



#### RABBI'S NOTES: PASSOVER

Passover is known as our Feast of Freedom. We celebrate the miracles God provided so that our ancestors could leave Egypt and establish the nation of Israel.

The lessons of history are that the price of freedom for the Jewish People has been a high one. Every generation has brought a Haman to challenge our very existence. Yet, generation after generation, we have come together as a people and met every challenge, allowing us to continue to exist throughout the world.



Twenty first century American Judaism is facing a new challenge. Americans of all faiths are no longer joining and sharing in religious institutions. Across the religious spectrum, churches and synagogues struggle to find new members, and to find the financial wherewithal to meet the challenges of providing services to dwindling memberships.

Thanks to the volunteers who staff our office and do so much of the work that makes B'nai Israel function, we continue to be active and vibrant. The Board of Education sponsored a successful Purim Carnival. We send students to Israel every summer. Young adults and older adults continue to learn and share their talents on our bima. We continue to offer religious programs such as the chanting of the Megillah on Purim morning, which are only found at Congregation B'nai Israel.

We can be proud that we not only continue to celebrate our Feast of Freedom, but also continue to be the Center for Conservative Judaism in New Mexico. Through our efforts together, B'nai Israel and Conservative Judaism continue to be alive and vibrant in New Mexico.

Shalom, Rabbi Arthur Flicker

#### SHOFAR GETS NEW EDITOR, NEW LOOK

Hello fellow congregants. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Bryan Bobrick and I am the new editor for the Congregation B'nai Israel Shofar, our monthly newsletter. I will be replacing Tricia Blackledge who has been the editor since February 2009. With patience and dedication, Tricia has edited the Shofar for the past three years. I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Tricia along with her husband David. The structure that they have put in place will make the transition virtually painless.

You might be wondering what my qualifications are. Well, most importantly, I said "yes" to our dedicated president, Harvey Buchalter, when he asked me to accept the position after being turned down by his first twenty choices. Although I have never formally edited before, I have proofread many papers written by my two children and regularly proofread reports and construction documents as part of my job; I am positive that I will initially miss some grammar and punctuation errors, hopefully I'll miss just a few name spellings and date errors. Thankfully, I know Caitlin Hecsh, our wonderful graphic designer, will patiently work with me as I refresh myself on the formal rules of writing.

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# RELIGIOUS CALENDAR APRIL

Friday Shabbat Service First <u>Seder</u>	6pm	6
Saturday Shabbat and Pesach Service Torah: Exodus 12:21 – 51 Numbers 28:16 – 25	9am	
Haftarah: Joshua 3:5 – 7, 5:2 – 6:1 Second Seder	, 6:27 6pm	7
Sunday Second Day Pesach	9am	8
Friday Seventh Day Pesach Shabbat Service	9am	13
Saturday	6pm	13
Eighth Day Pesach and Shabbat Service Torah: Deuteronomy 14:22 – 16:1	9am 7	
Numbers 28:19 – 25 Haft <u>arah: Joshua 10:32 – 12:6</u>		14
Friday Sha <u>bbat Service</u>	6pm	20
Saturday Shabbat Service Torah: Leviticus 9:1 — 11:47	9am	
Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 – 42		21
Friday Shabbat Service	8pm	27
Saturday Shabbat Service Aaron Haider Bar Mitzvah	9am	
Torah: Leviticus 12:1 — 15:33 Haft <u>arah: II Kings 7:3 - 20</u>		28

# THE UNITED SYNACOGUE

#### THE SHOFAR

Published monthly by Congregation B'nai Israel 4401 Indian School Road NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505) 266-0155 (505) 268-6136 fax info@bnaiisrael-nm.org www.bnaiisrael-nm.org

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#### Message From the President:

#### A Day FOR REMEMBRANCE

When Jews are asked to remember history, the remembrance is bitter, especially the remembrance of the Holocaust whose memory fades with the passing of its victims. Soon, we will attend a community-wide memorial service at the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico to relive the unspeakable – the attempt at extermination of our people



by the Nazis and their accomplices and collaborators in Eastern and Central Europe - in Lithuania, Poland and Russia, and beyond. Commemorative services and observances worldwide will honor not only the memory of the six million Jews who perished, but also the resistance fighters, righteous Gentiles, survivors of the camps, and the liberators who set free the remnant of our people in Dachau, Auschwitz and other less well-known labor and extermination camps. It is a bitter remembrance indeed. If you wonder why my President's message is dwelling upon this segment of our past, here is the reason.

The Holocaust needs to be studied and used in a way to help us re-connect with those who perished. Who were they? They were the pious whose every word was a blessing for Ha-shem. They were also ordinary artisans and factory hands who took the message of the Prophets to heart as they sought dignity and justice for all in the working place; they were everyday people proud of their Jewish heritage that celebrated Pesach and Chanukah and rested at home with their families on Rosh Hashanah. Unless they were among the few who renounced Judaism or assimilated completely, they maintained a connection to the Jewish people – its rituals and/or its moral values. They maintained this connection through community organizations: the synagogue, the Jewish trade union, the Zionist organization; the Jewish literary societies that flourished even in the smaller towns and cities; the Jewish sports clubs. In many ways, the Jews of prewar Europe are a reflection of us, but with a difference.

In Albuquerque, where the majority of Jews are unaffiliated, it is very hard to maintain a Jewish connection because Jewish cultural institutions on every corner do not surround us. For this reason, an event such as Holocaust Remembrance Day is very important for Jews to attend, not only to honor the dead, but also to make a statement about their own Jewishness. This becomes particularly important because very few survivors are still among us.

A CONTINUUM OF REMEMBRANCE

YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012
1:30 - 3:00 PM, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
HOLOCAUST & INTOLERANCE MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

We are the heirs to their memory.

Harvey Buchalter

# Have a Happy Passover!



Please join the community in honoring Albuquerque Holocaust survivors in a special program with Albuquerque Holocaust survivors and Albuquerque and Rio Rancho high school students.

616 CENTRAL AVE SW • (505) 730-1060 FOR INFO

Keynote Speaker is Renee Firestone, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and an international leader in social justice and Holocaust education. She is the founding lecturer for the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Educational Outreach Program in Los Angeles.

This program is free and open to the public.

# RABBI FLICKER RESPONDS: TEXT FROM FEBRUARY 23 SERMON

On February 23, Nonie Darwish was the guest of the Israel Alliance at UNM. The B'nai Israel Sisterhood had agreed to be a co sponsor of the event. However, when we found out that Ms. Darwish has publicly called for "the annihilation of Islam", we withheld our support.

As many of you may have seen in the Journal, the talk and our subsequent withdrawal of support drew considerable controversy and comment. This sermon is my response to those comments.

Rabbi Arthur W. Flicker

Today is a special Shabbat – not because it is the 50th anniversary of my becoming Bar Mitzvah, but because of the special Torah reading which is added on this Shabbat.

Every year, on the Shabbat before Purim, we read a section of the Book of Deuteronomy which reminds us to remember Amalek. Amalek was the king who attacked the Israelite caravan while it was moving through the desert. Not only did Amalek attack the Israelites, he attacked from the rear. The rear of the caravan was made up of those who walked the slowest – the elderly, the sick, the injured, the weak. In other words, Amalek's was a terrorist attack because it was both a surprise and it was made on the defenseless.

Judaism has always equated Amalek with all of those who have attempted to destroy Jews and Judaism. Haman was considered to be a descendent of Amalek. And that is why we read this section just before Purim. We are reminded to always be on guard against the Amaleks of the world, those who seek to destroy us.

There are numerous ways that we can defend ourselves from the Amaleks of the world. One way is militarily. In the days before the modern state of Israel, that would mean being ready, willing and able to offer physical resistance to those who would try to hurt us. Today, Israel symbolically, through its defense of itself, serves as a symbolic defense for Jews and Judaism throughout the world.

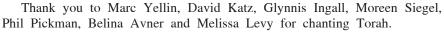
Another way is through education. We always believe that when people know and understand what Judaism really is and really stands for, it will eradicate the ignorance and narrow-mindedness that leads to anti-Semitism. It has always been a part of the role of rabbis to be available to speak to schools, groups and the media in order to share a proper perspective of Judaism and our holy days. For many of us, our mothers played that role by going to our schools at Christmas time to teach about Chanukah and pass out donuts or Chanukah gelt.

Another role was to have organizations to serve as a voice to the general public in addressing and bringing to our community's attention, the actions

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#### SERVICE PARTICIPATION

Thank you to Julian Tepper, Jacob Goldstein, David August, Ben Kesner, David Katz, Robert Lewis, Isai Garcia and Michael Samuels for leading services.



Thank you to Belina Avner, Marc Yellin, and Phil Pickman for chanting Haftarah.

#### NEWS FROM ENDOWMENT "Support for Today and Support for Tomorrow"

By Steve Margulin, CPA CFP®

Greetings,

Last month I described charitable funding, estate planning, and the role of Endowment. I will expand on this a little.

We all have two choices of what to do with our money and our possessions after we pass away: leave them to people and/or leave them to charity. I will offer you an idea. Consider leaving your extra retirement money, such as an IRA, to charity. A charity does not pay income taxes, what a wonderful country! But people do pay taxes. People incur taxable income when taking their required annual distributions from an inherited retirement account, such as an IRA. "How do I know how much is extra?" you may be wondering.

A common way to separate an "extra" amount is to carve out a separate IRA (by transferring IRA money to a new account) and naming a charity as the contingent beneficiary of this new "extra money" account.

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#### SHOFAR GETS NEW EDITOR

 $Continued from\ page\ 1$ 

As we get started, I want to remind you that this is *your* newsletter. Please let me know what you want to read about and please consider submitting items that others may enjoy. My goal in the coming year as editor is to ensure that our Shofar continues to provide the best and most timely information about synagogue events and important news impacting our members.

#### SHOFAR SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 10 is the deadline for submission of articles and notices for the May Shofar.



The deadline for submission of articles is generally the tenth of the month for the following month's publication. When the tenth falls on a Friday or Saturday the deadline will be advanced to the following Sunday.

Articles and labeled photos must be emailed to both the Shofar editor at <a href="mailto:shofar@bnaiisrael-nm.org">shofar@bnaiisrael-nm.org</a> AND to the designer at <a href="mailto:2catjoe@swcp.com">2catjoe@swcp.com</a>.

When sending photos, please be sure to include first and last names of people in the pictures.



#### KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE AT B'NAI ISRAEL



#### CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

We have a limited amount of funds available to assist in sending B'nai Israel youth to Jewish summer camps. Scholarship forms are now available from Rabbi Flicker. Please contact Rabbi Flicker if you are interested in a camp scholarship for your child or children.



#### PJ LIBRARY IN NEW MEXICO

Good News! PJ Library in New Mexico now has over 100 participants receiving free exciting books monthly. These books appropriate for the child's age, from age 6mo thru age 5 have Jewish content and a guide to suggestions of activities to support the traditions and values in the book. The books are free to all who qualify but anyone who desires may make contributions so that more families may receive books. Donations may be sent to the Jewish Federation of New Mexico or Congregation B'nai Israel earmarked for PJ Library.

This wonderful program is supported by the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, Congregation B'nai Israel and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Betty Harvie coordinates the program as a member of the Board of The Jewish Federation with staff assistance from Sherry Rov.

All children living in New Mexico, under age 5 with at least one Jewish parent are invited to enroll at PJLibrary.org

#### **Religious School News**

The Board of Education hosted the synagogue's Purim Carnival. Our thanks to Traci Jastrzemski, Roberta Brito, and Sarah Egelman who organized the event.

Thanks also to the Men's Club for taking care of the food service. Thanks to all who volunteered and all who came. We were able to raise money to help pay for the dinners served at Family Shabbat.



## Support the B'nai Israel Preschool and Kindergarten

The Congregation B'nai Israel
Preschool and Kindergarten
continue to need your help to keep earning
credit for special items for our classrooms!

So, keep on doing all of your shopping at Smith's!

You can always pick up applications at the grocery store, the preschool, or in the synagogue office.

We also continue to collect

General Mill's box tops and labels from Campbell's soup cans and jars of Prego, etc.

You can drop them off at the synagogue office!



Find us on Facebook!

www.Facebook.com/bnaiisraelpreschool





On the Menu:



vegetarian chopped liver hard boiled eggs roast chicken

gefilte fish

roast turkey desserts

soup with matzah balls matzah & charoset vegetables

To make reservations, fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to: Congregation B'nai Israel Second Seder, 4401 Indian School Rd NE, 87110

SECOND SEDER RESERVATION FORM	
YES!!! I/We look forward to enjoying a Seder dinner with friends and family!	
Name(s):	
Please reserve seats foradults at \$32.50 (members), or \$35 (non-members) each,	
children 5-12 at \$14 each, andchildren under 5 (free).	
If possible I/we would like to sit with the	_family.

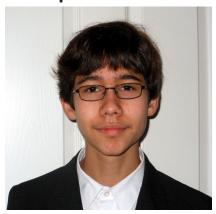
RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY UNTIL APRIL 2.

Enclosed is my check for \$

#### BAR MITZVAH



Aaron Haider April 28, 2012



Jacob and Trudy Haider invite you to share in their joy as their son, Aaron Jacob Haider, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 28, 2012. A kiddush luncheon will follow the service (RSVP 505-228-3311).



# BITS & PIE[ES



Shop hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 to noon. On Fridays we are open from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.. Sydney Glass, shop manager,

will come on appointment Sunday mornings.

If these hours are not convenient for you, call Syd, 821-5746, to set up a time to see the merchandise.

Donations can be brought to the shop during these hours, or call Syd if you need pick-up service.

#### SCHMOOZE NEWS

Mazel tov to:

**Donald and Roslyn Guillory** on the marriage of their son, **Spencer** to **Rebecca Bowlin.** 

Send in your news and schmooze to:
shofar@bnaiisrael-nm.org AND 2catjoe@swcp.com
and kvell a little about YOUR loved ones, or someone else's loved ones! We'll gladly help you share the
news with the rest of the world! Photos are always welcome!

#### TREE OF LIFE

We continue to add new leaves and stones to our new Tree of Life. Let's fill the new tree with mitzvot and memories.

Leaves on the new tree are \$60.00. Leaves allow you about 55 to 60 letters.

We also have rocks at the bottom of the tree that can be filled in and allow you many words. Rocks are \$500.00.

The following leaves have been added:

"Happy 25th
Jennie & Harold
Beth, Terry Lee, Shelley & Herb"
from Beth Fuld, Terry Lee Heller, Shelley & Herb Koffler



"Mama Loggie Carrasco Te Amo Por Siempre Maria Sanchez"



"Felix G. Sanchez Daddy, I Love You Maria Sanchez"



"Antonio Meaz Grandpa, I Love You & I am Listening Maria Sanchez"



"Brian Meyer We Love You Kim Meyer & Family"



To purchase a leaf or rock please call Fernie Caplan at 294-7239 or Syd Glass at 821-5746. Your leaf or rock will be on the tree in about a week.

Make sure to make your check out to B'nai Israel Sisterhood and mail the check to Fernie Caplan, 7009 Eagle Mesa NE, 87113.

Thanks.

Syd Glass & Fernie Caplan The Tree of Life Committee

#### RABBI FLICKER RESPONDS

Continued from page 3

of those who are hateful, anti-Semitic and dangerous. The ADL and other such organizations have helped fill that role.

Zachor. We remembered about people like Amalek and we have always been determined to fight them.

Above all, we have always taught that hate, in any form, is wrong. Thus in the Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's Jewish leaders marched hand in hand with the African-American leadership in the fight against bigotry and injustice. The deaths of civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner in 1964 shook America to its roots and helped push positive change. Two of those young men were Jews. Zachor. Jews remembered Amalek and were willing to fight the Amaleks who taught racial hatred as well as those who taught Jewish hatred.

Hate begets hate and we as Jews, Zachor, remember and stand against it. That is why, the happenings at UNM on Thursday, February 23, is so important to B'nai Israel and to the lessons of Shabbat Zachor.

Nonie Darwish, founder of Former Muslims United, was at UNM to speak about Islam and Sharia Law. In theory, the talk was to be a forum about the dangers of radical Islam. In reality, unfortunately, Ms. Darwish doesn't speak about the minority of Islamists who are extremists; Ms. Darwish presents a thesis which suggests that ALL of Islam is violent and evil and that Islam itself should be annihilated. In other words, Ms. Darwish is an Amalek towards Islam.

The sponsors of the program, the Israel Alliance, had asked B'nai Israel to support this talk. Our Sisterhood provided a small financial assistance. Unfortunately, we were not fully aware of Ms. Darwish's perspectives. Once we found out, we set about to publicly renounce her views and withdraw our support. This was done through the good offices of Professor Richard Wood a professor at UNM and former head of the Religious Studies Department.

On my behalf Professor Woods said, "The traditions of Judaism teach us to respect the religious perspectives of all and to work with all of God's children in trying to build a world of peace, brotherhood and sisterhood.

Hateful speech is not helpful in creating the world God wants for us. We condemn those whose words and actions contribute to misunderstandings, pain and suffering.

We do not support those who contribute to hateful speech and whose goal is to build walls between peoples and faiths, rather than to build bridges of understanding."

Zachor. We remember.

Some of my colleagues decided not to say anything. They wanted a quid quo pro from other groups regarding the horrific anti Israel language that takes place during Israeli Apartheid Week.

But, the Torah does not say Zachor if others do as well. It simply commands us to Zachor. It commands us to remember those who hate and to stand against them.

In the ten days since Ms Darwish spoke, we have received numerous emails and phone calls. Some condemned our stand. Some simply wondered why we spoke out. Others equated us to the Israel Apartheid leadership! And some thanked us for speaking out.

Zachor et Amalek. Remember Amalek. Remember those who hate.

The command does not say to remember those who simply hate Jews. The command is to remember all those who hate.

It is our honor and privilege to Zachor – to remember, to fight and to speak out against hate and for justice, respect and understanding among all faiths and all peoples for all time.



#### **ENDOWMENT NEWS**

Continued from page 3

Therefore, a person (spouse, child, etc.) would be the primary beneficiary on this "extra" account and the charity would be the second (contingent) beneficiary. For your thinking through this concept, you could use a number of 20% of your total IRA to be transferred to the new account. I will provide more detail below. Using this logic, you and the person inheriting the IRA (surviving spouse and/or family members) can spend one account as needed and have the separate account in case the first account is used up.

Here is an example of what I described in the above paragraph. Suppose my IRA balance is \$400,000 with my wife, Iris, as the beneficiary, and my sister as the contingent beneficiary. I now, through my financial planner, create a new IRA funded with a transfer of \$80,000 (\$400,000 x 20% = \$80,000) leaving \$320,000 in my original IRA. In the new IRA, I name Iris as the primary beneficiary and my favorite charity as the contingent beneficiary. If I die before Iris does, she can rename the primary IRAs as an "inherited IRAs" or roll the proceeds of IRA #1 into her IRA. At my death, she can "disclaim" my second IRA account by writing a statement that she does not want it, and the second IRA would go to the charity. Alternatively, she could keep the second IRA separate and take from it if she needs the money. Whatever balance remains in the second IRA at Iris' death would then be inherited by the charity.

Remember that the minimum required distribution for an account holder must be calculated on the year end balance of both accounts, but you are allowed to take the distribution all from one account. Please note that this is just one concept; you must do your planning around your individual needs and wishes. This situation may not fit you. Consult your professional advisor about these and other concepts as you make or adjust your plans.

I am now going to ask **you** for something. What I am asking for is your ideas. Our B'nai Israel Endowment will be doing an event later this year to increase your knowledge of what we do and what we are trying to do. Hint: we give income from the investments we oversee to the shul for their operations, and we would like to be able to give more. What kind of events would you like to see? You can share your ideas with me by putting a note in the Endowment box at the synagogue or you can email me at smargulin@margulincpa.com or phone me, 266-1266. Please help, CPAs are not known for creativity.

# HELP US MEET NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!

Help our congregation to grow! Call the synagogue office at 266-0155 with your suggestions and referrals.



#### BE NEIGHBORLY!

If you know of an illness, a birth, a death, or other life-challenging event in the life of a fellow congregation member, we want to be there for them. Contact the



office by calling 266-0155 and tell us how we can help.

#### **EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Weekly emailed announcements are sent out by <u>9 pm</u> each Sunday <u>FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK</u>.



Get your event on the website by sending

your ready-to-go email to bnaiweek@bnaiisrael-nm.org by 4 pm Sunday evenings.

#### BLUE BOOK UPDATES

As always, we want to keep you as up to the minute as possible on any changes in members' information. If you move, or know of someone who has moved, make sure to call the synagogue office and let us know.

Here are the latest corrections:

David Michelson 1025 Sierra Vista Dr #55 Las Vegas, NV 89169 702-369-1151

Gloria Doherty correct zip: 87106

Gold, Michael & Meg Lieberman 1221 Las Lomas NE, 87106 764-8624

Sanchez, Maria Dolores 5618 Palm Ave SW, 87121 331-2401

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Pat Baskin

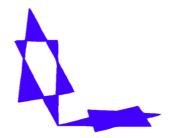
Hello, my name is Maria Sanchez and I want to tell you a little bit about myself. My father, Mama Loggie, my mother and I used to attend services at B'nai Israel in the mid-eighties. I moved to Texas for a few years to complete my undergraduate degree and returned to Albuquerque in the nineties to obtain my M.A. in Counseling. I am currently two chapters away from finishing my dissertation for my doctorate degree in Education / Pastoral Counseling.

I found out I was Jewish in my early twenties when I was going to take a trip to China, but my grandma and mother wanted me to go to Israel instead. I went to Israel and noticed that I could understand the non-verbal communication and gestures of the Israeli people. Upon my return from Israel I asked my grandma if we were Jews and she said we were Israelites. Thus, began my quest to find out who and where we were from. On this journey I met up with a relative of mine and we spent long hours of study and research together on the Spanish Jews. But, most of all we spent time as a family together. We took part in the Sephardi traditions and prayers that were handed down and we delighted in speaking Ladino with my grandparents.

As time went by, my grandma became ill with cancer, but we were blessed to have Rabbi Celnik come and lead prayer with my grandma and the family for several weeks. Rabbi Celnik was at the deathbed of my grandma, grandpa and daddy. Rabbi Lynn would visit my grandparents as well. Rabbi Celnik and Rabbi Lynn were loved greatly by my grandparents.

Mama Loggie told me to go to the synagogue and I would find family and not be alone. I have come to B'nai Israel and I am no longer alone. Thank you for your most gracious welcome!

Paz/Shalom Maria Sanchez



#### News from The Isidore & Rose Bloch Memorial Library

When you take all your books off the shelves and dust them as a part of your pre-Pesach cleaning, please take a moment to check whether you have any books from the synagogue library. As we continue with the inventory, some of our "missing in action" have surfaced, but most have not.

Our reference books are almost in order, leaving us with only the music (records, tapes and CD's) to organize. Due to summertime travel schedules, mostly mine, the remaining chores before officially opening probably will take us into the late summer or early fall. Maybe by the High Holy Days we'll be ready.

Lynn the Library Lady

# ONLY AT B'NAI ISRAEL! A PESADICH BARBECUE!

sponsored by Sisterhood & Men's Club

Wednesday April 11, 2012



DINNER AT 6 PM

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by our own Master Chefs. Come and enjoy traditional barbecue fare: brisket, chicken and fish along with potato salad, coleslaw, chips, beverages and chocolate matzah for dessert.

A vegetarian meal will be provided upon request.

Cost is \$18 per person, \$9 for kids 6-12 Under 6 dine free!

Make your reservations no later than Wednesday, April 4. Your check is your reservation.

#### A Pesadich Barbecue! Reservation Form

Please complete this form, no later than April 4, and send it with your check, payable to B'nai Israel Sisterhood, to Beth Stewart, 5301 Calle Nuestra NW, 87120.

Total amount of check enclosed: \$	Number of vegetarian meals requested:
Name(s)	
Please reserve seats for adults at \$18	B each; children 6-13 at \$9 each; children under 6 (free)
YES! I can't wait for the Pesadich Barbe	cue!

#### B'NAI ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB



As I LIGHT THIS YELLOW CANDLE

As I light this Yellow Candle, I vow never to forget the lives of the Jewish men, women and children who are symbolized by this flame.

They were tortured and brutalized by human beings who acted like beasts; their lives were taken in cruelty.

May we be inspired to learn more about our six million brothers and sisters as individuals and as communities, to recall their memory throughout the year, so that they will not suffer a double death.

May we recall not only the terror of their deaths, but also the splendor of their lives.

May the memory of their lives inspire us to hallow our own lives and to live meaningful Jewish lives so that we may help to insure that part of who they were shall endure always.

# THE BLESSING OF THE YELLOW CANDLE

We light this yellow candle to rekindle God's flame, to shine His light upon the world once again, to sanctify the memories of the millions of souls, to honor their prayers and all their lost goals.

We bless their existence by being alive to light this yellow candle as proof we survived.



#### MEN'S CLUB NOTES

From sunset on Tuesday, April 18 through sunset on Wednesday, April 19, 2012 is Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. On Yom Hashoah, we honor and remember the millions who perished in the Holocaust. The Men's Club will be mailing to each congregation family a Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle. Please accept this gift and join other congregation families and Jews from around the world in remembering this day. We ask that you place this candle in a prominent place within your home. After sunset, or after 7:41pm, on April 18, light the candle. Included with the candle is a prayer that can be recited. We have also included a meditation that can be read.

We welcome donations to the Men's Club for the Yellow Candle program. With your donation, you will help us to keep this program running year after year. In addition, the Men's Club will make a donation to the Religious School. In this way, the school can buy materials to help teach our children. Any gift is appreciated, but if you can, a gift in multiples of \$18.00 will be the most symbolic because the number eighteen symbolizes Chai or Life.

You should receive your candle in the mail about one-week prior to Yom Hashoah. If you know of somebody that you would like to have a candle mailed to, please let me know.

Thank you, Ben Kesner. Men's Club President

#### "Who Am I To Speak Of A Time?"

Who am I to speak of a time of families crushed, of crimes of mankind, of children in hiding and living in fear, of mothers trying to hide all their tears, of fathers praying to an empty heaven, of people dying again and again? Who am I to know what it was like to be persecuted by day and trapped by the night, to be surrounded by a world turned upside down, to be starved and tortured and beaten to the ground, to witness a nation of hate marching past, to see all their dreams broken and shattered like glass? Who am I to mention their suffering and pain, the ghettos, the camps, life and death inhumane? I wasn't even born, I wasn't even there, it happened long ago, it could never happen here. Who am I to know what God had in mind when the virtues of man were buried alive, when good lost to evil and hope turned to despair, when hell upon earth seemed everywhere? Who am I to let their memories be forgotten, to say and do nothing as if it never happened, to forsake the loss of our Jewish family, to live in a world of complacency?

Poem and Blessing by Ron Adler



### 2012 Spring/Summer Speaker Series

Welcome to the 2012 Spring and Summer Speaker Series! The committee is moving along in scheduling the sessions for April, May, June and July. Keep your eyes on this page in future Shofars for upcoming programs.

Our first offering:

#### **Tuesday, April 24**

#### The Rabbis vs. The Priests - presented by Rabbi Arthur Flicker

What did the early Rabbis REALLY think of the Priests and the Temple rituals?

A look at the way the Rabbis mocked the Priests and worked hard to gain authority and power for themselves.

#### 6:30 pm Light Dinner & Dessert

On the menu:

Tuna salad, Egg salad, Fresh Baked Dee's Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Dessert Goodie, Coffee & Tea

7:00 pm Speaker

Q & A's to follow

#### Price: \$8 - members \$11 - community members

To make your reservation, fill out the form below and mail it with your check to Congregation B'nai Israel 4401 Indian School Road NE, 87110 with "Speaker Series" on the memo line

# Making Connections to Judaism - 2012 Spring/Summer Speaker Series Registration Form

Please reserve seats @ \$8 each for B'nai Israel membe	ers and seats @ \$11 each for guests.
Name(s)	
Phone	E-mail

Questions? For more information contact Harvey Buchalter, 247-2602 or email: hcbuchalter@gmail.com with "Speaker Series" as the subject

#### B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD



# REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The time has come for Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood to elect a new slate of officers and board members. You will notice when you read the slate that there are some blanks because we were unable to contact the right ladies to fill these jobs.

As you know, our Sisterhood does a lot of good work for our Synagogue. We work very hard not only to provide good programming but also to do good works around our shul like the beautiful carpeting in the social hall, helping to carpet the classrooms upstairs, paying for daycare during High Holiday services and much more.

If we did not contact you, and you would like to help us, please contact Tania Bobrick at 822-0416. Remember, this is all our shul and being a part of this wonderful organization is a mitzvah. I look forward to welcoming you as a member. Dues are only \$36 per year.

The election and installation will be held at the shul on May 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.. It will be an ice cream social and everyone is welcome at no charge. Please see the flyer on page 13 for all the information and how to make reservations.

The board is as follows: Incoming President: Ellen Satz

President-elect:

Recording secretary: Willie Peters Corresponding secretary: Nori Yonack Financial secretary: Beth Stewart

Treasurer: Nancy Levick

VP Membership: Rosalie Gollins VP, Torah Fund: Beth Stewart VP, Cultural: Sarah Flatow

Co-VPs, Program VPs: Judy Pitkofsky,

Chris Buchalter

VP, Ways and Means: Syd Glass Tree of Life: Fernie Caplan Blue Book: Perri Yellin

Judaica Shop: Judy Sherman (temporary)

Kitchen: Chris Buchalter

Oneg Shabbats: Marlene Levene Ritual committee: Rosalie Gollins Parliamentarian: Judy Sherman

Trustees: Judy Sherman, (past president), Betty Osoff, Marilyn Reinman,

Tania Bobrick

#### From the Desk of the Sisterhood President

The annual Passover Barbeque, sponsored by Sisterhood and the Men's Club, is Wednesday, April 11 (see the flyer in the Shofar), so you still have time to send in your reservation by the April 4 deadline. Please send your check to Beth Stewart, NOT the synagogue office, or give her a call if you're not sure it will arrive in time. Because we have to order kosher-for-Passover food well in advance, the deadline is firm so we can have an accurate count. The barbeque is a welcome change from too much traditional Passover fare, and you wouldn't want us to run out of food!

Our last program for the year will be Sisterhood's election meeting, installation of our new board, and ice cream social on Wednesday, May 9. My term as Sisterhood president will be over in a few months, and I have been lucky enough to work with a wonderfully talented and cohesive group of women for the last two years. Some of our current board members are continuing, several in different positions, but there will be new faces as well, and we still have a few vacancies. Even if you are unable to serve on the board, please consider helping out on one of our committees...maybe taking care of table decorations, or helping plan a program, or preparing food for one of our dinners, or sharing your special talent. We have lots of great ideas, but without your help and involvement, our programs can't become a reality, and we would hate to have to eliminate some of them.

THANK YOU to everyone who has worked so hard this year to support Sisterhood in so many ways...planning activities and events; cooking; taking reservations and paying bills; sending cards and letters and making telephone calls; designing flyers and writing articles; working on the Blue Book, Tree of Life, Bits & Pieces Thrift Shop, and the Judaica Shop; and so many other behind-the-scenes activities that most people are unaware of. And a special THANK YOU to everyone who attended our events and shared with us—you make all our efforts worthwhile.

Shalom! Judy Sherman



#### TORAH FUND

by Tania Bobrick, Torah Fund Chair

Thank you for your continued support of Torah Fund. Please remember to send all donations to Tania Bobrick at 5619 Estrellita del Norte NE, Albq. NM, 87111.

The following cards have been sent:

Get well to Judy Pitkofsky

~ Jean Isaacowitz

~ Nancy Levick

Get well to Carole Albert

~ Judy Greenfeld

Congratulations on 25th wedding anniversary of Jenny Negin and Harold Folley

- ~ Pearl Bernstein
- ~ Evelyn Brauner



Sisterhood's Election of Officers

Installation

& Dce Cream Social Wednesday, May 9, 2012

7:00 p.m.

We have a great slate of officers, but we need your votes to elect them to office, and your support as they are installed to serve Sisterhood and Congregation B'nai Israel for 2012-2013

The Executive Slate as presented by the Nominating Committee:

President	Ellen Satz
Vice-President ~ Membership	Rosalie Gollins
Vice-President $\sim$ Ways and Means	Sydney Glass
$\label{eq:Vice-President} \mbox{Vice-President} \sim \mbox{Torah Fund} \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ . \ $	Beth Stewart
Vice-President $\sim$ Cultural & Education	Sarah Flatow
$\hbox{\it Co-Vice-Presidents} \sim \hbox{\it Program} \ldots \ldots \hbox{\it Judy Pitkofsky}$	, Chris Buchalter
Recording Secretary	Wille Peters
Corresponding Secretary	Nori Yonack
Treasurer	Nancy Levick
Financial Secretary	Beth Stewart
Trustee/Parliamentarian/Immediate Past President	Judy Sherman

#### For the full list of nominations see page 12.

Come, cast your vote and then enjoy a delicious Ice Cream Social featuring creamy ice cream, delightful toppings and home made cookies.

#### There is no charge!

Please RSVP to Beth Steward at 890-8091 or busymom7890@gmail.com to let us know you are coming, we want to be sure we have enough ice cream!

# Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood Judaica Shop of the Southwest wishes you a Happy Passover!



Hurry in NOW for the Best Selection in Town!

We have many
exciting new
Passover items
as well as a
lovely new collection
of tallitot, kiddush
cups, mezuzahs
and more.

All haggadahs on sale at 25% off!

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am - 1pm, Sunday 9am-Noon or call 266-0155 for an appointment. The frenzy of activity did not end until the evening before Passover. Then, my father went through the apartment with a feather, a candle, and a wooden spoon to exorcise the last invisible crumbs. I, myself, took the feather and spoon with me when I went off to school. Somewhere between home and P.S. 19 I would find an old crone warming her hands over a smoldering pile of broken apple boxes. From a safe distance, I would toss my sacrifice, an effigy of winter as well as hometz, into her flames.

- Sylvia Rothchild, Family Stories for Every Generation



Passover meant bubeluch, plum matzo meal pancakes covered with sugar, and it meant, on rainy days when we took lunch to school, matzo smeared with chicken fat or, best of all, a cold scrambled egg between two slabs of buttered matzo. And then there was the great classic, matzo brei, pieces of matzo soaked in milk, squeezed into a delectable mess, and fried to golden curls and flakes one of the dishes that evokes piercing darts of nostalgia in every Jewish breast and stories of childhood Passovers complete with lightly drunken uncles.

- Kate Simon, Bronx Primitive

In response to popular demand, here are the words to the "Diversity Song" that was presented at the Sisterhood Shabbat on February 24th. Glad you all liked it!

Wille Peters

#### **Diversity Song**

(Sung to the melody: Sunrise, Sunset from "Fiddler on the Roof")

Once Jews were easy to identify - They came from Poland or Ukraine Now they are cropping up from everywhere; I wish they'd explain.

In 10 years Jews will look different; Herein lie benefits for all. When we appreciate each other, we'll stand tall.

Refrain:

African, Navajo, Chinese, Korean – Oy! Such diversity! As we are learning from each other, we've learned to love variety.

Ashkentick, Sephardinaz, Conservadox, Reformative, everybody's a Jew! If we could put our heads together, maybe we'd solve our problems, too.

B'nai Israel has seen some changes; In future years there will be more. Alternate services, guitars to strum - Makes us want to hum! (humm, humm)

Service times continue to be altered; But they are not carved in stone. Even the animals are blessed here and call B'nai their home.

Refrain:

African, Navajo, Ashkentick, Sephardinaz, Everybody's a Jew! If we could put our heads together, maybe we'd solve our problems, too.

Peace in the world is our mission. Sadly, our progress has been slow. This goal is always so elusive; there's still so much to know.

Peace and Prosperity are siblings. Herein lie benefits for all. When all appreciate diversity, we'll stand tall.

*Refrain:* 

African, Navajo, Chinese, Korean – Oy! Such diversity! As we are learning from each other, we've learned to love variety..

Ashkentick, Sephardinaz, Conservadox, Reformative, everybody's a Jew! If we could put our heads together, maybe we'd solve our problems, too.

Written by Wille Peters For Sisterhood Shabbat 2012

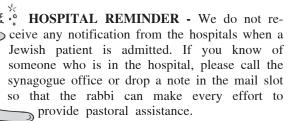


# ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

DO YOU LIKE TO SING in the shower? Or while driving in your car? The B'nai Israel choir is looking for additional singers. Don't read Hebrew? No problem - our music is in phonetic English. Don't read music? Also no problem! We will teach you! Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

at Congregation B'nai Israel. If you would like to sing with the choir, call Diane Chodorow or Judy Sherman.

**SSHHHHH!** As a gentle reminder, please remember to turn off your cell phones and beepers when you are in the synagogue or sanctuary during Shabbat and other holiday services.



If you are in the hospital, you may ask for a chaplain and then ask the staff chaplain to call the synagogue.

#### THE SHOFAR NEEDS YOU!



The Shofar Editor invites YOU to send in a story or article. People who read the Shofar are interested in knowing what is happening at our Synagogue.

Here are a few ideas for articles that YOU could submit to the Shofar:

• Write a review of a recent Congregation B'nai Israel event.

Include photos, we want to see our members having fun! (please include names of people in the picture)

- Write a review of a Jewish movie you've seen or a book you've read. Check something out in our library!
- Share activities that you do with your family to bring Judaism into your home.
  - Fun Judaic activities and crafts for kids to do.
- ...Or just about anything you're interested in; other people are bound to be interested too!

We want to inform everyone who reads the Shofar. Remember, not all members use e-mail to get their news and potential members want to see what's happening when they visit. We are looking forward to hearing from YOU!

If you would like to contribute, please send your proofed, typed article to <a href="mailto:shofar@bnaiisrael-nm.org">shofar@bnaiisrael-nm.org</a> and also to <a href="mailto:2catjoe@swcp.com">2catjoe@swcp.com</a>. It's a great way to get involved and make new friends!

#### YOM HAZIKARON: ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY

The fourth of Iyar, the day before Israel's Independence Day, was declared by the Israeli Knesset to be Yom Hazikaron, a Memorial Day for those who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for all military personnel who were killed while in active duty in Israel's armed forces. Joining these two days together conveys a simple message: Israelis owe the independence and the very existence of the Jewish state to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it.

Yom Hazikaron is different in its character and mood from the American Memorial Day. From sunset to sunset, all places of public entertainment (theaters, cinemas, nightclubs, pubs, etc.) are closed. The most noticeable feature of the day is the sound of the siren that is heard throughout the



country twice, during which the entire nation observes a two-minute "standstill" of all traffic and daily activities. The first siren marks the beginning of Memorial Day at 8:00 p.m., and the second is at 11:00 a.m., before the public recitation of prayers in the military cemeteries. All radio and television stations broadcast programs portraying the lives and heroic deeds of fallen soldiers. Most of the broadcasting time is devoted to Israeli songs that convey the mood of the day.

Almost every high school in Israel has a "memorial corner" with the photos of the school graduates who fell in battle or while on military duty. Some high schools organize their own Yom Hazikaron ceremonies and invite the families of the fallen graduates to participate. The unique atmosphere of the day is enhanced by the sight of teenagers and children, all dressed in white shirts and blue pants or skirts, on their way to school, and thousands of soldiers in uniform on their way to the military cemeteries

The list of fallen soldiers becomes longer every year. The inevitable tendency of radio and television programs is to focus on individual stories of soldiers who lost their lives in recent decades, rather than on those who fought in the pre-state undergrounds and 1948 war, who have fewer surviving immediate family relatives today.

The majority of Israelis do not perceive Yom Hazikaron as a religious commemoration, but as a part of the civil culture. The siren sound seems to inspire awe and sanctity no less than any traditional religious ceremony.

## Donations to the Congregation

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Donation

-Gerald Schur,

Chicago, IL

#### Happy 25th anniversary to:

Jennie Negin & Harold Folley

- -Tania & Wayne Bobrick
- -Myra & Sidney Gasser
- -Laurie & Harvie Ruskin

#### In honor of:

Rabbi Flicker's 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

-Rabbi Arthur Flicker

#### Speedy recovery to:

Carolee Albert

- -Tania & Wayne Bobrick
- -Fernie & Reuben Caplan
- -Myra & Sidney Gasser
- -Marilyn & Richard Reinman

Judith Pitkofsky

-Karen & Martin Shore

#### In memory of:

Rebecca Victor

-Alice & Jerry Weinstein

#### Yahrzeiten:

Mother-in-law, Julia Jaffe

-Claire D. Jaffe

Husband, Aaron Isaacowitz

-Jean Isaacowitz

#### ISIDORE & ROSE BLOCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

Happy birthday to:

Daria Neil

-Carolyn Robichaud Beske

#### Yahrzeit:

Uncle, Harry Fagen

-Earl Aldon

**DANNY SPECTER** MEMORIAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Happy birthday to:

**Lionel Specter** 

-Paddy Levick

Please. . . When making a donation for a yahrzeit, be sure to include your loved one's NAME and their relationship to you with your donation.

Thanks!

#### PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE.



#### YAHRZEIT LIST

If you would like to add the name of a loved one who has passed on, fill out the form below and send it in. If the death occurred after sundown, please include that information as well.

Please send the information to Chuck Glass: shatterproof @comcast.net or at 9900 San Bernardino NE, 87122.

YAHRZEIT INFORMATION FORM	
I. Your name	
2. Name of Deceased	
3. Your relation to the deceased	
4. The date of death - either the American Calendar date or the Jewish Calendar date but whichever you use, you the YEAR in which the death occurred (if after sundown, please let us know).	
5. The time of death (not essential, but helpful as it may change the lewish date of death)	

# CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The idea of a modern state of Israel dates back to the ideas of Theodor Herzl, a Jewish man born on May 2, 1860, in Pest, now part of Budapest, Hungary. He campaigned for a Jewish state in the Middle East and was instrumental in setting up the Zionist Organization and organizing the First Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland, in August 1897. Herzl died on July 3, 1904.

David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, publicly read the Declaration of Independence of Israel on May 14, 1948; the fifth day of Iyar, 5708. The anniversary of this date on the Jewish calendar is known as Yom Ha'Atzmaut and usually falls in April or May of the Gregorian Calendar.

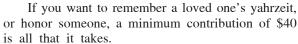
Independence Day is a holiday in Israel and, like many Jewish observances, it starts the evening beforehand. On this evening, the speaker of the Israeli Parliament, or Knesset, holds a speech and there is a dramatic televised presentation. Groups of soldiers carry Israeli flags and form shapes that represent symbols of Judaism, including a Menorah, and the Star of David. In addition, twelve beacons are lit by people who made a special contribution to Israeli society in a particular field. Each of the beacons represents one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is also celebrated by Jewish people who live outside of Israel. In the United States, communities organize special synagogue services, dance events, barbecues or picnics.



#### KIDDUSH FUND

Money contributed to this fund is used to pay for the cost of the food and its preparation. If you choose to sponsor the Kiddush exclusively, the cost is \$250 and your name will appear in the Friday/ Saturday flyer.





Shirley Morrison for her father, Abraham Eagle
Barbara Waserman for her husband, Manfred Waserman
Martin Reisfeld for his wife, Sherry K. Reisfeld
Martin Reisfeld for his father-in-law, Edward Kofman
Anita Klawsky for her mother, Gussie Kshonz
Shelley Koffler for her father, Harry Rudman
Herb Koffler for his father, Joseph Koffler
Harold Albert for his father, Joseph Albert
Abby Harris for her husband, Lewis Harris
Wayne Pollack for his father, Max Pollack
Earl Aldon for his uncle, Harry Fagen
Sondra Malloy for her mother, Lillian Zabin
Judith Meyer for her husband, Henry Meyer
Judy Greenfeld for her husband, Alan Greenfeld

How nice it would be if you would join us for Shabbat Morning Services and share with your friends and us the Kiddush luncheon that follows. Please fill out the Kiddush Fund form you receive with your Yahrzeit letter and return it with your information including the name and relationship and your check.



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# MONTHLY PLANNER APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
/ Preschool Spring Arts & Crafts Fair	2 Reservation Deadline for Second Night Seder	3	4 Reservation Deadline for Passover BBQ	5	6 Erev Pesach	7 Pesach I Service -9am
		Torah Study Group -5:30pm	An Introduction to Judaism -6:30pm		First Friday Family Shabbat service -6pm Candle lighting -7:14pm	Second Night Seder -6pm Havdalah -8:45pm
8 Ist day of the Omer Pesach II Havdalah -8:46pm	9 2nd day of the Omer Pesach III (CH''M)	10 3rd day of the Omer Pesach IV (CH"M) Submission deadline for May Shofar Torah Study Group -5:30pm	11 4th day of the Omer Pesach V (CH''M)  Passover BBQ -6pm An Introduction to Judaism -6:30pm	12 5th day of the Omer Pesach VI (CH"M) Sisterhood Board Meeting -7:15pm Candle lighting -7:19pm	13 6th day of the Omer Pesach VII Office closed Service -6:00pm Candle lighting -7:20pm	14 7th day of the Omer Pesach VIII Service -9am Havdalah -8:50pm
15 8th day of the Omer	16 9th day of the Omer	17 Tax Day 10th day of the Omer	18 11th day of the Omer	19 12th day of the Omer Yom HaShoah	20 13th day of the Omer	21 14th day of the Omer Family Shabbat Service -9am
		Torah Study Group -5:30pm	An Introduction to Judaism 6:30pm	Congregation Board Meeting -7pm	Service -6pm Candle lighting -7:25pm	Havdalah -8:56pm
22 Earth Day 15th day of the Omer Yom Hashoah at Holocaust Museum -1:30pm Project Share -3pm	23 16th day of the Omer	24 17th day of the Omer Torah Study Group -5:30pm Speaker Series with Rabbi Flicker -6:30pm	25 18th day of the Omer Yom Hazikaron An Introduction to Judaism -6:30pm	26 19th day of the Omer Yom HaAtzma'ut	27 20th day of the Omer  Aaron Haider Bar Mitzvah Candle lighting -7:31pm Last Friday late service- 8pm	28 21st day of the Omer Aaron Haider Bar Mitzvah Service -9am  Havdalah -9:02pm
29 22nd day of the Omer Congregation Annual Meeting -2pm	30 23rd day of the Omer					

Truth is the tree of life, and from it you will eat all your days.





4401 Indian School Road NE, Albuguerque, NM 87110

Address Service Requested

Place label here

#### TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE!

