
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER, 2022

TISHREI/CHESHVAN, 5783

For information on joining
virtual services and events, please see our website:
<http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org>

FROM THE RABBI

The Only Story We Have

Exactly sixty years ago John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Since one of his novels is *East of Eden* with a protagonist named Adam, and since we Jews later this month will turn once again to the Scriptural reading about Adam and the Garden of Eden, it seems fitting to offer you this quotation from the novel:

"Humans are caught—in their lives, in their thoughts, in their hungers and ambitions, in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity too—in a net of good and evil. I think this is the only story we have and that it occurs on all levels of feeling and intelligence. Virtue and vice There is no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean questions: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well—or ill?"

The liturgy of our Day of Atonement suggest that we humans have a clear moral choice. As the Bible says, "Turn

away from evil, and do good" (Psalms 34:15). Simple! In that binary vein Steinbeck's narrator does indeed say, "Was [my life] good or was it evil?"

But Steinbeck also reminds us that the moral life is not as simple as we might think. He implies that the struggle with evil is endless and inescapable. To be human is to be "caught" in "a net" of good and evil. Hmm, does being caught in a net suggest that we are more like fish than moral agents with unmitigated free will?

The eternal struggle between good and evil is "the only story we have." It isn't a simple story. To be a Jew is to know this, and to strive.

Wishing you a Yom Kippur of moral growth in our new year of 5783. May we be caught in no nets, but be free to see each other in person and in joy!

Le-shanah tovah,

Stephen Listfield

ONEGS

Sep 30 Edmondson
Oct 05 Yom Kippur
Oct 07 Lou Krupnick
Oct 14 Schindler/Reece
Oct 21 Wiederecht
Oct 28 Liles
Nov 04 Kalachman/Children's Service



**Etz Chayim Sisterhood
Lunch Bunch**
Rosie's Cantina
Monday, Oct. 24 at 12:30pm
Location: 7540 South Memorial Pkwy
Huntsville, AL
RSVP: Sue Paddock No later than
Oct. 17th
Tel: 256-880-6920
Email: jpaddoc2@att.net
We hope you can come. Gracias!

DONATIONS

General Fund

In Honor of Janet Schindler's 90th Birthday
Suzanne Schrader
Robert & Hildegard Galrys
Sandi Lieberman
Sandra Mc Guire

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: Gary Hall - thinking about you. Glad your surgery is over and you are back to good health

From: Paulette Goldstein
To: In Honor of Etz Chayim
To: Sue & Joe Paddock - In Memory of Jeff Paddock

From: Nannette Schwartz
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Shirley Roberts
In Honor of the High Holidays

From: Hadassah Super South

From: Dorothy & Bill Goldberg (A most generous donation)
In Honor of Happy Events for all Congregants
In Memory of all those who passed away.

From: Sue & Joe Paddock
Yizkor in Memory of our son, Jeff Paddock

From: Anonymous

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

ETZ CHAYIM'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

October marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Etz Chayim Congregation. At Friday night services on October 14, Max Rosenthal will give a talk on the founding of the congregation and the early years. Hope you all will come and celebrate the Synagogue anniversary with us.



- Oct 9 Come help decorate the Sukkah & add the roof, 9 AM
- Oct 10-16 Sukkot morning services At 9:45 AM & kiddush at noon daily in the sukkah
- Oct 14 EC Anniversary Commemorated with a talk by Max Rosenthal about the founding and early years of EC
- Oct 16 Music in the Sukkah, 4 PM, performed by members Lynne Edmondson and Larry Levitt. Please bring donations for the Food Bank.
- Oct 17 Shemini Atzeret, 9:45 AM morning & Torah service, Yizkor approx. 11 AM Simchat Torah, 7:15 Torah Service followed by Hakafot service, 8 PM
- Oct 24 Sisterhood Lunch Bunch at 12:30

A SPECIAL VISITOR

On Friday night, October 7, Lou Krupnick and his daughter, Viv, will be visiting Etz Chayim and putting on the Oneg that night. Lou is the son of Joan and Al Krupnick, of blessed memory, two folks who worked so hard to make the synagogue a success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 2 Build the sukkah frame, 10 AM
- Oct 4 Rabbi Listfield leads Kol Nidre Yom Kippur, 6:15 PM
- Oct 5 Rabbi Listfield leads Yom Kippur Services, 9:45 AM At 5:00 PM, Rabbi Listfield Leads Mincha & Yiskor Yom Kippur Services At 7:15, Sisterhood Break the Fast
- Oct 7 Special visitors Lou Krupnick and Daughter, Viv Krupnick

BIRTHDAYS

- Oct 02 David Wiederecht
- Oct 03 Zev Roberts
- Oct 03 Marc Zelickson
- Oct 03 Ellie Meyer
- Oct 10 Leigh Miller
- Oct 13 Max Rosenthal
- Oct 14 David Rosenthal
- Oct 16 Jonah Roberts
- Oct 20 Marvin Kalachman
- Oct 20 Zachary Persons
- Oct 21 Ethan Hall
- Oct 21 Frederick Kolchin
- Oct 23 Paulette Goldstein
- Oct 23 Marla Polin
- Oct 27 Carolyn Palermo

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 09 Nannette & Gary Schwartz
Oct 09 Susan & Larry Levitt
Oct 24 Carolyn & Bob Palermo
Oct 26 Michelle & Jonathan Persons
Oct 27 Millie & Max Rosenthal

YAHREZITS**

Sep 27	02 Tishrei	Daniel Flank*
Sep 30	05 Tishrei	Louis B. Lepp*
Oct 01	06 Tishrei	Sylvia Zarovsky
Oct 02	07 Tishrei	Sam Natt*
Oct 02	07 Tishrei	Walter Ford
Oct 03	08 Tishrei	Jerome Gaftman
Oct 03	08 Tishrei	Norma Maier*
Oct 03	08 Tishrei	Sasha Normand
Oct 04	09 Tishrei	Rose Schindler
Oct 05	10 Tishrei	Harriet Sacks
Oct 05	10 Tishrei	Shirley Irene Jacobs*
Oct 05	10 Tishrei	Zachary Fuerst
Oct 06	11 Tishrei	Murray Rosenthal*
Oct 08	13 Tishrei	Bernard Fisher
Oct 09	14 Tishrei	Terry Lee Green*
Oct 11	16 Tishrei	Capt. Robert Secher*
Oct 15	20 Tishrei	Randy Sacks*
Oct 15	20 Tishrei	Alex Greenbaum
Oct 15	20 Tishrei	Mariam Wertheim
Oct 22	27 Tishrei	Louis Klazmer
Oct 23	28 Tishrei	Bella Flank*
Oct 24	29 Tishrei	Leo Krell
Oct 24	29 Tishrei	Rose Natt*
Oct 25	30 Tishrei	Harold Pizitz
Oct 27	02 Cheshvan	Amby Jean Crocker
Oct 28	03 Cheshvan	Sarah Goldstein*
Oct 28	03 Cheshvan	Sara Osovsky*
Oct 31	06 Cheshvan	Menahem "Max" Honan
Nov 06	12 Cheshvan	Martin Goldner*

***Plaque in the sanctuary**

****Light the candle the previous evening**

THE ORIGINAL SUCCOT CELEBRATION By Ted Roberts, (1930-2020), the *Scribbler on the Roof*

Succot, like perfect sweet and sour



cabbage soup, has two flavors. A single holiday with two themes. We celebrate the bounty of the grape and olive harvest in the

Promised Land; also

we commemorate 40 hungry years of wanderings in that huge sand pile – the Sinai Peninsula – a garden that can only grow rocks.

The Chumash commands us to relive our wilderness days. "Ye shall dwell in booths seven days...that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths" when He took us out of Egypt. This holiday is one of the three special ones when the Israelite male was required to show up at the Temple. A booth, a succah, must have been a challenge on those chilly Sinai nights. It's cold as only a desert can be bone-cold at night. So you can bet most adults were drawn to the social warmth of the campfire. Conversation, maybe a little music from a homemade flute, and somebody might be passing around a skin of fermented goat's milk.

Some sages say that the Jewish love for books and literature was born on those long Sinai nights. You see, Moses and Aaron and their Levite kinfolk had plenty of time to sit around and talk since there was yet no temple to attend to. Moses, himself, didn't have the leisure of his brother Levites since he was busy as a Goshen scribe putting down all that he heard on the mountaintop. You remember he spent 40

days and nights listening to the Master Magistrate lay down the law.

And sitting around the fire, Moses passed on the message from the mountaintop. Those five books were full of tales of love and adventure. But full of rules, too, which occasionally brought on heavy eyelids and deep breathing to the nighttime audience huddled close around the fire. “Ten is enough,” they groaned. “613? We can’t even remember them. Let’s go back to Genesis. Tell us some more about that garden.” The men especially loved the story of Eve and the snake.

(Mark Twain, a spiritual skeptic who had a remarkable short attention span and therefore never went to synagogue on Yom Kippur, remarked that nobody heard a word a preacher said after the first ten minutes. He would have hated my synagogue.)

So, the first and greatest prophet of Israel, blessed with divine understanding of human inattention and the human temptation to doze off when anyone lectured for over ten minutes, knew he had to vary his curriculum. So, he told stories, the best of which found their way into the oral tradition.

Moses was careful to only repeat the best, the most fabulous tales. He knew he had a tough audience. Often he told the story of Malcha, who invited the handsome, but weary traveler into her succah and quenched his thirst and put a platter of lamb chops in front of him. Too late did the innocent victim find that her succah was a chupah. The men hated this story. But you can bet that once in a while, when Moshe told the same story for the fifth time, some creative Israelite got up and told one of his own inventions. It was like the

Improv where freshmen storytellers tried their skills.

But the mystics tell us that on those star-glittered nights when Moshe cut back on the adventure tales and went back to his revelation of the Word of G-d to Israel, the desert creatures beyond the light of the campfire, quietly listened. No night birds sang, and even the desert fox refrained from calling his mate.

Time, as still as Horeb itself, ceased to exist so that the prophet could look both before and after. Did he not tell of history that was, and would be? Some say the scroll of time stood before him like a giant Torah as he recited to the people the oral tradition. Moses and the people talked. Many, many words – outnumbering the stars – filled the night. They talked ‘til the moon grew pale and weary. And I think that’s why the ancestors of these wanderers predominate in today’s world of words.

Historians, sociologists, anthropologists still today, wonder about this mystery of Judaism. I mean, how could it be that we’re about .025 percent of the world’s population, but we write about 20% of the books. (Check the best seller lists.) Why do we win all the Pulitzer Prizes? Why do we predominate in the world of entertainment, movies, and television? Jewish themes, Jewish scriptwriters, Jewish producers, Jewish actors, What is it about words and their sequencing into literary art – like jewels on a bracelet – that attracts the former Children of Israel – now known as Jews? It’s almost like the old-fashioned anti-semites used to say. Wherever you look, you see the Jew. Well, in the world of ideas it’s as true as the wisdom in

Proverbs. Where stories are told, you'll find Jews. But why?

I say it was those wild Sinai nights around the campfire when Moses told his tales. When the audience trooped back to their succahs, their wilderness huts, they had plenty to think about. Oh the dreaming that went on in those succahs. And it still goes on and on.