

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

Richard Fourzan
President
(210) 897-6011
fourzan@gmail.com

Jesus (Chuy) Silguero
Vice President
956-245-3372
silguero33@yahoo.com

Tammy Spink
Secretary
tsspink@gmail.com
(210) 789-2248

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

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

Bruce Landsman
adjc1c2@hotmail.com
(956) 244-1034

Rollins Koppel,
Trustee Emeritus
IN MEMORIAM



Happy Chanukah!



LET'S CELEBRATE!

Dec. 13-20

- Tuesday, Dec. 12:
First candle
- Friday, Dec. 15:
Shabbat Chanukiah
Service, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 17:
Religion School
Chanukah party,
10 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chag Urim Sameach, Everyone!!! I hope you will have a great and wonderful Hanukkah celebration wherever you may be. Temple Beth Israel will have its annual Hanukkah service on the evening of Friday, December the 15th, when we will light the 4th Hanukkah candle. Please bring your own Hanukkah (and don't forget your candles and matches) so we can have a true Festival of Lights with as many Hanukkiot as possible at the temple.

On Sunday, the 17th, we will have the Religion School Hanukkah Party after the service with latke and Hanukkiot contests. Make your own latkes and bring them in for the contest, although I will be happy to have a serving from all the participants' plates with no judgement on my part, just noshing, I promise! Students, start making your personal Hanukkah to enter it in the contest for most unique Hanukkah at TBI!

— Richard Fourzan

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 12 *Erev Chanukah*, first candle
13-20 *Chanukah*
15-17 **Rabbi in town**
15 Shabbat Chanukah Service, 7 p.m.
16 Shacharit service, 9 a.m. with Torah discussion and breakfast following
16 Havdallah, 5:30 p.m.
17 Religion School Chanukah party, 10 a.m.

JANUARY

- 5 Shabbat service, 7 p.m.
26-28 **Rabbi in town**
26 Early services/Potluck Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
27 Shacharit service, 9 a.m. with Torah discussion and breakfast following
27 Havdallah, 6 p.m.
28 Religion School Tu B'Shevat outing
31 *Tu B'Shevat*

FEBRUARY

- 2 Shabbat service, 7 p.m.

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 HOST FAMILIES

**Dec 15: Warshowsky-Gonzalez Family, Sharon
Fulton, Victor & Judy de Leon**

**Jan 26: Pot-luck Shabbat dinner, Laurel Steinberg,
coordinator**

Mar 2: Richard Fourzan

April 20: Silguero Family, Barrios Family

THANK YOU

On October 20, during services, the congregation honored Fernando Russek for his fantastic work and dedication to the synagogue through the years. As a thank you, Fernando received a new set of Tefillin in the name of the entire congregation. He did not expect this gratitude from us because he never does anything expecting recognition. He does his unselfish work because he believes in his heart that what needs to be done needs to be done. The Tefillin was really a token of appreciation we gave him, as we cannot really put a price to all the great work Fernando has put into Temple Beth Israel. He graciously accepted the present and gave a short, but inspiring, thank-you speech. Fernando has always been a very present and positive influence in our lives as a congregation and as individuals, helping where help is needed. There are no words, really, to thank him for all he does. All we can say is, "Thank you, Fernando, for all you do for us and the community in general! May HaShem bless you abundantly in the years to come."

— Richard Fourzan



Fernando, helping transport the Torah for repairs.

Support the Temple

GIFT CARDS

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.

Contact Alma F. Russek at 956-970-7722 or email to TempleBethIsraelharlingenTexas@gmail.com for more information.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

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.

PEWS

HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION with an engraved plaque on a Pew. The cost is \$1,250. See any board member to make arrangements.

Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

12/16	Fernando & Alma Russek
1/1	Ronald & Dyan Banks
2/6	Christine & Richard Newman
2/7	Jose & Liliana Cohen
3/20	Paul & Sofia Shirazi

BIRTHDAYS

12/4	Ivan Shirazi
12/7	Liliana Cohen
12/10	Lori Suissa
12/17	David Goldstein
12/20	Jose Cohen
12/21	Jacquelyn Goldstein
1/9	Rosalie Berg
1/13	Sarah Barrios
1/18	Zendaya Newman
2/4	Fernando A. Russek
2/7	William C. Stewart
2/10	Laurie Joseph
2/20	Bill Berg
2/24	Ada Berenice Barrios
3/14	Gerald Sondock
3/31	Gilbert Weisberg

USE PAYPAL FOR YOUR TEMPLE DUES AND DONATIONS

Where?
<http://harlingentemple.com>

How?
Click the Donate button.

Easy and Fast!

BOOK REVIEW

Hopefully you didn't skip the last book review I wrote last time because here is another one. This one is a little more mystic and profound in the sense that it was written in the middle of the last century (are some of us that old that we remember such a time?), and it deals with philosophy more than practice.

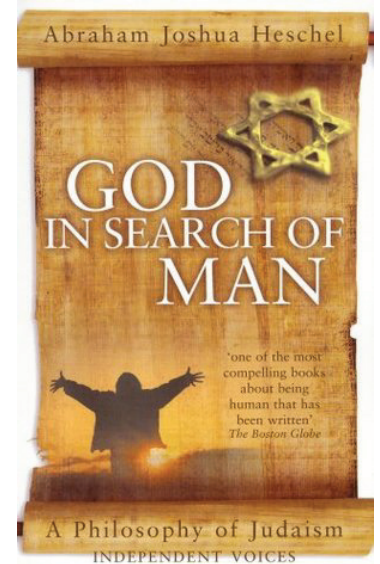
G-d in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism, Abraham Joshua Heschel (1955) – Hasidic Rabbi Heschel was a famous rabbi who published at least six works before his death in 1972; this work being a classic in Jewish literature, or so I was told. Many books have been written on the subject of man in search of G-d, but few on G-d's search for man, His own creation. This is not a book you would devour

joyfully in seven days like you would devour a delicious walnut rugelach in seven seconds. It is more a piece you should savor one bite at a time, like a seven-course meal, since it is over 450 pages long. It did take me a while to read and digest, over a month, because it seemed heavy and difficult to swallow at times, like a section where Heschel calls the prophets crazy (my interpretation of his words), but instructs us to listen to them, regardless... interesting.

G-d looks for man, just as much as man looks for G-d. One thing I have learned about Judaism, and this book, is that G-d does not expose Himself, but rather the way he wants us to view Him and behave. Is that His way of looking for us? By showing us what he wants from us? I can buy that. It is not an absolute form to be close to Him, but one of many.

A quote from the book stayed with me throughout from the moment I first read it, "Wise criticism always begins with self-criticism," I pondered over the quote for days until I realized that to me, the word "criticism" always denotes a negative view of self and things. We don't always criticize others but evaluate them in our eyes, or compare them to us even. I would say that a "wise evaluation of others begins with having a good and positive self-esteem of one's identity." If we don't love ourselves first, we will always find fault in and have our reservations about others. But that's just me. I have always thought that when someone "criticizes," it is because they are not happy with themselves, but when someone "evaluates" actions compared to their own, then we can have a healthy conversation with them. This book explains that G-d doesn't tell us what we are doing wrong, but how he wants us to behave based on our abilities so he can find us as we are instead of us hiding from Him because we cannot be true to ourselves.

Rabbi Heschel was from Poland, and he was a Hasid rabbi, who was born in 1907 and published this book in 1955. Many would skip reading this book based on only one of those three attributes; however, I interpreted what I read in my mind as a modern, American Jew, who lives in the 21st Century... and it worked for me. Shalom!



— Richard Fourzan
November 29

Thank You

DONATIONS TO THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROLLINS KOPPEL

Isabel Mercado
Barrie and Suggie Guterman
Robert Burnam
Stanley Leshner
Benjamin Yudesis
Morris & Patricia Edelstein
Wadkins & Associates Insurance
Agency LLC
Charlie & Shaun Wadkins Family
William Berg & Laurel Steinberg
Dunkin & Associates LLC
Patty Gorges
Farrell Seay
Richard & Judy Berkowitz
David & Lori Suissa
Sam C. Tisdale Jr
Jeff and Katy Civins
Alex Katzman
Larry R Golman
Guerta Rubinsky
Frank and Diane Murphy III
Frederic Dorwart

James and Joy Cocke
Betty R. Farris
Taylor and Martha Blanton
Hisako and Yasuro Tachibana
Emily Alpert and Bertha Janis
Martinez & Barrera LLP
Frank and Mary Yturria
Haynes and Boone LLP
Alter and Mara Lessa Holand
Phillip and Ellen Weinblatt
Brina Reinstein
Julie Grossman Kronick
Irma Grossman
Velva and Fred Levine
Sterling Steves
Jeremy and Mara Rabinowitz
Dr. and Mrs. Max Y. Harris
Graham McCullough
Mary Lou Zieve
Helen Feldman
Ellene Breinin
Sylvia Beneson



Connie Rudick
Heidi and Ronald Addlestone
Douglas & Irene Stukshis Grossman
Ken and Janet Levit
Lorene F. Steves
Sandra Sweeney Wilson
David and Randee Charney
RVI/Peter Boecher
Julie Kay Herrington
Robert and Lynn Behrendt
Robert Behrendt and Amanda Tyler
Stanley and Virginia Schoenbaum
Hugh & Silvia Wolff
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis

DONATIONS

Building Fund	Bert & Jamie Wolf, in memory of Rollie Koppel from Jamie, Bert, Brett and Zachary Wolf	
General Fund	Johnnie and Shay Butterfras, for the High Holidays Jacinto Reyes, for Yom Kippur Samuel and Ada Barrios, in honor of the High Holidays Isabel Mercado, for Simchat Torah celebration; for Mi Shebeirach for Julian Acosta, Stephen Huser, Vinny Gonzalez, and Alan Moncado; in memory of Rollie Koppel and Yaakov Cohen, may their memory be for a blessing; for Debra Levin's yahrzeit: She was a beloved daughter of Louis and Myrna Levin; for Giving Tuesday Richard Fourzan, for synagogue honors	
Shabbat Breakfast	Victor and Judy DeLeon William Berg & Laurel Steinberg, in honor of the High Holidays Isabel Mercado, October kiddush to thank Rabbi Joseph, Fernando Russek and everyone else who worked to make the Days of Awe services so meaningful; November kiddish Alma & Fernando Russek Jr., in loving memory of Rollie Koppel	
Sunday School	Isabel Mercado, in honor of all who volunteer	
Yizkor Names	Tamarah S. Spink Bruce and Patty Landsman Richard Fourzan William Berg & Laurel Steinberg	Victor and Judy DeLeon Samuel and Ada Barrios Abby Warshowsky Mary H. Warshowsky Sheila Greenfeld

Temple Beth Israel 2017-2018 Calendar

The figure displays 16 monthly calendars arranged in a 4x4 grid, spanning from August to May. Each calendar shows the days of the week (S, M, T, W, T, F, S) and the dates. Special dates are highlighted with various symbols and colors:

- Red Circles:** Birthdays (e.g., August 5, 12, 19, 26; September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5, 12, 19, 26; December 3, 10, 17, 24; January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27).
- Red Squares:** Anniversaries (e.g., August 20, 27; September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 12, 19, 26; December 10, 17, 24; January 14, 21, 28; February 11, 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25; April 15, 22, 29; May 13, 20, 27).
- Blue Squares:** Other events (e.g., August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; September 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; October 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; November 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; December 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; January 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; March 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).
- Orange Squares:** Other events (e.g., August 31; September 4; October 1; November 6; December 4; January 1; February 5; March 5; April 2; May 4).
- Black Squares:** Other events (e.g., August 20, 27; September 10, 17, 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 12, 19, 26; December 10, 17, 24; January 14, 21, 28; February 11, 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25; April 15, 22, 29; May 13, 20, 27).
- Hexagons:** Dates that are part of a larger event (e.g., August 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; October 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; November 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; January 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; February 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; April 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31; May 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

	AUGUST	NOVEMBER	
Temple Board meetings	1 Tisha B'Av	5 Temple Work Day	25 Annual Congregational Meeting, 1 p.m.
National/school holidays	5 Russek Bat Mitzvah	11 Movie Night	30 Temple Clean Up and Work Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Jewish holiday/festival			31-Apr. 6 Temple Community Seder, Erev Passover Passover
Religion School in session	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	APRIL
Religion School in attendance	10 School Registration/ first day of classes	12 Erev Chanukah, first candle	11 Yom HaShoah
Rabbi Joseph in attendance	20 Erev Rosh Hashanah services	13-20 Chanukah	18 Yom HaZikaron
7:30 p.m. service	21-22 Rosh Hashanah services	15 Shabbat Chanukiah Service	19 Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day
	29 Kol Nidre service	17 Religion School Chanukah party	
	30 Yom Kippur morning/afternoon Services, and break fast	JANUARY	MAY
		26 Early services/Potluck Dinner	3 Lag B'Omer
	OCTOBER	28 Tu B'Shevat outing	19 Erev Shavuot, Services
	1 Sukkoh Decorating Day	31 Tu B'Shevat	20-21 Shavuot
School day schedule	5-11 Sukkot	FEBRUARY	JUNE
10-10:45 services	6 Potuck in the Sukkoh		9 Newman Bar Mitzvah
10:45-12:15 classtime	8 Sunday School/Sukkot service	MARCH	JULY
12:15-1:00 lunch	11 Shmini Atseret, Erev Simhat Torah	1 Purim Party, Megillah reading	22 Tisha B'Av
1:00-1:45 Hebrew class	12 Simhat Torah	Purim	