
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

AUG, 2018

AV/ELUL, 5778

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Every week generous people from our congregation leave food and toiletries in our container in the vestibule for First Stop and the Food Bank. We are lucky to have a congregation that is so thoughtful and giving.

Unfortunately, if we do not have someone to deliver these items the food and some products age out, and the people that are not as fortunate as we are end up going without much needed essentials. We need one or two people to take these items to the Food Bank and First Stop on a regular basis. The deliveries do not have to be done weekly. Depending on how much is there, once a month would work. One person is very doable. Two people would be ideal, so they could swap off. We need someone right now to step up. Your thoughtfulness would be very much appreciated by our congregation and the recipients of our congregation's generosity.

Please call me.

Sandra
256-797-4013

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

We will be doing the pre-High Holiday synagogue Grounds Clean-Up on Sunday morning, August 19, starting at 8:00 am. We have a couple of hours of clean-up, so come early before it gets too hot. Bring any weed eaters, rakes and trimming equipment you have for trimming bushes.

Breakfast will be served for the workers, so bring your tools and your appetite.

Rain date August 26, but the Lord was good to us on "paint day," so maybe He will bless us on "clean-up day."

Max

SISTERHOOD

Greetings Ladies,

The Sisterhood Board would like to thank all of you who support our New Year Booklet by purchasing memorials, greetings and selling advertisements. We would not be able to do the things we do for our Synagogue without your help. We also received additional donations from some along with their payments, and I want to thank all of you who think of us when making contributions. Donations are always welcome.

If you haven't sent in your Sisterhood dues of only \$18, please remember to do that, as well. These dues haven't been increased in many years, and we really appreciate them.

In the last 5 years (or so) we have renovated the kitchen, bathroom, replaced the Oneg room floor, and purchased a new freezer and gift shop cabinets. Proceeds from the year book, Sisterhood dues, and many additional donations enabled us to make these beautiful additions to our building. We also help to support BBYO in their endeavors.

If you have any suggestions for programs for the coming year, please let Amy Mauldin (our new programming chairwoman) know. We are always open for new fun things to do. As usual, we don't meet in the summer and since we have the holidays in September, our first meeting will be in October- so stay tuned.

Natha Hancock

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).

The Etz Chayim Book Club will discuss it at 11:00 am on Tuesday, August 21st at the synagogue. 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 jonaberger@gmail.com

ONEGS

Jul 27	Rosenthal
Aug 03	Berry
Aug 10	Wiederecht
Aug 17	Fisher
Aug 24	Hirsch
Aug 31	Thompson

Etz Chayim's High Holiday services are enhanced by lovely floral arrangements in front of the bima each year. Your continued donations toward these are much appreciated. Thank you!

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Ira Leitner

In Honor of all Oneg hosts.

From: Michal & Gary Hall

To: Janet Schindler, Harriet Sacks & Dorothy Goldberg - Speedy Recovery

From: Sue & Joe Paddock

In Honor of the High Holidays

Rabbi Fund

From: Lynne & Steve Edmondson

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

To: Barry Meyer & Family - In Memory of Barry's Sister-in-law, Patricia Meyer

Jewish Education Fund

From: Martin Freeman

In Honor of Bill Goldberg

Sisterhood

From: Shirley & Ted Roberts

For High Holy Day flowers

From: Linda Kamisher

For: High Holy Day flowers

For: Sisterhood support

From: Farimah & Abe Asher

From: Ann Denbo

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg

From: Clare & Michael Grisham

From: Linda & Fred Kolchin

From: Renata Limmer

From: Leigh Miller

From: Sage Bagel & Appetizer Shop
(in Florida)

From: Debbie & Ron Sketo

From: Sandra Wiederecht

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 19, Sunday, Grounds Clean-Up Day,
8:30 AM

Aug 21, Book Club meeting at EC, 11 AM

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 01 Scott Hancock

Aug 02 Joey Yalowitz

Aug 08 Richard Berry

Aug 10 Harriet Sacks

Aug 18 Deb Benko

Aug 20 Andrea Rosenthal

Aug 22 Lucas Copeland

Aug 23 Lauren Goodman

Aug 25 Michael Zelickson

Aug 28 Manya Fuerst

Aug 29 Daniel Wiederecht

Aug 29 Hadley Weinberger

ANNIVERSARIES

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

YAHARZEITS**

Jul 30 Av 18 Gilbert A. Greenbaum
Aug 09 Av 28 Sarah Fink
Aug 09 Av 28 Morris Martin Singer
Aug 10 Av 29 Dolores D'Acosta Hein
Aug 14 Elul 03 Belle D'Acosta*
Aug 16 Elul 05 Adolph Goldstein*
Aug 17 Elul 06 Caryl Hollenberg
Aug 17 Elul 06 Grete Goldstein*
Aug 17 Elul 06 Milton Levitt
Aug 17 Elul 06 Roland Jordan Krantz
Aug 22 Elul 11 Milton Baum*
Aug 22 Elul 11 Albert Goldner*
Aug 23 Elul 12 June Rothfeder
Aug 23 Elul 12 Leonard Flank*
Aug 25 Elul 14 Albert Goldner*
Aug 26 Elul 15 John Goldstein*
Aug 28 Elul 17 Molly Silver Rodkin*
Aug 29 Elul 18 Edward Kahn*
Sep 01 Elul 21 Phil Wiederecht*
Sep 01 Elul 22 William Karmiolt*

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

HERBERT HOOVER AND THE JEWS

By Ted Roberts

Herbert Hoover was NOT a man blessed with great timing. He gets elected in '28, and in 1929 he's smacked with a World Depression. Three years later he's voted out of office by Franklin Delano Roosevelt

with a huge plurality of six million votes. Don't let the door hit you in the rear end, said six million Americans. And as the White House door slammed shut - the song ringing in the ex-president's ear was the incoming President's chant: "Happy Times are Here Again". His four years were no Camelot.

Bad timing. Few remembered that he saved millions of Europeans from the clutches of starvation - first in post-World War I Belgium. And again, in hungry Central Europe. We Jews, who naturally look at the world through our own ethnic spectacles, consider Herbert Hoover and say - what's he got to do with us?

Everything. Because the starving masses he fed in the early 20's were the bubbes and zaydes, uncles and aunts, maybe parents of many of us. If Oskar Schindler was pronounced a hero for saving a few thousand Jews, Herbert Hoover should be anointed as the Mossiach, the Messiah, or maybe granted charter membership to the Hall of Righteous Gentiles. His contribution ("The Great Humanitarian" they called him) is told in the Hoover Digest, affiliated with Stanford University.

World War I - "the war to end all wars" - eventually brought us World War II, Communism in Russia, and the subsequent Cold War. But its first curse was starvation in Central Europe.

Between 1919 and 1921 the American relief effort, headed by Hoover, fed a million and a half Jewish children primarily in newly independent Poland - disgorged from Germany, Austria, and Poland. The challenge was daunting because Central Europe was convulsed

in warfare. The Russians were marching on Warsaw; while Russia, roiled by revolution, was pillaged by rival Royalists and Red gangs. This was like Katrina relief in the middle of a war.

The easiest part was getting the money to buy food. Uncle Sam, as usual, was the first to open his wallet. The U.S. Congress contributed 100 million dollars and the U.S. Army contributed a fleet of railroad cars to transport food to out-of-the-way shtetles like Pinsk, Bielsk, Siemiatycze, and Brzesc.

Getting the food to starving Polish kids in this savage political environment had all the challenges of feeding malnourished Africa today. Hungry armies, murderous gangs, black marketeers, corrupt local officials, and transport lack stalked the treasure trove of nutrition that the American Relief Agency brought into Central Europe through Danzig. Somehow, Hoover, who knew more about getting nourishment into hungry mouths than anyone on the planet, negotiated this gauntlet of obstacles. In most cases, the food supplies were shepherded directly to the schools by the American relief workers. Hoover wisely avoided local government channels. He wanted to feed kids, not enrich corrupt bureaucrats. Millions were fed.

The Hoover Institution at Stanford University has recently illuminated this bittersweet chapter in history - an era that has not found its way into our textbooks. A decade or so ago they released a report on Hoover's work by Elena Danielson. It tells us how she came upon an old "beautifully gold-tooled leather portfolio" in the Hoover archives. It contained presentations, proudly

presented to the "Great Humanitarian", upon his visit to Poland in 1921, by school kids. She went to Zachary Baker, curator of Judaica at the Stanford University Libraries - a Yiddish translator - for help. The portfolio was overflowing with letters from another world - a time and place called loosely, Poland 1921. The land of many of our forefathers - of shtetles, hasids, cheders, and Isaac Bashevis Singer and the Baal Shem Tov, and Sholom Aleichem. And finally, the very ground zero of the Holocaust.

Here are letters from school children, most of whom never reached middle age. They write thank you letters to the American businessman, Herbert Hoover, who culturally was as unlike them as a Hindu Maharaja, a continent away in India. They could not imagine the wealth and freedom of Herbert Hoover, or the average American, if they spent a lifetime of study in their cheder or study rooms. It was beyond their wildest dreams. Their letters are perfumed with the innocence of youth and the warm gratitude of full stomachs. The children elaborately thank the generous American. Then proudly demonstrating their newly learned ability, there's a scrawl of childish signatures and decorative artwork. Other cards and notes bear pictures of the children's school, festooned with American flags.

One letter, in Hebrew, is decorated with a drawing of a can of sweetened condensed milk. Such cans were used for drinking cups. Tin cans for cups; a poverty unknown to us was endemic in Central Europe. The cups came to symbolize the American effort.

A youngster named Ary Goldman adds a poem to his thanks and does not forget to

ask for money to buy books. It is a blessing in disguise that we know not what happened to Ary and his schoolboy friends when Nazi and Communist armies carved up their country. His final verse says it all. Send us "Money for clothes, for rice and other types of food, so that we may be able to study the Torah without fear. One of the students in the Pinsk Talmud Torah: Ary Goldman, 17 Sivan 5681, June 23, 1921."

Another group of youngsters presents a card vivid with orange cornflowers and declares, "We the Jewish children signed below of the town of Siemiatycze, the country of Bielsk, and the land of Grodno, kitchen no. 4 send our greetings to American children, from Poland to noble America in homage to Herbert Hoover. - On the day of July 4th, the year 1921."

Sometimes the past is as hidden from us as the future. This mitzvah, this good deed by a Quaker humanitarian unrecognized by the history books, is unknown to Jewish hearts.

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<http://www.wonderwordworks.com>

[My illustrated children's book on the birth of numbers](#)