

The Shpiel

Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

December 2014 / Kislev 5775



SUN LAKES JEWISH CONGREGATION

OFFICERS

President – Marty Silverman – (480)-895-6917 Treasurer – Tom Mohr – (480)-772-2184
Co-Vice-Presidents – Wendy Feldman-Kerr – (480)-987-9425 and Wende Levy – (301)-503-1047
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, December 12, 7:30 pm – Sun Lakes Chapel

BOARD MEETING – Thursday, December 11, 4PM - please call Marty Silverman @ 895-6917 if you wish to be on the agenda.

**MEN'S CLUB – Men's Club will be honored during the Service held on December 12th.
December 2nd meeting with Yoga instructor.**

SISTERHOOD – Next general meeting on December 18, 2014.

RITUAL COMMITTEE MEETING – No meeting in December.

SHALOM HADASSAH - Fun Fund Raiser on Tuesday, December 9th from 2-6 p.m.

REDUCE THE DEFICIT – FRIENDS OF ONEG FUNDRAISER

At the October Congregation meeting, we learned that SLJC Congregation expenses exceeded our income and that the Reserve has substantially diminished over the past several years. To help reduce the deficit so the Reserve can remain intact, Nancy Stutman has volunteered to solicit sponsors for future Oneg Shabbats.

It will take 12 contributions of \$50 to cover the cost of each Oneg. The yearly Oneg budget is \$6,000.00. Nancy has been calling members to participate in this fundraiser, and is thrilled with the positive response. Openings are still available for the months of March, May, and June. Call Nancy Stutman at 802-3110 with questions or to donate. Minimum donations are \$50. Oneg sponsors will be listed in the Friday night Bulletin passed out at services. Names will also appear in the Shpiel under the Oneg Donation column. Thank you for your support.

Minimum contributions for this fundraiser are \$50.00. A check made out to SLJC, earmarked "Oneg" may be mailed to Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation, P.O.Box 11479, Chandler, AZ 85248.



Message from Our Rabbi

December is a Time of Faith

If it is December it must be the time of Hanukkah and Christmas.

Each year interfaith couples agonize whether this a religious adventure or a commercial enterprise. There is a tugging at the heart strings because respect for one another's faith is the foundation of the commitment made as vows were said and families were joined. And each year articles are written about celebrations, identifications, to ensure that the spiritual aspect of the season is not a cause for concern.

Couples of different faiths discuss this with me as they prepare to fulfill their pledge to one another. Sometimes there is an anxiety that surfaces because of outside influences. It is a time of "light," whether it be the lights on the tree or the glow from the candles on the Menorah. After all it is also a time of darkness. The days are short. The nights are long. It is cold and the harshness of winter is fast approaching. Life withers; the life of trees and flowers and people. We sleep as does nature. It is the darkest time of the year.

The one brightness that illuminates our lives is the breath of love. We have searched for the mate that makes us whole. The greatest glory is in knowing we are one of One. This is the essence of love and is the thread that helps us learn from one another and respect one another, which in turn translates into tolerance for belief and faith. This is what this season is all about.

Hanukkah is a time of dedication (as the word implies) and Christmas is a time of renewal. They are synonymous because renewal gives us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to each other and the celebrations of life. The light of the Hanukkah candles and the brightness of the star as described in the Christmas story enable us to use this beacon toward an understanding of each other.

We cannot recapture the past. But we can use it to ensure the future. Religious understanding leads to religious freedom and is the clarion call for all people throughout history. Every grasp at religious freedom has had as its foundation the spark from the season of lights. That part of history may be no more, but the flicker of its meaning is within us by what we do and who we are, and the appreciation of our individuality.

This time of the year is also a time of connection – to our beliefs – the togetherness-to building a viable relationship. The utterance of "I do" is the affirmation of the love and respect. It is the completion of oneness because love knows no religion but rather the faith in God, the faith in each other.

Yes, it is December and rather than agonizing, I encourage couples of different faiths to focus on relationships and dreams and visions of continuity. It isn't easy. There is anguish on the part of family and friends. But the path to a successful relationship is still respect. And it has been said that chains do not hold a marriage together.

Ritual Schedule for 5775 (2014-2015)

2014

December 12, 2014----- Service honoring Men's Club and Hanukkah -----7:30 pm

2015

January 9, 2015----- Installation of Congregation Board and Officers -----7:30 pm

February 13, 2015----- Sisterhood Sabbath ----- **7:00** pm

March 13, 2015----- Service honoring our Choir -----7:30 pm

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, August 2015----- Twilight Services (Chapel House) ----- 5:30 pm

Fascinating Origin of Almost Every Jewish Last Name

If you want to know the origin of your Jewish last name, or even first name, go to the link listed below.
Reading through the list was pretty fascinating.

www.businessinsider.com/origins-of-popular-jewish-surnames-2014-1

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Cantorial Notes – Hanukkah Inspiration

Our Hanukkah hero Judah Maccabee led a small band of Jewish soldiers to win victory over the Greek Seleucid army. The Greeks had decimated the Temple and were forcing Jews to abandon religious ritual. Judah's army, known as The Maccabees, managed to save Jewish culture at a critical time-when Hellenism was literally taking over. What was the driving force behind their belief that they could actually defeat a very powerful Greek army?

Jews carry with them the inspirational promise from God that we are chosen to spread His word to the entire world. I believe that it is this promise that not only inspired the Maccabees then, but continues to inspire Israeli soldiers today. The knowledge that God is with you is invigorating. Judah Maccabee was empowered by his sense that he was fighting for the cause of Judaism itself and for God. Thus, it made no difference that their small rebel army was theoretically no match for the Greek fighting machine.

As we all know, the Maccabees were victorious and the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated. There was only enough olive oil to keep the Temple menorah lit for one day, however, it miraculously burned for 8 days, just long enough to retrieve more oil. This Hanukkah miracle was additional inspiration for our people then as it is today. Let the miracle of the oil linger with you as you light your Hanukkah menorah this year and remember that God is with you as you perform this task. May it also inspire us all to feel that we can, individually-and as a small group, make a difference in the world.

B'Shalom and Chag Sameach,
Cantor Ronda




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Donation Forms

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 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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ONEG FUND (November)

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IdaMae & Irwin Fleischer
Ruth & Allen Lavin
Sandy & Roger Spark

CHAPEL FUND

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Ilana Goldschmidt

GENERAL FUND

Myron & Gayle Bernstein

ONEG FUND (December)

Adrian & Ira Bendick
Shelly & Arnie Henden
Anne Teplitsky
Nancy & Tom Mohr
Bunny Emont
Cyril & Jerry Goodman
Joan Tener
Rita Ginsberg
Gloria Israel
Barbara Gold
Judi & Alan Josephson
Shirley & Jesse Gersten

FAMILY FUND

Noreen Nadler
Sandy & Roger Spark

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. 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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CONGREGATION NEWS

CONDOLENCES

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long time member Joseph Steinberg, husband of Sandy Steinberg.

New Member

Joyce Pocras 25236 S. Berrybrook Dr. Sun Lakes 85248 480-338-0810

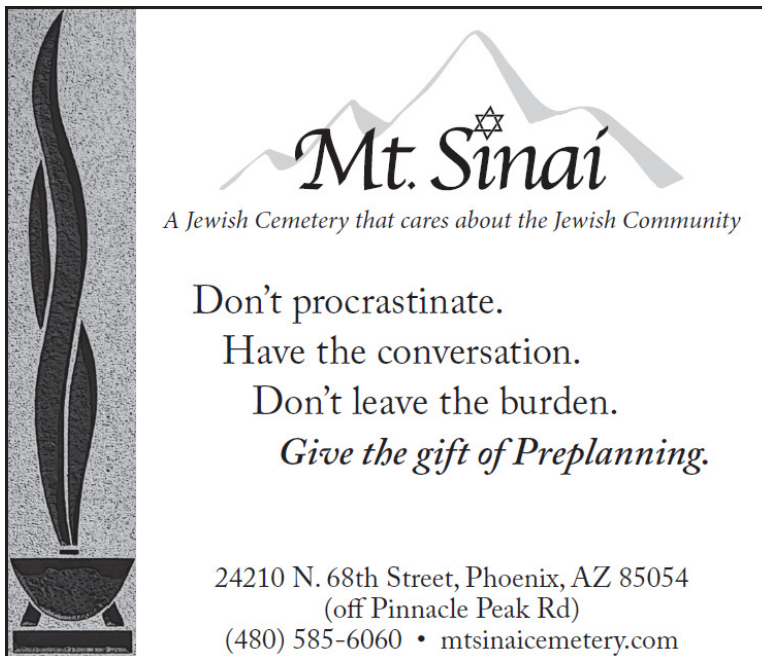
THE CARE COMMITTEE/BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

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

The Rabbi is always available. Marty Silverman, 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.

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Men's Club of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

During the High Holidays, Men's Club organized its Annual Food Drive campaign as partner of United Food Bank in the fight against hunger in our communities. I am delighted to announce that with the help of our congregation we collected 819 pounds of food which will be distributed through charitable United Food Bank partners and will provide 628 meals to those who struggle daily for food. The Men's Club would like to thank the Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation members for their compassion and support of the fight against hunger. A special thanks to Sheldon Kruger who supervised the food collection.



On November 2nd, our club held the monthly meeting in partnership with the Friends of Israel Committee and The East Valley Jewish Community Center. The main speaker, Liora Hamu (a dual Israeli and US citizen), presented the story of her daughter Hadar who elected to travel to Israel alone after graduating from High School in US in order to serve in the IDF as a combat paramedic through "Lone Soldier Program" offered by Israeli Military Forces. The presentation was complemented by video showing stories of other "Lone Soldiers" including their integration in both military and civilian way of life.

The SLJC Men's Club will be honored during the Service held on December 12th, 2014. For our December 2nd meeting, we are having a Yoga instructor from the Sunbird Golf Resort.

Jewish War Veterans (JWV)

The members of Post 619 Jewish War Veterans in Sun Lakes will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. Dec21 in the Mirror Room of the Sun Lakes Country Club. There will be a speaker at the Dec meeting. The post is active all year long and inquiries are answered all year long from any person regardless of race, religion or gender. During the weekend of Veterans Day, members were in front of area Fry's Groceries in Chandler and the Mesa Market Place Swap meet in Mesa. The Post arranged for a luncheon meal to be served at the Southeast Clinic of the VA in November. Our officer in charge of putting on events for veterans has been very busy. For information on the post, contact Elliot Reiss 480-802-3281. For reservations that precede the meeting contact Myra Buckner 480-305-0533.



Shalom Hadassah

Don't miss our Fun Fund Raiser on Tuesday, December 9th from 2-6 p.m. We are excited to include new shops this year at San Tan Village in Gilbert. Chico's, Soma and White House Black Market will rebate 10% of the total spent back to our Chapter. For lunch reservations at Brio's at 12:00, call Judi at 802-4944.

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood of Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation invites you to join us for our next general meeting on December 18, 2014. The speaker will be Greg Clark, a Pinal County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Coordinator. CASA is a program of volunteers (who are screened and given training) who serve as a "Friend of the Court" for foster children who are involved in Court cases. Mr. Clark is a retired police officer and an Army veteran. He holds a Master's degree in Psychology (Marriage & Family Counseling).

Don't forget that dues increase to \$30.00 after December 31st, so if you haven't already done so, get your payments in before then. Your check can be sent to 3495 E. County Down Drive, Chandler, AZ 85249. This is also the address for your donations for "Toys from the Heart" (see page with Donation Forms).

Card party is Tuesday, February 3, 2015. Cost is still \$25.00/person, which includes lunch. Get your tables set and make your reservations by January 23 at 24529 S. Lakeway Circle SW, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. Donations of items for the baskets and/or cash, restaurant or merchandise donations are needed. Please contact Barbara at 219-8341 for more information.

Mah Jongg cards are available from Sisterhood. The cost is \$9.00 for large print and \$8.00 for small print. Checks should be mailed by 1/15/15 to 24530 S. Saddletree Drive, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248.

It's not too early to think about participating in Sisterhood Shabbat, which will take place at regular services on Friday, Feb. 13, 2015.

Sisterhood Card Party Tuesday, February 3, 2015 10:00 a.m. ---- 4:00 p.m. Oakwood Country Club \$25.00 per Person		
NAME _____ PHONE _____		
Game you are playing _____		
No. of Players _____	1. _____	_____
	2. _____	_____
	3. _____	_____
	4. _____	_____
	5. _____	_____
	6. _____	_____
	7. _____	_____
	8. _____	_____
Mail checks, (In one envelope per table, please), made out to SLJC Sisterhood to: Geri Gould, 24529 S. Lakeway Circle SW, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248 Your check is your reservation Deadline -- Friday, January 23, 2015		

Chanukah Party

Hanukkah Celebration

Festival Menu

Maccabee Sliders
Turkey Breast and Roasted Brisket
Mattathias Chicken Tenders - French Fries
Queen Esther Latkes
Garden of Eden Salad
Miracle Jelly Donuts and Fruit

Sunday, December 21, 2014

4:00 P.M.

Oakwood Country Club



Prices

Adults - \$18.00
Children - \$10.00
Under 5 yrs - free

Reservation deadline - no later than December 12
Sun Lakes Jewish Congregation

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

Guests: (list name and age of children)

Tel.no. _____

of adults (\$18.00 pp) _____

of children 6-12 (\$10.00 pp) _____ # of children under 5 (free) _____

Make check to SLJC and send to Shelly Schwartz, 9323 E. Rocky Lake Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

More information: call Shelly @ 480-802-3608; Fran @ 480-883-8333, or Cyril @ 480-802-0243

Please seat me with: _____
(maximum table seating 10 people)

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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.

Adam Zilberman, son of SLJC members Leah and Alex Zilberman, will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah, January 17 - 10:30am.



December Milestones

BIRTHDAYS

1	Ruth Marcus
2	Ron Karp
2	Peter Relyea
2	Joan Tener
3	George Bromley
3	Thea Friedman
4	Leah Bloom
4	Tom Mohr
4	Seymour Zolty
5	Marjorie Weiss
6	Benita Feldman
6	Dennis Novy
7	Judy Asbell
7	Hildy Forman
7	Irwin Wiener
8	Beverly Lefton
8	Milton Lewis
9	Kevin Murphy
9	Jon Scheck
10	Florence Oxman
10	Bernice Richmond
13	Sander Frindell
15	Craig Herman
16	Barbara Gold
16	Marshall Gurian
16	Joyce Paule
19	Sharon Rhodes
19	Ron Buckner
20	Jeff Burnce
21	Alice Salita
26	Jeffrey Nieman
27	Eleanor Gold
27	Robert Moise
29	Adrian Bendick



29	Richard Nadler
29	Faith Roth
29	Sean Turner

ANNIVERSARIES

2	Judi & Alan Josephson
11	Judy & Chuck Wolin
16	Rena & Leonard Dolins
18	Jane & Len Levine
21	Mickey & Bert Friedman
21	Phyllis & Dennis Novy
22	Joy & Aaron Dolin
22	Lee & Marc Ross
23	Sherry & Richard Green
23	Diane & Marty Silverman
25	Shirley & Jesse Gersten
25	Susan & Neil Tamber
26	Leah & Alan Bloom
26	Betty & Joe Schechter
27	Noreen & Richard Nadler
28	Glenda & Cyril Warshaw

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 SOPHIE FISCHER
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 BETTY FRIEDMAN
 ISAAC GABAY
 SOL GASS
 BESSIE GERSON
 JOHN GERSON
 JULIA GLICKMAN

December Yahrzeits

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 ABE GOLD
 MILTON GROSS
 CYLA GUTWILLIG
 JOEL GUTWILLIG
 BELLE JOSEPHSON
 IRVING KALATSKY
 DOROTHY KAPLAN
 FAY KATZ
 ROSE KERN
 SIDNEY KLITSNER
 LEO KOLLMAN
 LEAH KOSS
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News from Israel

Israeli Arab Priest Tells UNHRC to “End Witch Hunt” of Israel: Father Gabriel Naddaf says the Jewish State ‘is the Only Place where Christians in the Middle East are Safe’

A Greek Orthodox priest from Israel defended the Jewish state before the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday, arguing that it is the only country in the Middle East where Christians are not persecuted, and imploring the 47 member nations to “end your witch hunt of the only free country in the region.”

“In the Middle East today, there is one country where Christianity is not only not persecuted, but affectionately granted freedom of expression, freedom of worship and security,” Father Gabriel Naddaf said.

“It is Israel, the Jewish state. Israel is the only place where Christians in the Middle East are safe.”

According to Naddaf, some 120,000 Christians have been killed each year in the Middle East for the last decade. “That means that every five minutes a Christian is killed because of his faith,” he said. “Those who can escape persecution at the hands of Muslim extremists have fled. Those who remain, exist as second- if not third-class citizens to their Muslim rulers.”

Naddaf, who heads the Greek Orthodox Church in Yafia near Nazareth, maintained it “is time the world woke up to the fact that those who want to destroy the Jewish state are signing the death warrant on the last free Christians in the Holy Land.

“Leaders of people, seekers of peace, end your witch hunt of the only free country in the region,” he added.


Naddaf was brought to Geneva to testify on the plight of Christian minorities by The Face of Israel, a public diplomacy organization that’s affiliated with the Foreign Ministry.

Naddaf has become a controversial figure in Israel since joining the Forum for Drafting the Christian Community in October 2012 and for openly calling on Israel Christians to serve in the IDF. His activities have drawn criticism from Arab MKs as well as threats against his family.

In December 2013, his son was assaulted and hospitalized because of his father’s views.

Naddaf was asked by the Forum to serve as a spiritual guide, along with two other clerics. But the other two dropped out following a campaign of intimidation, leaving Naddaf alone at the helm.

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