
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

MAY, 2023

IYAR/SIVAN, 5783

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

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

FROM THE RABBI

The “Blame Israel” Media

As Palestinian rocket attacks and terrorist assaults have been increasing, much of the mainstream media has resumed its deceptive practice of making Israel look like the aggressor in the Middle East. Read the headlines below, and note that this is just a small sample of the prejudice against the Jewish state. The headlines are all from April 7.

Israel strikes Lebanon after rocket attack from Militias (New York Times).

Israel launches strikes in Lebanon and Gaza after barrage of rockets fired across border (CNN).

Israel strikes Lebanon and Gaza after rockets fired: two killed in shooting attack (Washington Post). What makes this headline even more contemptible is that it doesn't specify who was killed — it

was two young Jewish women innocently driving their car.

MSNBC, BBC, The Guardian, Reuters and many other outlets do the same thing. “Israel” blares forth as the opening word in the headline. “Israel” strikes, or attacks, or kills. Only afterward is it mentioned that people who are bent on killing Jews and on destroying the state of Israel actually struck first.

Israel was founded 75 years ago this month as a democratic enclave where the Jewish people, after 2,000 years of dispersal, oppression and genocide, could be sovereign over their political destiny. The *real headline* for the news media should be that Israel has tried for those 75 years and more to live in peace with their Arab neighbors. The *real headline* is that Israel's neighbors occupy about 99% of the territory of the Middle East; the Jews, 1%.

Here's my headline: Israel has repeatedly agreed to a Palestinian state, but the

Palestinians have refused every time. Let's remind our media of the truth behind their perverted headlines.

Am Yisrael chai,
Stephen Listfield

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived and the end of the school year is nigh. Rabbi Listfield returns for his final visit of the 2022-2023 calendar year on May 5-7.

Our Etz Chayim mid-year Congregational meeting is just around the corner on Wednesday May 17 at 6:30 pm. I hope you are able to attend before vacation season is in full swing. We will vote on the slate of new Board officers as well as the budget and planned expenses for the coming year. My 2-year term as Board President will end, but I will remain on the Board for a 2-year term as Ex-President.

Dr. Goldberg will discuss the monthly Shabbaton weekends for next year with the Rabbi. This year we had a couple requests to tie the Rabbi visit with special family events. This past week we celebrated Howard Polin's 99th Birthday at Etz Chayim services. Next April we look forward to Howard's 100th.

Wishing you all safe travels as the summer approaches. An early reminder that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are in September.

L'shanah Tovah!
Steve Goodman, President

SISTERHOOD

Hello!

This month, on May 8th, Sisterhood will have a Lunch Bunch/Sisterhood Membership Meeting to elect new officers and discuss some important matters. All Sisterhood members are welcome. See the flyer in this publication for details.

We thank all of the attendees and volunteers who made the Seder last month a success. It definitely took the work of many people to pull it off, and we are grateful for your efforts—making matzo ball soup, charosis, Seder plates, setting tables, shopping, thinking of all the details, orchestrating, organizing, and so much more! We had our largest Seder ever! Or at least for the 10 years or so that I've been keeping the count. Additionally, we had a couple of very generous donors' support of the Seder this year. Thank you for generously helping fund this valuable community service.

Brenda

DONATIONS

General Fund

From: Kathy Stora

In appreciation of all those that made the Passover Seder special.

From: Larry & Susan Levitt

In honor of our congregation members.

From: Louise Russell

In Honor of the Feast of
Unleavened Bread

HOWARD TURNED 99!

Anonymous: In Honor and Support of Rabbi Listfield.

From: Paulette Goldstein
In Loving Memory of Irwin Goldstein from his family.

From: Alan Sacks
In Memory of Joe Sacks' recent Yahrtzeit.

From: Shoshanna Rosenthal
In Honor of our Congregation.

From: Ron Goldberg
In Honor of our congregation.

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal
In Honor of Shirley Roberts and all the people who did the hard work for the Pesach Seder.

Rabbi Fund

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman
In Memory of Sandy's father, Phillip Makower
In Memory of Sandy's brother, Henry Makower

From: Beverly & Lou Weiner
In Honor and Support of Rabbi Listfield

Sisterhood

From: Julie Lindy
In support of the EC Community Seder

Outdoor Lighting Fund

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



We wish long-time EC member, Howard Polin, a Mazel Tov and a very happy, healthy birthday! May he have 120!

ONEGS

Apr 28 Hall
May 05 Levitt
May 12 Lapidus/Persons
May 19 Lyonnais/Lindy
May 26 Paddock

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

May 06 Roberts/Brigadier

RABBI LUNCHEON

May 07 Stora/ Rosenthal

Sisterhood Lunch Bunch

Monday, May 08 at 12:00pm

Very important lunch! We will be discussing the budget and election of officers.

Ding How II Restaurant



**Address: 4800 Whitesburg Dr.
SW Huntsville, AL**

Tel: 256-880-8883

RSVP no later than May 1st

To: Brenda Liles at 256-651-8125 text or call

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30 Yom Ha AtzMaut, Community celebration of 75 years of Israeli Independence, 2-4 PM at EC, program led by Karen Hirsch.

May 05 Pesach Sheni

May 5-7 Rabbi Listfield Shabbaton:
7:30 PM Friday, Erev Shabbat Service
9:45 AM Shabbat, Shabbat morning service; 1:00 PM Torah Study group
10:45 AM Sunday, Brunch

followed by a Rabbi-led discussion group

May 08 Sisterhood Lunch Bunch/
Sisterhood Meeting

May 08 EC Board meeting

May 09 Lag B'Omer

May 17 EC Congregation Meeting

May 19 Yom Yarushalayem

May 25-27 Shavuot

May 25 7:15 PM, Shavuot evening Service

May 26 7:15 PM Erev Shabbat Shavuot Service

May 27 9:45 AM, Shabbat Shavuot Service including Torah reading & Yizkor

May 28 JWV decorate graves

BIRTHDAYS

May 04 Caiden Johnson

May 04 Sandra Anderson

May 05 Jonathan Persons

May 08 Diana Polin

May 15 Sandra Wiederecht

May 18 Eric Jackson

May 20 Glenn Polin

May 21 Amy Mauldin

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

ANNIVERSARIES

May 20 Shayna & Joe Johnson

May 24 Lauren & Steve Goodman

YAHREZEITS**

May 02	11 Iyar	William Polin*
May 02	11 Iyar	Rose Harrison*
May 03	12 Iyar	Harriet Herbin
May 03	12 Iyar	Eidele Sainker*
May 05	14 Iyar	Perry M. Schlein*
May 06	15 Iyar	Sarah Kauffman*
May 07	16 Iyar	David Kopkin
May 09	18 Iyar	Ruth Cohen*
May 09	18 Iyar	Al Meyer
May 10	19 Iyar	Anna Polin*
May 10	19 Iyar	Alex E. Streit*
May 11	20 Iyar	Jack Greenberg
May 12	21 Iyar	Irwin M. Schindler
May 14	23 Iyar	Aaron Rodkin*
May 15	24 Iyar	Betty Kamisher*
May 15	24 Iyar	Elaine Ornstein
May 15	24 Iyar	Harvey Lieberman
May 16	25 Iyar	Jeffrey Aaron Paddock*
May 16	25 Iyar	Morris J. Green*
May 16	25 Iyar	Rita Fleishman*
May 17	26 Iyar	Linda Lindy*
May 17	26 Iyar	Lawrence Kamisher*
May 22	02 Sivan	Adolph Karmioli*
May 24	04 Sivan	Rose Sacks*
May 24	04 Sivan	Alan Sonenshein
May 27	07 Sivan	Rose Rosenthal*
May 27	07 Sivan	Irving Sainker*
May 30	10 Sivan	Molly Meyer
May 31	11 Sivan	Boyce White
May 31	11 Sivan	Charles Milton Crocker, Sr.
Jun 01	12 Sivan	Harry "Skip" Pepper

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

CHABAD OF HUNTSVILLE

kids Summer camp

For Ages 5-12

Give your kids 2 weeks of the most joyful and awesome Jewish summer experience!

Mon June 26 - Fri July 7
at Monte Sano State Park
from 9:00am - 03:30pm

Highlights:

- Caring & experienced staff
- Painting
- Jewish themed Arts & Craft
- Fun Games
- Kids in the Kitchen
- Exciting Trips
- STEAM activities
- Challah Baking

Register Online Today

Rates

\$279/week
\$500/season
Subsidies available

FREE camp T-Shirt if registered by June 12th (\$16 value per T-shirt)

www.jewishhuntsville.com/camp | 256.886.8246

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING (WHAT A BARGAIN FOR MAMA!)

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



Every culture treats its mothers differently. If you had the time (about two years) a careful analysis of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic holy books would reveal a significant difference in their treatment of women – especially “mother.”

Let me admit that I haven't gotten around to the research yet, but I will soon and I'll let you know if I'm wrong. I promise.

My contention is that our Chumash takes a most enlightened view of the Jewish mother. What pit would our history fall in without Sarah, Rachel, and Ruth? Recall that Ruth the Moabite is in the lineage of the Moshiach – David's grandmother – though she's a Moabite. The tent of Israel is a large one.

But my point is that in a time when women were considered breeders and cooks, the G-d of Israel recognized them as equal to men – at least spiritually. They are movers and shakers in our history – witness the wives of our patriarchs, who with a little planning, shape dynasties for their sons.

What if Sarah had not handed Hagar her walking papers? What if Rachel the Reckless had favored Esau over her sweet Jacob? And of five-star importance, what if Zipporah had not saved Moses from a wrathful G-d (*Exodus 4:25*)?

Or what if Ruth had told Boaz he was much too overweight? No marriage, no Jesse, no David. Maybe no hope for the Moshiach, who will raise the dead and bless the world with universal peace.

What if my mother had not inspired me with weekly trips to the library? I'd be laying brick in the cold outdoors instead of sprawled comfortably in my den writing Jewish stories. But all kidding aside. It's amazing how in a primitive age where women were demeaned the Chumash recognizes the power of mother.

Consider, it's the most lopsided balance in human relationships. Mama gives all, including the nutrients of her own body. Baby gives nothing except a few gurgly, uninterpretable noises. And even as the infant turns into a child, mama is still the provider and gets nothing in return. You say "love." That's her payment? Not always.

As the world turns, it's remarkable that more women don't regret this egregious bargain. We see it in a worldwide

phenomenon. You owe her; she gave you life.

Another thing: Nobody loves you like your mama. Mine, who's now in Heaven, frequently boasted about her son – me. "He performed so spectacularly at his Bar Mitzvah that the crowd loudly clapped, then hoisted him on their shoulders and paraded him around the synagogue like a Torah. . ." Her favorite story. I don't remember the details, but I suspect exaggeration.

Science has yet to – and may never – discover the magic elixir that the Creator has injected into the female body resulting in the Yiddishe mama. Mysteriously, in most cases she craves motherhood. There are exceptions, of course. It's amazing to me that more potential mamas don't turn their back on the only relationship where one takes and the other gives. She's the giver, of course.

But don't despair; Mother's Day is coming. Hurray for Mom. I've already reminded the three to whom my wife gave life, that they better come up with some appropriate rewards and I mean more than lunch or a rose. After all, childbearing is the immortality of the soul.