Shalom. I am so excited to join you in El Paso in just a few short months as the new rabbi of Congregation B'nai Zion. Thank you for the incredible honor that you have bestowed upon me. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you. Working together with Rabbi Leon, who has carried the mantle of rabbinic leadership with distinction for the last 30 years, and will continue as an active Rabbi Emeritus as well as the rest of the congregational leadership, I am dedicated to invigorating the congregation through the light of the Torah and to enhancing the spiritual, cultural, and social life of Congregation B'nai Zion, the El Paso Jewish community, and the general community.

As we approach Yom Ha'atzmaut, (May 11-12) Israel's Independence Day, the name B'nai Zion carries special meaning, for Zionism and the State of Israel were founded on the premise that all Jews are B'nai Zion, children of the Land of Israel. The founding and continued struggle for survival of our precious Jewish homeland, where living and walking in the footsteps of our biblical ancestors is an everyday occurrence, has fostered a sense of belonging to a rich civilization of thousands of years and a dedication to “chadesh yameinu kedem,” to be renewed through the old and let the old be renewed, and to do so by looking East toward Zion (the Land of Israel). Likewise, I see our synagogue as one with a glorious past and a bright future. I look forward to learning about and being inspired by all of you as well as your own spiritual journey.

I am an Israeli-American Jew who grew up in the Los Angeles area while spending large chunks of my childhood in Israel. I am also a deeply spiritual, mystical, and musical rabbi with an unquenchable thirst for Jewish life, learning, and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness).

As such, my religious leadership is energized by a strong connection to the people and Land of Israel, the Jewish mystical and musical heritage, the beautiful convergence of Ashkenazi and Sepharadi traditions in Israel as well as in my own family, a familiarity with Espanol and Mexican culture, and a desire to connect and inter-connect between Jewish people throughout the world.

As you have probably guessed by now, I love people, enjoy schmoozing, and I am kind of a “social butterfly,” so please don't be shy and come up and introduce yourself to me. My wife, Shoshanna, is also very excited to meet everyone. If you have kids or grandkids, let's get them together with our kids.

We so look forward to becoming part of the B'nai Zion family. Thank you so much for the open arms and warmth you have already shown us.

Bivrachah (with a blessing),  
Rabbi Royi Shaffin
SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Daily ~ Monday thru Friday  7:00 am
   Monday thru Thursday  6:30 pm
   Friday evenning  6:15 pm
   (unless listed otherwise)
Saturday morning & Holidays  9:30 am
   Saturday Mincha ~ please check calendar
   (followed by Seudah Shlesheet & Ma’ariv)
Sunday  (unless Holiday)  8:30 am & 5:00 pm

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday
May  6  ~  7:32 pm
May 13  ~  7:37 pm
May 20  ~  7:42 pm
May 27  ~  7:46 pm

B’nai Zion Officers and Staff

Rabbi                        Stephen A. Leon
Executive Director          Ken Kahn
Program Manager             Denise Tolentino
President                   Alan Cohen
1st Vice President          David Sabal
2nd Vice President          Shane Lipson
3rd Vice President          Adam Rosenfield
Treasurer                   Ernest Eisenberg
Secretary                   Kristin Kimmelman
USY President               Zachary Krasne
USY Advisor                 Rachel Leon
Messenger Layout & Editor   Joyce Gronich

Inside this issue...
Candle lighting and Services  2
Rabbi’s Message               3
Ken’s Message                 4
Alan’s Message                5
Sisterhood                    9
Simchas                      10
Yahrzeits                    10
Donations                     11
Around the Community          12, 13
Calendar                      16
and much more...

The Messenger is published monthly, except July and August
DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER IS May 15
Articles and pictures should be emailed to the synagogue office at
bnaizion.congregation1@gmail.com
Congregation B’nai Zion  •  805 Cherry Hill  •  El Paso, Texas  79912  •  915-833-2222
www.congregationbnaizion.org
I began my 30 year tenure as Rabbi of Congregation B’nai Zion on August 1, 1986. I will be formally concluding that official status on July 31st, 2016. At that time I will assume the title Rabbi Emeritus and Rabbi Royi Shaffin will begin his tenure as the Rabbi. I wish Rabbi Shaffin and his wife, Shoshana, success and God’s blessing as he begins the journey that I am now concluding.

With that in mind, I looked at the Summer issue of The Messenger of 1986 when I was interviewed by co-editors Wendy Siegel and Susan Eisen, as I was welcomed to our congregation. I would like to review with you my answers to some of their questions and reflect on my present views some three decades later. I was asked my “reason for becoming a Rabbi” and I answered that it was my father (now of blessed memory), Cantor David J. Leon, who “taught me the beauty of prayer and my love of Judaism,” and I concluded by saying that “while so many of my peers were searching for answers for the problems of the world, that I had found the most sensible answers in Judaism. It made sense to me that only Judaism could bring peace, justice and meaning to the world.” I can say that this has not changed for me, and that my relationship with our students, teenagers, and those who have returned to Judaism from our community, convinces me more than ever that this is still very true today.

When I was asked “What are my goals for B’nai Zion,” here are some of the answers I gave in 1986. “My goal for B’nai Zion is to have a synagogue where there are many and varied activities taking place which will stimulate and invite the involvement of all the members. I intend to have any exciting adult education program -- a course in beginners Hebrew, a basic course on what it means to be a Jew, etc. In addition I would like to offer a Bar and Bat Mitzvah program for adults who have not had the opportunity to observe that milestone. I intend to be involved with the Hebrew School, the Day School, U.S.Y. and Kadimah children so I get to know them all. But most important I want to see B’nai Zion as a synagogue which is active and inspiring, which is filled with warmth and compassion, which encourages children and adults to participate fully, which wants to learn and is moved to pray, which teaches the principles of visiting the sick, befriending the lonely, and consoling the bereaved. I would like B’nai Zion to be a place where all of us can find God.”

As I look back at these comments, I can say that I have really tried to accomplish these goals and have succeeded -- not completely -- but to a great extent. For example, I did start an Adult B’nai Mitzvah class when I came and the first class had only three students. Today I am continuing with that program and have had, over these 30 years approximately 150 adults who completed their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with me. That is significant when you realize that there are only about 300 family members of our synagogue today. To this day I spend 30 minutes every Sunday and 30 minutes every Wednesday with the entire Hebrew School. In other words of the five hours of Jewish education in Talmud Torah every week, one full hour is spent with the Rabbi. This creates a very special relationship with the Rabbi and our students. I also continue to lead services every Monday morning for all of the students of the El Paso Jewish Academy, and I attend most of the school’s special events. At the conclusion of the interview in 1986 I said that “I am very excited to come to B’nai Zion, I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the congregation. Together may we grow from strength to strength.”

May I conclude my comments today by saying thanks to all of those who have supported me over these three decades, who have inspired me and touched my life, who have really cared for me and my family. I also thank all of my students, both young and old who have taken classes with me, who have given me the opportunity to share my love for Judaism with them, and the many, many families who discovered their ancient Jewish roots and who have returned to Judaism as a result of my relationship with them.

I thank my beautiful Sharon for her unconditional love and support during both satisfying and difficult times as the unenviable role of being the “Rabbi’s wife.” I thank my wonderful children -- Shoshana, Rachel, and Rebekah and David, who also have had to deal with the challenge of being the “Rabbi’s kids.” I am ever so grateful that I have been blessed with three incredible grandchildren -- Daniel, Jordyn and Emme, who have grown with you, my congregants, and who bring me an appreciation for the miracle of God’s creation every day of my life.

As I transition from Rabbi to Rabbi Emeritus, I look forward to a continued and fruitful relationship with our congregation. Together may we continue to grow from strength to strength.

Stephen A. Leon
Rabbi
Well, after the last few months of new events I can certainly see a difference in activity here at the Shul. Our Purim event, “The Grogger Awakens.” and our Pajama Havdalah, which included families from throughout the community, were fresh and well attended. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend these events because of illness, but I have heard nothing but praise for our efforts. It is important to note that we can plan an event, but it takes the community to make such an event a success. I wish to thank all of our sponsors who helped us to bring these events to life, and I would like to thank all of you who joined us to make them such a success.

Going forward we still have lots of work to do. Currently we have events planned throughout the summer. I have begun meeting with many individuals in the community to see what other types of events they would be interested in. All I can say is please read the emails we send; they will detail each event.

As for things in the office, here we are also gaining ground. Though not perfect, we have been working diligently on our member database and updating our policies and procedures. We have new security cameras in place. We are even updating our light sensors so when night comes, things work as they should. Security has been a big issue for synagogues. When you come into the office we ask that you sign in. Many individuals are asking why? It is for security purposes. If at any time, for whatever reason, we have a security issue, the first thing we will be asked is, who is in the facility and if we can cross reference this with the cars in the parking lot. Here in El Paso we are fortunate to not have many of the security issues of some cities, but we still need to take reasonable steps to put these policies in place. We feel it is important for the safety and security of our members that we need to take the necessary steps, to help insure when you come to B’nai Zion you feel safe and secure.

I hope to keep meeting with members throughout the summer. If you get a chance stop in or call, let’s have a cup of coffee and talk.

Ken Kahn
Executive Director

Farewell!
After long and hard deliberation, I have decided not to continue publishing the Messenger. I have been the editor and designer for nine years, and have put out just a few shy of 100 issues. It is now time for me to retire.

I would suggest that you make sure the shul office has your current email address so you can receive e-blasts of upcoming events, deaths, and special announcements.

To our contributors, thank you for your submissions. The Messenger could not exist without your help and information.

Joyce Gronich,
Editor and Publisher of The Messenger

Visit our website
www.congregationbnaizion.org

Reminder
Please be respectful and remember, it is our policy to not use our cameras or phones while in the building on Shabbat. We certainly should make the effort to elevate ourselves and observe the rules of Shabbat. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Message from the Office
The B’nai Zion office is looking for enthusiastic people to become committee members and volunteers. Many new and exciting events are currently in the planning stages. Currently we have a schedule of events all the way through mid-June. We could certainly use the help.

We are also looking for individuals to help fund the events. As little as $25.00 or as much as $100 goes a long way to help us offset the cost. Please contact Ken or Denise to discuss these opportunities.
May is upon us and the year is almost half over! However, the programming at our shul is nowhere near done! This is a very exciting month! It starts with a community-wide program May 1st -- Yom Hashoah, “A Day of Remembrance.” This permits us time to focus on the sacrifices made by the victims and the heroes of the Holocaust. Please plan on attending; I know I will.

The following week we will celebrate our matriarchs with the Mother’s Day brunch on May 8th. My sources tell me that this year’s event will be even better than last year, and that was fantastic! Be certain not to miss it!

The Annual Meeting and Elections have been rescheduled to Tuesday May 10. Several at-large board positions are available and the Congregations’ Financial Report will be presented. All members in good standing will get to vote. If your membership status is unclear call the office for more information.

Thereafter, on May 12th is Israel’s Independence Day, with a community celebration through the Federation on Sunday, May 15th at Temple Mt. Sinai.

Finally, we end the month on May 26th with a special Lag B’Omer Concert, which will feature local musicians! Suggested minimum donation is $18 for an individual or $36 for a family. All proceeds will help to fund Yom HaShir, the first outdoor Jewish Music Festival in El Paso. More information about these and other upcoming events are in this Messenger and will be in future e-Blasts.

Thank you to all the congregants who participated in Mitzvah Day. It was a huge success. This gave us the opportunity to combine our efforts to assist the community and provide Tikun Olam. The Federation informed me that there were over sixty participants in Mitzvah Day working four projects spread out over seventy-five miles! Our projects had a positive impact on the community. I wish to heartily express a resounding well done to all those who helped!

Alan Cohen
President, Congregation B’nai Zion

---

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE**
**CONGREGATION B’NAI ZION**
**MAY 29TH ~ 5:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to the Confirmation Service of the following students from Congregation B’nai Zion in the chapel on May 29th at 5:00 PM:

- Litzy Briones
- Julian Cohen
- Elise Ehrlich
- Julissa Ureste
- Zach Krasne
- Isaac Weislow

The Confirmation Class will present a creative service which will express the theme of Prayer in the 21st Century.

Please come and support our students

---

**INTRODUCTION TO THE TALMUD**
Wednesday mornings: 10:30 – 11:30 am
Dates: May 4, 11

**ADULT B’NAI MITZVAH CLASSES**
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 - 7:45 pm
Dates: May 4, 11
HAWAIIAN SHABBAT

Please join us for our first “Themed Shabbat.”

Services will take place on Friday, May 20th at 6:15 pm.

Wear your Hawaiian shirt or dress and stay for a Hawaiian dinner.

$15.00 for adults
$9.00 for children

Reservations and payment must be received no later than Monday, May 15th. Register online thru ShulCloud, or call the office at 833-2222.

ALOHA

Upcoming ...

June 12, 13 - Shavout
June 19 - Fathers Day Picnic
July 4th Event

Lag Ba’Omer

Music that Hits the Bullseye

Thursday, May 26, 2016
6:30pm - Mincha Services
6:45pm - Jewish Music Concert featuring
Larry Lesser
Alison Westermann and Emil Chaparro
Kristin Kimmelman and more!

Friedman Social Hall, Congregation B’nai Zion
Suggested Minimum Donation $18 indiv., $36 family

Proceeds help fund Yom HaShir, the first outdoor Jewish music festival in El Paso. Jewish blues musician Saul Kaye will headline this community-wide event on Sunday, September 25, 2016. Keep an eye out for details.

Save the Date

Yom HaShir
Day of Song

Sunday, Sept. 25th

Featuring Jewish blues musician Saul Kaye
The performance will also include local Jewish musicians

Contact Alison Westermann at alisonwestermann@gmail.com
if you are interested in performing at Yom HaShir or at the Lag Ba’Omer fundraising concert
Mother’s Day, May 8
Brunch 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sponsor the Mother’s Day Brunch
in honor of a mother

$118 ~ **Matriarchs:** receives a beautiful Mother’s Day gift basket, 2 brunch tickets, 1 raffle ticket for a chance to win a leaf on the Tree of Life, valued at $200.00.

$36 ~ **Lamed Vovnik – 36 Righteous Women:** recognize a special woman in your life with an Honor Thy Mother plaque which will be displayed at the entrance of the building.

$18 ~ **L’Chaim – Toast to Mothers:** receives 1 raffle ticket for a chance to win a leaf on the Tree of Life, valued at $200.00.

With a purchase of a brunch ticket your name will be entered to win a door prize!

**Honor thy Mother** sponsors help underwrite the Mother’s Day Brunch, and any additional proceeds will benefit Congregation B’nai Zion’s general fund.

All sponsors and honored mothers will be recognized in the “Honor Thy Mother” program. **Deadline for sponsors to be recognized in the program is Tuesday, May 3.**

Questions? Contact the office at 915-833-2222

---

**Sponsor Name:** __________________________________________

**Sponsor Contact information:** ________________________________

**Sponsor Level** ($118, $36, $18) $ _____

**Additional Honor Thy Mother Plaque:** $36 x ____ = $ ____

**Additional Brunch Tickets:** $15 x ____ = $ ______

**TOTAL “Honor Thy Mother” Payment** = $ ____

**Payment:**

- Enclosed check payable to “Congregation B’nai Zion”
- Credit card via ShulCloud
- Credit card by phone
- Cash in person
A PARTY FOR ANNALIE
A RETIREMENT EVENT
GOOD FOOD AND COMEDY

MAY 29, 2016
11:00 A.M.
B’NAI ZION SOCIAL HALL
$36.00 DONATION TO ANNALIE’S RETIREMENT

Welcome comedian Glenn Hirsch. Glenn will be delighting everyone with his unique style of comedy. Glenn has headlined in over 100 different comedy clubs, has run the audition night for the Improvisation Comedy Club of NYC. He has entertained with and toured with over 30 stars over the years.

A fantastic tasty menu with a wide variety of desserts will be available to all who attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: OFFICE @ 915-833-2222

HELP BAIL RABBI LEON OUT OF JAIL

Rabbi Leon will be “locked up” to benefit the children afflicted with Muscular Dystrophy. Visit him at Carino’s Restaurant on Thursday, May 5th from 11 am till noon. You can also send a check made out to MDA to the synagogue office.

INTRODUCING A NEW CONCEPT IN PRIVATE JEWELRY BUYING

EISEN INNER CIRCLE

NOW A PRIVATE JEWELER WHO CATERS TO YOUR NEEDS FOR MAJOR PURCHASES OF DIAMONDS AND JEWELRY OVER $5000

- Do you buy at a discount from a family friend or relative in the business?
- Have you been dealing with a “wholesale” jeweler in or out of town?
- Are you buying at a “discount” of 50-75% off but not sure if it really is?

After 35 years of serious trading in the diamond markets, let Susan Eisen quote her competitive Inner Circle price before you buy. Her membership in a private wholesale worldwide diamond network enables her to beat any pricing..... Guaranteed. You will be perfectly amazed!

For a confidential quote call 584-0022.

A division of
Susan Eisen
FINE JEWELRY & WATCHES
5857 N. MESA • 584-0022
www.eiseninnercircle.com
orders@Susaneisen.com

Misplace your Messenger?
You can always find a color copy on our website:
www.congregationbnaizion.org
I was fortunate to attend the Women’s League Pacific Southwest Regional Conference in Irvine, California which took place in early April. Once again, I was inspired by the women I met from the region, which is comprised of women’s groups from southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and our corner of Texas. While I attended the usual president’s meetings, I had the opportunity to attend sessions which featured panelists such Professor Reuvan Firestone of Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, and also Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi, the religious director of the Islamic Society Of Orange County. The two thoughtful men presented some insightful perspectives about Jews and Muslims interacting in American society. Additionally, a presentation by Rabbi Nicole Guzik on “According to the Rabbis — Woman and ‘their place’” was inspiring and provided me with materials to consider for a program discussion at a future Sisterhood meeting.

Perhaps the most gratifying moment of the conference was the announcement during the Sunday luncheon acknowledging milestones in the region. I was called to the podium to accept a certificate commemorating the 95th anniversary of the affiliation of Congregation B’nai Zion Sisterhood with the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Our Sisterhood received a standing ovation. It was thrilling and I wish all of our members could have been there. Perhaps next year….

In Sisterhood,

Patty Hutman
Sisterhood President
pahutman@gmail.com

Sisterhood Gift Shop

The shop offers beautiful Judaica, challah covers, Kiddush cups, mezuzahs, and so much more!

The shop is open on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon or by appointment. Contact the office for an appointment.

Come in and see what you can’t live without!
We will be so happy to help you.

Shalach Manot

Our apologies to community members for any errors or mix-ups with the Shalach Manot orders. We were using an antiquated system that did not always do what we wanted, especially regarding reciprocal orders. According to our Executive director, Ken Kahn, we will be using a new system next year that should solve many problems. Thank you for your continued support.

Patty Hutman and Kristin Kimmelman

Visiting Angels

LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES

915-799-0141
www.visitingangels.com
May Birthdays

04 Andrew Feinberg  
Adam Rosenfield
05 Kenneth Kahn
06 Allan Persky
08 Evelyn Goodman
14 Art Corral
16 Tanny Berg  
Steve Kaplowitz  
Robin Kobren  
Lester Rothschild
17 David Goldman  
Miriam Rosenchild
21 Meyer Marcus
23 Jan Duke  
Bruce Gronich  
Shari Schwartz
25 Neorah Garcia  
Stephen Geller  
Dr. Harvey Greenberg
27 Ruth Gniazdowitz  
Carl Lieb
28 Allen Levine  
Jerry Rosenbaum
29 Jeffrey Siegel
30 Gail Slater

May Anniversaries

06 Seymour & Joan Becker
13 Daniel & Farrol Eiland
16 Stuart & Nancy Shiloff
24 Robert & Leslie Beckoff
27 Cesar & Blanca Carrasco
29 Mark & Dori Fenenbock
30 Scott & Lynn Kobren

The Simcha page this month is sponsored by the Mt. Franklin Insurance Agency. If you would like information on how they can meet your needs, please call Shane Lipson or Bill Carvajal at 915-599-2900.

Mazel Tov!

to Drew Frank on his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, May 21st in Los Angeles. Drew is the son of Dana & Adam Frank, and grandson of Stanlee and Gerald Rubin.

We would like to Congratulate Yolanda & Arturo Guzman on the birth of their grandson, Elijah Arias.

May Yahrzeits

5/1 (Nissan 23)  
Ada Goldberg
5/2 (Nissan 24)  
Eleanor Greenberg  
Samuel Kovan  
Persephone Sabal
5/4 (Nissan 26)  
Ray Engman  
Arthur Silbert
5/5 (Nissan 27)  
Imre Sugar
5/6 (Nissan 28)  
Benjamin Erlich

5/7 (Nissan 29)  
Lazarus Blum  
Josefina Kaim  
Anita Kaplan  
Sam Zaben
5/8 (Nissan 30)  
Beatrice Burgheim  
Richard Jaffee  
Esther Kimmelman  
Jacob Kishk
5/9 (iyar 1)  
Gershon Ettinger  
Leah Kasper
5/10 (iyar 2)  
Ida Bloomfield  
Hymie Kasper  
Bernard Pergricht  
Rosalie Silberg
5/12 (iyar 4)  
Tanya Bork  
Salvador Braun  
Alfred Gladstein  
Maurice Veta
5/13 (iyar 5)  
Max de Mayo  
Sarah Ettinger  
Zollie Green  
Chaim Kimmelman  
Vicki Rosen  
Mauricio Sidransky
5/14 (iyar 6)  
May Kofsky  
Benjamin Nita
5/15 (iyar 7)  
Yishiyah Bintzsky  
Morris Freed
5/16 (iyar 8)  
Eugene Roth  
Leon Siegelman
5/17 (iyar 9)  
Bobbi Cohen  
Abe Glazer
5/18 (iyar 10)  
Maria Corral  
Joel Kaplowitz
5/19 (iyar 11)  
Irwin Behrman  
Shirley Langer  
Fred Licht  
Ida Spivack  
Juergen Strauss
5/20 (iyar 12)  
Jose Cohen  
Isadore Naparstek
5/21 (iyar 13)  
Edythe Schwartz
5/23 (iyar 15)  
Guenther Zehden
5/25 (iyar 17)  
Abraham Heller  
Raya Heller  
Irving Kallman  
Sally Rosen  
Michael Salzman  
Stanley Stein
5/26 (iyar 18)  
Ruth Marcus  
Issi Wiener
5/27 (iyar 19)  
Dora Acuna  
Grete Eichenwald  
Susan Lane
5/28 (iyar 20)  
Fanny Levenson
5/29 (iyar 21)  
Leib Deener  
Gilbert Lieberman  
Dorothy Marshall  
Oliver Scharf
5/30 (iyar 22)  
Sylvia Gross  
Solomon Klein
5/31 (iyar 23)  
Esther Fox  
Freda Smilovitz
Our synagogue thanks you so much for your donations and support.

Honor a Loved One
or
Acknowledge a Special Occasion

Add a leaf to B’nai Zion’s “Tree of Life”
$200 per leaf
$1000 per plaque

Donations

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Leon’s 30 years of dedication
Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice and Shayna Kurland
David & Cindy Metrlikin
Sharon Stein

happy birthday to Jerry Schwartz, Mike Batkin, Elena Goldman, Rose Holland, Claire Pulner
Louis & Miriam Rosenbaum

happy birthday to Tibor Schaechner and Harold Peltzer
Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice and Shayna Kurland

Congratulations to Zachary Rosenbaum on his bar mitzvah
Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice and Shayna Kurland

IN MEMORY OF
(includes yahrzeit donations)

Helen Beckoff
Samuel Ellowitz
Keith & Becky Myers and family
Harold Eisenman
Bruce & Jackie Gulbas
Etta Mae Sherr
Charles & Peggy Kovan
The Hoffers
Susan Wisch
Dr. Jerry and Marcia Schwartz

Oscar Eisenberg
Cliff & Martha Eisenberg

Crawford Kerr, Ed Saltzstein
Susan Eisen
daughter of Steve & Shari Goldberg
Sam & Lenore Kobren

Dina Eisenberg
Louis & Cindy Cohen

Irwin Cinofsky
Dorene Naparstek

Agnes Schaechner, Luis Braun, Theresa Pulner, Pauline Blum, Ina Kurland
Louis & Miriam Rosenbaum

Aaron Wechter Memorial Scholarship Fund
Accepting Applications
Due May 15, 2016

The University of Texas is currently accepting applicants for the Aaron Wechter Memorial Scholarship Fund. Aaron Wechter was a long time leader in the Jewish community and respected businessman in El Paso. A scholarship in his memory was established in 2013, and is given annually to a qualified student. The deadline for applying is May 15, and the scholarship will be awarded on the following criteria:

- Full-time enrollment at UTEP
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Demonstrate financial need
- Scholarship is renewable, but will require the student to reapply each year
- Personal statement to include: What you have done and intend to do to strengthen the El Paso Jewish community; why you feel you should be considered for the scholarship based on your challenges, and financial need, as well as your accomplishments including your GPA.

Interested candidates may request a copy of the application form from the UTEP Office of Scholarships (call 747-57488 or email scholar@utsa.edu). Completed application forms, with personal statements attached, must be received or postmarked no later than Wednesday, May 15, 2016. Applications are to be delivered or mailed to the Office of Scholarships, The University of Texas at El Paso, Mike Ely Academic Services Bldg., and Room 202, 500 W. University Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79968.

Mimi and Jay Gladstein
thank all those dear and generous friends who sent them the Purim Shalach Manot bags.

Felicia Rubin
would like to extend her sincere thanks to all her friends and family who sent her a Shalach Manot bag.

Our synagogue thanks you so much for your donations and support.

Thank you

~ to the Beckoff family for sponsoring the Friday night Oneg in memory of Mrs. Helen Beckoff
~ to Laura Tolentino for sponsoring the Sunday morning breakfast in memory of her father, Arturo Tolentino Osollo
~ to David Sabal for sponsoring the Kiddush lunch and Sunday morning breakfast in memory of parents, James & Persephone Sabal
~ to Shaya Holland for sponsoring the Saturday Kiddush lunch in honor of granddaughter, Hannah Holland, on her Bat Mitzvah
~ to Michelle & James Holland for sponsoring the Friday night Oneg in honor of their daughter, Hannah, on her Bat Mitzvah
**Join Us for Justice: An Evening of Civil Discourse**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join Us for Justice, The El Paso Chapter of Americans United,
The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso
and Temple Mount Sinai proudly present:
"An Evening of Civil Discourse"
with the Rev Barry W. Lynn,
Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State

7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 19th at Temple Mt. Sinai, 4408 North Stanton

This event is offered at no charge and free parking is available. For more information: (915) 525-8543 or on the web at www.joinusforjustice.org. Listen, learn and be entertained by the intellectually astute speaker and nationally-recognized constitutional attorney, Barry W. Lynn.

Lynn is the executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a Washington, D.C.-based organization dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution’s religious liberty provisions. In addition to Lynn’s work as a long-time activist and lawyer in the civil liberties field, Lynn is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. For information about Barry Lynn go to: www.au.org/about/people/lynn

---

**PROFESSOR ASHER J. MATTHIAS TO SPEAK**

Monday evening, May 2 at 7:00 PM
at the Anusim Center, 401 Wallenberg

The Officers and Board of the Anusim Center cordially invite you to an evening with Professor Asher J. Mattathias. Asher’s story of how he survived the Holocaust by a true miracle is an inspiration to all of us. Dr. Mattathias is affiliated with the United Sephardim of Brooklyn, New York. He is presently a Professor at St. John’s University in New York. He is a lecturer on many facets of Jewish History. His speech at the Anusim Center will relate the plight of the crypto-Jews to the survival of the Jewish people. Please attend.

---

**Boy Scout Flag Service**

Boy Scout Troop 613 of the Yucca Council appreciates your help and support in promoting scouting.

In 2016 Troop 613 will be posting United States flags in the yards of residents desiring this service. The price is $32.00 with the proceeds going to defray the costs for our scouts with summer camp and other outdoor scouting activities throughout the year.

The flags will be posted in the front yards of participating homeowners on the mornings of the holidays listed below and will be taken down that evening.

For further information, call Alan J. Cohen (Scoutmaster)
Phone: Home (915) 249-6505
Mobile (817) 800-0196

Flags and equipment provided by and remain the property of Troop 613

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Service</th>
<th>Holiday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 30</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, June 14</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 4</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 5</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memorial Day Veterans Event  
by Scott P. Stevens, JWV Post 749

The Maurice Kubby Post 749 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America will host a Memorial Day flag event. This event will take place Monday, May 30th starting at 9:00 am at the Temple Mount Sinai and Congregation B'nai Zion cemeteries. It is an important sign of our Jewish-American Patriotism that our service members be recognized for their service to their/our country. As a visible sign and demonstration of their service/sacrifice we will post American flags at their gravesites. The Post will be assisted by Boy Scout Troop 613 of Congregation B'nai Zion.

We hope you will join us in honoring our Veterans. For more information please contact Post Commander Scott Stevens at (915) 309-4436.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration  
Holocaust Days of Remembrance

El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center will present its annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Days of Remembrance) Commemoration on Sunday, May 1, 2016. The program will begin at 2:00 pm and will be held at Congregation B'nai Zion, 805 Cherry Hill Lane. This moving ceremony memorializes the victims of the Holocaust and honors those who survived. The theme of this year's ceremony is “Light from Darkness,” and special guest speaker, Professor Asher Matathias of New York, will share his remarkable story of Holocaust survival as a young boy in Greece. There is no charge to attend this event and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Jamie Flores at El Paso Holocaust Museum – 915.351.0048 or jamie@elpasoholocaustmuseum.org

for more information or to purchase tickets call EPJA at 915-833-0808 or www.elpasojewishacademy.com
A Brief History of Rabbi Stephen Leon, Part One
by Sharon Leon

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1944 to David and Toby Leon, Stephen shared a rich and wonderful childhood with his sister Anne. The family moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut when Steve was 3, and Cantor Leon became the cantor at Congregation Ahavath Achim, and then Congregation Rodeph Shalom, from where he retired as Emeritus. He enjoyed a wonderful extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins who celebrated holidays together joyously with grandparents Morris and Bessie Leon, and Julius and Esther Feiner.

Steve inherited his love of Judaism as a way of life, and his synagogue skills and love of music from his father. Even as a teenager, he assisted his father in conducting high holiday services along with his favorite rabbi, Rabbi Harry Nelson, and his son David. They were a dynamic team! From his mom, he derived a love of family, family traditions and Jewish customs. Their family seders were legendary!

We met when I was in junior high, started dating in New York where we were both in school, and married in 1968. Our lives together began!

While attending Columbia University undergrad and the Academy for Jewish Religion for his rabbinical studies, Steve served as Student Rabbi in Wethersfield, Connecticut, at Temple Beth Toray—a lovely town near Hartford. We traveled there on weekends and stayed in people’s homes. We grew to love this kind and caring congregation. Our congregants became our family.

Next stop—Elmwood Park, New Jersey, a conservative synagogue in northern New Jersey. It was a community surrounding, and embracing, a strong Jewish presence. Our synagogue was filled with spirituality and vitality. We started a wonderful cooperative nursery school, performed in plays (we were Tevye and Golde!), and worked in the kitchen. We started a family, welcoming Shoshana, Rachel and Rebekah, and made lifelong friends. Steve became the Dean of the Academy for Jewish Religion and was President of the Bergen County Board of Rabbis. It was an exciting time in our lives.

Then finally we headed to Congregation B’nai Zion in El Paso, a diverse community with different opportunities. Has it really been 30 years? Our children have grown, our grandchildren have been born and become the focus of our lives. I found my passion as an oncology nurse and enjoyed a wonderful career at Providence Hospital. In addition to being the spiritual leader of the synagogue, Steve has developed an encompassing passion for the Anusim from almost the first week we arrived in El Paso. The people are truly his passion, filled by a strong belief of the absolute importance of the Anusim to the survival of the Jewish people. He has some amazing stories to tell—just ask him!

What an amazing husband, father and zayde, and what a superb rabbi and teacher! As you can see from Shoshana, Rachel, Rebekah and David, and our incredible grandchildren Daniel, Jordyn and Emme, he is simply the best!

Daniel says Zayde can always answer the toughest question, like “Why didn’t G-d say he created the four seasons?” He thinks like a rabbi!

Jordyn likes to test Zayde with her incredible Hebrew vocabulary—and it is pretty incredible! She has inherited a love of Judaism!

Emme loves to sing and dance to his favorite songs. She can’t wait to hear the garage door open, run around to the kitchen and yell, “Zayde’s here!” She is personality plus!

There have been many personal and professional highlights over the past 30 years. Just a few:

• Traveling to Israel on many occasions—getting to know the people and wondering at the amazing advancements made by our people. A special memory will always be a bar/bat mitzvah group from B’nai Zion, when Shoshana and Rachel were bat mitzvahed in the Chapel at Hadassah Hospital!

• A very special meeting that Steve arranged with Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, who became Archbishop of Paris. He was born to Polish Jews and converted to Catholicism as a boy. He was an early champion of interfaith relations. Steve discussed with him the Holocaust and its meaning for Jews and non-Jews. We were in awe of his wisdom.

• Davening and reading the Haftorah in the Doheny Synagogue in Budapest—and speaking with members after about the Anusim. It was a proud moment!

• Attending services in virtually every country we’ve visited—and on every cruise we’ve been on!—including Maui, London, Athens, and Denmark!

• Received a replica of the beautiful mezuzah on the door of the synagogue in Mumbai, India, a gift from a board member of the synagogue.

• Recited Kaddish at Schindler’s grave in Jerusalem.
• Lectured on his work with the Anusim in Capetown, Florida, California, New Jersey, Boston, Toronto, Hungary and Sweden.

• Visited Jewish communities all over the world—one special memory was Steve singing an impromptu duet with an elderly woman in St. Petersburg.

• Meeting with Jewish leaders and Anusim in Belmont, Portugal. We visited a small, beautiful synagogue there. Interviewed Anusim who proudly showed us their Jewish artifacts in their home—and in stark contrast, an older woman who was afraid to be photographed or filmed, but allowed Steve to record her singing Hatikvah in a tremulous voice.

• At the invitation of Silvestre Reyes, Steve had the honor of invoking the opening prayer at a session of Congress. He received wonderful words of praise from Nancy Pelosi and other members of Congress for his inspiring message.

• Had the privilege of performing our daughter’s bat mitzvah, our grandchildren’s naming ceremonies, and Rebekah and David’s wedding.

• Completed almost all the items on our Bucket List: The Taj—check! The Pyramids—check! The Great Wall—check! Monet’s home—check! Antarctica—check! Etc., etc. — only one thing remaining!

I recall a quote I recently read: “The measure of a life is not its duration but its donation.” Rabbi Leon’s donation to the El Paso community at large, and the Jewish community in particular, is beyond all expectations. He has been admired, trusted and loved by congregants, respected and revered by his colleagues, and unconditionally loved by his family.

This congregation has been extremely fortunate to have had my husband, Rabbi Stephen Leon as its spiritual leader for the last 30 years. I am confident that his love of Judaism, his love for his congregants, his compassion and his wisdom have been appreciated.

So now — Part Two of our history begins, as Rabbi Leon begins a new role as Emeritus, I look forward to future years with the man who has given me an amazing, and sometimes unexpected, journey through life—one beyond my wildest dreams!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talmud Torah 9:00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Talmud Torah 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day</td>
<td>Shabbat services 6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Torah study 9:00 am services 9:30 am Mincha 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Class 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaShoah Community Program 2:00 pm at CBZ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CBZ Annual Board Meeting 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Yom Hazikaron Israel Remembrance Day Talmud Torah 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom Ha’Atzmaut Israel Independence Day</td>
<td>Shabbat services 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Brunch 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CBZ Annual Board Meeting 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Yom Hazikaron Israel Remembrance Day Talmud Torah 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom Ha’Atzmaut Israel Independence Day</td>
<td>Shabbat services 7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talmud Torah 9:00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Talmud Torah 4:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat services 6:15 pm followed by dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Class 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Ha’Atzmaut Community Celebration 1:30 pm at TMS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talmud Torah 9:00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat services 6:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Ceremony 10:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation Class 9:30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annalie’s Retirement Event 11:00 am Confirmation Service 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat services 6:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 2016

Nissan/Iyar 5776

May 8th