
the ShoFar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST, 2016

TAMMUZ/AV, 5776

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

WELCOME AND MAZEL TOV!

We offer a warm welcome to new congregation members, Dr. David and Candy Rush, and their son, Noah. Be sure to introduce yourselves and make them feel at home.

A big "Mazel Tov!" to Ginger Nelson and to Thomas Jones on completing their recent conversion. We're proud of you!

Calling all women!

You are invited to a cooking demonstration and tasting of gourmet preparations for the New Year
by Mushke Cohen.

Sunday, August 21, 2016

This event will be held at the home of
Natha Hancock at 2 PM.

Admission: \$5 for EC Sisterhood members;
\$10 for nonmembers of EC Sisterhood.

Contact Nannette Schwartz for
reservations by August 14 at:

[256.883.2764](tel:256.883.2764) or nannette.schwartz.1@bc.edu

SISTERHOOD

We are on "go" for the Sisterhood New Year Booklet thanks to all the people who got advertisements and who put their greetings and memorials in the booklet. It is our biggest fund raising project, and we have all of you to thank for its success.

Our program for August 21 is at 2:00 pm at the home of Sisterhood President, Natha Hancock. The Sisterhood is delighted to have Mushke Cohen making some of her favorite Rosh Hashanna dishes for us to taste. She will also be telling us about the holiday and how these foods relate to the holiday. All Sisterhood members and prospective members are welcome. Please RSVP to Nannette Schwartz.

Mazel Tov and welcome to our Synagogue family: Thomas Jones, Ginger Nelson and Mr. & Mrs. David Rush and son, Noah.

September is a busy month; on Sunday the 11th, members will be cleaning up the Synagogue grounds as well as inside the building, with Sisterhood providing lox & bagels for the workers. On September 18, the Jewish Federation will have their kickoff event

at the home of Lou Weiner with Comedian guest speaker, Rabbi Bob Alper. Everyone is invited. On September 24, we will observe S'lichot with a movie, a short service and refreshments.

If you would like to help with a Rabbi Luncheon or a Sunday brunch, please call Natha Hancock or Millie Rosenthal.

Join us for our great program on August 21, and don't forget to e-mail your RSVP to Nannette at:
nannette.schwartz.1@bc.edu.

Millie Rosenthal

DONATIONS

Rabbi Fund

From: Diana & Howard Polin
In Honor of Etz Chayim's Graduates
To: Janet Schindler - Mazel Tov on your newest great grandchild.
To: Raven Livingston- Heal well from your accident.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Thomas Jones - Mazel Tov!
To: Ginger Nelson - Mazel Tov!

General Fund

From: Tatjana & Mark Copeland

Joe Sacks Memorial Fund

From: Sue & Joe Paddock
To: Harriet Sacks & Family - In Memory of Joe Sacks

Sisterhood

From: Robin Kirby
In memory of Robert F. (Bob) May, who passed away May 11, 2016. May his memory be a blessing.

From: Farimah & Abe Asher

From: Eva & Barry Berman

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg

From: Clare & Michael Grisham
From: Michal & Gary Hall

From: Natha & Scott Hancock

From: Linda Kamisher

From: Ginger Nelson

From: Nannette Schwartz

From: Deborah & Ronnie Sketo

From: Ann & Victor vanLeeuwen

From: Sandra Wiederecht

From: Arlene & Harry Yedid

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

ONEGS

Jul 29	Roberts
Aug 05	Goodman
Aug 12	Berry
Aug 19	Hancock
Aug 26	Kalachman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 13	Tisha B'Av Fast Day, joint service with TBS at 7:30 PM at TBS
Aug 21	Sisterhood Rosh Hashanna program, 2 PM, RSVP to Nannette Schwartz

Aug 26 Former and new officers of the EC Board will be recognized at Friday night services, 7:30 PM

BAR MITZVAH DIVIDENDS

By Ted Roberts

The phone rang while I was reading the sports section, just as I was reading the football scores announcing my loss of three out of five bets. But my mood changed as soon as I heard the voice greeting me: The father of a former Bar Mitzvah student. In fact, this fertile friend had fathered four of my former students. Four! And all boys. Boys are tougher to tutor than girls - too much sports distraction. I had weathered forty years of teaching and the sons of my caller supplied four sterling students in my collection of memories. Smart, obedient, disciplined. Remember, the Bar Mitzvah candidate had to read Hebrew and sing Torah and Haftorah- no small load. And these four were the kind I sought – the kind where you don't have to slam the Humash on the table, punishable by a week of fasting, to get their attention.

There's nothing quite so satisfying as teaching Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids. Considering all the Jewish career fields; father, son, husband, wage earner, bookie-- it took the prize. Not that it demanded Judaic knowledge, I was surely not the Vilna of Gaon. But I had the arcane skill of dealing with clever kids who were obsessed with sports, the opposite sex and dodging their parent's commandments, and kids who could barely read Hebrew. Some had the voice of a fire alarm and were extremely skilled at losing the practice tapes I assigned. Their explanations usually began, "Oh I did it as you said but... the dog grabbed it and ran off and buried it somewhere. I dug up the backyard, but no luck". OR "Yes I did it but I forgot and recorded the Beatles over it."

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 04 Sheri & Dennis Bulgatz
Aug 09 Michal & Gary Hall
Aug 12 Linda Kolchin & Frederick Kolchin
Aug 16 Kelley & Jeffrey Zelickson
Aug 29 Sue & Joe Paddock

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 01 Scott Hancock
Aug 02 Joey Yalowitz
Aug 10 Harriet Sacks
Aug 20 Andrea Rosenthal
Aug 22 Lucas Copeland
Aug 23 Lauren Goodman
Aug 25 Michael Zelickson
Aug 29 Daniel Weiderecht

YARZHEITS**

Aug 02 Tamuz 27 Harry Freedman
Aug 05 Av 01 Naomi Miller*
Aug 10 Av 06 Harold Isadore Yalowitz
Aug 14 Av 10 Sadie Kopkin*
Aug 18 Av 14 Bernard Roberts
Aug 20 Av 16 Beatrice Goldner*
Aug 21 Av 17 Fannie Feldman*
Sep 01 Av 28 Sarah Fink
Sep 01 Av 28 Morris Martin Singer
Sep 02 Av 29 Dolores D'Acosta Hein

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

The explanations of lazy Bar Mitzvah Scholars are endless. But these kids of the fertile father, my friend on the phone, scoffed at excuses. Angels everyone; smart, truthful, imaginative. They'd never hit me with that dog story.

The first hurdle of Bar Mitzvah tutoring is forging a liaison with the object of your instruction. The child must not think you had a hot line to his parents every time he mispronounced a word of his Haftorah. Secondly: you were in this together. If he or she flopped, it announced to the congregation that so did you. And then there was the loot, the gifts. And don't think the congregation didn't up the ante if you did a perfect Haftorah. And how 'bout that time the audience walked out with their presents that time the kid quacked the Haftorah like a duck. A mythical story I often use. A very effective incentive.

"Quality is rewarded" was my slogan.

But back to the phone call.

"I have something for you," said my caller. Magic words; a wad of twenty-dollar bills? A Jewish paper that would print an ALL TED ROBERTS edition (my favorite), or a pot full of chicken soup and light fluffy kneidlach? Mr. X, as we'll call him, had always been generous with me. What could THIS be? Just like the old days when the teacher was offered the family daughter in marriage, or a week of blue plate kosher suppers?

Well, it turned out to be warm apple pie, from the generous mama of those long ago students, garnished with a quart of vanilla ice cream. They still remembered, evidently with warm gratitude, their old pie-loving Bar Mitzvah teacher.

"Make a pie for your hungry bar Mitzvah teacher", it should say somewhere in Proverbs

"and the return is golden."

Wonder if the parents could make just one more Bar Mitzvah candidate?

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Blogsite:

<http://www.scribblerontheroof.typepad.com>