

the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JULY, 2015

TAMUZ/AV, 5775

Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Etz Chayim "family" is fortunate to welcome two new members to our congregation: Renate Stone and Warren Novick. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them, and give them the warm treatment we are known for!

Simcha & Memorial Plaques: \$50.00 & \$75.00, respectively. See Joe Sacks for further info. 256-883-1889

Keep cool this Summer.....Joe 😊

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 10 New Year Book info is due
- Jul 25 Tisha B'Av service at EC at 7:30 PM

SISTERHOOD

During a lunch at The Marketplace Café, Sisterhood members elected our new slate of officers, and chairmen were appointed. We congratulate our new slate and thank our Board members for serving in the following positions:

MEN'S CLUB, ETC.

Men's Club: No Meeting in July (take a break)

IMS: Deliveries are made bi-weekly at Food Pantry & First Stop. Please leave food products and/or personal hygiene items in the container at the entryway of the Synagogue. It's a Mitzvah!!

President	Sandra Wiederecht
Membership VP	Millie Rosenthal
Programming VP	Nannette Schwartz
Recording Secretary	Shirley Roberts
Corresponding Secretary	Leigh Miller
Treasurer	Brenda Liles
D'var Torah/Lunch Bunch	Anna Spraggins
Gift Shop	Holly Kent
Nominating Committee	BJ Brigadier
Kitchen Chairman	Natha Hancock

Membership in Etz Chayim Sisterhood helps support the BBYO group, our shul's Rabbi

Luncheons, assorted activities (like the Purim Supper, the Latke Party, our Community Seder), some refurbishment of our shul, and more. Our goal is to support Etz Chayim in general – so please join. Membership dues are still only \$18! Many of our Sisterhood members not listed above work in many capacities to make a difference—thank you!

Our New Year Greeting and Memorial Book will be ready for a proof reading soon, so please be sure to reserve your copy by sending in your entry by July 10. Call me if you don't have time to mail it in. We are sincerely appreciative of your support for this yearly fundraiser.

We're hoping to fit in a tour of the Nature Connects, Leggo Brick Display at the Botanical Gardens this month, and we'll send out a card to members if we can work it out.

Have fun in the hot summer weather, and enjoy safe travels if you have some planned.

Brenda Liles
256-883-2283

DONATIONS

Sisterhood Fund

From: Diana & Howard Polin

To: Skylar Green - Mazel Tov on your college graduation, Magnum Cum Laude, from Emory. Enjoy a happy, successful future.

To: Ivan Levingston - Our thanks and appreciation to your family for their support of Etz Chayim over the years. Mazel Tov to you at Harvard and your summer job in DC. We see a prideful future for you.

To: Blake Zelickson - We are so proud of you. Mazel Tov on your graduation from Tel Aviv University Medical School with a Doctors Degree.

To: Molly Lapidus - Mazel Tov on your graduation from high School. We see a bright future for you.

To: Sarah & Yossi Drake - The passing of your grandson is so sad. We send our heartfelt sympathy to your family.

To: Arlene Polin White- With deepest sympathy on the passing of your husband, Boyce.

From: Sandra Weiderecht

To: Arlene Polin White - Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband, Boyce

From: Dorothy and Bill Goldberg

From: Paulette Goldstein

From: Judith and Jules Gutin

From: Michal and Gary Hall

From: Natha and Scott Hancock

From: Rosalind and Dale Howard

From: Linda and Fred Kolchin

From: Aida Reinbolt

From: Shirley and Ted Roberts
For: High Holiday Flowers

From: Debbie and Ron Sketo

From: Arlene and Harry Yedid

Rabbi Fund

From: Harriet & Joe Sacks

To: Sarah & Yossi Drake - Sincere sympathy on the loss of your grandson, Seth Miller.

To: Arlene Polin White - With deepest sympathy on your loss.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

ONEGS

Jul 03 Dorothy & Bill Goldberg
Jul 10 Michal & Gary Hall
Jul 17 Brenda & Cliff Liles
Jul 24 Lynne & Steve Edmondson
Jul 31 Susan, Larry & Jonathan Levitt

BIRTHDAYS

Jul 03 Michal Hall
Jul 03 Mante Polin
Jul 09 Sandy Martin
Jul 13 Ted Roberts
Jul 15 Debbie Leites
Jul 16 Shayna Johnson
Jul 20 George Drake
Jul 22 Don Shelman
Jul 22 James Wesley Stone, III
Jul 28 Stan Belsky
Jul 28 Ariel P.Z. Baruch
Jul 29 Sarah Kirshtein

ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 23 Tatjana & Mark Copeland
Jul 28 Karen & Bob Feigenblatt

YHRZEITS**

Jul 01 Tamuz 14 Gary Shelman
Jul 05 Tamuz 18 Sam Goldstein*
Jul 05 Tamuz 18 Benjamin Sainker*
Jul 10 Tamuz 23 Paula Levy Goldberg*
Jul 12 Tamuz 25 Samuel H. Cohen*
Jul 14 Tamuz 27 Harry Freedman
Jul 17 Av 01 Naomi Miller*

Jul 22 Av 06 Harold Isadore Yalowitz
Jul 24 Av 08 Bruce Harris
Jul 26 Av 10 Sadie Kopkin*
Jul 30 Av 14 Bernard Roberts
Aug 01 Av 16 Beatrice Goldner*
Aug 02 Av 17 Fannie Feldman*

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle at sunset of the previous evening

TOM, THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By Ted Roberts

July the 4th is an aging holiday that is fast becoming an anachronism. It's still with us like our tonsils, but we've forgotten its purpose. It's kinda like Halloween; a night now devoted to juvenile extortion. Who remembers its origins?

Thomas Jefferson would certainly be astonished if he climbed upon the roof of Monticello, got out his magic spyglass and surveyed the nation celebrating its Birthday. Tom, who you might call the obstetrician of the infant USA, would be puzzled to see 40 million Americans leaving their air conditioned homes for a park, populated with patriotic bees, wasps, snakes, and ants dedicated to the defense of their homeland against hordes of human invaders, armed only with potato salad and fried chicken.

"And not one picnicker," Tom would say sadly to himself, "can recite the Declaration of Independence." And if he were not a modest politician (also an anachronism) he might add, "nor do they know my contribution to their economic and political wellbeing".

Well, he's got that right. To most of us, July 4th is a picnic plus maybe fireworks - the rockets' red glare over Fort McHenry. (See Tom, we still preserve a shadowy memory of the original event.)

But if you wanta know more about what the man did for us, you oughta check your encyclopedia. Mine's dated 1922, so it does a great job on Thomas Jefferson, but it's not so hot on World War II, nuclear power, or the Backstreet Boys. Check the internet.

Well, what did happen on July 4th? Did we win the war of independence thereby achieving nationhood? Did Francis Scott Key, a musician roundly hated by vocalists who can't hit a high C, write his one and only hit? Did George Washington get in trouble with his old man and the infant Sierra Club by murdering a Cherry tree in his back yard? My 1922 Britannica says on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Obviously, I don't trust the "Britannica". Guess who they rooted for in the big war? They give you a ghastly picture of our first President with his set of wooden teeth and waste three pages on Loony Tunes King George III. It's not called the Britannica because it's published by Yankee Doodle Press, you know. So I check the Viking Desk Encyclopedia. That's right; on July 4th 1776, 56 old, dead, white guys uncool enough to wear wigs on dress-up occasions and dip snuff, signed that document. And contrary to my workplace pals who can name every one of the Backstreet Boys, the Declaration of Independence does NOT say that every American must celebrate the 4th of July with a picnic.

My discount Britannica (\$15 plus bookcase) takes on a snide tone when it discusses the Declaration of Independence. Oh, it's OK, says the Britannica editor, but "open to controversy". . . "not flawless in logic". . . and "necessarily partisan in tone", etc., etc. sure, guess who wrote this section - probably George III's great, great, great, great grandson.

But overall, he seems to agree "the noble principles relieve minute criticism". George III's descendant seems to conclude that the document, though not near so grand as the Magna Carta, beats a railroad schedule.

"All men are created equal" said the writers. And it's clear they mean politically, not in terms of body parts like we all got two legs, two arms, two adenoids. And it's also clear as the liberty bell on a Philadelphia morning that they're talking the universal case. Not the specific case. They could have said Americans are equal to Brits. But it's a bigger statement than that. Notice, too, that no qualifying terms are between "all" and "men". They must have wrestled over that one, since many were slave owners. They could have said "free" men or "property owners" or "God-fearing" men. In their day, that "ALL" was a shockingly big word. They were men of their time, but barely. They weren't perfect. So when it came to phrasing, they used the term "men" not humanity; thereby unintentionally excluding the ladies. I'll bet when the morning edition of the Philadelphia Gazette hit the street, with that political manifesto on the front page, mini revolutions broke out at the 56 homes of the signers - along the Eastern seaboard (complete with flying china and soprano shrieks).

Oh well, it was a giant step for HUMANkind. Hey, Tom, thanks for the memories. And thanks for including us Jews. A bold step for its day.

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Buy Ted's collected works at
<http://www.lulu.com/content/127641>