



# Congregation Shomrei Torah

January 2011

Tevet/Shevet 5772

Number 4, Vol. 5772

Susan Bodell, President

[www.shomreitorahonline.org](http://www.shomreitorahonline.org)

## Happy Double-Chai Birthday To Us!

On November 19, 1976, Congregation Shomrei Torah of Tallahassee was incorporated. According to our Articles of Incorporation, Shomrei Torah was founded for several purposes, including these, among others:

--establishing a Conservative Jewish Synagogue and religious school to serve the spiritual and educational needs of the Jewish families who live in the greater Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida area;

--conducting Conservative Jewish services on the Sabbath and on Jewish holidays;

--and providing a place in the Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida area where people of the Jewish faith may socially interact to share the joys and sorrows of life together.

This year, 2012, is the 36<sup>th</sup>, or Double-Chai birthday for Congregation Shomrei Torah, and we're planning a year of celebration and re-dedication to the purposes and goals of our congregation. We have exciting plans for our Double-Chai year, culminating in a celebratory weekend November 2-4, 2012. During that weekend, we're planning special Shabbat services and congregational meals, and a gala event on Saturday, November 3. We'll be inviting all Shomrei Torah members and former members from far and wide to attend, as well as Shomrei Torah friends in the lar-

ger community.

To make our Double-Chai celebration even more meaningful, at the gala event we will present the Guardian of the Torah award to Bob Cohen. I know that you know how much he deserves this award, his modesty notwithstanding. (Please read more about this elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

In the coming months, I'll have more to say about different ways you can take part in our Double-Chai year. For now, though, I'd like to mention one of the projects that we will be undertaking this year, in which everyone is invited to participate.

You may recall Rabbi Aderet Drucker speaking during the High Holy Days about the Listening Campaign, a project with which she is intimately familiar from her experience at Temple Israel Center in White Plains, New York. On her most recent visit to Shomrei Torah, Rabbi Drucker conducted a training session for a number of our members who will be participating as listeners in this program.

You'll probably be contacted by one of the listeners, asking if you'd like to get together for an informal face-to-face conversation, usually in a public location such as Panera or Starbucks. The purpose of the conversation is for the two of you to talk about

*(Continued on page 7)*



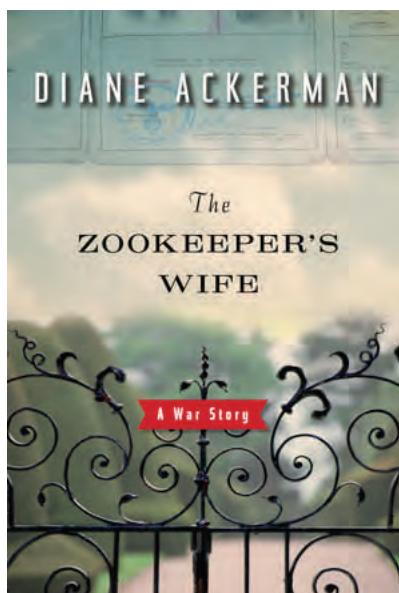
# *Lessons from the Holocaust: An Interfaith Book club*

Lessons from the Holocaust: An Interfaith Book Club, is sponsored by the Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC) and co-hosted by Temple Israel and St. John's Episcopal Church. The group meets once a month on a Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at either Temple Israel or St. John's. The purpose of the club is to foster understanding and good relations between the two congregations as well as the larger community and to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust.

On December 8th, the monthly meeting was attended by 15 people who were fortunate enough to hear the firsthand testimony of local Holocaust Survivor, Miriam Schlezinger, a witness to history who survived Auschwitz. The room fell silent as Mrs. Schlezinger told stories of her time with food rations and losing her family. Her message to anyone is to be good to each other, enjoy the family that you have. It hurts so much when you don't have them. Love one another as much as you can.

The book selected for the January book club meeting is *Aurora* by K. F. Ritter. *Aurora* is the story of former Leon High School and Cobb Middle School teacher, Aurora Ritter, who taught and inspired many local Tallahasseeans. This book, written by her daughter, is based on Mrs. Ritter's letters and papers as well as the testimony of her daughter who experienced a life in wartime Germany along with her mother and brother. The discussion open to all interested in this period of history will be led by Mary Margaret Rogers, one of Mrs. Ritter's former students. The meeting on January 19th at 7:00 p.m. will be at St. John's Episcopal Church located at 211 North Monroe Street.

Copies of all books discussed are available for sale at Temple Israel's Gift Shop, The Spinning Dreidel, and St. John's Bookstore. The book selected for the February 16th meeting is *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by Diane Ackerman. For additional information, please contact Heather Kufert, Temple Israel's Program Director, at 877-3517 Ext. 6, [tisraelprograms@gmail.com](mailto:tisraelprograms@gmail.com) or St. John's at 222-2636



# A Double Mitzvah! Support Israel and Our Synagogue

For every tree you plant, all purchases from the JNF store and any donation you make to Jewish National Fund, JNF will donate 20% back to our synagogue and another 5% to United Synagogue to support congregational Israel programs.

Honor a friend or a loved one. Plant a tree in Israel.  
Memorials · Births · Birthdays · Anniversaries  
B'nai Mitzvah · Weddings · Retirements · New Homes

Go to our synagogue website and click the **JNF/United Synagogue** button. Credit to our synagogue will not be given if you go directly to the Jewish National Fund website and bypass our web link. You can also place your order by calling **1-800-542-TREE** and mentioning **United Synagogue**.



A partnership of JNF and The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



The United Synagogue  
of Conservative Judaism



Jewish  
National Fund

## Sisterhood Latka Dinner Success!!

Shomrei Sisterhood is very proud of our recent latka dinner held on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We hosted over 72 people at the dinner (members and non-members). A record number of latkas were prepared in advance by sisterhood--including black bean, sweet potato, original, and corn! The fish and salad were the perfect addition to the latka dinner. Yummy!

The Hanukkah dinner was so great and we owe a big thanks to Debbie Robinson-Kleinman and Robyn Rachin for leading our members through the kitchen and preparations to help make plenty of food. Many thanks to all who volunteered (if we name everyone, we might forget someone and so you know who you are!!)



The dinner was a wonderful event and one that Shomrei is very proud!!

# SAVE THE DATE:

## SHOMREI TORAH'S DOUBLE SIMCHA WEEKEND

(November 2-3, 2012)

Congregation Shomrei Torah is celebrating two *simchot* on the weekend of November 2-3, 2012.

First, there is a "**Double Chai**" anniversary, marking 36 years since officially becoming Tallahassee's only Conservative Synagogue. The *Double Chai* planning committee is working on a very special weekend filled with festivities and fun events. We hope that you will save the date and join us for a memorable time-- "*Shomrei Style*" throughout the weekend.

In addition to celebrating our anniversary during the weekend, we will present Shomrei Torah's Second **Guardian of the Torah** award to a special Shomrei Torah member-- Judge Robert (Bob) Cohen. In addition to Bob's busy practice as the Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, he makes plenty of time to serve Shomrei Torah throughout the year. Bob has been one of our Shomrei spiritual lay leaders since Congregation Shomrei Torah's inception. He has led Shomrei members through many life cycle events including Brits, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and funerals. Bob is always inspiring during the annual High Holidays Services as he leads chanting and prayers accompanied in his most beautiful and powerful voice.

Bob also makes time to volunteer for various organizations in Tallahassee and within the legal community. There is no doubt that Bob is a *mensch* in the true sense of the word and is most deserving of this special honor in appreciation and gratitude for all that he does to make Shomrei Torah a special place for our members. The **Guardian of the Torah** presentation will take place on Saturday evening, November 3, 2012.



### ***PJ Library Inaugural Event***

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 5:00**

**Ages 6 months – 6 years**



Come join us on **Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00** for the inaugural PJ Library event right here at Shomrei Torah. We will have activities, books, and, of course, snacks to introduce you and your children to this wonderful program.

What is PJ Library you may ask? It's all part of the PJ Library, a national program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in Massachusetts, implemented in partnership with 130 communities throughout the US and Canada. Thanks to NCJW Tallahassee Section, we now have this program available here in Tallahassee.

Any Jewish child from six months to six years old can be enrolled in the PJ program to receive free, age-appropriate Jewish-content books each month in the mail. There's no catch, no hidden agenda: the books are free. These are beautiful books that will enhance the Jewish life of any young family.

# *An Important Event in Holocaust Education & Remembrance*

Tallahassee Community College and the Foundation for California cordially invite you to attend the exclusive opening of *The Courage to Remember : The Holocaust 1933-1945*, a traveling exhibit from the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance on the evening of January 17, 2012.

*The Courage to Remember*, which is free of charge and open to the public, has enjoyed international acclaim for more than 20 years, as well as a wonderfully successful tour throughout California. To date, more than 2 million visitors in 73 locations have viewed the exhibit, making it the most widely attended traveling exhibition on Holocaust education and remembrance.

*The Courage to Remember* is a tribute to the millions of Jews and other individuals who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust, as well as an important lesson that strengthens future generations against all forms of discrimination, racism, anti-Semitism, and hatred of others.

*The Courage to Remember*, hosted at Tallahassee Community College near the state capital, features 200 original photographs that are exclusive to the exhibit and offer unique insight into the Holocaust. Four fascinating themes include Nazi Germany, 1933-1938; Moving Toward the "Final Solution," 1939-1941; Annihilation in Nazi-occupied Europe, 1941-1945; and Liberation, Building New Lives.

"Never forget," is a timeless and invaluable message. Please join Tallahassee's local supporters and notables for this special ceremony to introduce the award-winning *Courage to Remember* exhibit to Florida for the first time!

## Information

- What:** Exclusive opening of *The Courage to Remember: the Holocaust, 1933-1945* traveling exhibit
- Who:** Presented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance and Tallahassee Community College
- Where:** Tallahassee Community College  
444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32304
- When:** January 17, 2012 @ 6 p.m.



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THE TALLAHASSEE JEWISH FEDERATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS

2nd ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## JEWISH JUSTICES OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

January 17, 24, and 31, 2012 (all Tuesdays) at 7:00 pm

Temple Israel

Tallahassee, Florida



Presenter: Mr. Al Sulkes



In 1916 Louis Brandeis became the first Jewish justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Brandeis was joined by the nation's second Jewish justice, Benjamin Cardozo, in 1932. Since then a total of eight Jewish justices have served on the Court, including the three currently serving. During our three weeks together we will discuss the biographies of these justices and some of the important cases they helped decide.

Al Sulkes was born and raised in Detroit. He received his bachelor's degree, with honors in History, from the University of Michigan.

*Visit the Sisterhood Gift Shop!*

*We have baby gifts, bar & bat  
mitzvah gifts,*

*wedding gifts and birthday gifts too!*



*The case is full of thoughtful  
Judaic gift items!*

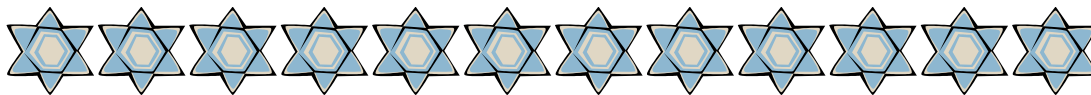
*(Continued from page 1)*

Congregation Shomrei Torah, your experiences and hopes and dreams and fears and concerns about the congregation. There will be no tape-recording, no note-taking, no interviewing, no psychotherapy, no attempts at problem-solving – it's just a conversation to find out what people like about Shomrei Torah, and in what areas people feel we could do more, or better.

Listeners will keep track of the major themes that seem to be arising from the conversations they are having, topics that seem to be most important to our members. And once everyone in the congregation who wants to have one of these conversations has done so, we will schedule a series of small-group meetings in various people's homes for the purpose of discussing in depth some of the topics that resonate with a number of people. You can choose to attend any, or all, or none of the house meetings, as your interests and calendar permit. From these house meetings, we'll try to find solutions to problems, answers to questions, perhaps a sense of a new direction we need to take in the future.

This Listening Campaign is intended to take place over a period of months. We may not even complete it this year. I have no idea where this campaign will lead us, but I'm very excited by the prospect of having input from every member of the congregation. I hope that when you receive a phone call from one of the listeners, you'll agree to meet with him or her for a half hour to talk about Shomrei Torah. And stay tuned for other ways you can get involved in our Double-Chai Year celebration.

*-Susan Bodell*

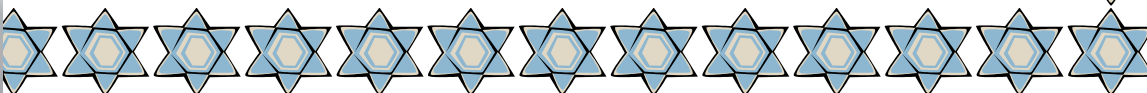


## YAHRZEIT LIST

- Cecelia Liebowitz.....6 Tevet.....January 1
- \*Esther Perez.....7 Tevet.....January 2
- Saul Harris.....7 Tevet.....January 2
- \*Sydney Ford.....8 Tevet.....January 3
- \*Dorothea Meyer-Makowicz..8 Tevet.....January 3
- \*Isadore Jaron.....11 Tevet.....January 6
- Rose Liebow.....12 Tevet.....January 7
- \*Isadore Bodell.....13 Tevet.....January 8
- \*Samuel Goldstein.....13 Tevet.....January 8
- \*Toni Wertheimer.....14 Tevet.....January 9
- Michael Kleinman.....15 Tevet.....January 10
- \*Mirian Neff.....16 Tevet.....January 11
- Sophie Dickson.....17 Tevet.....January 12
- Irving Robinson.....22 Tevet.....January 17
- Morton Sobel.....23 Tevet.....January 18
- Mort Wygodski.....23 Tevet.....January 18
- \*Irving Cooper.....24 Tevet.....January 19
- \*Jerry Louchheim.....24 Tevet.....January 19
- Diane Bernstein.....25 Tevet.....January 20
- Robert Rubin.....25 Tevet.....January 20
- \*Max Fishman.....26 Tevet.....January 21
- \*Tillie Pius.....28 Tevet.....January 23
- \*Runia Vogelhut.....1 Shevat.....January 25
- \*Eileen Katz.....4 Shevat.....January 28
- Ethel Rose.....7 Shevat.....January 31
- Harold Savlov.....7 Shevat.....January 31
- \*Yvonne Barcion.....9 Shevat.....February 2
- \*Ben Horn.....9 Shevat.....February 2
- Flora Schwartz.....9 Shevat.....February 2

Kaddish is recited on the preceding Shabbat

\*Yahrzeit lamp will be lit in the shul



# Donations

## General Fund

*Sam and Jessica Kimelman in memory of Sam's grandfather, Samuel Kimelman*

*Marcel Kimelman in memory of his father, Samuel Kimelman*

*David Zimet in honor of Sam and Jessica Kimelman*

*Charles S. and Susan A. Stratton*

*Sean Ehrlich*

## Education Fund

*Rhea Schwartz in memory of her parents, Abraham and Ida Bernstein*

*Rhea Schwartz, her children and grandchildren, "in loving memory of our dear husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather"*

*David Zimet in memory of Bibi Fishman*

## Prayer Book Fund

*Barbara and Sandler Dickson in memory of her father, Murry Levy*

## Visiting Rabbi Fund

*David Zimet in honor of Elaine Harris and Irwin Kantrowitz*

*Sheldon and Lois Leibow*

## Machzor Book Plates

*Charles S. and Susan A. Stratton in memory of Alan G. & Ethal A. Stratton*

*Charles S. and Joshua S. Stratton in honor of the Birthdays of Susan, Sarah & Eric Stratton*

(Donations received during the period of 11/20/2011 through 12/20/11)

# *“Making a Better Entrance”*

## Building Vice President Report

Dwight Kingsbury

On a recent Sunday afternoon, as other Sisterhood members headed home after a latke-baking session, one member was unable to get her car started in the synagogue parking lot. She called AAA's towing service and gave the driver the 4848 Kerry Forest Parkway address. Then she waited on the synagogue steps...and waited. Eventually she learned that the driver had made a few passes up and down the Parkway, but had not seen the 4858 number.

In fact, the number isn't posted, even though, as Charles Slavin informed me, posting of building addresses is required by City ordinance . A trick used by Men's Club members is to mention that the synagogue is across the street from the Ace Hardware. This always works. However, in the aftermath of Robyn's "parking lot survivor" experience (the truck did come, and after loading Robyn's car managed to exit through the entry driveway), Building Committee agreed the number should be posted. We're fastening reflective numerals vertically, to face both directions, on the post of the synagogue sign this is nearest to the street.

Building Committee is also talking with contractors about easing the choke point at the entry where drivers turn in, then pause to recalculate their course through the narrow esophagus of the curbed driveway. Cranking hard to starboard, drivers turning in from southbound Kerry Forest change their heading by 135 degrees. The abrupt reduction in background luminance due to tree shade, especially at night, adds to the challenge.

Opinions about the driveway are mixed. Some members say they sized up the driveway in initial encounters, learned how to gauge the curb clearance, and slalom down to the parking lot with practiced assurance. However, the gradual disintegration of the north curb in some sections has left less and less curb to preserve.

*(Continued from page 4)*

Every month, your child will receive a book or music CD in the mail. If you haven't signed your child up yet, go to: [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) and click on "Communities."

So, come in your PJs and help us read *Bagels from Benny*. (Benny loves to help out at his grandpa's bakery in the morning, and the customers love the crusty bagels with their soft insides. When Grandpa explains to Benny that God, not him, should be thanked for the wonderful bagels, Benny sets out to do just that. He decides to leave God a bagful of bagels in the synagogue at the end of each week. And each week God eats the bagels -- or so Benny thinks?). This is a story that helps children learn about tzedakah and the values of caring and sharing. In keeping with that theme, we ask everyone to bring in a canned good to donate to a local food pantry.

For more information, contact Vicki Gordon Kaufman @ [vkaufman@kagmlaw.com](mailto:vkaufman@kagmlaw.com) .

## SAVE THE DATES!

*Rabbi Drucker will be back in town the weekend of*

*January 20-22*

*There will be a free congregational dinner on*

*Friday, Jan. 20*

*Rabbi Drucker will be accompanied on this trip by Jordan Hersh, who will be Rabbi Drucker's successor Gladstein Fellow at Shomrei Torah.*

### **Congregation Shomrei Torah Officers**

*President: Susan Bodell (385-1075)*

*Building Vice President: Dwight Kingsbury (402-1645)*

*Education Vice President: Robyn Rachin (559-3223)*

*Membership Vice President: David Abrams (339-5721)*

*Ritual Vice President: Andrea Caufield (329-6394)*

*Fund Raising Vice President: Sandler Dickson (545-7095)*

*Secretary: Ellen Simon (561-8396)*

*Treasurer: Sam Kimelman (562-3540)*

*Sisterhood President: Carol Berkowitz (893-1849)*

*Men's Club President: Ken Zimmerman (668-8061)*

*At-Large Board Members: Chuck Aronovitch, Dr. Matt Cohen, Bob Cohen, Josh Heller, Sean Ehrlich, Dan Markel,*

**Avi Wygodski**

#### **Bulletin Staff**

Editor: Rachel Glick, Office Administrator

#### **Bulletin Details**

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*Issue N.: 4*

Please send all bulletin materials to Rachel Glick at [Administrator@shomreitorahonline.org](mailto:Administrator@shomreitorahonline.org) by the 20th of the month.

#### **Website Details**

[www.shomreitorahonline.org](http://www.shomreitorahonline.org) The Shomrei Torah website is maintained and edited by Barb Lyons. Please send any queries about the website to Barb at [webmaster@shomreitorahonline.org](mailto:webmaster@shomreitorahonline.org)



Congregation Shomrei Torah  
 4858 Kerry Forest Parkway  
 Tallahassee, FL 32309

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S Postage  
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 Tallahassee, FL  
 Permit No. 386



### Candle Lighting Times

Date                      Latest Time  
    to light candles

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| January 6  | 5:32 pm |
| January 13 | 5:38 pm |
| January 20 | 5:44 pm |
| January 27 | 5:50 pm |

ברוך אתה, ה' אלקינו, מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו  
 במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של-שבת.

**שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם !**

*Barukh atah Hashem melekh — asher kid'shanu  
 b'mitzvotav vitzivanu l'hadlikner shel Shabbat*

Praised are You, Hashem, our G-d, Who rules  
 the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitz-  
 voth by commanding us to kindle the light of  
 Shabbat.

Translation & transliteration provided by United Synagogue of Conservative  
 Judaism

