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# the Shofar



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Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JUNE, 2014

SIVAN/ TAMUZ, 5774

Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom,

The following is an article I saw posted on Facebook & thought it was important enough to share with you. Please take a few moments to read this.

See y'all at the Synagogue June picnic.

Regards,

Michelle

The Times of Israel on FB: Ops & Blogs

[Hen Mazzig](#) is the Campus Coordinator for StandWithUs' Pacific Northwest chapter in the United States. Hen was in the IDF for almost five years. As a lieutenant in the COGAT unit, he worked as an intermediary between the Israeli Defense Forces (the IDF) and the Palestinian Authority (the PA), the UN, and the many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work in the West Bank. Hen's unit was responsible for overseeing the construction of medical facilities, schools, environmental projects, roads, water-related infrastructure, and for security coordination with the Palestinian Security Forces, part of the Palestinian Authority.

As part of my work as an educator at StandWithUs, between January and May of this year, I traveled to college campuses, high schools and churches, sharing the history of modern Israel. I also shared personal stories about growing up in the Jewish state, and about my family. I always spoke about my military service as an officer in an IDF COGAT unit that attends to the needs of Palestinian civilians who are not involved in the conflict and promotes Palestinian civil society. Each time I would speak and take questions for an hour or more. I have shared my personal story with over 16,000 people at many, many college campuses and high schools, including UC Berkeley, Stanford, the University of Washington, Seattle University and many others. Many of those to whom I spoke were supportive, friendly, and open to hearing about my Israel. But, sadly, far too many were not.

When I served as a soldier in the West Bank, I got used to having ugly things said to me, but nothing prepared me for the misinformation, demonization of Israel, and the gut-wrenching, anti-Israel, anti-Semitic hostility expressed by many students, professors, church members, and even some

high school students right here in the Pacific Northwest.

I was further shocked by how unaware the organized Jewish community is and how little they are actually doing to counter this rising anti-Semitism, which motivated me to write this article.

This new form of bigotry against Israel has been called the “new anti-Semitism,” with “Israel” replacing “Jew” in traditional anti-Semitic imagery and canards, singling out and discriminating against the Jewish state, and denying the Jewish people alone the right to self-determination. The new anti-Semitism is packaged in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS), which claims to champion Palestinian rights though its real goal is to erode American support for Israel, discredit Jews who support Israel, and pave the way for eliminating the Jewish state. One of BDS’ central demands is the “complete right of return” for all the descendants of the original Palestinian refugees, subtle language that means the end of Israel as the Jewish homeland because it would turn Israel into a Palestinian-Arab majority state.

It is surprising that an extremist group like BDS is ever taken seriously, but BDS advocates have found receptive audiences in some circles. Their campaigns are well organized and in many cases, well financed. They have lobbied universities, corporations, food co-ops, churches, performing artists, labor unions, and other organizations to boycott Israel and companies that do business with Israel. But even if these groups don’t agree to treat Israel as a pariah state, the BDS activists manage to spread their anti-Israel misinformation, lies and prejudice simply by forcing a debate based on their false claims about Israel.

To give you a taste of the viciousness of the BDS attacks, let me cite just a few of the many shocking experiences I have had. At a BDS event in Portland, a professor from a Seattle university told the assembled crowd that the Jews of Israel have no national rights and should be forced out of the country. When I asked, “Where do you want them to go?” she calmly answered, “I don’t care. I don’t care if they don’t have any place else to go. They should not be there.” When I responded that she was calling for ethnic cleansing, both she and her supporters denied it. And during a presentation in Seattle, I spoke about my longing for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. When I was done, a woman in her 60’s stood up and yelled at me, “You are worse than the Nazis. You are just like the Nazi youth!” A number of times I was repeatedly accused of being a killer, though I have never hurt anyone in my life. On other occasions, anti-Israel activists called me a rapist. The claims go beyond being absurd – in one case, a professor asked me if I knew how many Palestinians have been raped by IDF forces. I answered that as far as I knew, none. She triumphantly responded that I was right, because, she said, “You IDF soldiers don’t rape Palestinians because Israelis are so racist and disgusted by them that you won’t touch them.”

Such irrational accusations are symptomatic of dangerous anti-Semitism. Yet, alarmingly, most mainstream American Jews are completely oblivious to this ugly movement and the threat it poses. They seem to be asleep, unaware that this anti-Jewish bigotry is peddled on campuses, by speakers in high schools, churches, and communities, and is often deceptively camouflaged in the rhetoric of human rights.

The American Jewish community and its leaders are not providing a united front to combat this latest threat. Unfortunately, this repeats a pattern of Jewish communal groups failing to unite in a timely way to counter threats against us individually and as a community.

Shockingly, a small but very vocal number of Jews actively support BDS. They often belong to organizations that prominently include “Jewish” in their names, like Jewish Voice for Peace, to give cover to BDS and the anti-Semitism that animates it. A question that we, as a Jewish community must ask ourselves, is whether it is ever appropriate to include and accept Jews who support BDS and directly or indirectly advocate the ultimate elimination of the Jewish State of Israel.

I think it is not.

My experiences in America have changed me. I never expected to encounter such hatred and lies. I never believed that such anti-Semitism still existed, especially in the U.S. I never knew that the battlefield was not just Gaza, the West Bank, and hostile Middle Eastern countries wanting to destroy Israel and kill our citizens and soldiers. It is also here in America, where a battle must be waged against prejudice and lies.

I implore American Jews: do more.

Israel cannot fight this big battle alone. If you are affiliated with a Jewish organization, let it know you want it to actively, openly and unequivocally oppose the BDS campaign and those who support it. Inform yourself, your friends and families, by visiting websites of organizations like StandWithUs, Jewish Virtual Library, AIPAC, AJC and others that

will update you and provide information about BDS and anti-Semitism.

I urge the organized Jewish community and its members to wake up and stand up for the Jewish state of Israel, and for all it represents, and for all it works to achieve.

## ETZ CHAYIM ANNUAL PICNIC

In addition to the fun we will enjoy (weather permitting) at the Etz Chayim Annual Picnic on Sunday, June 8, 2014, 11:30AM, at the Green Mountain Nature Trail, we will have a brief business meeting at which time we will elect the new officers and board members for the upcoming business year. In the event of inclement weather the picnic will be held on the following Sunday at the same time. Bring your family and your lunch—the Men’s Club will provide dessert!

The following names are submitted for 2014-15 Synagogue Officers and Board members.

### OFFICERS

President: Michelle Lapidus  
Vice President: Bill Brigadier  
Recording Sec: Lauren Goodman  
Corresponding Sec: Max Rosenthal  
Treasurer: Gary Hall

### BOARD MEMBERS

2 Year Term: Lynne Edmondson  
2 Year Term: Fred Kolchin  
1 Year Term: Marvin Kalachman  
Second Year/ 2 Year Term: Seth Spraggins  
Second Year/ 2 Year Term: Holly Kent

Sisterhood Rep: Sandra Wiederecht  
Men’s Club Rep: Joe Sacks  
BBYO Rep: Holly Kent

## ONEG ASSIGNMENTS

REMEMBER, EXCEPT FOR THE RABBI, ETZ CHAYIM DOES NOT HIRE STAFF TO PERFORM THE VARIOUS RITUAL TASKS. EACH MEMBER PITCHES IN TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE ABLE. MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE SNACKS AND/OR DESSERTS FOLLOWING FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR. ETZ CHAYIM DOES KEEP A KOSHER KITCHEN, SO KITCHEN RULES WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE OR PROVIDED TO YOU AT YOUR REQUEST.

PLEASE PERFORM A MITZVAH AND SIGN UP TO SPONSOR AN ONEG. THERE ARE 16 SLOTS OPEN FROM JULY 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 2. IF I DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU BY JUNE 5, I WILL ASSIGN YOU A DATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERTION!

SINCERELY,

LYNNE EDMONDSON  
[etzchayimoneg@gmail.com](mailto:etzchayimoneg@gmail.com); 256-776-9898

## ETZ CHAYIM SEDER, OR “THE MAD SCRAMBLE”

Since we had originally not planned a Seder, the last minute nature of the event had us scrambling to make sure that those with no family or place to attend a Seder, had one. We ended up with 42 people in attendance, and even with the “refrigerator incident” managed to cover our costs with ticket sales.

Seth did a wonderful job as Seder leader. Thanks to Abbott (Robert Krigelman) and

Costello (Gary Hall) for the wonderful rendition of “Who’s the wise child”.

I would like to thank all the people who attended the Seder and all of those who pitched in to help after the event. It was nice to see all the help, and I didn’t even have to take home a bag of you know what.

I would like to offer special thanks to those who gave of their time and effort before and during the event. Lauren Goodman, Shoshanna Rosenthal, Millie Rosenthal, Shirley Roberts, Max Rosenthal (we needed those sinks), Gary Hall, Michal Hall, Holly Kent, Michelle Lapidus, Seth Spraggins, Robert Krigelman, Scott Hancock, Sara Brigadier and Shelley Higgins. THANK YOU!

Next year in Jerusalem, or for us, Chattanooga.

Carla Evans

## SISTERHOOD

It’s warming up outdoors as we look forward to the EC Annual Picnic, where a Sisterhood member will have advertiser forms available for our largest fundraiser, the New Year Greeting and Memorial Book. If you have a business, or frequent a business that you think may be interested in purchasing advertisement in our book (just ask them!), please be sure to take a form to be filled out. Sisterhood is always looking for new advertisers in order to continue the success we’ve had in past years, thanks to all of you. Keep your eyes open for your own New Year Book kickoff letter to arrive by mail in the near future. Remember, by placing a greeting, memorial and/or an ad in this book you will receive your own copy, and most importantly, it will ultimately benefit the

Synagogue by you participating in this fundraiser.

Our new Sisterhood Board was elected at a lovely luncheon at 1892 East recently, and we plan to get everyone acquainted with their positions on the board over the coming months, beginning with our next board meeting on June 2. We thank our outgoing officers for their good works, and we welcome our new officers.

On the horizon, we have our yearly Membership Event to plan for August. Our goal is for 100% participation in Sisterhood, so if you haven't joined in the past, consider doing so to help us grow. Of course, we appreciate all of our past and current members, and we hope to see everyone at our August event, plans for which will be firmed up in coming weeks.

As the schedule for our visiting Rabbi is made, Sisterhood will be looking for volunteers (individually or in groups!) to help out with the Rabbi Luncheons. The way it works is this: Sisterhood sponsors up to \$200 for each luncheon, which is for the Rabbi and Shabbat service attendees. You are welcome to plan lunch yourself, with a group of your choosing, or as part of a group of already experienced Sisterhood members—whatever situation is most comfortable for you. We appreciate and welcome your help for these luncheons, as always.

Have a safe and happy June!

Brenda Liles,  
SH Treasurer

## MEN'S CLUB, ETC.

Next Men's Club Meeting: June 23, Tuesday, 7:30 PM at Synagogue

IMS: Deliveries made bi-weekly to Food Pantry and First Stop. Thanks to all who support these important projects. It's greatly needed, and you will be performing a Mitzvah.

Simcha & Memorial Plaques: \$50.00 and \$75.00, respectively. Please check with Joe Sacks for further details. [joehs2935@aol.com](mailto:joehs2935@aol.com)

Announcing Etz Chayim's Annual Picnic and Election of Officers and Directors, June 8, Sunday, 11:30 AM. Madison County Nature Trail, 5000 Nature Trail Road, Huntsville, AL 35803 Phone: 256-883-9501. Directions to the park: from South Memorial Parkway take Weatherly Road east, right on Bailey Cove Road, left on Green Mountain Road, and right on South Shawdee Road then 1.3 miles to the park. Men's Club will sponsor dessert.

See you at the picnic.....Joe 😊

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

The following is part of an article, submitted by Howard Polin, from the May, 2014 edition of "The Jewish Veteran."

Among the 9,387 graves at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach are 149 Jewish soldiers with Stars of David marking their graves.

The generation that fought in Normandy is dying out, and their children are aging as well.

We should remember the fallen by including them in Kaddish this year (June 6) and every

year. For this special anniversary though, we might include words along these lines:  
 "We remember also on this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day the Jewish soldiers who gave their lives, on the beaches in Normandy and elsewhere, that we might live in freedom.

Jun 03	Benjamin Yalowitz
Jun 09	Leonardo Nunes, Jr.
Jun 10	Adam Liles
Jun 19	Jacob Copeland
Jun 19	Sheree Greenbaum
Jun 26	Natha Hancock
Jun 30	Bill Brigadier

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25	JWV Post 111 breakfast, 8:30 AM at EC, followed by decorating the graves of Jewish veterans
May 26	JWV Post 111 participates in Memorial Day ceremonies at 11:00 AM at Maple Hill Cemetery
May 27	JFHNA meeting at TBS, 7:00 PM
May 30,31	Hall Bat Mitzvah & Shabbaton weekend
Jun 4, 5	Shavuot services, 9:30 AM both days, Yizkor service June 5 at about 10:30 AM
Jun 08	EC Annual Picnic, 11:30 AM, Green Mountain Nature Trail, dessert provided by Men's Club. Rain date June 15.
June 23	Men's Club meeting, 7:30 PM, at EC

## ONEGS

5/30	Hall
6/06	Thomason/Kirshtein
6/13	Reich
6/20	Edmondson
6/27	Sacks

## BIRTHDAYS

Jun 01	Jeffrey Zelickson
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## ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 05	Brenda & Cliff Liles
Jun 17	Michael & Tammy Kropp
Jun 27	Stanley & Diane Belsky

## YAHREZEITS

5/31	Sivan 02	Adolph Karmioli*
6/02	Sivan 04	Stanley Sacks*
6/05	Sivan 07	Rose Rosenthal*
6/05	Sivan 07	Irving Sainker*
6/12	Sivan 10	Molly Meyer
6/13	Sivan 15	Harry Kaufman*
6/14	Sivan 16	Myrna Klazmer
6/15	Sivan 17	Harriet B. Schlein*
6/18	Sivan 20	Julius Strimling*
6/23	Sivan 25	Goldie N. Brown
6/25	Sivan 27	Al Krupnick*
6/28	Sivan 30	Phyllis E.A. Schreiber

\*Memorial Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle at sunset the prior evening

## DONATIONS

### Building Fund

From: Janet Schindler

To: Dorothy Goldberg - Very happy birthday, join the crowd.

### General Fund

From: Marie & Mike Sumerall

To: Ted Roberts - Get well soon. We are thinking about you and wishing you good health.

To: Howard & Diana Polin - We are thinking of you on your birthdays.

From: Kelley & Jeff Zelickson

### Rabbi Fund

From: Sandy & Marvin Kalachman

To: Howard & Diana Polin - In honor of their combined 175th birthday.

To: Diane & Stan Belsky - In Memory of Stan's sister Edith Gross. Sorry to learn of your loss.

From: Paulette Goldstein

To: Diana Polin, Howard Polin, Diane Belsky, and Dorothy Goldberg. Best wishes for many more Happy Birthdays

### Outdoor Lighting Fund

In Memory of Gertrude and Perry Schlein from their daughters Natha Hancock and Robin Slomka and their families.

## FATHERS, YOU MUST MARK THE TRAIL, by Ted Roberts

If Oedipus Rex had taken that kid to the ball game more often, we wouldn't have had all that trouble.

Ancient Greek Historian

OK, so my good friend, Herb, and his two sons go down to Florida every year for the Spring training ball games. Big deal! I just know they spend the whole week arguing about politics; or the younger kid's new house with the flat roof that collects water better than the LA Reservoir. ("Four years of college at 10K a year and he buys a house with a flat roof. He should have taken a basic roofing course instead of American Lit.")

My other pal, Randy, and his kid, they get a guide and go fishing up in Michigan. Every year it rains. How much fun can that be?

Father, son, and total stranger in a soggy mackinaw, huddled around a dying campfire, and wishing there was a McDonald's around the curve of the stream. Randy, just dying to make some constructive comments about the kid's wife - but the guide, who's spitting tobacco in the fire, likes to stay up all night and tell stories about really successful fishing trips - not like this one. "You shoulda been here in the Summer of '92 - Gee Golly!"

Well, me and my kids don't shiver around campfires or watch a bunch of out-of-shape jocks frolicking under a Florida sun. But we're plenty close. Don't we spend hours on the phone talking about their sister - my daughter - who only remembers my birthday if I begin a barrage of postcards "Don't forget Pop's birthday" six months early. Me and the boys are pretty close. We talk about stuff like that all the time.

Fathers and sons. Just like any relationship, there's a duality involved - the real world and the dream world. In the boys' eyes there are two fathers; FATHER, the idealized icon, Arthur of Camelot, Moses the Lawgiver, Alexander of Macedon. Then there's Pop, who thinks it's 1960, and the family car belongs to the family. Pop, the champion sleeper who nods off in the den recliner. He'd be in the Olympics if there was an early-to-bed category.

Dad is the large male adult in the house whose happiness is wrapped around economic survival and a synchromatic release of the five-speed clutch in the family Honda. He hates that stone-on-blackboard sound, coming out of the garage when Jr. misses reverse gear.

And he wonders if this cub will ever learn to hunt alone. He's full of faults. He can't even

let the clutch out on that car without shaking the guts out of the engine. ("Does he realize the price of a new clutch?")

But most sons, like wolf cubs, can't wait to leave the den. There's a neat parable about a family who lives happily in a modest cabin surrounded by a thick, pathless woods. Beyond the woods is a bright meadow.

There was a natural antipathy between the father and son. The father's motives, often misunderstood, were a blur to the boy. But the son was as easy to read as the Sport's Section, because a replica of the father's heart beats in the boy's bosom. The older man understands only too well the immemorial and honorable rebellion of youth. He's been there.

The older man knows that sooner or later the boy - energized by an impulse to explore the woods - will leave the bosom of his family. Ah, but those woods. Dark, frightening, and pathless. How will the rebel find his way back to the cabin once his restless heart is satisfied?

"When you leave," said the father, "you must mark your trail because someday you'll want to return. Don't forget."

"Right," replied the confident youth. "But why do you always think me a half grown fool who can't even find his way home and why do you assume I'll return? The people out there (and he gestured beyond the cabin walls) will think me wise and beautiful. You'll see."

Soon after this confrontation the boy left.

Early in the morning he stole out of his bedroom window and stepped into the impenetrable forest. He brashly rushed through the woods in his eagerness for freedom. At a safe distance followed the father, diligently marking the trail from home to the edge of the woods. Then with a long look at his son briskly striding over the meadow, the father returned home.

Some days later, the youth returned full of wondrous tales of the woods and the world beyond.

"And did you have any trouble finding your way back to us?" asked the father.

"None whatsoever," replied the son. "A piece of cake - I told you, the trail is clearly marked."

So says the legend. It's not a bad moral. They all come home sooner or later. But you must mark the trail.

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