

CONGREGATION AM HAYAM MIGDALOR

JANUARY, 2019

From the Rabbi's Study

The Giving Tree--That's You and Me

Years before he became the twentieth president of the United States, James A. Garfield was head of Hiram College (Hiram, Ohio). Once a man brought his son to inquire about matriculating his son at the college. "My son doesn't have time to take all the required subjects," the father asserted. "He wants to get through more quickly. Can't you arrange it for him?"

"Oh, yes," replied Mr. Garfield. "He can take a short course, certainly. But that all depends upon what you want to make of your son. When G!d wants to make a squash, G!d takes only two months, but when G!d wants to make an oak, G!d takes 100 years."

It takes time and patience for an acorn to grow into an oak, for a boy to develop into a mature man, and for a girl to become a wise woman. Moreover, a tree has not fulfilled itself until it can provide shade, give fruit or be of value to others. In fact, the tree attains a measure of immortality when it can scatter its seeds throughout the world and thus make sure that what it has created will be implanted and in time continue to produce.

In a similar manner, human fulfillment occurs when we can so live as to be of value to others. We also find a portion of immortality by scattering seeds of kindness and making sure that the course in which we are interested will continue to produce the results for which we have planned and worked.

The psalmist teaches that:

*Evolving is the one whose delight is in HaShem's Torah;
Such a person will be like a tree planted by streams of water."*

[Psalm 1:1-3]

Now that January is here, we can meditate upon the confluence of two new years: our calendar New Year that began on January 1, and Tu B'Shevat, the new year for trees in Jewish tradition, which begins at sundown on January 20. Both Mr. Garfield and the psalmist suggest that a person is like a tree.

So, let us ask ourselves:

What kind of a tree are we? And what kind of a tree might we yet become?

Do we allow ourselves the time to water ourselves, to nourish ourselves, to prune ourselves? And have we, as all fulfilled trees do, provide shade to others, or give of our fruits--in whatever form these may take? Have we been of value to others, and how might we be more consciously so during this coming calendar year?

Will others recite a blessing, or feel that they have been blessed, because of the savor of the fruits we bear?

Have we started to scatter our seeds, and leave a legacy of kindness and caring, of insight and wisdom, of belonging and giving--within our Am HaYam family and outside of it?

Let us pray that we continue to strengthen our trunk--our human and Jewish core--even more this year, and that our branches extend to others more often and more deeply, and that we share the fruits of our learning and kindness more concretely, more regularly, and more sweetly this year.

Tu B'Shevat *samei-ah*--a joyful Tu B'Shevat and a healthy and meaningful 2019.

Rabbi J.B. Sacks

TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION

Tu B'Shevat will be celebrated at our services on Friday, January 18th at 8 p.m. and Saturday, January 19th at 10 a.m. with songs and special readings. In addition to the food served at our Oneg and Kiddush, dates and other symbolic foods of the land of Israel will be served. Do not miss this special weekend celebration.

MESSAGE from BRENDA RICH

Greetings: Welcome to 2019. May the year be an especially healthy one for each and everyone of us. May we be guided with patience and understanding for all.

The Migdalor is being sent to you in this manner due to the fact that before Thanksgiving, Bev Rosen suffered severe burns to her right hand in a cooking accident and is still unable to use her fingers. I know we continue to wish her a speedy recovery.

Just want to remind you to definitely save the date of Sunday, March 31st for our Taste of Passover. Those of you who were at our Taste of Jewish Kitchen last year know what a wonderful and entertaining that day was. And those of you who missed it, will definitely want to be there.

We haven't forgotten about the showing at the Skirball Museum of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Please hold the date of Sunday, January 27th open and see article elsewhere in the Migdalor and send in your reservations.

Shalom

Brenda

MONDAYS with MORT

During the month of January there will be sessions of Mondays With Mort at CAH at 10:30 AM every Monday. Everyone is invited to join us as we start the Book of Shemot (Exodus).

Question of the Month:

When must a person pray without a minyan even though there is a kosher minyan nearby?

The answer can be found at <http://www.mondayswithmort.com/doyouknow.htm>, Also be sure to check out the entire Mondays with Mort website at <http://www.mondayswithmort.com> and the CAH web site at www.amhayam.com.

Mort

IN HONOR OF

Stephanie Moro, IHO CAH

Marc Goldman IHO CAH

Rico Mandel. IHO CAH

IN MEMORY OF

Phil Silverman IMO Harriet Silverman

Nancy Stein, IMO Goldie Stein

Alma Boronkay IMO Edith Rosenthal

Renee Becker IMO Leah and Benjamin Dennis

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 3 Judy Newberger

January 10 Hilda Kunstadt

January 13 Rabbi JB Sacks

January 16 Arnold Rich

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 4 Kathy & Stephen Goch

GET WELL

Bob Packer

Sheila Myles

Fran Lande

Gail Packer

Irv Jacobs

Arnie Rich

Nancy Stein

Donna Gustafson

Jerry Cordova

Judith Jacobson

Judye Newberger

Steven Karash

Eva Lowe

Fil Barton

Norma Van Riper

Mort Resnick

Dianne Ruthman

Ann Sperber

Herb Stein

Roz Resnick

Lee Rothschild

Beth Morales

Betty Abramson

Bruce Irvine

Lois Lebman

Bev Rosen

Yahrzeit Database Project

In the next few months, CAH will be updating the records for Yahrzeit notifications. We are aware that over time, the Yahrzeit database of CAH has had some problems, with incorrect and missing dates and names. We would like to remedy this.

We have sent the letters with a form attached for you to fill in all of your Yahrzeit information. For those of you that have returned the forms, thank you. For the remainder, please send the forms back to Brenda Rich; 4030 Nice Ct.; Oxnard, CA 93035.

We appreciate your patience in this very important task.

For additional information or questions, please contact Fran Lande at fblande@gmail.com.

Significant Book Club: The Betrayers

The next book for the Significant Book Club will be *The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis. Donald Weber, a reviewer for the Jewish Book Council writes the following:

In his richly-imagined novel, Bezmozgis focuses on a major chapter in recent Jewish political and social history: the ordeal experienced by “refuseniks”—Jews who sought to emigrate from the Soviet Union but were “refused” exit by the implacable Russian State.

David Bezmozgis’s Jews are haunted by the traumas and indignities of modern history. Drawn with psychological nuance, historical acuity, and deep compassion tinged with irony—in the tradition of great storytellers like Isaac Babel and Bernard Malamud—Bezmozgis’s Jews tend to find themselves on the edge of history: displaced, in transit, suitcases already packed, seeking spiritual and physical asylum.

We will be discussing this book on February 16, 2018 after Shabbat morning services. We will have food from the Kiddush and then sit and have a meaningful discussion. All our welcome, even if you are unable to read the book.

The book can be purchased at Amazon, using Amazon smile to benefit CAH or at any book store. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Fran Lande, Adult Education chair, at fblande@gmail.com

RUTH BADER GINSBURG EXHIBIT

On Sunday, January 27, CAH will be going to the RBG exhibit at the Skirball Museum. The exhibit has been described as

Part civics lesson, part immersive biography. The Skirball exhibition moves chronologically through Ginsburg's life and work, organized by titles and motifs borrowed from the book. "We wanted to speak to the visual language that the book created, so we've lifted some of those elements," explained Skirball associate curator Cate Thurston, who created the show with Notorious RBG book authors Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik.

We will meet at CAH at 10 am and carpool to the Museum.

Entrance fees are:

\$12 General

\$9 Seniors (65 and up), Full-Time Students with ID, and Children over 12

\$7 Children 2–12

FREE to Skirball Members and Children under 2

We will eat at Zeidler's Cafe at 11:30 and join the docent tour of the exhibit at 1 p.m. To see the menus and other information, // www.skirball.org.

To RSVP, please email Fran Lande, Adult Education Vice President at fblande@gmail.com.

YAHRZEITS

JANUARY 4

Lou Bardfield, Husband of Deanna Bardfield

*Roselyn Matlin, Mother of Myra Matlin

Rose Matlin, Grandmother of Myra Matlin

Fred Sperber. Brother-In-Law of Ann Sperber

Jerome Wolfson, Brother of Ilana Wolfson and Uncle of Esther Taxon

JANUARY 18

*Rose Goldman, Mother of Barbara Arner

*Sandy Lebman, Husband of Lois Lebman

*Irwin Schonfield, Father of Lois Lebman

*Stephen Lebman, Nephew of Lois Lebman

Ruth Greer, Sister-In-Law of Judy Margolis

Ruth Packer, Mother of Bob Packer

*Clara Perlmutter, Mother of Buddy Perlmutter

*Esther Finkel, Mother of Roz Resnick and Brenda Rich

*Inscribed on our Memorial Wall

**THE MIGDALOR IS BEING SENT THIS WAY DUE TO BEV ROSEN'S ACCIDENT.
NOT EVERYTHING HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE MIGDALOR.**

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE - www.amhayam.com

PLEASE CLICK ON THE TABS TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**PLEASE CLICK ON THE CALENDAR TAB TO SEE THE CALENDAR FOR
JANUARY**

THANK YOU !!

Brenda Rich, President