

# the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER , 2020

CHESHVAN/KISLEV, 5781

**REGULAR SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY CANCELLED DUE TO COVID 19.  
FIND VIRTUAL SERVICE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.**

## FROM THE RABBI

### Three Cheers for 2X

Our nation has been convulsed by the killings of unarmed black citizens by white police officers. Unarmed people should not be killed by the police. On this we should all agree.

Beyond that, however, there is plenty of disagreement. Some people overlook the sketchy past of victims such as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, the better to focus on their criticism of the police. On the other hand, some people search for problems in Floyd or Taylor's lives, in order to justify their sympathy for the police.

Into this divided society of ours steps Christopher 2X. The New York Times described him as a community organizer in Louisville who was asked to assist Breonna Taylor's family. As I see it, Mr. 2X shows the fairness that eludes so many people in our bifurcated society.

He was enlisted to represent the Taylors,

and yet the first thing he said was that they needed to acknowledge Breonna's relationship with her ex-boyfriend, a drug trafficker who was at the center of a narcotics investigation. Apparently Breonna had sheltered money and drugs for the ex-boyfriend and possibly for one other alleged criminal. Mr. 2X insists that "Breonna should be alive today." Absolutely correct! But he also said, "You can't just look away and act like [her dubious behaviors] are not there." 'Justice for Breonna' entails the recognition of all the truths in the matter.

I hope that the point I am making is obvious. I'm not judging the participants in these tragic situations. I certainly don't know the facts. I am saying, simply, that amidst all the biased accounts, someone named Christopher 2X wants to lay out the facts before coming to conclusions. I wish more of our leaders would be so forthright. How about 3 cheers for 2X!

Stephen Listfield

## SISTERHOOD

Hi all,

A short and sweet update for the Sisterhood:

We have a Trivia Night planned for our Sisterhood members, and we hope you will be a part of it! Manya is hosting a free trivia night via Zoom on Monday, November 30th at 7:00pm. Zoom details will be emailed to you (those few members who do not use email will receive a phone call) - look out for an email from either Manya (our social chair) or Michelle (our secretary).

Looking forward to getting together!

Sincerely,

Amy

## DONATIONS

### Sacks Memorial Fund

From: Dr & Mrs. Alan Sacks  
A very generous donation for the Yahrzeits of Harriet Sacks and Randy Sacks.

### Rabbi Fund

From: Eric Bram

From: Shirley Roberts  
In Memory of Ted Roberts

To: Mrs. Howard Levingston- In Memory of Howard Levingston. Thinking of you, Howard will be missed by all.

### General Fund

From: Eric Bram

From: Diana & Howard Polin  
In Honor of the High Holidays & our blessed Etz Chayim Synagogue

From: Anna Helen Green, Christine Green & Morgan Green  
In Memory of the Yahrzeit of Terry Lee Green

From: Ray Applebaum  
A generous donation in Honor of the high Holidays

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

### Education Fund

From: Eric Bram

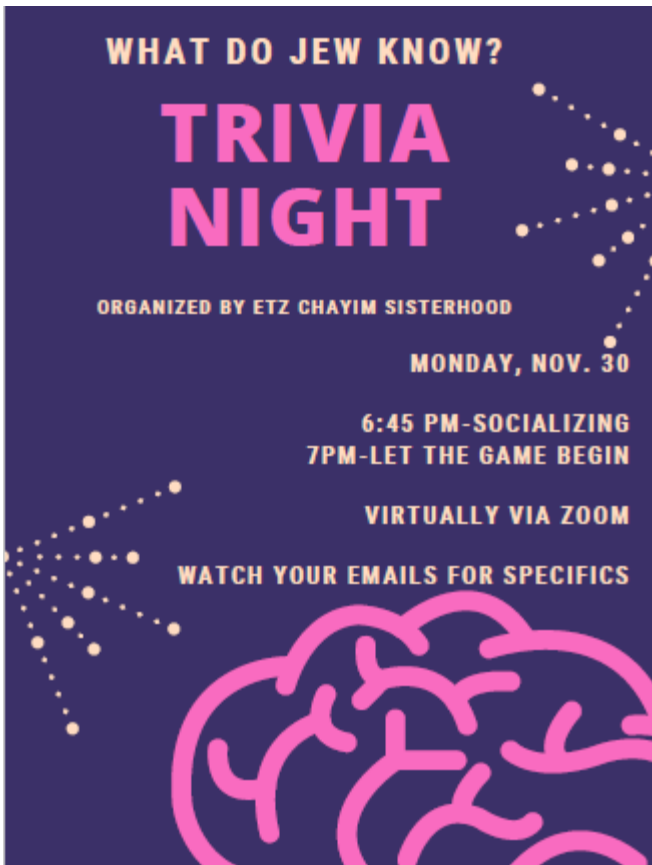
### Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

## INTERFAITH MISSION SERVICE

The Leadership Council meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30--generally at a church, mosque, or synagogue. Meetings during Social Distancing are via Zoom. The November meeting is scheduled for November 12. The meetings feature a guest speaker and are open to all members of the congregation. Details will be provided when available through Synagogue email subscription and the web-site.

Barry Meyer, Leadership Council Representative  
Etz Chayim Congregation



## BOOK CLUB

Etz Chayim's Book Club will meet, virtually, on December 10, at 11:30 AM to discuss *The Sabbath*, by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

## INTERESTED IN YIDDISH?

The Goethe Institut in Atlanta has been doing a wonderful seminar series on different dialects in the German-speaking countries. Their next event is the 8th of November and will be a virtual event all about Yiddish.

This event and the other events in the dialect series are completely free, so if you want to come and learn about

German dialects from experts, click on [this link](#) to sign up for a free ticket.

(Don't forget to put in on your calendars for 3-4:30pm since Atlanta is Eastern Time.)

If you have supported our Etz Chayim Congregation campaign to support the North Alabama Food Bank, Thank you very much!

As promised, below is the link / invitation to connect and view Huntsville's string ensemble, Consort l'ancienne, perform the Jewish Traditional and Liturgical Concert.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AArV3duKFXy>

If you have not yet donated to the North Alabama Food Bank, we encourage 100% participation in making such a donation by going to

<http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/fooddriveconcert>

Thank you very much!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 08 Virtual Sunday Café with Rabbi Stephen Listfield, 10-11 AM
- Nov 08 JWV Cemetery Flag Posting, 1:30 PM, Maple Hill Cemetery
- Nov 08 Virtual seminar on Yiddish given by the Goethe Institut in Atlanta, 3:00-4:30 PM, see link in notice above

- Nov 12 IMS Leadership Council meets  
by Zoom at 5:30 PM
- Nov 13 Virtual Erev Shabbat with Rabbi  
Stephen Listfield, 7:15 PM
- Nov 21 Virtual Shabbat morning service  
with Rabbi Stephen Listfield,  
9:45 AM
- Nov 24 Virtual Gathering with Rabbi  
Stephen Listfield, 6:45 PM
- Nov 30 Virtual Sisterhood Trivia Night,  
6:45 PM, "What Do Jew Know?"
- Dec 10 EC Book Club, 11:30,  
discussing *The Sabbath*, by  
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

### BIRTHDAYS

- Nov 01 Linda Kolchin
- Nov 02 Kelley Zelickson
- Nov 02 Karen Hirsch
- Nov 03 Nannette Schwartz
- Nov 03 Jennifer Roberts
- Nov 09 Sharon Yalowitz
- Nov 11 Shirley Roberts
- Nov 16 Jonathan Levitt
- Nov 17 B. J. Brigadier
- Nov 19 Daniel Goodman
- Nov 23 Adam Kalachman
- Nov 23 Haley Rosenthal
- Nov 24 Shoshana Rosenthal
- Nov 26 Bill Goldberg
- Nov 27 Sandy Lieberman
- Nov 28 Yael Roberts

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

### Yahrzeits\*\*

- |        |             |                           |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Nov 02 | Cheshvan 15 | Pauline Rudoy*            |
| Nov 02 | Cheshvan 15 | Pierre Secher*            |
| Nov 06 | Cheshvan 19 | Abe Soble*                |
| Nov 06 | Cheshvan 19 | Elise Margaret Hoehne     |
| Nov 08 | Cheshvan 21 | William Polin*            |
| Nov 09 | Cheshvan 22 | Morris Goldberg*          |
| Nov 09 | Cheshvan 22 | Leon Treister*            |
| Nov 09 | Cheshvan 22 | Sam Ginsburg*             |
| Nov 12 | Cheshvan 25 | Dr. Abraham Feitelberg*   |
| Nov 13 | Cheshvan 26 | Joan Zelickson            |
| Nov 15 | Cheshvan 28 | Rose Feitelberg*          |
| Nov 16 | Cheshvan 29 | Samuel Belsky*            |
| Nov 16 | Cheshvan 29 | Rose Goldberg             |
| Nov 18 | Kislev 02   | Dr. Harold Isaac Goldman* |
| Nov 20 | Kislev 04   | Suzanne Ivy*              |
| Nov 21 | Kislev 05   | Rose Soble*               |
| Nov 21 | Kislev 05   | Rhonda Beth Baker*        |
| Nov 22 | Kislev 06   | Abraham Belsky*           |
| Nov 22 | Kislev 06   | Sam Sokolow               |
| Nov 22 | Kislev 06   | Molly Levy Buchman        |
| Nov 25 | Kislev 09   | Pauline Baron Kripke*     |
| Nov 25 | Kislev 09   | Florence Goldstein*       |
| Nov 28 | Kislev 12   | Margareta Bernstein*      |
| Nov 28 | Kislev 12   | Helene Kamisher*          |
| Nov 29 | Kislev 13   | Gertrude S. Goldberger    |

\* **Plaque**

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

### BLACK FRIDAY

By Ted Roberts, *The Scribbler on the Roof*

Why do they call it **Black** Friday? This Friday after Thanksgiving, when drunk with turkey parts and cranberry sauce, we run out of the house and into the nearest retailer of whatever strikes our fancy. But why **Black** Friday? Why not **Bright** Friday?

Why the condemnation of the material charms of America? It's an inspiring experience to take a foreigner to a typical American supermarket. They are dizzied by the variety of foodstuff. ("Look, there's a whole aisle of breakfast food.") Try a Sam's or Walmart or Publix. Petrograd or even Paris was never like this. So much and so cheap by their standards.

At home, you might work all day for a hamburger. Here, it's a two-hour chore. We homegrown Americans who have never been abroad miss this blessing of capitalism. And while we're singing the praises of Capitalism, guess how many Asians and Africans (even Europeans) own a car and a three-bedroom house. I'd say 15% is a generous guess. Just a guess. Even Google doesn't know for sure.

But it all takes us back to the euphoria of so-called Black Friday and the looming appearance of that fat, jolly guy in the red and white double-breasted outfit. Wonder if Aunt Bertha likes a green or yellow sweater? But I'm not as impressed by the guy and his minimum wage elves as his magic. Two billion calls in one night – and don't forget all those cookies he's got to eat (else, the homeowners' feelings are hurt). And the reindeer. In this age of animal sensitivity we mustn't forget the reindeer and their worldwide marathon.

But don't forget they learned this time-bending trick from their Jewish progenitors who drafted Elijah to call on every Jewish home as they celebrated Passover. And he didn't fool with cookies. He downed a glass of wine. Now, it's true there aren't as many Jewish Passover celebrants as Christian

Christmas ones. And in all fairness, you've got to admit that Elijah isn't burdened with gifts. But he hasn't got a reindeer to his name and he's got to drink a winery before the night is over. And may even have to chat about Passover while Santa sneaks in and out without a word of conversation, except for a hurried, "Merry Christmas".

Ecumenically, the Creator of Santa and Elijah revealed the trick of simultaneous appearance to both religions. What a hit it would be in a Vegas lounge show.

But as they say on the TV commercials, there's more. Chinese, long accused of copycatism, have engineered General Tso (often misspelled, but we know it's the same chef). This singular oriental cook is in every Chinese restaurant on the planet (and for all we know on Mars, too). Just look at the menu on any Chinese restaurant. He's always there with his chunks of sticky, sweet chicken and rice. He may spell his name a little differently, but it's him and his chicken cooking in thousands of eateries simultaneously. How did he learn the secret shared by Santa and Elijah? I say he's a poor competitor to his two colleagues. He carries no packages and he drinks no wine. Big deal. So, he shows up at 10,000 Chinese restaurants, all on the same night. It took him a couple thousand years to learn the secret.