

# the Shofar

Congregation Etz Chayim · Huntsville Conservative Synagogue · Monthly Newsletter

## From The Editor

This space is usually filled with the thoughts and teachings of a rabbi chosen by our congregation for that purpose. Unfortunately this summer we find ourselves without, and if my designer's sensibilities could endure it, this section would remain blank.

Since a newsletter isn't a newsletter without something to read, I've taken it upon myself to share with you a few of my thoughts and musings. I hope I can be forgiven the indulgence. I can assure you it is my intention to say something of substance, and not merely write words for the sake of filling up visual space. Whether I succeed or not, I will humbly leave to your judgment.

I approached Sandy Papper about the idea of making this issue of *The Shofar* a single issue that encompassed the entire summer. Not only are we without rabbinical contributions, but because the Jewish calendar is slow this time of year, with school out of session and few Jewish holidays to celebrate. Excluding Shavuot (which technically falls in late spring), the summer brings only Tisha B'Av.

I confess with no pride that Tisha B'Av is the one Jewish holiday I have never observed.

In jest, I often call myself a "born again Jew". Raised in a secular home with only minimal Jewish identity, only about four years ago did I begin exploring Judaism as a religion and a tradition. As part of this I've been swallowing observance in bite-sized bits, the first of which has been observing virtually every Jewish holiday in my home. I light Shabbat candles every Friday night, build a sukkah every year, and even try to take a nature hike every Tu'Bishvat. These observances aren't necessarily kosher per se, but they are sincere. Tisha B'av, however, is the one holiday that has never made the cut.

I haven't made this exclusion consciously. Maybe it's the way thoughts lazily drift away from concern over the summer months. Maybe it's because I think one major fast a year is more than enough. Maybe it's because my observances are in part a gift for my small children, and lament is not precisely the emotion I'm going for in my meager attempts to reacquaint my lineage with the joys of Judaism.

More than that, though, I think it may be because I fear the expression of lament for an ancient temple is not something that would be authentic. Certainly the Almighty would see through such a charade on my part.

Ten years ago this last March, during Pesach, I stood at the Western Wall with my husband on our honeymoon. I did not yet at that point identify as a religious Jew, but my visit to Israel still stirred within me something profoundly Jewish. I did not approach the wall, as many tourists did, donning the paper kippot that were being distributed there. I stood at a distance - for an unnaturally long period of time - and I watched.



It was a profound experience. I stood overlooking the wall, watching the throngs of Jews - religious Jews, praying and weeping there. Juxtaposed next to this, where we stood in a niche overlooking the wall, two heavily-armed Israeli soldiers, a man and a woman that looked like children even to me, though I myself had only just celebrated my twenty-third birthday. They stood with due diligence over the mourners and the tourists, a guard against the very real threat these Jews lived with still, thousands of years after the destruction of this sacred place.

I felt a profound connection to them - all of them. To the mourners, the soldiers, the Israelis passing by. I remember my husband could not help but notice my intrigue with the ambiance there, and asked me why I would not approach the wall. Plenty of tourists were, I had visited many Christian holy sites next to weeping, believing Christians - and none of this had given me

pause, so why, now, was I hesitating to approach this one wall?

"I can't," I remember telling him. "It wouldn't be right."

One thing I didn't understand then that I do now, is that Judaism is a religion of action and thought before it is a religion of faith and feeling. This is largely of what makes us distinct from Christians. Lighting a Shabbat candle or uttering a prayer had minimal meaning for me the first time I did it, but I did it anyways. Feeling and meaning came only after the thought and the commitment to act.

Perhaps this Tisha B'Av, I will take another bite from bread of observance, and let it not be a holiday that slips away without notice. Maybe next time I am in Israel, I will approach the wall.

I hope you all have a relaxing summer that brings joyous memories. *The Shofar* will return in mid-August, early enough to assist in your High Holy Day planning.

Jennifer Johnson

## President's Letter

Shalom Chaverim;

Today was a great day where many members of Etz Chayim came together for a day of giving our synagogue a makeover. So many volunteers showed up. I usually do not like to single out people in this newsletter



because there are so many members that do their part in different ways to see that Etz Chayim continues to prosper. However today is special. Without the assistance of Max Rosenthal, we would have had some serious fun but an incredible amount of chaos. We were able to accomplish our goal in 3 hours. There is something to be said for great planning and preparation. Kudos to you Max.

Now on to really big news. Yes it is official! Rabbi Brian Glusman formerly of Temple Beth-El in Birmingham, Alabama is coming to Huntsville. He is already familiar to many in the community and I really look forward to his personal touch and enthusiasm he will bring to our congregation. You can read more about Rabbi Glusman on our website at [www.etzchayim-hsv.org](http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org). Below you will find the dates for his visits. So mark your calendars now and save the date.

**September 18-20**

*Rosh Hashanah*

**September 25-27**

*Molly Lapidus' Bat Mitzvah*

**September 27-28**

*Yom Kippur*

**November 6-8**

**December 4-6**

**January 8-10**

**March 5-7**

**April 23-25**

**May 21-23**

Don't forget that the annual Congregational meeting will be held on June 14th at Green Mountain Park. Starts at 11 am. Bring your own special lunch and the Brotherhood will bring the desserts. See you all there.

Regards,

Sandy Pepper

## Summer events:

**June 5th - Samuel Jacob (Jake) leads services in honor of his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.**

*Jake will be an 8th grader at Challenger Middle School in the fall. He plays lacrosse for the Huntsville Lacrosse League, plays rec league basketball and is a Black Belt in Taekwondo. Jake also is a Boy Scout, loves snowboarding and surfing. We look forward to seeing you on the 5th. Thank You, Abbe and Tom Adams*

**June 9th - Board Meeting:** 6 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

**June 14th - Annual Congregational Picnic:** 11am Green Mountain Park

**June 17th-19th - 2009 Interfaith Summit:** An Initiative of Interfaith Mission Service "An Emerging Ethical Renaissance" Gathering Around Human Values: Connecting Our Globe and Our Home Our Objective: Build together an ethical framework for resolving conflicts in a pluralistic world. Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 625 Airport Road, Huntsville. Visit <http://www.interfaithmissionservice.org/> for more information and registration.

*For any additional events in July or August, please visit the Etz Chayim web site: <http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/>*

## Tot Shabbat

Todah Rabah to Suzanne Druckman for all her work with Tot Shabbat this year. Suzanne is looking forward to meeting with all her little friends again with the new year.

## Sisterhood News

On May 11th at 11:30 at the Botanical Gardens, a General Membership Luncheon was held. Elections were held to vote on the slate of officers for next year's Sisterhood Board.

The new Board consists of:

President:

Natha Hancock

Fund Raising VP:

B.J. Brigadier

Membership VP: Holly Kent  
 Program VP: Millie Rosenthal  
 Treasurer: Brenda Liles  
 Ass't Treasurer: Dorothy Goldberg  
 Recording Sect: Shirley Roberts  
 Corresponding Sect: June Lash  
 Holiday Coordinator: Lucy Fisher

The Installation of Officers will be held at the Synagogue Picnic on June 14th.

There are no programs over the summer. We will be working on the New Year Booklet, and forms will be sent out for your input. Please return information to Brenda Liles so your information will be correct. You can also include your Sisterhood dues of \$18 with the Booklet payment fee.

We will be back in full force with the new Board by the end of August. The opening meeting is planned now with great surprises. Fun for all members, included new members. Watch for your postcards with all the happenings listed in the August Shofar.

As we conclude another year, the Sisterhood has done some great things this past year supporting many activities each month for the Synagogue. Some of the accomplishments include:

- Cleaning up the building prior to last year's High Holidays and providing refreshments for the workers cleaning up the synagogue inside & outside.
- Sponsoring a great Break-the-Fast after Yom Kippur, with food provided by B.J. & Bill Brigadier.
- Supporting the Latke Party for Channukah.
- A Pizza Party with all the children decorating the Sukkah.
- Providing refreshments after services at Simchat Torah.
- Participating in gift wrapping for Help Line during winter holiday time.
- For Purim, holding very successful White Elephant Sale and presenting a Broadway quality play written and directed by Larisa Thomason .
- Lucy Fisher and committee organized a great Passover Seder attended by a capacity crowd. This event was subsidized by the Sisterhood.
- Painting jars and filling them with candy as a community Mitzvah Project to give to the Hope Place children.
- Sponsoring Sisterhood Lunch Bunch Get-togethers at different restaurants.
- And, paying for the food for all the Rabbi lunches.

All of these things would not have happened without the great

dedication and commitment of the Sisterhood members. A huge thank you to all!!

Have a great summer!!

*Sue Paddock*

## GOLD RUSH!

Thank you to those who participated in our gold "party" held at the synagogue on May 21st. I think it was a win-win situation--money was raised, people went home with cash and there were no centerpieces or tablecloths to worry about! If you were one of the people who joined us, please tell your friends and neighbors about it. Perhaps in a few months we can do it again.



Thank you,

*Brenda Liles*

Etz Chayim Sisterhood Treasurer

## Donations

### BUILDING FUND

To Steve Goodman & Family - In Memory of Steve's mother. - *Millie & Max Rosenthal*

To Gabi Lapidus - Mazel tov on your Confirmation - *Michal & Gary Hall*

In Honor of Jake Adams Bar Mitzvah - *Gary and Michal Hall*

For the Yahrzeit Memory of Monroe's father. - *Helen & Monroe Green*

### RABBI FUND

To Steve Goodman & Family - Thinking of you, sorry about the loss of Steve's mother, Adele Goodman Nelson. - *Shirley & Ted Roberts*

To Gabi Lapidus - Mazel Tov on your Confirmation. - *Harriet & Joe Sacks*

Eidele Sainker, in loving Memory of Irv Sainker.

Sandra Wiederecht  
Larisa Thomason & Phil Kirshtein  
Dorothy & Bill Goldberg  
Miri & Richard Trudeau

Nanette Schwartz donation for Memory of Pierre  
Secher, Sandy Pepper's Stepfather.

## GREENBAUM FUND

To Dr. & Mrs. Steve Goodman - In Memory of Steve's  
mother, Adele Goodman Nelson. -*Lynn Greenbaum*

## OUTDOOR LIGHTING FUND

In Memory of Gertrude and Perry Schlein from their  
daughters, Natha Hancock and Robin Slomka and their  
families.

## Yahrtzeits

Jun-4	Sivan 12	Harry "Skip" Pepper
Jun-7	Sivan 15	Harry Kaufman
Jun-9	Sivan 17	Harriet B. Schlein
Jun-12	Sivan 20	Julius Strimling
Jun-17	Sivan 25	Goldie N. Brown
Jun-19	Sivan 27	Al Krupnick
Jun-22	Sivan 30	Phyllis E.A. Schreiber
Jun-27	Tamuz 5	Charles Klazmer
Jun-27	Tamuz 5	Abraham Donsky
Jun-27	Tamuz 5	Doris Mae Aaronson Kirshtein
Jun-28	Tamuz 6	Abraham Kalachman
Jun-28	Tamuz 6	Meyer (Mike) Zelickson
Jun-29	Tamuz 7J	acob Milton Ludmer
Jun-29	Tamuz 7	Jacob Zarovsky
Jun-29	Tamuz 7	Virginia Johanna McDonald
Jul-1	Tamuz 9	Etta B. Roberts
Jul-2	Tamuz 10	Rose Flashner
Jul-3	Tamuz 11	Shirley Katz
Jul-10	Tamuz 18	Sam Goldstein
Jul-10	Tamuz 18	Benjamin Sainker
Jul-14	Tamuz 23	Paula Levy Goldberg
Jul-17	Tamuz 25	Samuel H. Cohen
Jul-19	Tamuz 27	Harry Freedman
Jul-22	Av 1	Naomi Miller
Jul-27	Av 6	Harold Isadore Yalowitz
Jul-29	Av 8	Bruce Harris
Jul-30	Av 10	Sadie Kopkin
Aug-4	Av 14	Bernard Roberts
Aug-6	Av 16	Beatrice Goldner
Aug-7	Av 17	Fannie Feldman
Aug-8	Av 18	Gilbert A. Greenbaum
Aug-18	Av 28	Sarah Fink
Aug-19	Av 29	Jerry Donsky
Aug-19	Av 29	Dolores D'Acosta Hein

Aug-23	Elul 3	Belle D'Acosta
Aug-25	Elul 5	Adolph Goldstein
Aug-26	Elul 6	Grete Goldstein
Aug-26	Elul 6	Milton Levitt
Aug-26	Elul 6	Roland Jordan Krantz
Aug-31	Elul 11	Milton Baum

## Happy Birthday

Jun 1	Jeff Zelickson
Jun 3	Benjamin Yalowitz
Jun 7	Mitchell Weinberger
Jun 10	Adam Liles
Jun 10	Seena Weinberger
Jun 17	Katie Goodman
Jun 19	Sheree Greenbaum
Jun 26	Natha Hancock
Jun 30	Bill Brigadier
Jul 3	Mante Polin
Jul 3	Michal Hall
Jul 13	Ted Roberts
Jul 16	Sam Kleiner
Jul 16	Shayna Bostick
Jul 18	Pam Thompson
Jul 18	Sandy Pepper
Jul 20	George Drake
Jul 21	Alana Palermo
Jul 21	Jeff Lindy
Jul 28	Stan Belsky
Jul 29	Sarah Kirshstein
Aug 1	Scott Hancock
Aug 2	Joey Yalowitz
Aug 3	Larry Weinberger
Aug 6	Bill Greenbaum
Aug 10	Harriet Sacks
Aug 17	Jeff Lapidus
Aug 20	Andrea Rosenthal
Aug 23	Lauren Goodman
Aug 25	Michael Zelickson
Aug 26	Dottie Golden
Aug 29	Daniel Wiederecht
Aug 29	Morris Schindler
Aug 31	Hadley Weinberger

## Happy Anniversary

Jun 5	Brenda and Cliff Liles
Jun 20	Sam & Lisa Kleiner
Jun 26	Ken & June Lash
Jun 27	Stan and Diane Belsky
Jul 13	Phil and Shoshana Sanders
Aug 4	Dennis and Sheri Bulgatz
Aug 8	Toni and Ron Stauffer
Aug 9	Michal and Gary Hall
Aug 12	Linda Sue Maier and Frederick Kolchin
Aug 16	Kelley and Jeffrey Zelickson
Aug 22	Dr. Boyce and Arlene White
Aug 29	Sue and Joe Paddock
Aug 31	Robert & Shannon Burdeshaw

# Shabbat, Onegs, & Candle Lighting

June 5th Parsha: Nasso	Candle Lighting: 7:37 pm Oneg: Polin
June 12th Parsha: Beha'alotkha	Candle Lighting: 7:41 pm Oneg: Roberts
June 19th Parsha: Shelach	Candle Lighting: 7:43 pm Oneg: Ross
June 26th Parsha: Qorach	Candle Lighting: 7:45 pm Oneg: Schwartz
July 3rd Parsha: Chuqat / Balaq	Candle Lighting: 7:45 pm Oneg: Shapira
July 10th Parsha: Pinchas	Candle Lighting: 7:43 pm Oneg: Thompson
July 17rd Parsha: Mattot / Masei	Candle Lighting: 7:41 pm Oneg: Kleiner
July 24th Parsha: Devarim	Candle Lighting: 7:37 pm Oneg: Trudeau
July 31st Parsha: Va'etchanan	Candle Lighting: 7:31 pm Oneg: Weinberger
August 7th Parsha: Eiqev	Candle Lighting: 7:25 pm Oneg: Wiederecht
August 14th Parsha: Re'eh	Candle Lighting: 7:18 pm Oneg: Yalowitz
August 21st Parsha: Shoftim	Candle Lighting: 7:09 pm Oneg: Sainker, E.
August 28th Parsha: Ki Teitzei	Candle Lighting: 7:01 pm Oneg: Young



## Don't Forget

**INTERFAITH MISSION SERVICE:** Deliveries made by weekly to Food Pantry & First Stop. Please try to make an additional effort during these difficult times. The worthy programs need our support more than ever.

**SIMCHA & MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** \$50.00 & \$75.00 respectively. Please contact Joe Sacks for further info.

**The Summer Shofar is sponsored by Jim Weinberger, Lori Asburry and Jonah in memory of our beloved dog Toffee, who died recently after 16 years. In Honor of Jonah's terrific grades and moving on the 3rd Grade.**

**We are also celebrating the recovery of Jim's brother, Ron who just underwent surgery to remove cancerous tumors and is now doing extremely well and is expected to make a full recovery. Also, Jim's recent promotion and Lori's great Job opportunity in San Fransisco.**

**Lori and I both hope everyone else enjoys more ups than downs the remainder of the year. We're hoping ours simply flat lines for a few months.**

*Do you have an upcoming special anniversary, birthday, Simcha, or kid got into Harvard, or perhaps Auburn? Sponsoring the Shofar is a fantastic way to get the word out! Sponsorship costs \$36. Just email [info@etzchayim-hsv.org](mailto:info@etzchayim-hsv.org) and we will make sure it gets into our monthly newsletter.*