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Happy Chanukah!

Bar Mitzvah of Isaac (Joseph) Newman

Hello, my name is Isaac Newman, also known as Joseph. As of 2016, I go to Rising Scholars Academy in San Benito. Towards the end of December, the Torah portion I will read is *Miketz*.

While I hope to see all of you there, I specifically wouldn't be able to even have a Bar Mitzvah if it weren't for the lessons from my Rabbi, Frank Joseph; the teachings from my Hebrew teacher, Fernando Russek; the love and support from my parents; Richard and Christine Newman; and the motivation from the people of Temple Beth Israel. My Torah portion is about a man named Joseph who becomes the pharaoh's advisor after interpreting his dream and accuses one of his brothers of stealing a precious goblet. Seems to me like some sibling rivalry, don't you think? But at the end, Joseph is reunited with his brothers. Like Joseph, I may fight with my brothers, but we all get along in the end. I truly wish to see you all at my Bar Mitzvah!



Saturday, December 31

FROM THE RABBI

Shalom,

In his book, *Angel For Shabbat*, Rabbi Marc Angel relates a conversation he had with a gentleman who had recently retired.

Now that he had retired but probably had another 30 years of his life still remaining, he was contemplating what he should do next. How should he spend his years?

Life actually presents all of us with that question. What next? As Rabbi Angel points out, this question applies not merely to someone who has retired from his job, but rather to each indi-

vidual at every stage of life. We reach one plateau, achieve a particular goal — but then what?

In the *Al Hanissim* passage that we include in our Chanukah prayers, we recall that Almighty G-D helped our ancestors fight off their oppressors and granted the Jewish people a great victory. The passage continues: “ve-ahar kakh” (afterward), the Jews entered the Temple, lit the Menorah, and established the holiday of Chanukah. The key phrase is “ve-ahar kakh,” afterward. This phrase reminds us that often having achieved one level, we need to move on to another higher level.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 25-1/1 Chanukah
 30-1/1 Rabbi in town
 30 Shabbat Chanukah Service, 7:30 p.m.
 31 Shabbat service/Newman Bar Mitzvah, 9 a.m.

JANUARY

- 6 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.
 20-22 Rabbi in town
 20 Early services/Potluck Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
 21 Shabbat service 9 a.m., followed by discussion and kiddush lunch
 22 Havdallah and discussion

FEBRUARY

- 3 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.
 11 Tu B'Shvat
 12 Tu B'Shevat outing
 17-19 Rabbi in town
 17 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.
 18 Shabbat service 9 a.m., followed by discussion and kiddush lunch
 18 Havdallah and Movie Night

MARCH — NOTE CALENDAR CHANGE

- 12 Purim Party, Megillah reading
 24-26 Rabbi in town
 24 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.
 25 Shabbat service 9 a.m., followed by discussion
 26 Annual Congregational Meeting

APRIL

- 2 Temple Clean Up and Work Day
 9 Religion School Model Seder
 10 Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover

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

- Dec. 30: Newman and Warshowsky Families
 Jan. 20: Shabbat pot luck dinner: L Steinberg coordinator
 Feb. 17: Silguero Family, Tammy Spink
 Mar. 24: Russek Family, TBA

FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Members,

We have been busy at our Temple since the start of our new Year 2016-2017. We want to thank you for your support. Temple Beth Israel is in some ways like the story of Chanukah — we are a small community full of miracles. “Nes Gadol Haya Sham — A Great Miracle Happened There.”

Happy Chanukah!

Shalom,

Alma F. Russek

Temple Beth Israel Treasurer

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.

When you buy the cards from the Temple, the Temple receives a small percentage of the cards you purchase, and you receive 100% of the cards' value you pay for.

Example: You buy groceries from HEB. Instead of paying cash or using your credit card, you purchase a \$100 HEB card in advance from the Temple, and purchase your \$100 worth of groceries using the card. The Temple gets 2 percent of your purchase! It's not much, but everything adds up.

It's easy!!! Login on the page <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>

You can register on PrestoPay and pay directly to them. You can buy e-card at no cost for shipping. They will be delivered by email.

Contact Alma F. Russek at 956-970-7722 or email to TempleBethIsraelharlingenTexas@gmail.com to get the enrollment code.

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 \$1250. See any board member to make arrangements.

NEWS AND NOTES

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Our congregation has had a wonderful Simchah! On November 28, Manuel Afghan Silguero (Immanuel Ben YOSHUA) was born to Chuy and Angela Silguero. They had a small home Bris on December 6. We look forward to meeting Manuel soon at the temple.

Mazel Tov to the whole Silguero family!

■ We wish to console Bruce Landsman on the passing of his father, Arnold Landsman, in California.

Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

- 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

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/4 Ivan Shirazi
 12/7 Liliana Cohen
 12/10 Jan Cassidy
 12/10 Lori Suissa
 12/17 David Goldstein
 12/20 Jose Cohen
 12/21 Jacquelyn Goldstein
 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
 2/18 Brett Wolf
 2/20 Bill Berg
 2/24 Ada Berenice Barrios
 3/14 Gerald Sondock
 3/17 Bert Wolf
 3/31 Gilbert Weisberg

FROM THE RABBI

FROM PAGE 1

Life should never be lived passively.

Every morning of our lives when we arise, we need to remind ourselves: Now what? What have I planned as my next step?

For today, tomorrow, for the year ahead, as the next step in my life?

Life, as our Rabbinical sages tell us, is an ongoing process of renewal, of facing new struggles, of making new discoveries.

A thoughtful and generous life is not only a source of happiness to the person living such a life, but also has tremendous impact on others. Our ancestors lit the lights in the Temple, and therefore gave inspiration to all future generations. Their understanding of “ve-ahar kakh” enabled future generations to play their roles on the stage of history.

Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook the first Ashkenazic chief rabbi of Israel was asked who was on a higher spiritual level — a person on a high rung on the spiritual ladder, or a person on a low rung? Rav Kook answered: It depends which direction the person is moving. If the person on a low rung is climbing and growing day by day, he or she is spiritually alive and energized.

If the person on a high rung is moving downward or simply remaining on that rung, he or she will continue to sink or stagnate unless he or she can redirect upward.

As we move on each rung of the ladder of life, we need to evalu-

ate whether we are moving upward or whether we are letting ourselves remain stagnant or downward. As we will soon begin celebrating Chanukah and we are continually adding additional light in our Menorot for eight days, let us focus on how we can continually use the time G-D grants us in a meaningful and constructive way. If we dedicate ourselves to making our Congregation and Community as strong and as vibrant as it can be, then we are living in a meaningful and constructive way. If we are dedicated to being as charitable, compassionate, and helpful as we can be, then we are living meaningful and constructive lives. If we are continually learning and dedicated to the concept of pursuing knowledge in all areas, then we are living a meaningful and constructive life. If we are committed to Tikkun Olam all the days of our lives, then we are living meaningful and constructive lives. This requires planning, self discipline, and a focus on continual growth. We can succeed.

Like the candles on the Chanukah menorot, let our lights burn brighter and brighter.

Laurie and I wish everyone a wonderful and happy Chanukah, and to the Newman family, we say Mazel Tov on Joseph's upcoming Bar Mitzvah. We look extremely forward to seeing everyone soon!

Shalom U'V'rachah!

Rabbi Frank Joseph



Thank You

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

DONATIONS

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Sandra Campos for the beautiful flowers
for Rosh Hashanah 5777

FOR THE GENERAL FUND

Dominic and Linda Braune
Norma Gomez
Tomas Sanchez Jr.
Johnnie and Shay Butterfras
Jacinto Reyes
David & Elizabeth Goldstein, for a Memorial Plaque in
Loving memory of Joyce Goldstein
Ron & Dyan Banks, in loving memory of Frank
Fridkin, Dorothy Fridkin, Albert Fridkin
and Fran Bockius

YAHRZEIT AND HIGH HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Rene & Eliza Gonzalez
Samuel and Ada Barrios
Charles & Helen Feldman
Sheila Greenfeld
Julian Reyes
Fernando & Alma Russek Jr
Tomas Sanchez Jr.
Victor and Judy DeLeon
William Berg & Laurel Steinberg
Barrie and Suggie Guterman
Gonzalez-Warshowsky Family
Mary H. Warshowsky

IN LOVING MEMORY OF QUENTIN JACOB KEYES

Ron & Dyan Banks, for a memorial plaque
Bert & Tori Keyes, for a memorial plaque
William Berg & Laurel Steinberg
MaryJane Neese
Bobby & Robin Farris
Charles & Helen Feldman
James H & Anne Denison
Sam and Mary Tisdale
Barbara Schlager
Taylor and Martha R. Blanton
John and Ann Phillips
Michell Levine Dubose, Helen Levine Leonard and
Morgan Levine
Dr. Stan Fisch
Abby Warshowsky

Mary H. Warshowsky
Fernando & Alma Russek Jr
Bert & Jamie Wolf

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DENA MAYERS LEVINE

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg
Charles & Helen Feldman
David and Lois A. Day
Gonzalez-Warshowsky Family
Mary H. Warshowsky
Bobby & Robin Farris
Mr. and Mrs. Graham McCullough
Guerta Rubinsky
James H & Anne Denison
Lynn Heffler
Gerald & Shirley Sondock
Larry and Patty Fallek
The Tudor & Katherine Uhlhorn Family
Cindi Harwood Rose
John and Ann Phillips
Jeff & Anne Flowers
Fernando & Alma Russek Jr
Millie & Howie Segal
Dr. Stan Fisch

IN LOVING MEMORY OF NIVIA FISCH

Fernando & Alma Russek Jr
Jo Ann Lieberman
David & Lori Suissa
Willie D Chidester CPA
Judith E. Livingston
Gerald & Shirley Sondock
Gonzalez-Warshowsky Family
Mary H. Warshowsky
Robert I & Anne B. Weiss
Jesus and Janie Luna
Victor and JudyDeLeon
Lazaro and Sara Kisel
Gary and Teri Paradiso
John and Ann Phillips
William Berg & Laurel Steinberg
Dr. Stan Fisch
Bert & Jamie Wolf

You're Invited!



With great pride and joy we invite family and friends
to share this special time in our lives as our son

Isaac Amani Newman

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah



Saturday, December 31, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Temple Beth Israel
1702 E Jackson Ave
Harlingen, Texas 78550

Richard & Christine Newman

Light Kiddush immediately following



Shabbat Service, Menorah Lighting, & Reception

Friday, December 30th
7:30pm @ Temple Beth Israel

Bring your Menorah!

Temple Beth Israel 2016-2017 Calendar

AUGUST							NOVEMBER							FEBRUARY							MAY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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7							13																					
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