
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2018

TISHREI/CHESHVAN, 5779

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

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Don't Fall for the anti-Israel Myths and Deceits and Lies

One of the anti-Israel myths that is gaining traction is that the founding Zionists were "colonialists." They were white Europeans who conquered the docile and unsuspecting native Palestinian population. In this narrative, Israel is like South Africa under apartheid. Zionism is imperialism. You can see how people who believe this rail against the "settlements." But most of those people don't mean the Jewish towns on the West Bank. They think that the entire state is a colonial settlement. Well, apartheid has been undone. Israel should be the next to go.

But the idea of Jews as "settler-colonialists" is a lie. I am indebted to the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Affairs for much of the information in the next three paragraphs, beginning with the fact that a wealth of evidence demonstrates that Jews are the indigenous population of the land of Israel. Historical and genetic documentation places Jews there over 2,000 years ago. Jews have uninterruptedly lived in Israel ever since. The evidence was so clear, even to some historians of antiquity who hated

Jews(!), that disconnecting Jews from Israel was simply not conceived of. *Jews are the indigenous population.*

Ironically, the same cannot be said for the Palestinian Arabs. Pinchas Inbari of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs reviewed the history of Palestine. He examines the origin traditions of Palestinian tribes, which continue even today to see themselves as immigrants from other countries. Inbari demonstrates that modern Palestinians are, in fact, derived from two primary streams: converts from indigenous pre-modern Jews and Christians who submitted to Islam; and Arab tribes from the Middle East who migrated to the Southern Levant over the centuries.

Even notable examples like Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, who ridiculously claimed that "I am the proud son of the Canaanites who were there 5,500 years before Joshua bin Nun burned down the town of Jericho," traces his actual lineage to the Huwaitat tribe, which migrated from Arabia to Jordan. Hamas minister Fathi Hammad in a rare moment of candor said that "half the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis." That is closer to the truth.

The Palestinian leadership is criticizing America for being pro-Israel. [NOTE: If the American administration is pro-Israel, I think that is wise policy. I truly believe that American interests are best advanced by making it clear that Israel is our most trustworthy and capable ally in the Middle East. So why shouldn't the administration be "pro-Israel"?!]

There is one thing about the Palestinians that has been crystal clear to me for practically my whole life: The Palestinians will have a state of their own when they agree that the Jewish people should have a Jewish state of its own. But no, they would rather wage continual war against the Jewish right of self-determination than to peaceably and responsibly arrange for their own self-determination.

They haven't yet succeeded in destroying Israel by violence. So now they are trying myths and deceit and lies. Don't fall for it, and please tell your friends not to fall for it! *Am Yisrael chai.*

See you October 26-28,

Stephen Listfield

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the High Holidays are behind us, and it is time to reflect. Thank you so much to all who participated in our services throughout the High Holidays. We are a wonderfully diversified group; each with something to contribute. You are very much appreciated, and it was wonderful to see you.

I would like to thank the Brigadier family for sponsoring our Break-the-Fast and the Sisterhood women, who outdid themselves with the preparation. Your hard work showed. Thanks also the those of you who

brought wonderful dishes to the Rabbi Reception on Erev Rosh Hashannah.

I know Rabbi Listfield said he forgave me (because it was Yom Kippur) for forgetting to welcome him back during my welcome speech, of all things. It truly is my great pleasure to have Rabbi Stephen Listfield back with us. We always look forward to his return visits. I especially enjoy his non-sermons-- leaving either having learned something or with something to think about.

I look forward to seeing you in October,

Sandra Wiederecht

NEW MEMBER!

Robert Cook is the newest member to the Etz Chayim Congregation. Let's make him feel like "family" with our usual warm welcome.

SISTERHOOD

Greetings Ladies,

The Holidays are now over and we can get back to our normal routines. I want to thank Bill, BJ and the family for once again sponsoring the wonderful Break-the-Fast. I would also like to thank Lou and Beverly Weiner for the wine (I love Moscato) and AJ Watson for the sparkling grape juice.

Thanks to everyone who helped me with the preparations for the Break-the-Fast: Shirley, Millie, Lauren, and BJ helped in the kitchen. Sandra and Nannette helped with the shopping. If I left anyone out, please excuse me.

Unfortunately, I want to thank Millie, Janet, Brenda and Michelle Persons, who prepared

the lunch for the Sacks family and the congregation. Harriet was a long-time member of Sisterhood, a good friend to us all, and she will be greatly missed. If anyone else helped, thanks to you as well. This meal is a service provided by the Sisterhood when there is a loss of one of our local loved ones.

The Sisterhood will sponsor the snacks for the Donor Concert in the sukkah on 30 September. Thank you to Michal for being responsible for the preparations. I know everyone will love the music presented by Lynne and friends, and the Food Bank will be thankful for the canned goods that are collected.

For years, the Sisterhood has received donations to help us pay for the High Holiday flowers for the Bema. We appreciate and welcome those donations. Thank you, donors.

Our first meeting of the new year will be a Lunch Bunch on 15 October at Ding How on Whitesburg Drive at 11:30. I hope we have a big crowd, as all ladies of the congregation are welcome. This is always a popular place for us.

Our New Year Booklet fundraiser has come to an end for another year. Thanks to all of you who support it by purchasing memorials, greetings and selling advertisements. We would not be able to do the things we do for our Synagogue without your help. When you frequent our advertisers, please remember to mention seeing them in our booklet. Every entry is important for this project to continue to be a success.

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.

Natha Hancock

A LETTER FROM THE CHATTANOOGA JEWISH COMMUNITY

Dear Huntsville Conservative Synagogue,

On October 14th, 2018, there will be a unique opportunity in Chattanooga to listen to one of the world's last remaining Holocaust survivors. The Chattanooga Jewish Community has invited Eva Schloss to speak in Chattanooga.

Eva Schloss is the step daughter of Otto Frank, the father of Margot and Anne Frank. Like the Frank family, Eva's family went into hiding in Amsterdam, later to be betrayed by a Nazi collaborator. Eva's father and brother were murdered in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, while Eva and her mother survived. Further information about Eva Schloss may be found at <http://www.evaschloss.com>.

Eva currently lives in England and travels the world with her poignant message of peace, hope and resiliency. For over 60 years she has dedicated her life to telling her powerful story, living in the present while escaping the atrocities of her past.

Eva Schloss will speak to Chattanooga area high school and college students at the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Auditorium on October 16th. This event is currently "sold out" with over 4000 high school and college students scheduled to witness her powerful personal history.

A public presentation, "Voices from Auschwitz: An Evening with Eva Schloss" has been scheduled for Sunday, October 14th at 7:00 PM at the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Auditorium. Tickets for the public event are \$25 per person and are available through www.evatickets.com or Ticketmaster (<https://www.ticketmaster.com/>). Tickets for groups of 10 or more are available for \$20

each through the Tivoli Box Office (423-757-5580). Proceeds will pay for both events, including the full cost of the student event. Any additional money raised will stay in the Chattanooga community and go towards educational opportunities for young people concerning genocide prevention.

Please consider sharing the news of this event with your congregation and encouraging them to attend. If you are interested in sponsorship or VIP opportunities, please contact me at Cjevans1@gmail.com. I will be reaching out to you in a few days to follow up and answer any questions you may have.

During a recent appearance in another city, one young person wrote, "There are no words to express my warm feelings for the survivors who still fight for humanity and justice. It is our duty to fight for humanity and justice and to stand up if we have to."

While we consider this a family event, some material may not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

We hope you will be able to join us for this unique event.

Sincerely,

Carla Evans
Committee Member- Group Tickets

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Etz Chayim Book Club will be on Thursday, October 18, at the synagogue. Please note that it will be at a new time, **11:30 am**, to accommodate some of the members' schedules.

We'll discuss "Violins of Hope" by James Grymes.

Then we'll discuss and decide the books we'll read and talk about next.

Come on to the meeting even if you haven't read "Violins of Hope." Our discussions are interesting with plenty to learn. You'll also be able to have a say in what we'll read next. If you have any ideas on what we should read here's your chance.

Questions? Comments? Call or text Jon Berger at 256-457-0277 or email jonaberger@gmail.com

ONEGS

Oct 05 Kolchin
Oct 12 Kalachman
Oct 19 Edmondson
Oct 26 Rabbi Weekend, Hadassah

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Bernard Backer
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg
A very generous donation in honor of the High Holidays

To: The Berry Family - Our thoughts and prayers are with you as your grandchild recovers to good health.

To: Robert Cook - Welcome to the Synagogue Family

To the Sacks Family - In Memory of Harriet Sacks.

To: Elena Lobl - Wishing you a speedy recovery and continued good health.

To: Kelley Zelickson - Continued good health.

To: Ted Roberts - Glad that you are feeling better, hope your good health continues.

From: Ginger Nelson
A generous donation in Honor of the High Holidays.

From: Benjamin Camenker & Tia Smith
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
Welcome to new member Robert Cook

From: Rose Schneier
A contribution to JCRS was made in Honor of Etz Chayim congregation.

From: Nannette Schwartz
A generous donation for the High Holiday Bema Flowers.

From: Sharon & Jeff Yalowitz
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman
In honor of the High Holidays.
To: The Sacks Family - In Memory of Harriet Sacks.
From: The Dub Family, Douglas, Silvia, Douglas II, Michael, Stephanie, Jacob & Mateu
A very generous Kol Nidrei appeal donation.

From: The Liles Family
To: The Sacks Family - In loving Memory of Harriet Sacks

Rabbi Fund

From: Nannette Schwartz
A generous donation for the High Holidays

From: Janet Schindler
To: The Sacks Family - In Memory of my very good friend, Harriet Sacks. She will be missed very much.

From: Ginger Nelson
A generous donation in honor of the Yom Kippur Break the Fast.

From Lucy & Charlie Fisher
To: The Sacks Family - In Memory of Harriet Sacks

From: Diana & Howard Polin
To: Elena Lobl - You are in our thoughts for a happy, healthy 5779 keeping busy and on the go as you usually are.
To: The Sacks family - You are in our thoughts. You are a very precious family. Harriet and Joe were dear to us through the years.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
In Memory of Harriet Sacks, our dear friend for over 55 years.
To: Elena Lobl - Our best wishes for your complete recovery.
To: The Berry Family - We are praying for the complete recovery of your grandchild.

From: Janet Schindler & Millie Rosenthal
Many thanks to all who helped with the meal after the funeral, a special thanks to Brenda Liles, Kim Reece, Lynne Edmondson, Michelle Persons, and Manya Fuerst.

Sisterhood Fund

From: Sandra Wiederecht
Welcome to new member Robert Cook
To: The Sacks Family - In Memory of Harriet Sacks, she will be missed by all who knew her.
To: Elena Lobl - The Sisterhood wishes you complete recovery and continued good health.
To: The Berry Family - Thinking about you and praying for your grandchild to get better soon.

From: Ginger Nelson

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

Greenbaum Memorial Fund

From: Dr. Harry & Mrs. Sarah Beth
Greenbaum & Gus & Lynn Greenbaum
In Memory of Bill, Carolyn & son Gilbert
Greenbaum.

NOTE: Shortly before she passed away,
Harriett Sacks made a donation to the
synagogue in Honor of the High Holidays

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 01 Shemini Atzeret services at 9:45
AM with Yizkor, followed by
Kiddush lunch, last meal in the
5779 sukkah
- Oct 01 Pot Luck Dairy Dinner followed by
Simhat Torah Hakafot services
(music, songs, flags, Torahs) &
refreshments, 6 PM
- Oct 14 Chattanooga program "Voices from
Auschwitz: An Evening with Eva
Schloss," 7:00 PM
- Oct 15 Sisterhood Lunch Bunch at Ding
How, 11:30 AM
- Oct 18 Book Club meeting, new time at
11:30 AM, "Violins of Hope," at EC

BIRTHDAYS

- Oct 02 David Wiederecht
Oct 03 Zev Roberts
Oct 03 Marc Zelickson
Oct 03 Ellie Meyer
Oct 10 Leigh Miller
Oct 13 Max Rosenthal
Oct 14 David Rosenthal
Oct 16 Jonah Roberts
Oct 20 Marvin Kalachman
Oct 20 Zachary Persons
Oct 21 Ethan Hall

- Oct 21 Frederick Kolchin
Oct 23 Paulette Goldstein
Oct 23 Marla Polin
Oct 24 Thomas Jones
Oct 27 Carolyn Palermo

ANNIVERSARIES

- Oct 09 Nannette & Gary Schwartz
Oct 09 Susan & Larry Levitt
Oct 24 Carolyn & Bob Palermo
Oct 26 Michelle & Jonathan Persons
Oct 27 Millie & Max Rosenthal

YAHREZEITS**

- | | | |
|--------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Sep 29 | Tishrei 20 | Randy Sacks* |
| Sep 29 | Tishrei 20 | Alex Greenbaum |
| Sep 29 | Tishrei 20 | Mariam Wertheim |
| Oct 06 | Tishrei 27 | Louis Klazmer |
| Oct 06 | Tishrei 27 | Steve Sokolow |
| Oct 07 | Tishrei 28 | Bella Flank* |
| Oct 08 | Tishrei 29 | Leo Krell |
| Oct 08 | Tishrei 29 | Rose Natt* |
| Oct 09 | Tishrei 30 | Harold Pizitz |
| Oct 12 | Cheshvan 03 | Sarah Goldstein* |
| Oct 12 | Cheshvan 03 | Sara Osovsky* |
| Oct 17 | Cheshvan 08 | Ruth Harris |
| Oct 21 | Cheshvan 12 | Martin Goldner* |
| Oct 22 | Cheshvan 13 | Herschel Tzvi Rabinovich |
| Oct 24 | Cheshvan 15 | Pauline Rudoy* |
| Oct 24 | Cheshvan 15 | Pierre Secher* |
| Oct 28 | Cheshvan 19 | Abe Soble* |
| Oct 28 | Cheshvan 19 | Elise Margaret Hoehne |
| Oct 30 | Cheshvan 21 | William Polin* |
| Oct 31 | Cheshvan 22 | Morris Goldberg* |
| Oct 31 | Cheshvan 22 | Leon Treister* |
| Oct 31 | Cheshvan 22 | Sam Ginsburg* |

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous
evening

DO THE HORA WITH YOUR TORAH ON SIMCHAS TORAH

By Ted Roberts

Do you know that old midrash about the giving of the Torah? How the Creator, having dotted the last “i” and crossed the last “t” of his masterpiece, offered it with pride to the nations of the world?

But a chorus of rejection almost drowned the heavenly choir, who were harmonizing in the background. “Oh, thanks a lot,” said mankind, “but not right now. Maybe next year. No time for it – too hard. All those rules. Nope.” So spoke the Jebusites and Amalakites; the Stalagmites, too.

“Besides,” they added, “we got these big stone likenesses of Baal, Astoreth, Isis, and Marduk. And thanks to them, our grapes and corn and olive trees are doing just fine. But come back next millennia. Maybe we’ll take another look. Thanks a lot for your time. And have a great day.”

“NO SALE?” uttered the maker of grapes, corn, and olive trees with astonishment. Well, He reasoned, I DID make a free will world. What do I expect? Blind obedience? At that point He took a second look at the Tribes of Humanity. Hmmm, He reflected, how ‘bout that raggedy band of ex-slaves wandering the Sinai without a grape or olive tree to their name?

He summoned the Archangel Michael. “Your mission, Michael, is to negotiate a contract with those Israelites. You know the deal.”

And since the Heavenly Hosts, unlike the tribes of humanity, are not blessed with free will, Michael saluted and in a majestic flap of his wings cruised down the airways of Heaven to meet Moses at Sinai. “I’m here,” he tells the awestruck prophet, “for the pre-

nup agreement. If you and I can settle the details, He who made all forms of life, even lawyers, will give you a peek of His glory and hand deliver the law.” Moses shielded his eyes and flopped down prostrate in the sand.

“OK,” says the Archangel, “here’s the deal. You follow these few simple rules in HIS book and the Good Lord, who rewards obedience, gives you the Torah and dubs you his Chosen People; which means Canaan and its well-watered valleys are yours. And none of that sticky black stuff will pollute the water table. The Boss says he’ll just tilt the slab of the earth and draw all that sludge off to the South. Let the Saudis worry about it.”

Moses, still brushing himself off and peeking through his fingers at the Archangel says, “Uh you mentioned rules. How many?” “Six hundred and thirteen,” says the celestial negotiator.

“Wow! I don’t know – that sounds like a deal breaker. Maybe me and Miriam and Aaron could handle it, but the twelve tribes – like all G-d’s creatures – chase pleasure like the desert hare. They mate like Egyptians, eat and drink like Stalagmites, and gratitude is not their strong suit. They’re already bragging about how they swam the Red Sea and found their way through heat of day and dark of night to this Holy mountain. I remind them about His ‘mighty hand and outstretched arm’. Remember the cloud and the pillar of fire?” I say.

“Oh yeah,” they say, “that was nice – great sound and light show. The kids loved it.” “Listen” continued Moses the shepherd, “I’m not sure my flock of rambunctious rams and ewes could hit 50% on the Mitzvah scale. What happens if they’re tempted by the voluptuous lady next door or a non-kosher vulture drumstick, or a cheeseburger or a soccer game on Shabbos. . . this ain’t

Heaven, ya know. Angelic, we're not. Like what if we obey 612 of those rules instead of 613? Do we still get the Torah?"

"I guess so," said Michael, who reflected this assignment was a lot tougher than hanging around Heaven and shouting hallelujah at proper intervals.

"OK, what if we only observe ONE commandment? Are we still the Chosen People? Or are there 613 levels of covenant depending on level of observance?"

This IS difficult, thought Michael. How could the Tent of Blessing cover this one and not that one? They were like a net full of fish from the Red Sea – pure and impure. But all fish. They were the Chosen People – score keeping would come later. So, the preliminary discussions were successfully consummated and later ratified by the Almighty.

So, reflect on your good fortune. On Simchas Torah you should rejoice that the Torah is yours whatever your flaws. But don't get cocky. Next year, a couple of months before Yom Kippur, you should maybe devote some serious attention to your mitzvah scorecard.

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