

SIM SHALOM

OUR NEWSLETTER

Nisan-Iyyar 5769

April-May 2009

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

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rabbi@rabbifrankjoseph.net
www.rabbifrankjoseph.net

Passover Seder

6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
April 8

Rabbi Joseph will lead the seder.
Adults, 13 and over: \$30
Children, ages 6 - 15: \$15;
5 and under: free

Please make your check payable
to Temple Beth Israel, and mail it
by April 1 to Laurel Steinberg,
613 W. St. Charles St,
Brownsville, TX 78520

Your check is your reservation.

See you there!



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

DETAILS ON PAGE 2

BAT MITZVAH



Rachel Russek

8 p.m. Fri., April 17 & 10 a.m. Sat., April 18

"Hi, My name is Rachel Russek. I am proud to say that my Bat Mitzvah is coming up in April. I go to Cookley Middle School, and I'm on the tennis team and in band, playing clarinet.

I have worked hard for my Bat Mitzvah and to read my Torah portion, trying to get it

Continued on Page 3

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAR. 22

No Religion School

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

10 a.m. Religion School

12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, APRIL 510 a.m. Religion School &
Model seder**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

First Passover Seder

APRIL 9-16

Passover

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

10 a.m. Religion School

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Russek Bat Mitzvah

8 p.m. Shabbat service

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Russek Bat Mitzvah

10 a.m. Shabbat service

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

10 a.m. Religion School

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Yom Hashoah

SUNDAY, APRIL 2610 a.m. Religion School &
Israel Party**TUESDAY, APRIL 28**

Yom Hazikaron

WED., APRIL 29

Israel Independence Day

SUNDAY, MAY 3

10 a.m. Religion School

TUES., MAY 12

Laag B'Omer

THURS., MAY 28

Erev Shavuot

FRI., MAY 298 p.m. Shabbat service
Confirmation Shabbat**DUES NOTICE:**

Please pay your dues as soon as possible. The treasury has only two months worth of funds at this time. If everybody pays in full in a timely manner, we will have enough money to get through the fiscal year, to the end of August. Don't rely on somebody else — there is nobody else — it is just us. Be responsible for keeping your temple running.

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CONGREGATION**

Sunday, March 29

12:30 potluck lunch (bring a dairy or pareve dish)

The meeting will begin immediately after lunch. A movie will be shown for children in the Religion School during the meeting.

Hear the president's report. See the renovations and repairs to the temple, And vote on the new slate of officers:

Fernando Russek, president

Steve Jones, Vice President

Bert Wolf, Treasurer

Laurel Steinberg, Secretary

John Brown

Tom Huff

Rollie Koppel

Abby Warshowsky

Janet Wilder

You may nominate a candidate from the floor, but that person must be present.

DONATIONS

From Janet and Barry Wilder, in honor of Purim

From Judy and Richard Berkowitz, in memory of Leonard Goldstein, father of David Goldstein

From Mr. and Mrs. Adam Breaux, a crepe myrtle tree for the temple grounds in memory of Dorothy Friedkin, Dyan Banks' mother

From Alma and Fernando Russek, planters of flowers, in memory of Dorothy Friedkin

THANK YOUS

Thank you to Rollie Koppel for arranging for services to be held at the First Baptist Church while the new floor was being installed.

Thank you to Lewis Levine for renting the Parkview Terrace Clubhouse for our Purim service and party. And he set up the room and put up the decorations, too! There was a good crowd of almost 50 people with lots of noise, food and costumes — a really nice party!

Thank you to all who helped empty the kitchen for renovations: Alma Russek, Judy Jones, and Alfredo

Hernandez. And to Mike Freeman who helped move furniture out of the social hall and sanctuary.

Thanks to all who are supervising the workers: Alma R, Lewis L, and Fernando R. Apologies for leaving anyone out — just let Laurie J or Laurel S know for the next newsletter.

And news from Israel: Miriam and Moshe (formerly Letty and Pete) Elizondo are settled in Rishon Lezion and are in the process of making Aliyah. They are very happy there. Say hello at: miriam.caro7@gmail.com.

Rachel Russek Bat Mitzvah

8 p.m. Fri., April 17 & 10 a.m. Sat., April 18

Continued from Page 1

as perfect as I could. I am going to read the parasha Shemini. I'm so nervous, but I'm very excited.

I would like to give my special thanks to Rabbi Joseph, to all my friends, especially Vanessa for being there 24/7, to my dad and especially to my mom for always pushing me even when sometimes I just felt like quitting -- so extra thanks to her. I hope everybody can come to my Bat Mitzvah.

Thank You.

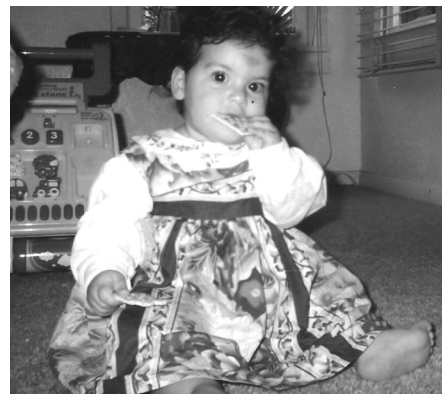
On the occasion of our daughter's Bat Mitzvah I would like to state these next words:

Rachel, we are so proud of you. You have become a young woman: smart, sensitive, and loving. When you want to, you can achieve anything.

You were the first little one of my daughters following your older sister Deborah. You are the only one

that we named with only one name, just Rachel, the wife of Jacob who worked 14 years to be able to marry her. What better name for somebody as precious as you?

In these times of uncertainty, I pause and try to hold on to our memories. We have been blessed to have you as our daughter. You and your sisters add purpose to our lives and are the most valuable treasure we have.



I'm certain that G-d does everything for a reason, that he is your partner and provides always what you need; you just need to do your part and look for it.

May G-d bless you with a happy life. May He give you the strength to do what you need to do.

We love you,
Fernando and Alma

From the President

About the renovation work on the Temple: We demolished what needed to be removed; the new tile has been installed on the floor and restrooms; the temple has been painted on the outside and inside; work on the A/C and heating unit is being done; some wood paneling and new cabinets are in the process; the new appliances have arrived.

It's a lot of work, and I want to give thanks to Lori Suissa, Steve Jones, and especially my wife Alma, who has been there every day, pushing the subcontractors, looking at the details, arranging whatever is necessary for the work to go smoothly. We are hoping that most of the building will be done before Passover.

*

The situation with the temple fund is not good. If you have outstanding membership dues or school tuition, please pay as soon as possible. If you are current, please donate what you can.

*

Also, congratulations to Rachel for donating locks of her hair to "Locks of Love," which helps people who have lost their hair — it's a great mitzva.

— Fernando Russek

ONEGS

Please be prepared to set up 15 minutes before services and stay to clean up. If unable to fulfill the oneg obligation, please make arrangements for your replacement.



Checklist:

- ☐ Decaf coffee
- ☐ Cream & sugar
- ☐ Decaf cold drinks or juice and ice
- ☐ Cups for coffee and drinks
- ☐ Plastic ware, napkins, plates
- ☐ Kosher wine
- ☐ Small wine cups

- ☐ Unsliced challah
- ☐ Table cloth (if one is used from the Temple, please launder it and return it to the Temple as soon as possible)
- ☐ Table decoration
- ☐ Desserts for about 40-50 people (choices of cookies, cakes, nuts, fruit, coffee cakes, or flan)

SPONSORS:

April 17

Bert and Jamie Wolf
David and Lori Suissa
Robin and Bliss Clark

May 29

Lewis and Deena Levine
Ron and Serena Levine
William and Monica Stewart

June 12

Janet and Barry Wilder
Joann and Steve Edelstein
Ben Edelstein
John and Eileen Brown

July 17

Judith and Steve Jones
Teresa and Fernando Sr.
Jose and Iliana Cohen
Jack and Amy Salander