

SIM SHALOM

OUR NEWSLETTER

Tishrei-Cheshvan 5770

October-November 2009

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

1702 E. Jackson
P.O. Box 3398
Harlingen, TX 78551
956-423-2928

TRUSTEES

Fernando Russek
President
956-970-4005
uniquedfarjr@aol.com

Steven Jones
Vice President
956-580-2848
sjones116@aol.com

Bert Wolf
Treasurer
956-428-6627
bert@aocx.com

Laurel Steinberg
Secretary
956-550-9530
wberg@fastmail.fm

John Brown
956-793-8476
juanbrownies
@msn.com

Dr. Tom Huff
956-499-3808
thehigh88@hotmail.com

Rollins Koppel
956-428-1789
rollinskoppel@
yahoo.com

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

Janet Wilder
956-423-2910
kelliepoodle@yahoo.com

Rabbi Frank Joseph
1832 Cooper Dr.
Irving TX 75061
214-293-6515
rabbi@rabbifrankjoseph.net
www.rabbifrankjoseph.net

From the President

Recently I found a book about Reb Yisrael Salanter. He lived in Europe in the 1800s and is called the founder of the Mussar Movement that emphasizes the study and practice of Jewish values and ethics.

He was a great Torah leader. One of his principles was that each person should systematically examine his Midos (character traits) so that he might know where he has made progress and where he has fallen behind.

I wanted to share with you his explanation of the Midos. If we would read them daily and think of them in relation to our daily actions, we could improve our various traits until we perfected them all.

1. **Truth (Emet)** Never speak a word unless your heart can testify to its truth.
2. **Alacrity (Zerizut)** Never waste a single moment; do what has to be done.
3. **Determination (Jarizut)** Do what you are determined to do, and do it energetically.
4. **Respect (Cabod)** Be careful to treat all people with respect — even those with whom you have little in common.
5. **Tranquility (Menuja)** Inner calm: do not be overwhelmed, always act with deliberation.

6. **Gentleness (Najas)** “The wise speak in a gentle manner.” Always try to speak softly.

7. **Cleanliness (Nicaion)** Attain purity and cleanliness of body and dress.

8. **Patience (Sablanut)** Calmly confront whatever circumstance presents itself. Absorb each blow that life brings.

9. **Orderliness (Seder)** Carry out your responsibilities in all aspects in an orderly fashion.

10. **Humility (Anava)** Recognize your own shortcomings, and disregard those of your fellowmen.

11. **Righteousness (Tzedek)** In the normal sense of justice; and also as the Sages interpret the term — give up what is yours even when not required to do so.

12. **Thrift (Kimutz)** Do not spend even a penny unnecessarily.

13. **Silence (Shtika)** Deliberate on the ramifications of your words before uttering them.

Reb Yisrael Salanter would say that “time is life; when time is wasted, a portion of one’s life has actually been lost.”

Alma and I wanted to give thanks to everybody who thought we were deserving of a dinner in our honor — those who organized it, donated towards it, and who will work to make it possible. Thank You.

— Fernando A.
Russek Jr.



Our daughter Deborah (second from left) is happy in Israel, enjoying her time there and missing Harlingen. She says hello to all of you. Here is a picture of her at a Sabbath dinner at school.

CALENDAR

THURS., OCT. 22

Testimonial Dinner, 7 PM

FRI., OCT. 23

Shabbat Service, 8 PM

SAT., OCT. 24,Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah 6:30 PM**SUN., OCT. 25**

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., NOV. 1

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., NOV. 8

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., NOV. 15

Religion School, 10 AM

FRI., NOV. 20

Shabbat Service, 8 PM

SAT., NOV. 21Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah Movie Night
6:30 PM**SUN., NOV. 22**

Religion School, 10 AM

SUN., DEC. 6

Religion School, 10 AM

FRI., DEC. 11Shabbat Service, 8 PM
Temple Rededication
First Chanukah light**DEC. 12-18**

Chanukah

SAT., DEC. 12Shabbat Service, 10 AM
Havdallah 6:30 PM**SUN., DEC. 13**Religion School, 10 AM
Student Chanukah Party**SUN., DEC. 24**

Student Lock-in

SUN., JAN. 10

Religion School, 10 AM

NEWS AND NOTES

**TRIP TO ISRAEL**

Temple Beth Israel is planning a Congregational Trip to Israel. We will leave on May 20, 2010. The tentative cost is approximately \$3,500 per person/double occupancy, which includes airfare. We will have more accurate price details as the date approaches.

Please see this web site for the itinerary: <http://www.americaisrael.us/old-new.html>

The company is willing to offer us an extra day at no additional charge.

Dyan Banks and Janet Wilder are putting the trip together. Please contact Dyan at (956)421-3252 or Janet at (956)423-2910 if you are interested in going with us.

Mazel Tov to Lewis Levine on his recent 80th birthday.

And thank you to Shirley Davis Hewitt, former Harlingen resident, who sponsored an elegant Oneg Shabbat in Lewis's honor.

October 3 was declared "Lewis Levine Day" by Harlingen Mayor Chris Boswell at a dinner party in Lewis's honor.

Also, please note an exhibition of Mr. Levine's paintings is on display at the Harlingen Art Forum during the month of October. Use this link for more information: <http://harlingenartforum.com/>

Mazel Tov to Yafah Russek who was consecrated at Simhat Torah services as she officially begins her studies in the temple's Religion School.

Welcome to our new members Leon and Susan Hananel, who recently joined the Temple.

Religion School: Now that High Holidays are over, Religion School is in full swing with 18 children enrolled, ages 5 to 14, in 5 classes. Teachers include Fernando Russek, Charlene Moskal, Thomas Huff, Rabbi Joseph and Laurel Steinberg. Congregants are welcome to attend services which are held at 10 a.m. every Sunday morning that school is in session.

Thank you to Rabbi Joseph for conducting inspiring and uplifting services on the High Holidays.

DONATIONS

Memorial Plaque:

David Goldstein has donated a memorial plaque in memory of his father, Leonard M. Goldstein

In honor of Lewis Levine's**80th Birthday:**

- Mardi and Mark Kunik
- Bert and Jamie Wolf
(to the building fund)
- Jose and Liliana Cohen
- Charles Feldman
- Berg Family

In honor of Adriana Gonzalez's**Bat Mitzvah:**

- Barry and Janet Wilder
- Berg Family

In honor of Alma and Fernando Russek:

- Monica and William Stewart
- Gilbert and Susana Weisberg
- Amalie Koppel
- Miriam Herzage

To the General Fund:

- Fred and Beverly Star
- Mary Warshowsky
- Leonard and Eleanor Alpert (via the Houston Jewish Community Federation)
- Robert Alvarado
- Marvin Sondock,
in honor of the High Holidays
- Monique Popek

Stained Glass Windows

The sixth stained glass window in the sanctuary is still available to donate for \$800. The windows, created for us by local artist Jerrie Howell, depict the seven days of creation.

The fifth window was donated by **the Huff Family in honor of Madeline's Bat Mitzvah.**

Thank you for your generous support.

"New" pews

Refurbishing a pew is another way to contribute in a lasting way to our Temple. Pews may be "purchased" for \$1,250. Seating is not reserved, but a plaque will be placed on the pew to honor your gift, which covers the cost of redoing the pew and a donation to the Temple's general fund.

To participate, please send a check to our treasurer.

Yizkor Donations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Dyan Banks | ■ Gerald Sondock |
| ■ Berg Family | ■ Marvin Sondock |
| ■ John Brown | ■ Robert Weiss |
| ■ Thomas and
Veronica Huff | ■ Abby Warshowsky |
| ■ Moniel Powell | ■ Bert and Jamie Wolf |
| ■ Monique Popek | ■ Herschel Zinn |
| ■ Alma Russek | ■ Ben Yudesis |
| ■ Joel Smith | ■ Barry and Janet
Wilder |

ONEGS

October 23

Veronica Huff*
Susan Ander
Robin Clark



* Oneg coordinator is responsible for organizing the group and its duties (who brings and does what, when and where).

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)