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Tammuz / Menachem AV 5772  
July 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our own Fernando Russek had an opportunity to save a life this week. See his article in this Sim Shalom and read the amazing story. Kol HaKavod Fernando! – you did a great thing.

In more mundane matters, as we approach the end of the Jewish (and fiscal) year, our finances are very, very tight. This is the time to pay any dues balances you have been putting off. Perhaps there is some person or event you would like to honor with a donation. Maybe you would like to dedicate a pew or memorial plaque to a loved one. We operate on a tight budget with a very small congregation and everybody needs to chip in. Any contribution large or small will be greatly appreciated and will be used immediately to pay our most basic expenses. Checks can be mailed to Temple Beth Israel, PO Box 3398, Harlingen 78551.

On a more enjoyable note, we will celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Kendra Newman on Saturday, July 28. Mazel Tov Kendra!

Please notice the new calendar for 2012-2013 which is enclosed. Here you can see the dates for Rabbi Joseph's visits, school classes, vacations, and Jewish holidays. More events may be added and will be announced.

We will once again be having an Island Shabbat at Ramada Limited on South Padre Island on Friday evening, Aug 24. The Weisses have offered a room where we can have services, led by Fernando R at 7:30 pm, and people can stay over at a reduced rate. We have done for two years now and it is a nice change. Thank you to Anne and Robert Weiss.

Please note that the High Holidays are not so far off – Erev Rosh Hashanah is on September 16 – that's in two months.

In the mean time, I look forward to seeing you soon at the temple.

*B'Shalom,  
Laurel Steinberg, President*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Shabbat services**, Friday, July 20, 7:30 pm, led by Rabbi Joseph, with Oneg Shabbat to follow.

**Shabbat services**, Saturday, July 21, 10am with Rabbi Joseph, celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of Kendra Newman.

**Havdalah**, Saturday, July 21, 6:30 pm, Rabbi Joseph will continue his lecture series on Introduction to Judaism with "The Greatest Rabbis of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and what Messages they have to Teach us", followed by Havdalah service. Bring a snack if you like.

**Shabbat services**, Friday, Aug 3, 7:30 pm, led by Rabbi Joseph, with Oneg Shabbat to follow.

**Shabbat services**, Saturday, Aug 4, 9 am, with breakfast and Torah discussion to follow.

**Island Shabbat services**, Friday, August 24, 7:30 pm, led by Fernando R, at the Ramada Limited, 4109 Padre Blvd., SPI. Informal pot luck supper to follow.

**First day of Religion School**, Sunday, August 26, 10 am

# SIM SHALOM

## NEWS & NOTES

### YIZKOR FUND

When you donate to the Yizkor fund, your donations will be saved for new silver Torah ornaments. Thank you for the many donations which allowed us to buy beautiful silver candlesticks in memory of Amy Koppel.

### JUDAICA SHOP

Our temple store, located in the glass bookshelves in the social hall is about to receive a new shipment of Judaica items. Please check it out the next time you are at the temple. There are many great gift ideas. All sales support temple activities. See Fernando Russek.

### MAZEL TOV

To Christine Newman on her conversion to Judaism.  
To Kendra Newman on her Bat Mitzvah.

### ISLAND SHABBAT

Friday evening, Aug 24, we will have an Island Shabbat. Fernando R will lead Shabbat services at 7:30 pm at the Ramada Limited, 4109 Padre Blvd, SPI, owned and operated by our members Anne and Robert Weiss. They have offered a room for holding services and a special rate of \$49 to our congregants who wish to stay overnight on that Friday. Contact Ramada Ltd at 761-4097 to make your reservation. Thank you Anne and Robert for offering your motel once again for Island Shabbat.

### FAREWELL . . . .

Goodbye and best wishes to the Brown family: We will miss John and Eileen Brown as they are moving to San Antonio. Thank you to John and Eileen for all you have done for the temple over the years. We wish you well in your new home.

### STUDENT ASSOCIATION

There is a new Jewish Student Association at University of Texas Pan American. For information, contact Merly Reyes at 956-563-3021.

### TORAH FUND

We have a new fund to raise money to save for a new Torah and for future repairs to our current Torah. Please consider the Torah fund when you want to donate to the Temple.

### MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS

Have you considered a Memorial Plaque for a loved one on our memorial wall? The cost is \$250. Pews are also available for dedication for \$1250. Contact any board member to make your donation.

### NEW ONEG SHABBAT COORDINATORS

First, thank you to Veronica Huff for doing a truly great job of coordinating the oneg hosts for the past several years – as a result we have had beautiful and delicious refreshments after our Friday services.

Abby W and Alma R have volunteered to be our new Oneg Shabbat Coordinators for the coming year (August through July). They will select teams for hosting each Shabbat oneg – and then remind you when your week is coming. If you prefer a certain Friday evening date or prefer to host with a particular other family, please let Abby (536-0705) or Alma (970-7722) know while they are making up the schedule for the year. Please refer to the new calendar in this Sim Shalom for the Fridays when Rabbi Joseph is in town.

# CALENDAR

**Friday, July 20**

**Shabbat services**, 7:30 pm, led by Rabbi Joseph, with Oneg Shabbat to follow.

**Saturday, July 21**

**Shabbat services**, 10am, with Rabbi Joseph, celebrating the BatMitzvah of Kendra Newman.

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**Sunday, August 26**

**First day of Religion School**, 10 am

## DONATIONS

### GENERAL FUND

Tomas Sanchez in loving memory of Manuela Gusman  
Stanley Leshner

### MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Mary H. Warshowsky

### BREAKFAST FUND

The Russek Family in honor of Meredith Linksy

**ATTENTION....**

**WANTED....NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

This is a fun and creative job for someone. I've certainly enjoyed doing it for the past 1.5 years.

I will be available to help until Sept/Oct. I am overwhelmed with the seasonal production of a magazine for Victoria Palms Resort and can't do both....VP is a paid position.

Please contact Laurel Steinberg to express your interest.

Thanks,

Susan Hananel

**Be sure to shop at the temple Judaica Store for some gifts.**

**We have mezuzahs, jewelry, bookmarkers, candles,  
and decorative items.**

**There are some unique handmade Jewish star pendants  
made and donated by Leon Hananel.**

**You can also order from a catalogue if you want other items.**

**For purchases, contact Fernando Russek or Laurel Steinberg.**

***If you buy four items or more, you will get a 20% discount.***

# SIM SHALOM

## YAHRTZEITS

Date	Year	Name	Hebrew Date
5-Jul	1996	Cara Mychelle Hirschman	18 Tamuz
6-Jul	1994	Nathan Warshowsky	
11-Jul		Joseph Ernest	2 Kislev
16-Jul	1968	Abe Zinn	
17-Jul	1965	Julius S. Cohn	
1-Aug	1965	Harry Jacob Feldman	5 Sh'vat
1-Aug	1972	Mike W. Wilder	
3-Aug		Yetta Edelstein	
7-Aug	1955	Joseph Braunstein	15 Nisan
8-Aug	1945	Sarah Baum	
8-Aug	1957	Albert Wolf	15 Av
17-Aug	1981	Sol Yudesis	
28-Aug		Simy Suissa	30 Av
29-Aug	1994	Max H. Shapiro	
30-Aug	1987	Fannie Levine	5 Elul

(Please add English dates and correct and add any missing people)

## ...WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

9-Aug	Tom & Veronica Huff
14-Aug	Gilbert & Susy Weisberg
19-Aug	Luis Gonzalez & Abby Warshowsky
22-Aug	Bert & Jamie Wolf
25-Aug	Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph

## BIRTHDATES

9-Aug	Huff	Emma
10-Aug	Koppel	Rollie
10-Aug	Wise-Herring	Marina
11-Aug	Huff	Tom
12-Aug	Minck	Rory
12-Aug	Warshowsky	Abby
13-Aug	Wilder	Janet R.
20-Aug	Fisch	Stan
20-Aug	Harosh	Shlomo
25-Aug	Newman	Joseph
30-Aug	Gaytan	Braulio Natanael
30-Aug	Goldstein	Elizabeth
31-Aug	Gonzalez	Tonatiuh

Have you considered a Memorial Plaque  
to honor a loved one on our memorial wall?  
The cost is \$250.  
Contact any board member to make your  
donation.



## 2011 – 2012 Oneg Schedule

Thank you for participating in our temple onegs which enhance our sense of community. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated and **OBLIGATORY!**

If there is a conflict with your scheduled date, please take the well-timed initiative to trade with another member. Contact Veronica Huff for schedule conflicts (499-3808). Those who cannot fulfill their oneg obligation will be expected to contribute monetarily in order to help defray the cost for the others in the group.

\*oneg coordinator is responsible for organizing the group and its' duties (who brings and does what, when and where).

**July 20** \*Charlene & Phillip Moskal  
Olga Quintero

Sophia & Paul Shirazi  
Richard & Christine Newman

## NEW ONEG SHABBAT COORDINATORS

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### ONEG Checklist:

- Decaf coffee
- Cream & Sugar
- Decaf cold drinks/juice and ice
- Cups for coffee and drinks
- Plastic ware, napkins plates
- Kosher wine/small wine cups
- Un sliced challah
- Tablecloth (if one is used from the Temple, please launder and return it to the Temple)
- Table decoration
- Dessert for approximately 40-50 people

*Hosts are responsible for cleaning up the food and dishes before they leave.*



# SIM SHALOM



*Hello, my name is Kendra Newman and I am having my Bat Mitzvah scheduled July 20th and 21st. This has been an interesting journey learning about Judaism and Hebrew. As my journey continues it just so happens that I get to celebrate the steps I have taken and accept being responsible for the steps I make in the future. It would be a pleasure to have you come and celebrate with me.*

We invite you to join us as our daughter,

**Kendra Elizabeth Newman**

has the honor of being called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, the Twenty-first of July  
Two Thousand Twelve at Ten O'clock in the  
Morning

Temple Beth Israel  
1702 East Jackson Avenue  
Harlingen, Texas

Kiddush luncheon  
immediately following the service  
at the Temple

Richard and Christine Newman

## THE POWER OF A MITZVAH

July 11, 2012

In our busy or sometimes monotonous lives is rare to see a miracle happen and rarer if by G-d's grace you are part of that miracle, today was such a day for me, today I was able to help save the life of a little girl who had drowned in our neighbor's swimming pool, she came back to life in my arms on the way to the emergency room.

Let me relate what happened. It was after 4:30 pm on Wednesday afternoon when I came back home after spending most of the day on a project I was doing at a friend's home. The sun was high and it was hot outside and I was ready to go inside the house after parking my truck in the driveway. I was tired after waking up at 5:30 am that morning, and going out to the yard to water the plants. I never do this - I usually wake up later between 6 and 7 and almost never go outside to the yard at that time, but today I did. After watering the plants I decided to pull some weeds and cut a few dead branches around the yard, I started the day with a making the garden beautiful mood. So by the time I came home I was tired, but I decided to move the truck to the back of the house and park it there so I could clean up a bit & put away some of the stuff I have on the truck. I did and started to feel how hot it was and how my skin was kind of sun burning, I thought maybe I should just do this later and get in the house. I went inside to drink some water and look for a bigger hat. I then decided to throw away some of the junk I had accumulated in the backyard and clean a little bit. My wife Alma had been asking me to do that for a while, and when I was doing this I saw some stepping stones that some months ago I had saved to use one day in the yard ( I love plants and I love to create things in the yard, but usually it takes rare occasions when I will be in the mood to do it. Sometimes is harder to

do if your wife asks you to do some kind of chore, I guess it is something maybe normal with husbands and wives). But today when I saw those stones I remembered that Alma had asked me several times to place them in the yard going to my little studio office I have in the backyard. Today she had been especially nice over the phone with me, when she called to ask me to buy something she needed from the store. So I decided well lets install these stepping stones. I prepared everything I needed, moved the stones, and started to install them.

Earlier that afternoon when I first came home, I had heard sounds in the neighbor's backyard, My neighbor is a widower lady in her 80's, a very nice and good person, who has a swimming pool on her backyard and sometimes her granddaughter's family comes and uses it. Today was such a day and when I came home they were there, the neighbor's granddaughter's husband and his kid playing in the swimming pool. I had seen him before a few times, and never meet him in person, but my impression of him was not that good - he is a man covered with tattoos and piercings. The neighbor had told Alma that her granddaughter was divorcing him. I sometimes wonder how a granddaughter of a person as good and refined as my neighbor could end up marring a man like him. I had sometimes heard them screaming at each other in my neighbor's driveway which happens to be next to my bedroom.

So there I was laying the first stones, when I heard some screams coming from my neighbor's backyard, then I heard some screams from the little boy and more screams from the dad. I could not understand what were they screaming about, but I thought that this man was screaming to the kid for something he had done and he was crying screaming. I remember the commandment that says you shall not stand aside while your fellow brother's blood is spilled. Even though I didn't think that we was physically abusing

the kid I decided to investigate and perhaps intervene, to talk to the dad to calm down or something. So I went to the fence and stepped on the rail to see over the fence, and what was my surprise to see that the father was screaming over his daughter who apparently had drowned in the swimming pool. He was screaming "NO my baby NO, please NO! The girl about 2 years old lay on the deck of the swimming pool - her father had placed her there after pulling her out of the water and he was trying desperately to do something while screaming and crying. She wasn't breathing, the little boy was crying and my neighbor stood there with disbelief of what was going on. All of this I saw in what probably was one second or two, then my first reaction was to scream "call 911", but in a split second before uttering those words I decided to try to reach to my cell and call it myself, one of my hands trying to reach the cell phone in my pocket while the other hand kept me from falling while I was still standing on the fence looking over. Then I realized in another split second that time was of the essence and he needed to take her to the emergency room at the hospital right away. There was no time to wait for an ambulance, so I screamed to them to take her to the hospital. They did not listen, the shock was to great and they were desperate not knowing what to do while the little girl lay there almost dead. So I got off the fence and took a big step and jumped over the side fence and ran to get to her. I lifted her from the concrete deck, her body was all loose and motionless, she was purple and was not breathing. I told the dad "lets go we need to take her to the emergency room at the hospital", and I asked if he had the keys to his car. Thank G-d he had them in his pocket. While I was running I turned the girl a bit upside down and kept pressing her chest thinking maybe this will help get the water out of her lungs, all of this was happening in seconds, then I turned her up and kept pressing on her,

while getting in the car, then down a bit again and by that time she started to try to cough. The dad started to drive with desperation, and I told him to be calm. I don't know how but between me pressing her chest and body and her trying to breath again she opened her eyes. They were very dilated, and on her face you could see her agony of coming back and trying not to die. I then hugged her and told her you will be OK, and she then started to cry. I told the dad "she is breathing, be careful," as we were about to cross Ed Carey Blvd to get to the emergency room of the Valley Baptist. We stopped there and ran inside - I had the girl in my arms and they checked her right away, I think maybe the whole thing took less than 2-3 minutes from when I stood on the fence to being in the hospital. I left the hospital and the dad stayed there - he was still wearing his swimming suit, was bare footed, had no shirt and was wet.

After that I walked home while my heart was coming back to normal, I started to think of what had just happened and the circumstances that led me to be in the right place at the right moment. For somebody who had never had somebody come back to life in his arms like I had, this struck a cascade of emotions. For all I know part of why I am like I am, was maybe for that moment to help save this girl. But let's go back just a few days to see why I was there in the backyard on this afternoon. One of the reasons was that the project I was doing that day at my friend's home was supposed to start on Monday. But I didn't fast for the 17 of Tammuz which was on Sunday (I had never fasted on that day before, but I thought perhaps I need to fast, but Alma had already made plans). Later that night I had a dream and the next morning I decided to do the fast on Monday. Because of this I decided to postpone the project and start instead on Tuesday, so I did. Wednesday I was going back there to finish up, but it was too hot and I was thinking to stay at home and do some paperwork instead. Then I remembered I was supposed to go and pick up a check from my friend's mother for the temple. You see in our community the dues calendar goes from Rosh Hashanah to Rosh Hashanah, Sept to Sept; by the time is July and August we are busy trying to collect any outstanding dues from the temple's members or donations to help pay our expenses. Once we get to September people start sending their dues for the next year and things go back to normal. One of our members making calls to collect the necessary funds, had called my friend where I was doing the project that week, about helping the temple. She said that her mother had been thinking of buying two memorial plaques, and was going to do so, and she asked me to pick up the check from her since I was going there anyway on Tuesday afternoon. But later that day the class that I give in Principles of Judaism had started late because another class I gave to Kendra Newman for her Bat-Mitzvah started a bit late. Then the adult class ended late as we were talking for a couple hours. One of the issues we talked about was how if we all help those around us the world will be a better place.

So I left the Temple at 8:40 and thought it was maybe too late to go and pick up the check. The next day while I was

considering to go finish the project at my friend's home or stay at home doing some paperwork, I remembered that I needed to pick up the check there. The temple needed it, so I decided to go to my friend's home & later came back home at the right time and ended up with the "mood" to be doing some work in the backyard.

All this shows how one mitzvah can reach so far, The mitzvah of those that helped me be here, The Mitzvah of the member of our community who put in effort to ask people for funds to cover the Temple's expenses, The Mitzvah of studying Torah that Kendra and the others did, The Mitzvah of my friend and her mom to help the temple, The Mitzvah of my wife Alma, that treated me with respect and was especially nice that day, The mitzvah of Fasting even though I thought first that it wasn't necessary because it was a mitzvah ordered by the Sages and not in the Torah, The Mitzvah of Shalom Bayit (cleaning my mess in the backyard to keep the peace with my wife), The Mitzvah of how good our neighbor has been since we moved to our house (treat others like you want them to treat you), and finally the Mitzvah of not standing aside while your neighbor's blood is being shed.

If any of these Mitzvot hadn't happened maybe the events of today would had ended up in a different way. So next time you have the opportunity of doing a mitzvah think how far it can reach and how one mitzvah triggers another mitzvah. Thanks to that we all had a bit of influence in helping saving a little girls life today.

***Baruj attah Adonai eloheinu melekh haolam ha-tov ve-hammetiv.***

***"Blessed are you Adonai our G-d King of the universe Who is good and Who does good."***

In our morning service we read as we praise G-d in the Ashrei; "Your actions and Your mighty deeds they will recount. The splendorous glory of your majesty, and your deeds that are wondrous I shall discuss. And of the might of Your awesome deeds they will speak, and Your greatness I shall relate. A recollection of Your abundant goodness they will utter and of your righteousness they will sing joyfully.

So I felt I needed to share this story with you

*Fernando A. Russek*

*Gabbai*

## **Jewish Music Hour**

**Listen to the Rabbi on KNON-FM at  
<http://www.knon.org/> for the Jewish Music Hour —  
Sundays noon-1 p.m.**

**Also tune in Monday nights from 10 p.m. to midnight for  
the country music show he does with his brother,  
Harvey.**

## NOTES FROM THE GABBAI

Fernando Russek

I hope everybody is having a great Summer, and summer school break from those of you with kids, recharge all your batteries, so you can come with force and strength ready to start our new school year and our High-Holidays will be around the corner,

This summer isn't as quiet as in other years, we have on July 21 the Bat-Mitzvah of Kendra Newman, Mazal Tov to her and her Family, Then on Sept. 1st. we will be celebrating the second Bar-Mitzvah of Mr. Rollie Koppel. Also I will like to thank every body that in anyway helps the Temple with their financial or hands on support, specially our Rabbi Frank Joseph, our president Laurel Steinberg and Susan Hananel who is the reason we can have at this time our newsletter.

I will also like to wish my daughter Rebekah a happy Birthday and congratulate her for graduating from Elementary school with honors. and of course My first born daughter Deborah for having completed her High school studies in Israel and graduating second of her class we are very proud of her.



Honor someone in your family and help the Temple. We still have a few pews available for purchase and dedication. A plaque will be installed in recognition of who you decide to honor. Your family name will become a part of our Temple for future generations

