
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY, 2018

TEVET/SHEVAT, 5778

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

FROM THE RABBI

What a Congregation!

I always enjoy our weekends together at Etz Chayim. This is true every time I come to town, but I want to record my special pleasure regarding last month, when we celebrated the Shabbat of Chanukah together.

On Saturday, December 16, Ira Leitner marked the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah by chanting the Haftarah. Mazel tov, Ira. You did great! On Sunday I marveled at the wonderful attendance and the buoyant spirit at the latke party. (Although this is my third year as your visiting rabbi it was the first time that I was in Huntsville for Chanukah). On top of all that, three couples from Atlanta came to enjoy the weekend with us. These people worship at Ahavath Achim, the synagogue that I attend at home. They've heard me repeatedly say how much I enjoy Etz Chayim and so they decided to come see what my praise

is all about. Now they know!

For me, it was wonderful to be able to introduce my friends from one city to my friends in another city. What could please a rabbi more than to be a catalyst to bring good people together!?

I continue to be awed by the energy and commitment of our membership. If you think about it, Etz Chayim is an exuberantly busy place. Services are a pleasure. Our celebrations are monumental. Our Chanukah parties, I now know, have latkes flying like hotcakes. Whenever I'm at Etz Chayim I rejoice at the diversity of our members and friends. We welcome Jews, Jews by choice, non-Jews; local residents and out-of-towners, committed believers and the most uncertain skeptics. You all maintain a relatively small and manifestly unpretentious house of worship, and you manage to accord the warmest and sincerest welcome to everybody who comes through our doors.

Yes, my friends, we enjoyed a wonderful

weekend during the Shabbat of Chanukah last month. Now we turn to 2018 and I send you my best wishes for a new calendar year of joy and friendship, discussion and learning, with my overall wish that Etz Chayim continue to be a beacon of Jewish warmth and kindness to all who come our way.

As ever,
Stephen Listfield

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hanukkah provided many opportunities for the Huntsville area Jewish Community to come together. This included the Latke party at Etz Chayim, the Menorah lighting ceremonies: Chabad at Bridge Street, and Temple B'nai Sholom, held at the Temple this year due to inclement weather. Looking forward, our future depends on children. This month I want to recognize those at Etz Chayim that have both the time and energy to help with the education of our children. At NACHaS, this includes Board Members: Lynne Edmonson and Michelle Lapidus, and teachers: Lynne, Risa Mendelson, and Larisa Thomason. At Etz Chayim, the B'nai Mitzvah Preparation Program with Max Rosenthal and Bill Goldberg rounds out our youth education programs.

שלום
Barry Meyer

HANUKAH PARTY THANKS

A big THANK YOU to the men who came early in the morning on "Latke Sunday" to grate the potatoes, set up the tables in

the sanctuary and work the BINGO games. And the same thanks to the ladies who prepared the Latke mix, the great salad bar and all the fixings. An especial thanks to Joe Paddock who came to the building at 0-Dark-30 to peel 75 pounds of potatoes, then helped grate them and then helped cook those wonderful Latkes.

The Hanukah party was a success because of all the work done by congregation members - you done good.

Max Rosenthal

SISTERHOOD

Greetings Ladies,

I can't believe it's January, 2018. Where has the time gone? Since I was out of town, I was unable to attend the Latke Party, but I heard it was a great success. I saw pictures of Max, Shirley, Janet and Harriet working, but I know that wasn't everyone. So, THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard and to those who came to enjoy the festivities.

It's time to start thinking of the Passover Seder. Lots of you attend every year, and we need some volunteers to help. Lauren Goodman has been in charge the last two years, so it's time for someone else to spearhead this wonderful event. We have so many volunteers to help but we need someone to "put it all together."

Please let me know if YOU will do it. We would hate to have to cancel due to lack of a chairman.

Ladies, let's gather for Lunch Bunch on January 22 at 11:30 at the Chocolate Bar. We hope to see you there!

Natha

ONEGS

Dec 29	Thompson
Jan 05	Hall
Jan 12	Rosenthal
Jan 19	Zelickson
Jan 26	Mauldin
Feb 02	Fisher

DONATIONS

Building Fund

From: Sarah & Yossi Drake
To: Millie & Max Rosenthal - In Honor of their 60th anniversary.

New Prayer Books

From: Diana & Howard Polin
To: Millie & Max Rosenthal - In Honor of their 60th anniversary

From: Sandra Wiederecht
In Memory of Phil Wiederecht

From: The Sacks Family
In Memory of Joseph Sacks

General Fund

From: Janet Schindler
To: Richard Berry & Family - In Memory of your father, Richard Berry Sr.

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman
In Memory of Richard Berry's father, "Buster" Berry Sr.

Rabbi Fund

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Richard Berry & Family - In Memory of Richard Berry Sr.
Love ones never really part, they live inside your heart.

From: Shirley & Ted Roberts
To: Richard Berry & Family - In Memory of "Buster" Berry

From: Diana & Howard Polin
To: Richard Berry & Family - Our thoughts are with you as you go thru this time of grief.
To: Ira Leitner - Mazel Tov on the 50th anniversary of your Bar Mitzvah. You were all heart giving your Haftorah portion and your speech.

Sisterhood Fund

From: Sandra Wiederecht
To: Richard Berry & Family - May your memories bring you comfort.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

Memorial Plaque

By: Paulette Goldstein

Sisterhood Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, January 22, at 11:30am at the Chocolate Bar, 300 Pelham Ave (corner of Gallatin), Huntsville.

All Sisterhood members and women of the congregation are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 28 Fast of Tevet 10
Jan 12-14 Rabbi Listfield Shabbaton
Jan 22 Sisterhood Lunch Bunch,
11:30 at Chocolate Bar

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 01 Ron Goldberg
Jan 05 McKenzie Rosenthal Sanders
Jan 10 Sarah Isabell Sainker
Jan 12 Michael Rosenthal
Jan 21 Samuel Fuerst
Jan 23 Alicia Hall
Jan 23 Sam Sainker
Jan 24 Alan Sacks
Jan 26 Steve Goodman
Jan 28 Elizabeth Persons
Jan 30 Eliza Roberts
Jan 31 Adam Zelickson

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 01 Diana & Howard Polin
Jan 15 BJ & Bill Brigadier
Jan 17 Ana & Seth Spraggins

Yahrzeits**

Dec 30 Tevet 12 Gilbert Brodtkin
Dec 30 Tevet 12 Lou Herbin*
Dec 30 Tevet 12 Bea Smolker*
Jan 01 Tevet 14 Betty K. Greenberg
Jan 03 Tevet 16 Bertha P. Smolker*
Jan 03 Tevet 16 Walter Delengowski
Jan 04 Tevet 17 Joseph Cohen*
Jan 05 Tevet 18 Howard S. McCall
Jan 06 Tevet 19 Bruce Roberts*
Jan 07 Tevet 20 Abigail Michaela Sawyer*
Jan 17 Shevat 01 Harry Warshaw

Jan 18 Shevat 02 Harry Zeruld*
Jan 19 Shevat 03 Hannah Rosen bat Schmuel
Jan 20 Shevat 04 Sylvia Kalachman*
Jan 21 Shevat 05 Royal Milton Jacobs*
Jan 25 Shevat 09 Ida Bernstein Sidel
Jan 25 Shevat 09 Alice Levine Yalowitz
Jan 26 Shevat 10 Selma Levitt
Jan 27 Shevat 11 William Flank*
Jan 27 Shevat 11 Hersh Schindler
Jan 28 Shevat 12 Henry Fleishman
Jan 30 Shevat 14 Rabbi Jeffrey Ballon
Feb 01 Shevat 16 Jerome L. Richard

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

MAMA'S HELPER

By Ted Roberts

The saddest words a man can hear from a Doctor is: "Your wife needs rest after her procedure, you'll have to assume most of her household duties". You never know how much they do until YOU have to do it. Washing, cooking, cleaning, etc. It's a heavy load, as we say every time we approach the washing machine.

And washing is one of the bittersweet curses. It's NOT automatic. Soggy, soaking wet sheets and shirts -- like serpents -- have to be reluctantly yanked from the washing machine and thrown into the dryer. Some genius put the two boxes side-by-side but still there are complications. So many clothes -- we must have an invisible roomer. And why are there basket loads of shirts weekly, when I wear the same one weekly? Why not stretch a line across the yard and pin each soggy mess to it? Talk about solar power. Why not let the sun do the work and save electricity? I had so many creative thoughts like this, including: why

not throw this slimy package in the trunk – drive down to the river with a bar of soap?

Anyhow you get the idea. Washing with madam instructress standing over me was far from fun, even the cats sympathized. They knew something was amiss. The male two-foot who was usually sitting on the couch reading a book was crouched over those two white boxes, too busy to scratch their head. And did I tell you they had a litter box, which I thought was automatically emptied and refilled every three or four days? With my wife's temporary retirement, I found that she did it. As I assumed the job I calculated that efficiency demanded only a weekly change and that only a half bag of litter did the job. The cats proved me wrong when they mistook the bathtub for the litter box. What do they know I shouted at the wife! Feeding them was another problem. Why not a bucket full of cat food once a week instead of the twice a day burden of filling up the bowl.

Meanwhile the house became a junkyard. Who knew that dirty dishes had to be walked from the dining room table to their home in the kitchen? Why not just leave them on the table for the next meal? I had many labor-saving inspirations like this. The wife was non-responsive. Why are bold, daring new ideas so hard to sell to practitioners of antique ideas?

Other household items never found their way to their allotted home. It became hard to move around without stumbling over a beer bottle or tripping over a stack of mail. You couldn't recline in a chair without puncturing yourself with a fork left

over from breakfast. The instructress, comfortably resting on the couch, shouted commands from her couch headquarters. I obeyed.

Soon she recovered, and life returned to the "old normal". But just so we'd never forget my attempted assistance, I continued to fill the litter box, but only halfway. Who knows besides the cats, and they can't tell on me.

I reflected: Look how domestic life has improved for homemakers. My grandmother had to go down to the river to wash her family's clothes; my mother had to walk out to the backyard in all kinds of weather to dry them. And now my wife steps into the garage to both wash and dry the family's dirty laundry. So simple.

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