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GABRIEL HERNÁNDEZ *Bar Mitzvah*

October 11-12

My name is Gabriel Hernández and my bar-mitzvah is in one week. Every day I am practicing and preparing myself for my bar-mitzvah. I couldn't prepare myself without the help of Rabbi Frank Joseph and Fernando Russek. The Jewish community in Harlingen has been a big part of my life and I will never forget the people there. The Temple is a special place to me and now being a part of the adult community at Temple Beth Israel will be new and exciting for me. I also want to thank all my Sunday school teachers throughout the years. I wouldn't be where I am today without you all. I will be having a service on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12. I will read from the Torah and do my best to make you all proud of me.

FROM MEREDITH LINSKY

On October 11 and 12, my son, Gabriel Hernández, will celebrate his bar-mitzvah. The journey to this day began almost a decade ago when we first stepped through the stately doors of Temple Beth Israel and joined the congregation in prayer and festivities. I remember being overwhelmed with emotion at returning to the Synagogue after many decades of absence. It was comforting to hear the familiar prayers and songs of my youth, even though we were thousands of miles away from Massachusetts where I grew up. I will be forever grateful for the warm welcome we received at the Temple and the friendship extended by the congregants. I don't think we would have lasted this long in South Texas if it were not for this very special and inspiring community.

At the age of thirteen, a Jewish boy is con-

sidered an adult and should be mature enough to take responsibility for his actions. This entry into adulthood happens whether or not a boy reads from the Torah or celebrates with a party. This ceremony at Temple Beth Israel marks the time in Gabriel's life where he is now considered an adult, at least in the eyes of Judaism, and he will have to more carefully consider his words and actions. Gabriel is a noble young man who already knows the difference between right and wrong, it is now up to him to put that knowledge into action. Being an adult includes more than being aware of one's actions, it requires focusing on the future by studying, learning new skills, being responsible and finding ways to serve others. We are all different, with different inspiration, goals, and abilities. I hope that Gabriel will recognize

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Calendar

OCTOBER

- 4 Shabbat Services, 7:30 pm
11-13 *Rabbi in town*
11 Shabbat services, 7:30 pm,
led by Rabbi Joseph.
11-12 Gabriel Hernandez
Bar Mitzvah
12 Shabbat service 9:30 a.m.
Gabriel Hernandez
Bar Mitzvah
6:30 pm: Movie presentation:
*RamBam, The Story of
Maimonides*, followed by
Havdalah service

NOVEMBER

- 1 Shabbat services, 7:30 pm
15-17 *Rabbi in town*
16 Rebekah Russek Bat Mitzvah
27 Erev Chanukah, first candle
28-12/5 Chanukah
29 Shabbat Chanukiah Service

DECEMBER

- 27-29 *Rabbi in town*
28 Tona Gonzalez-Washowsky
Bar Mitzvah

JANUARY

- 16 Tu B'Shvat

FROM MEREDITH LINSKY,
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his gifts, discover his passion and find a way to serve others.

Gabriel will participate in two services, one Friday evening, October 11, and again on Saturday morning, October 12. After eight years of attending Hebrew school at Temple Beth Israel, I expect he will be able to recite most of the Shabbat service prayers and song by memory. We invite the congregation to celebrate with us at a special oneg after services on Friday, October 11. We hope to see you then.

Meredith Linsky

NEWS

■ **MAZEL TOV:** To Gabriel Hernandez on his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. And also to his mother Meredith Linsky.

■ **SCRIP FUNDRAISER:** Liz Holzman has volunteered to coordinate our new "scrip" fundraiser. You can buy gift cards for any of hundreds of businesses, restaurants, etc, with a percentage (varies 2-8% or more) benefiting Temple Beth Israel directly. Please contact Liz at: holzmanfamily@yahoo.com or at: 956-459-5433. At the scrip website, www.glscrip.com, you can see the list of business that are available. We all need to buy things -- your purchases can benefit our temple!

■ **WELCOME BACK STUDENTS.** Welcome teachers Fernando R, Rich N, Charlene, M, Patty G, Laurel S. We have 17 students, ages 5 to 15, from 9 families. We look forward to a confirmation ceremony this coming spring. Please note that there will be no Sunday classes on Oct 13 or Nov 17.

■ **INTRO TO HEBREW FOR ADULTS:** Laurel S will teach intro to Hebrew for adults, Sundays, 11-12 am, continuing with the Aleph Bet and intro reading, where the class left off last year. Please call her to join the class if you know a little bit of Hebrew reading.

■ **NEW WEB SITE AND ON LINE DONATIONS:** The Web address for the Temple is www.harlingentemple.com. You can donate to the temple at the bottom of every page. Thanks to Max Rojas for setting up our website, and thanks to Anne Weiss for setting up our PayPal account.

■ **FALL CANDLE FUNDRAISER:** The temple is once again selling Chanukah and other candles for a fall fundraiser. See Page 6 for choices and prices. They are all handmade in Israel. Chanukah candy gelt is also available. The due date for orders is soon: October 15. That is because Chanukah starts early this year, November 27. Please send your order sheet (Page 7) with a check made to Temple Beth Israel, to Laurel Steinberg, 613 W Saint Charles St, Brownsville, TX 78520.

■ **Please send the temple your family's dates** for birthdays, anniversaries, and yahrzeits. Upcoming birthdays and anniversaries will be listed in the Sim Shalom. The temple (Dyan Banks) will send reminder letters for approaching yahrzeit dates so that you can say kaddish at services and have an opportunity to give tzedakah in memory of your departed loved one. Please send any of these life cycle dates to Laurie Joseph, at laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com, or just Yahrzeit dates send to Dyan Banks at dyanbanks@yahoo.com.

■ **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 Bert Wolf, or any board member to purchase a memorial plaque.

■ **Honor a loved one or a special occasion with an engraved plaque on a Pew.** The cost is \$1250. See Bert Wolf or any board member to make arrangements.

Oneg Shabbat Hosts

Each member household is asked to host one Shabbat oneg during the year. **If you do not have a date to host, please let me know.** You can view the calendar at http://www.rab-bifrankjoseph.org/Temple_Beth_Israel.html to see when Rabbi Joseph will be in Harlingen. 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. Call Laurel Steinberg at 550-9530 for information.

ONEG HOSTS

OCTOBER: Linsky, Fisch, Berg

NOVEMBER: Russek, Holzman, Wolf

DECEMBER: Warshowsky, Warshowsky, Barrios

JANUARY: Pot luck supper, Berg coordinator

FEBRUARY: Silguero, Rodriguez

MAZEL TOV!

On his 80th birthday
Marvin Sondock

had a

HOLE IN ONE

at Harlingen Country Club.

That is his third one.

Congratulations Marvin!

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Dyan Banks
10/1 Lewis Levine
10/2 Sheila Greenfeld
10/7 Kendra Newman
10/12 Brittany Stewart
10/16 Yafah Tziporah Russek
10/23 Olga Quintero
10/28 Quentin Keyes
11/06 Moniel Feuerman Powell
11/6 Susie Weisberg
11/8 Laurie Anne Jacobson
11/11 Luis Gonzalez
11/12 Jacquelyn Stewart
11/13 Benjamin M. Yudesis
11/14 Monica Stewart Weisberg
11/18 Elizabeth Holzman
11/20 Charlene Moskal Stegman
11/20 Deborah Shoshana Russek
11/27 Renata Sobelman
11/29 Ari Holzman
12/4 Ivan Shirazi
12/7 Liliana Cohen
12/10 Jan Cassidy
12/10 Lori Suissa
12/17 David Goldstein

ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 Dan & Renata Simha Sobelman
11/7 Gerald & Shirley Sondock
11/17 Jan Cassidy & Joel Smith
11/20 David & Elizabeth Goldstein
12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek

Did we miss you?

Please send birthdays & anniversaries to laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com.



CONTACT Emily J. Alpert at 956-455-2442 for more information

Thank You

Thank You to the Weisses for offering their motel for the Island Havdalah. *Thanks to Rabbi Joseph for his interesting talks on the Zohar. A nice change of pace to pray and study on the island.*

Thank you to those who helped with the Chic Boutique: *Quentin Keyes, Sheila Greenfeld, Susan Ander, Laurel S, Alma R, Fernando R. A modest return, but fun, and a learning experience for next time. Thanks also for the clothing donations, especially, Dyan Banks, Susan Ander, Nivia Fisch, and Claudia Barrera.*

Thank you to the crew that erected the lovely sukkoh, *even though it rained all week: Fernando Russek, Richard Newman, Samuel Barrios, Dan Gilbert, Chuy Silguero, Patty Gaytan, and Sandra Rodriguez.*

Thank you to all who helped during the High Holidays. *To the many congregants who participated in the service, Fernando and Alma R who dressed the temple in white and set up the prayer books, Rich N who minded the children at Kol Nidre services, Sandra Rodriguez who made a lovely flower arrangement for the bimah, the board of directors who prepared the oneg for erev Rosh Hash with challah by Nivia F, all who brought delicious food for the break fast. To Dyan B who collected yizkor donations, to Ben Y who read the yizkor list, and to Stan F who edited it. Thank you to Rabbi Joseph who led beautiful high holiday services.*

Thank you to to Max Rojas for setting up and updating our temple website, *<http://harlingentemple.com>*

Thank you to to Anne Weiss for setting up our new Pay Pal Account *(see website).*

Thank you to Ben Gonzalez, his Boy Scout Troop, and school families for improving our temple grounds, *for Ben's Eagle Scout project. Sunday, Sept 29 was work day: they moved part of our fence to enlarge our "back yard". They also stained the fence, inside and out, and did several other projects to improve the temple grounds.*

DONATIONS

MEMORIAL FUND/PLAQUE

Mary H. Warshowsky *for Philip Warshowsky and Rose Warshowsky*

Rollins Koppel *for Amalie Koppel*

YAHARZEIT

Abby Warshowsky *In Memory Nathan Warshowsky*

YIZKOR NAME

Ron & Dyan Banks *in memory of Frank Fridkon, Dorothy Fridkin and Frank Bockius*

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg *in memory of Isidor Berg, Bertha Berg, Max Steinberg, Rosalie Steinberg, Rose Steinberg*

Herschel Zinn *in memory of Zinns, Baums and Fairs*

Sheila Greenfeld *in memory of Harry Greenfeld, Leslie McDaniel*

Charlene Moskal

Samuel and Ada Barrios *in memory of Isaac Inocencio*

Moniel Feuerman Powell *in memory of Moses Feuerman, Max Feuerman, Susan Feuerman*

Stan & Nivia Fisch

Abby Warshowsky *in memory of Buddy Happ, Howell Happ, Marjorie Happ, Philip Warshowsky, Rose Warshowsky, Nathan Warshowsky*

Gerald & Shirley Sondock

Joel P. Smith and Janice Cassidy

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rollins and Amalie Koppel Foundation

TORAH FUND

Stan & Nivia Fisch

Ron & Dyan Banks *with thanks to rabbi for Hebrew lessons*

GENERAL FUND

Tomas Sanchez Jr.

Fernando & Alma Russek Jr *in honor of the graduations of Adriana Gonzalez and Brittini Greenfeld*

Robert I & Anne B. Weiss

Max Lopez Rojas

Alma Russek *for Chic Boutique Food*

Robert I & Anne B. Weiss

Oziel and Dalila Gonzalez

Jesus and Angela Silguero

Tomas Sanchez Jr. *for High Holidays*

Tamarah S. Spink

Samuel and Ada Barrios

Benjamin Yudesis *for Yom Kippur Cleaning Cost*

William Berg & Laurel Steinberg *for Abby Warshowsky's birthday and Jacquelyn Goldstein's Bat Mitzvah.*

Abby Warshowsky *In Honor of Jacquelyn Goldstein Bat Mitzvah*

Dominic and Linda Braune

GABBAI FUND

Stan & Nivia Fisch *In Honor of Jacquelyn Goldstein Bat Mitzvah*

BENJAMIN GONZALEZ' EAGLE PROJECT

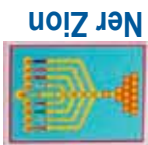
Hillel taught (Avos 2:5): "Do not separate yourself from the community." As Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz pointed out, the Torah contains 613 mitzvos (commandments), yet no one Jew can perform them all. Some mitzvos apply only to priests, while some apply only to non-priests; some apply only to men, and some only to women. When G-d commanded us in all 613, G-d's intention was that we perform them as a community. This idea was so beautifully demonstrated by our Temple Beth Israel community on Sunday, September 29, 2013 when we all came together to help beautify our Temple.

Benjamin Gonzalez is attempting to earn his Eagle rank with the Boy Scouts. As a requirement to achieve this rank, he must perform a community service project. His project was to move an existing fence in our Temple's backyard to extend our usable space and to stain our existing fence. This project took place on September 29. Ben's grandfather, Benjamin Warshowsky, was an active leader of the Boy Scouts when his sons were involved. He and his family were also dedicated members of their synagogue. He passed away on September 29, 1993. Ben, who was named after his grandfather, thought it would be a terrific tribute to pursue his Eagle award by doing a project at our Temple on the twentieth anniversary of his grandfather's death, joining together his love of Boy Scouts and Temple.

What made this extra special was the participation of almost thirty people. There were many members of our own Temple Beth Israel community working hard on our "Jewish home." The entire Sunday school was busy doing the dual mitzvah of beautifying our wonderful Temple, and helping a fellow member achieve a personal goal. In addition to our own Temple Beth Israel members, there were members of Ben's Boy Scout community helping as well. There were Boy Scouts from three different Troops present. One of the Troops represented was from Brownsville. These boys came to help a fellow Boy Scout on his Eagle project, but they are also fellow Jews who joined with our Temple membership to help with this project. It was such a privilege to be able to join together members of our Temple with members of the greater Jewish community and with the community at large. This unity of people and purpose made for a tremendous tribute and a "super super fantastic" experience.

Our work is not done. As a community, it probably never will be. I hope we can continue to come together and support one another and our Temple. This is a community effort. — Abby Warshowsky





Apex Trading 2013 Fall Fundraiser

Safed Candles, Ner Zion Candles, Carmit Candy, Made in Israel

Chanukah Candles for Yourself and For Gifts



CP14
Blue & White
\$9.00
Item A



CP22
Lavender & Green
\$13.00
Item B



CP23
Orange & Purple
\$13.00
Item C



CP30
Multicolor
\$13.00
Item D

Elegant Tapers



GLT7-M
Gold/Maroon 7.5"
\$8.00
Item E



RBT7-B
Rainbow 7.5"
\$7.00
Item F



BRT7-T
Bronze 7.5"
\$7.00
Item G



SLT10-W
Silver/White 10"
\$8.00
Item H

Beautiful Colors for Shabbat or Holiday and Great Gifts!



SH12-HRV
Harmony Violet
\$12.00
Item J



SH12-P
Sunrise Purple
\$12.00
Item K



SH12-SNB
Blue/White with Snow
\$12.00
Item L



SH12-G
Sunrise Green
\$12.00
Item M



SH12-T
Blue/Teal Gradient
\$12.00
Item N



SH12-TRR
Red/Orange on White
\$12.00
Item O



SH12-W
Snow White
\$11.00
Item P



LBCA60
Milk Chocolate Coins
Box of 24 Mesh Bags
\$17.00
Item Q



LBCA61
Dark Chocolate Coins
Box of 24 Mesh Bags
\$17.00
Item R

Havdalah Candle



H1R
Round Braided 4-wick
Blue & White 11"
\$5.00
Item I

Created by Ner Zion Candles in Beer Sheva

Chanukah Gelt

Temple Beth Israel 2013-2014 Calendar

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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NOVEMBER

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MAY

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31						

SEPTEMBER

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DECEMBER

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MARCH

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JUNE

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OCTOBER

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JANUARY 2014

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APRIL

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JULY

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AUGUST

Aug. 24 National/school holidays
Aug. 24-25 Jewish holiday/festival

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4 Religion School in session
Sept. 5 & 6 Rabbi Joseph in attendance
Sept. 8 Additional 7:30 p.m. service
Sept. 13 Shabbat services 10-10:45 services
Sept. 14 7:30 p.m. Fri./9 a.m. Sat.

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Nov. 16 Rebekah Russek Bat Mitzvah
Nov. 27 Erev Chanukah, first candle
Nov. 28-Dec. 5 Chanukah
Nov. 29 Shabbat Chanukah Service

DECEMBER

Dec. 28 Tona Gonzalez-Washowsky Bar Mitzvah
Jan. 16 Tu B'Shvat
Jan. 17 Early services/Potluck Dinner
Jan. 19 Tu B'Shevat outing

FEBRUARY

Feb. 15 Havdalah and Movie Night
March 16 Purim Party, Megillah reading
March 23 Annual Congregational Meeting
March 30 Temple Clean Up and Work Day

APRIL

April 6 Religion School Model seder
April 14 Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover
April 15-22 Passover
April 27 Yom HaShoah

MAY

May 5 Yom HaZikaron
May 6 Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day
May 18 Lag B'Omer
May 23 Confirmation Service
May 24 Braulio Gaytan Bar Mitzvah
May 25 Last day religion school

JUNE

June 3 Erev Shavuot, Services
June 4-5 Shavuot

JULY

July 19 Havdalah and movie night