
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

MARCH, 2020

ADAR/NISAN 5780

Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday morning services begin at 9:45 a.m.

FROM THE RABBI

Kobe Bryant

We like to learn life lessons from the death of a celebrity. The shocking death of Kobe Bryant gave rise to somber reflections from his former teammates and friends. It's also understandable that a Jewish website joined the chorus. Aish HaTorah (aish.com) posted a video called "Kobe Bryant: Inspiring Quotes."

Nobody could possibly object to the gems that Aish uncovered. Here's a sampling: "Great things come from hard work and perseverance." And, "When we are saying this cannot be accomplished, this cannot be done, we are short-changing ourselves." And "Everything negative — pressure, challenges — is all an opportunity for me to rise."

Inspiring bromides, no doubt about it.

I tell you this as an introduction to what I wish to remember about Kobe Bryant. Jason Gay of the Wall Street Journal wrote something that sticks with

me more than all the earnest uplift from Aish: "He didn't play basketball to make friends."

Kobe Bryant seemed like a happy and positive person. He also had a terrible stain — a sexual assault — on his record. But the memorable thing about Bryant is that he was a winner. He decided to be the best and he didn't care what anyone thought about him and his goal.

Now let me quickly explain that in my chosen profession I am delighted to make friends. It's good for a rabbi to make friends! None of us in our various jobs are averse to making friends! And to Kobe's credit, in the basketball world he made a lot of friends!!

But Jason Gay's line is the one takeaway that I have from all the banalities about Kobe Bryant. Here was a man who was adored, a man who was respected, a man who had conquered one realm and was at age 41 on his way to making his mark in business, movies, philanthropy. And he did it, on some level, because he

didn't care about making friends. He didn't care what the next person thought. He cared about making himself the best.

More than all the truisms, I choose to think about that when I think about Kobe Bryant. RIP Kobe, you and your daughter and the people who died with you.

Happy Purim, and looking forward to seeing you the weekend of March 20,

Stephen Listfield

Purim: 13 Adar – March 9,10

Come celebrate Purim at Etz Chayim, March 9, 6:00

Program:

- 6:00: Hot Dog Dinner sponsored by Etz Chayim Sisterhood
- 6:50: Maariv Service
- 7:10: Purim Shpiel starring the Etz Chayim Players and featuring songs and music led by
- Nefesh Yehudi Choir
- Appropriate Noise Makers will be provided

Donations graciously accepted

BOOK CLUB IS LOOKING AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICAN JEWS AND ISRAEL

The book club is looking into a worrisome problem for Jews everywhere. We're reading "We Stand Divided: The Rift

Between American Jews and Israel," by Daniel Gordis. No one is sure what will happen if this possible rift persists or widens, but we have to understand it and resolve to reduce its impact.

Our discussion of this book is sure to be pretty lively, and it will be at 11:30 am on Thursday, April 16th, (the last day of Pesach) at the synagogue.

To participate contact Jon Berger at 256-457-0277 (phone or text) or email at jonaberger@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD

Ladies,

We had a very small turnout at game night this year, but we still had a lot of fun. Lauren and Steve brought their Sequence game, and I had gotten a Jewish version of the Sequence game for Chanukah and everyone played both games. Glad everyone could make it. Hopefully next year more people will come!

If you have an activity that you would like to see the Sisterhood do, please let Amy know. We are always looking for suggestions.

Manya and Michelle are working hard preparing for the Purim Hot Dog Supper on March 9. I understand the Synagogue Board has arranged for some new entertainment that should be really nice. Plan to be there. Food is sponsored by the Sisterhood (out of the dues received and the yearbook adds sold) so there is no charge.

Our Seder this year will be first night, April 8, 2020. The cost will remain the same as previous years (see attached). However, this year NO LATE reservations will be accepted. So, please make your decision, and send Brenda the reservation and the money no later than March 14. Your \$36 does not cover the cost for the Seder, but the ladies in the Etz Chayim Sisterhood sponsor the Seder as a service to our congregation. If at all possible, please make an additional donation to help defray the cost to the Sisterhood. Lynne Edmondson has agreed to be the chairman this year, so if you are interested in helping her, please let her know.

Natha

BELATED BUT SINCERE THANKS

Title: Successful Sukkot Concert: 13 Bags of Food Collected for the Food Bank

On Sunday October 20th, the musical group L’Ancienne Consort performed at Etz Chayim as a benefit for the North Alabama Food Bank. Liturgical, Klezmer, and traditional Jewish music was featured. According to Jon Berger, 13 bags of food were delivered to the Food Bank (Thanks Jon!). The Etz Chayim group members are Lynne Edmondson and Larry Levitt. We wish to thank the other group members for their interest in Jewish music and culture and their support of the Food Bank: Jimmie Johnson, Jane Brennan, Jane Norrell, Jenny McLeroy, and Phil Sanders.

Submitted by Larry Levitt

ONEGS

Feb 28 Schwartz
Mar 06 Berry
Mar 13 Levitt
Mar 20 Hadassah
Mar 27 Benko
Apr 03 Hirsch

MEGA CHALLAH BAKE POSTPONED

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Huntsville
MEGA CHALLAH
Bake 2020

Join women from all around Huntsville for an evening of unity and inspiration. Experience the power of our Jewish community as we mix, knead, and braid together.

Thursday, April 30, 2020
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

The Mill Room at Lincoln Mill
1300 Meridian Street, Huntsville

Preregistration requested.
Earlybird: \$15 per person
After April 26th: \$20

For registration instructions, send an email to
huntsvillechallahbake@gmail.com.

Program Sponsored By:

Chabad Etz Chayim Sisterhood HADASSAH Huntsville Temple B'nai Shalom Sisterhood

DONATIONS

Rabbi Fund

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Eric Bram – Glad that your surgery is over and that you are feeling good.

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Fund

From: Etz Chayim Synagogue

To: Susan Freedland Cohen & Family -
Thank you for your generous donation in
Memory of Irene Freedland.

To: Daniel Dessau – Our thanks to you
for your most generous donation in
memory of your mother, Ruth Dessau.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

To: Tia & Ben Camenker – Mazel Tov on
your recent marriage. May you have
many, many wonderful years together.

Education Fund

From: Etz Chayim Book Club

To: Debra Benko – Sorry for the loss of
your mother, Keep your memory of her
alive through her stories.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

HADASSAH HUNTSVILLE SPONSORS ONEG

Hadassah Huntsville will be sponsoring
the oneg on Friday, March 21, as well as
participating in the services that evening.
We are looking for support in terms of
volunteers to recite English readings and
donate items toward the oneg. If you are
interested in helping with this event,
contact Michelle Persons at
weisspersons@gmail.com.

Mar 09 Purim Shpiel & Hot Dog
Supper begins at 6 P.M.
Mar 9,10 Purim
Mar 14 Seder Reservations close

**PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED
ACTIVITIES POSTPONED**

**Rabbi Stephen Listfield's March
Shabbaton is rescheduled for June 12-
14.**

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 01 Jonathan Ralston
Mar 02 Claudia Cerezo
Mar 02 Michal Hall
Mar 03 Myles Johnson
Mar 08 Millie Rosenthal
Mar 09 Ginger Nelson
Mar 20 Maryn Liles
Mar 25 Sharon Roberts
Mar 25 Harrison Sacks
Mar 27 Stephanie Hancock Gerlak
Mar 27 Lucy Fisher
Mar 28 Seth Spraggins

YAHREZEITS**

Feb 26	Adar 1	Lotta Chester
Feb 26	Adar 1	Mae Green*
Feb 27	Adar 2 II	Charles Kopman
Feb 28	Adar 3	Carolyn Greenbaum
Feb 28	Adar 3	Phillip Smolker
Feb 29	Adar 4	Gladys Moiseev
Mar 01	Adar 5	Stanley B. Brown
Mar 01	Adar 5	Benjamin Bierstein
Mar 03	Adar 7	Helena D'Acosta Weingarden*
Mar 03	Adar 7	Philip Aronowitz*
Mar 03	Adar 7	Mary Hoffman Baker*
Mar 03	Adar 7	Rose Leites*
Mar 06	Adar 10	Sarah Rachel Schindler

Mar 09	Adar 13	Lou Harrison*
Mar 09	Adar 13	Max Moiseev*
Mar 09	Adar 13	Sam Okeon
Mar 09	Adar 13 II	Joseph Sacks
Mar 10	Adar 14	Hannah Rosen
Mar 11	Adar 15	Jeffrey Tillman*
Mar 12	Adar 16	Bernard Flank*
Mar 12	Adar 16 II	Goldie Merzon Ludmer*
Mar 13	Adar 17	Joe Brown
Mar 13	Adar 17	Anna Fleishman
Mar 14	Adar 18	B. H. Ledbetter*
Mar 16	Adar 20	Cynthia Kopman
Mar 17	Adar 21	Melvin Harris Kirsch*
Mar 21	Adar 25	Rebecca Sacks*
Mar 22	Adar 26	Diana Sidel
Mar 23	Adar 27	Rose Freeman
Mar 23	Adar 27	Phillip Makower*
Mar 27	Nisan 02	Hersh Tzvi Bayers
Mar 28	Nisan 03	Robert Lukin*

* **Plaque**

****Light Memorial candle sunset of
previous evening**

CANCELLED:



ETZ CHAYIM'S COMMUNITY SEDER

Join us for the first night Passover Seder!
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
6:30 p.m.

PREPAID RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY March 31.
ADULTS OVER 18-----\$36
CHILDREN 8-18-----\$18
CHILDREN 7 AND UNDER---FREE

For reservations, return bottom of this form to Etz Chayim Sisterhood
(address noted below). Reservations will be confirmed when payment is received.
Reservations received after March 14 will NOT be accepted.

For questions or further information, contact Brenda Liles
via email at bailabat@comcast.net or via telephone (256) 651-8125.

Tear off bottom portion and submit with payment

Name _____

Phone & email _____

_____ adults X \$36 = \$ _____

_____ children (ages 8-18) x \$18= \$ _____

_____ children 7 and under = FREE FREE

OPTIONAL: Additional donation to help
subsidize seder (suggested \$5
per person): \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____