah? What was really sad is that my parents couldn't afford a big to do Bar Mitzvah like my cousins had...so I had one anyway.

My Bar Mitzvah day was actually Saturday Nov 16 at the Synagogue. I did my thing and had a small party at home after the services. Very nice....today I am a fountain pen.

And guess what I got to do with all the gelt I collected? College fund? No... Car fund? No...Baseball cards? No....pay for the fancy affair on Sunday just like my cousins had?

YES. I got to pay for my own Bar Mitzvah!

These are the bonds that tie the Jewish people together. These common experiences. These experiences just don't happen to other cultures. Too rude. Too impolite. Too earthy. Too real.

That was growing up in a Jewish family in the sixties.

It's amazing I came out normal. The best thing that ever happened to me was leaving home at 19. It made me stand on my own two feet, pay the bills and make my own decisions. I wouldn't change it for the world.



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