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Bat Mitzvah Yafah Tzipora Russek

Hello everybody, my name is Yafah Tzipora Russek and I will be having my Bat Mitzvah on August 5, 2017. I am very excited and nervous at the same time. I have a family of six. My parents are Alma and Fernando Russek, and I also have three sisters; Deborah, Rachel, and Rebekah. I study at Coakley Middle School. There I play the trumpet, and I'm in UIL for mathematics. For my Bat Mitzvah, I will be reading from the Torah. In Judaism this is an important step in our lives. The Torah portion I will be reading is Va Etchanan from the book of Deuteronomy. I like to thank Rabbi Frank Joseph for helping me practice my Torah portion so many times until I got it just right. I would also like thank all the teachers from my Sunday school, which I have been going to since I was a little girl. If I had never gone to Sunday school, then I would know absolutely no Hebrew. I hope I do well and that you can make it.

Thank You,
Yafah Tzipora Russek

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Confirmation Shabbat

7:30 p.m. Friday, July 14

Isaiah Newman

I have learned to be aware of the world around me, and I think that it is important to study the Torah and never forget who you are or where you came from. In addition, I think Confirmation is a place where you confirm your beliefs and discuss what is Jewish and what is not. Last year, my Confirmation class went to Houston, and we visited a Holocaust Museum. It

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Braulio Gaytan

I would like to thank my parents and all of my Sunday School teachers for leading me to this point of my Jewish life. The journey to here was fun. Many life and spiritual lessons were learned throughout my educational journey. A particular lesson that stood out to me personally was a story of three children making wishes on a special night. Even though, I forgot the title to the story (lol), the main lesson is: Working Hard Can Make You Who You Wish To Be.

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Calendar

JULY

14-16 **Rabbi in town**

14 *Confirmation Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.*

15 *Shabbat service 9 a.m., followed by discussion
Havdallah service, 7:30 p.m.*

AUGUST

1 Tisha B'Av

4-6 **Rabbi in town**

4 *Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.*

5 *Shabbat service 10 a.m.,
Yafah Russek Bat Mitzvah, kiddush following*

SEPTEMBER

1 *Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.*

10 School Registration/ first day of classes

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
Havdallah service, 7:30 p.m.*

29-30 **Rabbi in town**

29 *Kol Nidre service, 7:30 p.m.*

30 *Yom Kippur service 10 a.m., Afternoon Service
about 3 p.m., Yizkor Service 4:30 or 5 p.m.,
Break-fast 6:30 or 7 p.m.*

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

July 14: Gaytan-Landsman family, Newman family

Aug 4: Russek family, Isabel Mercado, Paulette Gindler-Bishop

Sept 20: Erev Rosh HaShanah: Temple Board Members

NEWS AND NOTES

■ **Mazal Tov to Norma Gaytan** on her graduation from San Francisco State University with a Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology.

■ 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.

■ **The 2017-18 Temple calendar** is on Page 5 and will be available online soon. Please visit the Temple website, harlingentemple.com, and start filling in your personal calendar with important dates in our community.

■ **A gentle reminder to all to please catch up on your yearly dues.** If you have any questions about it, please contact Richard Fourzan or Alma Russek. Thank you.

■ **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.

■ **Alma Russek is selling "scrip" cards** from many businesses around the Valley. Starbucks, HEB, and Home Depot are but a few of the businesses. Each card you purchase benefits Temple Beth Israel with a variable percentage of the face value on the card (from 2%-8%). Contact Alma to purchase your java card before you head to Starbucks, or to HEB to get your produce. She might just have that card for your favorite store at the mall.

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 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
 8/19 Luis Gonzalez
 & Abby Warshowsky
 8/23 Shirley & Bryan Hewitt
 8/25 Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph
 10/1 Dan & Renata Simha
 Sobelman
 11/7 Gerald & Shirley Sondock
 11/20 David & Elizabeth Goldstein
 12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek

BIRTHDAYS

- 7/13 Laurel Steinberg
 7/14 Rebekah Shulamit Russek
 7/16 Adriana Gonzalez
 7/22 Melanie Goldstein
 7/22 Rabbi Frank Joseph
 7/25 David Suissa
 7/26 Joel P. Smith
 8/1 Rachel Russek
 8/5 Paul Shirazi
 8/8 Harold Fisch
 8/8 Nathan Fisch
 8/10 Rollie Koppel
 8/10 Marina Wise-Herring
 8/12 Rory Minck
 8/12 Abby Warshowsky
 8/20 Stan Fisch
 8/25 Joseph Newman
 8/30 Braulio Natanael Gaytan
 8/30 Elizabeth Goldstein
 8/31 Tonatiuh Gonzalez
 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
 10/24 Richard Fourzan
 10/25 Roman Newman
 11/6 Susie Weisberg
 11/11 Luis Gonzalez
 11/12 Jacquelyn Stewart

FROM THE RABBI

We offer our deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Judith Neumann of Brownsville, who passed away on June 29. She was buried July 2 at the Hebrew Cemetery in Brownsville.

One of the greatest blessings of our time in the Rio Grande Valley has been the opportunity to know Judith. During the course of her lifetime, Judith experienced both the most horrific time in modern Jewish history and the most miraculous, the building of the State of Israel.

Judith was born in Romania in 1921. In 1941, she was imprisoned in a ghetto and survived beatings on a death march that claimed 90 percent of the 150,000 deported Romanian Jews, enroute to a three-year term in a Ukrainian slave-labor camp. She, her parents and her two brothers shared a 4- by 6-foot room, braving the cold with little to eat. She was denied medical care for months after contracting typhus and escaped a group of Russian soldiers intent on raping her.

After the war, Judith and her family made their way to Palestine. In the late 1950s, she moved with her husband and two daughters to South Texas, where she learned English and Spanish after previously learning Romanian, Yiddish, German, French and Hebrew.

In Israel, Judith worked as a bookkeeper for Tnuva, a dairy co-op that eventually became the largest food manufacturer in the country. In Brownsville, she worked for the Franklin store, a dry-goods store managed by her husband, where she handled accounting, management and sales duties.

Judith became the treasurer for the local chapter of Hadassah and kept the books until she was 89 years old. For years, she chanted the Haftorah on the High Holy Days and spoke at local schools about her experiences in the Holocaust.

In spite of all the hardships Judith endured, she always maintained a strong faith in God and a belief in the possibilities of humanity. In a world that was at times quite dark, Judith was a light that continually shined, enhancing the lives of all she encountered.

Rest in peace, Judith. God bless your soul.

Judith's family requests that donations be made in Judith F. Neumann's name to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, <https://give.ushmm.org/donate>.



BROWNSVILLE CHAPTER OF HADASSAH MEMBERS from left to right: Guerta Rubinsky, Elka Jaross, Emily Alpert, Peggy Goldfine, Rossana Bogorad hosted the June 25 meeting at the Social Hall of Temple Beth El in Brownsville. The movie "Six Days in June," was shown. Says Emily Alpert: "I have the movie "Six Days in June," and I am more than willing to share it within anyone who would like to see it." emilyalpert@aol.com

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

FOR THE SHABBAT BREAKFAST FUND

Victor & Judy DeLeon
 Isabel Mercado

For the Yahrzeit of Alex Mercado
In Honor of the New Board Members Isabel Mercado
For the Yahrzeit of Luis Vargas, Sr., May 6
In Honor of the Fathers of Temple Beth Israel
In Honor of Confirmation Class

FOR THE GENERAL FUND

Dr. Stan Fisch

Donation For Passover Dinner

Bernand & Mauree Slovo

Donation for Passover Seder

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg

In Honor of Mr. Sondock's Birthday!

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

Donation in Memory of Mr. Charles Feldman

Richard Fourzan

Donation for Participation on Shabbat Morning Services

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

For a New Membership at Costco

FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rollins & Amalie Koppel Foundation

Donation in Memory of Mr. Charles Feldman

Isabel Mercado

In Honor of Rabbi Frank Joseph's Birthday

FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Isabel Mercado

In memory of Tommy Garcia, Principal at Taft High School, San Antonio, TX

In memory of Hannah Richards

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

FOR THE TORAH FUND

Richard Fourzan

Donation in Honor to read an aliyah

Honor to be at the Bimah

Ron & Dyan Banks

Donation in Memory of Mr. Charles Feldman

Sam and Mary Tisdale

Donation in Memory of Mr. Charles Feldman

Isabel Mercado

In memory of Max Siporin's yahrzeit

Mi Sheberach for Samuel Richards

Speedy recovery to Hena Bat Miriam

In memory of Evelyn Weiner Z'L, who passed away on 6/15/17

For the Yartzzeit of Isaac Kajomovitz, Yatzak Ben Harmon Tzvi

Paulette Gindler-Bishop

Thank you for the warmth I feel whenever I come to Beth Israel. You are truly a beit mishpachah.



RABBI'S DAUGHTER SAMANTHA VILLARREAL and her family of beautiful, perfect grandchildren visited in June. Rabbi is always happy to have Samantha on the bimah!

ROOF IN NEED OF A FIDDLER

The Hanukkah House in the Holiday Village in Dean Porter Park in Brownsville has been renewed for another 5 years thanks to the Bernice Edelstein family and community members. Robin Pierce would like to add a weatherproof cutout fiddler of metal or wood to the roof but doesn't know where to look for one or who might make one.

Any leads (and of course donations) are greatly appreciated. The village opens the week of Thanksgiving through Jan. 1.

Contact Robin Gelfer Pierce
Rgelferp@aol.com

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

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FEBRUARY

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MAY

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27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

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DECEMBER

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31						

MARCH

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31						

JUNE

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

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29	30	31				

JANUARY 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30					

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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
5

SEPTEMBER
10
20
21-22
29
30

OCTOBER
1
5-11
6
8
11
12

Tisha B'Av
Russek Bat Mitzvah

School Registration/ first day of classes
Erev/Rosh Hashanah services
Rosh Hashanah services
Kol Nidre service
Yom Kippur morning/afternoon
Services, and break fast

Sukkot Decorating Day
Sukkot
Potuck in the Sukkoh
Sunday School/Sukkot service
Shmini Atseret, Erev Simhat Torah
Simhat Torah

NOVEMBER
5
11

DECEMBER
12
13-20
15
17

JANUARY
26
28
31

FEBRUARY

MARCH
1
2

Temple Work Day
Movie Night

Erev Chanukah, first candle
Chanukah
Shabbat Chanukiah Service
Religion School Chanukah party

Early services/Potluck Dinner
Tu B'Shevat outing
Tu B'Shevat

25
30
31-Apr. 6

APRIL
11
18
19

MAY
3
19
20-21

JUNE
9

JULY
22

Annual Congregational Meeting, 1 p.m.
Temple Clean Up and Work Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover
Passover
Yom HaShoah
Yom Hazikaron
Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day

Lag B'Omer
Erev Shavuot, Services
Shavuot

Newman Bar Mitzvah
Tisha B'Av

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom, Temple Beth Israel! It is great to be able to write to you at this time when great things are happening at the Temple.

Thanks to Rabbi Joseph and his good connections, our Torah is almost ready to come back home. It has been in the loving, talented hands of a most capable Sofer, Rabbi Bloomenstiel, who restored the Torah back to Kosher status, installed new rollers, and engraved new plaques on it. Small, final details are now underway. It promises to be a great sight to behold. Stay tuned for a welcoming ceremony date.

But that is not all... on the inside of the temple, the Board approved the installation of a new banister alongside the stairs leading up to the bimah so everyone can hold on safely on the way for aliyot and other calls to the bimah.

Fernando Russek will oversee the construction of the railing. As always, thank you, Fernando, for taking care of our needs. Fernando and Alma are welcoming their daughters back home after a long time away, so the construction of the railing may be delayed some because of this simcha.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all those who will celebrate one during the time this newsletter will be out, We especially wish a Wonderful Birthday to Rabbi Joseph on July 22!! And a Happy Anniversary to Rabbi and Laurie Joseph on August 25. For all other celebrations coming up, please refer to Page 3.

I hope to see everyone next time at the synagogue!!! Please check harlingentemple.com for service dates and times.

— *Richard Fourzan*

FROM THE RUSSEKS

Twelve-plus years ago we were blessed to have our fourth and youngest daughter, Yafah Tzipora, come into our family. Like the name we chose for her, “Beautiful Bird,” she is a beautiful young lady with a beautiful heart. In a few days, she will be celebrating her Bat-Mitzvah ceremony. She has grown to excel in everything she puts her mind and efforts to, and now, in her teenager years and as a Bat-Mitzvah (“Daughter of the Mitzvah, Daughter of the Commandments”), she is starting the road of adulthood where she will be responsible to learn and deal with the consequences of her decisions.

Yafah, like your great-grandfather, blessed be his memory, Abraham, you have an utmost love and trust of Hashem. This needs to be combined with the learning and discipline to become a better person so you can live a life with joy, peace and satisfactions.

We also have the blessing of having our daughters Rebekah Shulamit back from Israel, Rachel visiting from San Marcos and Deborah Shoshana visiting from Israel. We will have all our family together for the first time in a few years and would like our friends to come and join in our Simha to celebrate with us this important lifecycle event with us.

Mazal Tov,

Alma & Fernando Russek

FROM REBEKAH SHULAMIT RUSSEK

Hey, everyone! As many of y’all know, this past year I decided to complete my sophomore year in the Holy Land. After 10 months, I have finally returned to the Rio Grande Valley. And, now, I am back to finish the rest of my high school studies.

Now the question is, how did a 15-year-old girl like me go to Israel for a year? Well, with the help of this program called Naale I was able to fly to Israel and live in a dormitory with international Jewish students at no cost. Through the program, I learned A LOT of Hebrew and made lifelong friends from all over the world.

As many other places, Israel was a unique country. With its abundant amount of things to do in such little land, I was amazed. Every weekend, I would always find myself on a bus traveling to a different place from the week before. It was tough at first as sometimes I just wanted to go to my home for one weekend, but the adventures kept me distracted to forget about this.

Overall, my experience is one I’ll never forget and I recommend everyone to visit Israel at least once in their lifetime. Trust me, it’s worth it.

Isaiah Newman

Continued from Page 1

is important to remember the Holocaust so that no one else would have to suffer the same thing. I would like to thank Mr. Berg for being my teacher, Mr. Russek for being my former teacher, and my parents for putting me into this class to have this experience.

Braulio Gaytan

Continued from Page 1

Finally, most importantly, I want to thank the person who made this all happen: Rabbi Frank Joseph. With his kind and compassionate heart, he is able to help the youth understand and grasp the lessons offered by Judaism.

Thank you all.