

# Sim Shalom

FALL 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shana Tova u'Metuka! May this be a year of peace, blessings, happiness, and prosperity. Thank you for being the most wonderful congregation of friends a person could ever have. Temple Beth Israel has been there for me whenever I have needed it as I am sure it has been a resting place in time of need for you. May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for 5778, and may you receive G-d's blessings in the year to come. Please come to all our High Holiday services so we can enjoy the fellowship and food which promises to be filling. Service times can be found on the temple website.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all those who, upon receiving their dues notification, sent prompt payment. As wonderful as it is to welcome a new year, we are reminded that it is also the time to pay our dues. If you have not paid your dues, this is the time to reach out and give as you are able. If you need to set up a monthly or quarterly payment plan, please talk to Alma Russek, and she will be happy to accommodate you with a schedule. Thank you, and see you at services.

— Richard Fourzan



# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

### 20-24 *Rabbi in town*

- 20 *Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7:30 p.m.*  
 21 *Rosh Hashanah service, 10 a.m.; Children's Service 11 a.m., Tashlich after services*  
 22 *Rosh Hashanah service, 10 a.m. Shabbat Shuva service, 7:30 p.m.*  
 23 *Shabbat service 9 a.m., followed by discussion*

### 29-30 *Rabbi in town*

- 29 *Kol Nidre service, 7:30 p.m.*  
 30 *Yom Kippur service 10 a.m., Afternoon Service 4 p.m., Yizkor Service about 5 p.m., Break-fast about 7:30 p.m.*

## OCTOBER

- 1 Sukkoh Decorating Day  
 5-11 Sukkot  
 6 Potluck Shabbat dinner in the Sukkoh  
 8 Sunday School/Sukkot service, 10 a.m.  
 11 Shemini Atzeret, Erev Simchat Torah  
 12 Simchat Torah  
 20-22 *Rabbi in town*

# Oneg Shabbat

Each member household is asked to host one Shabbat oneg during the year. Remember hosting now involves setting up, cleaning up, and providing challah, Kosher wine, grape juice, paper/plastic goods, coffee and drinks. You can bring other treats you like, but the congregation will share the responsibility of bringing snacks and desserts. If you cannot be a host on the date assigned, please call Laurel Steinberg at 550-9530.

## ONEG HOST FAMILIES

**Sept.20: Erev Rosh Hashanah: Temple Board of Trustees**

**Sept 22: Patty Gaytan & Bruce Landsman, Tammy Spink**

**Sept 30: Pot Luck Break Fast, Coordinators: Tammy Spink, Isabel Mercado**

**Oct. 20: Richard Fourzan**

**Nov 10: Sheila Greenfeld, Tori and Bert Keyes**

**Dec 15: Chanukiah service: Warshowsky-Gonzalez Family, Sharon Fulton**

**Jan 26: Pot luck Shabbat supper, Coordinator: Laurel Steinberg**

**March 2: Richard Fourzan**

Please join us for the unveiling ceremony at the grave site of

## Nivia Fisch

10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 24  
 Restlawn Memorial Park  
 14166 U.S. 83 Business, La Feria

## NEWS AND NOTES

- Men's Torah Study group has restarted for the 5778 cycle. Come join us on Thursday nights at 7 PM at the Temple. For more information, contact Fernando or Richard.
- Take a look at our **Judaica Shop** now being managed by Patty Gaytan. She will soon finish pricing everything so you can purchase whatever catches your eye.
- Please visit the Temple website, [harlingentemple.com](http://harlingentemple.com), and start filling in your personal calendar with important dates in our community.
- **If you wish to make a donation to the Temple**, the website has a PayPal button you can click on and give. You do not have to be a member of PayPal to use.

# Support the Temple

## GIFT CARDS

DO YOU BUY GROCERIES? DRINK COFFEE?  
 SEE MOVIES?

Help Temple Beth Israel at no additional cost while you do the things you always do. Buy gift cards for HEB, Wal-Mart, Cinemark, Starbucks, Target etc. before you go, and the Temple will receive a percentage.

Contact Alma F. Russek at 956-970-7722 or email to [TempleBethisraelharlingenTexas@gmail.com](mailto:TempleBethisraelharlingenTexas@gmail.com) for more information.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

**RATES FOR MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Our rate for a memorial plaque on our memorial wall is \$350. Or you can buy two for \$600. Please contact any board member to purchase a memorial plaque.

## PEWS

**HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION** with an engraved plaque on a Pew. The cost is \$1,250. See any board member to make arrangements.

# Celebrations

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/14 Gilbert & Susy Weisberg  
 11/7 Gerald & Shirley Sondock  
 11/20 David & Elizabeth Goldstein  
 12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek  
 1/1 Ronald & Dyan Banks  
 2/6 Christine & Richard Newman  
 2/7 Jose & Liliana Cohen  
 3/20 Paul & Sofia Shirazi  
 5/29 Bill & Monica Stewart  
 5/30 Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg

## BIRTHDAYS

- 9/4 Christine Newman  
 9/7 Isaiah Newman  
 9/14 Mary Warshowsky  
 9/20 Ronald Banks  
 10/1 Dyan Banks  
 10/1 Samuel Barrios  
 10/2 Sheila Greenfeld  
 10/7 Kendra Newman  
 10/9 Richard Newman  
 10/12 Brittany Stewart James  
 10/16 Yafah Tziporah Russek  
 10/23 Olga Quintero  
 10/23 Richard Fourzan  
 10/25 Roman Newman  
 11/6 Susie Weisberg  
 11/11 Luis Gonzalez  
 11/12 Jacquelyn Stewart  
 11/13 Benjamin M. Yudesis  
 11/14 Monica Stewart Weisberg  
 11/18 Elizabeth Holzman  
 11/20 Deborah Shoshana Russek  
 11/27 Renata Sobelman  
 11/29 Ari Holzman  
 12/4 Ivan Shirazi  
 12/7 Liliana Cohen  
 12/10 Lori Suissa  
 12/17 David Goldstein  
 12/20 Jose Cohen  
 12/21 Jacquelyn Goldstein  
 1/9 Rosalie Berg  
 1/13 Sarah Barrios  
 1/18 Zendaya Newman  
 2/4 Fernando A. Russek  
 2/7 William C. Stewart  
 2/10 Laurie Joseph  
 2/20 Bill Berg  
 2/24 Ada Berenice Barrios



On July 15, after the Havdalah service, we celebrated Rabbi Joseph's birthday. We had a great time singing happy birthday, lighting the candles, and eating cake. It is an honor to have Rabbi Joseph as our rabbi and we appreciate everything he does for our temple. We look forward to celebrating many more simchas together in the future. Yom huledet sameach!

— Isabel Mercado

## High Holiday Schedule

If you would like an honor in the Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur service, contact Fernando at 970-4005.

Times and dates of the holiday services are:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah (first day), Thursday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.;  
Children's Service 11 a.m., Tashlich after services
- Rosh Hashanah (second day), Friday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.
- Shabbat Shuva service Friday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.  
Shabbat Service, Saturday, Sept. 23, 9:00 a.m.
- Kol Nidre, Friday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur, Saturday, Sept. 30, Morning Service 10 a.m.,  
Afternoon Service 4 p.m., Yizkor Service about 5 p.m.,  
Break-fast about 7:30 p.m.

## Yahrzeits

*We ask that you consider a \$5 donation per name to the Temple's general fund to have your family names read at the memorial service on Yom Kippur.*

### BROWNSVILLE CHAPTER OF HADASSAH MEMBERS

Presentation:	Cyber Attacks and Online Safety
Date:	Friday, October 20, 2017
Time:	12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Locaton:	Temple Beth El, 24 Coveway St., Brownsville
Speaker:	Daniel Ramirez, UTRGV -Senior Information Security Analyst

If you are coming, please call Sharon Huerta at 956-545-9549 so we have an accurate count for lunch.

# *Bat Mitzvah*

## *Yafah Tzipora Russek*



# Temple Beth Israel 2017-2018 Calendar

**AUGUST**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**NOVEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**FEBRUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

**MAY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**SEPTEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**DECEMBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**MARCH**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**JUNE**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**OCTOBER**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**JANUARY 2018**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**APRIL**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**JULY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Temple Board meetings
- National/school holidays
- Jewish holiday/festival
- Religion School in session
- Rabbi Joseph in attendance
- 7:30 p.m. service

Shabbat services  
TBA Fri./9 a.m. Sat.

**School day schedule**  
10-10:45 services  
10:45-12:15 classtime  
12:15-1:00 lunch  
1:00-1:45 Hebrew class

**AUGUST**

- 1 Tisha B'Av
- 5 Russek Bat Mitzvah

**SEPTEMBER**

- 10 School Registration/ first day of classes
- 20 Erev/Rosh Hashanah services
- 21-22 Rosh Hashanah services
- 29 Kol Nidre service
- 30 Yom Kippur morning/afternoon Services, and break fast

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Sukkot Decorating Day
- 5-11 Sukkot
- 6 Potuck in the Sukkoh
- 8 Sunday School/Sukkot service
- 11 Shmini Atseret, Erev Simhat Torah
- 12 Simhat Torah

**NOVEMBER**

- 5 Temple Work Day
- 11 Movie Night

**DECEMBER**

- 12 Erev Chanukah, first candle
- 13-20 Chanukah
- 15 Shabbat Chanukiah Service
- 17 Religion School Chanukah party

**JANUARY**

- 26 Early services/Potluck Dinner
- 28 Tu B'Shevat outing
- 31 Tu B'Shevat

**FEBRUARY**

- 1 Purim Party, Megillah reading
- 2 Purim

**MARCH**

- 1 Newiman Bar Mitzvah
- 2 Tisha B'Av

**APRIL**

- 11 Yom HaShoah
- 18 Yom HaZikaron
- 19 Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day

**MAY**

- 3 Lag B'Omer
- 19 Erev Shavuot, Services
- 20-21 Shavuot

**JUNE**

- 9 Newiman Bar Mitzvah

**JULY**

- 22 Tisha B'Av

- 25 Annual Congregational Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 30 Temple Clean Up and Work Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 31-Apr. 6 Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover

- 29 Temple Board meetings
- 30 National/school holidays
- 31 Jewish holiday/festival

# Temple Beth Israel

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1702 E. Jackson,  
P.O. Box 3398,  
Harlingen, TX 78551  
(956) 423-2928

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Please excuse the absence of our congregant(s)

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to attend High Holiday services on these days:

ROSH HASHANAH:

Wednesday evening, September 20, 2017

All day Thursday-Friday, September 21-22, 2017

YOM KIPPUR:

Friday evening, Sept. 29, 2017

All day Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017

Thank you,



Rabbi Frank Joseph

214-293-6515

frank@rabbifrankjoseph.org

# Sharing food for thought

by Richard Fourzan

One of the resolutions I made on my last birthday was to educate myself more on matters of Judaism and how I could live my life more as a Jew in a work environment where I am the only Jew in the school building. First, I decided to delve into Sephardi and Ashkenazi cuisine, making Mujadarra and Shakshuka my go-to dishes for when I want to feel both Jewish and Mexican. My mother used to cook these two recipes for us when we were kids, but under different names: arroz con lentejas (rice and lentils), and huevos ahogados (drowned eggs), both very popular menu items in hole-in-the-wall eatin' joints across Mexican territory. You can, for example, Google "Shakshuka recipe" and then "Huevos ahogados receta" and you will see how remarkably similar the images of both are.

Mentioning these similarities to my co-workers during a lunch break a while back brought about a lively discussion about why they would almost be the same (Can you guess? Think 1492 Expulsion). Now, every time I take Challah (thank you, Alma), to the teachers' lounge and share with my peers, or bake my own version of off-season Hamantaschen, or flop with the totally botched-up burekas I tried to bake once (and never again), I feel more welcome into the inner circle of those who, unknowingly, want to share tamales, or an extra ham sandwich they made for me, or a chicharron taco they bought at Stripes thinking it was time they paid back my Jewish morsel offerings to them. "Thanks, but I am eating vegan this week, maybe next time."

Aside from upping my culinary game, I also wanted to increase my knowledge in a more Jewish/observant/sedulous way. Through the year, I researched good Jewish books to read and found myself buying more books a month than I could read in that amount of time. My Jewish bookshelf is quickly turning into a bookcase full of Jewish-related books and cookbooks, Amazon penny books, anyone?

Following are two books that I read recently, one on the High Holidays (a lot of good this one will do you when you read my late review so close to Rosh Hashanah) and a book on Hanukkah, which will give you time to look for online, in case it catches your fancy.

***Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Survival Kit*** by Shimon Apisdorf. 1992. I like to read books that keep me entertained and offer light reading, while complementing, at a higher level, what I think I already know. The High Holidays are both a happy and solemn time; well, at least to me. Apisdorf takes you by the hand in the sometimes-complicated art of High Holiday services with fun, but insightful accounts of the Holidays. His interesting paragraphs explain things in a style that make me feel like I am a five-year-old, which is exactly what I was looking for, dumb it down for me so I can internalize it, please. Apisdorf even recommends taking this little book with you to services and read it while the service is in motion so you can better understand what is going on. Having trouble with Avinu Malkeinu? Turn to Page 39 for a short explanation of what's happening. Why are the sounds of the Shofar so attractive to Jews and why won't a regular trumpet do? The answers to these questions and many more are in this little primer on the High Holidays.

***Chanukah: Eight Nights of Light Eight Gifts for The Soul*** by Shimon Apisdorf. 1997. Like the previous book, once you start reading you won't put the book down. Apisdorf once more appeals to my inner child when he explains the story of Hanukkah in a vivid, noteworthy, and unusual way. I was finally able to understand Ptolemy, the oppression, and the Revolt in a way I don't think I will forget a month from now. From observances to customs, this book shows you exactly what Hanukkah is, how to celebrate it, and how to put yourself in a meditative mood throughout the season. Can't wait to put it to practice!

To sum up, these two gems offer a Judaism that is practical and doable without being irreverent or disrespectful. They teach how tradition can be made personal and relevant without it being distant and old. Give them a try, I paid only a penny for each at Amazon and they are worth their weight in gold. Shana Tova!

— Richard Fourzan

# Thank You

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## FROM THE TREASURER

I want to wish to everybody a great, healthy, blessed and happy 5778 year. I have already sent our members a dues statement for the coming year. If you have not received yours or if you have any questions, let me know.

Thank You,

Alma F. Russek

956-970-7722

## DONATIONS

### FOR THE SHABBAT BREAKFAST FUND

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg

*In honor of Yafah Russek's Bat Mitzvah*

Isabel Mercado

*To wish my TBI family a L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu*

### FOR THE TORAH FUND

Isabel Mercado

*In memory of Hena Woloski*

*In memory of Paul Joseph*

Barrie and Suggie Guterman

*For Yizkor names*

### FOR THE YIZKOR FUND

Ron & Dyan Banks

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

Isabel Mercado

### FOR HURRICAN HARVEY RELIEF

Sharon Fulton

### FOR THE GENERAL FUND

Dominic and Linda Braune

Isabel Mercado

*Donation for flowers on Rosh Hashanah and*

*Yom Kippur and for expenses during High Holidays*

Richard Fourzan

*Thank you for aliyot*

Barrie and Suggie Guterman

*For a memorial plaque in memory of Dena Levine*

Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home

*For calendars 2017-2018*

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg

*In honor of Braulio Gaytan's Confirmation*

*In honor of Isaiah Newman's Confirmation*

*In honor of Norma Gaytan's Graduation*

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

*In honor of Yafah Tzipora Russek's Bat Mitzvah*

*Refua Shlema for Abel Figueroa*

*Thanks to Rabbi Frank Joseph*

Dr. Stan Fisch

*Memorial Plate for Nivia Nieves Fisch*

## USE PAYPAL FOR YOUR TEMPLE DUES AND DONATIONS

Where? <http://harlingentemple.com>

How? Click the Donate button. Easy and Fast!

Questions? Please email [TempleBethIsraelHarlingenTexas@gmail.com](mailto:TempleBethIsraelHarlingenTexas@gmail.com)