
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

APRIL, 2023

NISSAN/IYAR, 5783

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

FROM THE RABBI

Who Thought We'd Ever See Headlines
Worrying about Civil War in Israel?

Passover is upon us. Spring is here. This is supposed to be the season of hopes and dreams. But as I write this column I'm reading articles about possible civil war in Israel. I never thought we'd see such talk. This is decidedly not the stuff of our hopes and dreams.

You all know the issue that has brought several hundred thousand Israelis into the streets: Judicial reform. The governing coalition claims that the Supreme Court is basically unrestrained in exercising its power. The opposition says the answer is not to grant excessive power to the governing coalition. (Israel does not have a system of checks and balances the way the US does. There is always the prospect of one political entity having almost all the political power.) Meanwhile, the citizenry of Israel is not in a compromising mood.

Natan Sharansky wrote a recent article lamenting that his saying "no" to the KGB in

the Soviet Union reminds him of today's Israelis saying "no" to each other. How sad that the noble hero Sharansky has to make such an analogy!

It pains me to read the dire headlines coming out of our ancestral homeland. There will be compromise. At least, we hope so. The people of Israel will have to achieve (in Sharansky's term) a consensus. In the Bible, the Israelites who left Egypt camped around Mt. Sinai with "one heart and one purpose" as they prepared to receive the Torah. Let us hope that something of that spirit can help our Israeli brothers and sisters today. They don't need to *agree*; they simply need to remember that it's Passover and the whole bunch of us were once slaves. We marched toward freedom. And we can't let freedom dissolve into fratricidal fracas now!

Happy Pesach,

Stephen Listfield

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman
For the Food Bank

From: Brenda Liles
For: Millie Rosenthal's Birthday
To: Shirley Roberts & Family - In Memory of
Ted Roberts Yahrtzeit.

From: Sue & Joe Paddock
In Memory of Ted Roberts Yahrtzeit.
In Memory of B.J. Brigadier's brother.
In Honor of Millie Rosenthal's Birthday

From: Shirley Roberts
In Memory of B.J. Brigadier's brother.

From Sue & Joe Paddock
In Memory of Jeff Paddock and the unveiling
of his headstone on 3-15-2023.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
To: B.J. Brigadier- In Memory of her brother.

From: Jennifer & Joe Roberts
In Honor of our mother, Shirley Roberts' 90th
birthday.

Lauren & Steve Goodman
In Honor of the Congregation

Millie & Max Rosenthal
For the Defibrillator

Kathy Stora
In Honor of the Congregation

Tia & Ben Camenker
In Honor of the Congregation

Shirley Roberts
For the Defibrillator

Sisterhood

From: Arlene Polin White
For: A generous donation in support of the
Purim Shpiel & Hot Dog Supper

From: Shirley Roberts
For: A generous donation in support of the
Purim Shpiel & Hot Dog Supper

From: Martin Freeman
For: A generous donation in support of the
EC Community Seder

From: Natha & Scott Hancock
A generous donation in support of the Purim
Hot Dog Supper

From: Anonymous (#1)
For: A generous donation in support of the
EC Community Seder

From: Anonymous (#2)
For: A generous donation in support of the
EC Community Seder

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
A generous donation in support of the Purim
Hot Dog Supper

From: Bob & Karen Feigenblatt
A generous donation in support of the EC
Community Seder.

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 04 Deadline for selling chametz to
Rabbi Listfield (by 11:30 AM

Apr 05 Erev Pesach, First Seder

Apr 06 Fast of Esther, dawn to dusk

Apr 13 Last day of Pesach,
Morning service at 9:45 AM
including Yizkor

Apr 14-16 Rabbi Listfield Shabbaton

Apr 16 JFHNA Yom HaShoah
Memorial Service, TBS,
2:30-4:00

Apr 18 Yom HaShoah

Apr 25 Yom HaZikaron

Apr 26 Yom HaAtzma'ut
 Apr 30 JFHNA Yom HaAtzma'ut
 program at EC, 2:00-4:00,
 Music, Fun, Food!
 May 05 Pesach Sheni
 May 05-07 Rabbi Listfield Shabbaton

ONEGS

Mar 31 Stora
 Apr 07 Kolchin
 Apr 14 Edmondson
 Apr 21 Edmondson
 Apr 28 Hall
 May 05 Levitt

LUNCHEONS

Apr 15 Karen Hirsch
 Apr 16 Shoshanna Rosenthal and
 Antonia Spector

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 02 Dr. Arthur Polin
 Apr 04 Dorothy Goldberg
 Apr 06 Eli Sacks
 Apr 07 Dr. Adam Shafron
 Apr 15 Sandy Kalachman
 Apr 15 Howard Polin
 Apr 16 Katie Meyer
 Apr 17 Lynne Edmondson
 Apr 18 Jacob Sacks
 Apr 19 Joshua Brigadier
 Apr 19 Gavin Hancock
 Apr 21 Megan Polin
 Apr 22 Lisa Roberts Harris
 Apr 23 Susan Levitt
 Apr 27 Gary Hall
 Apr 28 Louis Weiner

ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 03 Leigh & Randy Miller
 Apr 15 Helen Sainker-Woodham &
 Robert Woodham
 Apr 17 Ginger & Howard Nelson
 Apr 30 Sharon & Jeff Yalowitz

Yahrzeits**

Apr 01 10 Nissan Irwin Goldstein*
 Apr 02 11 Nissan Norman Greenbaum
 Apr 02 11 Nissan Lea Sonenshein
 Apr 05 14 Nissan Henry Jerome Makower*
 Apr 06 15 Nissan Yakov Cszerny Drake
 Apr 06 15 Nissan Yolanda Cszerny Drake
 Apr 07 16 Nissan Millie Goldstein
 Apr 07 16 Nissan Marvin M. Schreiber*
 Apr 07 16 Nissan Lilian Jaffee
 Apr 11 20 Nissan Henry Sevin
 Apr 13 22 Nissan Simon Blum*
 Apr 13 22 Nissan Sherri Honan Cassuto
 Apr 14 23 Nissan Jeffrey Weinman*
 Apr 14 23 Nissan Leo I. Goldberger
 Apr 18 27 Nissan Leslie Parker Listfield
 Apr 19 28 Nissan Helen Hall
 Apr 20 29 Nissan Joseph Goldstein*
 Apr 20 29 Nissan Isadore Cassuto
 Apr 21 30 Nissan Leo Ginsburg
 Apr 22 01 Iyar Frieda Margol Katz
 Apr 23 02 Iyar Goldie Fuerst
 Apr 24 03 Iyar Robert F. (Bob) May
 Apr 26 05 Iyar Alvin Hollenberg
 Apr 39 09 Iyar Mitchell Fuerst

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

POOR, OVERWORKED ELIJAH

By Ted Roberts, (1930-2020), the *Scribbler
 on the Roof*



“Is it time already?”
 said the slim, gray-
 haired man in jeans and
 the “Pesach Is Coming”
 T-shirt.

“Certainly,” boomed the
 voice from the cloud.
 “TRADITION, you know.

Tomorrow night is the first night of Pesach.”

“But sir, I’ve been doing this for 3200 years.
 It was easy at first. Maybe 8000 households.
 I downed a few barrels of wine. But now,

even with that time-manipulation trick you taught me, and the ultra large, expandable intestinal capacity you blessed me with, it is indeed laborious. Millions of glasses of wine. I'm lucky to be a prophet with miraculous capabilities – or even on the first post-Pesach morning I'd have a hangover that would bring down your holy mountain of Sinai. Let's cut the visits down to a million or so. Or at least let me relax, stay home, and read your Holy Book on that second Seder. Instead, let us send Jeremiah – he's hardened to future tragedies."

"No!" thundered the Lord G-d of Hosts. "Remember TRADITION. And that means you."

"And don't forget the brisses," added the overworked prophet. "I must attend every one and your people are **so** fertile. And they seem to be overwhelmed with sons, not daughters. I never get a day off. And as you well know, I am the prophet who knows all of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I surreptitiously sip a glass of wine at the Greenberg Seder table – all happy and harmonious with family smiles. But unseeable, I frown with gloom and frustration because I know that young Billy will break his leg playing basketball next week and Becky's coming down with the flu and soon there will be an empty chair where Bubbe now sits. A million visitations – a million tragedies. Sometimes I wish I were a well digger instead of a visionary." So complains Elijah. But annually, he continues to make his rounds.

At my Seder we have a few tricks just to make sure the grandkids join in the Pesach spirit and discard their worldliness. "Yes, David, he does come to every Seder. Look at his glass of wine – it's half gone!" There's nothing like spilling a hot bowl of knaidlach soup to distract a six-year-old. As the kids grow older and wiser it sometimes takes two bowls of soup. And while mama is cleaning up, a quick gulp of wine is not difficult. "Look, Elijah must have been here!"

Year before last we did even better. I paid one of my grown sons to dress in a ragged shepherd (or prophet's) cloak – complete with staff. He marched in the back door and out the front. He tossed a friendly smile at the group clustered around the dining room table, then paraded out the front door. "It's gonna be a great year," I announced. "See the smile on his face."

Yes, we have a few tricks. Guess where I hid the afikomen last year? In the matzoh box, naturally. Just for fun I let the adults join in the quest. They mutilated the house. Prize: a 20-dollar bill. No winners, of course. Who would suspect my trickery? I bet even Elijah would be stumped. And I'm sure he comes to 1521 Somerset Drive every year.

"Who was that?" shouted the kids.

Me, with a spoonful of soup halfway to my lips, "Oh, it was Elijah, of course."

We're well known. Famous, you might say, in our neighborhood. "They actually saw Elijah at their Seder!" say the gossips. The kids spread the word. Maybe next year, the Mosiach.

HAMETZ SELLING FORM

Shtar Harsha'ah ~ Authorization to Sell Hametz

I, the undersigned, empower Rabbi Stephen Listfield to act in my behalf to sell all hametz possessed by me and my household – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah law. This transaction takes effect Friday, March 30, 11:30 am and will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which ends Saturday, April 7 at nightfall.

Signature

Name (print)

Home Address