

the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

MAY, 2022

NISAN/IYYAR/SIVAN, 5782

Re-Opening of EC this month:

Friday Night Services begin at 7:30 PM, Oneg following.

Shabbat Morning Services begin at 10:15 AM (Preliminary Service at 9:45 AM),
Kiddush Lunch following with 1:00 PM Torah Study.

For information on joining
virtual services and events, please see our website:

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

FROM THE RABBI

INSPIRED

Richard Dawkins refers to Mike Cullen as “the most important mentor in my life.” That alone aroused my interest in this ornithologist whom you and I and everyone we know has never heard of.

John Michael Cullen (1927-2001) taught at Oxford while Dawkins was a graduate student there, though Dawkins wasn’t actually Cullen’s student.

Professor Dawkins said that everyone who knew him had the same story to tell: If you had a problem with your research, you went to Mike Cullen. The brilliant man listened intently. Then he rushed off. The next morning, you would find at your door a set of pages with explanations, diagrams, mathematical charts as needed, and “always

encouragement.” It was Mike Cullen, happy to help you, *whether you were his student or not.*

Everyone wondered when Cullen had any time for his own life, and when he had time for his own research. He certainly eschewed payment for his generosity. More significantly, as a research scientist he never sought to add his name to the published papers, even though his name could have appeared on hundreds of such documents that emerged from Oxford during his time.

Here are the concluding words from Richard Dawkins’ funeral oration: “We may know scientists as intelligent as Mike Cullen, though not many. We may know scientists as generous in support, though vanishingly few. But I declare that we know nobody who had so much to give, combined with so much generosity in giving it.”

Dawkins was near tears as he spoke the words. As someone who is at vast removes in time, space, intelligence and scientific inquiry from Mike Cullen, I cite that passage without tearful sentiment. But I am moved just the same. I need to know that there are Mike Cullens in this world.

Stephen Listfield

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to Jonathan, Barry and all the participants in the virtual Passover Seder held last month. We enjoyed the group "Six13," a six-man Jewish a cappella band, who provided the recorded music for the 2nd night Seder (<https://www.six13.com/>).

We now return full-time to the Synagogue with an in-person Nachas Israeli Independence Day celebration on May 1. Our next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, and our grand-reopening event on May 22 (refer to Max Rosenthal's article in the March Shofar). A special thanks also to Max for installing an upgrade to our HVAC air filters in preparation for our collective return. The newly installed filters are advertised to trap more than 98% of airborne particles, including allergens, dust, bacteria and viruses. We hope this will make our Sanctuary healthier and safer.

Lastly, our final Rabbi gatherings this spring will be held virtually on May 5, 12, 20 and June 6 (Yizkor).

Wishing you all continued health and enjoyment of the weather this delightful spring.

Steve Goodman

HANUKKAH IN MAY

Come join us to celebrate the grand re-opening of the synagogue building. We are having BINGO with great prizes, Latkes with sour cream and apple sauce, a salad you will love, ice cream and drinks. Get to meet with the congregation again, enjoy yourself and celebrate Hanukkah like its 2019. And best of all, it's all free. SUNDAY, MAY 22, 11:00 AM.



EC BOOK CLUB

The Etz Chayim Book Club has been reviewing the book "A Short History of the Jews," by M. Brenner and will be discussing the book on May 12. Even if you have not read the book you are invited to attend the brilliant discussion, including the part about the two different men who Jews believed were the messiah.

Max

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Paulette Goldstein
To: Alyce Goldstein - In Memory of Paul Goldstein
To: Lillian & Aaron Vickers - I was deeply saddened by Harry's passing, He and Irwin had a wonderful working relationship. May Harry rest in peace and may his memory be for a blessing.

From: Ron Goldberg

From: Natha & Scott Hancock

From: Ben Camenker

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Dorothy Goldberg - Thinking about you, get well soon.
To: Candy Rush & Noah - May David's memory help you get through these difficult days.

From: Anonymous-in honor of Purim.

Rabbi Fund

From: Lauren & Steve Goodman

Sacks Family Memorial Fund

From: Dr. Alan Sacks & Family
In Memory of Alan's father, Joe Sacks' Yahrtzeit.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 26	Rabbi Meeting, 6:45 PM
May 04	Yom HaZikaron
May 05	Rabbi Meeting, 6:45 PM
May 05	Yom HaAtzma'ut
May 12	EC Book Club meeting
May 12	Rabbi Meeting, 6:45 PM
May 15	Pesach Sheni
May 19	Lag B'Omer
May 20	Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Listfield, 7:15 PM
May 22	EC Reopening Celebration, "Chanukah in May"
May 29	Yom Yerushalayim
Jun 04	Erev Shavuos
Jun 05,06	Shavuot
Jun 06	Shavuot Morning Service/Yiszkor with Rabbi Listfield

BIRTHDAYS

May 04	Caiden Johnson
May 04	Sandra Anderson
May 05	Jonathan Persons
May 8	Diana Polin
May 15	Sandra Wiederecht
May 18	Eric Jackson
May 20	Glenn Polin
May 21	Amy Mauldin
May 21	Susan Cooke
May 22	Gina Yalowitz

May 23 Jordan Hall
May 25 Larry Levitt
May 28 Jeff Yalowitz
May 29 Joe Johnson
May 30 Jon Berger
May 31 Brenda Liles
May 31 Sarah Sacks

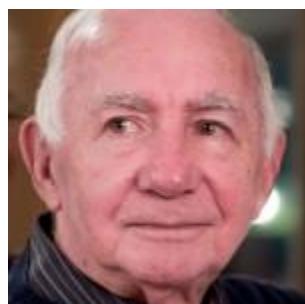
Jun 01 02 Sivan Aaron M. Novick
Jun 03 04 Sivan Rose Sacks*
****Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening**

ANNIVERSARIES

May 20 Shayna & Joe Johnson
May 24 Lauren & Steve Goodman

YAHRZEITS**

May 01 30 Nisan Leo Ginsburg
May 02 01 Iyyar Frieda Margol Katz
May 03 02 Iyyar Goldie Fuerst
May 04 03 Iyyar Robert F. (Bob) May
May 06 05 Iyyar Alvin Hollenberg
May 10 09 Iyyar Mitchell Fuerst
May 12 11 Iyyar William Polin*
May 12 11 Iyyar Rose Harrison*
May 13 12 Iyyar Harriet Herbin
May 13 12 Iyyar Eidele Sainker
May 15 14 Iyyar Perry M. Schlein*
May 16 15 Iyyar Sarah Kauffman*
May 17 16 Iyyar Ruth Cohen*
May 17 16 Iyyar David Kopkin
May 19 18 Iyyar Al Meyer
May 20 19 Iyyar Anna Polin*
May 20 19 Iyyar Alex E. Streit*
May 21 20 Iyyar Jack Greenberg
May 22 21 Iyyar Irwin M. Schindler
May 22 21 Iyyar Richard Harris
May 24 23 Iyyar Aaron Rodkin*
May 25 24 Iyyar Betty Kamisher*
May 25 24 Iyyar Elaine Ornstein
May 25 24 Iyyar Harvey Lieberman
May 26 25 Iyyar Morris J. Green*
May 26 25 Iyyar Rita Fleishman*
May 27 26 Iyyar Linda Lindy*
May 27 26 Iyyar Lawrence Kamisher*
May 28 27 Iyyar Renee Fisher
Jun 01 02 Sivan Adolph Karmiol*



Mothers, raising kids is no picnic. That is not news. Besieged parents need all the help they can get. So let me suggest we might benefit from a counseling session with a 17th century matron – a prodigious mother named Gluckel of Hameln (with that name you gotta be good). Does the city sound familiar? It should. It's Hamelin of Pied Piper fame. Remember the charismatic guy with the flute leading all the kids to the riverbank? Well, it wouldn't have worked if Mother Gluckel had been around.

Sadly, Gluckel died in 1724, which prevented her from hosting the greatest TV talk show ever about parents and kids! But she left us a legacy in the form of her memoirs.

This worthy woman lived many centuries ago in Germany; the product of a well-to-do family who was given in marriage at the age of 14. (She must have been a beauty with a generous dowry to overcome that name.) The adolescent wife blossomed into Motherhood and produced twelve children. But even more important than enriching her local

obstetrician – she somehow found time to write her memoirs.

Long, long ago, this supermom understood a childrearing mystery that we haven't yet figured out. The question: Why don't our kids write more often, or call – say once a week? Why don't they love us more?

For 18 years mother fills their little minds with wisdom, wipes their little runny noses, and loads up their little arms with presents. And what do we get in return, Zippo! Every three months, Citibank, no kin whatsoever, writes us a cheery, chatty note attached to a new credit card. Citibank, this total stranger, writes regularly while from your Sidney – not a word.

Let's face it, no matter how much love, how many gifts you give your kids, they'll never reciprocate with the constant, intense love you demand.

The great puzzle is WHY? Particularly since you're a prince of parents. Generous, entertaining, caring. An all 'round fascination to the rest of the human race. (Citibank is not your only correspondent. There's Amoco, Chemical Bank, and the restaurant that sends you a coupon redeemable for a free iced tea.)

Well, this is the conundrum that Gluckel of Hameln examined and explained; she tells us of a mother eagle who must ferry her brood over a wide sea to a new nest. Four fledglings depend on her – four perilous trips. She fights a head wind, her wings grow weak, and there's far to go. "Do you love me?" asks the eagle of her first charge "and will you promise to repay me for this?

"Yes, I swear," pipes the child.

The mother knows a lie when she hears one, so she drops her burden into the sea. Same story with eaglet two and three. But the fourth child gives the universally honest answer for offspring of every breed. "Mother," it says, "I can only promise that when I have my own children, I shall do as much for them as you have done for me."

The debt will be paid in full, but only to your grandchildren.

The weary mother knows the truth when she hears it. So she fights the wind and fatigue, finally bringing this child and the father of her grandchildren safely to the shore. There's a lot of wisdom in that parable. Family love, like rivers, doesn't flow uphill, but mostly down.

So console yourself. Your kids, who NEVER even send you a postcard, will likewise receive no postcards from THEIR loving, but busy kids. Moreover, one day over a nice cup of tea at the kitchen table, they'll ask your advice on this problem; "Mom, I'm telling you they never call or write. I send presents – nothing comes back. What is it with kids?" Sip your tea, look thoughtful, then tell them the fable of Gluckel.