

Sim Shalom

Summer 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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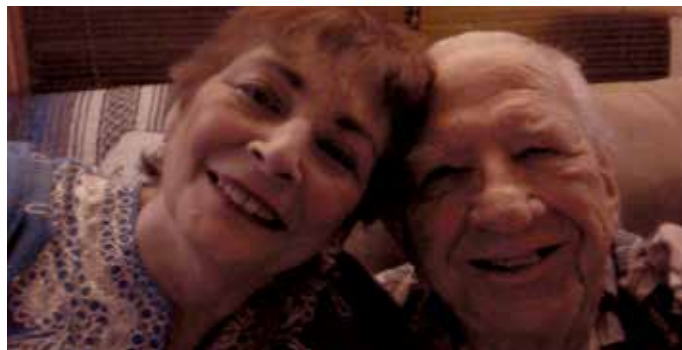
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Phil and Charlene Moskal

are moving to Las Vegas this summer.
The pleasure of your company is requested
for an incredibly happy and depressingly sad
occasion during which we celebrate their Jewish
wedding and wish them bon voyage.

*Phil and Charlene
will stand under the chupa
Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m.
before the Shabbat services.*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Due to a number of personal and family matters, I have been out of town quite a bit. I would like to apologize for my absence, but at the same time, this is a group effort. I appreciate all of the hard work that is put in to keeping our Temple going. We can always use volunteers. The Temple regularly needs cleaning, and there is always set up and clean up for events. Please volunteer to help. Even if we hire folks to do the work, we need Temple members to supervise. Although I have not yet officially passed the torch, Tammy Spink has generously agreed to write our Thank You cards and send out yahrzeit reminders. Thank you, Tammy!



We had our annual meeting with elections in March. I will return for MY LAST YEAR as President (so start planning). Richard Newman is our Vice President. Alma Russek is Treasurer. Jesus (Chuy) Silguero is our Secretary. David Goldstein is a Board Member, and Rollie Koppel is our Trustee

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FROM THE TREASURER

Dear members,
This past month of March you elected me as the new Treasurer of the Temple. I think it won't be hard work for me, since in the last years, I helped past treasurers Bert Wolf and Anne Weiss with the accounting.

As most of you know, our Temple's membership year starts the first day of

September and ends on the last day of August, so at this time we are less than four months from completing our fiscal year 2014-2015.

I want to take the opportunity to ask that you make the effort to pay your dues and/or help the Temple by making donations, so we have enough Money to cover for the Temple

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Calendar

MAY

- 22-24 *Rabbi in town*
 22 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service, with honoree Norma Gaytan in celebration of her college graduation
 23 9 a.m. Shabbat service with kiddush and discussion following
 23 7:30 p.m. Erev Shavuot, Service and study
 24-25 Shavuot
 24 Last day of Religion School

JUNE

- 5 8 p.m. Shabbat service
 19-21 *Rabbi in town*
 19 7 p.m. Moskal wedding/renewal of vows, followed by Shabbat service
 20 9 a.m. Shabbat service, followed by kiddush and discussion
 7:30 Havdallah service and discussion

JULY

- 3 8 p.m. Shabbat Service
 17-19 *Rabbi in town*
 17 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service
 18 9 a.m. Shabbat service, followed by kiddush and discussion

FROM THE TREASURER

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expenses, including paying our Rabbi for the remainder of the year.

If you have a question regarding the Temple financial situation or your dues balance for the year, please contact me by phone at (956) 970-7722 or email AlmafRussek3@aol.com.

Every contribution counts. It's a mitzvah and helps sustain our Jewish community.

Have a happy summer,

— *Alma F. Russek*

NEWS AND NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS BOARD MEMBERS: The 2015-2016 Temple Board consists of Abby Warshowsky, President; Richard Newman, Vice President; Alma Russek, Treasurer; Jesus (Chuy) Silguero, Secretary; David Goldstein; and Rollie Koppel (Emeritus).



MAZEL TOV GRADUATES!

Norma Gaytan will graduate from The University of Texas-Pan American with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, minor in chemistry.

Jonathan Berg will graduate from Rice University with a Bachelor of Science degree in bio-engineering.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JANET WILDER: 2 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Beyond Arts Gallery, 114 North A. Street, Harlingen, TX 78550

REFUAH SH'LAMAH to Dyan Banks on her recent hip surgery.

CONFIRMATION SHABBAT has been moved to August due to a scheduling conflict. Kendra Newman will be the confirmand.

Accomplished kids

NEWMAN FAMILY:

June: Isaiah Newman is having an 8th grade commencement ceremony.

July: Kendra Newman is going on her Girl Scout Destination trip to Italy and Switzerland. She and her troop fund raised for 2 years in order to go.

August: Kendra Newman is having her Confirmation.

— *Christine Newman*



RUSSEK FAMILY:

We want to congratulate our beautiful daughter Rebekah for graduating from Junior High on the top twelve of her class the last 3 consecutive years. We love you and are very proud of you.

— *Alma & Fernando*

SHAVUOT On the first night of Shavuot (this year, Saturday night, May 23), Jews throughout the world observe the centuries-old custom of conducting an all-night vigil dedicated to Torah learning and preparation for receiving the Torah anew the next morning.

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.
Please support our scrip card program!
See Alma Russek or call her at 970-7722.

■ 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.

■ 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.

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 HOSTS

May: Shirazi, Berg/Steinberg

June: Members of the community

July: Weiss, Ander

Celebrations

Did we miss you?

Here are birthdays and anniversaries through the rest of the year. Please send changes and updates to laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com.

BIRTHDAYS

5/2	Susan Ander	1/6	Susie Weisberg
5/4	Patty Gaytan	11/8	Laurie Anne Jacobson
5/14	Marisa L. Kahn	11/11	Luis Gonzalez
5/15	Benjamin Gonzalez	11/12	Jacquelyn Stewart
5/30	Andrew Newman	11/13	Benjamin M. Yudesis
6/3	Benjamin Newman	11/14	Monica Stewart Weisberg
6/18	Yosef Paul Jacobson	11/18	Elizabeth Holzman
6/24	Tomer Simha	11/20	Charlene Moskal Stegman
6/26	Madeline Huff	11/20	Deborah Shoshana Russek
7/13	Laurel Steinberg	11/27	Renata Sobelman
7/14	Rebekah Shulamit Russek	11/29	Ari Holzman
7/16	Adriana Gonzalez	12/4	Ivan Shirazi
7/22	Melanie Goldstein	12/7	Liliana Cohen
7/22	Rabbi Frank Joseph	12/10	Jan Cassidy
7/25	David Suissa	12/10	Lori Suissa
7/26	Joel P. Smith	12/17	David Goldstein
8/1	Rachel Russek	12/20	Jose Cohen
8/2	Kathy Koppel Noriega	12/21	Jacquelyn Goldstein
8/5	Paul Shirazi	12/21	David Martin Jacobson
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	Lewis Levine		
10/2	Sheila Greenfeld		
10/7	Kendra Newman		
10/9	Richard Newman		
10/12	Brittany Stewart		
10/16	Yafah Tziporah Russek		
10/23	Olga Quintero		
10/25	Roman Newman		
10/28	Quentin Keyes		

ANNIVERSARIES

5/29	Bill & Monica Stewart
5/30	Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg
6/20	Lewis & Dena Levine
6/29	Harry & Elizabeth Holzman
6/30	David & Laurie Jacobson
8/14	Gilbert & Susy Weisberg
8/19	Luis Gonzalez & Abby Warshowsky
8/22	Bert & Jamie Wolf
8/25	Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph
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

RELAY FOR LIFE



The Stars of David, the Temple's Relay for Life team, came together for this important annual fundraiser.

Thank you, Abby Warshowsky and Ben Gonzalez, for organizing and sponsoring our team.

Thank You

DONATIONS

SHABBAT BREAKFAST

Alma Russek in Honor of Bert Wolf's Birthday

GENERAL FUND

Dr. Stan & Nivia Fisch

Sheila Greenfeld in Memory of Harry Greenfeld

Abby Warshowsky for the Passover Seder

Victor and Judy DeLeon in Memory of Meldado and Alegra DeLeon

SUNDAY SCHOOL

David & Elizabeth Goldstein

SPECIAL THANKS

Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home for 2015-2016 Calendars

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Emeritus. I would like to thank Bert Wolf, Joel Smith and Susan Ander for all their hard work as Board Members. I look forward to seeing you at services and events.



Charlene and Phil Moskal will be moving. Charlene has been our wonderful confirmation teacher since the Religion School began 10 years ago. I know my children learned from her and appreciated the opportunity to discuss Jewish life with her class. Before they go, Charlene and Phil wish to celebrate a Jewish wedding. What a fantastic idea! Please come on June 19 to a wedding and Bon Voyage Party. Typical in Jewish life, we always interject a little sadness into every celebration. We will miss you both!



This is the time of the year we begin to plan for next year's calendar. If you have any ideas for fun or educational or fundraising events,

please do not hesitate to reach out to a board member. Please remember how small a community we are, so be prepared to help. This is not a game of "hot potato" — we need your participation!



We had a great turn out for our Relay for Life event (see page 4). Thanks to everyone who came or donated. Every one of us has been affected in some way by cancer. Our Temple certainly has felt its impact on our community. I am glad that we can come together for such a worthy event, and it is always a good time. Between our blood drive and Relay for Life team, our little community is trying to make our world better. Hopefully, we will continue with these events as well as other community service projects. We may even be putting together another Boy Scout Eagle Project involving some Temple improvements. We will keep you informed as things progress. All hands on deck!

— Abby Warshowsky

SHAVUOT The Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift, and G-d "re-gives" the Torah.

The word Shavuot means "weeks." It marks the completion of the seven-week counting period between Passover and Shavuot.

The giving of the Torah was a far-reaching spiritual event—one that touched the essence of the Jewish soul for all times. Our sages have compared it to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people. Shavuot also means "oaths," for on this day G-d swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledged everlasting loyalty to Him.

In ancient times, two wheat loaves would be offered in the Holy Temple. It was also at this time that people would begin to bring bikkurim, their first and choicest fruits, to thank G-d for Israel's bounty.

The holiday of Shavuot is a two-day holiday, beginning at sundown of the 5th of Sivan and lasting until nightfall of the 7th of Sivan. (In Israel it is a one-day holiday, ending at nightfall of the 6th of Sivan.)

On the first day of Shavuot we read from Exodus chapters 19 and 20. A summary of the content: The Children of Israel camp opposite Mount Sinai, where they are told that G-d has chosen them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation." The people respond by proclaiming, "All that G-d has spoken, we shall do."

On the second day of Shavuot we read from Deuteronomy chapters 14-16 which detail the laws of the three pilgrimage festivals -- Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot -- on which all Jews came "to see and be seen before the face of G-d" in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

— <http://www.chabad.org>