
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

MARCH, 2018

ADAR/NISAN, 5778

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

FROM THE RABBI

THE SETTLEMENTS

In a recent survey, 42% of Israeli Jews say that the settlements on the West Bank help security. Among American Jews, only 17% accept that premise.

We American Jews are certainly entitled to our opinions on matters of Israel's peace and security. But we are not putting our lives on the line when we opine about Israeli policies. Our brothers and sisters in Israel are *servicing* on the front lines during their years in the IDF, and are *living* on the "front lines" when you think about the security situation and the narrow borders of our beloved homeland.

Roughly five out of six American Jews apparently are opposed to the settlements. Fine. I'm not going to disagree with anyone who holds that view. But I note that when 5 out of every 6 people agree on something, we run the risk of the majority simply speaking with each other. Let us therefore take note

that the numbers are so very different in Israel. More than half of Israeli Jews would like an agreement with the Palestinians, but a great majority of them feel that they are unlikely to achieve it. And as I noted above, 42% of Israelis favor the settlements. That's a much higher percentage than 1 out of 6. I want to hear what Israelis say at least as much as I like to hear our discussions at home.

The Palestinians could have gained control over almost all the settlement areas if only they had wanted to do so in a peaceable way. Palestinians could be enjoying statehood right now. They could be enjoying their own economy while participating in a powerful regional economy. Instead, they have opted for cynicism. Their leaders are destroyers. Their messages emphasize grievances and self-pity. Instead of building their own culture and advancing their own history, they denigrate Jewish culture and they outright deny Jewish history.

Nobody asked my opinion on whether the settlements are positive or negative for Israeli security. If I wasn't asked, I won't

answer! But if I *were* to answer, I would try to take into account the effect of the settlements on the people who live in the neighborhood. They are a lot less sanguine than we are, and they have good reason to feel that way.

Do I sound like a hawk? Not at all. Actually, I am very much a proponent of Middle East peace negotiations...or, I should say, *I would be a proponent if it appeared that there was a responsible party to negotiate with.* There is not. Thus, the situation continues to be unfortunate for Israel — and disastrous for the self-sabotaging Palestinians. We follow the situation with vigilance, and we support the one little country in the world where Jews are “a free nation, in our own homeland.”

Am Yisrael chai,
Stephen Listfield

PASSOVER

Passover this year begins with the first Seder, Friday evening March 30. Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1 are the first two days of yom tov. The eight-day festival ends on Saturday night, April 7. We wish everyone a *zissen Pesach* (a sweet Passover). May our holiday of Freedom be a time to reflect upon the freedoms we enjoy — and the terrible privations and suffering that so many of our fellow human beings continue to endure. Elsewhere in this issue you will find material about making for yourselves a kosher and happy holiday.

Below is a link from the Rabbinical Assembly about Pesach food, dishes, etc.

https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/jewish-law/holidays/pesah/pesah_guide_5778.pdf

Please see the form to sell your hametz through Rabbi Listfield at the end of this publication.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When March arrives, my thoughts always shift to Pesach and to what I refer to as the second major miracle, the first being the creation of the universe. However, this miracle is the formal recognition by the Lord of the covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: the establishment of the Israeli people. Whether you will be participating on your own or attending the congregational Seder on the first night, remember to begin counting the Omer and the conclusion of the second Seder on Saturday night.

This month, I want to recognize two individuals who help make some of our services more complete. Gadi Shapira, who reads Torah for us on the Pilgrimage holidays, and Sandra Wiederecht, who often assists leaders at Friday evening services as well as many other efforts to help make our Synagogue experience richer.

בָּרַךְ
Barry Meyer

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Etz Chayim is glad to add Karen Hirsch, Eric Jackson and their daughter, Eileen, as new members of our "family." Be sure to give them our usual warm welcome to the congregation!

ETZ CHAYIM'S COMMUNITY SEDER

LET'S ENJOY
PASSOVER'S FIRST NIGHT SEDER
TOGETHER

MARCH 30TH AT ETZ CHAYIM AT
6:30 PM

PREPAID RESERVATIONS ARE
REQUIRED
BY MARCH 12TH

ADULTS OVER 18-----\$36
CHILDREN 8-18-----\$18
CHILDREN 7 AND UNDER---FREE

FOR RESERVATIONS:
MAIL YOUR CHECK MADE
PAYABLE TO
ETZ CHAYIM SISTERHOOD
7705 BAILEY COVE ROAD
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35802
OR
CONTACT: BRENDA
bailabat@comcast.net
256-651-8125

IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be no 7:30 Shabbat service on March 30 at Etz Chayim.

There will be a brief Shabbat service with the Seder. Prepaid reservations are required for the Seder.

For information about attending the Seder, contact Brenda no later than March 12, at 256-651-8125 or bailabat@comcast.net

SISTERHOOD

Greetings Everyone,

You may see this after the Purim Hot Dog Dinner. Thank you to Brenda Liles for preparing this fun and tasty dinner that Sisterhood sponsors for all of us. I know everyone has a great time.

The notices for the Passover Seder have been sent to local Synagogue and Sisterhood members. If you haven't received yours, please read the article in the Shofar and get your reservations and money to Brenda ASAP. We are limited to 60 people and will up fast. Remember, your check is your reservation!!!

April will be another Lunch Bunch, so stay tuned.

If you are interested in being on the Sisterhood Board next year, please let me know. We would love to have some new ladies.

Natha Hancock

NOTE: If you have a degree in Education Administration, please contact Lynne at Hospitality@EtzChayim-hsv.org

ONEGS

Mar 02 Schwartz
Mar 09 Hancock
Mar 16 Brigadier
Mar 23 Reese
Mar 30 First Seder

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman
In Memory of Sylvia Kalachman, mother of Marvin Kalachman

Rabbi Fund

From: Diana & Howard Polin
To: Lucy Fisher - Faith in G-d and wearing a seatbelt kept you with us. Thank you, Lord.

From: Janet Schindler
To: Lucy Fisher - So sorry to hear about your car accident and very glad to know you are feeling better.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Lucy Fisher - We are very glad that you are getting better. May your total recovery be soon.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mat 06 Workshop, USCJ
Mar 12 Deadline for EC Seder reservations
Mar 13 Congregational Meeting, 6:30 PM
Mar 16-18 Rabbi Listfield Shabbaton
Mar 30 EC Seder, reservations required

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 28 Michelle Lapidus
Mar 02 Michal Hall
Mar 03 Myles Johnson
Mar 08 Millie Rosenthal
Mar 09 Ginger Nelson
Mar 14 Tobias Mendelson
Mar 20 Maryn Liles
Mar 25 Sharon Roberts
Mar 25 Harrison Sacks
Mar 27 Stephanie Hancock Gerlak
Mar 27 Lucy Fisher
Mar 28 Seth Spraggins

Yahrzeits**

Feb 28	Adar 13	Lou Harrison*
Feb 28	Adar 13	Max Moiseev*
Feb 28	Adar 13	Sam Okeon
Feb 28	Adar 13	Joseph Sacks
Mar 01	Adar 14	Hannah Rosen
Mar 02	Adar 15	Jeffrey Tillman*
Mar 03	Adar 16	Bernard Flank*
Mar 03	Adar 16	Goldie Merzon Ludmer*
Mar 04	Adar 17	Joe Brown
Mar 04	Adar 17	Anna Fleishman
Mar 05	Adar 18	B. H. Ledbetter*
Mar 07	Adar 20	Cynthia Kopman
Mar 08	Adar 21	Melvin Harris Kirsch*
Mar 12	Adar 25	Rebecca Sacks*

Mar 12	Adar 25	Sandy Goldstien
Mar 13	Adar 26	Diana Sidel
Mar 14	Adar 27	Rose Freeman
Mar 14	Adar 27	Phillip Makower*
Mar 18	Nisan 02	Hersh Tzvi Bayers
Mar 19	Nisan 03	Robert Lukin*
Mar 23	Nisan 07	Paul Schlein*
Mar 23	Nisan 07	Gertrud Schlein*
Mar 24	Nisan 08	Morris Wittenstein*
Mar 25	Nisan 09	Cecile Hollenberg*
Mar 26	Nisan 10	Irwin Goldstein*
Mar 27	Nisan 11	Norman Greenbaum
Mar 31	Nisan 15	Yakov Cszerny Drake
Mar 31	Nisan 15	Yolanda Cszerny Drake
Apr 01	Nisan 16	Millie Goldstein
Apr 01	Nisan 16	Marvin M. Schreiber*
Apr 01	Nisan 16	Lilian Jaffee

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

DAYENU

By Ted Roberts

It was only a wedding anniversary and my gift from my daughter-in-law, Sharon, was only a potted plant, but it was a blooming Amaryllis, a beauty that makes a rose blush. Lovers of this beauty say it compares well with a magnolia in full bloom.

What else but magic or divinity could transform a round lumpy clump of dirt into a spring sunrise, and sometimes, depending on your luck, into three or four sunrises?

My daughter-in-law matching the generosity of the plant sends one every year. Sometimes it bursts into one dazzler – sometimes (depending on your moral behavior, I like to think) two, three, or four. I kept my angel of a daughter-in-law informed of the magic plant's

behavior. "It has two stalks already" or "we're gonna have three glorious blossoms this year," it was the unpredictability that made the show. Who knew what promise was locked inside that filthy mound of earth; who understood the potential of that ball of dirt?

The Creator should have stopped with the Amaryllis. Creationwise, he never did much better, say the cynics.

It beat a box of candy that beckoned to diabetes or added an inch to your ample waistline. "Sharon, it's turning orange and is adding a second blossom." Nobody ever said that about a box of chocolate coconut squares. For sheer excitement it sure beat the pair of socks my aunt from Cincinnati sent me every year. Socks – keep your feet warm but an Amaryllis is transcendent. A living, breathing flower made by the power that made you and me. Who could beat that? But I still say HE should have stopped creating after the big Amaryllis. No sin, no wars, no coveting of your neighbor's wife. Only beauty. With Amaryllises perfuming the breeze of the world. Who could ask for anything more? Think the world would miss Adolph Hitler, Genghis Kahn, or even on a lesser scale, Jack the Ripper? Or the entire animal breed armed with claw and fang? Oh maybe a few superior human beings who appreciate the beauty of the Amaryllis. That would be okay too! I am definitely tolerant.

There's a Norse myth that says the Creator offered Adam and Eve a giant glowing Amaryllis instead of the sun and moon and those two fools refused.

If only He had stopped with this fiery, flowery, beauty and the earth in which to nourish it. Dayenu. “It would have been sufficient” as we say at my Pesach Seder – decorated by a blooming Amaryllis at the center of the table.

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: shirl@hiwaay.net

HAMETZ SELLING FORM

Shtar Harsha’ah ~ Authorization to Sell Hametz

I, the undersigned, empower Rabbi Stephen Listfield to act in my behalf to sell all hametz possessed by me and my household – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah law. This transaction takes effect Friday, March 30, 11:30 am and will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which ends Saturday, April 7 at nightfall.

Signature

Name (print)

Home Address
