

Sim Shalom

Winter 2015-16

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

1702 E. Jackson
P.O. Box 3398
Harlingen, TX 78551
(956) 423-2928
www.harlingentemple.com

Rabbi Frank Joseph
1832 Cooper Dr.
Irving TX 75061
214-293-6515
frank@
rabbifrankjoseph.org

TRUSTEES

Abby Warshowsky,
President
956-412-3520
956-536-0705 cell
gonsky@sbcglobal.net

Richard Newman,
Vice President
718-419-6202
rocknewman@gmail.com

Alma Russek
Treasurer
956-970-7722
AlmaFRussek3@aol.com

Jesus (Chuy) Silguero
Secretary
silguero33@yahoo.com

David Goldstein
956-454-6569
david-goldstein@att.net

Rollins Koppel,
Trustee Emeritus
956-428-1789
rkoppel@rkoppel.com

Shabbat Service & Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception

Friday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m.
Temple Beth-El, Brownsville



In the tradition of our heritage and with great pride and joy, we invite family and friends to share this special time in our lives as our son

ARI ISRAEL HOLZMAN

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, December 5, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Temple Beth-El
24 Coveway Drive
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Harry and Elizabeth Holzman

Luncheon immediately following

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays! Chanukah is fast approaching, but that is just one of the many festivities of the season. We are fortunate as a community to be celebrating another Bar Mitzvah on the weekend of December 4-6. Ari Holzman will be called to the Torah on December 5 at Temple Beth-El in Brownsville. Our entire community of Temple Beth Israel is invited, and Rabbi Joseph will spend his December visit at the Temple in Brownsville. The rabbi will be having Havdallah services on Saturday night in Harlingen at 6:30 pm as usual. This is a uniquely wonderful opportunity to share with the greater lower valley Jewish community. I hope everyone will participate.

We will have our own Chanukah festivities the following weekend. Friday night we will light our Chanukiah at Temple Beth Israel. Then on Sunday we will have our annual Chanukah party.

In January, we hope to build a permanent sukkah/pergola connecting the sanctuary to the Sunday school building. This will provide some covering for our outdoor celebrations. It will also serve as the structure where we set up our sukkah every year. Our Temple members, hopefully, will provide the labor for this endeavor along with the Boy Scouts of Troop 2101. When the date is set, we

Calendar

DECEMBER

NOTE: Shabbat services Friday and Saturday morning will not be held at Temple Beth Israel in Harlingen this month.

- 4-6 *Rabbi in town*
 4 Shabbat service 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El in Brownsville
 5 Shabbat service 10 a.m., Ari Holtzman Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth-El in Brownsville
 5 Havdallah at Temple Beth Israel, Harlingen 6:30 p.m.
 6 Erev Chanukah, first candle
 7-14 *Chanukah*
 11 Shabbat Chanukah Service
 13 Chanukah party and pot-luck lunch

JANUARY

- 1 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 15-17 *Rabbi in town*
 15 Early Shabbat service at 6:30 pm with Pot-Luck Shabbat Dinner to follow. 6:30 p.m.
 16 Shabbat service 9 a.m.
 16 Havdallah 6:30 p.m.
 24 Tu B'Shevat outing
 25 *Tu B'Shvat*

MARCH

- 4 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 24 *Purim*
 25-27 *Rabbi in town*
 25 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 26 Shabbat service 9 a.m.
 26 Havdallah 6:30 p.m./Purim Party, Megillah reading

APRIL

- 1 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 3 Annual Congregational Meeting and pot-luck lunch
 10 Temple Clean Up/Work Day
 17 Model Seder
 22-24 *Rabbi in town*
 22 Shabbat service
 22 Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover
 23-30 *Passover*

NEWS AND NOTES

MAZEL TOV GRADUATE!

Brittany Stewart graduates from UT-RGV with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in art with the goal of doing child psychology with art therapy. Great job!

Thank You

DONATIONS

SHABBAT BREAKFAST

Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg
 Abby Warshowsky

IN HONOR OF PATTY AND BRUCE LANDSMAN'S WEDDING

Abby Warshowsky
 Mary H. Warshowsky
 Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg
 Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph
 Sheila Greenfeld
 Samuel and Ada Barrios
 Dan Simha and Renata Sobelman
 Michael Reardon
 Michael Fisher
 David & Elizabeth Goldstein
 Maribel & Marcos Briones
 Oziel and Dalila Gonzalez
 Victor and Judy DeLeon

YIZKOR NAMES

Abby Warshowsky
 Ron & Dyan Banks
 Samuel and Ada Barrios
 Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph
 William Stewart & Monica Weisberg
 Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.
 Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg
 Robert I & Anne B. Weiss
 Sheila Greenfeld

GENERAL FUND

Samuel and Ada Barrios
 Robert I & Anne B. Weiss
 Dominic and Linda Braune
 Roy Holbert
 Mary H. Warshowsky

FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Members:

Time passes so fast, and we have now finished the first quarter of the Jewish calendar. I appreciate every effort that each one of you has given to support our Temple. Thanks to your support, we are able to have Rabbi Joseph and are continuing to have our Sunday School in operation.

We still have a few new projects left to complete, such as the permanent sukkah between the two buildings. We will also need donations

from all of you to be able to have funds before our Second Blood Drive event, which we will have on February 21.

Please don't miss out on the opportunity to lower your income taxes by simply making a donation to Temple Beth Israel before December 31.

Happy Chanukah to all of you!

*Thank you,
 Alma Russek*

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

Dec. 4: Holzman Bar Mitzvah
Jan. 15: Pot-luck Shabbat Dinner,
Laurel and Bill Berg coordinators

NEWS AND NOTES

HOLZMAN BAR MITZVAH

We want to congratulate and wish a great simcha to Harry and Elizabeth Holzman for the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ari Israel beginning Friday, December 4, at 6 pm for Kabbalat Shabbat and continuing Saturday morning at 10 am for the morning Shabbat services at Temple Beth-El in Brownsville. Our Rabbi will be helping Ari lead services there, and the members of Temple Beth Israel are invited to go and join the simcha. Mazel Tov!

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS

Come Friday, December 11, at 7 pm, and bring your Hanukiyah to the Temple, where we will be having our community lighting of the Chanukiah, followed by Kabbalat Shabbat service. An oneg will follow the service — all are invited to bring something for the oneg.

Sunday, December 13, will be our Sunday school Chanukah party at 10 am. We will not have school that day. We will start with morning services, followed by our annual build-your-own Chanukiah contest (first prize is \$50 dollars). Latke-making contest, sufganiot-eating contest, scavenger hunt, dreidle and chocolate coin contest) and lots of activities. Kids must build your own Chanukiot.

We will finish with a pot-luck lunch. Please contact Alma to coordinate what to bring.

Shalom,
Fernando A. Russek



**Chanukiah
service
Friday,
Dec. 11
7 p.m.**

**Chanukah
party, Sun.
Dec. 13
10 a.m.**

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

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
12/21 David Martin Jacobson
1/9 Rosalie Berg
1/18 Nivia Fisch

1/18 Zendaya Newman
2/4 Fernando A. Russek
2/7 William C. Stewart
2/10 Laurie Joseph
2/20 Bill Berg

ANNIVERSARIES

12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek
1/1 Ronald & Dyan Banks
2/6 Christine & Richard Newman
2/7 Jose & Liliana Cohen

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hope to have all hands on deck. So those of you who are willing and able, please come out to help.

We were very fortunate to receive a generous gift of hand-me-down siddurim in excellent condition from Temple Emanuel in McAllen. Good catch, Jesus Silguero! Thanks for bringing them to us. As a result, we no longer need to buy new siddurim. Patty and Bruce Landsman had requested donations to buy them in honor of their wedding. They have generously agreed to reallocate the money to our permanent sukkah instead. Due to their generosity, we are almost halfway to being able to cover the costs of materials. We need approximately \$800 to \$1,000 more. For those of you thinking about making end-of-tax year charitable donations, we would really appreciate it! For those of you who just want to do a mitzvah, we would love that, too! Please consider making a donation.

On February 21, we will have our Second Annual Blood Drive and cook-out. (This is why we want to put up our permanent sukkah/pergola in January.) We invite everyone to come whether you donate blood or not. Please reach out to friends and family to come donate. We

will serve burgers and hotdogs. It is a great opportunity to socialize while saving lives. Save one life, and you save the world! Also, on hand will be Christine Newman with a Usborne Book fair. Proceeds from the book fair will benefit the Temple. Come out and support our Temple.

Also, put in your calendars April 29. The Stars of David are back! We are registered for the Relay for Life in La Feria. We always have a great time doing a great thing. Anyone who wants to collect money for the team, Ben and Tona Gonzalez will be our Team Captains this year. Please let them or me know if you wish to participate. Anyone wishing to donate should make out your checks to the American Cancer Society. We always have Challah and wine for Shabbat along with quite a bit of food. Please join us for this wonderful event.

We will try to keep you informed as always. Please consider a donation to the Temple. Your dues and donations are what keep us going along with the labor contributions of many of our members. Keep these things in mind as we enter this celebratory season of giving. May you all enjoy it!

— Abby Warshowsky



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