



The Shofar

November, 2016

Congregation House of Israel

30 Tishrei - 29 Cheshvan, 5777



Model of the Second Temple at the Jerusalem Museum

UNESCO resolution erases the historical presence of Judaism on the Temple Mount.

See the complete article on page 4.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of October 20, 2016)

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In memory of her mother, Nellie Kaufman

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In memory of Roxanne Capotosto, sister of Kim Baron

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In honor of Tikkun Olam Award winners, Dennis and Anita Williams

In recognition of Jerry Tanenbaum's being made an Honorary Board Member of the Jewish Federation of Arkansas

A special thank you to the following for the bimah flowers during the High Holidays:

Rosh Hashanah

Steven and Clarissa Kirsch

In loving memory of Eugene and Serena Kirsch

Yom Kippur

Jerry Tanenbaum

In loving memory of Pat Tanenbaum

Memorial Book

The holidays are over and may I once again wish everyone *L'Shana Tova* -- a happy and peaceful New Year. By now, most of you have received your CHI Memorial Book.

I want to say a special thank you to **Sue Koppel** and **Ruth Sedler** for their assistance. They were my proofreaders (at least 3 proofs by each of us) and were constantly available when I just wanted to pull my hair out of my head!! Thank you so much to **Hal Koppel** for picking up the mail each day and calling me with the names and amounts.

Normally, the preparation of the book is a 3

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month project. This year, it was less than a month from start to finish. Thank you all for responding so quickly and generously. This year's Memorial Book was our most successful ever!

Being only human, I'm sure there were errors made and please forgive us for that. If you see any mistakes, please send me an email and I promise to get it fixed for future editions.

Carol Kleinman

Davar

“A Matter for Discussion”



What a joyous New Year we celebrated together at CHI. The exquisitely pure voice of Cantor Laura Breznick was certainly a great addition to the Holy Day liturgy. She will emerge, I suspect, as one of the finer Cantors in the Reform movement. We will follow her career with great

interest!

At the same time, we were all invited by Karen Reagler to participate in a program that will endow our synagogue with much needed financial support. Jeanne and I have already lent our support to this worthy cause. Don't hesitate to provide your own. Our future depends upon it!

The Harvest Festival of Sukkot came and went, but all of us send kudos to Ross Sedler (and his trusted life assistant, Ruth) for constructing the Temple sukkah once again. We have enjoyed Friday night services and religious school programs under its leafy boughs.

And here we are in November. This year that fact has momentous consequences for us. Consider the type of country, despite its many flaws, we are blessed to live in now. Never before in my lifetime have I felt the challenge of preserving what is good in America at greater risk. Rational decisions must prevail. Our democracy hangs in the balance.

And don't forget all the educational opportunities available at the temple. Bible Study, Jewish Literature, Hebrew, Yiddish -- all subjects worthy of your consideration. Just call me if you're interested.

From all the Chapins to all our dear friends in Hot Springs. L'SHANA TOV U'METUKA. A sweet and good year to you all.

From the President



Dear Congregants,

As I am ending my third term as President of CHI, I must offer thanks to all that keep this wonderful congregation ticking.

Thanks to our membership for answering the call when asked and for their dedication to Congregation House of Israel. Many thanks to Rabbi Chapin for his tremendous leadership from the pulpit and the wonderful message he delivered during the High Holy Days. Our board members stepped forward as greeters/hosts during the services for Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur and did a great job welcoming our members and guests. Our appreciation always needs to be extended to the Temple Sisterhood who make sure everything is always in order and for delivering a fantastic Break-the-Fast! And, of course, we must show our gratitude to James and Marie. They are definitely a large part of our congregation.

Our congregation faces many hurdles as we all know. It takes all of us to make sure that we conquer these obstacles. We have a great opportunity by participating in the Life and Legacy program that Karen Reagler spoke of during services the last two weeks. Along with Sherrill Nicolosi and Susan Siegal, Karen and her team can present a plan that will help CHI secure a nice endowment to continue our mission. If we meet certain criteria this year and next, we can receive \$10,000 to help this endowment. We have a lot to be thankful for and need to make sure that our congregation continues in this community for the generations to come. Please consider meeting with the Life and Legacy team to participate in this cause.

Again, thank you to all for your support and encouragement during my term.

Shalom!

Stuart Fleischer

Sisterhood



We had a wonderful Sisterhood month. (At least that's what I was told as I was out of town, playing with grandchildren.)

Since our Sisterhood coffers have been so full, our members have voted to spread the wealth around. We

had voted to help with a \$1,000 donation toward the expenses of the Cantor for the High Holy Days, but have then added another \$500 to that fund.

We also sent in a donation of \$300 to Henry S. Jacobs Camp for this year. We paid the ISJL bill of \$800 which is our membership dues, plus we paid \$36 per religious school student. We made a donation of \$360 to the Baton Rouge Jewish Federation to help them with relief for flood victims.

Our Cantor, Laura Breznick, did an absolutely magnificent job of singing during the High Holy Days. The music was beautiful and inspiring.

Our Rosh Hashanah reception was at Stuart and Kay Fleischner's house, and a big thank you goes out to them for hosting, plus letting the kids borrow their lake to swim in. Patti Fleischner did her usual yeoman's job of organizing the break-the-fast. Thanks so much to all our members who prepared and brought food. As usual, all I can say is "YUM!"

Finally, and MOST important, Betty Forshberg was chosen Sisterhood Woman of the Year and it couldn't have been given to a more worthy member. Betty is always there for any occasion to help, to bring goodies, to set up, and to tear down. Thank you Betty for being a shining example of what it means to be a Sisterhood member, you are so dearly appreciated.

November's Sisterhood meeting will be announced soon.

Sue Koppel

ARZA - World Union

Oct 16, 2016

ARZA condemns Thursday's UNESCO resolution that erases the historical presence of Judaism on the Temple Mount. This erasure undermines the Jewish legitimacy of the Western Wall (Ha-Kotel Ha-Ma'aravi, "The Kotel") and our historical presence at the Temple Mount. The resolution only makes reference to the Temple Mount's holiness for Muslims, and in its silence, rejects the Jewish ties to the holiest site in our history.

It is historical fact, corroborated by respected archaeologists and historians, that the First and Second Jewish Temples existed and that they existed on the site of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Since the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Jewish worshipers throughout the world have faced the direction of the Temple Mount during their prayers (Talmud, *Berakhot* 30a). Jews everywhere venerate the site and for that reason, we are currently fighting to keep the Kotel accessible to all Jews with our #EnoughisEnough campaign.

UNESCO, which claims to be "building peace in the minds of men and women," abandons being a voice of peace by fabricating history and conforming to extremists.

We laud our allies, including the United States, who voted against the destructive resolution. We call upon world leaders to condemn this action and urge UNESCO to rescind it immediately.

"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts." - Daniel Patrick Moynihan



Archaeologist Gabi Barkai holds up a piece of restored 2nd Temple flooring discovered in rubble discarded by the Waqf – the Islamic religious administration of the Temple Mount.

Matchmaker, Match My Torah

By Shelly Kleinman

Easily 25 years (or more) ago, our own Jerry Tanenbaum along with his late wife Pat (zl), in coordination with the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), helped establish the *Shomrei Torah* donation program, which matches congregations in need of a Torah scroll with those who have one available to loan.

Often, unfortunately, the “donor” congregation is one which is in decline and about to close, which is quite often the case here in North America. In other cases, as with CHI, the donor has a surplus of Torah scrolls, having received some from other congregations which have already closed their doors.



Over the past 25 years, through the program, over 100 Sefer Torahs have found new homes in such diverse places as Israel, Africa, Shanghai, and many more. The process is intensive and painstaking, as the recipient has to show not only genuine need, but also financial viability. And it is somewhat misleading to refer to the program as a “donation,” and would more properly

be referred to as a “Capital Loan.”

If a recipient congregation finds itself shutting down, they are legally obligated to return the scroll to the WUPJ, so that it can be reassigned to another needy congregation.

This photo shows a Torah scroll, originally donated by CHI to a congregation in Singapore, which has

now been delivered to a Progressive (Reform) congregation in Ryazan (south of Moscow). The ceremony in the photo took place this past September.

A Torah is a terrible thing to waste.

High Holidays, 5777



Rosh Hashanah



Yom Kippur



Sukkot

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To Health, To Health, L'chaim

By Patti Fleischner

Did you know that we have runners and walkers at CHI?

Every November, during the Spa Running Festival, runners arrive in Hot Springs from across the region. Several of your fellow congregants also line up at the starting line to compete in the 5K (3.1 mile), 10K (6.2 mile) or Summit2 half marathon (13.1 mile) races.

Fast or slow, walking or running, everyone is welcome. Hot soup and coffee wait at the finish line! Ask Jerry or Fran Rephan or Patti Fleischner for more information or check out the race at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/AR/HotSprings/Spa10k>.



How 100 years of Jewish Jokes Shaped Modern Humor

By Seth Rogovoy

Reprinted from *The Forward*, October 16



Not that it should come as any surprise, but *Vulture*'s recent list of "The 100 Jokes That Shaped Modern Comedy" merely affirms the widespread assumption that

much if not most of what passes for contemporary humor was and remains directly or indirectly forged out of the tragicomedy of Jewish culture. With roots going back to the Old World *badkhn*s through Yiddish vaudeville and Catskills *tumblers*, today's comedy is Jewish through and through.

Vulture's list affirms this. By my count, fully half of the jokes on the list were written and/or delivered by Jewish writers and comics (well, actually, 48 out of 100, but I'm rounding up). Present on the list are of course all the usual suspects, including the Marx Brothers, Milton Berle, Lenny Bruce, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Jerry Seinfeld, Sarah Silverman, and Amy Schumer.

The list includes classic routines, lines, or sketches by George Burns (Nathan Birnbaum), Jack Benny (Benjamin Kubelsky), Henny Youngman (Henry Yungman), Jean Carroll (Celine Zeigman), Sid Caesar, Mort Sahl, Nichols and May, Don Rickles, Rodney Dangerfield (Jacob Rodney Cohen), David Brenner, Albert Brooks, Elayne Boosler, Andy Kaufman, Billy Crystal, Joan Rivers, Ben Stiller, Jon Stewart, Andy Samberg, Judd Apatow, and Lena Dunham.

The list also includes a few surprises. For example, the article highlights dialogue from Frank Capra's screwball comedy, "It Happened One Night," starring Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable, whose "smart, sexy sensibility" *Vulture* credits with influencing "a host of other lightly bawdy screwballs and ... would-be paramours, from

Continued on page 8

Oneg Sponsors

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

- Nov 4 Larry and Carol Levi
 Michael and Sharon Waxler
- Nov 11 Barbara Morgan
 David and Cheryl Cohen
- Nov 18 Kathy Klein
 David and Glenda Kirsch
- Nov 25 (No Services)

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

November Anniversaries

- Sheldon and Carol Kleinman Nov 4
- Louis and Betty Kleinman Nov 10
- Stephen and Clarissa Kirsch Nov 26
- Michael and Sharon Waxler Nov 27

November Birthdays

- Mark Levi Nov 3
- Wendy Kohn Nov 4
- David Kirsch Nov 7
- Anita Williams Nov 10
- Louis Kleinman Nov 14
- Dennis Williams Nov 21
- Jodi Sule Nov 24
- Jerry Tanenbaum Nov 26
- Lenny Mendel Nov 27
- Harriett Marcus Nov 29

November Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited November 4

Leland H. Williams

Father of Dennis Williams

Ella Falk

Grandmother of Louis Kleinman

Dr. Martin Lax

Father of Gary Lax

Barbara Diebel

Sister of Saralee Stark

Kaddish Recited November 11

Rachel Leah Goltz

*Grandmother of Diane Goltz
Grandmother of Susan Siegel*

Joseph Wolken

Grandfather of Brad Wolken

Kaddish Recited November 18

Al Ginsburg

Father of Millie Baron

Joyce B. Boswell

Mother of Anita Williams

Alan R. Klompus

Father of Stuart Klompus

Jacob Koppel

Father of Hal Koppel

Mollie Forshberg

Mother-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Kaddish Recited November 25

Hyman Kirsch

Father of David Kirsch

Leon Peterson

Cheryl Cohen

Adolph Korngut

Father of Fred Korngut

Fletcher Young

Grandfather of Gary Lax

Refuah Shelema

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- John and Leslie Jamieson
- Stuart Klompus
- Louis Kleinman
- Carol Crow-Nanez
- John Blumbeks
- JoAnne Reagler

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.

Jewish Humor

Continued from page 7



Moonlighting's David and Maddie to Archer and Lana from Archer."

As with most of Capra's films of the 1930s, the dialogue was written by Robert Riskin, a Yiddish-speaking native of the Lower East Side who worked on 14 films with Capra, whose signature protagonists were more a product of Riskin's leftist sensibility than Capra's own right-wing ideology. The productive partnership collapsed by the end of the decade due precisely to those political differences, as well as to Riskin's sense that Capra devalued his creative contribution to their collaboration, famously brandishing 120 blank pages in Capra's face and saying, "Put the famous Capra touch on that!"