



CHAI-LITES

News and Notes from Congregation Jewish Community North

Join us for Shabbat:

We celebrate most weeks with a pre-service reception at 6:45 p.m. and services in the Kant Family Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. A fellowship hour "Oneg" follows in our beautiful foyer.

Contact Us:

**5400 Fellowship Lane
Spring, TX 77379
(281) 376-0016 (tel & fax)
office@cjcjcn.org
www.cjcjcn.org
OFFICE HOURS: W-F
10:30-2:30**

Did You Know?

Hospitals no longer inform the temple office when a patient is admitted. If either you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please let us know. If you, or someone you know is in need, we'd like to help. If you don't tell us, we can't help. Please contact us!

rabbi@cjcjcn.org
832-387-4437
office@cjcjcn.org



FROM OUR RABBI

Between the Holidays of Passover and Shavu'ot, we are called to observe an ancient tradition known as 'counting the Omer'. An 'Omer' was a measure, or sheaf, of barley, the crop most relied upon for sustenance over the summer months in the land of Israel. Our ancestors believed that by being particularly restrained in their behavior and scrupulous in their attention to religious practices we would be blessed with a bountiful barley harvest. While the roots of this tradition are agricultural and quite physical it evolved over the long years of exile and became associated with the Jewish mystical tradition—and became not so much physical as metaphysical. The kabbalistic 'tree of life' teaches that God enters the world through specific attributes. The seven lower attributes are *Hesed* (Kindness) *Gevurah* (Might), *Tiferet* (Beauty), *Netzah* (Victory), *Hod* (Splendor), *Yesod* (Foundation), and *Malkhut/Shekhinah* (Sovereignty/Divine Presence). Each of the seven weeks is dedicated to one of these aspects of the divine. Within each week, one of each of the seven days is also dedicated to one of the attributes so that each day you will have a combination of two divine attributes, for example, the second day of the Omer is *Gevurah* within *Hesed*. On this day, we contemplate how a core of strength enhances our kindness. The twenty-fifth day combines *Netzach* with itself, a day of Endurance within Endurance, which as we all know, is what it takes to parent a toddler.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Rabbi

Jonathan S. Siger

Principal

Sharon Natenberg

Rabbi Emeritus

Robert S. Sharff, D. Min., D.D

•

President

Jason Kirbie

President-Elect

Rick Preble

Vice Presidents

Julie Mahler

Cheryl Tompkins

Carolyn Weiner

Secretary

Susan Shaffer

Treasurer

Malcolm Sokol, Ph.D.

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Dan Checkman

David Gold, Ph.D.

Toby Greenberg

Craig Klein

Mike Lorch

Leslie Marks

Howard Namkin

David Pfeffer

Jocelyn Nelson

Heather York

Sisterhood President

Terry Katz

Men's Club President

Jared Bleiler

Immediate Past President

Steve Landis



FROM OUR RABBI

Here, for your consideration and contemplation is a helpful chart of the path through the Omer. I invite you to look to it each day, and to contact me if you have questions. I look very much forward to hearing if and how this practice has deepened your connection to God within Creation.

SEFIRAT HA'OMER						
BEGIN 2 ND NIGHT OF PESACH ... COUNT TOP DOWN FROM LEFT RIGHT						
WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7
HESED	GEVURAH	TIFERET	NETZAH	HOD	YESOD	MALKHUT
Loving Kindness Benevolence	Justice Awe Discipline	Beauty Harmony Compassion	Endurance Ambition	Humility Splendor	Bonding Foundation Nurturing	Nobility Leadership
1						
	9					
		17				
			25	FLOOD		
				LAG 33 BA'OMER		
					41	
					COVENANT	49

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lwdeutsch@earthlink.net

From Our President Jason Kirbie

Fellow congregants,

Please see the latest updates and happenings around CJCN. I hope you have a wonderful Passover!

Sorry, but I need to bring this topic up again. I continue to hear concerns from our volunteers on how they are treated by some members. Please remember these individuals are donating their time and efforts. While they might not do a perfect job at every event or situation please think about the criticism you provide. If volunteers are constantly feeling put down or nitpicked about everything they do wrong, we will not have people wanting to participate. **Let's be sure to temper our negative feedback and give positive as well. A simple thank you for their efforts will go a long way!**

Points of Information

- Please plan to attend the Congregational Seder put on by Sisterhood on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, April 11, 2017. Seder Reservation Forms are due by April 5, 2017. Please email sandy.livney@att.net with questions
- I hope everyone is able to attend the Men's Club event honoring Gale Saltzman on Saturday, April 29th. Invitations have gone out in the mail. Although this is a Men's Club fundraiser, the majority of the proceeds will go to the Temple
- A special thank you to Steven & Joanmarie Marks and Steve & Jill Landis for the donation of the lovely Coffee Bar in the Social Hall. This is such a wonderful addition to the space
- Congratulations to Craig Klein on being awarded a scholarship to participate in the Shirley Barish z"l Educators Trip to Israel in June. The Shirley Barish z"l Israel Educators Institute was developed by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston as a response to a community need to create sustainable change regarding Israel awareness and education for teachers in the Greater Houston area. Craig, looking forward to hearing all the great stories from the trip

Updates on Topics discussed in the Special Congregational Meetings

- To date we have received 13 pledge forms and 1 prepayment of FY2017 dues. These 14 members have averaged **24.8%** increase over FY2016. Great start so far, let's keep it going!! Thanks to those who have submitted their pledges for FY2017. For those who have not submitted, we will be mailing Pledge forms reminders soon
- The Board approved opening a Brokerage account to begin accepting financial securities (Stock, Bonds, etc.). Securities can be donated to the Temple and also used to pay for annual dues commitments
- Amazon Smile is setup and ready to go. If you purchase items through Amazon the Temple gets free money at no cost to you. Please see steps to setup below (Note: purchases cannot be made from the app downloaded on a smartphone, but you can use a phone, computer, or tablet to purchase through the browser). Please let me know if you have questions setting up
 - Click on the link to sign-in or create an Amazon account
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1880552>
 - As long as you purchase from this location, CJCJN will receive a portion of the funding
- We have formed a new group call Cool Young Jews (CYJ). This group brings younger congregants together in social events to help strengthen the membership experience. The group will also invite prospective members to participate as a tool to drive increased membership. Rebecca Bottoms and Kim Laurence will be planning upcoming events. Thank you Rebecca and Kim for taking this on!
- We are going to restart the Phone Tree Committee with Joan Camenson taking the lead. The group will reachout to members to invite them to upcoming Temple events. This will help congregants stay informed of activities and add a more personal touch to communication. If you are interested in participating please reach out to Joan at jpcsc@comcast.net. Thanks Joan for heading this up!

Shalom,

Jason

president@cjcj.org

WE WANT TO HELP

From our By Laws:

“No individual shall be denied membership in the Congregation solely for reasons of financial inability”

Please contact our Finance Committee at Finance@CJCN.org if you are facing financial challenges and need to adjust your commitment. We value and protect everyone's confidentiality.

DONATIONS

Building/Sanctuary Fund

The Kant Family – in Memory of Eric Kant & Renee Kant McClure
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Protas – in Memory of Hyman Meyer Protas
The Arouty Family – in Memory of Claire Arouty
Lawrence and Betty Ginsberg – in Memory of David B. Felsenthal
Andrea & Bernard Falk – in Memory of Lillian Oberlander
Eric, Donna & Ira Sachs – in Memory of Selma Sachs
Stan & Judy Rosen – in Memory of David Rosen
Lawrence & Betty Ginsberg – in Memory of Herbert Ginsberg
Lawrence & Betty Ginsberg – in Memory of Rena Felsenthal
The Kant Family – in Memory of Alice Kant
The Kant Family – in Memory of Josefa Kant & Hans Georg Kant
Charlene, Jill & Suzanne Snider – in memory of Irving Snider
Lawrence & Betty Ginsberg – in Memory of Joseph Bloom
Lawrence & Betty Ginsberg – in Memory of Mollie Bloom

Endowment Fund

The Waldman Family – in Memory of Gertrude Waldman
The Blumenthal Family – in Memory of Eva Skalovsky
The Blumenthal Family – in Memory of Thomas Buckley

General Operation Fund

Fred & Peggy Shuffler – in Memory of Sally Steiner
Judy Coleman
Jocelyn & Eric Nelson – in Memory of Richard Wiese
Ronald & Corey Rosenberg – in Memory of Paul P. Rosenberg
Michael & Linda Davis – in Memory of Mignon Davis
Toby Greenberg – Prayers for Robert Greenberg
Joel & Susan Gottlieb – in Memory of Sarita Gottlieb Hauptman
Rob Greenberg – in Memory of Ruth Greenberg
Wendy & Larry Wheeler – in Memory of Murray Levy
Albert & Sallie Panzer – in Memory of Mary E. Warren
The Lessick Family – in Memory of Jeanne & Lewis Lessick
Howard Namkin – in Memory of Sid Greene
Rabbi & Linda Sharff – in Memory of Jeanette Feinberg,
Anne Sharff & Isadore Sharff
Floyd & Mindy Holm – in Memory of Cecile Burke
Steve & Sharon Natenberg – in Memory of Philip Natenberg
Eleanor Malowitz – in Memory Cecile Burke
Bobbie & Ralph Cohen – in Memory of Joseph Kahn & Rose Kahn
Mitzi Shure & Family – in Memory of James Miron
Rabbi Robert & Linda Sharff – in Memory of Raymond Feinberg
Andrew Gamson & Julie Maher – in Memory of Aaron Shaw
Steve & Jo Ann Rubin – in Memory of Irv Rubin
Howard Leff – in Memory of Ben Leff
The Gottlieb Family – in Memory of Harry Hauptman
Mitzi Shure – in Memory of James Miron
Anthony & Yvonne Schalscha – in memory of Walter Schalscha
Judith Payne in Memory of Ralph E. Payne
Ronald & Cory Rosenberg – in Memory of Judith Kosloff
Shelly Zacharias – in Memory of Bessie Read Hoffman

FYI

If you would like to place someone on the Mi Sheberach list, please contact the office at office@cjcj.org. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from the list

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Publicity, internal & external
Communications@cjcj.org
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BY-LAWS
Michael Davis
ByLaws@cjcj.org
OFFICE
Office Administrator
281-376-0016
office@cjcj.org

DONATIONS

Library Fund

Bob & Joyce Levine – in Memory of Adolf Wolf
Bob & Joyce Levine – in Memory of Yetta Levine

Prayer Book Fund

Linda & Barry Cohn – in Memory of Benjamin Widom

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Camae & Mark Schultz – in Memory of their Loved Ones
Toby Greenberg – in Memory of the Rabbi's Stepfather Joseph Bionda
The Waller Family – in Memory of Martha Waller
Andrew & Patricia Kant – in Memory of Joseph Bionda
Nathan & Terry Margolis
The Kornblith Family – in Memory of Ethel Kornblith & Julius Kornblith
Jack Hill – in Memory of Ernest Bobys
Steve & Jo Anne Rubin – in Memory of Joe & Rosalie Cream
Jack Hill – in Memory of Star Bobys Hill
Linda & Michael Davis – in Memory of Mildred Warren
Sandy VanDeGraaff – in Memory of Jane Fishman
Harriet Kaufman – in Memory of Jerry Kaufman
The Waller Family – in Memory of Dora Gamez
Neal & Sandy Bernstein – in Memory of Sarah Weinstein
Stan & Lynn Schoen – in Memory of Max Schoen
Joy & Rick Preble – in Memory of Lily Resneck and Sylvia Ershler
Kutchin Family - in Memory of David Kutchinsky
Larry Lipton – in Memory of Nathaniel Lipton
Barry & Terry Katz – in Honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary
Michael & Karen Golden – in Memory of Freada Golden
Michael & Karen Golden – in Memory of Charlotte Cooke

Operation Legacy Campaign

Laurie & Pat Kilbride – in Memory of Anna Klibanoff & Thomas Kilbride

Religious School Fund

Sheila & Scott Jortner – in Memory of Evelyn Strashnick,
Aaron Jortner & June Epstein
Sheldon & Joan Camenson – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th
Wedding Anniversary
Scott & Sheila Jortner – in Memory of Ann Jortner

DID YOU KNOW?

CREDIT CARDS

We accept Credit Cards
for dues, donations,
and purchases.

All financial information is
handled in the strictest of
confidence.

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BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Trustees meetings
are open to the
congregation's members
(unless in closed session)

Why not join us and observe
the governance of your
Temple at work?

•

CALENDAR

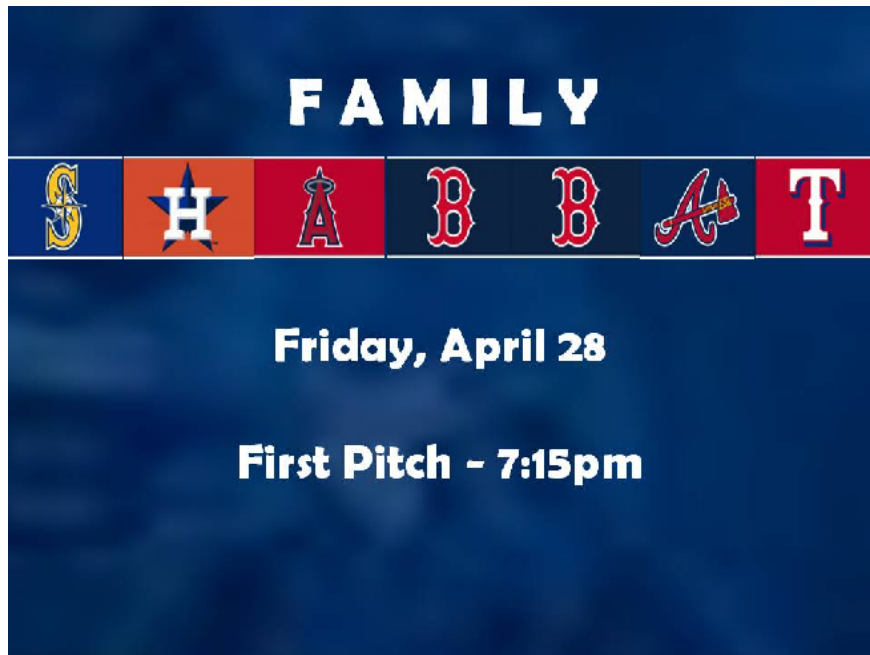
Check the calendar on our
website at www.CJCN.org
for the most up to date
information.

DONATIONS

General Operation Fund

Barry & Terry Katz – in Honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary
Sharon & Steve Natenberg – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Joanmarie Marks & Sandra English – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Rick & Shelli Dorfman – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Sid & Kathleen Blumenthal – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Cheryl Tompkins – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
G W & Lori Biscamo – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Toby Greenberg – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Mikki Karacek – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Donna Gibbon – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Helene Blakesberg – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Robert & Linda Sharff – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Doris Simkin – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Barbara & Ralph Cohen – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Judy Kemper – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Laurie & Patrick Kilbride – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Shelia & Scott Jortner – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Denise & Jeffrey Kutcher – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Sandie & David Livney – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Susan & Scott Shaffer – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Sandy VanDeGraaff – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Judy Payne – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Mindy & Floyd Holm – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Leslie Marks – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Sharon & Steve Natenberg – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Malcolm Sokol – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Phyllis Nalick – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Rita & Howard Weisoly – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Elizabeth Bruman – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Mary & Gary Horowitz – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Dan & Leigh Checkman – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary
Bernice Saksenberg – in Honor of Barry & Terry Katz 40th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Barry & Terry Katz!



Wow - that doesn't look like our normal Rabbi leading the congregation! He looks a little bit younger... oh wait - that isn't the Rabbi! It's Layla and Marisa Gold, or Aaron Nelson, or Gavi and Azi Siger, or Evan and Mason Pfeffer, or one of the many other children and teens who join Rabbi on the bimah to lead the congregation and their friends in prayer during Family Shabbat. "I want the kids to learn that we all play a role at the synagogue, and let them participate like they see the adults do," says Jocelyn Nelson, Family Shabbat coordinator. "It has been wonderful to see them grow individually in their confidence with the prayers and parts of the service as well as public speaking."

The relaxed and inclusive atmosphere of Family Shabbat makes everyone feel welcome, especially those families with small children that may be hesitant to come otherwise. The fun themes such as Pirates, Luau, Fall Festival, and everybody's favorite - Chocolate Shabbat - keep the atmosphere light for both the young and young at heart.

The next Family Shabbat is on Friday, April 28, at 7:15pm. See you there!

**Religious School
2017**



**Students enjoy
fruits from Israel
for TuB'Shevat**



TuB'Shevat
2017



Religious School Recap

The Jacques C. Shure Religious School has been very busy since January. The Education Committee – Jessica Kirk, Rebecca Bottoms, Lara Mire, Carolyn Weiner, Rabbi Siger, Rick Preble, and Sharon Natenberg – created a fun program for Tu B'Shevat. Rabbi led students in an "improv" interpretation of the story of Honi, the Circlemaker. We danced and sang. We learned about the seven species of Israel and created our family trees. Teachers attended Yom Limmud, the day of learning. The Purim Carnival included a play where we made raucous noise when Haman's name was read. The games were fun – including the Moon Walk. The prizes were fun and the food was yummy. The seventh grade visited the Houston Holocaust Museum. The 8th/9th grade class has had two lessons on Israel from a teacher from the Bureau of Jewish Education, as well as sharing the knowledge of Rick Preble. Passover was celebrated with the students making charoset, sampling the food of the seder table, reviewing the story of Moses, playing games and singing traditional songs. Our Hebrew teachers have been diligently training our students. We will be celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day. The Final Day of school is May 21. All of CJCN benefits from the efforts of everyone involved in our religious school.





IT IS WITH GREAT JOY THAT WE INVITE YOU
TO JOIN US AS OUR DAUGHTER

KATHERINE ELYSE

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAT MITZVAH

SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 10:00 AM

CONG. JEWISH COMMUNITY NORTH
5400 FELLOWSHIP LANE
SPRING TX

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

Sisterhood Dinner



Purim Carnival



WAYS TO DONATE

Helping your temple is a meaningful way to fulfill the mitzvah of Tzedakah while honoring your family and those you hold dear.

Honor	Minimum Donation
Memorial Plaque	\$360
Leaf on the Tree of Life	\$270
Prayer book dedication	\$36
Library book donation	\$18

The Men's Club of Congregation Jewish Community North
invites you to
the Inaugural Presentation of the Richard Wiseman Award

Une Soirée à Paris!

Honoring
Mrs. Gale Saltzman

Saturday, April 29th, 2017 at 7PM

Congregation Jewish Community North
5400 Fellowship Lane
Spring, Texas 77379



Proceeds benefit CJCJN and the Houston Food Bank

Please join us for dinner and dessert with specially selected wines,
Silent Auction, and Raffle.

Vegetarian option available upon request.

\$36 per person for meal and one (1) raffle ticket,
\$300 for a table of 8 and ten (10) raffle tickets.
Additional raffle tickets \$5 each, \$20 for five tickets.

Responses are requested by April 10, 2017.
Questions? Contact Cheryl Tompkins at 281-788-4754.

Sponsorships are still being accepted.
Contact Jared Bleiler for information at 713-515-0630
or mensclubpres@cjcjn.org.

Your payment to CJCJN Men's Club is your reservation.
Please note number attending and entree preference with your payment.
Checks payable to CJCJN Men's Club can be deposited in the drop box
at the Temple, or visit <http://bit.do/RWDinner> to pay by credit card.

Complimentary childcare provided by SPRIFTY -- donations appreciated.