

# the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JULY, 2017

TAMUZ/AV, 5777

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 15 Entries for New Year Book due
- July 27 EC Book Club, 11 AM, "The Genius Of Judaism," at EC
- July 31 Tisha B'Av begins, community service at Etz Chayim, 7:45 PM

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honor and a privilege to serve our Congregation for another year as your President. We are quite an active Synagogue, especially for our size. Although we don't often think of attending Services as a mitzvah, when attendance enables us to achieve a minyan and attendees can fully participate in prayer, especially Kaddish, this is truly a mitzvah. Remember, Etz Chayim does not close over the summer, so please do continue coming to services.

I want to thank all of our board members and volunteers as I move into my second year as your President. This month's special honorees are two retiring board members, Fred Kolchin and Lynn Edmonson. Lynn will carry on as our Hospitality Chairman and Fred has been volunteering to lead our Responsive Prayers on Friday evening.

Barry

## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27

The Etz Chayim Book Club will discuss a great new book, "The Genius of Judaism," at the synagogue on Thursday, July 27 at 11:00 am. This book, by Bernard-Henri Levy, is eye-opening, and the discussion should be exciting. The Etz Chayim Book Club is open to everyone who likes to read about, and learn about, Judaism. For more information, or help getting started, contact Jon Berger at 256-457-0277 or [jonaberger@gmail.com](mailto:jonaberger@gmail.com).

## SISTERHOOD

Greetings Ladies,

It's time for a new year of Sisterhood, and I hope we have a great one. As most of you know, our main function is to help take care of our Synagogue. Hopefully, by now you have seen the new refrigerator that the Sisterhood purchased. Because our Sisterhood is so small, it takes a while to raise enough money to pay for something like that. Our funds come from the membership dues you pay (\$18 per year), the money raised by selling greetings, memorials, and advertisements in the Sisterhood New Year Booklet, and the kind

donations of many. At no expense to participants, the Sisterhood sponsors the Rabbi Kiddush luncheons and the Purim hot dog dinner. We try to keep the kitchen in excellent condition and stocked with products where necessary. We maintain the gift shop and organize the Latke Party and the Passover Seder. Because we try to keep the Seder affordable for all, we subsidize between \$700-\$1000 every year.

We try to have several activities for members every year. We meet at different restaurants for our "lunch bunch;" and have a game night and/or a Mah Jongg night. We also have a craft class for Chanukah and one or two additional activities. Last year we had an evening program on meditation. If you can think of something you want to do or somewhere you want to go, please let us know. You can always contact me or our Program VP, Nannette Schwartz.

We cannot do these things without our members. We are open to all women who are interested in Judaism and helping our congregation thrive. Although it is a requirement to be Jewish to be on our Board, it is not a requirement for membership. There are many women in our congregation that are not members of the Sisterhood, and I don't understand why. Even if you are not interested in the camaraderie that our members enjoy, you can help keep our congregation running with the small payment of dues. Millie Rosenthal is our membership VP and Brenda Liles is our treasurer, so if you want information about joining or want to pay your dues, these ladies can help you. We also have positions available on our board, if you are interested.

Lastly, please remember to support our New Year Booklet. Please send your greeting, memorial, or ad along with a check to Brenda

Liles. This purchase entitles you to a copy of the booklet. There is no other way to obtain one!

Natha Hancock

### ONEGS

Jun 30	Yalowitz
Jul 07	Schwartz
14-Jul	Liles
21-Jul	Zelickson
28-Jul	Roberts

### DONATIONS

#### Greenbaum Fund

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman  
To help with the purchase of Security cameras.

#### Rabbi Fund

From: The Tuesday Mah Jongg Group (Janet, Harriet, Shirley, Diana, & Millie)  
To: Johanna Veal - Thinking about you and we hope you have a speedy recovery.

From: Candy & David Rush  
To: Dr. Richard Brooks - A generous donation was made in honor of Dr. Brooks for his help in Noah's conversion process.

#### Sisterhood Fund

From: Nannette Schwartz-In memory of her sister, Selma Citron Berman

From: Sandra Wiederecht

From: Diana & Howard Polin  
To: Sisterhood- A generous donation to help offset Seder expenses.  
To: Candy Rush - Glad your surgery is over and that you are feeling great. We look forward to seeing you at synagogue services.

## Yahrzeits\*\*

From: Eva & Barry Berman

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg

From: Alyce Goldstein

From: Mr. & Mrs. Jules Gutin

From: Natha & Scott Hancock

From: Rosalind & Dale Howard

### Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

### Join EC Sisterhood!

Ladies, this is the time of year we ask you to join or renew your membership in Sisterhood. Be a part of benefiting the whole congregation by joining for only \$18.

## BIRTHDAYS

Jun 26 Natha Hancock  
Jul 03 Michal Hall  
Jul 03 Mante Polin  
Jul 13 Ted Roberts  
Jul 15 Debbie Leites  
Jul 16 Shayna Johnson  
Jul 17 Christie Berry  
Jul 20 George Drake  
Jul 28 Stan Belsky  
Jul 29 Sarah Kirshtein

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 23 Tatjana & Mark Copeland

Jun 29	Tamuz 05	Charles Klazmer
Jun 29	Tamuz 05	Doris Mae Aaronson Kirshtein
Jun 29	Tamuz 05	Morris Schindler
Jun 30	Tamuz 06	Abraham Kalachman*
Jun 30	Tamuz 06	Meyer (Mike) Zelickson*
Jul 01	Tamuz 07	Jacob Milton Ludmer*
Jul 01	Tamuz 07	Jacob Zarovsky
Jul 01	Tamuz 07	Virginia Johanna McDonald*
Jul 03	Tamuz 09	Etta B. Roberts
Jul 04	Tamuz 10	Rose Flashner*
Jul 12	Tamuz 18	Sam Goldstein*
Jul 12	Tamuz 18	Benjamin Sainker*
Jul 17	Tamuz 23	Paula Levy Goldberg*
Jul 19	Tamuz 25	Samuel H. Cohen*
Jul 21	Tamuz 27	Harry Freedman
Jul 24	Av 01	Naomi Miller*
Jul 29	Av 06	Harold Isadore Yalowitz
Aug 02	Av 10	Sadie Kopkin*

\* Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

## A HIGH HOLIDAYS QUESTION: A REWARD FOR NO TEMPTATION?

By Ted Roberts

My rabbi loves challenges, so he loves my halachic questions. "So, Ted," he says, "any arcane halachic questions today?"

We go to his office where he keeps, in a secret drawer, his wife's delicious plum cake.

Now that I've got him in a mellow mood, I begin. "OK, here's a tough one tailored for Yom Kippur."

"I'm ready," he says as he sips his beverage. "OK," I begin. "Picture an evil man - not a Hitler, not a Haman, not an Arafat - not a thug. Just a consistent

louse. This no-goodnik keeps none of the mitzvahs. He loves pork roast, he works on his lawn on Shabbos, he drives to the neighborhood bar three times a week, including Friday night, where he takes the name of the Lord in vain for three or four hours.

And if the bartender gives him change for a twenty instead of a ten, he gloats and keeps it.

He cheats on his wife, on his business associates, and has no time for his kids.

My Rabbi nods. "One day," I continue, "this ethically imperfect Jew takes a cruise with several of his fellow devils where they plan to gamble, drink, violate the Sabbath, chase women, and toss around the name of the Lord like it was a five dollar poker chip. But Rabbi - as you know - man proposes to play golf - G-d disposes of clear skies and sends the storm. The cruise ship hits a Caribbean iceberg. (God's power always trumps geography.) Our sinner is shipwrecked. For one year he sits on a rock pile and exists on raw fish as his entree and palm leaves for salad. He can't even make a fire. He mistreats nobody, since there's nobody to mistreat. He cheats not on his wife, since there's no one to cheat with this side of Miami. He doesn't even curse. What fun is it? Who's to hear?

He keeps the Shabbos; no car, no fire, no TV. He doesn't muzzle his ox, since he has no ox. He doesn't sow his field with two kinds of seeds, since he has no seeds, no fields.

Our ex-ethical thug, as Yom Kippur rolls around, is now a Tzadik. So, here's my question: Is he inscribed in the Book of Life? Does he get a golden star from the

Judge of all mankind, even though his past record is as crummy as stale pound cake? And please, Rabbi, don't tell me that nothing has changed, that he's still propelled by an evil heart. Because you explained in one of your sermons, remember, that Judaism is a religion of deeds, not intentions. Nobody has a pure heart - it's how we control those evil inclinations that spring from our human heart - that's what counts. Action, deeds. Jimmy Carter, ex-prez "who lusted only in his heart", would never be condemned by us, right? So long as he didn't act on his libidinous impulses? So, Rabbi, what's your answer? Has our protagonist redeemed himself?" Dear Reader, why don't you ask your Rabbi.

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

Buy Ted's collected works at Amazon.com or the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Ted can be emailed at: [shirlr@hiwaay.net](mailto:shirlr@hiwaay.net)