

Torah Times



HAPPY PURIM

"What was Purim like when you were growing up?"

As a kid, Purim was one of my favorite holidays! At our congregation in Miami (Temple Samuel), the Rabbi, Cantor, and Staff would dress up for the Megillah reading and the theme for their costumes each year would be a secret. In the days leading up to the holiday, the religious school students would try and guess the theme, but we would never find out until the group came out for the beginning of services. One year they were the cast of Star Trek and another year they were zoo animals. A year that really stood out to me, was the Purim after Hurricane Andrew hit in August of 1992. The entire community was impacted. Many people (including my family) lost their homes and our synagogue was severely damaged. Purim was one of the first holidays where we were all back together in the reconstructed facility. We were all cracking up when the Rabbi, Cantor and Staff came out for services dressed as construction workers with vests, tool belts, hard hats, hammers, measuring tapes, etc.. They went all out with the costumes and it was a good, much needed laugh.

- **Michael Sznapstajler**

Purim services with grogger noisemakers, dressing up as Queen Ester and every flavor of Hamentashen from Servatai's Bakery in Cincinnati.

- **Lauran Hoven**

Continued on page 5



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THE SHOAH AND JEWISH FAITH



When it comes to modern approaches toward faith, God and spirituality, the Shoah changed everything. Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel has said: "We have all the reasons to give up ... on man, on faith, and even on God. We have the reasons to do so, but we will not invoke them. And in spite of everything, we will go on believing." How has people's faith been affected, post-Holocaust, and how did people of faith cope in the midst of the tragedy?

presented by
Dr. Ken Hanson

2 pm
February 28, 2021

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 849 1402 5188

Passcode: 245686



Part of the Congregation B'nai Torah Jewish Adult Education Program.

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the President's Message

By Ken Haberman

Happy February 2021! (or better yet, Safe & Happy February 2021). Sometimes looking at such a date, it feels like we are living in the future. All we lack at this point are the flying cars! But whether it is over 5,000 years ago or today, in 2021, G-d is here with us and that is comforting.

Sharing good news: Our Congregation B'nai Torah was recently blessed with the acquisition of a beautiful Torah. Here is some history of the Torah which many of you probably already know but is very interesting (From the Second Jewish Catalog, Jewish Publication Society):

The Torah scrolls are covered by cloth mantles (covers) elaborately designed on the front. These mantles are open at the bottom and closed at the top except for the two openings that enclose the rollers. This and the other objects described below are considered holy and are never discarded when worn out.

Keter or Atarah: Crown of silver on top of the Torah; this emphasizes that the "Torah is a crown for Israel."

Rimonim: Separate decorative objects adorning the tops of the rollers, often in the shape of pomegranates.

Tas: Breastplate or silver shield hanging over the front of the Torah (reminiscent of the breastplate of the High Priest in the Temple).

These objects can be very ornate. The Torah is handwritten by a trained scribe on parchment made from a kosher animal. The Torah must be written with no mistakes; the letters must be clear; the writing must not be faded. If there is something wrong with the Torah, it cannot be used until it is repaired by a scribe.

The Torah is read using a yad, a metal or wooden pointer used by the reader to help keep the place during reading from the scroll (it is not permissible to touch the Torah itself with one's hand).

Our beautiful new Torah is an incredibly special addition to our synagogue.



Thank you!

On behalf of Rob, my family & myself I want to thank the CBT family for the cards, donations & phone calls when my dad passed Jan 13. It eased our pain knowing so many people reached out.

Rabbi Kane, thank you!!! You were a source of strength & guidance over the past 24 months of my dad's decline. We appreciate all you did with visits & phone calls!!

Sue Goldberg

Inside this issue:

February Guest Speaker	2
President's Message	3
Relig. School Message	4
Calendar	4
Purim stories continued	5
Rabbi's Message	6
Federation Message	7

Religious School Report

by Helen Farb

We had our first Zoom class this year on Sunday, January 10. Rabbi Kane is teaching all of us how to count in Hebrew. My class is learning Bible stories and we continue our lessons on Jewish heroes. On January 10, we learned about Judith Reznick and Ilon Ramon. Morah Virginia's class is studying Jewish American heroes and started with Revolutionary times and Hym Levi. She covered the practices of the Jews in the Wild West and Levi Strauss.

Boxes were delivered last week. For Tu B'Shevat on January 24, each student got a pot, soil, and a pack of parsley seeds. We hope these will grow into parsley plants to use for Passover.

Rabbi Kane worked very hard to help prepare Brandon Liebman for his Bar Mitzvah. Thank you Rabbi for all the time you spend getting our students ready. Brandon did a fabulous job doing both the Friday and Saturday services. We are all very proud of him. He received a Kiddush Cup from the Sisterhood and Religious School.

Rabbi's class is preparing for the Hebrew parts of the Purim celebration and discussing how Judaism emphasizes the truth. The Megillah will be read on February 25. In February, Sunday classes will be held on Feb. 7 and 21st.

For Purim, the Religious School bought 250 groggers and will be making Shalot Manot bags for 16 members. Each student will have their own Shalot Manot bag to decorate and give to a special friend or family member.

Be safe and wear your mask. Helen

Upcoming:

Sunday March 7 and 14 Religious School 10:00

Sat. April 3 6:00 Religious School Special event



Virtual Events

*Friday night services at 7:30 pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00 am*

Tuesday	February 2	7:00 pm	Adult Ed "Exodus" with Rabbi Shapiro
Sunday	February 7	10:00 am	Religious School
Tuesday	February 9	7:00 pm	Adult Ed "Exodus" with Rabbi Shapiro
Tuesday	February 16	7:00 pm	Adult Ed "Exodus" with Rabbi Shapiro
Wednesday	February 17	7:00 pm	Transition Committee Meeting
Sunday	February 21	10:00 am	Religious School
Tuesday	February 23	7:00 pm	Adult Ed "Exodus" with Rabbi Shapiro
Thursday	February 25	6:00 pm	Megillah Reading
Sunday	February 28	2:00 pm	Presentation by Ken Hanson PH.D

"What was Purim like when you were growing up?"

As a young child in Temple Israel of Daytona Beach, it was fun and festive. The focus was very much on the children, all of whom were Baby Boomers.

- **Dr. Philip J. Shapiro**

Growing up, the Purim experience I most remember happened “post-Purim”. Each year on Purim, our synagogue would host a carnival, with lots of games to play and prizes to win. I was around 10 years old. My favorite activity was to try and throw a ping pong ball into a small fishbowl. The prize for doing this was a goldfish! I spent most of my tickets on this game, determined to win before the festival was over. Finally, my tenacity paid off! I won a coveted goldfish (minus the fishbowl). I proudly brought my fish home in the plastic bag provided. Eventually, he (she?) ended up in a bowl, probably not a goldfish bowl, but it was a step up from the plastic bag. The next day I was eating lunch and, as usual, I was giving my parents a hard time about “finishing my plate”. (I was a very picky eater and spent a good part of my childhood alone at the kitchen table, remaining there well after the meal was completed. I had to finish everything on my plate. After all, “people were starving in China!”) That day's culinary treat was cream cheese and bagels. My father threatened that if I didn't finish my bagel, he would feed it to the fish! I was horrified, but I couldn't break with tradition. I steadfastly refused to complete the task at hand. My father did follow through on his threat and fed parts of my bagel to the fish. Several hours later, we found him floating on the top of the bowl, (obviously not a Jewish fish). I was crushed, my parents were secretly delighted, and my father unceremoniously flushed him down the toilet, never to be seen again.

- **Harriet Fritts**

Purim hasn't changed that much. There were booths to try your skills. We ran around with our starting coupons and then asked our parents to buy us more, so we could earn prizes, which everybody won. The prizes weren't very good. The booth did reinforce our knowledge of Purim characters. Parents were happy to see the excitement of the kiddies. Then there was a big clean up.

- **Cholly Beck**



MEMORIAM

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses impressive memorial boards. Memorial plaques with the names of our dearly departed loved ones adorn the boards. A brass memorial plaque with the name of your departed loved one inscribed thereon can be added to the Memorial Board for a donation of \$300.



TREE OF LIFE

The Sanctuary of Congregation B'nai Torah houses an impressive Tree of Life, donated by Dr. & Mrs. Richard Rhodes. Stylized "Leaves" or "Foundation Stones" celebrate a happy, or any, occasion. A brass leaf will be engraved with the name of the celebrated person(s) and other appropriate information and will be added to the Tree of Life for a donation of \$180.

For very special occasions, there are a limited number of "Foundation Stones" available for a donation of \$500.

Please call Alan Kisseloff (386-441-1742) if you would like more information on the Memorial Board or the Tree of Life.

Purim comes at last.

We will celebrate together via Zoom on Thursday evening February 25th at 6pm with our Purim Spiel, our play featuring our many religious school students.

There is some argument among academics as to whether the story of the Book of Esther actually happened. Critics cite customs and verbiage that may have more in common with Greek civilization. Others say its a knock off from Babylonian Myths. But that's not the only point of contention. They also argue about where Esther and Mordechai are buried. You are probably thinking "how can they say it isn't real if people are still arguing about where the heroes wound up?"

Actually, if you drop by Iran, you can visit the Tomb of Esther and Mordechai in Hamadan; a place where Iranian Jews still make pilgrimages each Purim and sometimes during the year. Or you can also drop in on Shush, the modern location of ancient Shushan where you will have to find someone who knows their secret burial place. Or you can travel 800 miles south to the site of Kibbutz Kfar Bar'am near Lebanon where their burial place is also a secret. Where is Indiana (or Jerusalem) Jones when you need him?

Still, Purim is preserved religiously in the Bible not just as history, but as inspiration for anyone who has had to take a risk for the greater good. Our heroine gained strength from the inspirational prayers of others, and was able to summon her own best self to risk all for her people.

And so we remember the story each year through our fanciful retellings, comforted and taught by the idea that evil can be defeated by good, if good is willing to try.

May all of your Purim stories end with food; as it says, carved into a stone inscription on the southern slope of Mount Humantashen:

"They attacked us, we won, let's eat."

Happy Purim!

Rabbi S. David Kane

Dear Congregants:

Purim will soon be here and we would like to help the needy Jewish families and seniors with food especially for this happy holiday. Please send your donations to 470 Andalusia Avenue, Ormond, Beach, Fl. 32174. We need to show we care especially with this pandemic.



The Jewish Federation
OF VOLUSIA & FLAGLER COUNTIES

We also have been contacted by our friend Amos from Tel Aviv University who has been able to get us bomb shelters at a greatly reduced price. A school is attached to every one of them and they are amazing.

He told me that in Eshbal, Jerusalem the need is very great because Hamas has been again sending rockets and these children do not have a bomb shelter to go to. Please send funds for this effort. This is what Amos wrote to me:

“Thank you so much for being willing to raise money for this new bomb shelter. As you know this doesn’t have anything to do with my current work as vice-president for Public Affairs and Resource Development. It is all voluntary work. You and your community are doing amazing things. This will be the 10th bomb shelter that I have helped you with to get very big discounts You all should be really proud.”

We still have been extremely busy with our Food Bank and the following is one of the many letters we have received:

“To the Jewish Federation:

My husband and I would like to thank you for all the help you have given us since the start of the pandemic through today. We will always remember the generosity of the Jewish Federation with assistance towards late rent payments, food assistance once monthly, and in addition there have been several boxes of “Farm to Family food assistance that we have also been contacted for!”

We will never forget your kindness during these difficult times. We would like to thank all the people who have helped with assistance, in order to make this one of the most successful pantries in the county, in our humble opinion.

Thanks so much and God Bless you all!

Marvin Miller, President

Gloria Max, Executive Director

CURBSIDE Rabbi



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Dry Bones HAR HAR HAR



Yahrzeit Donations

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Mary Hoven by Dan Hoven

Regina Diamond by Dr. Michael Diamond

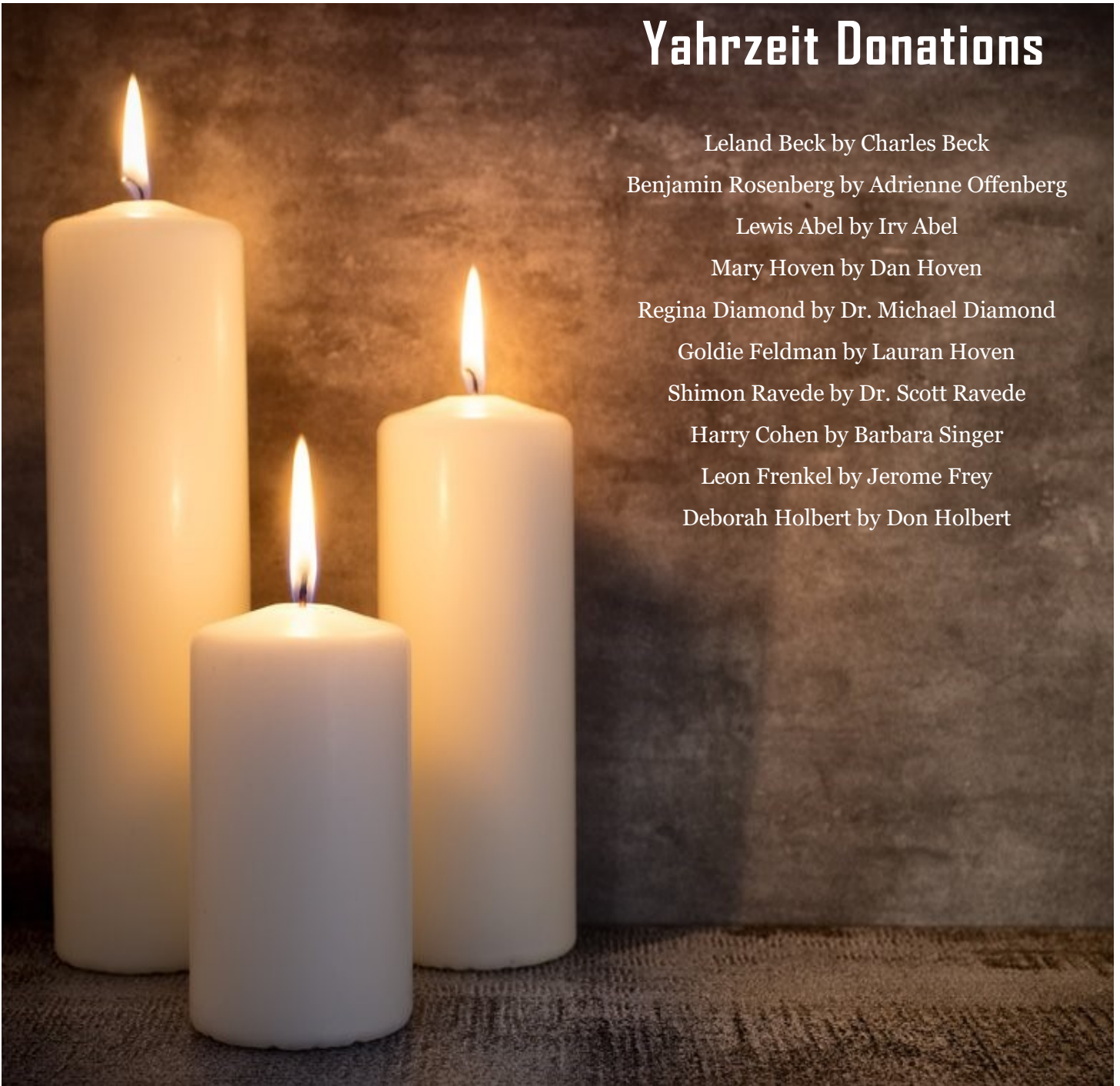
Goldie Feldman by Lauran Hoven

Shimon Ravede by Dr. Scott Ravede

Harry Cohen by Barbara Singer

Leon Frenkel by Jerome Frey

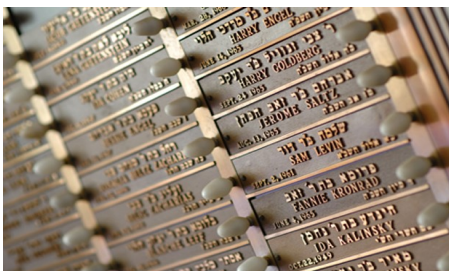
Deborah Holbert by Don Holbert



Yahrzeit Notice

If you happen to receive a letter for a Yahrzeit that is incorrect, please contact Eva at the office to have it corrected.

Also, if a Yahrzeit for a loved one was not commemorated, please let us know! You will need to provide time of death (day, month and year) and if it was after sunset.





FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Dr. Joyce Battle | 19 Phillip Melnick |
| 1 Bobbie Gordon | 19 Dr. Barry Kusnick |
| 2 Sema Friedman | 21 Harry Lasris |
| 10 Charles Moskowitz | 21 Michael Rosen |
| 10 Annette Ashkenazi | 22 Virginia Horowitz |
| 12 Madisyn Mirza | 23 Carole Miller |
| 12 Ariella Rosen | 23 Scott Goldsmith |
| 14 Lauran Hoven | 23 Ray Max |
| 16 Dr. Richard Rhodes | 24 Lorna Ravede |
| 18 Leslie Greenberg | 27 John Matthews |
| 18 Brandon Liebman | 28 Emily Weiss |



FEBRUARY

- 11 Valerie & Rabbi David Kane
- 14 Carole & Jerry Miller
- 23 Lea & Charles Moskowitz



Donations

Birthdays

Happy Birthday from Lea & Charles Moskowitz to Dr. Joyce Battle, Bobbie Gordon, Sema Friedman, Annette Ashkenazi, Lauran Hoven, Dr. Richard Rohdes, Leslie Greenberg-Goodman, Philip Melnick, Dr. Barry Kusnick, Harry Lasris, Virginia Horowitz, Carole Miller, Ray Max, Lorna Ravede and John Matthews.

Happy Birthday from Sherry Armstrong to Harvey Singer and David Cohen.

Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary from Lea & Charles Moskowitz to Valerie & Rabbi David Kane, Carole & Jerry Miller.

Happy Anniversary from Helen Farb to Sue & Irv Abel.

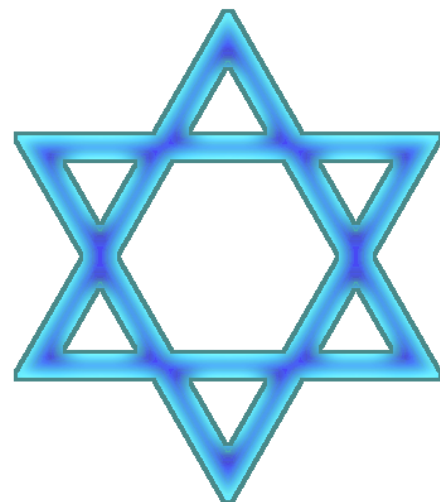
Congratulations

Mazel Tov to Robin & Ira Freedman on the birth of their grandson Adam from Lea & Charles Moskowitz and Sue & Rob Goldberg.

Sympathy

Condolences to Sue Goldberg & family from Sherry Armstrong, Lea & Charles Moskowitz, Barbara & Harvey Singer, Sheryl & Ken Lipowitz and Helen Farb in Memory of Ed Berger.

Condolences to Karen Hechtman & family from Lea & Charles Moskowitz, Sheryl & Ken Lipowitz, Harriet & Al Fritts and Helen Farb in Memory of John Bacon.



Please let the office know if you change your address, phone number or email address. It will help us keep in touch with you.

Thank you!



Every Tuesday evening at 7pm during the month of February, you will have the opportunity to join Rabbi Shapiro for Adult Education. Each week will have a new interesting discussion about the book of Exodus.

Zoom Link will be emailed.



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Congregation B'nai Torah, now has an Amazon Smile account.

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Thank You!

Volunteers Wanted

If you need help setting up Zoom in order to connect and participate in our weekly Services and events, please call :

Charlie Moskowitz (386) 871-0527

Or

Alan Kisseloff (386) 441-1742

The Ada Siegel Committee, as with all committees, has open enrollment. *We develop skills in Entertainment, Jewish Culture and Adult Education.* There is one hitch: work. You must be willing to seek prospective programs, see them through (with Committee support) and attend a few meetings (3 or 4).

Call Cholly Beck (via Lorna's phone):

336-655-0366

(Yes, that is 336 area).



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