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# the Shofar



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Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JULY, 2018

TAMUZ/AV, 5778

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

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings!

I have just taken office as president of our synagogue, and the first event that I attended was our painting / banquet party.

Etz Chayim Congregation is alive and well and living in the hearts of us all. It filled my heart with so much joy to see our full parking lot and so many people working outside in this muggy heat without complaining with one common goal. It was truly heart-warming.

Max was out days before with Millie scrounging up all available ladders, supplies, pressure washing the building and prepping the door and windows. Millie and her crew put together a great lunch for all of the hot, tired workers when they finished their sections. The entire outside of our synagogue was completed before the rains came.

I would personally like to thank every one of our hard-working volunteers for their dedication and hard work inside and outside of our building. It is truly my honor to be your president for the upcoming year.

Thank you,

Sandra Wiederecht.

## **A BIG "WET PAINT" THANK YOU**

Thanks to all who came out to paint the building on June 24 and to those who made a great breakfast for the workers.

THE PAINTERS: The Johnson Family: Joe, Shayna, Caden & Miles; The Liles Family: Cliff, Brenda and Adam; Gary Hall; Kevin Thompson; Bill Goldberg; Larry Levitt; Michelle Lapidus; Joe Paddock; Jon Berger; Lynne & Steve Edmondson; Karen Hirsch, Eric Jackson & Eilene Hirsch; Michelle & Jonathan Persons; Howard Ross; Larry Westbook and McKenzie Sanders.

BREAKFAST MAKERS: Millie Rosenthal, Sue Paddock, Shirley Roberts, Sandra Wiederecht, Eilene Hirsch, and Diana Polin.

Editor's Addition: Max wrote the above "thank you" to the painters and breakfast makers. Max, himself, deserves a HUGE thank you. He did the extensive and time-consuming prep work on the building, he purchased the materials and borrowed ladders. There's probably a lot more he did to get this done, but the above is just off the top of my head. Max's dedication to keeping our building going is one of his super-powers! Thanks, Max.

### **WELCOME!**

Etz Chayim is glad to welcome Debra Benko to the congregation.

We hope Debra will feel right at home here, so be sure to introduce yourself to our newest EC "family" member!

### **LIMMUD MEANS LEARNING**

Limmud is a global organization that promotes Jewish learning in all its varieties. Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.



Dates: Labor Day Weekend, August 31-September 3, 2018

Register at:

<http://www.ramahdarom.org/year-round-programs/upcoming-events/limmudfest/>

Location: Camp Ramah Darom, Clayton, GA

LimmudFest at Ramah Darom is a celebration and festival of Jewish thought, arts, culture, life, learning, and teaching. Join us in the North Georgia mountains with hundreds of Jews from all walks of life, all Jewish backgrounds, all lifestyles, and all ages for a full schedule of workshops, discussions, arts, music, performances, text-study sessions, yoga, hiking, and more.

For more information about Limmud Atlanta & Southeast, please visit our website at <http://limmudse.org/>

Please note that scholarships are available and can be selected for single or shared cabins on the registration form. A \$50 deposit is required for scholarships, and each person will be contacted about a scholarship.

For more information, contact Heather Blake, Program Director Congregation Etz Chaim, Marietta, GA P: 770.973.0137

### **BOOK CLUB READING A MEMOIR OF DOUBT**

"All Who Go Do Not Return," by Shulem Deen, is one man's battle with his own faith. While it takes place in a Hasidic community it mirrors the issues of many Jews.

This book has an outstanding pedigree. It was the winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award and was named "one of the 42 books to read before you die" by The Independent (UK).

There's plenty of time to read this 288-page book since the Etz Chayim Book Club will discuss it on Tuesday, August 21th, at 11 AM.

We meet regularly, on the third Tuesday of every other month, we read and discuss fiction and nonfiction books of Jewish interest, and all members get to participate in selecting the books we read. The club is open to all who would enjoy participating.

Come with us. Participate and learn. Reach out and read something out of your ordinary. It's exciting.

For more information contact Jon Berger. Phone or text at 256-457-0277; or email at [jonaberger2@gmail.com](mailto:jonaberger2@gmail.com) .

## **SISTERHOOD**

The last Lunch Bunch was well attended, and during it we elected and installed (thank you, Lynne Edmondson) our new Board of Directors and Chairwomen.

President.....Natha Hancock  
V.P. Membership.....Millie Rosenthal  
V.P. Programming.....Amy Mauldin  
Corr. Sec.....Michelle Persons  
Rec. Sec.....Shirley Roberts  
Treasurer.....Brenda Liles  
Gift Shop Chair.....Holly Kent  
Seder Chair.....Nannette Schwartz

Our New Year Booklet project is in full swing. Thanks to so many of you who've sent in your entries and advertisements! If you haven't, hurry and do so. June 10th is the deadline! Even though this is the middle of Summer, we are rushing to get the Booklets ready for Rosh Hashannah delivery. As always, please let the advertisers that you do business with know how much we appreciate their ads in our book.

Have a good July,

Brenda Liles

## **ONEGS**

Jun 29 Berger  
Jul 06 Edmondson  
Jul 13 Liles  
Jul 20 Lapidus  
Jul 27 Rosenthal  
Aug 03 Berry

## **DONATIONS**

### Rabbi Fund

From: Janet Schindler

To: Dorothy Goldberg - Glad that you are home from the hospital and feeling better. We look forward to seeing you soon.

From: Lucy & Charlie Fisher

To: Janet Schindler - Honoring your speedy recovery.

From: Brenda & Cliff Liles

To: Dorothy Goldberg-Glad to hear you are home.

To: Janet Schindler-Glad your procedure went well and hoping you're feeling good.

### General Fund

From: Maria & Mike Sumerall

To: Harriet Sacks - Wishing you good health and HaShem's guidance in your move.

To: Janet Schindler - Wishing you a speedy recovery.

From Diana & Howard Polin

To: Janet Schindler - we are so glad and relieved that you are already feeling better.

To: Harriet Sacks - Know that you are in our thoughts as you improve daily

To: Robin Kirby - Our hope and prayers are for you to feel better soon.

To: Sharon Schuff - We wish you good health and a brighter tomorrow.

### Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 01	Fast Day, 17 <sup>th</sup> of Tamuz
Jul 04	Independence Day
Jul 21	Tisha B'Av, service at 8 PM
Jul 22	Fast Day, Tisha B'Av
Aug 31-Sep 03	LimmudFest at Camp Ramah Darom, GA

### BIRTHDAYS

Jun 26	Natha Hancock
Jun 30	Bill Brigadier
Jun 30	Rochelle Berry
Jul 03	Michal Hall
Jul 03	Mante Polin
Jul 09	Sandy Martin
Jul 13	Ted Roberts

Jul 15	Debbie Leites
Jul 15	Michelle Persons
Jul 16	Shayna Johnson
Jul 16	Sam Kleiner
Jul 17	Christie Berry
Jul 18	Sandy Pepper
Jul 20	George Drake
Jul 21	Alana Palermo
Jul 23	Jacob Fuerst
Jul 28	Stan Belsky
Jul 29	Sarah Kirshtein

### ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 03	Amy & Matthew Mauldin
Jul 04	Dr. Louis B. & Beverly Weiner
Jul 23	Tatjana & Mark Copeland
Jul 28	Karen & Bob Feigenblatt

### YAHARZEITS\*\*

Jun 30	Tamuz 17	Milton Fuerst
Jul 01	Tamuz 18	Sam Goldstein*
Jul 01	Tamuz 18	Benjamin Sainker*
Jul 01	Tamuz 18	Sam Goldstein*
Jul 01	Tamuz 18	Benjamin Sainker*
Jul 06	Tamuz 23	Paula Levy Goldberg*
Jul 08	Tamuz 25	Samuel H. Cohen*
Jul 10	Tamuz 27	Harry Freedman
Jul 11	Tamuz 28	Lynda Citron Siff
Jul 13	Av 01	Naomi Miller*
Jul 18	Av 06	Harold Isadore Yalowitz
Jul 22	Av 10	Sadie Kopkin*
Jul 26	Av 14	Bernard Roberts
Jul 28	Av 16	Beatrice Goldner*
Jul 29	Av 17	Fannie Feldman*
Jul 30	Av 18	Gilbert A. Greenbaum

\* Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

## JULY 4 – OUR HOLIDAY, TOO

By Ted Roberts

You know, we Jews have a reputation for mobility. “The Wandering Jew” was a stereotype. In the 3 millennia or so that we’ve been around we’ve given more business to travel agencies than all other ethnic groups combined from Babylonia to India – from Birmingham, Alabama USA to Petroplavask, Russia. We’ve been around, to say the least. But nowhere have we been treated as kindly as in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. “Come in, have a cup of tea, write us a song, start up a business, employ some fellow Americans, cure a disease.” And so we have. The accent on Tikuun Olam has paid immense dividends to our adoptive homeland and her Jewish guests. July 4th should be our most joyous holiday after Shavuos. Shavuos has to take precedence; without it we wouldn’t be Jews.

But the gift of America – the foggy thing called freedom – has never been equaled - from Ur, Abraham’s hometown - to the empire of Solomon. And Manhattan beats them all.

We have rooted here in the fifty states surrounding Time Square. Assimilation was not a problem in a nation with open social borders that judged a person by their contribution, not their racial origin. No bully with whip and bullhorn has shouted, “MOVE JEW, MOVE”!!

And if I wanted to be irreverent, I’d swear it was the land that G-d had in mind when

we covenanted with him. Didn’t He promise us a land of milk and honey? It wasn’t a desert we had to eventually traverse, but first the Mediterranean then the Atlantic Ocean. And it didn’t take forty years, but roughly 3300 years to get here. Actually, yes, we got that Mid-Eastern Land of Milk and Honey, our ancestral home, plus this land of prosperity and freedom. And let it be noted that historically America, Queen of democracies, is the only major nation that at one time or another never kicked us out. The Russian Tsarist solution was “convert one third, export a third, and starve the last third to death”.

Wait a minute. An anomaly: I know not of one Jewish signer of the Declaration of Independence. Shocking. It’s a rare turn in history that doesn’t involve our kinfolk either behind the scenes or standing at the footlights. Maybe they were called by nature out of the room at the crucial moment. Maybe they were touring Philadelphia for a kosher hot dog. Or maybe it was Shabbos and they didn’t want to curse the life of the New Zion with a sin. More research is needed.

Whatever our role, you can bet we’ll be among the Independence Day celebrants having hot dogs with pickle and onion – pickles are Jewish. Firecrackers are not.

As we look around the globe, no country has hosted us with the generosity of the United States of America. Mild anti-Semitism was the worst they could throw at us. “You can’t join our country club,” which is small potatoes compared with pogroms, Cossacks, and storm troopers. “Fine, we’ll build our own. And you can bet the food will be better.”

And there wasn't one Jew-hating Cossack between New York and California. And if there had been, the cops would have picked him up for speeding or reckless driving of his four-footed vehicle.

I whole-heartedly believe that we have repaid the debt in every form of human endeavor; art, music, literature, and science and thereby returned the favors that freedom brings. (Did you know that Irving Berlin donated all the royalties from "God Bless America" to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America?)

July the 4<sup>th</sup> is the link in the chain that connects the Freedom Headquarters of the Western world with the only democracy in the Middle East. Two sister nations, both conceived in a fiery birth. Both based in a faithless world on a statement of faith: "In G-d We Trust".

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:

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