

B'NAI ISRAEL  
SYNAGOGUE  
PENSACOLA, FL



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# The Shofar's Voice



IYAR / SIVAN — 5775

MAY 2015

## Thanks to the Volunteers



for Passover

and

The Shul's Derby Party

# RABBI'S MESSAGE

RABBI ISRAEL VANA

To my congregation; I want to thank you very much for bringing me back to lead our holy congregation. I missed you all very much in the past 3-1/2 years and did not stop thinking about the wellbeing of our shul. I had been with you more than 18 years. My time at this shul is more than what president Roosevelt was elected for - -to lead this greatest country on earth. To receive the leadership again of the shul is a daunting task but a great honor.

During this year we all have to work hard to rededicate ourselves to our shul. The shul service must be paramount. For any shul to flourish its members must all pull together. A shul is like a beehive. Everyone is important. Very important. We have all kinds of participation, and all participants are essential to the life of a shul – ours is no exception.

1. We need the ones who come to shul for religious events.
2. We need the volunteers.
3. We need the thinkers.
4. We need the ones with knowledge.
5. We need the ones with funds.
6. We need the children and parents.
7. We need every Jewish person to make minyachim. We need every one.
8. We need those who do support, and those who don't support the Rabbi, but we need ALL to pull the shul forward. Please tell

me what I can do to improve the wellbeing of our shul.

When Pharaoh contemplated freeing the slaves he asked Moses who was going out of Egypt. Moses replied “Binareinu Uvizkeneinu nelech bevaneinu uvivnoteinu, betzoneinu uvivkareinu nelech”. “Young and old, boys and girls, sheep and cows, we all shall go.” Moses recognized that each and every one of the community is vital for the survival of the community. “No one shall be left behind.” So are we at B'nai Israel Synagogue. We are all needed, “young and old” “man and woman” rich or poor, active participant or passive participant. All are important. Each and every one of us has something to contribute to the success of B'nai Israel Synagogue. G-d gave each and every one of us talent. It is incumbent upon us to give back to the community what G-d has given us. It is not a charity, it is a mandate that we share what G-d has bestowed upon us. Imagine if G-d took what he gave us and gave it to someone else. We would say the one who is blessed, the one with the means should contribute.

**Rabbi's Message Continued -**

The truth is we all have something to contribute, ourselves or our resources. All are important. No exception. As it is written 'bring everything you can to my house of worship and I will open to you the heaven and give you blessing to no end'.

Between Pesach and Shavuoth, from freedom to acceptance of G-d's law, let us all rededicate ourselves to G-d, family, each other, and to B'nai Israel Synagogue.

May G-d bless each and every one of us with success, health, wealth, wisdom, and the ability to share what he gave us with each other.

Between Pesach and Shavuoth, from freedom to acceptance of G-d's law, let us all rededicate ourselves to G-d, family, each other, and to B'nai Israel Synagogue.

May G-d bless each and every one of us with success, health, wealth, wisdom, and the ability to share what he gave us with each other.

Shabbat shalom, chag samech. See you in shul.

Rabbi Israel Vana



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VIKKI GOLDSTEIN, SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT



## B'nai Israel's Legacy

I was thrilled to be a part of our Passover Community Seder and seeing the social hall full of not only congregants but also out of town friends and supporters. We are thankful for Rabbi Vana. He traveled to New Orleans to obtain the kosher food orders for congregants as well as what was needed for the Seder. He set up tables and chairs, made phone calls, gathered volunteers, cooked a delicious meal and conducted our Seder. We appreciate his hard work and commitment to this congregation.

We had a bittersweet event in saying goodbye to our secretary Jeannie Morsch. Jeannie has been with us many years but had a job offer that would give her greater opportunities for advancement. She will always be "family" to us and we only wish her and her family much happiness, success and laughter! We welcome Rebekah Kaufman as our new secretary. She has had to learn the secretary job very quickly and has done a marvelous job thus far.

As I was pondering my thoughts for this month's message Benjamin and I were at the Shul preparing for our upcoming fundraiser (Derby at the Shul and Art Auction) we came across a booklet from 1989, where we, B'nai Israel Synagogue, was celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was reading the message from the incoming president and thought to myself this is exactly what I was trying to put into words. Here is an excerpt from then President Ed Davis:

"The founding fathers left us a rich heritage. They

knew that if the Jewish population of this small southern city was to survive religiously, they had to plan for their future, for the future generations, for those Jews who might emigrate here from other parts of this wonderful country, and for those who might emigrate from countries where people were persecuted simply for being Jews and practicing Judaism. I believe that the congregation began with an inner strength that has endured and grown during the past ninety years as a result of active participation by those pioneers as well as those who have followed in their footsteps. Not only has their inspiration given us a reason to be proud, but it also intensified our religious awareness. As we look to the 91<sup>st</sup> and ensuing years, we face many challenges: ritual, religious education, membership, maintenance of the Synagogue, and others. Those few founders faced the same challenges and did their job well. We, the congregants of B'nai Israel, must do as well if Jewish Life as we know it is to survive in Pensacola for future generations."

Thank you Mr. Ed Davis, as you can see...26 years later...I couldn't have said it any better. We hope to continue this legacy. I thank each of you for being a part of B'nai Israel. May we have continued years of achievement, fulfillment and perpetuation of Judaism.



## *Derby at the Shul Fundraiser*

*In honor of the Kentucky Derby B'nai Israel will be hosting a "Derby at the Shul" fundraiser. We are very excited to be partnering with TTP (Trauma Intervention Programs) to make this a day of fun for the entire community. Get your best clothes and enjoy a traditional mint julep while we watch our "stick" horses make the Run for the Roses! Of course we must also have the traditional hat contest so get those hats ready!*

*In conjunction with our Run for the Roses we will have an online silent auction as well as an on site Art Auction.*

*We need committee volunteers, horse riders and donations for our silent auction. Please contact Vikki Goldstein or Benjamin Nettles if you can assist in any way. We are very excited for this event!*



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# SISTERHOOD NEWS

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BY LORI RIPPS, SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT



The Sisterhood had been working hard in the kitchen once again, preparing for the Derby at the Shul and Art Auction. Kate Lollar and Rosemary Lieberman have been hard at work all week. Thank you to all who have been helping out! Yishar Koach to you all!!

Summer is almost here, and it will soon be time to elect a new board for the Sisterhood. The shul will be undergoing physical renovations, and I believe it is a great time for some new beginnings! Please think about how you can play a role in helping Sisterhood. We may be few in number, but we are a vital support role within the B'nai Israel community. And you can make a difference. Please let me know if you have any ideas or interests!

B'shalom!

Lori Ripps

## *Derby at the Shul*

### *Thank You to.....*

Thank you for participating in our first Derby at the Shul and Art Auction. We appreciate all our sponsors and their generosity! This has definitely been a FUNdraiser working with such great committee members. Please join us in thanks to Lori Ripps, Kate Lollar and all the B'nai Israel Sisterhood ladies; Alan Shemaria and all the Men's Club gentlemen; Stephanie Gafney, kids area specialist and Marty Libowsky, traffic and printing guru. Very special thanks to Deanna Smith, TIP Director, and her amazing ladies Sheri Stovall, Tabbatha McGhee and Leslie Weil for partnering with us in this adventure! Thank you to everyone who showed up, set up and cleaned up...we could not have done this without you. Last but not least, thank you Samantha Goldstein for designing our flyers and sponsor forms and decorating the "barn", and Ben Nettles for helping every step of the way and being understanding of your parents many hours away from home...you kids rock!

Sincerely,

Benjamin Nettles and Vikki Goldstein

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

VIKKI GOLDSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

We loved having Allison Poirier, ISJL Fellow, in April visit with us to continue our Life Cycle Journey as we discussed marriage. The students completed a Ketubah, wedding contract, in anticipation of our wedding. The mock wedding was beautiful and attended by our congregants. I am so proud of these students in practicing their lines and their enthusiasm; only wish I could have taken pictures to share.

May will be our last month of religious school before summer break. It has been a joyous school year. Thank you Herman Davies (and assistant Shelly) for all of your help and support!

Saturday Shul has been a wonderful adventure. But, we must admit we miss music, dancing, videos, computers and crafts in aiding our learning. So, it has been determined we will return to Sunday Religious School next year. Look for more information on additional changes over the summer. I am pleased to announce Herman will return to teach next year and we welcome Benjamin Nettles to our education team. If you are interested in being involved please email me at [jussduckie@aol.com](mailto:jussduckie@aol.com)

Have a safe and fun filled summer!

Vikki Goldstein

## ***GET WELL WISHES!***

**TO**

*Esther Allen*

*Joanie Kay*

*Stan Rabin*

*Norm Roberts*

*Jacki Beck*

*Jean Ellen Gordon*

**OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH  
YOU ALL!**

## Donations for May

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

*Paul and Rachel Reese*

*Ms. Delores Livingston*

*Mark & Joanne Robinson*

### Passover Donations

*Mr. Eugene Rosenbaum*

*Faye & Joe Rosenbaum*

*Mark & Joanne Robinson*

*Ben Nettles*

*Anita Schoenberger*

### In Honor of

*In Honor of Martha Miller from Stanley & Sue  
Schmerken*

*In Honor of Martha Miller from Marci & Alan Shemaria*

*In Honor of Martha Miller from Carol K. Parker*

*In Honor of Martha Miller from Norman Roberts & Jo-  
sie Friedman*

### In Loving Memory

*In loving Memory of Jon Davies from Stanley and Sue Schmerken*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from The Belford Family*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from Bill & Esther Allen*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from Norman Roberts & Josie Friedman*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from Lewis & Deborah Sims*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from Rebecca K. & Louis H. Bolesta*

*In Loving Memory of Dr. Phil Levine from R.D. Cox*

*In Loving Memeory of Jon Davies from Mr. Stanley Rabin*

*In Loving Memory of Jon Davies from Kenneth & Faye Merritt*

## YAHRTZEITS

*If you would like the office to send  
the Yahrtzeit by email of your loved ones,  
please let the office know, and it will be sent  
to you as the Yahrtzeit approaches. This  
was a suggestion by a distinguished  
congregant and thought this idea would be  
nice to share with all.*



Please see the donation form on page 13 to make a  
contribution to B'nai Isral Synagogue.



Iyar / Sivan

May 2015

## YAHREZEITS

### Iyar/May

12	1	Maxwell Weinberg
13	2	Sam Goldenberg
15	4	Ida Schiff
16	5	Philip Goldenberg
16	5	Ruth Schmerken
20	9	Ida Pock
21	10	Edythe Golub
21	10	Jack Golub
24	13	Eli Shever
26	15	Isador Levine Levi
27	16	Jerome Wilson
29	18	Rebecca Goldenberg

### Sivan/May

1	19	Morris Rosenthal
2	20	Beatrice Horowitz
2	20	Rae Wilson
5	23	Faye Kaiman
6	24	Gerry Cohen
6	24	Hena Ordon
6	24	Meyer Ordon
7	25	Burton Cohen
7	25	Max Lefkowitz
9	27	Elizabeth Eigner Gordon
9	27	Herman Epstein
10	28	Ivan Wilson
10	28	Jennie Bearman Liebovich
11	29	Bernard Goodman
11	29	Albert Edward Hanreck
12	30	Mauro Rosenberg
	31	Bennie Bear

## BIRTHDAYS

2	Estelle Kapner
2	Eva Gaus
8	Peter Grozdanovski
8	Zippora Baranowski
13	Vicki Haller
13	Ed Feigenbaum
15	Josephine Friedman
18	Beverly Kaiman
21	Tina Hunter
21	Ross Goodman
21	Sarah Masters
21	Jacqueline Masters
23	Barbara Kroll
23	Alixandra Mazur
23	Rivkah Baurberg
27	Ashley Gaffney
28	Rosemary Lieberman
29	James Gaus

## ANNIVERSARIES

12 *Herman and Diane Lefkowitz*

# ADVERTISERS



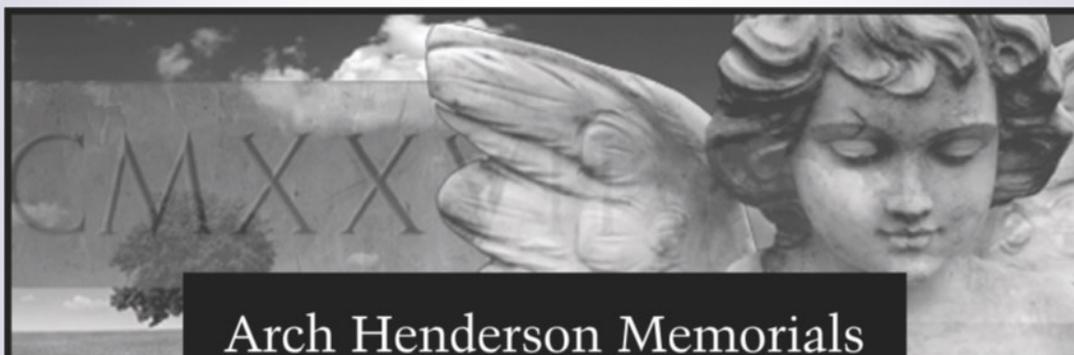
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CONTACT CHRISTINA BLACKMAN, EDITOR,  
SHOFAR'S VOICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

[MSCMBLACKMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MSCMBLACKMAN@GMAIL.COM)

# What's Happening at B'nai Israel Synagogue

## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Services 7pm	2 Morning Service 9:30 Religious School
3 Derby At the Shul 2-5 pm	4	5	6	7	8 Services 7pm	9 Morning Service 9:30 Religious School
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15 Services 7pm	16 Morning Service 9:30 Religious School
17 Jerusalem Day	18	19 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	20	21	22 Services 7pm	23 Morning Service 9:30 Evening Service 8pm Eve of Shuvot
24 Shuvot Services 9:30	25 Morning Service 9:30	26	27	28	29 Service 8pm	30 Morning Service 9:30 Religious School
31	Notes: Lag Ba Omer this month announcement to follow.					

# Donation Form

Please select where you would like your donation to go by checking the appropriate box below.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund               | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Fund      | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Scholarship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L'Dor V'Dor Fund           | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddush Fund           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book of Remembrance        | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Fund            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree of Life (\$125)       |   |

## Perpetual Care Funds

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack & Leah Rosenbaum Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Norman Willenzik Memorial Fund |
|--|---|

## Men's & Women's Organizations

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Club<br>(make check out to "Men's Club") | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood<br>(make check out to "Sisterhood") |
|---|---|

In Memory / Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Acknowledge to: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Mail this form and your check to:**

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**B'nai Israel Synagogue**

P.O. Box 9002

Pensacola, FL 32513-9002

**B'nai Israel Synagogue**

**Rabbi:** Israel Vana

**President:** Vikki Goldstein

**Vice President:** Benjamin Nettles

**Secretary:** Rosemary Lieberman

**Treasurer:** Richard Haller

**Sisterhood:** Lori Ripps

**Men's Club:** Alan Shemaria

Have a story for the newsletter? Email submissions to The Shofar's Voice Editor, Christina Blackman, at [mcombblackman@gmail.com](mailto:mcombblackman@gmail.com) preferably in Microsoft Office format, by the 15th of the month.