

Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2017 Shevat-Adar 5777

*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.*

Oversight Committee:

Simon Newman
Terry Brodof
Randy Slovin
Russ Rosen

Staff:

Hank Lerer, Executive Director
Chava Vidal, Youth & Family 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 – Simon Newman



January 30, 2017, officially marked the second anniversary of Congregation Etz Chaim. Although our wedding was on March 29, 2015, January 30, 2015, was the first Etz Chaim Shabbat. (Yes, we lived together before we got married). Etz Chaim's story reflects a dream that has come true. Our founding congregations, Ohav Shalom and B'nai Tzedek, recognizing our complementary strengths,

decided to come together to enhance the experiences of both synagogue families. The two shuls merged to form Etz Chaim. It was not about buildings. It was about expanding and maintaining a community offering social and educational programs in an environment that made everyone comfortable as they participated in all aspects of congregational life.

One may ask: How do you quantify the success of our congregation? Is it in the number of congregants who attend Friday night and Shabbat morning services? Is it in the quality and number of educational and social programs? Is it in the number of volunteers who work tirelessly together to insure the success of each event? Is it based on the numbers of new members? Is it related to our efforts in tikun olam? Is it in the satisfaction our congregants derive from being a member of the Etz Chaim family?

Obviously, no one parameter can be used to judge the success of a particular synagogue. Personally, I would judge us highly on all of the above parameters. From the feedback, I receive, others concur. Another parameter of our success, national recognition, is evident in that last year Etz Chaim was the recipient of the prestigious Kallah grant from the Kallah Project Foundation. This honor is a three-year grant that supports congregations, large and small, that work to build a sense of community, as well as acceptance of similar and diverse Jewish ideas. Our core values and mission statement reflect this stance. The Kallah grant was presented to Etz Chaim after reading our history, and visiting the synagogue to observe the community that Etz Chaim has built.

Article continues on the top of the next page...

Continued from first page...

Additionally, Etz Chaim has opened its doors to other Jewish organizations. One such example is Camp Livingston to whom we have loaned a Torah for their Shabbat services. Further, we initiated Sole Fusion, a growing Cincinnati wide Jewish singles group for adults with a minimum age of 40. And, Etz Chaim houses the Schilling School for Gifted Children. Thus, our synagogue is a true community venue, and its doors are open to all who wish to enter.

In summary, I am proud of the direction in which Congregation Etz Chaim is headed. As always, we will be a work in progress, as that awareness is the only way we can grow as individuals and as a Jewish community.

Membership Matters

You – our membership – matter!

Help us welcome our new members as part of the service on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 9:30am in the sanctuary – followed by a special Kiddush lunch in their honor.

We will be welcoming:

The Edelstein family – Eli and Kim, Olivia, Avi and Shai

Michael Evers

Richard and Sandi Pywen

The Schottenstein family – Gail and Gary, and Allison

This month we continue the intermittent series of building community by introducing our new members.

Introducing Sandi and Richard Pywen

Sandi and Richard Pywen have been attending High Holiday services for over 25 years (dating back to the days Ohav Shalom was on Section Road). After Richard's retirement as a School Psychologist from Cincinnati Public Schools they decided they it was time to formally join. Richard's grandparents and parents were members of Ohav Shalom for years and Richard had his Bar Mitzvah there way back when!

Richard is a regular "Minyanaire" on Thursday mornings; attends the monthly Friday morning discussion group with Hank and Chava; and is a recent graduate of Etz Chaim's Hebrew class.

Sandi is a self-employed Consultant and Grant Writer working with several non-profit organizations in Greater Cincinnati. The Pywens are residents of Amberley Village.

The Pywens are looking forward to taking part in upcoming programs and being a part of the Etz Chaim community.



Ritual Matters

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

Etz Chaim is such a happening place - in so many ways, and no more so than in the ritual department. In addition to our weekly, and never-ending, services and holiday schedule, last month we experienced a wonderful and special **Rabbi in Residence weekend** with Rabbi Cantor David Julian. Rabbi Julian and the weekend's festivities were an absolute delight and it would be lovely if we can look forward to additional Rabbi in Residence Shabbatons in the future. Thank you to Men's Club, to Sisterhood, our programming department and to everyone who had a hand in planning, funding and arranging this wonderful Shabbat weekend.

February is going to be just as special a month as January!

First Shabbat will have a Superbowl theme to it. *Second Shabbat* - actually a Shabbaton weekend - wow, what can we say about this **Kallah** weekend (Feb10-12) other than that it will be a grand time and we know it will be a weekend to remember. Thanks to the many of you who are attending this retreat and we intend to involve everyone in the multiple ritual events being held that weekend. Hey, it's Shabbat Shira *and* Tu b'Shevat -- what could be more special a Shabbat than that!

Third Shabbat- join us for 'Birthday Minyan' at our always wonderful Friday night service, followed by a more typical yet again always wonderful Saturday service. *Fourth Shabbat* - every Shabbat is special and so it goes for this Shabbat also. Additionally, the always enlightening Unpacking Torah discussion will take place following Saturday services and Kiddush.

We are in discussions to hold a **Recognition Shabbat** service. We will honor ALL who have participated in one way or another at Shabbat services, as a Torah reader, a Shamus, a davener, an honoree, a sermonizer, et al. This dedication affects every congregant who attends- you are all an important part of our services, from the smaller to the larger roles.

Purim is fast approaching - celebrated from Saturday evening, March 11 through Sunday day, March 12. Festivities at Etz Chaim - Megillah reading, dinner, schpiel - will be held Saturday night, March 11, times to be announced. We'll have our Megillah readers lined up and it is also time for you all to get those mishloach manot orders in. To quote from a Jewish website, one approach sees the mitzvah [commandment] of mishloach manot as counteracting the accusations of Haman. (www.myjewishlearning.com)

Kol Haneshama Alternative Service: The ritual committee is currently assessing all the rich feedback we received after our December service and will build that into future planning. We thank everyone who gave us their thoughts and ideas.

B'Shalom,
Barry and Barbara





Good times and fun were spun during Chanukah – as well as dreidels!

and...Eight crazy nights were just not enough! By: Terry Brodof

Although Chanukah this year began late, Chanukah at Etz Chaim began early this year with a Sisterhood event. The lovely ladies of the Sisterhood, and a few good men, luncheoned over soup and salad and made certain all of their counters would remain wax off – and not waxed on! The Sisterhood made menorah trays that sit directly under our lit Chanukiahs, so the trays would catch the dripping candle wax before it hit the tables and counters in their homes.

About 30 congregants participated in the afternoon event and enjoyed the time to share a delicious lunch, to be creative and to share ideas and Chanukah plans. A raffle ended the event and Sisterhood raised a little Chanukah gelt to support their synagogue fund.

The following week, our amazing Men's club made phone calls and preparations in order to jump in and heat up the synagogue's kitchen. They oiled up their hands, the pots, the tables, the floors... and eventually got some oil in the frying pans and the making of the latkes began!

It was a sight to see and view. Our Men's club members know how to sport an apron though, and the latkes turned out tasteful and plentiful.

While all that was cooking in the kitchen, even more volunteers picked up the ball and began the preparations for our Etz Chaim Chanukah dinner event, preparing and decorating our social Hall for all things Chanukah.

This year, there were 100 congregants and guests that made reservations for our annual Chanukah Chag Dinner and menorah lighting.

Walking into the social hall and seeing everyone together certainly warmed everyone in the room on a chilly December evening. Each guest was invited to bring their own menorah and to light it together, so we could celebrate the mitzvah of lighting the Menorahs once again, together as a family. This year's theme was infusion and oil.

Our congregants and guests created a fusion of flavors, mixing spices with oils, and infused salts, so that they might cook with amazing flavors during the holidays. Instructions as to how to infuse oils were made available at the work stations. Everyone that attended had the opportunity to mix fragrant herbs and spices and take them home to test the oils and flavors in their favorite foods.

It was delightful watching the young and the old laughing and sharing ideas, as we all used our creativity not only to enjoy the evening but to enjoy one another's company. To sum up the event...Dreidels were spun, the evening was fun, we shared and we laughed, while we learned and did crafts.

A special thank you to Julie Kauffman for setting up our moving gift shop for the event. All of the purchases and profits go directly towards Sisterhood's synagogue fund which is set up to support the schul. A raffle was held during the dinner as well and a number of lucky congregants went home happy winners. Winner, winner latkes dinner! A good time was had by all.



Congregation Etz Chaim Shabbat Retreat

February 10-12, 2017

“The Rhythm of Rest & Ruach”

Congregational Shabbat Kallah Getaway

Deer Creek Resort - Mt. Sterling, Ohio



We are so pleased to inform you that we have 53 participants in our first Kallah at Deer Creek Resort.

This weekend is designed to fulfill spiritual, social, religious, educational and nosh needs. It has been hand crafted by many volunteers all working together to plan out various aspects to ensure our membership has a weekend to remember.

We would like to thank our
2017 Kallah Project Co-Chairs
Sara Gati and Stephany Schechtman
These ladies have clocked countless behind the scene
hours and led us to this point...
Yasher Kochachen ladies.

We would also like to thank the members of the
Kallah Planning Committee:

Sandy Baden	Simon Newman
Terry Brodof	Barb Rosen
Israela Ginsburg	Russ Rosen
Lynne Haber	Aaron Schechtman
Hank Lerer	Chava Vidal
Barbara Taggart Milberg	Brian Wolfe
Laura Maxwell	Robyn Wolfe

Important Message

to our Congregants who are
unable to join us on this
special Shabbat Getaway.



The building will be closed on:
Friday, February 10th
Saturday, February 11th and
Sunday, February 12th

That means our office will be
closed and all services will be
offsite at Deer Creek. There
will not be services here on
Friday Night or Shabbat
Morning. Thank you
for your understanding.

SUPER BOWL SHABBAT



Men's Club Presents:
Super Bowl Shabbat
February 4, 2017

There's no need to go to the grid iron...
Join Etz Chaim for a football themed Shabbat.

Shabbat Services start at 9:30AM
Wear your favorite team's jersey or colors
Tailgate with the Torah
As we worship with the
Traditional Service you know and love

We will be pre-gaming the big day with all sorts of
fun football and game day themed food and decorations.

Get excited for Super Bowl 51 with CEC!

Our stadium themed Kiddush
will make you feel like you're really at
The NRG Stadium in Houston

Brush up on your football knowledge
As Hank Lerer will host a special
Football Trivia Session during the Kiddush.



Dear Members of Congregation Etz Chaim,

As our community continues to grow and new friendships are made, we, the Sisterhood of Etz Chaim, would like to suggest the perfect opportunity to reach out to fellow congregants while at the same time performing the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot, the giving of gifts at Purim.

Last year our Mishloach Manot project was a success with only a small number of congregants participating on the giving end. All congregants benefited on the receiving end. It is our hope that you enjoyed the Mishloach Manot that you picked up after the Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel or that was delivered to your home. This year, we hope to increase the number of participants to make this an even greater success.

For \$100 you can send Mishloach Manot to every member of Congregations Etz Chaim and Beit Chaverim. If you would prefer to send only to particular individuals or families, you have that option as well. Please refer to the order form for pricing on the various options of giving.

The Mishloach Manot bags will be filled with delicious, homemade hamantaschen, candy, fruit and so much more. Additionally, orders for these hamantaschen, made by the ladies of Sisterhood, will be available for sale, by advance order only. **THE DEADLINE FOR PLACING ORDERS IS FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

Please help us make this project more successful than ever by expressing your friendship to fellow congregants with a gift of Mishloach Manot.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP

Sunday, March 5 at 10AM to Package the Mishloach Manot bags –This is always a good time. Filling the bags with all kinds of goodies. The more people that help out, the faster it gets done.

Sunday, March 12 at your convenience, deliver the bags that were not picked up after the Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel on March 11th – Delivery routes will be divided by area. We try to match up drivers to deliver in areas near their homes. Once again, the more volunteers we have, the fewer deliveries each driver will have to make.



Mitzvah Opportunity:

The sisterhood is collecting: **Preserves:**
All items Must have a Hechsher (Kosher Symbol)

We need preserves in the following flavors: **Apricot, and Large jars of Strawberry preserves & 18oz jars of Orange marmalade.** Smucker's jellies and preserves are usually hechshered as are Meijer brands of preserves and jellies. No quantity is too large or too small – thank you in advance!

MISHLOACH MANOT



One of the nicest traditions on Purim is that of giving a gift of food to friends, *Mishloach Manot*, the sending of gifts. According to Jewish law, one should give a gift of two different types of food, one of which is prepared (cooked or baked) to at least one person.

The Sisterhood of Congregation Etz Chaim would like to help you fulfill this lovely mitzvah by creating *Mishloach Manot* that can be pre-ordered and then picked up after the Megillah reading on Saturday evening, March 11th, or delivered (WE NEED TO RESTRICT DELIVERY AREA TO CINCINNATI) on Purim Day Sunday, March 12 to the designated people on your list.

On the back of this order form is a list of Etz Chaim & Beit Chaverim Congregants plus Sisterhood-Only members. Please put an "x" by the name of the congregant(s) to whom you would like a basket sent. Upon completion, send the order form and list, along with your check, payable to Etz Chaim Sisterhood, to:

Etz Chaim Sisterhood
Attn: *Mishloach Manot*
8100 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

ORDERS AND PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 10, 2017

One basket will be delivered to each recipient, regardless of how many are ordered.

A card with the sender's name(s) will be included with the basket.

Your name: _____

Option A: FOR \$100 YOU CAN SEND A BASKET TO ALL LOCAL MEMBERS OF ETZ CHAIM, BEIT CHAVERIM & SISTERHOOD-ONLY MEMBERS.



Option B: SEND A BASKET TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY (check names listed on the back)

\$8 for each basket

of baskets ordered _____ x \$8 = Total \$ _____

Option C: PURCHASE A BASKET FOR NON-MEMBERS (attach a list of names to this order form)

These must be picked up the evening of March 11th. We are unable to deliver these.

\$10 for each basket

of baskets ordered _____ x \$10 = Total \$ _____

Option D: SEND BASKETS WITH RECIPROCITY INSURANCE – With the purchase of 4 or more baskets to Etz Chaim & Beit Chaverim Congregants and Sisterhood-Only members (baskets for non-members do not count towards this), you are eligible to purchase "reciprocity insurance." This means that if someone sends you a basket and you have not ordered for him or her, we will automatically send a basket to that person for you.

\$8 for each basket

of baskets (minimum of 4) _____ x \$8 = Total for baskets \$ _____ + \$18 reciprocity insurance = \$ _____

To send a basket to someone, put an X to the LEFT of their name. Your name: _____

	Arenstein, Hal & Jan	Goldstein, Allan & Melissa	Neman, David	BEIT CHAVERIM
	Baden, Sandy	Goldstein, Barry	Nemoff, Ethel	Austern, Barry & Susan
	Barnett, Robert	Gordon, Erika	Newman, Simon & Pam	Cogen, Ethel
	Behrman, Lyrice	Grad, Bennet & Joyce	Nidich, Paul & Marianne	Feigenblatt, Marc & Harriet
	Behrman, Richard & Sara	Greenberger, Mark & Ellen	Ninio, Sami	Kramer, Marty & Lois
	Beraha, Bernie & Judy	Greenfield, Margie	Peerless, Rona	Litz, Stan & Karen
	Berger, Stephen & Linda	Gud, Estelle	Pettis, Charles & Debbie	Schneider, Cindy
	Berger, William & Marsha	Haber, Lynne	Plotkin, Alice	Sirkin, Alan & Diane
	Borden, Aaron	Harris, Betty	Plotnick, Harry & Rona	Sorger, James & Ellen
	Borden, Jean	Harris, Cheryl	Pywen, Richard & Sandi	
	Bransford, Neal & Cindy	Higgins, Mordechai	Rachovitsky, Rachel	
	Brodof, Matthew	Jablonsky, Atarah	Richards, Stuart & Rosalyn	SISTERHOOD ONLY
	Brodof, Terry	Jarnicki, Oscar & Cindy	Rogoff, Mark	Fox, Sonia
	Cohen, Alex & Sally	Joffe, Barry & Melanie	Ronis-Tobin, Vic & Audrey	Germain, Lois
	Cohen, Elisa	Kantor, Ray	Rosen, Barbara	Goldenberg, Georgeann
	Cohen, Harvey & Jane	Katz, Mitch & Casey	Rosen, Edee	Goldfarb, Audrey
	Cohen, Jon	Kaufman, Julie	Rosen, Russ & Arlene	Goldfarb, Shirley
	Cohen, Leah	Klein, Ann	Ruben, Helen	Goldman, Bernice
	Cohen, Ruth	Kluger, Brian & Carrie	Ruben, Marty & Shirley	Handler, Leslie
	Cohn, Steven	Kolovson, Dana & Barbara Taggart-Milberg	Rubinstein, Aaron	Klayman, Dottie
	Dannenber, Larry & Betty	Krimins, Ethan & Trish	Saal, Howard & Cara	Kutas, Eszter
	Diamond, Richard	Kuhr, Harriet	Sandow, Randy & Fabiana (Sawdai, Albert & Karen--Florida)	Levine, Beverley
	Diamond, Stanley & Marilyn	Kutnicki, Benjamin & Faith		Manes, Esther
	Dorfman, Alvin & Nancy	Kwiatek, Kim & Candy	Schechtman, Aaron & Stephany	Marks, Shirley
	Dreyer, Bob & Shirley	Landman, Jack	Schottenstein, Gary & Gail	Richter, Arlene
	Duvall, Robyn	Lerer, Hank & Wendy	Schulman, Ed & Nancy	Rothchild, Frances
	Edelstein, Elliot & Kim	Lerer, Harriet (Hatsy)	Segal, Andrew & Orly	Ruben, Terry
	Edlin, Jory	Lerer, Ida	Segal, Herb & Eleanor	Schear, Vivian
	Edlin, Philip & Rita	Lerner, Monica	Segerman, Steve & Susan	Winkler, Bobbie
	Evers, Michael	Liberman, Joyce	Selavan, Batya	
	Fesman, Michelle	Liberman, Mitch	Shapiro, Ron & Paige	
	Finkelstein, Stephen & Leslie	Lichtenstein, Jenny & Jose Rodriguez	Skurrow, Ruth	TOTAL NUMBER OF X's:
	Forman, Dale & Kimberly	Linder, Nelson	Slovin, Randy	
	Fox, Sharyn	Lipp, Lori	Slovin, Sylvia	*** NOTE ***
	Frankel, Judith	Littman, Dan & Susan	Sokol, Ronn & Leslie	Bags will be delivered only.
	Franklin, Dan	Malowitz, Jule & Shari	Solomon, Paul & Arlene	in the local area
	Franklin, Sanford & Toby	Manes, Penny	Sotto, Carney	
	Friedenberg, Bob & Emmy	Marcus, Diane	Stein, John	
	Friedman, Carol	Martin, Audrey	Taplits, Bryan	
	Gabbour, Jeffrey & Qing	Maxwell, Andy & Laura	Tepper, Bernie	
	(Gabbour, Mireille--Florida)	Meister, Bill	Tessel, David	
	Gabbour, Richard & Michelle	Mellman, Phyllis	Timmer, Stan	
	Gallop, Eddie & Lana	Mendelson, Laura	Towler, Vance & Haguit Rubinstein-Towler	
	Ganulin, Mary	Mindlin, Beth	Vidal, Chava	
	Gati, George & Sara	Mitman, Kenneth & Diane	Weil, David & Chie	
	Ginsberg, Eudice	Moksin, Alexander	(Weiner, Pat--Florida)	
	Ginsburg, Israella	Moskowitz, Joel & Susan	Weisberg, Ophra	
	Goldberg, Brian & Robin	Moskowitz, Mike & Miki	Weiss, Sharyn	
	Goldberg, Joyce	Nadel, Sam & Gloria	Wolfe, Brian & Robyn	
	Goldberg, Marian	Nagler, Adele	Yasgur, Howard & Diane	
	Goldey, Alvin & Bobbie	Nathan, Margot	Zeidman, Stanley & Marjorie	
	Goldfarb, Fred	Nedelman, Shirley	Zeifman, Fred & Gail	
	Goldner, Russell & Gale	Neman, Beth		

PURIM SHPIEL

“Cats” or should we say “Kats”?!

T.S. Eliot the American, who later renounced his American citizenship and became a Brit, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948 “for his outstanding pioneer contribution to present-day poetry”. Many of us may know the writer for unknowingly providing the material which was to become one of Broadway’s most successful musicals: “Cats”.

Based on “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats”, which was published by Eliot in 1939, Andrew Lloyd Webber later developed this into “Cats”. Eliot died in 1965 and Webber premiered songs he had composed for Eliot’s work at a concert attended by Eliot’s second wife in 1980. Esme Valerie Fletcher, loved Webber’s songs, and gave her blessing and her permission from the Eliot trust: for a musical based on her husband’s poems to be staged. She stipulated two conditions: that the show be completely told through music, with no dialogue between the songs; and that the set remain the same through the performance, with no scene changes to detract from her husband’s writing.

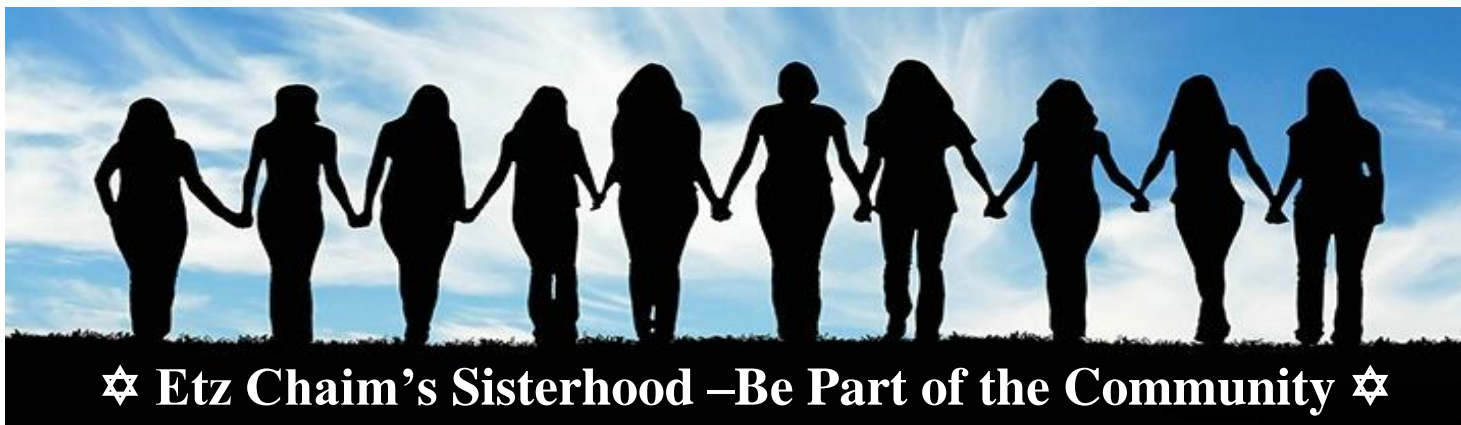
The stipulations were agreed upon and “Cats” opened in London in 1981 and then on Broadway in 1982. The London production ran for 21 years, the Broadway production for 18 years. In 1983 at the Tony Awards, “Cats” won for “Best Musical”; “Best Book of a Musical”; “Best Original Score”; “Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical”; “Best Direction of a Musical” and “Best Costume Design”.

“Cats” is the 4th longest running show in Broadway history and in fact a revival of “Cats” opened on Broadway in July 2016.

Three interesting tidbits about the show:

- 1) Although Elaine Paige became known for her singing of “Memories”, it was actually Judi Dench (before she became a “Dame”) who was cast for the role. Only when she snapped her Achilles tendon, did Elaine Paige step in (pun not intended) and assume the role.
- 2) For those who are Sherlock Holmes fans, be advised that the character “Macavity” is a literary allusion to Holmes’ nemesis: Professor Moriarty.
- 3) Andrew Lloyd Webber once stated that “when the original show was produced (in London) it cost 900,000 pounds, but on Broadway it cost 5 million dollars.” (our CEC Purim Shpiel budget is not quite that large)

“Cats” has been performed around the world many times and has been translated into more than 20 languages. But it has never been translated into the language of the Purim Shpiel. We look forward to amusing and bedazzling you on Saturday evening, March 11th for the Cincinnati premier of “Kats a Purr...sian Purim Tail”.



SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

Sisterhood has been very busy this past month, preparing a number of special, sponsored Shabbat Kiddushim, and hosting a well-attended luncheon and craft event where members created their own Chanukah menorah drip trays.

In January, we began to prepare our Purim Hamentashen for our annual sale, for inclusion in our Mishloach Manot bags and to serve at our Purim dinner in March. We need many volunteers to help in this preparation and will schedule any days or times that are convenient. Please contact Sandy Baden, 554-1649 or sbaden@cinci.rr.com, to let her know when you can help.

Don't forget to order your Mishloach Manot bags and Hamentashen. There are order forms in this bulletin.

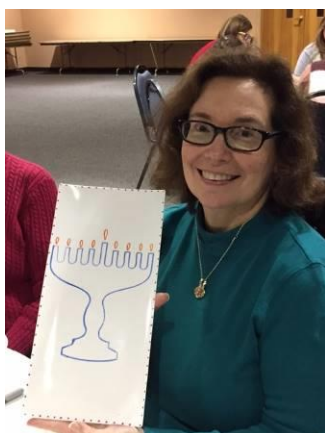
We always need volunteers to help cook, help plan and implement our programs and projects, and to participate in our events. Please watch the bulletin and weekly eblast for events and opportunities to get involved. We'd love to have you join us! Our next Sisterhood board meeting is January 29, 10 AM.

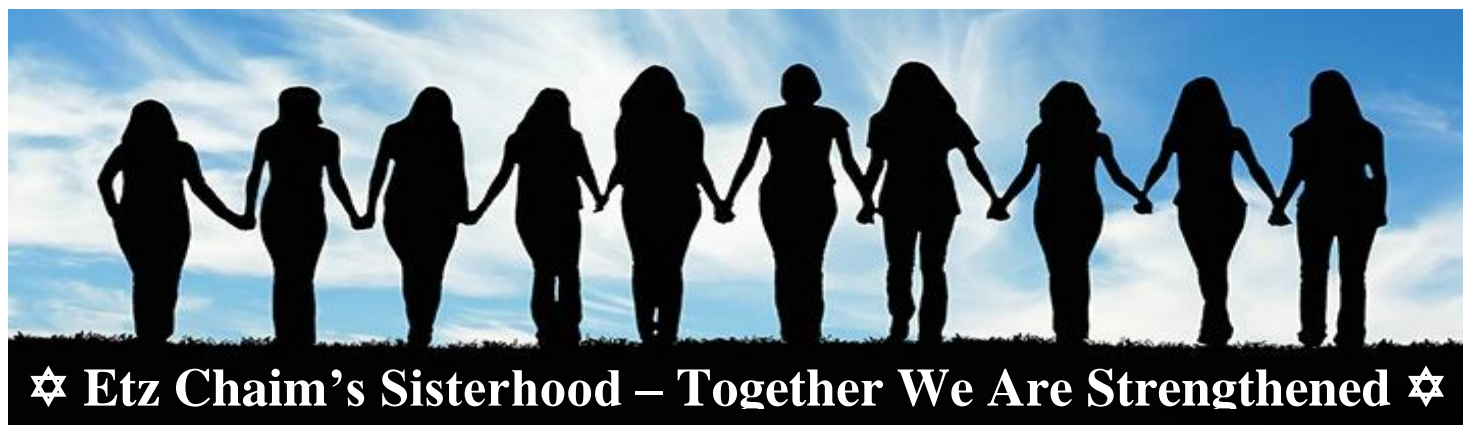
With undying love for Etz Chaim—Sandy & Laura

Co-Directors:

Sandy Baden (554-1649 or 470-6428, sbaden@cinci.rr.com)

Laura Maxwell (368-2465 or 247-0010, lauramaxwell1313@gmail.com)





HAMENTASCHEN 2017

It's that time... Move over Girl Scouts the Sisterhood Ladies are baking up their original world famous hamentaschen & the time to order is now!!!

Limited quantities available!
We will take orders until Friday, Feb 27, 2017
or until we run out, whichever happens first.
Yes, they freeze well so stock up
for year-round noshing!

\$15/DOZEN

\$8/HALF DOZEN

\$15/LOG

This year we will also be offering 3 other filling options —strawberry, apricot and chocolate, but only in groups of 6 or 12. If not specified, the order will be filled with the original Sisterhood filling.

Orders Can be picked up at Congregation Etz Chaim
on Sunday, March 5 from 10am to 12pm

Name _____ Phone # _____ Date _____

TYPE	PRICE/ UNIT	NUMBER	FILLING	TOTAL
Dozen Hamentaschen	\$15.00			
$\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen Hamentaschen	\$8.00			
Log (dozen equivalent)	\$15.00			
*Please note the original flavor contain nuts			Total :	

Order Forms are also in the office. Please Make Checks
Payable to Etz Chaim Sisterhood and mail to CEC 8100 Cornell
Road Cincinnati, OH 45249 - Attn: Julie



Adult Education

Congregation Etz Chaim – Offering Learning for Life



Adult Education Classes & Offerings
Taught By Candy will Resume in March

*To join the email reminders and updates list, contact
Candy at KITANDCABOODLE@gmail.com*

Tikkun Olam Corner

Our 2016 Commitment to the Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen ended on high note this past November. We served well over 250 meals at our last of the 2016 scheduled dates, which fell on a cold November day. Clearly, there is a need.

Once again Etz Chaim has stepped up to prepare and serve meals at the Over-the-Rhine Soup Kitchen in 2017.

The following dates are the Sundays we are assigned to work the soup kitchen. Please consider volunteering and reserve one of these dates on your calendar.

March 5, 2017

April 16, 2017

May 21, 2017

October 15, 2017

November 26, 2017

I would like to take the opportunity at this time to thank all of the volunteers from our synagogue that took the time to serve the needy within our community.

There are many that came to almost every scheduled date. There are some that volunteered for one or two dates. There are some that just volunteered an hour or two.

Every volunteer was needed and every helping hand was appreciated.

With sincere gratitude, I thank all that helped in 2016.

Matthew Brodof

Etz Chaim Soup Kitchen Chairperson

Please contact me if you would like to be a volunteer on any of the above dates in 2017.

513-373-6925 or mb371607@gmail.com

This endeavor is made possible by the Sandor Kutas Hunger Fund



Do you like to roll, fill pinch, etc? We have a job for you!! This is an equal opportunity employer, no prior skills or experience necessary, and ALL (men, too) are welcome and needed. Etz Chaim Sisterhood is in dire need of help to make our famous Hamentaschen on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 1, 6-9 PM

Thursday, February 2, 10 AM-1 PM, 1 PM-4 PM

Sunday, February 5, 10 AM-1 PM, 1 PM-4 PM



Salary: All the “thanks” you can handle and the good, warm feeling that you have done a great deed to help our synagogue family.

Feel free to bring friends, too. Please let Sandy Baden know when you are available: sbaden@cinci.rr.com, 554-1649 (home), 470-6428 (cell).



Drum Roll please.....

The Kashrut Committee, and the Sisterhood board, are proud to congratulate two of our Sisterhood members. They are Sandy Baden and Stephany Schechtman. Both Sandy and Stephany are members of the Sisterhood board and have been hard at work, taking classes and putting in hours, so that they could join our crew of approved



It takes a bit of dedication and a number of hours to complete the process. Their plan was to learn the ins and outs of the kitchen from kashrut to health department codes, so that they could step up and work with, as well as oversee, some of the sponsored kiddushim, the meals we make for Bikkur cholim, the shiva trays we send to families and to help oversee Sisterhood projects like the Hamantaschen and mishloach manot projects coming up soon and baking other Sisterhood events. Sisterhood welcomes all members to join us on any Sweets baking days that Sisterhood reserves throughout the year in our kitchen.

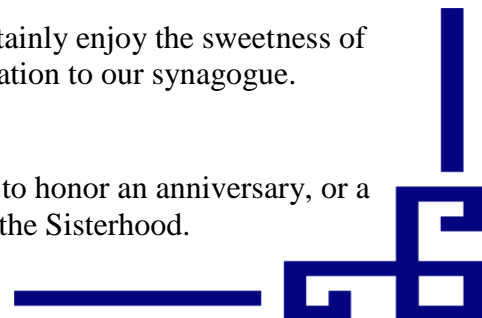
We thank Sandy and Stephany for the role they will now be able to step into when needed in the kitchen. They have both also agreed to help with some of the kitchen shopping required and, to help oversee the shelves, in order to keep our kitchen well stocked!

Once again, congratulations to both Stephany and to Sandy. We all will certainly enjoy the sweetness of their success and the sweets that come from their hard work and their dedication to our synagogue.

Kol Hakavod!

Note - If you are interested in a sponsored Kiddush to celebrate an event or to honor an anniversary, or a life event, please continue to contact Hank in the office and he will contact the Sisterhood.

-Terry Brodof ☺



Rabbi in Residence Weekend January 6-7, 2017

By: Brian Wolfe

On a cold blistery winter evening, Congregation Etz Chaim welcomed Rabbi Cantor David Julian and his wife Claire for a Scholar in residence weekend.

The evening started with Shalom Aleichem and Shabbat Ha-Malkah and sailed right through all the goodies with plenty of familiar tunes, including Lecha Dodi complete with a Hora through the sanctuary, as well as some new tunes throughout. Service concluded with Yigdal which resonated through the sanctuary. Kiddish and a delicious Shabbat dinner with an after-dinner discussion entitled: “*Why?*” “*Why Not?*” *Why Be Jewish? Does the World Still Need Us?* (Spoiler alert: Yes, the world still needs us.) concluded the evening.



Shabbat morning services were led by Rabbi Cantor Julian followed by a Kiddush Lunch generously sponsored by the Sisterhood followed by a discussion entitled “*Icons Seen and Unseen: We Jews are a Symbol Minded Culture*”. Remember all those pictures, holiday lights, flags, wall hangings and of course mezuzot that shows everybody (and reminds us) that we are Jews.





The weekend concluded Saturday evening with a ruach filled Havdalah followed by snacks and rounds, tunes, songs and smores.

Thank you to the Men's Club for sponsoring the Scholar in residence weekend, the Sisterhood for sponsoring the Kiddish luncheon and generous congregants for making the weekend possible. Special mention to the numerous volunteers who labored many hours to prepare dinner and kiddish.

Extra special mention to the Hilton Garden Inn at 5300 Cornell Road for the very generous donation of the hotel rooms for Rabbi Cantor Julian and Claire. Please contact them for your out of town guests at 513-469-6900. Ask for Tyler Atchison, he will be more than happy to assist you.

Of course, this would not have been possible without all of you who braved the wacky weather of January to attend.



Flash report from the Mench on the Bench Moshe ben Yoki, outstanding journalist, Has the following information to report.

We would like to thank our dedicated latke makers who peeled, chopped, blended, fried, flipped, poured, piled and counted our latkes!!!

Aaron Schechtman
President

Chanukah Helpers:

Sandy Baden
Ethan Berger
Larry Dannenberg
Robyn Duvall
Bob Friedenberg
Aasia Gabbour
George Gati
Israela Ginsburg
Mordechai Higgins
Julie Kaufman
Hank Lerer
Andy Maxwell
Michelle Moncarz
Pam Newman
Simon Newman
Mark Rogoff
Russ Rosen
Marty Ruben
Herbie Segal
Ron Shapiro
Paul Solomon
Bryan Taplits
Chava Vidal
Brian Wolfe
Rachel Wolfe
Robyn Wolfe

A Special Thank You to Aaron
Schechtman for making it all
come together!



A Flash report from the Men's Club Bench

Moshe ben Yoni is leaving the bench to go on a sabbatical.

His studies will take him to the galaxies of the universe.

He will be seeking to find life on other planets.

We are sure it will be another Jewish tribe for the club... Good Luck.

The bench will not be empty; Men's Club members will be using it, for their mitzvahs.

The Latke boys will be the first to sit on that Bench.

Steering Committee just had a meeting and the ways and means project was just approved, the code name Garlic Bread, has been put into motion.

The Men's Club will participate in this project. Please call Aaron Schechtman to be on the team [513-544-8474](tel:513-544-8474).

The hole in the wall gang will have its first poker event on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 6:30pm at Etz Chaim. Food & Beverages will be served just bring a little spending gelt. This is a perfect way to start 2017. To RSVP call Aaron.



**we need
your help!**

Shalom Congregants:

We have a project that needs your help

Please give us your gift cards!!!

You know the one that's been sitting in your wallet for months now. Or the kind you see when you check out at Kroger. All gift cards are welcome, all stores, all restaurants, all types, all denominations. No card is too large or too small. You can drop off your donations to the synagogue office –

Thank you in advance – from your Fundraising Committee

Yahrzeits

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 February (Shevat-Adar) we remember:

February 1 – Shevat 5

Ethel Anish*
Anna Cohn*
Mollie Diamant*
Sadye Freeman*
Leonard Shifres
Sophie Silverstein

February 2 – Shevat 6

Phillip Cohen*
Anna Fox*
Sally Frankel
Ben Holtzman*
Frank Kauffman*
Isadore Levine*
Lottie Stoller

February 3 – Shevat 7

Millard Baum
Louis Goldberg*
Elliot Lefkowitz*
Harry Licht*
Marian Meyer
Mollie Weiner*

February 4 – Shevat 8

Pauline Baum
Bella Ceasar
Samuel Miller
Sasson Sawdayee*
Pearl Wollin*

February 5 - Shevat 9

Alex Bell*
Abe Ehrlich
Milton Enzer
Jay Marks*
Leopold Neu
Samuel Parkin*
Charles Robinson
Philip Rose
Ben Schneider

February 6 – Shevat 10

Abraham Cirkin
Samuel Gutterman
Isadore Klayman*
Robert Klein
Lillian Koorland*
Albert Spitz

February 7 – Shevat 11

Celia Rohrberger*
Sol Skurow*
Hubert Spitz
Harry Strauss*
May Topelberg

February 8 – Shevat 12

Lena Einhorn*
Sidney Meyers*
Nathan Robinson
Max Schoemann
Eva Segal
Sidney Singer*
Norman Uncle

February 9 – Shevat 13

Daniel Cohen
Ira Green
Max Hecht
Helen Klein
Mollie Lande*
Mordechai Levine*
Morris Levine*
Hyman Metz*
June Roney

February 10 – Shevat 14

Albert Goldfarb*
Henry Greenfield
Jacqueline Kuhr
Max Lessure*
Mitchell Liberman
Rubin Slovin*
Sadie Smith*
Rahamim Yarchi

February 11 – Shevat 15

William Cyrkin*
Hazel Ginsberg*
Meyer Himelfarb*
Joseph Lerer*
Bessie Polin
William Robinson
Jacob Rosky
Martin Siegel

February 12 – Shevat 16

Samuel Baverman*
Anna Falick*
Aaron Fingerman*
Carl Franklin*
Reva Ganson
Jerry Greenblatt*

February 13 – Shevat 17

Sarah Gillett*
John Gitman*
Melvin Peerless*
Gertrude Pilder*
Donald Polin
Robert Tulch*
Max Udow

February 14 – Shevat 18

Bertha Dubin*
Jacob Mandell*
Irvin Metz*
Bess Silverstein*
Anna Plotkin
Devorah Yanofsky*
Lena Zuckert

February 15 – Shevat 19

Ted Arnovitz
Morris Kamin*
Mordechai Metz*
Milton Okrent*
Morris Polakoff*
Michael Rosen
Martin Weiner*

February 16 – Shevat 20

Anna Faust*
Isadore Fox*
Jean Gady
Betty Harris*
Philip Kolstein
Harry Nogen*

February 17 – Shevat 21

Louis Cohen*
Cecilia Gertzman
Harry Meyers*
Karen Weintraub*

February 18 – Shevat 22

Charna Fox*
Benjamin Klayman*
Sarah Lerer
Eva Levine
Harry Levine*
Morris Mackroff*
David Moskowitz*
Harriet Sebree
Hyman Sirkin*
Roy Smith*
Bertha Tobin
Edith Zakem*

February 19– Shevat 23

Irving Kundin*
Lillian Leichtman*
Ardeth Linder*
David Lower
Frieda Swidler*

February 20 – Shevat 24

Anna Gelschofsky*
Jennie Levinson*
William Maxwell
Anna Steinberg*

Yahrzeits

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 February (Shevat-Adar) we remember:

February 21 – Shevat 25

Charles Dorfman*
Moses Hantman*
Gertrude Minster
Rachel Panigel*
Elsie Schneider*
Sonia Simkin
Max Slovin*

February 22 – Shevat 26

Isadore Baneth*
Sadie Baverman*
Lee Goldfarb
Jack Klug
Theodore Lipsky*

February 23 – Shevat 27

Clara Casuto*
Isaac Casuto*
Viola Evans*
Fannie Harris
Isachar Newmark*
William Resnick*
Sofie Stein
Celia Timmer

February 24 – Shevat 28

Clara Fox*
Harry Franklin*
Michel Gershman*
Victor Hepker
Morris Kizner*
Mary Malowitz*
Morris Nagler
Anna Neuer*
Rivka Newmark*
Anna Ornstein
Gertrude Rheins*
Lester Segerman

February 25 – Shevat 29

Gertrude Kirzner*
Alex Melamed
Delmar Meyer
Paula Stern
Rose Tolpen*

February 26 – Shevat 30

Robert Baden*
David Davis*
Stanley Kolker
Marvin Skurow
Sara Tessel*

February 27 – Adar I

Rose Blackman*
Clara Essig*
Lena Goldberg
Stanley Goldberg
Joseph Leventhal*
Fannie Max*
Paul Nathan
Albert Neman
Marie Varon*
Beila Zeidman*

February 28 – Adar 2

Rachel Blackman*
Napoleon Bryant, Jr.
Steven Cohen
Rose Fox*
Thomas Kreindler*
Evelyn Lipsky*
Gerson Marks
Dora Revelson*
Jack Skurow
Benjamin Torf

** Names are on
the Sanctuary
Yahrzeit Panels*

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 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.

Of Blessed Memory
זיכרונם לברכה

Yahrzeit - 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.

Synagogue Correspondence

FEBRUARY

Synagogue Happenings

We extend our condolences to:

To Linda, Stephen, Adam & Ethan
on the passing of Linda's mother
Janet "Hazel" Lakeman z"l

We wish a speedy recovery to:

Betty Harris
Sylvia Slovin

**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.

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.

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!

Will you be our friend?



"like" us on
facebook

Did you know that Congregation Etz Chaim has its own Facebook Page? Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/etzchaimcincinnati/?fref=ts> "Friend" the page and "like" event notifications, photos or videos that are posted there. The more traffic our page gets, the greater the likelihood is that other people will be drawn to it. Don't ask how, that's just how Facebook works. It's a way to get people outside of the Etz Chaim Community to learn that we are a vibrant and active congregation.

Upcoming Events: **February**

First Friday at Scrambler Marie's

Friday, February 3, 2017 – 9am
4006 Hauck Road - Sharonville
Breakfast & Learning
with Hank and Chava – Please RSVP

Men's Club Superbowl Shabbat **Saturday, February 4**

Traditional Shabbat Morning Services at 9:30am. But... you can wear your football jerseys, t-shirts and hats. Then join us for a special Touchdown Themed Kiddush following services.

Purim Shpiel Rehearsal

Sunday, February 5, 2017 – 10am

Steering Committee Meeting

Wed. February 8, 2017 – 7:30pm

Synagogue Wide

Kallah Retreat – Shabbaton
Friday, Feb 10-Sunday Feb 12
At Deer Creek Resort

***Please note the synagogue will be closed this weekend and there will be no services in our building.**

February Birthday Minyan **Friday Night, February 17 – 6PM**

If you were born in the month of February we want to celebrate with you! Join us for birthday cake following our one hour Friday night service

Purim Shpiel Rehearsal

Sunday, February 19, 2017 – 10am

Board Meeting

Sunday, February 19 – 1pm – 4pm

Trivia Night at Cedar Village **Wednesday, Feb 22 at 6:30pm**

All are welcome to help with this mitzvah opportunity!

New Member Shabbat

Saturday, February 25, 2017

9:30am Shabbat Morning Services

With a special introduction to our New Members. Followed by a special Kiddush luncheon in their honor.

Purim Shpiel Rehearsal

Sunday, February 26, 2017 – 10am



Did you miss out by not ordering an Etz Chaim Sweatshirt?

You're in luck – we ordered a few extras. Here are the sizes we have in stock:

2 Large and 2 Extra Large

If you are interested in a sweatshirt, please talk to Chava before they're all gone!

SIMCHAS ✧ REMEMBRANCES ✧ CONGRATULATIONS

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

Synagogue General Fund

Yahrzeit

James Phalo Belhassen, Brother
Angel Mordechai Perez, Uncle
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Mary Skurow, Mother
Elaine Franklin

James A. Martin, Father
Audrey Martin

Esther Weinberg, Sister
Nelson Weinberg, Brother-in-Law
Ethel Nemoff

Aaron Phillip Brown, Father
Lewis Brown

Estelle Zakem, Mother-in-Law
Carol Friedman

Fanny Kuhr, Aunt
Gail & Fred Zeifman

Baila Kirzner, Grandmother
Harold & Helene Kirzner

John Greenblatt, Friendee
Andrew Kaplan

Frieda Ettin, Mother
Edward Ettin

Joseph Rogoff, Father & Grandfather
Mark, Marissa & Josh Rogoff

Louis Schneider, Father
Allen Nagler, Husband
Adele Nagler

Matthew & Carolyne Abravaya, Parents
Sharyn Weiss

Marc Weiss, Husband
Sharyn Weiss

Harry Lerer, Uncle
Hatsy Lerer

Isadore Metz, Father
Marian & Sidney Lefton
Marvin & Mindy Metz & Family

Susan Timmer, Wife
Stan Timmer

Heskel Sawdai, Father
Albert & Karen Sawdai

Sonia Haber, Mother
Lynne Haber

Fanny Kuhr, Mother-in-Law
Harriet Kuhr

Eugene Hammer, Father
Mark Hammer

Bernard Neuer, Father
Dayva A. Green
Sam Plotkin, Father-in-Law
Alice Plotkin

Philip Stein, Husband
Louise Stein

A Generous Donations Was Received for the Yahrzeit of

Sarah Edlin, Mother
Philip & Rita Edlin

Memory

To the Sandow Family
IMO Mel Sandow
From Marilyn & Stan Diamond

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.

SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS

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

Lily and Frank Friedman Prayer Book Fund

Yahrzeit

Sadie Fogel, Mother & Grandmother
Phyllis & Pamela Novick

Melva Case, Sister-in-Law
Beverly Levine

Harold H. Holbrook, Brother
Irwin Holbrook

Ralph Schneider, Uncle
Bob & Alberta Schneider

Generous Donations Were Received for Yahrzeits of

IMO Rose & Elliot Segerman
5 prayer books were inscribed
By Steve, Susan, Samantha & Andy Segerman

Sandor Kutas Hunger Fund

Yahrzeit

Sarah Schneider, Mother
Harlene Cohen

Gerald (Jerry) Schiff, Brother
Myra Schiff

Irvin & Sylvia Rauchman Youth Fund

Yahrzeit

Philip Moskowitz, Father
Myron Moskowitz



Well Folks – January is upon us which means that we may have the chance for inclement weather.

We have multiple ways to communicate with you and we just want to remind you of some of them:

Check your local TV Stations for Synagogue wide closures. While WCPO is our main connection we have been told that the closing will appear on all local Cincinnati stations.

If we are given enough notice, we may use the eblast or email to communicate a weather related canceled event.

If you are scheduled to attend a meeting, please contact the Chair of the committee.

We try very hard not to cancel services but ask that you use sound judgement this winter.

Stay Warm and Be Safe!





CYJL?

What does that mean?

For starters, it's on the new stationary designed for our newest committee; but what does it mean? It stands for Create Your Jewish Legacy, but that doesn't tell you all that it means. In the coming months, you will be hearing more about this amazing opportunity.

Our congregation has joined an expanding list of organizations within the Greater Cincinnati Jewish Community which includes: Adath Israel, Mayerson JCC, Rockwern Academy, Rockdale Temple, Hebrew Day, Hillel, Cedar Village Foundation, Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Vocational Services, Cincinnati Community Kollel, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, Camp Livingston, Valley Temple, Temple Shalom, and Northern Hills Synagogue. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our Jewish Community and our Congregation to be a part of something huge and everlasting.



Legacy Team Members

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

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



**8100 CORNELL ROAD
CINCINNATI, OHIO
45249-2234**

Phone: (513) 489-3399

Fax: (513) 489-3372

Email: EtzChaimOffice@fuse.net

www.EtzChaimCincinnati.org

It's planned giving, an endowment that is about your legacy in the community, and about what we leave future generations within Congregation Etz Chaim as well as outside of our four walls, and it's not to be confused with either an annual appeal nor a capital appeal. This is bigger than any one of us, but it's something that every one of us can be a part of.

Our Etz Chaim team includes Russ Rosen, Randy Slovin, and Steve Segerman, and each of us is very proud of the opportunity in front of us. This is about long term sustainability for Etz Chaim, and all organizations that take part in this Legacy Campaign.

There is so much more...and you'll be hearing so much more...in the weeks and months to come. Stay tuned!



Action! Adventure! Suspense! Guy gets gals.... Tea and crumpets or a 🍸 shaken, not stirred. We had it all as we watched 3 James Bond movies. For those of us old enough to remember, it was a blast from the past (beehive or flip hairdo, often prim and proper dress). On the other hand, it was so futuristic for it's time that it was like, WOW! Learning about some of the makings of the movies as well as how they can be tied to Judaism in so many ways was really enlightening (like even the number 007).

By: Barb Rosen

First Friday at



The First Friday at First Watch Class
has moved locations.

We outgrew First Watch and so we've
reserved a separate room at
Scrambler Marie's:

40006 Hauck Rd.
Sharonville, OH 45241
(Across from Gabes on Rt 42)

They have reasonably priced meals and were
happy to host our breakfast learning session.

We hope to see you on
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 9am.

Let Hank or Chava know you'll be joining us
and we'll save you a seat!

Mystery Maccabee



On Thursday, December 29, 2016 the Thursday morning Minyanaires came together for a special annual tradition of fun and celebration:

MYSTERY MACABEE GIFT EXCHANGE

The hot ticket items this year were a 24 pack of Blue Moon Oatmeal Stout and coasters from New Zealand.

You need only look at these photos to see that a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who participated!



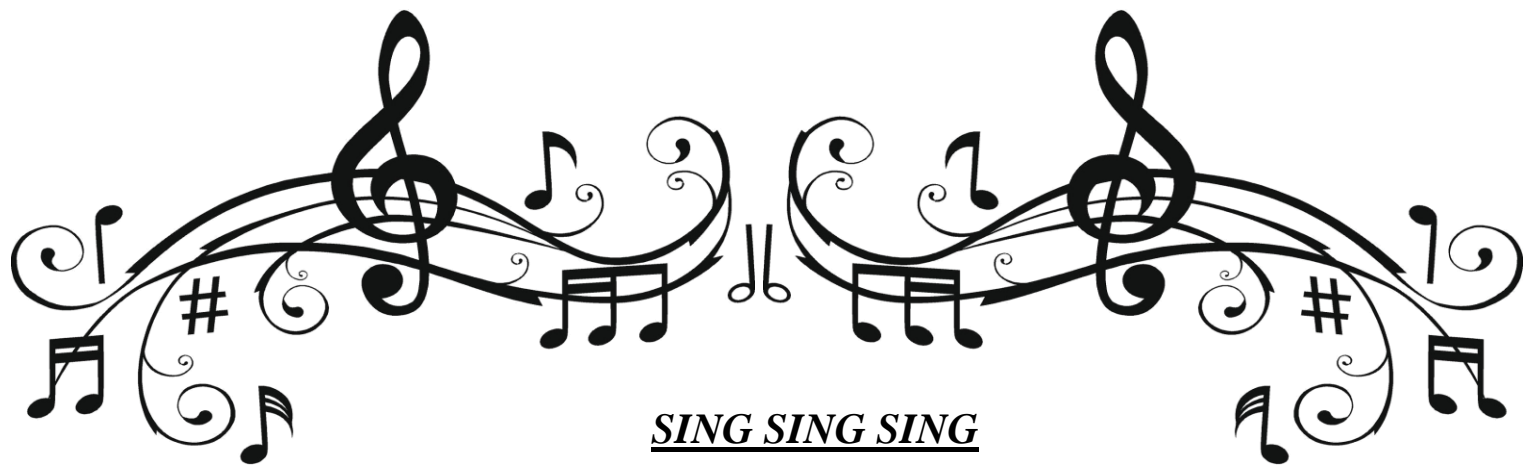
One of best kept secrets is our Thursday morning minyan. Minyan Captain David Weil and all the minyanaires would love to have more congregants join us. Remember shots, lox and blocks after minyan sets you 'on fire' for the day!

We meet every Thursday at 7am in the Chapel. Steve leads a beautiful hour long service and sometimes Bryan and Hank will pinch hit if needed. In that hour, there are morning blessings, a short Torah reading service and several chances to say Mourner's Kaddish.

The cast of characters that attend this early morning service are fun loving caffeine drinkers (minus Ron – Mr. Decaf) that are always happy to welcome in new faces.

Breakfast follows services and consists of Bagels, Lox, Cream Cheese, Butter, Jellies, Coffee, Tea, OJ and shots. Sometimes we are even treated to a pastry or two. Table conversations are always riveting and include humor, current events, religion, twitter, celebrities, movies, stories from days gone by and so much more... Why not try it one Thursday morning – you just may find you like it.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



The Etz Chaim choir members went back to 'choir camp' last month. Now that the pace of our rehearsal schedule has slowed a bit (after the busy High Holy Day season, we then had a fairly busy first months of 5777), it was time to step back and focus on some of the basics that make a choir a better group, and which perhaps escaped us as we were intent on practicing our songs under deadlines.

So that's what we did in our January rehearsals -- sure we sang songs but we also started every rehearsal with vocal warmups and exercises. And we will make this a part our routine at every rehearsal, at least until we work under another deadline. I do believe this has helped our voices meld together and thus we sing better as a group.

We have a number of songs in our repertoire that we want to perform, some old and some new. At this writing, no date has been set for the choir to perform but we are practicing specific songs with the idea that soon enough we will sing them for you. About three-fourths of us will be attending the Kallah retreat in February and we hope to, as Ruach Etz Chaim, lend our vocal support to songs both at services and other weekend events.

We also hope to, as both Ruach Etz Chaim and Pri Yadeiha women's choirs, give a performance of songs at some Shabbat morning service in either late winter or early spring.

As we mentioned in our last bulletin article, as part of our recruiting effort we ask that you please, please consider becoming a member of your synagogue choir(s). We are a flexible lot and we work with you and your schedule to achieve results. Contact one of us if you are interested. You know how to find us!

Musically yours,

Barbara and Emmy



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:

Sisterhood for Sponsoring in honor of our Rabbi in Residence
Weekend with Rabbi Cantor David Julian January 7

Judy Frankel for sponsoring the Kiddush on January 14
In memory of her husband, Robert's yahrzeit.



Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 Randy & Fabiana Sandow
- 14 Vance Towler & Haguit Rubinstein-Towler
- 23 Ethan & Trish Krimins

Congratulations to all our February Birthdays!

- 4 Sara Behrman
- 6 Cheryl Harris
- 7 Jack Landman
- 9 Kona Moskowitz
- 9 Rosalyn Richards
- 11 Lori Lipp
- 11 Herbert Segal
- 17 Mark Rogoff
- 20 Sally Cohen
- 22 Alan Sirkin
- 23 Marianne Nidich
- 28 Brad Gallop
- 28 Aaron Rubinstein



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

Friday Night,
February 17, 2017

Kabbalat Shabbat services start at 6pm in the
chapel then at 7pm we'll have cake in honor of
all our February 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.

February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Hammentashen Making 6-9 PM	2 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks Kitchen Volunteers needed 6pm	3 First Friday Breakfast 9am at Scrambler Maries Kabbalat Shabbat 6pm	4 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am. Superbowl Shabbat. Wear that gear & enjoy a themed kiddush
5 Hammentashen baking 10am -1pm, and 1pm-4pm 10:00 -12pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 12pm Choir Practice	6 The office is closed	7	8 Steering Committee Meeting 7:30pm	9 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks	10 11 <div>Synagogue Wide Kallah Retreat At Deer Creek State Park</div> <div>Please Note: The Building Will Be Closed</div> <div>Please Note: The Building Will Be Closed</div>	
12 <div>Kallah Retreat</div> <div>Please Note: The Building Will Be Closed</div>	13 The office is closed	14	15	16 Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks	17 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm & Birthday Minyan with Cake	18 Shabbat Morning Services at 9:30am
19 10:00 -12pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal Board Meeting 1pm to 4pm Choir Practice 4:30pm	20 The office is closed in honor of Presidents Day	21	22 Cedar Village Trivia 6:30pm	23 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by shots, lox & blocks Kitchen Volunteers Needed 6pm	24 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	25 Shabbat Services at 9:30am New Member Shabbat
26 10:00 -12pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal Choir Practice 12:30pm	27 The office is closed	28	We look forward to seeing you at events and services. For more information please feel free to call the office. Remember to check your weekly e-blast which is sent out every Wednesday. If you are not receiving the e-blast please call the office and we'll add you to the list.			



Congregation **ETZ CHAIM**



"like" us on
facebook

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



Simon Newman

*Purim is just around the corner... 3/11/17!!!
Have you ordered your delicious
hammentashen or participated in our
mishloach manot project – now is the time!*

Contact the office at 513-489-3399

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