

# Sim Shalom

Adar 5774  
February 2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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## FROM RABBI FRANK JOSEPH

Shalom,

In *Pirke Avot* we are taught that we should acquire a friend, and our tradition teaches us that if we are fortunate to have one true, sincere friend, we are blessed and fortunate indeed!!

The entire community of the Rio Grande Valley and our beloved Congregation Temple Beth Israel is extremely fortunate and blessed because all of us have been enriched by the kindnesses, generosity, hospitality and friendship of Dr. Stan and Nivia Fisch!

Stan and Nivia possess all the wonderful character traits our tradition teaches that we should cherish. They are and have always been actively involved, generously giving of their time, resources and skills on behalf of improving the lives of all in their congregation and community. Whenever the congregation, community or a private individual has been in need, Stan and Nivia have been there. And countless individuals who they may not even personally know have been enriched by their contributions.

A few examples of their kindnesses include graciously offering their home to those who need a place to stay, and offering their home as a place to rest during the High Holy Days.

On a personal level, Laurie and I would like to express our gratitude to Stan and Nivia for kindnesses too numerous to mention in this article. First we treasure the love, kindness and sincere friendship they have extended to us these past 14 years! They have graciously offered us their home on our visits here, and their home is truly our second home. When we first moved to Brownsville 14 years ago and mentioned we would love to see Mexico, they graciously included us on one of their Mitzvah trips to Ciudad Victoria. But above all, Laurie and I will always trea-

## TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING DR. STANLEY AND NIVIA FISCH



SATURDAY FEB. 15  
6 P.M.

A SILENT AUCTION  
WILL BE HELD  
BENEFITING THE TEMPLE  
(SEE PAGE 3)

sure, cherish and love Stan and Nivia because when Laurie broke her leg in an accident in Harlingen, it was the Fisches who came to our rescue, stayed with us at the hospital, and insured that Laurie would have the care needed to get us safely back home to Irving. For all the years G-D grants us, we will never be able to properly express our gratitude! Stan and Nivia also traveled 500 miles to be present at our daughter's wedding, and we are very proud to say their son Nathan is our grandson Benjamin's godfather!

We invite the congregation and community to join us this coming Saturday evening when we all will have the opportunity to extend our gratitude to Dr. Stan and Nivia

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# Calendar

## FEBRUARY

- 14-16 *Rabbi in town*  
 14 Services 7:30 pm, oneg following  
 15 Shabbat service 9 a.m. with  
 Torah discussion to follow  
 15 Fisch Tribute Dinner, 6 p.m.  
 16 Religion school 10 a.m.  
 23 Religion school 10 a.m.

## MARCH

- 2 Religion school 10 a.m.  
 7 Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m.  
 14-16 *Rabbi in town*  
 14 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 15 Shabbat service, 9 a.m.,  
 with Torah discussion and  
 breakfast to follow  
 15 Havdalah and talk by Rabbi  
 Joseph, 6:30 pm  
 16 Megillah reading and Purim  
 Party, 10 am  
 23 Religion School  
 23 Potluck and annual Congrega-  
 tional Meeting, 12:30 pm  
 30 Religion School

# Celebrations

## BIRTHDAYS

- 2/4 Fernando A. Russek  
 2/7 William C. Stewart  
 2/10 Laurie Joseph  
 2/15 Joshua Jacobson  
 2/18 Brett Wolf  
 2/20 Bill Berg  
 3/14 Gerald Sondock  
 3/16 Meredith Linsky  
 3/19 Bert Wolf  
 3/22 Dan Simha  
 3/31 Gilbert Weisberg

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/6 Christine & Richard Newman  
 2/7 Jose & Liliana Cohen  
 3/7 Dr. Stan & Nivia Fisch  
 3/20 Paul & Sofia Shirazi

*Did we miss you?*

*Please send birthdays & anniversaries  
 to [laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com).*

## NEWS

■ **REFUAH SHLEMA** to Laurel Steinberg, who suffered a mild stroke on Feb. 4. She is back at home recuperating and thanks everyone for their support and good wishes.

■ **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** On Sunday, March 23, following a 12:30 potluck lunch. The officers for 2014-15 will be elected. A member may be nominated for the board from the floor on that day if he or she is present. Or contact Nivia F, Laurel S, or Fernando R if you are interested in serving on the board of directors.

■ **SCRIP FUNDRAISER:** Temple Beth Israel has started a new fundraiser that is painless, fun, and easy for all to participate in. We are selling "gift" cards and certificates for many of the businesses we all use regularly, through the Great Lakes Scrip company. The temple gets a percentage of each purchase, from 2 to 10 percent, and sometimes more. Here's a tiny sample of the available businesses: Amazon.com, Starbucks, Target, Best Buy, Home Depot, Marshall's, Gap, Neiman Marcus, Bed Bath & Beyond, HEB, and Subway.

Some congregants have ordered already and it works!!!

Go to the Great Lakes website to see a list of businesses for which you can buy cards: <http://www.glscrip.com/> The denominations available are listed. If you decide to order, send a check for your total amount to Temple Beth Israel, PO Box 3398, Harlingen, TX 78551, and write "scrip" on your check. List out the cards you want to buy, how many, and what denominations.

The next card order due date will be February 26.

Read more about the scrip company and see the list of gift cards available at <http://www.glscrip.com/>

Help the temple to raise some funds at no extra cost to you. Contact Liz Holzman at 459-5433 for more information. Thanks to Liz for coordinating this project.

■ **HADASSAH:** The Brownsville Chapter of Hadassah will host a speaker from the Area Agency on Aging at noon Thursday, March 27. We will feast on pizza from the Nolita New York Pizzeria and salad at Temple Beth El, 24 Coveway. We will learn about benefits available to seniors and gain information about elder law. Please join us for this most interesting speaker and bring your questions!

Thank you to the women from Harlingen who came to the annual Deli luncheon in Brownsville. We appreciate you! — *Emily J. Alpert 956-455-2442*

# Oneg Shabbat Hosts

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 HOSTS

**FEBRUARY:** Silguero, Rodriguez, de Leon

**APRIL:** Ander, Quintero, Rojas

**MARCH:** Keyes, Shirazi

# Thank You

## DONATIONS

### SHABBAT BREAKFAST

**William Berg & Laurel Steinberg** *In Honor Tonah Gonzalez Barmitzvah*

**Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.** *In Memory of Nessin Cohen*

**Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.** *In Honor Nivia Fisch Retirement and Birthday*

### GENERAL FUND

**Jesus and Angela Silguero**

**Oziel and Dalila Gonzalez**

**Sheila Greenfeld** *In memory of Gertrude Greenfeld*

*Donation In Honor of Nivia and Stan Fisch*

**Rollins Koppel**

**Robert I & Anne B. Weiss**

**Mark and Kathyn Dittman**

**Abby Warshowsky**

**Mary H. Warshowsky**

**Harriet and Jere C. Light**

**Morris & Patricia Edelstein**

**Charles & Hele Feldman**

**Bert & Jamie Wolf**

**David & Lori Suissa**

**William Berg & Laurel Steinberg**

**Eleonor and Cesar Cajita**

**Judith E. Livingston**

**Mike and Cathy Mezmar**

*In Honor of Nivia Fisch's Retirement and Birthday*

**Victor and Judy DeLeon**

**Abby Warshowsky**

**Mary H. Warshowsky**

**Sue Ann Fruge**

**Julia I. Christmas**

### BUILDING FUND

**Richard & Judy Berkowitz** *In Memory of Nessin Cohen*

**Bert & Jamie Wolf** *In Memory of Nessin Cohen*

**David & Lori Suissa** *In Memory of Nessin Cohen*

### TORAH BOOKS

**Ander Susan**

## YAHRTZEIT DATES

### FEBRUARY:

**Burton Liberman** 7 Feb

**Helen Koppel** 28 Feb

**Bertha Berg** 19 Feb

Please consider a donation to the temple  
in memory of your loved ones.



## TRIBUTE DINNER AUCTION

For the Temple's silent auction on Saturday, Liliana Cohen is donating this lovely painting in memory of Dr. Jose Cohen's father, Nessin Cohen.

The Cohen family would like to express their thanks to friends and family for the phone calls, letters, cards and donations received following the sudden death of Jose's father Mr. Nessin Cohen.

He was a dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He enjoyed life to the fullest, and he will be greatly missed.

— *Liliana and Jose Cohen and family*

FROM RABBI FRANK JOSEPH,  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fisch as we host a Dinner in their honor.

To Stan and Nivia we say, "Todah Rabbah!" Thank you very much for all You do on our behalf, and may G-D grant you long, happy, healthy, prosperous, peaceful lives!

Shalom U'V'Racha,  
Rabbi Frank Joseph