

the Shofar

Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue Monthly Newsletter

From Our Rabbi

As I write this article, the people of Haiti continue to suffer following the terrible earthquake which caused so much death and destruction. We are saddened by the widespread loss of life and the suffering of both the survivors and the loved ones of those who have died.



The Hebrew Bible repeatedly expresses the obligation to help those who, for whatever reason, cannot help themselves. It isn't enough to simply identify with the plight of fellow human beings; we must also take action to help alleviate their suffering. Now is the time!

While there are many relief funds accepting donations for earthquake victims, please consider a donation to the American Jewish World Service (AJWS). Founded in 1985, the AJWS is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization that has been involved in international rescue efforts for years. They have established an "Earthquake Relief Fund" to support the affected population. Visit <http://ajws.org> for more information.

Yasher Koach for taking part in this important mitzvah of both tzedakah and hatzalat nefashot (saving lives).

A prayer for the people of Haiti:

Dear God in Heaven,

With heavy hearts, we come before You to ask You to be with Your children in the nation of Haiti as they try to cope with the terrible tragedy that has come upon their nation.

We cannot comprehend all of the happenings in the World -- as You once told Job, we cannot know the purpose for everything that happens.

God, please be with, lend Your strength, and give Your protection to Your servants as they selflessly risk their own lives to rescue Your children and to help those who suffer. Give all of us the inclination and the resources to assist in the effort, and to help alleviate the horrendous suffering of the Haitian people, and to bring them comfort.

For we know that You are the source of all, and may Your goodness rise up and your benevolence prevail, just as Your Name is Great and Exalted throughout all time.

Rabbi Glusman



PHOTO DANIEL AGUILAR / REUTERS

DONATE: HAITI EMERGENCY FUND

► Contributions to AJWS's [Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund](#) will enable our partners on the ground to meet the urgent needs of people most affected by this disaster. Donations made before March 1 are now eligible for 2009 tax deductions. [Donate now](#) »

President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

This is the time of year that I look forward too. And believe it or not it has nothing to do with the red and pink seasonal M & M's at the stores.... I know that in a matter of weeks the celebration of Purim will come to Etz Chayim and this year we will have a double hitter. On February 20th there will be a Thomason and Kirshstein Purimspiel Production that is funnier than ever. Then the next week Rabbi Glusman and family will join us to read the Megillah on the evening of the 27th. Both of these events have something for everyone and I look forward to seeing everyone there.



I know it seems early however this is the best time to start thinking about summer camps. There are several Jewish Camps in the area that provide scholarships when needed. Lack of funds should not be a reason why your child cannot have a Jewish summer experience. If you have questions or need leads please feel free to contact me and I can guide you in the right direction. JEEP Class will be meeting every Wednesday in February. On February 3rd during Jeep, we will have Matzah Ball Soup 101 for the children. Michal Hall will be leading a workshop for the children on the do's and dont's of making this traditional meal.

I would like to welcome Marion and Don Shelman to our Etz Chayim Family. They recently moved here from Atlanta and I am so thrilled that they are a part of our congregation. Shalom,

Sandy Pepper

Sisterhood News

The Lunch Bunch met in January for a great buffet at Mandarin House in Hampton Cove. We had a nice group of members and future members (Marla and Holly brought their daughters.) The ladies that came brought bags of items for CASA (Care for the Elderly and Homebound) and Harriet Sacks delivered them. If you have anything you wish to donate, please bring it to the Synagogue during the months of January and February and someone will deliver. Some items they can use are tissues, unscented body lotions, razors & shaving cream, cleaning supplies, shampoos, Ensure, blankets, and food items (for 1 or 2 people). Call Harriet if you need more information.

Don't forget the "Purim Spiel" on Feb 20 at the Synagogue. The Sisterhood has planned for popcorn and colas for a fun snack. The Sisterhood is planning a program on Financial Planning for our March Meeting. More on this to follow as nothing is firm at this time.

Please remember that the Synagogue will once again hold a Second Night Seder on Mar 30. More details to follow. Lucy Fisher is working hard to ensure that we have great food and plenty of it.

Natha Hancock

Sisterhood President

Men's Club News

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 7:30PM, at Synagogue.

IMS: Deliveries made to Food Pantry and First Stop bi-weekly. Please bring canned food, peanut butter, baby food whenever possible. Personal hygiene items and blankets also needed at First Stop.

Simcha & Memorial Plaques: \$50.00 & \$75.00 respectively. For further info please contact Joe Sacks, 883-1889.

Thanks,

Have a great day, every day!

Joe

Upcoming Events:

February 2nd - Men's Club at Etz Chayim starts at 7:30 pm

February 3rd - JEEP Class 4 pm and Matzah Ball Soup 101 Workshop for kids.

February 9th - Board Meeting 6 pm. All Members welcome to attend.

February 10th - JEEP Class 4 pm.

February 12th - EC Board Meeting 6pm

February 20th - Purimschpiel 6 pm at Etz Chayim.

February 21-March 12: Dora and the V-2 - Slave Labor in the Space Age - UAHuntsville Salmon Library: A local exhibit exploring the history of forced labor in the construction of the V-2 missiles at the Dora concentration camp and Mittelwerk underground factory near Nordhausen, Germany, during World War II.

February 24th - JEEP Class 4 pm.

February 26th - Rabbi Glusman will lead Friday night services 7:00 pm.

February 27th - Megillah Reading 6 pm at Etz Chayim.

Scheduled Rabbi Weekends in the Coming Months:

Mark your Calendars:

February 26-28, April 23-25, May 21-23

Donations

BUILDING FUND

From: Shirley & Ted Roberts

To: Diana & Howard Polin - Mazel Tov on your anniversary of 60 years together.

From: Shirley & Ted Roberts

A generous donation to the Building Fund.
A High Holiday donation.

RABBI FUND

From: Kimberly Reece

From: Shirley Freeman

In Honor of Rabbi Glusman's visits.

From: Sharon & Jeff Yalowitz

A Generous donation to the Rabbi Fund.

GENERAL FUND

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg

To: Amy Bandas - In Memory of your grandfather, Sherwood Metz.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING FUND

In Loving memory of Gertrude and Perry Schlein from their daughters Natha Hancock and Robin Slomka and their families.

PRAYER BOOKS

From: Sandra Weiderecht

Four Sim Shalom prayer books.

SIMCHA PLAQUES

From Diana & Howard Polin in Honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Yahrzeits

Oops! We accidentally omitted some names in December. Omitted names listed below.

1-Feb	Shevat 17	Esther Goldberg
2-Feb	Shevat 18	Helen Flank Baum
3-Feb	Shevat 19	Charles Katz
4-Feb	Shevat 20	Mildred Freedman
4-Feb	Shevat 20	Jennie Greenbaum
5-Feb	Shevat 21	Bertha Flank
8-Feb	Shevat 24	Rebecca Treister
8-Feb	Shevat 24	Richard Irwin Kolchin
10-Feb	Shevat 26	Rose Belsky
12-Feb	Shevat 28	Joseph Goodman
15-Feb	Adar 1	Mae Green
17-Feb	Adar 3	Carolyn Greenbaum
17-Feb	Adar 3	Philip Smolker
18-Feb	Adar 4	Gladys Moiseev
19-Feb	Adar 5	Stanley B. Brown
21-Feb	Adar 7	Helena D'Acosta Weingarden
21-Feb	Adar 7	Philip Aronowitz
21-Feb	Adar 7	Mary Hoffman Baker
24-Feb	Adar 10	Sarah Rachel Schindler
27-Feb	Adar 13	Lou Harrison
27-Feb	Adar 13	Max Moiseev
27-Feb	Adar 13	Sam Okeon

Happy Birthday

Feb 1	Juliana Opengart
Feb 2	Danny Bulgatz
Feb 3	Gordon Sacks
Feb 4	Ken Lash
Feb 5	Jan Sainker Reed
Feb 8	Ezra Roberts
Feb 10	Ashley Bostick
Feb 12	Steve Edmondson
Feb 12	Daniel Yalowitz
Feb 14	Aryeh Roberts
Feb 17	Nathan Cerezo
Feb 17	Cliff Liles
Feb 18	Sarah Drake
Feb 19	Jennifer Johnson
Feb 25	Andrew Edmondson
Feb 28	Michelle Lapidus

Happy Anniversary

Feb 4	Shirley and Ted Roberts
Feb 14	Lynne and Steve Edmondson

Upcoming Onegs

2/5/2010 Harriet & Joe Sacks
2/12/2010 Charlie & Lucy Fisher
2/19/2010 Lisa & Sam Kleiner
2/26/2010 Bob & Shannon Burdeshaw

SIMCHA & MEMORIAL PLAQUES:

\$50.00 & \$75.00 respectively. Please contact Joe Sacks for further info.

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.

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 and we will make sure it gets into our monthly newsletter.

Our February Shofar Sponsor:

The Pepper/Cerezo Family

in Honor of:



**NATHAN'S
12th
BIRTHDAY!**

have a
ROCKIN'
DAY!