



The Newsletter of Congregation Eitz Chayim

Port Saint Lucie, FL





Pesach was Wonder Filled!

פסוז: הג שבוז!

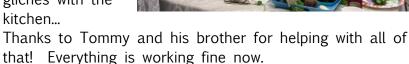
We hosted our first Community Seders on Friday and Saturday of Pesach. We had an amazing turnout, using every table and chair we could find (those we have and many that we borrowed). A

special thanks goes to Caren, Carol, Isabel, Robin and Stephanie, for the great help they provided before, during, and after the Seders.

Many rave reviews were recieved about the food and



the fun time we all had. Yes, there were some last minute gliches with the kitchen...



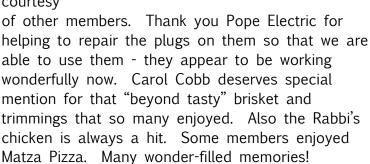
We even had a third seder the third night. Some members asked for an extra seder due to family and scheduling concerns. Fortunately, we were able to offer that special time as well. We were also thrilled to see so many youth participating in the seder events. One of the great things we

are able to offer our members is the "family cap" and significantly reduced children's meals so that larger families can join us for these special times.

Our flooring project was not yet complete, but it was much further along. Certainly the upheaval in the kitchen als impacted that effort. But a special thanks needs to go out to Ken and Jean Heller and to Stuart Address for the donations of refrigerators to the Temple. The stoves



were courtesy



Note: If you would like to help edit this newsletter, please step forward. If you would like to write articles for it, please step forward. If you want to place an ad in the newsletter, the form is at the end of it or online at www.eitzchayim.org at the newsletter tab. If you would like to help us find advertisers, please step forward. We welcome your help!



Kol HaEitz







Rabbi: Rabbi Shafir Lobb
President: Stuart Address

Treasurer: Erik Planet Secretary: Ken Heller

Directors: Nathan Clopman

Carol Cobb

Jean Heller

Shirley Klein



We have had a very full May! Our youth spent their very first SLEEPIN in the Temple. It was a tremendous success!

I know I did not get much sleep and I do not think anyone else did either. We went through an amazing

amount of ice cream! The youth participated in both Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat and Saturday morning Shabbat services. They did an amazing job of turning the Sanctuary into a set of forts and very interesting structures for the few hours of relative quiet (not sure anyone really slept), and then an equally amazing job of returning the Temple

into holy space in time for services. I am so proud of our youth! They take pride in making our Temple beautiful and they offer to help most of the time.

On another note, there is still so much going on as we start the month of June. By the time most of our members read this newsletter, we will have shared with the Nathanson family in the celebration of Zachary Rishko becoming a Bar Mitzvah in our community. Zach has been studying for this important event and ritual the entire time we have been in existance as a congregation. He will certainly set the tone for our congregation by doing the things that I have always expected a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebrant to do, even though he has not "completed" two of the major tasks we associate with this important milestone in his life: the mitzvah project and joining our YAD SQUAD. The reasons for not yet completing the mitzvah project are, perhaps, somewhat different than might be expected.

The part you might expect is that we are newly into our "California Campus," which is true, so there is so much that we still need, that it does make sense for a project connected to helping us be in the most beautiful space we can be should span the comming month. On another level, I view the Bar/Bat Mitzvah project as a Phase 1 of the young person's growing connection to our Jewish and larger community. The second phase happens as they move through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah toward Confirmation. Zach will be moving toward that goal according to Zach and his family, so we can expect him to complete the remainder of phase 1 and step on into phase 2 with ease.

As for the YAD SQUAD, well, that has some pretty strong requirements associated with it and Zach knows what they are. He was not ready to take all of them on and master them by the time of his Bar Mitzvah celebration, which was perfectly fine. Joining the YAD SQUAD is something that a person can do at ANY age. (Hint: YOU can do it as well....) Zach has already started the work - so stay tuned for when we will be having that celebration and welcome.

And if YOU are interested in joining the YAD SQUAD, just let me know. There are always openings...

Right behind Zach are a number of other b'nei mitzvah students preparing for their big days. I expect that the number of upcoming b'nai mitzvah celebrations will actually grow larger than the 5 we currently have studying now for the coming year as others learn about how we work with our youth and how they "own" the bima. Of course, some of our students and future students will require more than a year of study to be prepared, regardless of their age (again, adults are also welcome.....). So there are already a number of students starting to work on Hebrew and Jewish studies in our school. We treat each student as a valuable treasure. I plan to never lose the ability to work with each and every student individually so that their celebration is a true reflection of what they can and want to have it be and a true representation of their Judaism.











Rabbi's Corner

On a different note, we have sold some leaves on our tree and they will be appearing soon. Some of you have also requested a traditional Yahrzeit Memorial Board. We are responding to that request as well. The Board will be toward the front of the sanctuary and be sized to accomodate the standard 2"x10" plaques, which can have just English or both Hebrew and English on them. I will gladly meet with you to discuss what you would like on any plague or leaf - or the back of a chair or anywhere else in the Temple.....

The Saturday after the Bar Mitzvah celebration is the festival of Shavuot, one of the least recognized major Jewish festivals of the year, one of the three "regalim" or Jerusalem pilgrimage (Chag) festivals. Originally the festival was connected with the barley harvest and it is the only festival that required a RISEN loaf for the Temple, as opposed to unleavened bread. It is also different from Pesach (Passover) and Succot in that it is only one (or two) day(s) long. By the days of Talmud, the festival was connected with the receiving of Torah at Sinai (Matan Torah). Later traditions include eating dairy and studying well into the night at a Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

Everyone is invited to come Saturday night at 7PM for our Kahal session followed by our Shavuot celebration - we promise ice cream and "decdent dairy" - and a chance to learn more about the interesting history of this holiday. On Sunday morning, because it is Chag, we are allowed to hold YIZKOR, which we will do. A short special holiday service at 10:30 AM will lead into YIZKOR. Please bring a momento with you of the person(s) for whom you are reciting YIZKOR. We will share in a light festival lunch after YIZKOR.

Shafir



Please join us as we celebrate with STEPHANIE and SCOTT NATHANSON and their family as ZACHARY RISHKO will be called to the Torah for the VERY FIRST TIME on Shabbat Bechukotai (June 3 and 4).

Friday night services will be at 7:30 PM and Shabbat morning services will start at 9:30 AM. There will be NO Torah Yoga due to the Bar Mitzvah Celebration.

Stephanie and Scott are sponsoring a special Oneg Shabbat on Friday and the Kiddush lunch for all on Saturday. Please join them in this wonderful simcha.





Kol HaEitz





Director's Corner

After escaping from Egypt, the Jews wandered the Sinai desert for forty years. They had many temporary homes, but no Temple. As the Jews stood on the praecipe Deuteronomy 3:23 speaks about Moses imploring, begging and pleading with God to allow him to enter the Land of Israel. But God says "no." Eventually, Moses passed away in sight of the land he longed to enter.

Eventually, following his father, King David, the son, King Solomon, led the building of the Jews' 1st Temple. Since this time, Jews everywhere have wandered in their own ways seeking sanctuary, seeking a home, seeking community, and seeking a temple of their own.

Congregation Eitz Chayim has a rich and varied history already. Born as a Chavurah in early 2015, it grew into a Congregation in July 2015 - only 10 months ago!

Our fledgling Congregation has already traveled from several homes to newer homes. First, we located ourselves in a house rented as a temporary facility. Soon, we grew out of the cozy home far quicker than anyone anticipated. We moved to a home in the Lakeside Shopping Center, where we hoped to remain until our own building was eventually built on land in Port St. Lucie, on Rosser. Our own "not so nice" rough equivalents (for parody only) King Ahasuerus and Haman caused us to relocate to our current home; our "California Campus".

Our new home is fast becoming a true synagogue. We have painted. We have tiled (well, we are tiling...). We are putting up Jewish art. We have our own "Eitz Chayim" on which to place plaques of honor or memory, or just to commemorate our own congregation's birth and growth.

We have received so many contributions in time, effort, and money for which we are truly thankful. While some have spent time in our home assisting in various ways, others have built from their own hand our Torah table, our Torah stand, and the beautiful Stars of David which adorn them. Still others have banged holes in a wall which we broke through to create a double doorway entrance from one unit into our sanctuary/social hall. Others helped with construction and materials for the "quiet room" where the especially noisy children can have a respite with their parents who are able to see and hear our services, and then return to the larger congregation.

Last month we had our Purim celebrations. A Friday night "Shabbat" service in costume and masks; masks the courtesy of our Hebrew School children. Saturday evening was our "Adult" Purim where the masks of the deeper story of Purim were revealed for adult ears and the story was told in a more "interesting" way. On Sunday, we had our Purim carnival. Then we were on to Passover with many (3) Seder celebrations. These were lively and well attended - all three of them! Thank you to all who made that happen. And I especially liked the Matzah Pizza that I was able to have while others enjoyed Carol's special brisket and Rabbi's very special chicken.

For Shabbat, our Friday night services and our Saturday morning services vary in attendance. Sometimes we have 25-40 adults and children in attendance, while other times we are still unable to make a minyan, although this is getting much better over time. To our congregants I say, we have so many who support us, we have so many who belong with us, and we need you. We need you to attend, sometimes, a service or two.

We need you to attend our monthly Kahal (congregational meeting) as this is where we plan, brainstorm, and resolve issues before they become problems. This is where we govern as a community, rather than as a Board having only two semi-annual meetings for the congregation. CONT next page.







We need you to attend an event, here or there. Simply stated, if we are to continue to grow, WE NEED YOUR PRESENCE!! We are a community; without you we would cease to exist.

We also need your MONEY. Respectfully, I'm sorry, but we NEED YOUR MONEY.

We are a "heart and pocket" congregation model. This does not mean that there are "no dues"; it just means that you give what you set what you feel is an appropriate commitment for where your life situation has you right now. You set what you are able, on any schedule which enables you to do so. This does not mean that Hebrew School and Bar Mitzvah training is free; again, it means that we won't hound anyone for money; but we hope that everyone takes our more adult model to heart and contributes what they are able, when they are able. It is still a commitment; it is just one where you enter as an adult, without someone else telling you what the fee is. This Temple is YOURS and mine. It is ours and it needs all of us.

Folks, a synagogue needs labor, it needs love, it needs participation, and it needs money. Please don't receive these comments as a lecture. Please don't move on to another part of our newsletter. Please accept our plea as sincere and necessary. Together, we have bills to pay; we have rent to pay; we have all of the ordinary expenses of any synagogue but without the certainty of when money will exist in our bank account and how much. At this moment, we are perilously close to serious concern about our ability to pay normal operating expenses.

Soon we will have a Men's Club, a Sisterhood, etc. We already have Torah Yoga prior to Saturday morning Shabbat services (bring your own mat). For those of us who may not be able to do even the basic yoga involved in Torah Yoga, we have "Chair Yoga" so that people like me can participate if we so choose.

I close again with a familiar refrain. Please COME!! Please PARTICIPATE!! Please HELP!! Please ENJOY your home at Congregation Eitz Chayim. Please, please, please, donate something now because we need it - NOW!

Stuart M. Address, Esq.
Director, Congregation Eitz Chayim, Port St. Lucie, Florida



SHAVUOT - Saturday - Jun 12th 7 PM Festival & Decadent Dairy (after a brief KAHAL session)

YIZKOR - Sunday - Jun 13th 10:30 AM

Please Bring a momento of the person for whom you are reciting YIZKOR



Kol HaEitz







Family Table

THE FAMILY TABLE

Maine Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake from Shachar G. from Whiting, ME

Preparing the crust

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F. Place a 9-by-1 1/2-inch cake pan partially filled with 4 cups of hot water on the bottom rack of the oven (the bottom rack should be at least 3 inches below the center rack). Coat the inside of a 9-by-3-inch spring form pan with 1 tablespoon melted butter. Set aside. In a food processor fitted with a metal blade, chop the cookies in two batches. Pulse each batch until all the



cookies are in crumbs (the total should yield 2 cups crumbs). Transfer the crumbs to a 2-quart bowl. Combine the cookie crumbs with 2 tablespoons melted butter. Mix by hand until the crumbs bind together. Press the crumbs around the buttered sides of the spring form pan, then onto the buttered bottom of the pan. Place the pan in the freezer until needed.

Make the Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake:

Place cream cheese, sugar and lemon zest in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle. Beat on low until smooth, about 3 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add flour, cornstarch, vanilla, and salt. Beat on medium for 2 minutes. Scrape down sides of bowl. Add 2 eggs and beat on low speed for 2 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the remaining 4 eggs and beat on medium for 2 minutes. Once again, scrape down the sides of the bowl (all this mixing and scraping creates a beautifully smooth cheesecake). Add lemon juice and mix on low for 1 minute. Remove the bowl from the mixer. Use a rubber spatula to finish mixing the batter until it is smooth and thoroughly combined. Pour the cheesecake batter into the prepared spring form pan, spreading evenly. Place the spring form pan onto a baking sheet with sides (the pan will remain on the baking sheet throughout the baking and cooling). Sprinkle 1 cup blueberries over the top of the batter. The weight of the blueberries should cause them to sink to various depths in the batter (if the berries do not sink, distribute them with a little more force - somewhere between a sprinkle and a pitch). Place the baking sheet with the spring form pan on the center rack of the preheated oven and bake for 1 hour. Lower the oven temperature to 225 degrees F. and bake for 1 hour. Reduce the oven temperature to 200 degrees F. and bake the cheesecake until the internal temperature of the cheesecake filling reaches 175 degrees F., about 1 1/2 hours. (The timing depends on how frequently you peek at the cheesecake. If you open the oven door more often than necessary, it may take an additional 30 minutes or more for the filling to reach the desired temperature.) Remove the cheesecake from the oven and cool on the baking sheet at room temperature for 1 hour. Refrigerate the cheesecake for 12 hours (do not remove the cake from the pan) before proceeding.



Our Future Home on Rosser



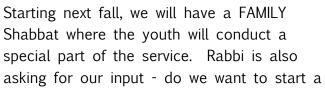




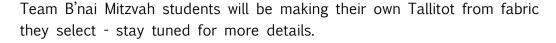
Religious School has almost finished the year. We had a great SLEEPIN at the Temple. There are a few more Sundays this month. Then the only activity remaining for the year is our picnic at the Beach - please stay tuned for details!



The B'nai mitzvah students and Hebrew students will continue meeting with the Rabbi privately through the summer. They are continuing to work on Tefilot (prayers) and vocabulary. They will be invited to the Bima at various services throughout the year.



TOT SHABBAT? and what other family programming do we want for Shabbat or other times of the week?









Please note, we would normally want to include Yahrzeits, anniversaries, birthdays, donations, and many other such very important information in an edition of our newsletter. Everyone is new, so welcome everyone! We are just getting around to tabulating the Yahrzeits, anniversaries, birthdays, and donations, as there is just so much information to input into the database that we were overwhelmed. We apologize. We admit we prioritized getting the move into our new home accomplished over getting those bits and pieces in place and into the newsletter. We have been promising that info and we will do it as soon as we can. Thank you for your understanding.

On another note, if you would like to help with that effort, please let Rabbi or a Board member know. There is so much to be done. We need everyone helping.

Also - if you would be willing to be part of the office for part of the week please let us know that as well. We are looking for people to help in just about every aspect of the Temple.



Kol HaEitz





Quick notes!



.lt's NOT too early to start planning.....

Slichot 2016 SEPT 24 7:30PM SAT

EREV ROSH HASHANAH OCT 2, 2016 SUN

ROSH HASHANAH MORN OCT 3, 2016 MON

ROSH HASHANAH MORN 2 OCT 4, 2016 TUES

EREV YOM KIPPUR OCT 11, 2016 TUES

ROSH HASHANAH MORN OCT 12, 2016 WED

EREV SUKKOT
OCT 16, 2016 SUN

SUKKOT MORN OCT 17, 2016 MON

SUKKOT YIZKOR OCT 23, 2016 SUN EVE

SIMCHAT TORAH
OCT 25, 2016 TUES EVE

We have something new - a tree that is being planned. It is for our SIDE wall.

It will look something like this:



The trunk is made - we will be mounting it soon. Come see it!

It will be special. We will mount it on the side wall of the sanctuary/social hall. AND, we will be able to move it to our permanent Bayit when it is ready.

You can already sponsor a leaf or a dove or a boulder on the tree.

There are different levels and sponsorship can be made with **payments over time**:

Leaves:

Brass Donors \$300-399 Silver Donors \$400-649 Gold Donors \$650-999

Boulder Donors \$1000 + Dove Donors \$2000 + We are also installing a traditional memorial board for Yahrzeit plaques. These will accept the standard 2"x10" bronze plaques.

Plaques may be ordered in English or English/Hebrew.

Please see Rabbi for details.

Each leaf, boulder, or dove can be engraved with up to 50 characters for your special message.

You can also sponsor a chair in our sanctuary if you would like. Plates for our chairs are \$90 each

Please use form on back side to reserve/order your special leaves, boulders, or doves.

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