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COMMUNITY LIFECYCLES

Matthew Palermo to Graduate Baylor in Spring



Matthew Palermo, son of Carolyn and Bob Palermo, will graduate from Baylor in the spring. His sister, Alana, is 27 and lives in Sacramento, California.

Matthew is principle trumpet player in the school band, president of the Quiz Bowl Club, and a member of both the Writing Club and Physics Club. His favorite subjects are (as he says) history, history and history, and he has been inducted into the Baylor School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Matthew is a Varsity Letterman cross country and lacrosse player, and co-captain of the cross country team. He is also on the indoor track and lacrosse teams.

Outside of school, Matthew was an Eagle Scout and worked with his troop chopping and selling firewood each winter. He enjoys camping, fishing, sailing, backpacking, and shooting sports. He also grows vegetables in his backyard garden and is an avid reader.

Matthew has been accepted into the University of Alabama Honors College and College of Engineering and plans to study Mechanical Engineering. He will also audition for the Million Dollar Band.

Orly Berke Becomes a Bat Mitzvah



Congratulations to Orly Rose Berke on becoming a Bat Mitzvah March 19. Orly is the daughter of Mayor Andy and Monique Berke and granddaughter of Kandy and Marvin Berke and Yolanda (deceased) and Bob Rogers; and Joe Prado (deceased). She is in the 7th grade at Baylor School. Orly has one sister, Hannah, 15, a 10th grader also at Baylor. Orly enjoys cooking, reading, movies, and community volunteer work, and is involved in lacrosse and golf. For her bat mitzvah project Orly volunteered at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, helping to raise money for two electric pallet jacks.

Mizpah's 150 Years in Chattanooga

by Max D. Brener

Mizpah Congregation was founded on May 20, 1866, by 20 Jewish citizens of Chattanooga, primarily of German, Austro-Hungarian, and Alsatian heritage: Jacob Bach, Elias Bowsky, Morris Bradt, George A. Colburg, Adolph Deutch, Daniel Deutch, Henry, Deutch, Barney Feibleman, Charles B. Feibleman, R. Leopold Feibleman, William Friedman, Herman Gutman (later Goodman), Jacob Harris, Simon Horwitz, Jacob Lewinsky, Michael Loeffler, Jacob Seckelson, Aaron Simpson, S. Simpson, and Joseph B. Spitzer. This year, 2016, marks the sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary, of the founding of Mizpah.

Mizpah was the eighth religious congregation (and the first Jewish) founded in Chattanooga. Older congregations at the time were: Centenary Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Cumberland Presbyterian, Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic, St. Paul's Episcopal, and First Methodist Episcopal. It was originally chartered as Chebra Gamilas Chased (Hebrew Benevolent Association). The name was changed to Mizpah Congregation in 1888 and Mizpah Congregation in 1902.

Mi(t)zpah is a Hebrew word meaning "watchtower" or "lookout" in reference to Lookout Mountain, the dominant sight on Chattanooga's skyline. Mizpah has occupied three buildings in its 150 year history. The first, built in 1882, was at 429 Walnut Street. It was sold to Professor Joseph O. Cadek in 1904 and served as the first site of the Cadek Conservatory of Music. At this time a second synagogue building was constructed, partially with funds provided by Adolph S. Ochs, at Oak and Lindsay Streets. Our current building at 923 McCallie Avenue was donated to the congregation in 1928 by Adolph S. Ochs and named the Julius and Bertha Ochs Memorial Temple in memory of his parents.

The Ochs family moved to Chattanooga in 1878 when Adolph Ochs purchased *The Chattanooga Times*. Julius and Bertha Levy Ochs were originally from Germany and lived in Cincinnati and Knoxville prior to Chattanooga. Julius served as a captain in the Union Army, Jones' Command of the Ohio Infantry, during the Civil War. Interestingly, Bertha, who spent her younger years in Mississippi and had a brother who served in the Confederate Army, was a staunch Confederate sympathizer. She was caught attempting to run a Union blockade smuggling quinine (used for medicinal purposes) to Confederate troops near Cincinnati.

Julius Ochs served as a lay rabbi for the congregation. Among Julius and Bertha Ochs' seven children were Adolph Ochs (publisher of both *The Chattanooga Times* and *The New York Times*), George Washington Ochs-Oakes (first Jewish mayor of Chattanooga - 1894 to 1898), and Col. Milton B. Ochs. Their daughter, Ada Ochs was married to Harry C. Adler, long time managing editor of *The Chattanooga Times*. Their great granddaughter, Ruth Holmberg, was also a publisher of *The Chattanooga Times* and is an active member of the congregation.

Mizpah has deep roots in American Jewish history. Adolph Ochs married Effie Wise, daughter of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of American Reform Judaism. Two of Isaac M. Wise's sons were also active in Chattanooga: Jonah Wise served as a rabbi of Mizpah and Harry Wise as a lay leader.

Our current president of the congregation, Henry Hendricks Schulson, is directly descended on his mother's side from some of the earliest permanent Jewish settlers in what is now the United States. Of Spanish origin (Sephardic Jews), they fled Spain as a result of the Inquisition. They came to New York in 1696, over 80 years before our nation declared its independence from Great Britain. After 150 years, Mizpah Congregation remains a vibrant center of Reform Judaism in the Chattanooga area and we look forward to the next 150 years.

Tributes

In memory of Dr. Richard Lasky, Elaine and Sanford Winer

General donation, Patricia Walker

In honor of Social Services, Beit Israel Hebraic Community

To make a tribute, please contact the Federation at 493-0270, ext. 10 or federation@jewishchattanooga.com. Tributes of any amount are payable in cash, by check (to JFGC), or by MC, Visa, Discover, or Amex.

When you make a tribute, you may designate who receives a card acknowledging your tribute, and you will also receive a written record of your donation. Tributes made after *The Shofar* goes to press will appear the following month. You may choose to make a tribute anonymously.

Condolences

We mourn the passing of the following beloved friends and family:

--Henry Louis Diamond, loving member of Cohn, Cohen, Diamond and Moore families, on February 21, in Washington DC

--Bluma Perlstein, grandmother of Rabbi Shaul Perlstein

--Leila Eyoub Sigmon, mother of Kathy Kessler, beloved friend of Edward Burgin, on February 23

--Cary Stevens, son of Lois Sussman, who died in February, in Knoxville

Although the Shofar deadline is the 8th of the month, mazel tovs and condolences are accepted at any time. Please contact Dana Shavin at 493-0270, ext. 12 or dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com

Haven't checked out our new website yet?

What are you waiting for?

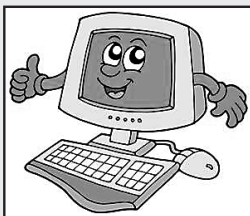
It's new, it's beautiful, and it's interactive!

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register to volunteer, read the Shofar, and

even donate!

<http://www.jewishchattanooga.com>.



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Check our website for our daily menu

MIZPAH CONGREGATION



by Donna Etkin

April Worship Schedule

Tuesday, April 5, 12, 19, 26

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm, Lunch and Learn brown bag luwth Laurie Fisher

Wednesday, April 6, 13, 20, 27

4:30 pm, Mizpah Academy

Friday, April 1

5:45 pm, Oneg Shabbat refreshments and socializing

6:15 pm, Shabbat Services with Laurie Fisher

7:15 pm, FIRST FRIDAY DINNER

Saturday, 2, 23

8:45 am, Breakfast and Torah Study with Laurie Fisher

11:00 am, Shabbat morning service with Laurie Fisher

Sunday, April 3

9:00 am - 12:00 pm CJCRS

12:00 pm Confirmation Class

Friday, April 8

5:45 pm, Oneg Shabbat refreshments and socializing

6:15 pm, Shabbat Services with Rabbi Pesner, visiting Rabbi

Saturday, April 9

8:45 am, Breakfast and Torah Study

11:00 am, Shabbat morning service

Sunday, April 10

9:00 am - 12:00 pm CJCRS

12:00 pm Confirmation Class

12:00 pm Jew Crew Event

Friday, April 15

5:45 pm, Oneg Shabbat refreshments and socializing

6:15 pm, Shabbat Shirim --A Shabbat of Songs

Saturday, April 16

8:45 am, Breakfast and Torah Study

9:30 am Shabbat shel yeladim (Tot Shabbat)

11:00 am, Shabbat morning service

12:30 pm, First Baptist Church visits for tour and Seder

Sunday, April 17

9:00 am - 12:00 pm CJCRS

12:00 pm Confirmation Class

2:00 pm Annual Meeting

Friday, April 22, 29

5:45 pm, Oneg Shabbat refreshments and socializing

6:15 pm, Shabbat Services with Laurie Fisher

Sunday, April 24

NO CJCRS

12:00 pm Confirmation Class

Saturday, April 30

8:45 am, Breakfast and Torah Study with Laurie Fisher

11:00 am, Yizkor morning service with Laurie Fisher



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Mizpah Academy is our congregation's weekly Hebrew Language Learning Program for children and youth. Using the Union for Reform Judaism's (UJR) Mitkadem (Progressive) Curriculum, our goal is to develop an understanding and love for the 'first language' of the Jewish people. Classes take place 4:30 to 6:00 pm Wednesdays in our newly updated Mizpah School Wing. Please contact Principal

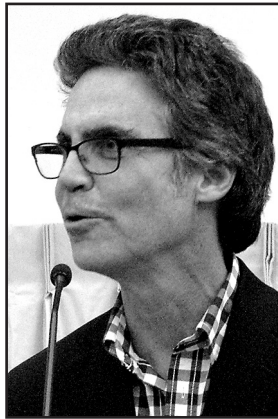
NOTICE OF WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

Beginning March 4, 2016, until further notice, our regular Shabbat worship services and Torah Study will be led and conducted as follows: 1st and 4th (and 5th, if needed) led by Laurie Fisher, Director of Jewish Education. 2nd and 3rd Shabbat will be led by lay volunteers.

Mizpah Congregation
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Phone: 423-267-9773 Fax: 423-267-9773
mizpah@epbf.com
www.mizpahcongregation.org

POTS OF GOLD

Excerpted from Rabbi Bill Tepper's farewell sermon, February 26, 2016



Gold is a precious and valuable metal. But the items that are worth much more than their weight in gold are accordingly much dearer to our hearts. As a matter of fact, they are not items at all. This brings to mind the bumper sticker – and don't we all learn some of the best life lessons from reading bumper stickers? – that the best things in life are not things. They are people, places, relationships and experiences. And they are memories. These are the pots of gold that yield genuine and the most-enduring of riches. These are the pots of gold that come to earn a place in our hearts, minds and spirits for as long as we live. These are the

pots of gold out which we become better persons and better Jews. And these are the pots of gold for which I am most appreciative on this, my final Shabbat as rabbi of Mizpah Congregation.

On a stunning spring day eight years ago Deborah and I set foot in Chattanooga, Tennessee for the first time. From the very beginning we were overwhelmed by the warmth and kindness of everyone we met: all the members of the Rabbinic Search Committee, the Mizpah staff, my predecessor as rabbi in addition to those to whom we were introduced at the Jewish Federation. Overcome to the extent that, within just a few of hours of our arrival, as I nervously paced the floor of our hotel room during an afternoon break in the proceedings, Deborah sat calmly in a chair, gazed up at me and said in the firmest of voices: 'Relax Bill, we're coming to Chattanooga.' And so Deborah and I discovered and immediately embraced here at Mizpah Congregation and throughout Chattanooga – to our enormous blessing – our pots of gold. We found people: people who care about their Judaism and about one another; who are generous and compassionate; who answer the bell for one another; who know when to celebrate, comfort and grieve. People who are now and shall always be a part of the Tepper family's life.

We found places: Chattanooga is a city that, since our arrival, continues to rise in stature, serve as a magnet for newcomers, and grow more emotionally, intellectually and physically appealing with each day. Chattanooga is a city that, regardless of where we reside, the Tepper family will always consider a home.

We found experiences: opportunities to become involved in the dynamic life of Mizpah Congregation, in addition to the larger Jewish and non-Jewish communities; opportunities to enhance our love of Judaism, and to partner with – on numerous meaningful endeavors - those with whom we have been privileged to share life here. Thank you for allowing Deborah and I to be your partners, to spread our wings, and play a part in spreading yours.

Within the most beautiful pots of gold of all we have established relationships. You have become more than fellow Jews, fellow citizens of Chattanooga, and significantly more than congregants. You are our family. Short of having common DNA or chromosomes, Deborah and I share so much with you, and you with us.

We depart Chattanooga with the best of memories and gratitude for allowing us to become part of your lives. You will always be with us. Thank you.

When God – following the great flood – revealed to Noah and his family the rainbow, the keshet, God also unveiled to them the dreams, hopes and possibilities to which humanity might aspire. On the eve of our ordination from our seminary as servants of God and the Jewish people, we rabbis too gaze longingly upon rainbows; we too are imbued with hopes, dreams and possibilities, if not absolute guarantees that pots of gold will be awaiting us at the rainbow's edge. But as Deborah and I have so beautifully learned through the loving people, places, relationships, experiences and memories of Mizpah Congregation and Chattanooga, Tennessee – pots of gold really do exist. Ken Y'hi Ratzon. May it be God's will.

Summers to Remember!

The Union for Reform Judaism [URJ] Camp Coleman

Registration for the Union for Reform Judaism [URJ] Camp Coleman's 2016 Summer Sessions is well underway. Located in beautiful Northeast Georgia, our region's Reform Jewish Camp has provided superb – and memorable - recreational, artistic, educational, environmental and spiritual experiences to the Reform Jewish youth of Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina and Florida for more than fifty years. Best of all, Coleman campers establish friendships that last a lifetime!

Please contact Laurie Fisher, now about your child/children attending Camp Coleman in 2016, and having a summer to remember.

CHATTANOOGA JEWISH CONGREGATIONAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



On the Scene at CJCRS

by Co-Directors
Paula Israel CJCRSDir2@gmail.com;
423-802-8434 and Jackie Rosenfeld
CJCRSDir@gmail.com; 423-762-0104

February was Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Rachel Salomon and Randi Weiss set up seven stations simulating various disabilities. All grades rotated through the stations. Kids were tasked with, for example, eating pudding with a coffee stirrer to give them an idea of what it's like for people who can't hold a utensil well. At another station, kids had their fingers taped together and then had to unwrap a Tootsie Roll to demonstrate the difficulty people with arthritis, MS, or other coordination problems have doing ordinary, fine motor skill tasks. They were able to understand, first-hand, why people with such disabilities often get frustrated, take longer to eat, and sometimes, as a result, consume too few calories.

At another station, kids wore headsets which played music and were told to recite the alphabet, an activity designed to mimic auditory processing difficulties. Guest speaker David Israel talked about his confinement to a wheelchair and how he has coped with his disability.

These eye-opening experiences were conducted in a lighthearted manner so as to invite understanding rather than fear. After everyone had rotated through the stations, Rachel Salomon encouraged them to talk about their thoughts and feelings.



Photos courtesy of Jonah A. Hodes







Rabbi Tepper Says Goodbye to Kids of CJCRS



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Lisa Jarvis, CSA

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B'NAI ZION CONGREGATION

Pesach at B'nai Zion

Community Seder

Saturday, April 23: Seder begins at 6:30pm; Eat dinner by 6:45. "Let all who are hungry, come and eat." Join us for an interactive and educational experience. Our spiritual and meaningful seder will be led by Rabbi Susan Tandler. Interested in attending? Contact B'nai Zion for costs and more information.

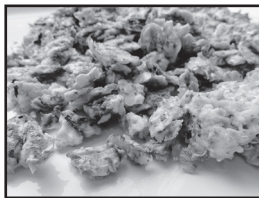
Note: an RSVP is required. Please call the office for availability after April 14.



Matzah Brie Lunch

Sunday, April 24

Following services on the second day of Passover, join us for a delicious matzah brie lunch. Please RSVP to the BZ office to ensure we have plenty of food for everyone!



Lunch & Learn

**Thursday, April 7 & 28:
12:00p.m. at BZ**

Kitniyot and the new responsas about consumption rules for Ashkenazi Jews at Passover. Join us for scrumptious leftovers from our community Passover seder with a side of invigorating conversation and learning. Please RSVP to the office. Cost is \$5.

Pesach Service Schedule

Sat., April 23
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Services, 1st Day: 9:30 a.m.
Sun., April 24
Pesach Morning Services, 2nd Day: 9:30 a.m.
Fri., April 29
Pesach Morning Services, 7th Day: 9:30 a.m.
Sat., April 30
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Services, 8th Day: 9:30 a.m.
Yizkor not before 11:00 a.m.

*Complimentary childcare will be available during festival services.
Pesach ends at 9:16 p.m.*

(Hametz will not be purchased before 9:45 p.m.)

The BZ Weekly email provides details about upcoming events, holidays, and services.

Don't currently receive our weekly email?
Not sure if you are in our database?

Please contact the office to help us update your records.

You do not need to be a member to receive our weekly email.



Passover Leftovers Lunch & Thursday, April 28: 12 p.m. @ BZ
"God's To-Do-List", chapter 6: "Care"
\$5 for lunch, learning is priceless. Join us for a satiating lunch and a stimulating conversation.

SUPER-SIZED SHABBAT

Saturday, April 9: Shabbat Morning program for children!
Mini-Minyan - 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. (for Pre-K to 2nd grade)
Junior Congregation - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (for 3rd to 6th grade)

Bagrut—10:00 AM to 12:00 p.m. (for 8th to 10th grade).

We will celebrate Shabbat through tefillah, hands-on learning, mentoring, study and games!



Open House Shabbat

Friday, April 15 - 6:45 pm

Minyan at BZ at 5:45 pm

This dairy / vegetarian potluck is a new-ish program of B'nai Zion. Join us for this twist on the traditional Shabbat dinner and an authentically Jewish way to celebrate life while strengthening community. There is no cost to the program. We just ask that you sign up with the office to bring a dish. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to engage in a meaningful Shabbat experience with friends, new and old, in our community.

USY Ein Gedi Spring Sub-Regional Convention

We had a great time hosting USY Ein Gedi Spring Sub-Regional Convention in March. Thank you to Kalli Agudo & Arthur Lebovitz (Convention co-chairs) and Murray Lebovitz (CHOOSY President) for all of their hard work on the convention. And a HUGE thanks to all of our BZ family that helped house, cook, clean, schlep and more!



**B'nai Zion
Congregation**

Contact Information:

114 McBrien Road Chattanooga, Tennessee 37411

Telephone: (423) 894-8900 Fax: (423) 894-8902

Email: office@bzcongregation.com

www.bnaizioncongregation.com

CHABAD OF CHATTANOOGA



Chabad
of Chattanooga

Rabbi Shaul Perlstein

from the Chabad.org website

It often seemed to Reb Asher that good people got punished, and that undeserving people thrived and prospered. He would ponder about this, yet no solution was found.

One night during his studies he received a famous visitor—Elijah the Prophet.

“Come,” said the prophet, “tomorrow I wish to go out into the world. I want you to go with me. We will disguise ourselves as haggard beggars, but no matter what happens, I want you to observe without asking me any questions.” And so it came to pass.

The first stop was at a very poor hovel, hardly worthy of human occupation. They found a poor farmer and his wife living there together with a cow, their only possession, which kept them from starving.

The two “beggars” were ushered in. They were given straw to sleep on, the only slice of hard bread and a cracked bowl of milk from the cow. The farmer and his wife entertained the guests with friendly conversation, till they all said the nighttime prayers and went to sleep.

In middle of the night the rabbi noticed that Elijah had slipped away to the “stable,” where the couple’s cow was kept. He wondered what the prophet might be doing there, but remembering his promise, he said nothing.

The next morning they woke up to a terrible scream. The farmer’s wife had gone to milk the cow, had found the animal stretched out on the floor, stiff and dead.

“How will we live?” she wailed. “Now we will die, too!” The rabbi expressed his concern, and tried to console her. He told her to trust in G d, but they had to leave her sobbing.

“No questions, remember!” whispered Elijah when he saw the rabbi’s face. He blessed the poor couple, and they continued on their journey.

That evening they came to a nice house made of brick: servants were bustling about, the wealthy owner was preparing a party for the engagement of his daughter. Upon seeing the beggars, the owner of the house treated the beggars harshly, and only after much pleading he let them sleep in his barn. He warned them not to show themselves at the party.

It was drafty and chilly in the stable, there was only old, smelly straw to lie on. The next morning, Elijah pointed to a large opening in the wall of the crumbling barn. “That’s why it was so cold in here!” he exclaimed, and went on to repair the crack with some old tools he found in the barn. They did not bother to tell the owner that they had fixed his wall; he would be angry to see the ragged beggars at his doorstep.

As they headed back to the rabbi’s village, the rabbi could not contain himself any longer.

“Is that fair?” asked Reb Asher, “the cow of the good couple died, and the wall of the miser was fixed for free?”

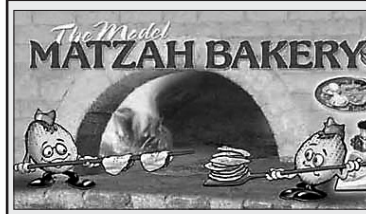
“When we were sleeping in the poor couple’s hut” responded Elijah, I saw the angel of death, who had come to take the life of the farmer’s wife. I pleaded with him to leave this couple alone, but as you know, the angel of death does not go away empty handed. I was finally able to convince him to take the cow. Before I left I gave them a blessing not only will they have a new cow soon, G d will bless them this year with a child, which is their deepest wish.”

“As for the Miser” sighed Elijah. “In the wall of his barn was hidden a jar with gold coins. Now that the wall is fixed, the gold will stay hidden until a worthier person than he will find it.

“Now I understand” said the Rabbi, “this world is not what it seems to be to us, and we can only trust G d to do justice in His world. . .”

Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner

It was a beautiful evening starring the children who performed, baked challah, and made magnificent "6 Days of Creation" centerpieces." We sang songs, played games and enjoyed the wonderful ruach of Shabbat together. Pictures below and bottom right (taken before the start of Shabbat).



Model Matzah Bakery

Sticky Little Fingers Usher In Passover Season Sunday, April 17 at 12:30 p.m.

This year children will play a special role in ushering in the Passover Holiday with the Model Matzah Bakery. The entire Jewish community is invited to his unique event, which brings children together for a hand-on, exciting educational journey exploring the history and significance of Passover and matzah. The traditional matzah bread was round and hand baked, in contrast to the uniform store bought square variety. At our model bakery, each participant will begin with stalks of wheat, which are winnowed and then ground. We will draw special well water, and finally, wearing full master matzah-baker regalia- hat, apron, and floury face--we will bake a spectacular matzah!

The Matzah Bakery provides children with a fun experience and also helps develop a profound appreciation for the holiday. Today, more than ever parents appreciate opportunities like this to share their Jewish heritage and tradition--our faith--with the next generation.

Community Seder



Join us for a community seder you will remember for a lifetime!

Relive the Exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a seder complete with matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with anecdotes and insights of the unique customs of this special night.

First night of Passover, April 22 at 7:15 pm

Adult 35\$- Child \$15- Sponsor \$180

The Hamantash Cafe

Delicious Hamantashen was baked (and eaten) on March 6 by a fabulous group of women. Beautiful lessons of the story of Purim were learned. Thank you Gayle Roistacher! Stay tuned or contact Rosie Perlstein for future classes for women and girls.

