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# the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2014

CESHVAN/KISLEV, 5775

Friday evening services begin at 7:00 p.m. beginning on November 8

Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

## FROM SHIRA M.T. ROSENBLUM:

Shalom to the Etz Chayim Community! I am very much looking forward to the two Shabbaton weekends I will spend with you in November and December and want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Currently a third-year student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, I spent the past academic year living and studying in Israel. I have been privileged to lead the archery program at Ramah Outdoor Adventure in the Colorado Rockies since the summer of 2012. My love of archery and Judaism go hand in hand as demonstrated by the Jewish values I infuse into each of my archery lessons. I am excited to get to know you all while I am in your community and hope the learning we do together will spark conversations that continue between my visits - keeping us on target to eventually hit the bulls eye.

As you may know, we have just entered a Sabbatical (Shmita) year. While for many of us in the U.S. this mitzvah may seem irrelevant, people have already been observing this Shmita year in Israel since the new Jewish year began on Rosh Hashanah. Of biblical origins, the Shmita year is one in which Israelites were commanded to release

their land, slaves and property and to forgive any debts owed to them. Every seventh year, they were forbidden to plant or reap any produce within the land of Israel. Modern Israelis have primarily observed the agricultural aspects of this law which impacted people at every level of Israeli society whether a farmer, a scholar or a merchant.

This year, however, the economic side of Shmita has been reclaimed through an exciting new project initiated by Israeli Member of Knesset, Dr. Ruth Calderon. I was fortunate to hear her speak about it when she visited JTS on Sukkot and found it truly inspiring. The Shmita Year Project has the potential to positively impact up to 5,000 Israeli families currently struggling with debt. Through a partnership between the creditors, third-party non-governmental organizations and the impoverished families themselves, the Shmita Year Project aims to enable families to overcome economic hardship and take responsibility for gaining back their financial independence.

I personally look forward to following the progress of this effort and hope you find meaning in this creative reclamation of an ancient law. Finally, I want to offer this prayer for us all in this Shmita year - that we may

find ways to “release” the things in our lives that hold us down and only preserve those that are truly vital to our success. I wish you a year of health, joy and fulfillment as individuals, families and as a community.

L'chaim,

Shira M.T. Rosenblum

## ONEG SIGN-UP

Hi Everyone,

It is time to sign up for an oneg for the first half of 2015. Please step up to the plate and email your request. I will give everyone a chance to request their date by Thanksgiving weekend, then I will assign dates. See the list below.

Thank you,

Lynne Edmondson  
[etzchayimoneg@gmail.com](mailto:etzchayimoneg@gmail.com)

## DATES FOR ONEGS, 2015:

Jan 02	Apr 10
Jan 09	Apr 17
Jan 16	Apr 24
Jan 23	May 01
Jan 30	May 08
Feb 06	May 15
Feb 13	May 22
Feb 20	May 29
Feb 27	Jun 05
Mar 06	Jun 12
Mar 13	Jun 19
Mar 20	Jun 26
Mar 27	Jul 03
Apr 03(Pesach)	Jul 10
Apr 10	Jul 17
Apr 17	Jul 24

## SISTERHOOD

Greetings,

I would like to thank the ladies who took over for me at the most recent Rabbi Luncheon. I was not feeling well, and they were very thoughtful. Like a well-oiled machine they sprang into action! They put out the food that BJ, Nanette, and I had prepared, and after serving they cleaned up. Thank you all very much.

Now for a little house cleaning. Next to Ted Roberts' books on the cabinet in the foyer was a box of free books to be given away. But Ted's books are for sale for \$12.00 each, with a portion going to Sisterhood. If you took one of Ted's books, please send a check to Sisterhood. Regarding the New Year Books on top of the Gift Shop counter--they are Sisterhood's fundraising project and are pre-ordered and individually addressed. We are always appreciative of those who support this fundraiser by having a greeting, memorial or an ad in the book. If you took your book, please help us close our accounts by sending your payment in to Sisterhood.

Lynne Edmondson has done a wonderful job this year coordinating the visiting Rabbi meals and the Friday night onegs. Thank you Lynne. She has managed to get experienced people and new people to help out, for which we are grateful. I hope the following tips will help our kitchen to run smoothly: It is the responsibility of the people who are doing the onegs or meals at the synagogue to supply all paper products, silverware and drinks as well as refreshments. If you are doing an oneg, a service or a Rabbi meal it is your responsibility not only to clean up after

your event, but also to return all items in the drain rack to their proper cabinets and drawers. Used kitchen dish towels should be taken home, washed and returned to the synagogue. This will take a lot of work off the shoulders of the people who come behind you and will be very much appreciated. The kitchen pantry is reserved for Saturday Rabbi Luncheons and Sisterhood sponsored events. Thank you for your consideration of others.

The smallest and newest BBYO chapter (us) is not only participating in the International Convention, but Gigi Plotka has been asked to be the Youth Coordinator for this convention. There are 37 countries registered at this time. Congratulations Gigi!!! I have been informed that BBYO had a successful local meeting recently; they played apples to apples. A good time was had by all.

December 8th will be Game Night! We will have Bunko, Right Left Center and Mexican Train. All women synagogue members are invited. This would be a great time to buy your Chanukah gifts. THE GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN.

Thank you,

Sandra Wiederecht (256-797-4013)

### MEN'S CLUB, ETC.

NEXT MEETING: Oct. 28 at 7:30 PM  
NOVEMBER MEETING: Nov 25 at 7:30 PM

IMS: Deliveries made bi-weekly to First Stop and Food Pantry. We make a difference. Let's continue to leave items in the entry way of Synagogue. It's a mitzvah! Thanks for your support.

Simcha & Memorials: \$50.00 & \$75.00, respectively. Please check with Joe Sacks for further details--256-883-1889

Enjoy the Autumn Season.....Joe 😊

### SOMETHING NEW AT EC

Did you ever have a thought or a new idea about our congregation, but didn't know where to take it, or how to make it happen?

Now we have the answer.

The Board of Directors has approved the formation of a new Planning Committee; a broad-based group that will build new vigor in Etz Chayim.

The new committee will broaden participation in congregation activities, deepen the kinds of functions we offer to the membership and the Jewish Community, and look into the future to see what's in store. We hope you will be part of it!

If you have any questions call me or text me at 256-457-0277, or email me at [jonaberger@gmail.com](mailto:jonaberger@gmail.com) . I'd love to talk with you.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, October 29, at 7:00 at the Synagogue.

Everyone is encouraged to come, members, nonmembers, and not-yet members. Bring your ideas and your friends.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Jon Berger

## ONEGS

10/31 Susan & Larry Levitt  
11/07 Sue & Joe Paddock  
11/14 Shirley & Ted Roberts  
11/21 Jon Berger  
11/28 Debra Leites

## DONATIONS

### General Fund

From: Arlene and Jerry Averbuch  
To: Shirley and Ted Roberts-For your recovery, wishing you a healthy New Year with peace-Love, Arlene & Jerry

From: Maria and Mike Sumerall  
Wishing everyone a healthy, happy New Year.

### Randy Sacks Memorial Fund

From: Susan and Alan Sacks  
In memory of Randy Sacks' yartzheit

### Rabbi Fund

From: Millie and Max Rosenthal  
In memory of our Aunt Celia Krell. May she rest in peace. She lived to be 101 years old.

### BBYO Fund

From: Shirley and Ted Roberts  
To: Millie and Max Rosenthal-in memory of your Aunt Celia Krell.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 28 Men's Club meeting @ 7:30 PM  
Oct 29 Planning Committee mtg, 7:00PM  
Oct 31 Rabbi Shira Rosenblum Shabbat Weekend begins, 7:30 PM service  
Nov 01 Shabbat Morning Services, 9:30 AM, Rabbi Luncheon after services, followed by Rabbi led learning class

Nov 02 Meet the Rabbi Brunch, 9:45 AM, Remember to change clocks back the previous night!  
Nov 25 Men's Club meeting @ 7:30 PM  
Dec 5-7 Rabbi Shira Rosenblum Shabbat Weekend begins at 7:00 PM, Shabbat services Saturday at 9:30 AM, Havdalah at 7:30 PM, followed by Rabbi led learning class, Sunday Rabbi Brunch  
Dec 08 Sisterhood Game Night, Gift Shop Open

## BIRTHDAYS

Nov 01 Linda Kolchin  
Nov 02 Kelley Zelickson  
Nov 03 Nannette Schwartz  
Nov 03 Jennifer Robererts  
Nov 05 Skylar Green  
Nov 09 Sharon Yalowitz  
Nov 11 Shirley Roberts  
Nov 16 Jonathan Levitt  
Nov 17 B.J. Brigadier  
Nov 19 Daniel Goodman  
Nov 21 Josh Bulgatz  
Nov 23 Adam Kalachman  
Nov 24 Shoshanna Rosenthal  
Nov 26 Bill Goldberg  
Nov 28 Yael Roberts

## ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 06 Natha & Scott Hancock  
Nov 13 Mante & Arthur Polin

## YARZHEITS

Oct 27 Cheshvan 03 Sarah Goldstein\*  
Oct 27 Cheshvan 03 Sara Osovsky\*  
Nov 01 Cheshvan 08 Ruth Harris  
Nov 05 Cheshvan 12 Martin Goldner\*

Nov 06	Cheshvan 13	Herschel Tzvi Rabinovich
Nov 08	Cheshvan 15	Pauline Rudoy*
Nov 08	Cheshvan 15	Pierre Secher*
Nov 12	Cheshvan 19	Abe Soble*
Nov 12	Cheshvan 19	Elise Margaret Hoehne
Nov 14	Cheshvan 21	William Polin*
Nov 15	Cheshvan 22	Morris Goldberg*
Nov 15	Cheshvan 22	Leon Treister*
Nov 15	Cheshvan 22	Sam Ginsburg*
Nov 18	Cheshvan 25	Dr. Abraham Feitelberg*
Nov 19	Cheshvan 26	Joan Zelickson
Nov 21	Cheshvan 28	Rose Feitelberg*
Nov 22	Cheshvan 29	Samuel Belsky*
Nov 22	Cheshvan 29	Rose Goldberg
Nov 24	Kislev 02	Dr. Harold Isaac Goldman*
Nov 26	Kislev 04	Suzanne Ivy*
Nov 27	Kislev 05	Rose Soble*
Nov 27	Kislev 05	Rhonda Beth Baker*
Nov 28	Kislev 06	Abraham Belsky*
Nov 28	Kislev 06	Sam Sokolow
Nov 28	Kislev 06	Molly Levy Buchman
Dec 01	Kislev 09	Pauline Baron Kripke*

\* Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle at sunset of the previous evening

## A SURVIVOR'S THANKSGIVING

By Ted Roberts

Sammy Green had a past, as they said in his new country. His past was the slaughterhouse of Europe. But that was behind him in a time, in a place, banned to even his imagination. And here in Philadelphia the dead were where they belonged - in graveyards or neat cemeteries. Not in the streets like in the Lodz ghetto or piled up beside the barracks in the camp. Here there were no executioners, only those old predators - disease, old age.

Neither threatened Sammy Green (so much more American than Shmuel Gruzenkywitz). He was well and he had a job that provided

all the food he could eat and an apartment with three rooms; in a large red brick building at 221 W. Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

The newcomer was surrounded by non-Jewish neighbors. So unlike the ghetto in Lodz. But they were friendly folk who after a few weeks of cautious inspection of their new neighbor and his alien appearance warmed to his loneliness.

It was mid-November and they talked of the great American holiday, Thanksgiving. "We give thanks," said Chuck Heffernan from next door. "Thanksgiving - you know, giving thanks."

"Yes, but for what?" asked Sammy.

"For life I guess. The Pilgrims, you know, started it. They were celebrating their harvest and the fact that most of them were still alive. They ate turkey and maybe they said prayers. You could find out all about it over at the branch library on State Street. Look it up in the Encyclopedia."

They stood in the hall and talked. Chuck's wife, Jean, joined them and proudly described her traditional holiday menu for the newcomer. Turkey and trimmings.

Thanks Giving. Sammy knew about that. As an observant Jew, did he not give thanks before and after every meal? And did he not declare his thanks every morning and night for the divinely-engineered body that was the temporary receptacle of his immortal soul?

Sammy Green, the Jew from Lodz, knew how to give thanks. It was his ethnic specialty, you might say.

He would conduct a Thanksgiving ceremony with tallice and kepah; in his apartment like his American neighbors. That's the way they did it in America. He would recite the Kaddish for the infinite emptiness of the chair that faced him at the other end of the table. And he, like those survivors of the New England winter of 1690, would celebrate life. Life is for the living. The dead have no need of shoes, they said in the camp. And the living no need for tears, thought Sammy.

So, Erev Thanksgiving Sammy walked to the kosher butcher and came home with a ten-pound turkey and two sacks of trimmings. His neighbors greeted him in the hall. Chuck, next door, invited him in for a beer. One beer turned to two and then three. Sammy, uncontrollably, talked about that which he had never talked about before.

The pivotal holiday. The need to grasp his new world by letting loose of the old with a proper farewell - as quarreling lovers say goodbye - that's what loosened his tongue. There in the kitchen, the survivor from Hell here on earth gave his neighbors a lesson in current European history that newsreels, magazines, and newspapers only pictured in grainy, blurred print. Sitting around the table, they listened on the night before Thanksgiving. Life and death, two wrestlers, flickered in the shadows of the Heffernan's kitchen.

Sammy Green told of his rescue by Patton's 2nd Division, then took a deep breath as though to cleanse himself. "Now you know," he said with a wan smile, "why I'm going to have the best Thanksgiving in the building."

Sammy's story traveled through the 106-unit apartment building with the speed of a lottery win. The survivor was not alone in his first Thanksgiving. A hundred American families at 221 W. Franklin in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania had their first real Thanksgiving.

Ted Roberts, "The Scribbler on the Roof," is a syndicated Jewish columnist and longtime member of our Synagogue. Buy Ted's collected works at Amazon.com or the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Ted welcomes your comment and/or critique and can be emailed at: [shirlr@hiwaay.net](mailto:shirlr@hiwaay.net)

Scribbler on the Roof [te11d@hiwaay.net](mailto:te11d@hiwaay.net)  
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Blogsite: <http://www.scribblerontheroof.typepad.com>

Please see the following pages. They may be of interest to parents and students of institutions of higher learning in the U.S.



The letter below was issued by 14 organizations to more than 2,500 institutions of higher learning within the United States. It urges them to ensure that campus climates remain physically and emotionally safe for students in light of rising anti-Semitism in America and abroad, particularly after the events in Israel this past summer. JWV joins with these organizations and calls for all colleges and universities to protect their students from anti-Semitism, especially under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

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**“Alpha Epsilon Pi  
AMCHA Initiative  
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists  
Americans for Peace and Tolerance  
Christians United for Israel  
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)  
David Horowitz Freedom Center  
Hasbara Fellowships  
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel  
Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law  
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East  
Simon Wiesenthal Center Campus Outreach  
StandWithUs  
Zionist Organization of America**

September 24, 2014

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

We are national organizations deeply concerned about what Jewish students are likely to face on their campuses this academic year due to the Hamas war against Israel. This war has provoked a frightening backlash against Jews around the world, including right here in the U.S. Demonstrators have chanted such ominous threats as “Death to Jews” and “Jews, your end is near.” Synagogues and Jewish property have been vandalized and destroyed. Many of our organizations have been threatened with anti-Semitic phone calls and on-line attacks. Jews have even been physically assaulted. We urge you to take the necessary steps to safeguard Jewish students’ physical and emotional safety and well-being on your campus, as you surely would do if any other vulnerable minority group were being targeted. Indeed, you are required to take such steps under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

At least two campuses have been tainted by anti-Semitic violence already. The

mailboxes at a Jewish fraternity house at the University of Oregon were defaced with swastikas. And during Temple University's recent Temple Fest – an event for new students to learn more about campus activities and organizations – a Jewish student was hit in the face by another student – knocking off and breaking his glasses – at the informational table for the hate group that calls itself “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP). Others seated at the SJP table reportedly yelled vile anti-Semitic taunts such as “kike” and “Zionist pig.”

The SJP has a history of harassing and intimidating Jewish students. At Vassar College, this hate group tried to shut down a class trip to Israel to study water issues. Last May, the SJP posted a disgusting Nazi propaganda poster on its Tumblr page, depicting a many-armed figure holding a bag of money, with an American flag flying on top and a Jewish Star of David dangling from the bottom. The impact on Jewish students has been serious. As one student reported, “This year, SJP has made Vassar an unsafe environment for me and for other Jewish students. From their harassment of students participating in the spring break trip, to the Nazi incident and anti-Zionist rhetoric about ethnic cleansing that verges on blood libel, SJP has done everything in its power to make Vassar an unsafe space for Jews.”

At Northeastern University, the SJP has endorsed terrorism against Israeli Jews and called for Israel's destruction. The group's hateful rhetoric has caused Jewish students to feel unsafe on campus. During midterms last February, the SJP invaded students' privacy rights by planting authentic-looking “eviction notices” under dorm room doors, which made demonizing allegations against Israel, alarming and intimidating Jewish students in their homes. NYU's SJP chapter engaged in similar anti-Semitic intimidation tactics, but on that campus, the “eviction notices” were even more blatantly geared to inciting hatred of Jews, by falsely accusing Israel of trying to “ethnically cleanse” the region of Arabs. One NYU student reported that the anti-Israel eviction notices “made me feel targeted and unsafe in my own dorm room, and I know others feel exactly the same as myself.”

While justifying its hatred and bigotry as protected under the First Amendment, the SJP employs tactics geared to silencing and marginalizing the views of Jewish students who support Israel. At Northeastern, SJP members deliberately disrupted a Holocaust Awareness Week event. At Temple University, the SJP demanded that a pro-Israel speaker be cancelled, threatening that otherwise Jewish students would face increasing hostility on campus. At UCLA, the SJP demanded that candidates for student government sign a pledge not to go on any trip to Israel sponsored by three Jewish organizations. One UCLA student reported, “For myself and other Jewish and pro-Israel students, the atmosphere is poisonous. We feel attacked, ostracized, and threatened. Our identities are being rejected and our right to express our beliefs endangered. Our academic performance is being harmed unjustly; and our supporters are now targets of hate campaigns, baseless accusations, and unfair political and social retaliation.”

There are many regimes around the world guilty of unspeakable atrocities and

grave human rights violations. But student groups like the SJP – with support from anti-Israel faculty and outside groups – focus their rage singularly on Israel, condemning the Jewish State with a viciousness that is not applied to anyone else. And Jews around the world are being held collectively responsible for Israel's actions, which are defensive and undertaken to protect its people. This is anti-Semitism, according to U.S. government standards. We have enclosed a copy of these standards, set forth in the U.S. State Department's report on contemporary global anti-Semitism.

We urge you not to tolerate Jewish students being targeted on your campus. They are already a vulnerable group. According to the FBI's latest hate crime statistics, two-thirds of all religious hate crimes committed in 2012 targeted Jews. We recommend that you take the following steps, all of which are appropriate and doable:

- Review and augment campus security and ensure that security personnel are prepared for the potential for violence and are appropriately trained to respond to it. Local police officials should also be alerted.
- Ensure that there is a clear mechanism for reporting harassment, intimidation and hate crimes on campus, and that students are made aware of it.
- Issue strong public statements to the university community, urging students, faculty and other members of the community to engage in discussion and debate in a civil, tolerant and respectful manner.
- Respond promptly to any anti-Semitic incidents that do occur, by publicly condemning the anti-Semitism and the perpetrators, and publicly affirming that anti-Semitism is inconsistent with the university's values of civility, respect and tolerance.
- Immediately and thoroughly respond to possible infractions of university rules and policies (including student-filed grievances and complaints), and hold wrongdoers accountable for their misconduct. No student or student group should be given special treatment and allowed to violate rules and policies without consequence. If a student group engages in hateful, bigoted conduct that creates a climate of fear or disrespect on campus, then that group should not be entitled to the rights and privileges afforded to registered student groups and those rights and privileges should be revoked.
- Immediately report alleged or suspected criminal conduct (e.g., violence, threats of violence, vandalism) to the appropriate authorities.
- Familiarize administrators, faculty, security and other university personnel with the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism (enclosed), so that they will recognize when anti-Israelism and anti-Zionism cross the line into anti-Semitism.
- Ensure that anti-Semitism in all its forms (using the U.S. government standards on anti-Semitism as a guide) is a focus of the university's diversity education for students, staff and faculty. Students and student groups that engage in anti-Semitic conduct should be supervised and appropriately mentored.
- Issue a statement to faculty making it clear that students must be able to express their views in class without fear of intimidation or reprisal from other students or professors.
- Exercise your moral duty as a leader and educator and publicly speak out if anti-Israel speech and conduct on campus cross the line into anti-Semitism.

We appreciate that college campuses should encourage free and open debate and the robust exchange of ideas. We support these principles. But none of us should tolerate

a campus where students and student groups flagrantly disregard university rules and policies – supported by university funds, no less – without consequences. None of us should tolerate a campus climate of fear or disrespect, which can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of students and create conditions that negatively affect their learning and their ability to achieve their full potential. Indeed, these were the words that the U.S. Department of Education used in a policy letter confirming that Jewish students have the legal right under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to a non-hostile learning environment, and that publicly-funded schools have the legal responsibility to protect them. Schools that fail to comply with their obligations under Title VI risk losing their federal funding.

We are ready to work with you to ensure that the climate on your campus remains physically and emotionally safe and conducive to learning for all students. We will also be reaching out to our alumni network to keep them informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alpha Epsilon Pi  
AMCHA Initiative

American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Americans for Peace and Tolerance

Christians United for Israel

Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)

David Horowitz Freedom Center

Hasbara Fellowships

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