

the Shofar

Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue Monthly Newsletter

From Our Rabbi

A Legacy of Honor

This is an exciting time for the Huntsville Jewish community as plans are underway for our new joint Hebrew school program. Appropriately, the name of the new school is "NACHaS", North Alabama Community Hebraic School. While many are excited about the new venture, there are some who are tentative. Change is not easy. Change can be scary and uncomfortable. Breaking old patterns and opening ourselves up to new possibilities can create anxiety and stress.

In order to deal with the issue of transition and change, let us turn to the Torah. Presently, we are reading from the fourth of the Five Books of Moses, the Book of Bamidbar. The literal translation of Bamidbar is in the desert. The story of the Jewish people unfolds during the forty years that we wander in the desert. We receive the Ten Commandments and eventually become a nation while we were in the desert.

Throughout the centuries, our sages have written commentaries on the concept of Bamidbar. Many believe that the desert was an essential component to our acceptance of the Torah. For the Jews, Mizrayim, ancient Egypt, represents slavery and confinement. However, the wide space of the desert, midbar, can represent openness and expansiveness. As stated in the Talmud (Nedarim 55b), the Torah was given in the desert to teach that we must be open like the midbar in order to learn Torah. For the ancient Israelites, the Torah was a radical change from their previous belief system and world view. The wide expanse of the desert can symbolize the willingness of our ancestors to be receptive to new ideas and alternate ways of thinking.

My blessing for Etz Chayim is that we become open to new possibilities and that we work together to create a positive Jewish learning environment for our children and future generations.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Brian Glusman

In this issue, in honor of Memorial Day and Independence Day, we will hear the story of one of Etz Chayim's own war veterans. Shayna Bostick, the subjects own granddaughter interviews Mr. Howard Polin for an exclusive on his service to our country.

As you read this article please keep in mind that interviewing outside of, "What kind of sandwich do you prefer for lunch today?" or "Tell me about your day at school" is not a profession of mine. In honor of Memorial Day I was asked to interview Pop-Pop (my grandfather) and share his stories with the Shofar readers. Here goes with great intent and hesitation because I am not sure I can do our family's favorite WWII G.I. the justice he deserves.



Howard Polin had just begun his education at Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia when he enlisted with the Army Air Corps on December 7, 1942 at the age of 19. After evaluation of mind and body his previous engineer schooling came into play and it was decided that he would train for the position of meteorologist. He was sent to be educated in that field in Illinois and from there sent to England and assigned to the 352nd Fighter Group to start his duties. Trying to be technical I asked, "Pop-Pop what was your official job?" He responded, as I am sure he does with all interviewers but you read it here first, "Look at girls and tell whether".

The weatherman part of the job held important relevance because he briefed pilots on conditions en route to targets and also their returns. We discussed what a difference these modern day computers would have made for him and his fellow meteorologist. With communication being so much slower without computers and security being so important for them to do

their job the computer would have made a world of a difference with being able to obtain weather data from distant weather sources instead of the few points that were militarily safe to use. Another difference we discussed was what made this experience so great to him.

He said, "Back then the whole country supported what we were doing and why we were doing it. The home front was as dedicated as the soldiers...Even the children collected tin cans that we used to build military equipment. We were supported by children and all the way up." Our Jewish soldier was even supported by his Protestant Army Chaplain. The Chaplain made sure the Jewish G.I.s attended Friday night services and arranged for high holidays to be celebrated appropriately. Pop-Pop tells these stories like he is reading them from a book. His recollect is incredible and he credits the fact that his experience there was "memorable and the best came out of a bad situation." He told me that he is happy to talk about it because he "didn't get hurt and had experiences he otherwise would not have had. The whole country was very patriotic." He knows he was very lucky, as are we, his family. He was part of the landings on June 6, 1944 (D-Day) and the May 8, 1945 victory in Europe. Other great achievements are a wife of 60 years, 3 children, 5 granddaughters, and 4 great-grandsons that all idolize him and love to hear, and now tell, his story of a part of his life that made him who he is.

Sisterhood News

Another year of activities has been completed and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it a fun and rewarding year. I especially want to thank the Sisterhood Board who made sure that we had a directory to reach everyone when needed, a luncheon every time the Rabbi was in town, a wonderful Passover Seder, and social activities such as the Lunch Bunch, a Chanukah craft project and entertaining programs. I also want to thank all of our members; without whose support we would not have been able to have these functions. I also want to thank those who attended these functions because without them, who needs the functions!

If you have any ideas for programs for next year, please let me know. We want to support our Synagogue and our members but we can't do it if we don't know what activities interest you on a religious, personal and social level. We also want to know your opinion on our plan to refurbish the kitchen. How do YOU want to get involved next year? What are YOU interested in? The advertising forms for the yearbook will be available at the picnic. Please take a few. The yearbook greetings and ads as well as your Sisterhood dues are the way we pay for what we do for the Synagogue and for you. Please support us. I hope you have a great summer,

Natha Hancock

Sisterhood President

Men's Club News

Men's Club meeting date: June 22, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, at Synagogue Enjoy 2 hours of fellowship, relaxation and food. The Men's Club is there for you. Mark your calendar accordingly.

Etz Chayim Annual Picnic and Election of Officers: GREEN MOUNTAIN NATURE TRAIL, SUNDAY, June 6, at 11:30 AM. Men's Club will sponsor the desserts. Directions: Going south on Bailey Cove Rd, take a left to Green Mountain Rd, follow the sign going east (approx. 5 miles up the mountain) to Nature Trail. For further info, please call Joe Sacks, 883-1889.

IMS: Please do not forget the Food Pantry & First Stop. Deliveries made bi-weekly.

See you at the picnic!

Joe

Thank You

Mil & I would like to thank all the people who helped make the Israel Independence Day celebration a success. To the ladies who did the food, the men who shelpt tables, the folks who ran the games, to our daughter who did the crafts, those who participated in the program, and to all the folks who came and ate, played games, listened to the speaker, and were a part of the celebration.

THANK YOU!

Max & Millie Rosenthal

Simchat!

Honoring...

Jared Ralston's graduation from basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina on May 7th.

Skylar Green, a Junior at Huntsville High was inducted into the National Honour Society. She also lettered in band after receiving Superior Ratings during the National Band Director's Competition in Dallas, Texas. Skylar is a percussionist and was required to play several instruments during the competition.

Ian Burdeshaw graduated with honors June 5, 2010. He will be taking a year to travel, work and study before attending college next fall.

Megan Burdeshaw will be attending Auburn University as a Junior in August. She completed her Associates Degree at Bellevue College in Seattle, WA.

Support Our Youth

Etz Chayim teens looking for summer opportunities
Ian Burdeshaw is selling cookbooks for \$10.00. These cookbooks share some traditional Jewish favorites by some of our wonderful Etz Chayim Members. The funds from the sale of these books will go towards his trip to Japan as an Educational Ambassador.

Danny Bulgatz, an honor student at Huntsville High is looking for the perfect part time job this summer to earn money for college. Do you need assistance with landscaping or in your office, Danny is a jack of all trades. Please contact him at danny@bulgatz.com or 256-503-9264

Upcoming Events:

Classes given by Rabbi Laibel Berkowitz Every Thursday in June at 6:30. E-mail Rabbi Laibel Berkowitz [rabbi@chabadhuntsville.com] for more information.

June 6th - Etz Chayim annual picnic/installation of 2010 EC officers at Green Mountain Park 11:30

June 22nd - Men's Club 7:30pm at Etz Chayim

June 29th - Huntsville Stars Game 7pm

July 13th - Board Meeting All EC members welcome to attend 6pm

August 9th - Huntsville City schools begin class

August 18 - JEEP Class begins at 4pm

Donations

BUILDING FUND

From: Nanette Schwartz
To: Holly Kent, Amy Buffington, Millie Rosenthal, Shirley Roberts - Thanks for getting the synagogue kitchen ready for Passover.

To: Natalie Farbes - My condolences on the passing of your mother.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

From: Debra Leites & Phala Dunning

From: Sharon Watson

From: Natalie Forbes

From: Tatjana Copeland
To: Bill Goldberg, Max Rosenthal and Ted Roberts

From: June Lash
In honor of our JEEP teachers

From: Amy Buffington
In honor of our JEEP teachers

From: Michal and Garry Hall
For Jonathan Levitt's Bar Mitzvah, and JEEP teachers

From: Nathan and Claudia Cerezo
To our Wonderful Wednesday school teachers

From: Anonymous

OUTDOOR LIGHTING FUND

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

KITCHEN FUND

From: David Rosenshine
In Honor of their daughter's engagement.

EDUCATION FUND

From: Joshua Lipschutz
To: In Honor of the Lapidus family for their hospitality and kindness..

GENERAL FUND

From: Natha & Scott Hancock

From: Alan and Marcia Farber
For the Yahrtzeit of Clair and Louis Farber

RABBI FUND

From: Lucy & Charlie Fischer

From: Pam Thompson

BOOK DONATION

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg
To: Eidele Sainker - For all that you do for others.

SPECIAL THANKS

To: Natalie Farber for all the office supplies.

To: The Farber family for the new microwave.

Yahrtzeits

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

Happy Anniversary

5-Jun	Brenda and Cliff Liles
17-Jun	Michael and Tammy Kropp
26-Jun	Ken & June Lash
27-Jun	Stan and Diane Belsky
23-Jul	Mark and Tatjana Copeland

Upcoming Onegs

We still have lots of openings for people to participate. Please contact Lisa Kleiner [lisakleiner1@gmail.com] if you can volunteer to host this summer.

6/4/2010	Larisa & Phil Kirshstein
6/11/2010	
6/18/2010	Natalie Farbes
6/25/2010	Mike & Tammy Cropp
7/2/2010	Charlie & Lucy Fisher
7/9/2010	
7/16/2010	
7/23/2010	
7/30/2010	
8/6/2010	Robert & Carla Krigelman & Evans
8/13/2010	
8/20/2010	Brenda & Cliff Liles
8/27/2010	

Happy Birthday

Jeff Zelickson	6/1
Benjamin Yalowitz	6/3
Abbe Adams	6/6
Adam Liles	6/10
Jacob Copeland	6/19
Sheree Greenbaum	6/19
Natha Hancock	6/26
Einat Cohen	6/28
Bill Brigadier	6/30
Michal Hall	7/3
Mante Polin	7/3
David Blumenthal	7/3
Tony Stiles	7/13
Ted Roberts	7/13
Debby Leites	7/15
Shayna Johnson	7/16
Sam Kleiner	7/16
Sandy Pepper	7/18
Pam Thompson	7/18
George Drake	7/20
Alana Palermo	7/21
Don Shelman	7/22
Stan Belsky	7/28
Sarah Kirshstein	7/29



This Issue of *The Shofar* is
in memory of Capt. Robert M. Secher and
all of the Jewish War Veterans who have
so bravely served our country.

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.