



The Shofar

October, 2017

Congregation House of Israel

11 Tishrei - 8 Cheshvan, 5778



Happy Sukkot
5778-2017

Davar

"A Matter for Discussion"



It's always funny for me to write about the Holy Days before they even begin. But "here I am."

In case those last three words do not resonate with you, they are the very same words uttered by Abraham to God on his way to Mt. Moriah with his beleaguered son, Isaac.

The Hebrew is HINENI. And it's a wonderful term for the Jew who takes responsibility for his or her own actions. There are few righteous people who approach the level of Abraham and his devoted wife, Sarah, but the essence of "here I am" seems embodied by the patriarch and matriarch of Judaism. When we think about the Holy Days we could boil it down to HINENI. That is, we have an obligation to God to stand up and be counted on behalf of the Jewish people. Not on some days, but on all days.

Despite the turmoil we are experiencing in American life, we must heed the call of our religion and do what is right for our people and for all humanity. We must, especially in the light of the catastrophes in Houston and Florida, continue to reach out and help those in distress. Giving *TZEDAKA* is always a good place to start.

So...after we celebrate the Holy Days together, let us continue to practice and observe our faith together. We are blessed with a community of "good-doers." May that continue this New Year's and all the New Years to come.

B'Shalom,

Richard Chapin

B'nai Mitzvah



Cooper Jack Bull

Cooper Jack Bull will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on October 14, 2017 at thirteen after five in the evening.

He is the sixth generation to enjoy Jewish Education at the Congregation House of Israel in Hot Springs. His bar mitzvah project includes gathering information and taking photos of the headstones at Jewish Rest Cemetery, then entering the information into the Arkansas Gravestone website.

Cooper is a seventh grader at Hot Springs Junior Academy where he is an honor student involved in East Lab, drama, art, and Jr. Beta Club. He plays percussion in the band and competes on the HSSD Archery Team. He has earned the rank of Second Class in Boy Scouts. Cooper spends numerous hours volunteering and helping to raise funds for many community organizations and school projects.

Cooper is the son of Madeline Helene Bull of Hot Springs and Bradley Jack Bull of Houston, Texas. He has one brother, Spencer Bull, of Austin, Texas.

In the ancient tradition of our great ancestors the Bull, Hudson, Goltz & Siegel Family invite you to join us in Cooper's celebration.

If you plan on joining Cooper at his dinner and party at Horner Hall following the service and you have not RSVP'd, please let us know how many are coming by emailing: diane@goltzfamily.com as soon as possible.

Sisterhood



On Erev Rosh Hashanah, I was proud to announce the recipient of our Sisterhood Woman of the Year Award: **Anita Williams!** It was a true pleasure to honor such a dedicated woman of our Sisterhood and our congregation. Anita is a powerful force in all of our

activities and we are certainly lucky to have her! Her contributions to every aspect of our community are simply immeasurable. She is now proudly wearing our Sisterhood Woman of the Year pin that has been passed on for several years now, so be sure and compliment her on her new jewelry!

Sincerest thanks go out to EVERYONE who helped make our High Holiday Services a success. Our wonderful HH's were a complete success because of you and your hard work.

To each of you who brought food, thank you. For all the behind-scene workers who set up, arranged the order of services and made sure that everything went smoothly, we 'tip our hat' in appreciation.

To **Rabbi Richard** and **Cantor Jeanne**, thank you both for all your hard work. Once again our community came together as we joyously wished each other L'Shana Tova!

We have a special hostess for our October luncheon: The Hibachi Grill! Please join us on Monday, October 2nd at 11:00 at the Hibachi Grill in Temperance Hill. After all our hard work for the Break-the-Fast we decided that we all need a nice break! Hope you can join us for a nice lunch and more sign up sheets I'm sure!



The Shofar

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Jewish Humor

The Rabbi and the Bear

A priest, a minister, and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So each one goes into the woods, finds a bear, and attempts to convert it. Later, they all get together.

The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first Communion."

"I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy Word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him."

They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. "Looking back," he says, "maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

Blacklisting: Historical Anti-Semitism Come Alive Today

By Chelsea Feuchs

Editor's note: Chelsea Feuchs is the Communications and Social Media Associate for ARZA

Born far after McCarthyism and the Red Scare, I was certain blacklists were relegated to my history textbooks. For decades, countries around the world marked people, and Jews especially, that they deemed to be threats to national security. Labor activists, socialists, liberal agitators, and even apolitical Jews under anti-Semitic regimes were singled out. But that is all in the past, right?



Wrong.

As Israel's Chief Rabbinate has recently proved, the impulse to blacklist Jews is nauseatingly present today. With our own state, we no longer need non-Jewish governments to employ this practice—we will do it to ourselves.

A list was published of 160 rabbis who are not trusted to confirm the Jewish identities of immigrants to Israel. This decision impacts questions of entry and citizenship most immediately, as well as those of personal status, conversion and marriage down the line. On a larger scale, it touches on the fundamental question of who is a Jew, and who holds authority with regard to this question.

Not content to simply uphold the blacklist, Interior Minister Arye Dery also mimicked archaic rhetoric about his co-religionists posing a threat to national security. Dery attacked those he considers untrustworthy, aiming specific malice at leaders of the Reform Movement. The Interior Minister claimed URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs would have representatives in Israel “convert anything they come across,” thereby allowing “infiltrators” into the country.

This list and its defenders slander rabbis and movements across the Jewish spectrum, and tell their followers that they are unwanted and even

dangerous.

Having learned with one leader on the list, Rabbi Barry Dolinger of Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence, Rhode Island, I know these attacks to be not just offensive, but also totally unfounded. Rarely have I met a more insightful scholar, rigorous thinker, or committed observer of Jewish law. Rabbi Dolinger is a staple of the Providence Jewish community who reaches across denominations to form relationships that strengthen the city as a whole.

But perhaps that is exactly the problem Israel's Chief Rabbinate has with Rabbi Dolinger and others like him. Many of those named in this list balance adherence to *halacha* with love and respect for the Jewish people in its entirety. As seen in the ongoing battles about conversion laws and egalitarian access to the Western Wall, the Haredi political parties refuse to acknowledge or engage in this balancing act.

The (often racist) panic over demographics and the (often callous) debate over borders and territories center for many around one question: will Israel remain a Jewish state? I would argue that the collapse of Israel's status as such will come about very quickly if only ultra-Orthodox Jews who toe the party line are considered legitimate and deserving of recognition.

That is why we need to Take Back the Z—redefine Zionism and connection to Israel as the purview of progressive Jews and not just the ultra-Orthodox. At moments like this when it is easy to throw in the towel and move on to another cause, we need to dig in deeper. Egalitarian Jews, progressive Jews, and social-justice-oriented Jews have shied away from this terminology and let Zionism become a dirty word in many of our circles. If this ideology was inspiring enough to establish a state, why cede its power to those who would rob us of recognition within that state?

Early Zionist thinkers dreamed of building a nation like all other nations, but copying the practice of blacklisting and condemning Jews is certainly not what they had in mind. The definition of internalized anti-Semitism is when Jews come to use against themselves the methods of anti-Semites. Modern-day Haredi political forces blacklisting their fellow Jews? I never thought I would see the day.

Mazel Tov, Congregation House of Israel

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) has awarded a gift of \$5,000 to Congregation House of Israel, in recognition of CHI obtaining “Letters of Intent” from 18 individuals and couples. The “Letters” are pledges to include CHI as a beneficiary in a Will, Trust, life insurance policy, IRA, Annuity, or other form of after-life gifting.

HGF, JFAR (Jewish Federation of Arkansas), and CHI entered into the “Life and Legacy” partnership in March, 2016, with the goal of supporting the Temple “to assure Jewish tomorrows,” through legacy gifts. By making a pledge today, congregants and friends of the Arkansas Jewish communities can leave a legacy to ensure Jewish traditions will continue for future generations. The second and final incentive gift of \$5,000 will be awarded by HGF and JFAR if an additional 18 Letters of Intent are received by March, 2018.

Marianne Tettlebaum, Executive Director of JFAR, has worked tirelessly with CHI’s Life and Legacy team, educating, encouraging, and promoting the program that allowed CHI to receive the first incentive grant.

By including CHI as a future beneficiary, each of us can leave a special legacy, customized and structured to our personal situations. The monetary incentive grants gave CHI the first goals for 2016-2018. Thereafter, L & L will continue to promote the incredible power of after-life gifting, sending the message that sustaining a Jewish presence in our communities is vital.

Mazel Tov to CHI family and friends who have made a pledge and commitment to the future of CHI in Hot Springs by supporting the Life and Legacy Plan.

Life and Legacy Plan

Each month in the Shofar, the Life and Legacy Team presents information about the Life and Legacy Plan. L & L is a partnership among CHI, JFAR, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The purpose of the partnership is to secure after-life gifts to our Congregation. By naming CHI as a beneficiary in a will, trust account, annuity, IRA, life insurance policy, or other form of post-death gifting, you are leaving a special legacy, giving hope that CHI will remain a strong Jewish presence in the Hot Springs community.

No funds are asked to be given now!

By signing a “Letter of Intent”, you are making a pledge to include CHI as a **Future** beneficiary. There are no contracts and no minimums. Every pledge, no matter how small, is important. As an incentive, JFAR and HGF have offered a \$5,000 monetary gift if L & L receives 18 new “Letters of Intent” (pledges) by March, 2018. (CHI “earned” the first of two incentive gifts for March, 2016 through March, 2017. See “Mazel Tov, CHI” article at left).

To sign a “Letter”, or to learn more about this program “to assure Jewish tomorrows”, contact a team member: Karen Reagler, Sherrill Nicolosi, Stuart Fleischer, Susan Siegel, or Rabbi Chapin.



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

- Oct 6 Patti and Mark Fleischner
Cheryl and David Cohen
- Oct 13 Sisterhood sponsored oneg in honor of Cooper Jack Bull Bar Mitzvah
- Oct 20 Lynda Kass
Sharon and Michael Waxler
- Oct 27 Ruth and Ross Sedler

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.

Refuah Shelemah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- Stuart Klompus
- Barbara Schlesinger
- Susan Brown
- Angie Tollefson
- Louis Kleinman
- JoAnne Reagler
- Ken Baim
- Rabbi Mark Miller
- Imy Marcus
- Robert Burns

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.

October Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited October 6

Abraham Taub

Grandfather of Betty Feir

Carrie Karnofsky Davis

*Mother of Joanne Reagler
Grandmother of Rachel Schulman
Grandmother of David D. Reagler*

Laura Fleischner

*Mother of Mark Fleischner
Mother of Stuart Fleischner*

Seymour Kleinman

Father of Sheldon Kleinman

Kaddish Recited October 13

Robert Fields

*Great Uncle of Mark Fleischner
Great Uncle of Stuart Fleischner*

Rosalind Goltz Hudson

*Mother of Madeline Bull
Sister of Susan Siegel
Sister of Diane Goltz
Grandmother of Cooper Jack Bull*

Scott Douglas Bull

Uncle of Cooper Jack Bull

Kaddish Recited October 20

Nellie Kaufman

Mother of Barbara Bushee

Alice Wolken

Grandmother of Brad Wolken

Dale Tollefson

Father of Sharon Waxler

Bernard Levi

Father of Larry Levi

Kaddish Recited October 27

Rachel Zucker Reagler

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October Anniversaries

Donovan and Sharon Ball	Oct 5
Stuart and Kay Fleischner	Oct 28

October Birthdays

Betty Feir	Oct 3
Karen Reagler	Oct 3
John Blumbeks	Oct 4
Betty Forshberg	Oct 8
Jacob Kleinman	Oct 8
Zev Kleinman	Oct 8
Lenny Gartenberg	Oct 9
Brad Wolken	Oct 12
Terri Gartenberg	Oct 13
Steven Kirsch	Oct 16
Mick Stoyanov	Oct 18
Westley Kleinman	Oct 29

Israel Sends Search and Rescue Team to Mexico After Earthquake



A search and rescue team left Israel for Mexico in the wake of a severe earthquake in Mexico.

More than 200 people were killed when a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck central Mexico on Tuesday afternoon, rocking the capital Mexico City and causing hundreds of buildings to collapse.

In addition, a delegation of 50 soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command left for Mexico City on Wednesday afternoon to assist in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Weekly Parshah

October

Chol Hamoed Sukkot

October 7, 2017

The reading 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 2nd 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 50th 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 "8th day" of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

B'reishit

October 14, 2017

G-d creates the world in six days. On the first day He makes darkness and light. On the second day He forms the heavens, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He sets the boundaries of land and sea and calls forth trees and greenery from the earth. On the fourth day He fixes the position of the sun, moon and stars as timekeepers and illuminators of the earth. Fish, birds and reptiles are created on the fifth day; land-animals, and then the human being, on the sixth. G-d ceases work on the seventh day, and sanctifies it as a day of rest.

G-d forms the human body from the dust of the earth and blows into his nostrils a "living soul."

Originally Man is a single person, but deciding that "it is not good that man be alone," G-d takes a "side" from the man, forms it into a woman, and marries them to each other.

Noach

October 21, 2017

G-d instructs Noah -- the only righteous man in a world consumed by violence and corruption -- to build a large wooden teivah ("ark"), coated within and without with pitch. A great deluge, says G-d, will wipe out all life from the face of the earth; but the ark will float upon the water, sheltering

Noah and his family, and two members (male and female) of each animal species.

Rain falls for 40 days and nights, and the waters churn for 150 days more before calming and beginning to recede. The ark settles on Mount Ararat, and from its window Noah dispatches a raven, and then a series of doves, "to see if the waters were abated from the face of the earth." When the ground dries completely--exactly one solar year (365 days) after the onset of the Flood--G-d commands Noah to exit the teivah and repopulate the earth.



Lech L'cha

October 28, 2017

G-d speaks to Abram, commanding him to "Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." There, G-d says, he will be made into a great nation. Abram and his wife Sarai, accompanied by his nephew Lot, journey to the Land of Canaan, where Abram builds an altar and continues to spread the message of a One G-d.