
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2018

CHESHVAN/KISLEV, 5779

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

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Ambassador Haley—a Hearty Thank You

This past month Nikki Haley announced her resignation as the UN ambassador from the United States. I for one will miss her.

Ms. Haley not only supported Israel at the UN. Happily, our country has for 70 years pretty reliably supported the Jewish state in that international body. No, it's much more than reliable support. On Haley's watch, the US position is something like, "slam the United States for defending Israel, and count on being slammed back."

To that I say, it's about time. And I say, Thank you Nikki Haley.

Last year Haley vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution criticizing President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The sponsors of that resolution then took it to the General Assembly, which votes overwhelmingly against Israel on almost any issue.

Ambassador Haley influenced an impressive 64 members to either vote against the resolution, or at least to abstain. So, the next thing that our UN ambassador did was to throw a party for those 64. Fantastic!! The US wants to show that we stand with those who do what is right in respect to Israel, not what is expedient on the cynical world stage.

Another example of Haley's decisive strength has to do with the abominable UN Human Rights Council. Current members of the Council noted for their oppressive policies include Saudi Arabia, China and Venezuela. Traditionally, the US has remained in that office of hypocrisy because we thought that we could exert a moderating influence. Maybe that is the smart path. Remember, I do not write as a diplomat or a political tactician. And yet even hypocrisy has to have its limits! The fact is that the world's most odious human rights violators spend a lot of their time and a lot of our money condemning Israel. So the Administration quit the Council. "Being a member of this council

is a privilege, and no country who is a human rights violator should be allowed a seat at the table,” Ms. Haley said.

Exactly right! And it’s about time that somebody said it. Judging other nations is a privilege. What is it that qualifies Saudi Arabia, Qatar, or Pakistan to judge someone else?

There is a Hebrew expression called ‘hakarot ha-tov.’ It means expressing gratitude for something that is good. Standing up for Israel in a hostile world is good. What Nikki Haley has done at the UN is very good. And so, I offer these words of hakarat hatov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Listfield

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

It has been brought to my attention that we all need a reminder of what food items are acceptable to be brought into the synagogue. The first thing we need to remember is that it is not just the kitchen that is kosher, but the entire building. If it can't be brought into the kitchen, it can't be brought into the building. Everything you bring from home has to be made with kosher utensils (which includes anything that touches the food), cooked in a kosher oven and brought in kosher containers. A lot of us do not keep a kosher home, but if we set aside a couple of pots, pans, serving dishes and utensils, it is really convenient when our turn comes around to bring something in. Self-clean the oven, pour boiling

water in the sink (3 times) and you are off to the races. Use glass dishes, as they may be kashered by running them through the dishwasher with no other (non-kosher) items in it.

Our previous rabbis visited Costco and Publix bakeries and gave the “okay” to bakery items purchased from there. We get challah from Publix, there are baked goods and food items in all of our grocery stores that have labels that tell us if they are kosher. If it has a hechsher on the label that is on the list posted in our kitchen, then you are safe. Fruits and cheese (cheese made in the U.S.) are safe. We observe no mixing of milk and meat, so even if we have kosher products, they can't be mixed. When in doubt, don't bring it.

Always feel free to call me or members of the Sisterhood board or synagogue board if you have questions. I understand that these are just basic tips and there are a lot more details that could be added to this list. It would be greatly appreciated if you would take an extra moment to check your items before you bring them into the building. It is a matter of respect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Wiederecht 256-797-4013

BOOK CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Etz Chayim Book Club will be on **Thursday, December 20, at 11:30 am** at the synagogue.

We'll discuss “Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul” by Naomi Levi.

This exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul was inspired by the famous correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi. This book was the winner of the 2017 Nautilus Award in the category of religion/spirituality of western thought.

It's surprising that more people aren't participating in our club. In addition to reading some fascinating books that take us into areas we've never explored before, the discussions go off in exciting areas we don't expect. Come with us for some exciting fun.

After Einstein and the Rabbi, we plan to read "The Plot Against America," the novel by Philip Roth that begins in the 1940 presidential election when famous aviator Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was running for his third term. We're scheduled to discuss it on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 11:30 at the synagogue.

For more information contact Jon Berger at 256-457-0277 (phone or text) or jonaberger@gmail.com.

SISTERHOOD

Greetings Ladies,

I heard the luncheon at Ding How was a lot of fun. Thanks to Amy for organizing everything, and I'm sorry I had to miss it (though I was at the beach).

Our next meeting will be November 19, at 7:00 PM at the Synagogue. Our program chair, Amy, is going to teach us the technique of Pointillism for our yearly

November craft project. This wonderful art project is only \$5.00. Be sure to let Amy know if you can attend so she will have enough supplies for everyone. This meeting is open to all the ladies. We will also have the gift shop open to purchase Hanukkah supplies (the first night is Dec 2). This year we have some different goodies for you to consider.

Sisterhood supports our local BBYO group, and we want all post bar/bat mitzvah through high school-aged Jewish kids in our area to be able to take advantage of the activities available. There will be a BBYO Regional Event held in Huntsville in the near future (!!!), as well as local plans scheduled throughout the year! For info about Rocket City BBYO contact Skylar Haas at SHaas@bbyo.org.

Natha

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Kelley & Jeff Zelickson
In Memory of Dottie & Harvey Golden
and Joan & Mike Zelickson

From: Ray Appelbaum
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Lauren & Steve Goodman
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Ira Leitner
In Memory of Harriet Sacks and Sharon Leitner

From: Lisa Livingston
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Maria & Mike Sumerall
In Memory of Harriet Sacks

From: Anonymous Christian Friend
A Generous gift in Honor of Sukkot

Rabbi Fund

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
In Honor of the High Holidays

Sisterhood

From: Manya Fuerst

From: The Ferdie Family
In loving memory of Harriet Sacks.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

ONEGS

Nov 02 Roberts
Nov 09 Paddock
Nov 16 Reese/Schindler
Nov 23 Wiederecht
Nov 30 Fuerst

SAVE THE DATE:

December 1, Saturday, at 7 PM for
Historical Huntsville Hadassah Trivia
Night!

Look for details via mailed invitation!



Calling ALL 8th-12th grade Jewish teens from
Huntsville and surrounding areas!



BBYO is the leading
pluralistic Jewish teen
movement engaging over
80,000 Jewish teens
worldwide.



October 14th from 4-6pm
Huntsville Topgolf
6100 Topgolf Drive NW
Tiny.cc/bbyotopgolf

December 8th from 7-9pm
Skate in the Park
Big Spring International Park
Bring \$20

November 15th from 7-8pm
Chapter Dinner @ Pieology
365 The Bridge St #101

December 13th from 6:30-8pm
Elections and Take-out
231 Eastside Square

City Director: Skylar Haas, SHaas@bbyo.org



Rocket City BBYO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 05 JFHNA presents "Israel Today"
at TBS, 7 PM
Nov 11 JWV Blood Drive, 9:30 AM-
12:30 PM at TBS
Nov 12 JWV Post 111 participating in
Hsv Veteran's Day Parade
Nov 15 BBYO Chapter Dinner at
Pieology, 7-8 PM, 365 The
Bridge St #101
Nov 19 Sisterhood Craft Night, 7 PM, at
EC, \$5
Dec 1 Historical Huntsville Hadassah
Trivia Night, 7 PM, look for
mailed invitation
Dec 08 BBYO Skate in the Park, Big
Spring International Park, bring

- \$20, 7-9 PM
 Dec 09 EC Latke Party!
 Dec 20 EC Book Club meeting,
 11:30 AM, "Einstein and the
 Rabbi: Searching for the Soul"

- Nov 23 Adam Kalachman
 Nov 23 Haley Rosenthal
 Nov 24 Shoshana Rosenthal
 Nov 26 Bill Goldberg
 Nov 28 Yael Roberts



Give local. Save local.
**Jewish War Veterans
 Blood Drive**

Sunday, November 11

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Temple B'nai Shalom

103 Lincoln St SE, Huntsville

Please eat well and drink plenty of fluids before donating!

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 15 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo ID. 15-year-olds require written parental permission.



LIFESOUTH
 Community Blood Centers

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov 01 Linda Kolchin
 Nov 02 Kelley Zelickson
 Nov 02 Karen Hirsch
 Nov 03 Nannette Schwartz
 Nov 03 Jennifer Roberts
 Nov 05 Skylar Green
 Nov 09 Sharon Yalowitz
 Nov 11 Shirley Roberts
 Nov 16 Jonathan Levitt
 Nov 17 B. J. Brigadier
 Nov 19 Daniel Goodman

ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov 06 Natha & Scott Hancock
 Nov 13 Mante & Arthur Polin
 Nov 24 Barry & Mary Ann Meyer

Yahrzeits**

- | | | |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Nov 03 | Cheshvan 25 | Dr. Abraham Feitelberg* |
| Nov 04 | Cheshvan 26 | Joan Zelickson |
| Nov 06 | Cheshvan 28 | Rose Feitelberg* |
| Nov 07 | Cheshvan 29 | Samuel Belsky* |
| Nov 07 | Cheshvan 29 | Rose Goldberg |
| Nov 10 | Kislev 02 | Dr. Harold Isaac Goldman* |
| Nov 12 | Kislev 04 | Suzanne Ivy* |
| Nov 13 | Kislev 05 | Rose Soble* |
| Nov 13 | Kislev 05 | Rhonda Beth Baker* |
| Nov 14 | Kislev 06 | Abraham Belsky* |
| Nov 14 | Kislev 06 | Sam Sokolow |
| Nov 14 | Kislev 06 | Molly Levy Buchman |
| Nov 17 | Kislev 09 | Pauline Baron Kripke* |
| Nov 17 | Kislev 09 | Florence Goldstein* |
| Nov 20 | Kislev 12 | Margareta Bernstein* |
| Nov 20 | Kislev 12 | Helene Kamisher* |
| Nov 21 | Kislev 13 | Gertrude S. Goldberger |
| Nov 25 | Kislev 17 | Irving Weinberger |
| Nov 26 | Kislev 18 | Lily Yedid |

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

Jewish Federation
OF HUNTSVILLE AND NORTH ALABAMA



A LOOK AT ISRAEL'S CURRENT
STATE OF AFFAIRS WITH
HERB KEINON
Diplomatic Correspondent, The Jerusalem Post

Monday, November 5th, 2018
Program Begins 7pm
Reception & Book Signing
Following


Temple B'nai Sholom
103 Lincoln St SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

The author of two books - "Lone Soldiers: Israel's Defenders from Around the World" and "French Fries in Pita" - Mr. Keinon will also be available afterward to sign books.

There is **no cost** for this event. For more information, **contact** Toby Mendelson at (256) 432-7492 or jfna.info@gmail.com.



As Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post*, **Herb Keinon** is responsible for covering the prime minister and foreign minister, and often travels with them around the world. Because of these opportunities, Mr. Keinon has an intimate perspective of the country's political, diplomatic, and strategic challenges - from Iran to Gaza, Netanyahu to Trump, Kadima to Likud.



no executioners, only those old predators - disease, old age.

Neither threatened Sammy Green (so much more American than Shmuel Gruzenkywitz). He was well and he had a job that provided all the food he could eat and an apartment with three rooms; in a large red brick building at 221 W. Franklin Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania U.S.A.

The newcomer was surrounded by non-Jewish neighbors. So unlike the ghetto in Lodz. But they were friendly folk who, after a few weeks of cautious inspection of their new neighbor and his alien appearance, warmed to his loneliness.

It was mid-November and they talked of the great American holiday, Thanksgiving. "We give thanks," said Chuck Heffernan from next door. "Thanksgiving - you know, giving thanks."

"Yes, but for what?" asked Sammy.

"For life I guess. The Pilgrims, you know, started it. They were celebrating their harvest and the fact that most of them were still alive. They ate turkey and maybe they said prayers. You could find out all about it over at the branch library on State Street. Look it up in the Encyclopedia."

They stood in the hall and talked. Chuck's wife, Jean, joined them and proudly described her traditional holiday menu for the newcomer. Turkey and trimmings.

Thanks Giving. Sammy knew about that. As an observant Jew, did he not give thanks before and after every meal? And did he not declare his thanks

A SURVIVOR'S THANKSGIVING

By Ted Roberts

Sammy Green had a past, as they said in his new country. His past was the slaughterhouse of Europe. But that was behind him in a time, in a place, banned to even his imagination. And here in Philadelphia the dead were where they belonged - in graveyards or neat cemeteries. Not in the streets like in the Lodz ghetto or piled up beside the barracks in the camp. Here there were

every morning and night for the divinely-engineered body that was the temporary receptacle of his immortal soul?

Sammy Green, the Jew from Lodz, knew how to give thanks. It was his ethnic specialty, you might say.

He would conduct a Thanksgiving ceremony with tallis and kepah; in his apartment like his American neighbors. That's the way they did it in America. He would recite the Kaddish for the infinite emptiness of the chair that faced him at the other end of the table. And he, like those survivors of the New England winter of 1690, would celebrate life. Life is for the living. The dead have no need of shoes, they said in the camp. And the living no need for tears, thought Sammy.

So, Erev Thanksgiving Sammy walked to the kosher butcher and came home with a ten-pound turkey and two sacks of trimmings. His neighbors greeted him in the hall. Chuck, next door, invited him in for a beer. One beer turned to two and then three. Sammy, uncontrollably, talked about that which he had never talked about before.

The pivotal holiday. The need to grasp his new world by letting loose of the old with a proper farewell - as quarreling lovers say goodbye - that's what loosened his tongue. There in the kitchen, the survivor from Hell here on earth gave his neighbors a lesson in current European history that newsreels, magazines, and newspapers only pictured in grainy, blurred print. Sitting around the table, they listened on the night before Thanksgiving. Life and death, two wrestlers, flickered in the shadows of the Heffernan's kitchen.

Sammy Green told of his rescue by Patton's 2nd Division, then took a deep breath as though to cleanse himself. "Now you know," he said with a wan smile, "why I'm going to have the best Thanksgiving in the building."

Sammy's story traveled through the 106-unit apartment building with the speed of a lottery win. The survivor was not alone in his first Thanksgiving. A hundred American families at 221 W. Franklin in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania had their first real Thanksgiving.

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

Scribbler on the Roof:

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<http://www.wonderwordworks.com>