

# Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2018 Iyar – Sivan 5778

*Congregation Etz Chaim's Mission Statement is: Passionate and participatory, our supportive Jewish community engages each individual in a life-long Jewish journey. We embrace diverse experiences that span both traditional and contemporary ideas while learning and pursuing spiritual growth.*

## Executive Committee:

Terry Brodof  
Russ Rosen  
Aaron Schechtman  
Stephany Schechtman  
Steve Segerman

## Staff:

Hank Lerer, Executive Director  
Chava Vidal, Program Director

## Men's Club:

Aaron Schechtman, President

## Sisterhood:

Sandy Baden & Laura Maxwell  
Co-Directors

## Ritual Co-Chairs:

Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg



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## Message from your President – Terry



April finally has come and gone. You may not remember but April began filled with hope for warmer weather and pretty blue sunny skies. Well, after the first 10 days in we had 5 mornings and 2 Shabbatot with snow on the ground. Happily, we also had 5 days in the upper 50's or better! Flowers were still coming up, in spite of the frost on the ground, and we fed over a hundred people at the Over The Rhine Soup kitchen. They were extra appreciative of the HOT meal that

warmed them on such a cold day. As one of our guests was leaving, he came up to me as I was pouring drinks and said G-d bless the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I smiled and answered with an *Amen*, but it made me stop for a moment in all the chaos to think yes...we are blessed.

In April we celebrated a Bat Mitzvah Shabbat as Rachel Cohn was called to the Torah. We offered our *service leading classes* so we can increase everyone's comfort level and provide the tools to those of us who are imagining what is possible, and we celebrated Etz Chaim and two couples, whose vision helped make the possible a reality at our Donor event.

We continue to make our own opportunities and to build a synagogue filled with our own brand of warmth month to month; as we did in April, despite the forecasted climate.

I just watched a film about Winston Churchill. I remember from a history class at WHHS (go Eagles!) a Churchill quote because it stayed with me. He said "a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty". Truly, that is the optimism that we took on when we began this journey. We looked at what was fractured and not sustainable and saw what we could repair and put together and go on to build. Our own brand of Tikkun Olam. It takes a measurable degree of faith and optimism to be able to look forward. It takes the ability to put away negative thoughts. It takes the firm strength to trust in the people around you, the belief that we can do anything, and the ability to create a positive climate on our own if we simply do it.

Being positive takes effort. It may not be inherently in all of our natures. One fact is certain. Negativity is contagious. I read recently about *The Negativity Effect*. It is a notion that we need to hear five positive comments for every negative comment. In other words, phrasing things in the most positive light can easily be forgotten or put aside when we hear simply one negative phrase. It seems that negativity is very persuasive. We don't want it to become any more powerful than it already is. Our gift to one another and to all others that come into our home, is to sustain an atmosphere of warmth and welcoming words and deeds.

**Continued on the next page...**

Our synagogue founders and leaders, whose vision made this year possible, recognized it is difficult for anything to survive in a hostile or harsh environment. You see, this year, we might not be here today if we had not taken a hard look at our situation. It took a lot of positive words spoken over and over and repeated over and over again and again, to ensure the success we enjoy today. We built an amazing young congregation from some older yet invigorated minds. We built a congregation that stays until 2:00 p.m. or later on most Shabbat afternoons just sitting and enjoying one another's company. We built a congregation that is content sitting around a table playing trivia together, sharing thoughts, laughing with one another and at our displays of humanity. We have a board that readily shares their views without hesitation.

We are a special community. Don't let anyone tell you differently. We have our faults. We have our moments. We sometimes forget we are setting a precedent every time we take on a task or a project. Why? Because we are now doing it the *Etz Chaim* way. Everything we do is a creation and formation of our policy and our legacy. I encourage us all to be mindful to not let our difficulties define us. Rather, allow them to strengthen us.

You know, guests who enter our synagogue see us in a better light than we sometimes see ourselves. They tell me, as President, that this is the first Shul where they truly felt welcomed at services and at our table during kiddushim. We knowingly or sometimes unknowingly (much as Abraham and Sarah did), practice *hachnasat orchim*, the importance of welcoming of visitors with kind words and actions. We are no longer strangers to one another. Our synagogue is home to us all now. Like I said, knowingly or unknowingly, within us is the warmth and welcoming climate others so easily recognize as special. Do not underestimate the power of your smile, the effect on someone with a simple hello or an email thoughtfully worded.

Anne Frank noted "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." I was reminded this week by a stranger that G-d blessed the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob with many gifts. They are inside us all. Don't waste a moment...open them and share them with everyone you meet within and outside of our synagogue walls. See in us...what others see. It is pretty remarkable.

B'Shalom, Terry



After a small break from rehearsing, our choirs have started back full steam ahead.

Pri Yadeiha women's choir will sing a couple of songs at Sisterhood Shabbat on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We thank the leaders of Sisterhood for including us in their plans for this Shabbat.

Ruach Etz Chaim is focusing on songs, some old and some new, to sing at our next Choir Shabbat, which is tentatively planned for Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some were composed by Meir Ovadia, a local composer who appreciates us singing his songs, and some by Debbie Friedman, an internationally acclaimed composer of Jewish music whose songs so many of us love to - and do - sing.

We are beginning to work on our High Holy Day music – that time is approaching. We intend to add one new 'song bite' (since it is not the entire song but the introductory part) to our repertoire, to be sung for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. We again look forward to working with Cantor Lubin, who is indeed a pleasure to partner with! We wish everyone a good spring (which has finally arrived for good).

**Musically Yours,  
Barbara and Emmy, Choir Co-Directors**



## Ritual Matters

Ritual Committee members: Co-Chairs: Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg; Members: Alex Cohen, Emmy Friedenberg, Lynne Haber, Candy Kwiatek, Hank Lerer, Steve Segerman, Chava Vidal, Robyn Wolfe

It's an ongoing thing -- all of the issues, plans and preparations that the ritual committee (the RITCOM) deals with. We take up the challenge when congregants bring questions or issues to us to help resolve and we hope that we continue to hear from you in this regard.

First let's focus on our Friday night services. These 6pm, hour long, services are a wonderful way to start your Shabbat celebrations. Did you know that once a month we hold a birthday Shabbat, where we celebrate congregants having birthdays in that month -- and we even serve cake!

Next, there's Saturday Shabbat services -- always special times. Our practice of alternating between Sanctuary and Chapel depending what is on the calendar has afforded us a nice compromise to congregants preferring one venue over the other.

Then there are Thursday (7 a.m.) minyan services. Early but so nice. They are followed by a great bagel and shots blocks and lox, 51 weeks of the year. (the exception being Passover, but then it's a great matzoh and fixings breakfast)

There are also 'on-demand' yahrzeit services, Festival services and more. The RITCOM thanks Julie Kaufman, for her years of service as Yartzheit Minyan Coordinator, a position she is handing off to our next volunteer.

Next holiday that comes up - SHAVUOT. \*Shavuot begins at sunset on Saturday, May 19 and ends on the evening of Monday, May 21. Shavuot... is celebrated seven weeks after the second Passover Seder. Although Shavuot began as an ancient grain harvest festival, the holiday has been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. \*source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/shavuot-2018/>

We will hold a Tikkun Leyl on Saturday evening, May 19, led by Candy Kwiatek and preceded by a Havdalah service, time to be announced. Please RSVP as soon as possible for what we know will be a wonderful discussion. Services will be held on the next two mornings, Sunday and Monday, starting at 9:30 am.

Our leader/davening classes started in April! The classes, ably led by Steve Segerman, have been meeting Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. In addition to learning the 'how', you also learn the history and the 'why' of what we do. Another goal would be to record the classes and post them on our website.

On May 6, Candy is reprising a wonderful program about Genizah (given earlier at Etz Chaim but we anticipate a much bigger crowd this time around). The program starts at 10 and will be followed by a scrumptious brunch.

And now for the "piece de resistance"! We are excited to announce that Cantor Lubin will again be joining us for the 5779 High Holy Days (HHD)! We look forward to his wonderful davening and to working with him on so many levels. The HHD season, though still a few months away, will be fast approaching. Additional information will be given in the next bulletin.

Barbara and Barry



## *“A Pair of Perfect Pairs”*



## *Candy & Kim Kwiatek and Stephany & Aaron Schechtman*



Watch for photos from this special event in our next bulletin and on our Facebook page

*Special thank you to the  
volunteers who made this  
donor event possible:*

- Calling Committee*
  - Cooking Crew*
  - Setup Team*
  - Clean up Crew*
  - Behind the scene support*
- and all who attended and  
contributed to this event.*

## SHAVUOT - 5778

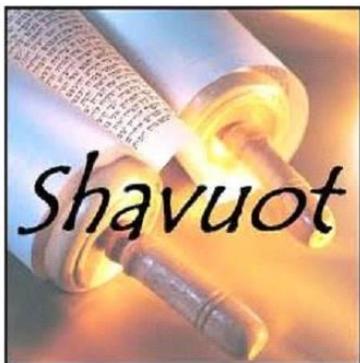
Sunday, May 20, 2018

9:30AM Service

Special Kiddush

following Services

Come join us for a spiritual,  
educational and interactive  
Shavuot Service & Lunch



Monday, May 21, 2018

9:30AM Service

11AM Yizkor (approximate  
time) kiddush

following Services

Come join us for a spiritual,  
educational and interactive  
Shavuot Service & Lunch



Friday Night, May 25, 2018

We welcome all families with young children  
to a special Friday Night Service &  
Celebration. Last one of the school year.

6:00pm to 6:30pm

Fun, Interactive & Educational Shabbat  
Service with stories, singing and more!

6:30pm to 7:00pm

Kid friendly Shabbat Dinner

RSVP in advance and your child will receive  
a special toy that is sure to bring laughter!

Call the office today 513-489-3399.

Please let us know your child's age and any  
dietary considerations.

All are welcome! Free to Attend



A huge Yasher Koach and Thank You to everyone who  
helped make our Seder Possible. From cleaning the  
kitchen, to setting the table, from cooking to serving,  
from reservations to cleaning the tables – this event is a  
shining example of the power of volunteers:

Special Thank you to Herb and Eleanor Segal who  
donated the beautiful pansies that made  
our Seder tables look so festive!



# MEN'S CLUB

## From Geniza to Grave

*Jewish Traditions Surrounding "Sacred Trash"*

*Men's Club Breakfast Event*

*May 6, 10am – Donations Welcome*



What do we do with things we don't want any more? Reuse them? Donate them? Sell them? Toss them?

But what does one do with "sacred trash," like a Bible, photocopied texts, or ritual items? And what else has been considered "sacred trash" at various times?

How is Jewish treatment of sacred but no-longer-useable items related to pagan sacred posts and Moses' smashing of the two stone Tablets? Could there be a connection to the Golem of Prague? How are Egypt and Afghanistan part of the geniza story? What defines a geniza? And what are some of the challenges of "sacred trash" today?



Come explore the fascinating history, traditions, and tales of the geniza across time in an audiovisual presentation with Candy Kwiatek at the May Men's Brunch.

# Building Bridges, Closing Gaps

By: Brian Wolfe

My brain has been stuck in “RE” mode for a while now. RE -- according to the Cambridge Dictionary is used with verbs to add the meaning “do again”. Sort of like deja vue -- or insanity: doing the same thing over again and expecting different results.

Every year at Passover we retell the story of the Exodus, from slavery to freedom. What about the Torah? We read the entire Torah (triannual reading) each year, and it ends the same way, those that cross over into the land, those chose to stay on the other side, and Moses only getting to see the land.

Are we really expecting something different? This time when get to the 9<sup>th</sup> plague do we think the story will change and God says, “forget it... enough is enough, just stay where you are”? Or when it is time to cross the Jordan in Israel, Moses is told to put his waders on and get in line and cross into the land?

There aren't alternative universes where things happen differently, no different timelines with different people where we follow different roadmaps, turning left instead of right, having the fish instead of the chicken, eating more salad, making those RSVP on time, etc. No second chances. Or are there???

That is the point of RE. It is our opportunity to do something again and get different results.

**Redo:** do something again so it looks new or different. Redo the kitchen, our hair or our attitude. Say hi to somebody you don't know or don't normally talk to.

**Reboot:** the act of getting new boots because the old ones wore out. (ok, I made this one up). Really it means to discard all continuity in an established series in order to recreate characters, timeline and backstory from the beginning.

**Reinvent:** ourselves, our shul. Read a book, take a class and learn something new, get involved. There are plenty of things to do. You can always be somebody different.

**Repair:** The world was once 'paired', we are going to 'pair it again" or fix it better than it was. We just honored two of our pairs. Congratulate them and thank them

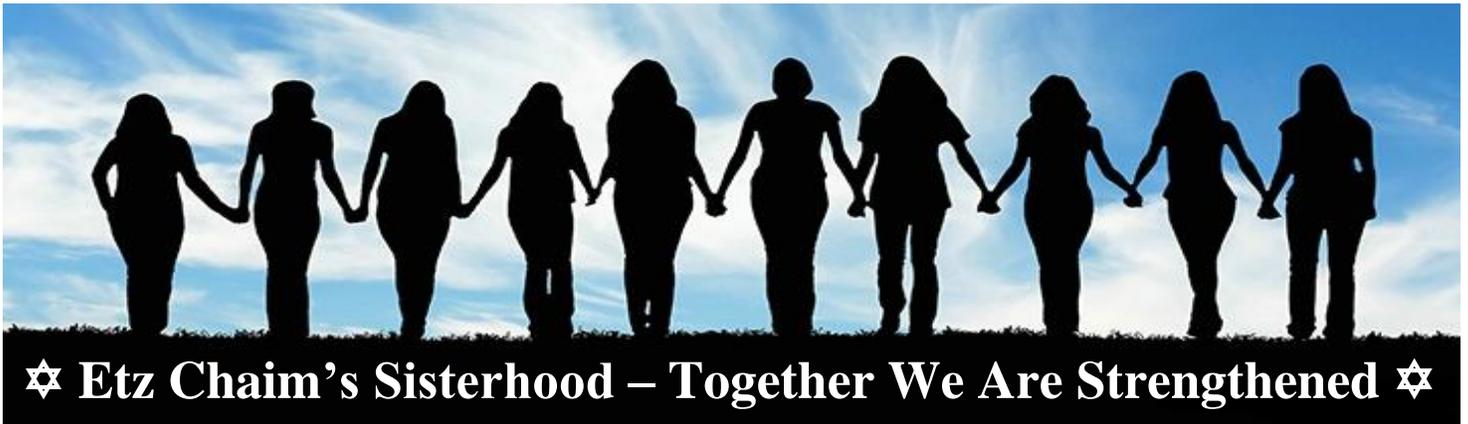
**Refried:** we fried it once; we can fry it again, as in refried beans or twice fried potatoes – Yum.

**Retell:** Every year we retell, relive, and reenact Purim and the Exodus from Egypt. It's the same story but different tune, different verse, and different laughs.

**Reinterpret:** There is plenty of new, modern commentary out there from which we can get a different twist or interpretation. Anybody have a new haggadah to share, with pictures please?

**Reconnect:** Maybe it is a little early to be talking about High Holidays, but it is never too early to talk about repairing relationships or reconnecting with friends and relatives we haven't seen in a while, and I don't mean through Facebook. I mean face to face. Pick up the phone, write a letter, or just go over.

Spring is here, Summer will be here soon and lots of things are going on, in shul, around shul and around town. Stop in, get **re**connected with friends, **re**solve to get **re**involved and reenergized. We'll **re**fire up the grill for some hamburgers and hot dogs and **re**cycle the beer cans.



☆ Etz Chaim's Sisterhood – Together We Are Strengthened ☆



Sisterhood visited Matthew 25 Ministries this past month for our annual Social Action outing. Matthew 25 Ministries provides international humanitarian aid and disaster relief. These efforts reach over 20 million people each year. Personal care items are just some of the essentials given to those in need. During our visit we taped packets of wipes together in pairs. We were able to get through an entire flat of boxes in an hour. When you see an entire warehouse filled with clothes and other items for the relief efforts, it may seem like the task we performed was small. It takes thousands of volunteers performing one task at a time to keep the relief efforts going. We are proud to be a part of that.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a meal together at Through the Garden. Please consider joining us next year! Upcoming events include Sisterhood Shabbat on May 5th. Come join us as the women of Etz Chaim lead us in prayer. Keep your eye out for details on our game night scheduled in June.



## ☆ Etz Chaim's Sisterhood – Together We Are Strengthened ☆

In March a Sisterhood group visited Matthew 25 Ministries to volunteer our time to their worthwhile activities. We were there for about an hour and a half and in that time we put together over a thousand packets of anti-bacterial cleaning cloths that will be sent all over the world where needed. As a group we work hard for our beloved Etz Chaim, but we also appreciate the opportunity to volunteer in activities that are beneficial to the needy anywhere in our global community. Afterward, we enjoyed dinner together at a local restaurant.

On Saturday, May 5, we will celebrate our annual Sisterhood Shabbat where services will be conducted by many of our members, and will include a delicious Kiddush afterwards, also prepared by our members. Please join us for this beautiful event.

As we near the end of this year, we will be working to put together a slate of officers and board members for the coming year. Please let Stephany Schechtman know if you would like to work with us. We would love to have YOU!

Co-Directors: Sandy Baden & Laura Maxwell



**Save the Date for our  
May Shabbat Speaker Series**

**SATURDAY, May 12, 2018**



You are invited to join us for a study session following services and Kiddush lunch, presented by fellow congregant and HUC rabbinic student Isaama Stoll. Isaama will be teaching on midrash related to the themes of the weekly parsha. Dessert will be served following the study session.

**Study Breakfast – at Night!**

*Tikkun Leyl Shavuot With Havdalah*

**Double Booked...and Broken**

**May 19, 2018 8:30-10:00pm**



Shavuot is double-booked. Of course, there's the Torah, the eternal story of the Jewish people, its history, and its ideals. But also featured on Shavuot is the story of Ruth whose famous words "*Where you go, I will go...*" also echo across time. From Sinai to Ruth there's a message of commitment to the Covenant: God, Torah, and Israel.

But is that the only double booked message? Perhaps we should look again.

The Sinai story begins in brokenness, when Moses smashes the two Tablets of the Law. And Ruth's story also begins in brokenness, with the death of her husband and famine in the land. Could it be there's a message in these double booked elements of brokenness as well?

To usher in the holiday of Shavuot, celebrate with an evening of havdalah, snacks & study! (*Not to worry – there is a happily-ever-after ending to the evening's studies!*) Join educator Candy Kwiatek in the library for an interactive and surprisingly upbeat Shavuot study session on brokenness. ***NOTE: 7 participants minimum; RSVPs to Candy required by May 14.***



## CYJL Bulletin Article

by: Randy Slovin

Consistency. That's what serving on Etz Chaim's Create Your Jewish Legacy ("CYJL") Committee feels like. Akin to Joey Votto's batting average (well, I haven't looked at it yet this early in the year), our CYJL Committee is consistent. We meet monthly. We attend regularly scheduled education sessions sponsored by Jewish Federation. We are constantly reviewing our goals, and our numbers of legacy donors. And, we consistently exchange emails and ideas in between meetings, on how to increase legacy giving, not just to our Shul, but to the Jewish community in general.



### *Legacy Team Members*

*Sandy Baden  
Russell Rosen  
Steven N. Segerman  
Randy T. Slovin*

*Please remember the Jewish community with a gift in your will, trust, IRA, or life insurance policy.*

Think where we could be today if we had started this consistency 10, 20, or even 30 years ago. A lot of members have unfortunately passed away, who were never asked if they would consider leaving a legacy gift in their will or trust to our shul. People who loved our shul and benefitted from it over the years. Friends who met through Couples Club, Men's Club, or Sisterhood. Children who became a bar or bat mitzvah here. People who attended Hebrew school or Sunday school here. Couples who were married here. But, our task is not to look backward, rather to look to the future. How do we improve the years ahead for our congregation? By continuing to ask and seek out legacy donors. And, by being consistent. Our committee of Steve Segerman, Russ Rosen, Sandy Baden and I will continue our efforts.

The consistency thing has paid off. Handsomely, I might add. How's that, you ask? We recently received our 25<sup>th</sup> Letter of Intent (sometimes you will hear us refer to it as an "LOI"). Because we obtained 25 LOI's and met other goals, our shul will receive \$13,000.00 in funding from Jewish Federation. So, who was our lucky 25<sup>th</sup> person who put us over the top? None other than Samantha Segerman. At 18 years of age, she is also the youngest of our legacy donors. The daughter of Sue and Steve Segerman, Samantha committed funds to Etz Chaim, along with Camp Livingston and the Greater Cincinnati Jewish Cemeteries. Samantha is an apple that didn't fall far from the tree. Sue and Steve both grew up in loving Jewish families, and Samantha had the same benefit. In addition, her parents obviously talk charitable giving at home. So, she listened and learned, and then acted. Samantha was involved in Jewish activities since a very young age. Youth group. Camp Livingston. Bat Mitzvah. So, she heard and saw other positive messages about our Jewish community. Further, she will be going on a Birthright trip to Israel this spring. Yasher Koach to Samantha for getting involved in legacy giving at such an early age.

Consistency. Samantha learned it from her parents and grandparents. And she stepped forward as they did. Oh, and that consistency means that you will be hearing from our committee members, just to talk about the concept of legacy giving. We hope that you can step forward like Samantha did.

# A COMBINED MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Join us for a musical treat! New Horizons Band of Cincinnati will join with Cincinnati's New Horizons Orchestra for a delightful hour of marches, show tunes, popular oldies and classical pieces.

Thursday, May 24, 2018. Time: 7:00-8:30 P.M. Held at Congregation Etz Chaim Synagogue, 8100 Cornell Rd., Blue Ash. Free and open to the public.

The combined groups boast some 75 plus musicians from all over the Tri-State. Their enthusiasm and musical expertise is infectious. Come and enjoy the sounds and excitement of our American musical heritage performed by seasoned musicians.

The director of CCM Preparatory's New Horizons program, BettyAnne Gottlieb, is assistant professor in Music Education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Music Education.

The New Horizons band of Cincinnati boasts three very talented and experienced directors. Susan Schirmer has more than 30 years' experience in public schools, including 27 years in the Lakota district. Her career includes teaching elementary through high school students. She has played clarinet with the Southwest Ohio Symphonic Band, Seven Hills Sinfonietta and Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra. She is founder of the West Chester Symphony. Jack Conway was professionally involved in music education for 33 years, having served as band director at Moeller High School in Cincinnati and Badin High in Hamilton. He retired from the Lakota School District, where he served as a sixth-grade band teacher and taught jazz band, choir, and other music courses. Bruce Knapp counts more than 40 years as music educator at secondary schools, colleges, and military bands. He led the UC summer band for three years and annually conducts the Cincinnati Tuba Christmas program. He plays tuba with the 275 Brass and is principal tubist with the Cincinnati Community Orchestra. Each of these talented musicians brings a wealth of musical talent and expertise, making the band special in so many ways.



New Horizons Band of Cincinnati was formed in 1999 and is part of the New Horizons International Music Association. There are New Horizons music programs around the world. They provide entry points to music making for adults, including those with no musical experience at all and those who were active in school music programs but have not played for a long time.



**ORCHESTRA** Members of the New Horizons Orchestra participate in small group instruction and ensemble rehearsals, with the potential for chamber music and specialty music groups depending on the interests of the members. Their director, Betty Anne Gottlieb stated, "Music making is great for mental and social stimulation, physical fitness, releasing stress, and stimulating creativity."

**Thursday, May 24, 2018**

**Time: 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Held at Congregation Etz Chaim**

**Free and open to the public**





The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Judge Robert S. Kraft Memorial Service

Continue to Remember and Honor  
Heroes of the Jewish Community  
Who gave their lives for our country

Covedale Cemetery  
Sunday, May 27, 2018 – 10:30am

This event is a community wide event honoring our fallen heroes. In recent years Hank and Chava have attended and were surprised to see a small crowd comprised of aging individuals. We felt compelled to publicize this event and pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We are encouraging all our congregants and their friends to attend and take an hour out of your day to ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten. Hank and Chava will be in attendance again this year and can coordinate rides for those interested in attending. Please help us to continue and grow this Memorial Day ceremony.

If you are planning to attend, or would like more information, please call Hank/Chava at 513-489-3399

*SIMCHAS ✧ REMEMBRANCES ✧ CONGRATULATIONS*

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

**Synagogue General Fund**

*Yahrzeit*

Rose Nagler, Mother-in-Law  
Adele Nagler

Helen Freeman, Sister  
Adele Nagler

Rae Alter, Sister-in-Law  
Adele Nagler

Tillie Long, Sister-in-Law  
Adele Nagler

Anna Ornstein, Mother  
Esther Zwerdling

Charles Karl Jacob Heilmann, Husband  
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Judith Carsch, Sister  
Gail & Fred Zeifman

Arthur Kaplan, Father  
Karen & Brad Kaplan

Gerald Plotkin, Brother-in-Law  
Alice Plotkin

George Camins, Father  
Sharon & Larry Dugan

Harry Fiemark, Grandfather  
Harold & Helene Kirzner

David Cohn, Grandfather  
Harold & Helene Kirzner

Robyn Gayle Novick, Daughter & Sister  
Phyllis & Pamela Novick

Flora Schatz, Mother-in-Law  
Harlene Schatz

David Weisberg, Husband  
Ophra Weisberg

Harvey Ornstein, Brother  
Esther Zwerdling

Diana Lee Hinkel, Niece  
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Ida Lee Feldman, Cousin  
David & Deborah Lefton

Jacob Dreyer, Father  
Bob Dreyer

Gerry Yarmush, Sister  
Bob Dreyer

Libby & Joe Sandow, Grandparents  
Randy Sandow

Moishe Herszage, Father  
Fabiana Sandow

Isadore Fox, Father  
Irv & Donna Fox

Max & Charna Fox, Grandparents  
Irv & Donna Fox

Isidore & Rebecca Fox, Grandparents  
Irv & Donna Fox

Charles & Rosella Zavell, Parents  
Irv & Donna Fox

Meyer Siegel, Father  
Leah Cohen

Annette Levy Kusel, Mother  
Karen & Albert Sawdai

Ivy Sawdai, Mother  
Karen & Albert Sawdai

Gertrude Dannenberg, Moter  
Larry & Betty Dannenberg

Emma Chemha Perez-Belhassen, Mother  
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Milton & Ida Bloch, Parents  
Joel Bloch

Gerald M. Lerer, Husband, Father & Grandfather  
Hatsy Lerer

Hank, Emily & Max Lerer  
Eddie, Ellen, Meyer, Gabe & Sophia Lerer

Aaron Friedenber, Father  
Bob & Emmy Friedenber

Caroline Weintraub Sax, Mother  
Drew A. Sax

Hyman Sobol, Father  
Freida Aron

Donald Kuhr, Husband  
Harriet Kuhr

Samuel Gutterman, Grandfather  
Mitchell Liberman

Mitchell Liberman, Grandfather  
Mitchell Liberman

Frances Landman, Mother  
Jack Landman  
Elaine Ninio, Wife  
Sami Ninio

Samuel Cohen, Brother  
Louise Stein

Michael Brodof, Father & Dear Friend  
Matthew & Lauren Brodof  
Terry Brodof

Thelma Lipsky, Grandmother  
Sheila & Robert Lipsky

**SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS**

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Frances Cohen, Mother  
Alex Cohen

Sidney Edelstein, Father  
Laura Mendelson

**A Generous Donation Was Received for the  
Yahrzeit of**

Paul Nathan, Husband  
Shirley Nathan

*Memory*

To the Family of Shirley Nedelman  
IMO Shirley

From Sandy Baden

Terry Brodof

Helen Marks

Carol Friedman

Ken & Carrie Goldhoff

Laurie & Geoffrey Gerber

Bernice Eastman

Ann Neuer

*Aliyot*

**A Generous Donation Was Received from**

Barbara Rosen

**Sandor Kutas Hunger Fund**

*Yahrzeit*

Mary Rose, Mother

Evelyn Feldman

Minnete Goldstein, Mother

Barry Goldstein

Arthur Neuer, Uncle

Dayva A. Green

Lillian Mellman, Mother-in-Law

Phyllis Mellman

Bessie Feldman, Mother & Grandmother

Marian Feldman Ehrlich

Barbara Hanish

Louis R. Zimov, Father

Rosalyn Z. Richards

**A Generous Donation Was Received**

In memory of all my loved ones

Ray Kantor

Gail Costantini

**Irvin & Sylvia Rauchman Youth Fund**

*Yahrzeit*

Irving Troy, Father

Donna Kabakoff

Max Udow, Grandfather

Donna Kabakoff

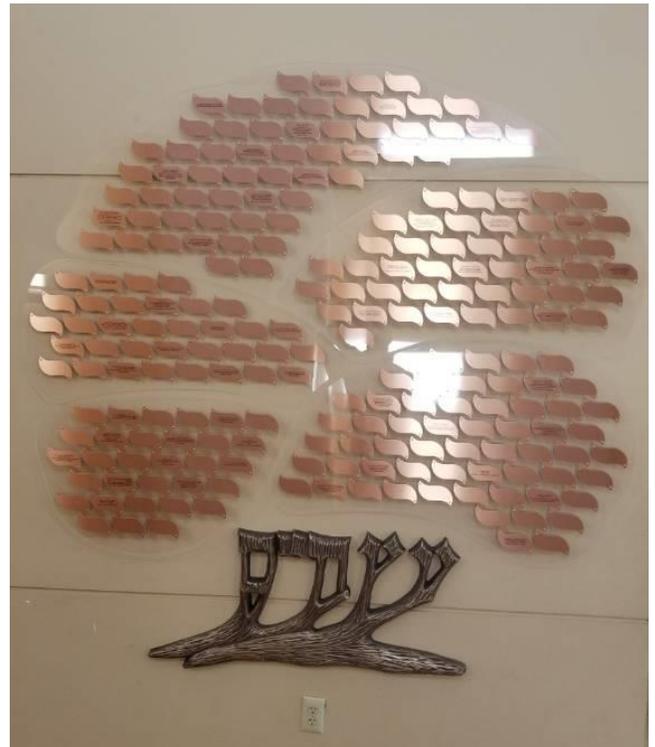
Marilyn Barnett, Wife & Mother

Bob & Pam Barnett

New Tree of Life!  
Our new Tree of Life  
has been installed  
in the lobby.

leaves are available to  
commemorate simchot,  
honor friends or  
loved ones or recognize special  
milestones.

Leaves are \$ 126 each---  
contact the shul office  
if you are interested.



# IN THE ETZ CHAIM FAMILY

Share a simcha with your synagogue family – call the office today to schedule a sponsored Kiddush! Thank you to the many kitchen volunteers who make these kiddushim possible!

## Special Thank You to:

Steve Cohn for sponsoring Kiddush of April 14 in honor of Rachel becoming Bat Mitzvah

The Education Committee for sponsoring Kiddush on April 28 in honor of Rabbi Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi's visit

May we continue to have share Simchot Together!

## **Congratulations to all our May Birthdays!**

4	Brian Goldberg	26	Chava Vidal
5	Carrie Kluger	28	Toby Franklin
7	Ronn Sokol	29	Andrew Segerman
8	Estelle Gud		
10	Jean Borden		
10	Carly Sandow		
11	Mitchell Liberman		
16	Karen Kaplan		
17	Joel Moskowitz		
18	Kimberly Edelstein		
19	Hank Lerer		
20	Marsha Berger		
20	Stephen Berger		
20	Michelle Fesman		
22	Victor Ronis-Tobin		
25	Gail Zeifman		



We look forward to celebrating with you at our  
May Birthday Minyan!

Friday Night, May 4, 2018

Kabbalat Shabbat services start at 6pm in the chapel then at 7pm we'll have cake in honor of all our May Birthdays!  
We'll see you there!

\*\* If you have a birthday or anniversary and it is not listed above, please call the office so we can put it in our database.

## **Happy Anniversary to:**

3	Howard & Cara Saal
3	Edward & Nancy Schulman
16	Aaron & Stephany Schechtman
19	Elliott & Kimberly Edelstein
19	Mitchell & Casey Katz
24	Paul & Tzila Evers
25	Sam & Gloria Nadel
25	Steven & Susan Segerman
29	Bernie & Judy Beraha
30	Hal & Jan Arenstein



## **Italian Shabbat Dinner**

**We've moved the date  
And we'll save you a plate  
Just rsvp and pay your fee**

**Friday Night, June 15, 2018  
6pm Services & 7pm Dinner**

**If you rsvp by June 1<sup>st</sup> cost is  
\$12 per person. After that date  
we'd still love for you to attend,  
but the cost is raised to \$15**

## Y AHRZEITS

*This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.*

**This May (Iyar - Sivan) we remember:**

**May 1—Iyar16**

Edward Faust  
Marvin Goldberg\*  
Fannie Horwitz\*  
Ruth Schraeder\*  
Anna Sirkin\*  
Jack Tolpen\*

**May 2 - Iyar 17**

Dora Barg\*  
Mary Merdinger  
Joyce Prager\*  
Jack Roth  
Howard Wacksman\*

**May 3 - Iyar 18**

Esther Donny\*  
Bessie Drucker\*  
Sarah Landy\*  
Amelia Lipman\*  
Sholom Litwack\*  
Morris Milowsky\*  
Israel Petricoff\*  
Bella Zwerdling

**May 4 - Iyar 19**

Nehemiah Himelfarb\*  
David Neuer\*  
Robert Pilder\*  
Bertha Wacksman\*  
Mose Yanoff\*

**May 5 - Iyar 20**

Florence Brodof\*  
Chava Feldman\*  
Kevin Heilmann\*  
Irvin Laibson\*  
Leonora Salley\*

**May 6 - Iyar 21**

Anna Freeman\*  
Geraldine Goodman  
Irvin Greenfield  
Hubert Hurst  
William Kadetz\*  
Eudice Landman  
Bertha Lipsky\*  
Herbert Okrent\*  
Sophie Peerless  
Moses Zwerdling

**May 7 - Iyar 22**

Louis Cusher\*  
Abraham Marcus\*  
Dora Raboff\*  
Yehuda Schechter\*  
Joy Tessel\*

**May 8 - Iyar 23**

Mitchell Bernat\*  
Solomon Bershad\*

Abe Cohen  
Isaac Cohen  
Noah Frey\*  
Hannah Marks\*  
Jean Maxwell  
Eli Mellman\*  
Morris Weiner\*

**May 9 - Iyar 24**

Mary Moncarz  
Lynelle Pepper\*  
Esther Zeigman\*

**May 10 - Iyar 25**

SaraLee Arnovitz  
Doreen Goldfarb\*  
Dora Himelfarb\*  
Leah Plost\*

**May 11 - Iyar 26**

Simeon Max  
Sarah Sattler\*

**May 12 - Iyar 27**

Risa Gail Cohen\*  
Goldie Funk\*  
Charles Gabbour\*  
Virginia Gordon\*  
Nettie Levine\*  
Jacob Rauchman\*  
Fannie Zelcer\*

**May 13 - Iyar 28**

Esther Brant\*  
Arthur Raffel\*  
Leonard Zakem\*

**May 14- Iyar 29**

Anna Shapiro\*  
Ida Shokler

**May 15 - Sivan 1**

Simon Feldman\*  
Leslie Fox\*  
Bernard Goldstone  
Sophia Jarsky\*  
Fay Krauss\*  
Sam Metz\*  
Gordon Schilmeister\*

**May 16 - Sivan 2**

Annette Cohan  
Samuel Einhorn\*  
William Korelitz\*  
William Okrent  
Leah Rauchman\*  
Jeanie Uzick  
Fanny Young\*

**May 17—Sivan 3**

Louis Barg\*  
Mary Fesman\*  
Louis Goldsmith\*

Else Kahn  
Kaete Lichtenstein  
Ralph Polin

**May 18—Sivan 4**

Samuel Borstein\*  
Jack Cohen\*  
Abe Levine\*  
Robert Levine\*  
George Rosen  
Louis Tessel\*

**May 19—Sivan 5**

Fred Beller  
Anne Butchkes\*  
Harry Donny\*  
Sylvia Herman\*

**May 20—Sivan 6**

Charles Albert\*  
Myra Levine\*  
Dorothy Rae Miller\*  
Jennie Praeger\*

**May 21—Sivan 7**

Alex Brodof\*  
Brana Dubinsky\*  
Melvin Edlin\*  
Elizabeth Karp\*  
Charles Meyer\*  
Irving Novick\*  
Minnie Pinsky\*

**May 22—Sivan 8**

Isadore Freid\*  
Leah Schiff  
Dorothy Shostack  
Gilbert Skurow\*  
Hirsh Zeigman\*

**May 23—Sivan 9**

Helen Bloom  
Rose Skurow\*

**May 24—Sivan 10**

Anna Einhorn  
Bessie Sacolick\*

**May 25—Sivan 11**

David Bershadsky\*  
Benjamin Cohan  
Benjamin Goldfarb\*  
Joseph Jarsky\*  
Sarah Lederman\*  
Carl Lerer

**May 26—Sivan 12**

Aaron Breit\*  
Shaina Litwack\*  
Charles Weber\*

**May 27—Sivan 13**

Celia Bell\*  
Evelyn Harris\*

## Y AHRZEITS

*This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.*

**This May (Iyar - Sivan) we remember:**

Benjamin Pilder\*

Henry Rosin\*

Henrietta Singer\*

**May 28- Sivan 14**

Ruth Bayliss

Sarah Bongard\*

Yehuda Covitch

Kurt Lichtenstein

Herman Neumann

**May 29- Sivan 15**

Milton Emden\*

Harry Freeman\*

Fred Goldstein

Janet Linder\*

David Mason

**May 30- Sivan 16**

Louis Favish

Phyllis Karp

Sidney Kohn\*

Jacob Koorland\*

Max Sirkin\*

Jake Skurow\*

**May 31- Sivan 17**

Jacob Hoodin\*

Abraham Wacksman\*

*\* Names are on  
the Sanctuary  
Yahrzeit Panels*

*Of Blessed Memory*  
*סיכרונם זכררה*

Congregation Etz Chaim is proud to offer minyanim upon request. If you would like to observe the Yahrzeit of a loved one and it occurs on a date that we do not have services scheduled, please call or email Julie Kaufman at [jsk9998@gmail.com](mailto:jsk9998@gmail.com) or call 793-6354 and leave a message.

Julie is our dedicated volunteer who helps to coordinate yahrzeit minyanim. If you would like to request a minyan please do so at least one week in advance.

When a minyan is requested Julie will send out an email to people who have signed up to help us ensure we always have ten people in attendance. If you would like to sign up to help us ensure minyanim please contact Julie and ask her to add your name to the list.

We are a community and we are strengthened by each other. Thank you in advance for helping us perform and fulfill these good deeds.

**Y AHRZEIT** - Begins the evening before the date listed above. Kaddish should be recited the evening before the above listed date, and the following day at both morning and afternoon services.



*Baruch Dayaan HaEmet.  
Blessed is the Judge of Truth.*

These are the first three words we as Jews are supposed to utter when we hear about a death....

The concept of death is not one we address; in fact, we do various things throughout our life to avoid it, deny it, run from it and fight it.

This summer we will work to shine a light on this dark topic with a nonjudgmental class on death, dying and the conversations that are rarely spoken aloud

Topics will include:

**Death in Judaism**

*What is death, what happens to the soul, to the body, taharah and death in the Torah*

**Grief and Shiva**

*Mourning, Anger, Sadness, Covered Mirrors, Shiva Calls, Words to say and what to avoid*

**The process of Dying & The process of Living**

*What is happening when death occurs, physiologically and spiritually*

**Final Preparations – sacred and mundane**

*Living Wills, Advance directives, Bucket Lists, Vidui/Confessions*

**Hospice & Cheshbon Hanefesh (Accounting of the soul)**

*Hospice and Palliative Care, Living with Death, forgiving yourself, others and God*

**Yitgadal V'Yitkadash**

*Kaddish, Yahrzeits, Yizkor and the gift of memory*

Classes will be 1 hour and are free to attend.

Six consecutive Tuesdays June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10 at 6pm.

We are pleased to announce the return of our

## SYNAGOGUE GARDEN

We received a grant to “seed” the project but we still need help from you, our congregants, to really make it “blossom”

There will be 4 raised garden boxes in the newly fenced area in the backyard, close to where our Sukkah is built.

We have several sponsorship and naming opportunities for the 2018 season which are:

### The Vegetable Garden

\$65 Sponsorship

### The Tomato Garden

\$65 Sponsorship

### The Spice Garden

\$65 Sponsorship

### The Fruit Box

\$65 Sponsorship

At the \$125 level you can sponsor the Outdoor Garden Work Bench Station or at \$250 level you can sponsor an outdoor tranquility garden pond.

Both of these features will remain in place season after season with your name on it.

These sponsorship opportunities are first come first serve so call the office today. In addition to your name in the garden, you will be listed as a garden patron on all garden publicity & will be honored at our “Garden Shabbat Friday Night Dinner” at the end of the summer

We are also in need of gardeners—  
To help tend to our crops.  
Anyone with a green thumb  
is welcome to come cultivate our harvest.

Call or Email Chava for more details:

513-489-3399

chavaniceday@gmail.com



# **MAY**

## **Synagogue Happenings**

### **We extend condolences to:**

Sandi and Richard Pywen  
on the loss of her father  
Herman Weiss z"l

The family of Ray Kantor z"l

### **Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:**

Matt Brodof

Sharyn Fox

Arlene Rosen

### **SERVICE PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP**

Your participation and leadership in our services - weekday and Shabbat - is encouraged. Please volunteer to assist in leading services, reading Torah or chanting Haftorah. If you would like to learn the skills, please contact Hank Lerer at the office, or via e-mail at: [hlerer@fuse.net](mailto:hlerer@fuse.net).

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### **MISHEBERACH**

It is customary to recite a Misheberach, a prayer requesting blessing and healing, for those who are sick. These prayers are recited on Monday and Thursday mornings and on Shabbat. If you would like a Misheberach recited for a friend or loved one, please call the synagogue office.

### **ANISH/OKRENT**

#### **REMEMBRANCE WALL**

The Anish/Okrent Remembrance Wall is dedicated in memory of:

**Harry & Ethel Anish  
and  
Joseph & Ida Okrent**

whose bequests provided for the purchase of the Cornell Road property. Bricks of Remembrance are available for purchase. Have your significant events and dedications permanently inscribed and made a part of ETZ CHAIM Bricks on the Remembrance Wall are available for \$250 each. Please contact the office if interested at 489-3399.

### **Shabbat Kiddush Opportunities**

Kiddush Sponsorships are available for any occasion. Many menu choices are available and Sisterhood will accommodate special requests. Our catering kitchen crew is delighted to be cooking for larger Shabbat kiddush lunches.

The price to sponsor a basic kiddush lunch will now be \$118. This will consist of 1 salad, a protein dish, bread & a dessert.

The standard enhanced dairy Kiddush will be \$225.

To add smoked salmon and the accompaniments or to add special requests, the additional enhancements will raise the costs slightly to \$300.

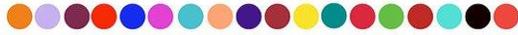
To sponsor a meat kiddush the cost will be \$450.

Please contact the office to book your Kiddush and share your simchot with your synagogue family.

Kitchen Volunteers are always welcome! Check your eblast for weekly cooking dates. It's a pretty safe assumption if we have a sponsored kiddush or Friday Night Dinner we'll be cooking the Thursday before the event from 6pm on!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MAY</b>		<b>1</b> Service Leader Class w/Steve 7:30pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Minyan 7am followed by shots, lox and blocks  Kitchen Volunteers are needed from 6pm on	<b>4</b>  Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm & Birthday Minyan with CAKE	<b>5</b> Sisterhood Shabbat Services begin at 9:30am followed by Kiddush luncheon
		<b>6</b> 10am Geniza learning and brunch – free to attend – donations welcome!  1pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>  The office is closed	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm	<b>10</b> Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks
<b>13</b> Happy Mother's Day	<b>14</b>  The office is closed	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks  Kitchen volunteers are needed from 6pm on	<b>18</b>  Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	<b>19</b> Shabbat Services at 9:30am  Tikkun Leyl Shavuot 8:30pm
<b>20</b> Shavuot Day 1 Services at 9:30am Followed by Kiddush luncheon	<b>21</b> Shavuot Day 2 Services at 9:30am Followed by Kiddush luncheon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Trivia at Cedar Village 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks  New Horizon Band Concert 7pm	<b>25</b>  Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	<b>26</b>  Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am
<b>27</b> 10:30am Memorial Day Cemetery Service  10:30am Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> Memorial Day  The office is closed	<b>29</b>  The office is closed	<b>30</b>  The office is closed	<b>31</b>  The office is closed		

●  
**COMING SOON**



**Save these Important  
June Dates:**

**Choir Shabbat – June 2**

**Sisterhood & Men's Club Game Night  
Sunday Night, June 10**

**Italian Shabbat Dinner – June 15**

**June Birthday Minyan – June 22**

Congregation

**ETZ CHAIM**



Etz Chaim isn't just a synagogue... it's a home...



*With warm weather finally upon us  
come out from hibernation and  
experience the ruach and excitement  
that is Congregation Etz Chaim*

**Contact the office at 513-489-3399**

**Upcoming Events: MAY**

**May Birthday Minyan**

**Friday Night, May 4 – 6PM**

Join us for birthday cake following our one-hour Friday night service.

**Sisterhood Shabbat**

**Saturday, May 5, 2018 – 9:30am**

Join us as our talented women lead services followed by a cinco-de-mayo themed lunch

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 9, 2018– 7:30pm

**Shabbat Speaker Series**

Saturday, May 12 following Kiddush  
Join us for a special presentation by our very own Isaama Stoll

**Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – 8:30pm**

RSVP to Candy!  
See flyer for more details

**Shavuot 5778**

Shavuot Day One

Sunday, May 20 – 9:30am

Shavuot Day Two

Monday, May 21 – 9:30am

Yizkor at ~11am

**New Horizon Band Concert**

**May 24 – 7pm to 8:30pm**

Contact Russ Rosen or Barbara Taggart-Milberg for more details

**Memorial Day Cemetery Service**

**Sunday, May 27 – 10:30AM**

Located at Covedale Cemetary  
See flyer for more details