
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST, 2019

TAMMUZ/ AV, 5779

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMEBERS!

Our Etz Chayim family has new members to welcome: Susan & Robert Cooke (and Tabitha), Amy Gavzy, Donna Lyonnais, Arlene White, Sandy Lieberman, Eric Bram & Lydia Honan. One of our best attributes is our friendly group, so please be sure to make our newest members as comfortable as we are at Etz Chayim.

SISTERHOOD

As Summer is in the home stretch (I hope), I am looking forward to the busy Fall season with all the holidays. Before getting totally lost in them though, let's remember the family film event Sisterhood is holding on August 18th at 3 pm. Entitled "Heading Home, The Tale of Team Israel," it promises to be a film the whole family can enjoy. Admission is \$6 per adult and children are free! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Check out the poster in this issue!

While Sisterhood sponsors the Rabbi Luncheons, we are very thankful for all of

you who've stepped up and volunteered to prepare them! It's one of the things that continues to make our Etz Chayim congregation a family. These luncheons, as well as the Brunches, onegs, service participation & help maintaining our building (there are lots of other jobs members do, too) are some of the things that make Etz Chayim great. Thank you all!

Once again, Sisterhood thanks you for supporting our annual fundraiser, the New Year Book. If you have an entry in it, start looking for it right around Rosh Hashanah in the foyer of the synagogue. We really do appreciate each and every one of you, and we send out a special thanks to those who bring in advertisements with local businesses.

Have a safe and happy end of Summer, and enjoy those homegrown tomatoes!

Brenda Liles

ONEGS

Aug 02 Hancock
Aug 09 Benko
Aug 16 Fisher
Aug 23 Persons
Aug 30 Schwartz
Sep 06 Hirsch

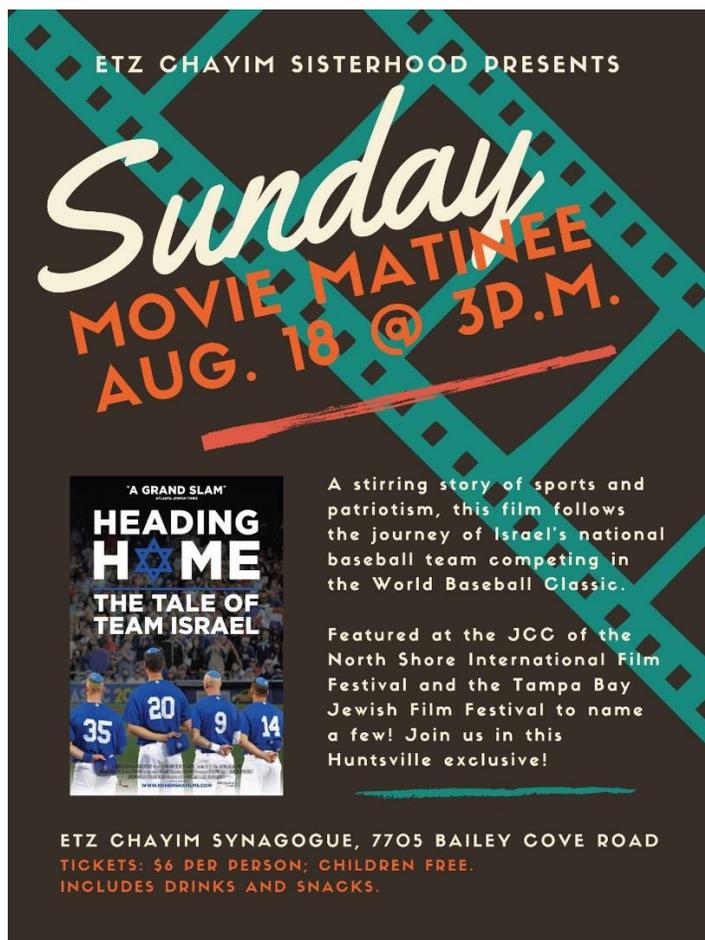
BOOK CLUB MEMBERS ARE READING ABOUT HOW JEWS CHANGED HISTORY

The next book club meeting will be at 11:30 am on Thursday, August 15, at the synagogue.

We'll discuss "The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels," by Thomas Cahill. One of the gifts of the Jews of three thousand years ago was to completely change the way the world thought; not a small undertaking.

We'll also choose our next book. If you have any suggestions let me know ahead of time, if possible.

For more information contact Jon Berger by phone or text at 256-457-0277 or email him at jonaberger@gmail.com



ETZ CHAYIM SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

Sunday

MOVIE MATINEE
AUG. 18 @ 3P.M.

'A GRAND SLAM'
HEADING HOME
THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

A stirring story of sports and patriotism, this film follows the journey of Israel's national baseball team competing in the World Baseball Classic.

Featured at the JCC of the North Shore International Film Festival and the Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival to name a few! Join us in this Huntsville exclusive!

ETZ CHAYIM SYNAGOGUE, 7705 BAILEY COVE ROAD
TICKETS: \$6 PER PERSON; CHILDREN FREE.
INCLUDES DRINKS AND SNACKS.

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Michal & Gary Hall

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: David Rush – Thinking about you and glad you are on the road to recovery.

From: Sue & Joe Paddock

From: Amelia Mauldin

From: Lucy & Charlie Fisher

From: Ron Goldberg

Rabbi Fund

From: Janet Schindler

To: David Rush – Glad your surgery is over and you are feeling much better.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

To: Ted Roberts – A very Happy Birthday and many more to come.

Sisterhood

From: Linda Kamisher

For: High Holiday flowers

From: Sandy Wiederecht

This Month's New Year Book Donations:

From: Abe & Farimah Asher

From: Barry & Eva Berman

From: Stephen & Lynne Edmondson

From: Manya Fuerst

From: Paulette Goldstein

From: Henry & Jan Grass

From: Jules & Judy Gutin

From: Linda Kamisher

From: Fred & Linda Kolchin

From: Kim Reece

From: Alan Sacks & Family

From: Ron & Debra Sketo

From: Robert & Helen Sainker Woodham

From: Jeffrey & Kelley Zelickson

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 09 Michal & Gary Hall

Aug 12 Linda & Frederick Kolchin

Aug 16 Kelley & Jeffrey Zelickson

Aug 29 Sue & Joe Paddock

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 10 Tisha B'Av, services at 8 PM

Aug 15 Book Club meeting at 11:30 AM

Aug 18 Family_Movie Night: "Heading Home, the Tale of Team Israel," \$6 Adults, children free, drinks & snacks, 3 PM

Sep 08 High Holiday Facility Grounds & Building Cleanup, 8:30 AM, Bring tools, refreshments served to workers

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 01 Scott Hancock

Aug 02 Joey Yalowitz

Aug 08 Richard Berry

Aug 18 Deb Benko

Aug 20 Andrea Rosenthal

Aug 23 Lauren Goodman

Aug 25 Michael Zelickson

Aug 25 Tabitha Yael Cooke

Aug 28 Manya Fuerst

Aug 29 Daniel Wiederecht

Yahrzeits**

Jul 29 Tammuz 26 Rabbi Bernard M. Honan

Aug 02 Av 01 Naomi Miller*

Aug 07 Av 06 Harold Isadore Yalowitz

Aug 11 Av 10 Sadie Kopkin*

Aug 15 Av 14 Bernard Roberts

Aug 17 Av 16 Beatrice Goldner*

Aug 18 Av 17 Fannie Feldman*

Aug 19 Av 18 Gilbert A. Greenbaum

Aug 23 Av 22 Jack Blum

Aug 25 Av 24 Betty Librett

Aug 29 Av 28 Sarah Fink

Aug 29 Av 28 Morris Martin Singer

Aug 30 Av 29 Dolores D'Acosta Hein

Sep 03 Elul 03 Belle D'Acosta*

* Plaque

**Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

WHAT'S A SCAM?

By Ted Roberts

I won 6 million dollars last week. Well, let me restate that. Maybe I was in the "Finals" for 6 million. I also won 2 million more, earlier in the month. Scammers love me, I'm old – and therefore dumb. I get at least 2 calls a week claiming victory. I can't wait for my next call wherein I win the daily output of the Budweiser Brewery. Last week I won not only 6 million dollars, but also a Mercedes! And what a salesman he was: he wanted to know: "what color for the Mercedes?" How convincing. There was the matter of 315 dollars that I had to put up. Why not take it out of my 6 million dollar win I asked – that would leave a highly respectable remainder. I'll do the math tonight – I'm old, you know, and therefore dumb. But, no matter, you must pay it first, regulations you know. There is always an unexplainable, invisible, universal rule that means you *FIRST* give them the money – *THEN* you get yours (odds: zero out of 5 million).

But there are worse calls. I got one from the Mexican Police Department. No, I didn't win the Mexican City lottery (It's only a couple of mill and NO Mercedes), BUT they did possess one of my prized grandsons, some drug charge or other, so they said. His bail was only 500 bucks – whatta bargain, 500 U.S dollars and my grandson is free. Well I may be old but I'm not dumb yet – I asked to speak with him. They put on the phone a sobbing kid who made a brief but impressionable plea for freedom: see my progeny *did* sit

in a flea ridden Mexican jail. All sobbing sounds alike. For all the crying and melodramatic tones, I could swear it was my pseudo druggy grandson. The "Mexican Police Department" stipulated I must tell no one until they received the half grand. I promised the official I would comply and immediately called the father of the miscreant – who informed me that the leader of the crime ring was sitting a scant foot away from him, which made it a long way from a Mexican jail cell. I guess I'm not *THAT* dumb.

And all scams need not be crooked – they may be mere deceptions. How about the waitress at our favorite restaurant the other night? While attending to us – she gets a forlorn look in her eyes and says: "you look just like my Uncle Ben." I'm flattered by the kinship and stupidly say "thanks." If uncle Ben was ugly, distorted, surely she'd not compare ME to him. But then a strange thing happened. Our waitress hung her head, looked down to the floor and softly said: "Uncle Ben died last Wednesday." He Died? Uncle Ben who looked like me Died? What am I, who never ever heard of Uncle Ben till tonight, supposed to feel? A thousand people died in China last Wednesday – of course it hasn't been reported that any of them looked like me. More importantly – was she being truthful or was Uncle Ben a mythical character who was invented to elevate the tip? I'll never know.

Another suspicious event. We drive to Atlanta to hear the great Pavarotti. As an added seduction you can dine with him for 30 dollars over the ticket price. So, me and about 50 eaters and music lovers grab the opportunity. We're sitting in a big room with the maestro at the head

table chewing away on his baked chicken – when suddenly the main door bursts open and a non-paying newcomer zips past the guard and runs to the head table. He sings an operatic Aria, beautifully, one might add.

Obviously, an unknown artist seeing an audience with the king of tenors. Scam, deception? Or is it what it seems to be, you decide, I gave up years ago.

So we dodged those first two bullets, but the third almost murdered me financially. You see, about 40 years ago in a mad exhilaration we bought an undeveloped lot in the suburbs of El Paso. It was cheap. Then, 40 years later we got a fateful phone call: a call from a real estate investment corporation – nothing to be suspicious about here. Naturally he wanted to buy my lot at a glorious profit to me. Why shouldn't he. The lot had gone up in price and was headed towards the stars. For 19 minutes he described his company, its website and its solidarity. (They even had a fancy website!) He suggested that I go to my computer and fill out a form that he would present. So I did. We hung up after I signed the form. Subsequently my wife entered the room doing a war dance like an 18th century Comanche warrior and screaming at the top of her lungs. What was she screaming and kicking about I asked after we righted the furniture and swept up the broken pictures she had blasted off the wall?

My wife accused me of being mentally defective: “you gave him the bank account number and routing number” she hollered. Another picture fell from the wall! It's a **SCAM** she screamed. I yelled back twice as loud: “He needed it to

deposit the payment for the lot in our account.” My wife hurled back a one-word reply – “Dummy.” Her accuracy was unmatched. We ended up by closing the account. So, we're three-fold scam survivors.

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