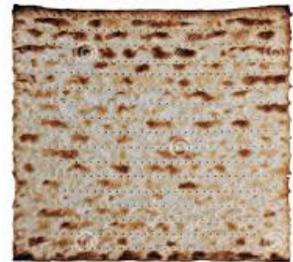
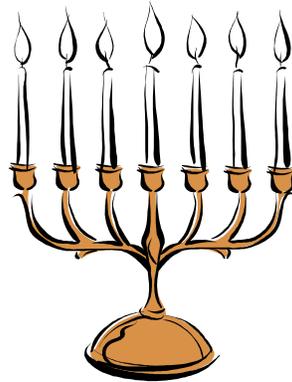


The Shpiel

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

April 2015 / Nissan 5775



SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION

OFFICERS

President – Wende Levy (301)-503-1047 Vice-President – Jeff Spear (480)-556-1284
Treasurer – Michael Dar (480)-882-9022
Recording Secretary – Geri Gould (480)-305-0123
Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D. – (623)-975-4272 Cantor Ronda Polesky – (480)-247-8408

To download a Membership Form, go to: www.SLJC.com/membership

Send any articles you wish to have published in *The Shpiel* to Mark Salita at ShpielSLJC@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for publication on the last day of the month.

Meeting Schedules (details on later pages)

FRIDAY NITE SERVICES – Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm – Sun Lakes Chapel

BOARD MEETING – Thursday April 9, 4PM - please call Wende Levy (301)-503-1047 if you wish to be on the agenda.

MEN'S CLUB – Buffet luncheon on April 16 at Talking Stick Casino in Scottsdale

JWV – Meeting on April 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Mirror Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club

SISTERHOOD – Meeting on April 16, at 1:00 pm in the Chapel House

RITUAL COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday, April 7 at 10:30AM in the Chapel House.

President's Message

As we look forward to the celebration of Passover the SLJC Board of Directors wishes all our congregants and their families a healthy and happy holiday. The SLJC Seder is a wonderful opportunity to share the holiday with fellow congregants. On April 10th the congregation commemoration of the Holocaust, Yom Hashoah will take place. April 19th SLJC will host the Community Wide Holocaust Commemoration. This is an opportunity to showcase our congregation and collaborate with other congregations in the area.

The SLJC Board of Directors is currently focusing on several new endeavors:

- Membership Outreach
- Fundraising
- Communication with our membership

If you are interested in becoming involved please contact Wende Levy via e-mail at Wende@his.com or by telephone at 301-503-1047.

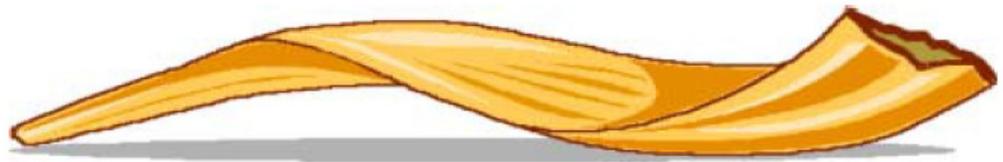
The SLJC BOD has begun a practice of rotating Board Members on the bema. This is a chance for you to see and interact with other Board members at the Oneg Shabbat. Twilight Services will again be lay-lead this year. They will be held in the Chapel Center in July and August on the 2nd Friday of each month at 5:30. I encourage you to attend and join in these services.

Thank you

Wende

Oneg Sponsor

East Valley Jewish Community Center is the sole sponsor of the April Oneg Shabbat. Thank you.



Message from Our Rabbi

Where Was Man?

Each year we consecrate ourselves to the proposition that we will never again walk into the fiery furnace of hate and indifference. This is a solemn pledge reaffirmed by each generation. For the past sixty-nine years we bore witness to the edge of defeat and finally to victory. In our hearts, we have forgiven, but our souls will never forget. This will ensure the immortality of those who perished in the nightmare of despicable atrocities.

Can we ever forget the dialogue of Holocaust survivors who asked the question, “At Auschwitz, where was God?” And, the answer we hear is, “Where was man?” God does not promote hatred nor does God encourage dangerous episodes of degradation and humiliation. What God does is give us the insight into the evil that can overcome us when we forget discipline and concern for one another.

Repeated there are proclamations that argue about the absence of God during the terrible ordeals we encounter day after day, all part of the journey of life. It is not easy to engage in conversation attempting to explain that God is not responsible for our behavior; rather we alone control our thoughts and actions. To some this is too simple an answer. We search for the One who gave us life and now seems to abandon us in our hour of need.

The one thread in the weave of human existence is a simple thing called hope. There is a future. There will always be a future. What that future will be rests with us. The most important aspect of hope is the salvation of the human spirit. We must look at the sacrifice of so many because it enables us to bask in the glory of redemption.

A twelve-year old girl, who witnessed first-hand the horrors inflicted, cried out “No, no, my God, we want to live! Not watch our numbers melt away. We want to have a better world. We want to work – we must not die!” Is this not the cry of humanity? We all want to see a world of togetherness and connection reaching fulfillment and completion. The cry of the victims is a universal plea for sanity and survival.

Somehow, though, we are brought back from anticipation to the reality of the evil humans can inflict on each other. We want to think of utopia – when all will be right with the world. We think of how things should be, not how they really are.

Another victim of the Holocaust, Yitzchak Katznelson, wrote:

I dreamed a dream-unadulterated terror – my people had vanished. They were gone, no more. Oh, God on high, I cried out, trembling, why should it be that my people has died? How can it be that they died in vain? Not even in battle, not even in war. Young and old, women and children, have ceased to be. They are no more-wring your hands in grief! I cry thus in anguish both day and night, Why Lord? Why God? Why?

Where was man? As always, he was asleep waiting to be wakened by the thunder of marching men, women and children encouraging all to enjoy freedom from hate and indifference. It is not only a Jewish quest, but also a mission, a holy mission for all humanity. God is waiting for us to break the chains of terror and create a world of contentment, free of fear.

This year our congregation will participate in our annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration at Friday evening Shabbat Services on April 10. Starting at 7pm, which is our custom, we will gather to light candles for all those who have no one to light them in their honor and memory. We will then begin our Service of Remembrance which will include past survivors, the generation that followed, and the present as well. We should consider this a moral obligation and gather together, especially in these trying times,

Also, this year, we are hosting the Southeast Valley Commemoration and Remembrance at 2PM on April 19, which will include other temples, churches, clergy and members of all houses of faith. I urge you to attend with your friends and family to demonstrate to all that as a united community, we share in the same destiny and the same remembrances. It is our contribution to the commitment of solidarity.

I will be honored to welcome you to both of these milestones in the life of our congregation.

Rabbi Irwin Wiener, D.D.



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Ritual Schedule for 5775 (2014-2015)

2015

April 10, 2015----- Service honoring our Ritual committee and our
Annual Yom HaShoah observance -----7:00 pm
Anyone wishing to light a candle in remembrance may do so
May 8, 2015----- Inter-Faith Sabbath -----7:30 pm
June 12, 2015----- Annual Healing Service -----7:30 pm
July 10, 2015----- Twilight Services (Chapel House) ----- 5:30 pm
August 14, 2015----- Twilight Services (Chapel House) ----- 5:30 pm

**COMMUNITY WIDE HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION
AT THE
SUN LAKES CHAPEL
SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHEAST VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY
SUNDAY, APRIL 19
3:00PM
DOORS OPEN AT 2:00 FOR THE COMMUNITY TO LIGHT CANDLES IN
MEMORY OF ALL WHO PERISHED**

*The entire community is invited to participate in Holocaust Remembrance hosted by the Sun Lakes
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Cantorial Notes

Remembering the Holocaust in Song

In the month of April we remember the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during the Holocaust. As with all things Jewish, we have melodies that help us recall those who suffered and died at the hands of the Nazis. At the time these songs were written they provided a way to bring people together, offer comfort and strengthen the partisan fighters. One example is the song “Zog Nit Keyn Mol” (Never Say), composed by the young poet Hirsh Glik in 1943 and sung to a Russian melody which became the official hymn of the FPO (Fareynike Partizaner Organizatsye-United Partisan Organization).

A poem called “The Butterfly” beautifully exemplifies the horror of children in Nazi concentration camps. It was written by Pavel Friedmann, born January 7, 1921 in Prague and deported to Terezín on April 26, 1942. He died in Auschwitz on September 29, 1944. It has been set to many melodies-one of which I will perform for you at our Holocaust remembrance ceremony on April 19. The text is as follows:

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone...

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished to
kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.

As we light our candles of remembrance in April and sing these haunting melodies, let us all remember the innocent victims The Shoah. We will never forget!

B'Shalom,
Cantor Ronda



THE SLJC THANKS YOU FOR YOUR RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

CHAPEL FUND

Bunny Emont
Barbara & Elliott Reiss
Sandy & Roger Spark

ONEG FUND

Barbara & Michael Kaplan

MUSIC FUND

Samuel Abramson

FAMILY FUND

Florence Klitsner
Ruth & Stan Dolin

GENERAL FUND

Geri & Jim Gould
Morton Huskey

MEMORIAL BOARD – A non-member Memorial Board is in the lobby of our chapel. Many of you have already placed plates on the memorial board to honor and remember their loved ones. The wording for these plates is limited to 5 lines of type, and the cost for each plate is \$75.00, payable to SLJC. Any questions regarding this board, please contact SaraRuth at 883-1791.

BLUE BOXES - Keep filling J.N.F blue boxes!! If filled, call me and I will arrange to pick them up. Thanks. Lill Fishman - 895-8928

TRIBUTE CARDS for any occasion can be purchased at the monthly Sisterhood meetings.

SERVICE HONORS – Anyone wishing to have an honor in any upcoming service, call SaraRuth Rossow at 883-1791.



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Donation Forms

DONATION FORM TOYS FROM THE HEART
Name _____ Address _____ Please send checks (in any amount) payable to SLJC Sisterhood to: Phyllis Mandel, 3495 East County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249

SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION DONATION FORM
Please accept this contribution to the following fund, in honor/memory Of _____ Chapel ___ Oneg ___ Music ___ Family Fund ___ Flower ___ Torah ___ General Fund _____ Please send card to: Name - _____ Address- _____ _____ Donor _____ Amt. of Check \$ _____ Address _____ Remit to: Shirley Gersten, 9238 E. Nacoma, Sun Lakes 85248 (Minimum donation of \$5.00, please)

WHEN DONATING TO DIFFERENT FUNDS, PLEASE ISSUE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH FUND; OTHERWISE ALL THE MULTIPLE DONATIONS WILL BE POSTED TO THE SAME FUND. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. IF A FUND IS NOT INDICATED, THE DONATION WILL BE APPLIED TO THE SLJC GENERAL FUND. SHIRLEY GERSTEN

Flowers for the bema for Shabbat services: May be donated by congregation members commemorating important occasions. To participate, call Shirley Gersten at 802-0007 to reserve your date. The cost is \$50.00 per household (no more than two households may donate flowers for any one service).

To help serve at the Onegs: call Gary Kanowsky at 802-4517, or fill out the following form:

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation- Shabbat Service Oneg
Please count me/us in to serve at an Oneg Shabbat Name _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ I/we are available during the month of _____ celebrating _____ _____ Please return to: Gary Kanowsky, 10221 E. Spring Creek Rd., S.L. 85248 – ph. 802-4517

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CONGREGATION NEWS

THANKS

My heartfelt thanks to all those in the Congregation, Sisterhood and Hadassah who sent cards, donations, and called following my hip replacement surgery. Myra Delman

A heartfelt thank you to our SLJC family for the many donations, sympathy cards, and words of comfort in memory of my mother, Sally Jacobsohn, who passed away on March 1. She was a former SLJC member and also a lifetime member of Hadassah. Anita Frindell

A great big thank you for all the kindness shown to me during my hip surgery!! Doing well! – Lana

NEW ADDRESSES

Michael and Bety Dar 25427 S. Glenburn Dr., Sun Lakes
Stan and Ruth Dolin 9508 E. Riggs Rd, B20 (Renaissance), Sun Lakes

THE CARE COMMITTEE/BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Care Committee/Bereavement Committee consists of the following members: Chairperson: Shirley Shalett, tieman11@q.com or 883-9159, and Joyce Sparonos, Michael Kaplan, Jeff Spear, Geri Gould, Rita Solko, Jerri Siegel, Wende Levy, Mireille Kaplan, SaraRuth Rossow, Arleen Berke, Doris Codkind, Shelly Henden, Sandy Jennings, Edd Shalett, Paul Herman, Michael Dar, Joyce Pocras, Carol Biales, and Mark Nelinson. If there is an illness, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the committee.

The Rabbi is always available. Wende Levy, President, will also be available. In case of a death, please call or email Shirley Shalett so that she can make sure that the congregation is notified.

Contact Marilyn Koss at 940-1916, or e-mail marilynjoe@cox.net if you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, or anyone celebrating the birth of a grandchild, etc. so that a card can be sent to the congregation member on behalf of Sisterhood.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH INFORMATION

We are proud to offer Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies both for youngsters and adults. For information regarding the procedures for commemorating this milestone, please contact the Rabbi at ravyitz@cox.net or 623-640-5913.



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Men's Club of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

In March we had a dynamic speaker, Dr. Paul McHale, head of emergency at Chandler Regional. Our annual dinner was a great success thanks to Sy Evans' innovative ideas, including changing our location to Cottonwood and eliminating flowers and giving everyone coffee mugs. April will be a quieter month since we are eliminating our monthly meeting due to the closeness to Passover. Instead of a mid-month dinner, we are going to have a mid-month buffet luncheon on April 16 at the Talking Stick Casino in Scottsdale. We are going to carpool but expect to eat around 11:30. The Men's Club wishes everyone a Happy Passover.

Paul Herman co-president



Jewish War Veterans (JWV)



The members of Post 619 Jewish War Veterans in Sun Lakes will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. April 19 in the Mirror Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club. The speaker will be Melissa Mierdiercks from the Veterans Administration Community Resource and Referral Center. This is the group of over 20 VA personnel that works with the homeless veterans population. April 9th the post will be feeding about 100 turkey luncheons for veterans that have graduated the VA addiction programs. In February, the group had a pizza party for the veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Home. The post is active all year long and inquiries are answered all year long from any person regardless of race, religion or gender. Many participants in the post are not Jewish but want to help veterans and this post works tirelessly to help homeless and in need veterans with many persons taking part in the Maricopa StandDown in February. Information on the post Elliot Reiss 480-802-3281. For reservations for the brunch that precedes the meeting, call Myra Buckner 480-305-0533.



* **PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS** *
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Sisterhood

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood invites you to an interesting meeting on April 16, at 1:00 pm in the Chapel House in Sun Lakes. Our speaker will be Dr. Michael Cohen, a retired pediatrician who teaches at the University of Arizona Medical School. His specialty is Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics. Dr. Cohen will be speaking about childhood learning disabilities. He especially would like to speak to the particular concerns of the audience about ADD, so bring your questions.

Also, if you are interested in attending the annual Sisterhood luncheon in May, and you haven't already paid your dues, this is your last chance. Send your \$30.00 to Phyllis, at 3495 E. County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249.

And, as always, donations for Toys From the Heart are always welcome. Those donations should go to Phyllis also. See Donation Form on page 6.

SISTERHOOD DUES STATEMENT	
2014-2015	
Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation Sisterhood	
\$30.00	
Name _____	Email _____
Address _____	Phone _____
Please send checks made out to SLJC Sisterhood to: Phyllis Mandel, 3495 E. County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249	

SHALOM HADASSAH

Our Chapter certainly has had a busy month. With no regular meeting scheduled in March we planned two exceptional events. What a wonderful day was had at the Phoenix Art Museum viewing the display "Fashioned in America". An added treat was the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibit, a must see. The next event was a trip to the Hale Theatre for the production of "My Fair Lady". The music; the costumes.....need I say more about this favorite of shows.

At our regularly scheduled meeting on April 21st, two very important topics will be discussed. How many of us have had accidents in our home? Falls, tripping over items, kitchen mishaps are all too common incidents. Because of this, we have asked our own Sun Lakes Fire Department to help us negotiate "Safety in the Home". There are many tips and strategies for everyday living to help guard against harming ourselves. You may think you are doing everything right, but visits to the emergency room tell otherwise. For optional lunch reservations send \$16.00 check made to Shalom Hadassah and send to Ruth Friedman at The Renaissance, 9508 E. Riggs Rd., Apt. D396, Sun Lakes 85248 or call 802-9600. Program only starts at 1:00 p.m.

Also available will be the new medical information flash drive, a really great gadget for storing all of your personal medical records. This can be accessed by medical personnel in case of emergency. You will want to become informed about this new technology.

Watch for the announcement of the Shalom Hadassah High Tea and Fashion Show that will be held in May. Final details will be presented shortly so that you can make your reservations.

SHALOM! Doris Codkind

April Milestones

BIRTHDAYS

4 Sheila Asroff
4 Jaryd Edson
4 Harvey Trachtenberg
6 Eileen Holmes
6 Claudette Adler
7 Anita Kolikoff
8 Leslie Parnes
11 Louis Shire
13 Cookie Gregory
16 David Israel
19 Judy Segal
20 Jack Dante
20 Elaine Sardina
21 Robert Goldstein
21 Joy Horowitz
21 Art Sloane
21 Chuck Wolin
21 Jill Herman
22 Mike Bernstein
23 Sandy Schulman
23 Gail Kollman
25 Howard Weiner
26 Bernice Shames
27 Alan Behr
28 Francine Applebaum
28 Shayna Edson
28 Ray Liano
29 Kim Kaplan
30 Gina Caplan



ANNIVERSARIES

3 Viv & Art Sloane
9 Jennifer Stewart & Sean Turner
13 Marilyn & Harvey Fein
13 Jan & Chuck Rappaport
14 Roberta & Maishe Levitan
28 Helen & Derek Hughes



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Sat Apr 25 and Sun Apr 26, 2015
Ticket Pricing: \$16 & \$22
Website: www.balletetudes.net/

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2pm

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Website: www.chandlersymphony.com/



April Yahrzeits



MORRIS AMITON
 HENRIETTA ANN BEHR
 KATE BENDER
 HARRY BENDICK
 ANNA BERNSTEIN
 SARAH BLUMENFELD
 NATHAN CODKIND
 JANE COHEN
 IDA DOCTOROW
 JOSEPH FISHMAN
 SAM FLAXMAN
 LOUIS FREEDMAN
 ALLAN FRIDKIN
 PEARL FRIEDMAN
 LAYZER FUEDEM
 HELEN GARBER
 SOL GERSON
 ABRAHAM GERSTEN
 MARCELLE GLICENSTEIN
 FRIEDA GOLDSTEIN
 SAM GOLDSTEIN
 STANLEY GOODMAN

HARRY GROBAN
 LOUIS HEIM
 ROBERT HERTZBERG
 SAMUEL HUSKEY
 LUDDY ISRAEL
 ADOLPH ITTNER
 SOL KAHN
 ESTHER KATZ
 CLARA KAUFMAN
 HARRY KIMMELMAN
 IRWIN KOLIKOFF
 PAULINE KOLLMAN
 JUDY KOROVESIS
 JEROME KUBRIN
 SYLVIA KUBRIN
 GERTRUDE LAVIN
 CHARLES LEIBOWITZ
 EDWARD LEVIN
 ISAAC DUBER LEVITAN
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 ED MOONEY
 PAULINE OXMAN
 MORRIS NELSON
 ISIDORE PINSKY
 ROBERT ROSSOW
 BEN SABLE
 HANAN SAKULSKY
 BENNET SCHECK
 ESTHER SCHULMAN
 JOSEPH SHAGRIN
 MORRIS SHAMES
 HARRIET SHARFF
 ROSE SHERRE
 MARTIN SILVERMAN
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 MEYER SOLKO
 JOSEPH STUTMAN
 CLAIRE TENER-DENNIS
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Book of Remembrance

This is the time of year when we plan for our annual “**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**” in which we honor and memorialize our departed family members. This printed book is given out at the **YOM KIPPUR MEMORIAL SERVICE**. Since there are many members who leave for the summer months, and will want to have a listing in the book, we ask that you fill out the form below and send it in as soon as possible. The information must be received no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**.

NAMES WILL BE COUNTED, NOT LINES. EACH NAME ON A LINE WILL BE COUNTED INDIVIDUALLY.

Prices for the publication are as follows:

One quarter page	\$18.00	one to ten names
One half page	\$36.00	one to fifteen names
Full Page	\$72.00	one to twenty names

Send form, along with your check payable to Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation to:

Susan & Michael Cohen, 9008 E. Stoney Vista Ct., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248 – questions call 895-4660

PLEASE USE SEPARATE CHECK FOR MEMORIAL – DO NOT INCLUDE WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONAL DUES

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NAMES IN NEW MEMORIAL: _____		

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NEW NAME[S] added to previous memorial: _____		
DELETE NAME[S] in previous memorial: _____		
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by _____		
Your telephone number: _____		

How the Czech Scrolls Were Saved

When the Munich Agreement was signed on 29 February 1938, Britain and France agreed to Hitler's demand to annex the German-speaking border regions of Czechoslovakia, and the Germans marched in. The Jews from dozens of congregations in the prosperous industrial and commercial towns in the Sudetenland had between 3 and 10 days to flee to the interior, which was still a free and sovereign country. They left behind their synagogues, which were in German hands in time for the destruction of the Pogrom of November 1938, when synagogues across the expanded Germany, which now included the Sudetenland, were burned or vandalized and looted. In almost every case the ritual treasures of these Sudetenland synagogues were destroyed or lost.

In the remainder of Czechoslovakia, which included Prague, the synagogues and their swollen congregations were safe for the time being, and there was no general pogrom of destruction, though a few synagogues were destroyed when the Germans invaded the rest of the country in March 1939. In 1940, the congregations were closed down, but the Jewish community administration was used locally by the Germans to execute their stream of decrees and instructions. Deportation started in 1941 and the mass deportations of the Jews took place throughout 1942 and into January 1943. Then, all that was left in these Czech towns were the half-Jews, Jewish partners from mixed marriages, the empty synagogue buildings and the homes of the Jews.

Fearful that the destroyed synagogues and community buildings would be at the mercy of looters and plunderers, a group of Jews at the Jewish Museum in occupied Prague submitted a plan to the Nazis to save the Jewish ritual and cultural treasures in the vulnerable buildings by bringing them to the museum in Prague so that they could be catalogued and preserved. Why their Nazi overseers accepted the plan is not known. The result was that the Nazi controlled Prague Jewish Community sent out the orders that implemented the plan and permitted the transport companies to carry Jewish goods. With a few exceptions, the Torah Scrolls, other liturgical treasured in gold and silver and ritual textiles were sent to Prague, along with historic archives and thousands of books. The remaining Jews were deported in 1943, 1944 and 1945, and quite a number of these late deportees survived.

The inventory of what had become the Central Jewish Museum expanded from under 800 to over 100,000 items as a result. A task force of Jewish curators, art collectors, librarians and other experts effectively prisoners of the Nazis, set to work under Dr. Josef Polak, the former director of the museum in Kosice meticulously to sort, catalogue and identify the items that had come from over one hundred congregations in Bohemia and Moravia. It needed over forty warehouses, including deserted synagogues in Prague and elsewhere, to store all the Jewish items. As the task progressed under oppressive and intimidating conditions of fear and uncertainty, some of the Jews who were undertaking this work would suddenly be deported to the Terezin concentration camp and death. Eventually there were very few survivors. Polak did survive until 1945, to disappear in a sinister circumstances.

A legend has grown that the accumulation of this vast hoard of Judaica was planned by the Nazis to become their museum to the extinct Jewish race. However, it has become clear that the idea to gather together of this collection was conceived by these Czech Jews to save their heritage and to make possible the retrieval of their treasures by those survivors who returned. While their plan would not have been possible without the approval of the Nazis, there is no evidence of a Nazi plan for a museum which remains only as conjecture. It is possible that, faced with the reality of this vast collection of treasure, the idea of a museum to the extinct race may have been born.

So it was that, in 1956, the Michle Synagogue, in the suburbs of Prague became the warehouse at which the hundreds of Torah Scrolls were consolidated from various locations. They had come from the large Prague Jewish community and from the many smaller communities that were scattered across what was

left of Bohemia and Moravia, after the Sudetenland had been detached. The Scrolls in the Michle Synagogue did not include Scrolls from Slovakia, which was under a separate administration.

After the defeat of Germany, a free and independent Czechoslovakia emerged, but it was a country largely without Jews. Most of the surviving Jews in Prague and the rest of Bohemia and Moravia were from Slovakia and further east from Subcarpathian Ruthenia. Prague, which had had a Jewish population of 54,000 in 1940, was reduced to under 8,000 by 1947, and many of these would leave. Over 50 congregations were re-established by survivors, but on 27 February 1948, after less than 3 years of post war freedom, the Communists staged a coup and took over the government of Czechoslovakia. The country was back under dictatorship. The revival of Jewish life was stifled. The Prague Jewish Museum came under government control. The Torah Scrolls which ended up in the Michle Synagogue building came under public ownership. The State Jewish Museum put on the exhibition of the collected Judaica.

Eric Estorick, an American art dealer living in London, paid many visits to Prague on business in early 1960's and got to know Prague artists, whose work he sold at his Grosvenor Gallery. Being a frequent visitor to Prague, he came to the attention of the authorities, and, on a visit in 1963 he expressed some interest in a catalogue of Hebracia. He was approached by officials from Artia, the state corporation responsible for trade in works of art, and asked if he would be interested in buying some Torah Scrolls. Unknown to him, the Israelis had been approached previously with a similar offer, but the negotiations had come to nothing. Estorick was taken to the Michle Synagogue where he was faced with wooden racks holding about 1800 Scrolls, in seriously damp conditions. He was asked if he wanted to make an offer. He replied that he knew certain parties in London who might be interested.

On his return to London he contacted a fellow American, Rabbi Harold Reinhart, of the Westminster Synagogue, one of whose congregants, Ralph Yablon, offered to put up the money to buy the Scrolls. First Chimen Abramsky, who was to become Professor of Hebrew Studies at the University of London, was asked to go to Prague for twelve days in November 1963 to examine the Scrolls and to report on their authenticity and condition. On his return to London, it was decided that Estorick should go to Prague and negotiate a deal, which he did. Two trucks laden with 1564 Scrolls arrived at the Westminster Synagogue in February and March 1964.

After months of sorting, examining and cataloguing each Scroll, the task of distributing them began, with the aim of getting the Scrolls back into the life of Jewish congregations across the world. The Memorial Scrolls Trust was established to carry out this task.

Michael Heppner
Research Director, Memorial Scrolls Trust. London



Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation now has Memorial Scroll 77 – Kolodeje. That 32 Scrolls were received from Kolodeje indicates that this village was a “collection point” and therefore that Scroll 77 most probably did not come from the Kolodeje congregation. It may well have come from nearby town of Bechyne from which no Scrolls can be traced or from other nearby communities such as Neznasov or Stadlec. Some may even have come from further away. The 87 Jews from Kolodeje and other surrounding districts were deported to Terezin in transport Akb from Ceske Budejovice on 18 April 1942.

The Goering Brother Who Saved Jews - David B. Green (*Ha'aretz*)

Albert Goering, the younger brother of Hitler's second-in-command, Hermann Goering, risked his life and livelihood countless times during the Holocaust to save the lives of Jews. In 1939, Albert became export manager of the giant Skoda automotive works in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where he helped individual employees who were dissidents to escape by forging his brother Hermann's name on documents. He also requisitioned slave laborers from concentration camps, and then released them into the forests. Albert also turned a blind eye to episodes of sabotage at the plant, which had major military contracts from the German occupiers.

In Vienna Albert joined a group of Jewish women who had been forced to scrub a street clean, giving the SS officer in charge no alternative but to release the entire group so as not to be accused of humiliating Hermann Goering's brother. He helped friends who were Jews or married to Jews to escape occupied Europe or to go into hiding.

With the war's end, Albert was arrested by American troops and held until he could document that he had directly rescued 34 Jews from concentration camps. He was rearrested by Czech authorities, but former Skoda workers and resistance fighters testified on his behalf, saying he had saved the lives of hundreds, and he was acquitted in 1947. Brother Hermann was convicted of crimes against humanity. Several hours before he was to be hanged, he killed himself by swallowing a cyanide pill smuggled into his cell.

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Golda Meir in Her Own Words

Here is a sample of the wit and wisdom of one of the great world leaders.

1. "Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement."
2. "It is true we have won all our wars, but we have paid for them.
We don't want victories anymore."
3. "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us."
4. "My dear, old age is like an airplane flying in a storm. Once you're in it there's nothing you can do. You can't stop a plane, you can't stop a storm, you can't stop time. So you might as well take it easy, with wisdom."
5. "A man who does not hate war is not fully human."
6. "We Jews have a secret weapon in our struggle with the Arabs; we have no place to go."
7. "Let me tell you the one thing I have against Moses. He took us forty years into the desert in order to bring us to the one place in the Middle East that has no oil!"
8. "We owe a responsibility not only to those who are in Israel but also to those generations that are no more, to those millions who have died within our lifetime, to Jews all over the world, and to generations of Jews to come.
We hate war. We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown, and when strawberries bloom in Israel."
9. Don't be so humble, you aren't that great.

News from Israel

We Palestinians Hold the Key to a Better Future

(Bassem Eid, founder and former director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group).

After 66 years of mistakes and missed opportunities, it is time for us Palestinians to create the conditions for peace and to work for a better future. It is time we stopped pretending that we can destroy Israel or drive the Jews into the sea. It is time we stopped listening to Muslim radicals or Arab regimes that use us to continue a pointless, destructive, and immoral war with Israel.

In Gaza, our schools are controlled by Muslim fanatics who indoctrinate our children, and Hamas uses our civilians as human shields in a losing battle against Israel. Hamas maintains power through violence, and it ensures that money is spent on its arsenal rather than on making Palestinians' lives better.

In the West Bank, the only good jobs are with Israeli companies, and the BDS (Boycott, Sanctions, and Divestment) movement is doing its best to take those jobs away from us. Abbas runs a corrupt dictatorship that uses international funds to consolidate its own administration rather than to develop the Palestinian economy. In eastern Jerusalem, the PA is so mistrusted that most Palestinians would prefer to live under Israeli rule rather than under PA rule.

Despite what we tell ourselves, Israel is here to stay. What's more, it has a right to exist. It is the nation of the Jews, but also a nation for Israeli Arabs who have better lives than Arabs anywhere in Arab countries. The answer is to live in peace and democracy, side by side with Israel. We know that Israelis want to live in peace, and that the vast majority of Israelis are friendly and neighborly. We have it within our power to transform a long-time enemy into a friend.

India and Israel in Joint Defense Venture

India's Kalyani industrial group announced on Thursday a "substantial" joint venture with Israel to make missiles and other weapons, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi eased rules on foreign ownership in defence. Kalyani and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems will make advanced missile systems and other technologies at a facility near the the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. Kalyani would hold 51 percent of the venture, in one of the first such tieups since the cap was lifted on foreign investment in the sector last year. The "substantial" joint venture will manufacture (remote) weapons systems and advanced armour solutions for Indian and subsequently global customers of Rafael.

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