

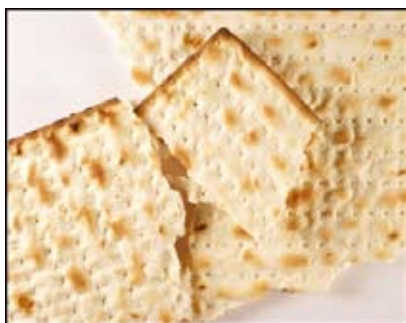
the Shofar

Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue Monthly Newsletter

From Our Rabbi

President's Letter

While there are many rituals and traditions associated with the Seder, one of the most intriguing is the breaking of the middle matzah at the beginning of the Seder. Why do we break the middle matzah and not one of the others? Our sources offer a number of



explanations. One explanation suggests that the middle matzah captures the image of our ancestor's position "between a rock and a hard place," caught between the bricks they were forced to make in mitzrayim and the hardness and wickedness of Pharaoh's heart. We are also reminded of where our ancestors stood immediately upon their liberation from Egypt - between a pursuing army and a sea they were afraid to cross. At the same time, however the broken matzah reminds us that even when life seems to be at its darkest, when we feel most depressed, there is still reason to hope. Pharaoh did let our people go, the sea did split and our people were allowed to pass through in safety.

The Haggadah tells us "...in every generation we are to see ourselves as if we ourselves came out of Egypt..." and so it is our duty to continue the process of redemption by striving at all times to be free. That middle matzah is broken rather than the top or the bottom, in order to teach us how to break out of bondage, whether it be spiritual, physical or psychological. If we stand as that middle matzah, surrounded by faith, family, friends and God, it is certainly possible to break free. It is through the support and faith of those around us that liberation and redemption are possible.

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Laurie joins me in wishing our Etz Chayim family a Chag Kasher V'Sameyach, a happy and healthy Passover!

Rabbi Glusman

For those of you who do not know, I have been going back and forth to Memphis, to help my mother move from her house into an apartment. It has been an emotional journey filled with a lot of laughs and nostalgia. Beyond the Benetton sweaters and the Dr. Pepper clock that sat in my father's office I found two very important treasures. The first being a bag with 1908 sewn into the fabric, inside it contained a set of tefillin that looked well worn. I can only imagine the history behind this bag. Pierre, my stepfather died before I could ask him. Pierre was not the type of Jew who would daven in the morning and put it on, but he knew the importance of keeping it in the family. That 1908 bag now resides with my sister where she will keep it and pass it on to the next generation.



The second treasure was my father's tefillin bag which contained not only his tefillin but also his tallis. My mother searched for the tallis to cover Fernando and I during our Jewish wedding in 2004 but she was unable to find it. Then last September she

searched again in an effort to give it to my nephew for his Bar Mitzvah and she could not find it. While cleaning the attic, buried under piles of bank statements from 1980, my father's tefillin bag was found. Now that it has been found, this tallis and tefillin will be given to Nathan next year for his Bar Mitzvah.

To me, these tefillin represent my family history, their courage and determination to continue their Jewish beliefs. I am hoping that by passing them to my children our family traditions will continue. On April 25th Rabbi Glusman will present a Sunday morning class on tefillin. I ask all of those members of the community who have tefillin come and join our 2011/2012 Bar Mitzvah class and share not only their tefillin but the stories that go with them. For many of these kids their grandparents do not

live in the same city or have passed on. Your presence for these kids will be something very special who otherwise not have such an opportunity.

Thank you,

Sandy Pepper

Sisterhood News:

March 15! Wine, cheese, and money! March 15! Wine, cheese and money! March 15!

Please put this special date on your calendar as it is very important for the Sisterhood members to attend this meeting. Since it looks as if the Synagogue will not be adding an addition to our building any time soon, the Sisterhood Board would like to remodel the kitchen and we need the approval of the members.

We will make a presentation at the meeting and hope that the members will vote YES! After the approval is received, we will present our plans to the synagogue board for their vote. A card will be sent to all members informing them of the time.

We will also have a very informative program at this meeting. This program will be open to all synagogue members. A representative from Smith Barney will talk to us about investments and financial planning from a woman's perspective. However, men are invited as the info should benefit them as well. Wine and cheese will be served. We will notify everyone by e-mail of the time.

Also, don't forget about the Passover Seder. The menu and caterer both sound great. Please let Lucy Fisher know ASAP if you want to attend as we are filling up fast and we don't want to turn anyone away. Lucy has a deadline from the caterer and since the Sisterhood has to purchase the chicken NLT 3 weeks in advance we will not be able to add people at the last minute.

Last, but not least, THANK YOU to all involved in the Purim spiel. It was wonderful.

Natha Hancock Etz Chayim Sisterhood President

Purim Play

Those of you who missed the synagogue Purim play, missed one of the best that we have put on. Larisa Thomasom, the play author, outdid her self with a unique talk show version of the event in Shushan. The play included among the usual characters, a dog with the best manners I've ever seen, songs that could be entered in the "Tony" awards, a unique punishment for Haman, and wonderful refreshments by the sisterhood and libations for all. Our lighting crew, Claudia Cerezo and Jordan Hall really did

a super job, Their next effort will probably be at Huntsville Little Theatre. A good time was had by all.

Diana's Poetry

A copy of Diana Polin's poetry book is in the synagogue library. It reflects a half century in Huntsville and 60 years of marriage and includes travels, family and a tribute to Etz Chayim. I hope you will take the time to read it. - *Howard Polin*

New Librarian Needed

The synagogue needs a new librarian. Our library is in fairly good shape but it needs someone who is interested in books and who will help maintain and improve it. I will help orient any person who is interested in the job so please let me know if you are that person. Thanks! - *Max Rosenthal*

Upcoming Events:

March 3rd - JEEP Class 4pm

March 9th - Etz Chayim Board Meeting 6pm - All members welcome to attend

March 10th - Special JEEP Class with Chabad of Birmingham Matzah Bakery 4pm

March 16th - One Huntsville sponsored my Interfaith Mission Service 5pm

March 17th - Spring Break - No JEEP

March 24th - JEEP Class 4pm

March 29th - First Night of Passover

March 30th - Community Seder at Etz Chayim - Reservations Required

Men's Club Meeting TBA

Donations

BUILDING FUND

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

To: Gary Schwartz - To Let you know we are thinking about you and wish for your continued good health.

To: Shirley & Ted Roberts - In Honor of their anniversary.

To: Josh Brigadier - Our thoughts and prayers are with you, hope you get well soon.

**Pledge Payment for Next Year's
RABBI FUND**

Susan & Larry Levitt
Kelley & Jeff Zelickson

GENERAL FUND

From: Diane & Jay Sarvin
To: Diana & Howard Polin- In Honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

From: Debra Lindy
In Memory of Debra's mother, Mary Baker.

From: Sandy Pepper & Fernando Cerezo
Sponsoring the February Shofar

From: Diana & Howard Polin
Sponsoring the January Shofar

OUTDOOR LIGHTING FUND

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

KITCHEN FUND

From: Janet & Morris Schindler
To: Ted Roberts- Speedy recovery and continued good health.

Yahrtzeits

1-Mar	Adar 15	Jeffrey Tillman
2-Mar	Adar 16	Bernard Flank
2-Mar	Adar 16	Goldie Merson Ludmer
2-Mar	Adar 16 II	Goldie M. Ludmer
3-Mar	Adar 17	Joe Brown
3-Mar	Adar 17	Anna Fleishman
4-Mar	Adar 18	B.H. Ledbetttter
7-Mar	Adar 21	Melvin Harris Kirsch
11-Mar	Adar 25	Rebecca Sacks
13-Mar	Adar 27	Phillip Makower
13-Mar	Adar 27 II	Howard Farber
17-Mar	Nissan 2	Hersh Tzvi Bayers
18-Mar	Nissan 3	Robert Lukin
22-Mar	Nissan 7	Paul Schlein
22-Mar	Nissan 7	Gertrude Schlein
23-Mar	Nissan 8	Morris Wittenstein
24-Mar	Nissan 9	Cecile Hollenberg
25-Mar	Nissan 10	Irwin Goldstein
26-Mar	Nissan 11	Norman Greenbaum
30-Mar	Nissan 15	Yakov Cszerny Drake
30-Mar	Nissan 15	Yolanda Cszerny Drake
31-Mar	Nissan 16	Marvin M. Schreiber
31-Mar	Nissan 16	Lilian Jaffee

Happy Birthday

Mar 1	Jonathan Ralston
Mar 2	Claudia Cerezo
Mar 2	Michael Hall
Mar. 4	Myles Johnson
Mar 8	Millie Rosenthal
Mar 18	Ian Burdeshaw
Mar 20	Maryn Liles
Mar 24	Karen Lewter
Mar 25	Sharon Roberts
Mar 25	Harrison Sacks
Mar 27	Stephanie Hancock
Mar. 27	Lucy Fisher
Mar 28	Seth Spraggins

Happy Anniversary

Mar 6	Harvey and Dottie Golden
Mar 20	Michael and Jennifer Johnson

Upcoming Onegs

3/5/2010	Raven Livingston
3/12/2010	Nannette & Gary Schwartz
3/19/2010	Bob & Shannon Burdeshaw (Honoring Ian's birthday)
3/26/2010	Max & Millie Rosenthal

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.

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. Sponsored by the Bill Greenbaum Family

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In Honor of the 51st Anniversary of our arrival in Huntsville, Alabama. I would like to thank Hashem for leading us to Huntsville so I could raise my family in such a fine environment. I also want to thank Hashem for letting me physically and spiritually help guide Etz Chayim all these years.



In Memory of
My Beloved Wife

Carolyn

and

My Beloved Son

Gilbert



Never forget -

**The Jewish Federation of
Huntsville and North Alabama
sponsors Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust Remembrance Day) -**

Event will be at the Education Building (near Davidson Center) Space and Rocket Center.
April 15th, Thursday at 7 pm

- **Max Hertzl speaks - He is a survivor of Nazi tyranny during war**
- **Candle lighting ceremony**
- **Sing with us: *O'Jerusalem* and *Hatekvah***
- **Results of high school essay contest will be announced**