



Congregation Shomrei Torah

March 2016

Tevet/Shevat Number 47 Vol. 5776

David Abrams, President

www.shomreitorahonline.org

VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR HEARTBEAT



In the two months that have passed since I've become your synagogue president, I have learned a great deal about how all the parts and pieces of our synagogue function. It's amazing how many things must happen in a given week in order for us to educate our children, put on two services per week, serve Tallahassee's most amazing Kiddush lunch, offer adult education, provide

one on one training for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, keep our building in good repair, and all the other events and happenings that are part of the life of our congregation. What's even more amazing is that this all happens due to the efforts of volunteer members who selflessly offer their time and talents so that our synagogue can function. We are very unique in that we have no paid professional staff coordinating our day-to-day affairs. If it happens at Congregation Shomrei Torah, it's because someone cared enough to make it happen.

At Congregation Shomrei Torah we are very fortunate to have so many wonderful and generous member volunteers. However, there is always room and need for

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Purim will be here before you know it!!!
March 23,-24,

Help celebrate Purim by sending Mishloach Manot to your friends and neighbors and by providing Ma'tanot LaEvyonim –gifts to the needy. The Book of Esther requires that all Jews near and far observe the Fourteenth and Fifteenth days of Adar as days of

feasting and gladness, and for sending delicacies to friends and an appropriate gift to those in NEED (Book of Esther, chp. 9 verse 21 & 22). Congregation Shomrei Torah is continuing our tradition of organizing this mitzvah. Order your gift package today.

For the cost of \$5.00 each, we will provide a gift package for each selected “in-town” recipient and a letter acknowledging your donation for any out-of-town recipient. Included will be a note that a donation has been made in your honor from . . . Part of the donation (10 percent) can go to the Shelter, Mazon. Second Harvest Food Bank of Tallahassee with the balance to Shomrei. Please designate to whom you wish to make your donation. Back by popular demand – we have the buy it all option.

For a flat fee of \$250.00 you can send a gift package to all Shomrei Torah members. No more guess work and you will feel good knowing that everyone has received a gift package. All gift packages will be available for pick-up after the Megillah reading on March 23 and at the Purim carnival Sunday morning March 27.

If you wish to reciprocate gifts to anyone who sends you one, we can do that as well. Please let us know of your selection.

Please mail a listing of each recipient’s name (and address for out-of-town recipients) along with your payment of \$5.00 per recipient to:

Sam Kimelman
 2913 Brandemere Drive, Tallahassee FL
 32312

or you may email your order to
kimelman.sam@gmail.com.

Please make your checks payable to Congregation Shomrei Torah. All orders must be received by Monday, March 7, 2016.

- Sandler Dickson, Vice President of Fundraising
 - Fundraising@shomreitorahonline.org

850-545-7095



additional people. It's not just about getting the work done, it's also about creating our community. When we work together to make Shomrei Torah happen, we create relationships with our fellow congregants. We also bring our own unique touches to whatever we are helping to create.

In addition to the volunteers who make things happen, we also have a very pressing need for members to serve on several of our committees. We are currently in the process of creating change and renewal, and our committees are at the very heart of that process. Our by-laws state that committee members are appointed by the committee chairperson and serve for a period of two years (the tenure of the chairperson). I have asked the current committee chairpersons to provide me with a list of their committee members during the March board meeting. I am asking that each of you consider offering your services to our chairpersons. Even if you are unable to make the commitment of a two-year committee membership, helping with a project or contributing your ideas can be very valuable.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who contribute to keep our synagogue functioning. We couldn't do it without you!



Stitch in time viewed with eye to saving nine

Some problems begin as small problems and some begin as big problems. Example of a big problem would be the rapid global cooling caused by the impact of a comet or asteroid on the coast of Yucatan 66 million years ago, resulting in the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event; major bummer for the non-avian dinosaurs. Fortunately, most building system malfunctions are less catastrophic and can be anticipated, or noticed when still small (if one is observant), and addressed by means of timely, appropriate maintenance.

The author of the book of Qohelet had observed consequences of deferred building maintenance: "Through sloth the roof-beam sags, and through slack hands the house leaks" (v. 10:18, Robert Alter translation).

"I'm looking at you, Building Committee" Qohelet might have said, if he could have observed the recurrent blockages of our sewer drain line, which have invariably occurred at inopportune times. We had the line cleared with a plumbing snake each time, but after the last time, when a 160-ft snake (30% of the height of the Washington Monument) was required to clear double blockages, we asked the technicians about preventive steps we might take.

The techs advised that the line be inspected with a mini-videocamera mounted at the end of a flexible probe. When this was done (a couple weeks later), the video feed on the monitor showed a still dirty line, but no damage so serious as to require replacement. The line was then flushed out with a high-pressure water jet, restoring the pristine whiteness of the PVC pipe interior. Repetition of this service at regular intervals should prevent future blockages.

Dwight Kingsbury

RITUAL REPORT

Please join us for two important upcoming events. Our megillah reading and Purim festivities will be on **Weds, March 23**. They will start with a dinner at 5:30 produced by gourmet chef Sam Kimelman. The Megillah reading and general chaos will be at 7:00 led by Mistress of Ceremonies Andrea Caufield, and will conclude with an ice cream social sponsored by our Sisters in the Hood. Please see the website and other announcements for more details on how to RSVP for the dinner and for more information.

Please also join us for our next Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Tilman, the weekend of **March 25-27**. Again, please see other announcements and the website for more details.

Now, what you've all been waiting for: the survey results!!

I'd like to thank everyone who completed and returned the Friday Night Service Survey. We had an excellent response rate, and now your Ritual Committee has a much better idea of how to make our services better meet your wants and needs. Discussion of your responses is ongoing, but . . .

The first change you will notice is that we will be revising the start times of our Friday night services, beginning in April. Thanks to you, we now know that while the majority prefers the service to begin at 8:00 PM, there is a sizeable minority that prefers a 6:30 service. We also know that start times of 7:00 and 7:30 were not popular compromises. The Ritual Committee discussed whether we should go with the majority view and have all services begin at 8:00 PM (which decreases confusion) or whether we should accommodate the fairly large minority. I'm proud to say that it was decided, given our goals of being more inclusive and welcoming, to accommodate those folks who desire a 6:30 service. The Board has approved the change. **Thus, starting in April, the first Friday night service of the month will be at 6:30 (making it easier to remember) and each subsequent Friday night service of the month will be at 8:00.**

This change also allows us to provide more Oneg Shabbats, which according to the survey results, was the type of socialization preferred by 60% of the respondents. For the monthly 6:30 service the option of going out to dinner as a group will continue, and for the three or four 8:00 Friday night services per month, Sisterhood has graciously agreed to provide Onegs. The Ritual Committee says a huge "Thank you" to Sisterhood for truly enhancing our services and increasing our joy in Shabbat. Now we, as a Congregation, need to support our Sisterhood and show our appreciation, and contact Melissa Dembicer at medembicer@gmail.com to sponsor those Onegs!



In other Ritual news . . . Your Ritual Committee and Board are considering new Siddurim. Our Sim Shalom siddurim are now 30 years old and are in need of updating. The Ritual Committee has reviewed a number of Siddurim and has narrowed it down to two finalists, "Et Ratzon" and "Lev Shalem". Both of these Siddurim feature gender-neutral translations and commentary along the page margins, but they have some important differences as well. There are copies of both in the back of the synagogue office. The next time you are at Shomrei, please take a moment to review them and send me your comments and let me know which you prefer. These siddurim will hopefully last us another 30 years, so this is not a decision to be made lightly, and we greatly value your opinion.

In closing, let me say thank you again to everyone who returned the survey. We hear you! Look forward to next month's bulletin to read about other changes we will be making to Friday night services based on what you told us. Thank you for helping us to make Shomrei the place you want to be on Shabbat!

SISTERHOOD

If you've been to the synagogue on a Sunday morning, you have undoubtedly been greeted by the sweet smell of Sisterhood's signature Hamentaschen. We've been busy, lovingly baking cherry, apricot, almond, poppy, prune and chocolate filled cookies. Hamentaschen orders will be ready for pick up on Erev Purim, March 23, and at the Purim carnival on March 27.

Speaking of baking, the Shomrei kitchen is always being put to good use, whether it's a kiddush luncheon, snacks for Sunday school, a seder, or simply a place to meet, greet and eat. Sisterhood LOVES the kitchen, but it's showing its age and needs a face lift. You can make a pledge to help our renovation. Buy a cabinet, a sink or countertop. Donations in any amount are appreciated. Pledge cards are in the mail.

Spring is in the air, and we are in the process of sprucing up and stocking up the gift shop. Thanks to Sandy Lipner, Doreen DuMond, and Lois Friedman for cleaning the gift shop, taking inventory, and emptying the soon to disappear display case in the foyer. Stop by on a Sunday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. to check out new items for Passover, or call Paula at 385-8584 to make an appointment to visit the gift shop another day or time. We have gift items, Shabbat candles, and unique Judaica in stock, and we can order items on line. Remember, when you purchase items in the gift shop, you are supporting Shomrei Torah.

All Sisterhood members and their daughters are invited to join Doreen DuMond on March 30 for a lesson in making lace head coverings. We will gather at Paula's house at 2589 Noble Drive at 7:00 p.m. to nosh, kibbitz, and make lace. No artistic talent required.

Finally, volunteers are needed to staff a table at the Jewish Food Festival on April 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call or e-mail Paula if you can help.

Thanks!

Paula

PURIM
IS GREAT
FUN
AT
SHOMREI
TORAH!



Donations

Ray & Paula Cambers – Prayer Book Fund “In memory of David Haver”

Phil Posner – Education Fund = “In memory of Diana Posner”

Jerry & Judy Shapiro – donation to the Shabbat Kiddush lunches”

Rhea Schwartz – Education Fund – “In loving memory of my dear granddaughter, Shira Ilana Brownstein”

Rhea Schwartz – Education Fund ‘ “In memory of my parents, Abraham & Ida Bernstein”

Martin & Sue Schneiderman – Prayer Book Fund – “In memory of our parents Evelyn & Harry Schneiderman and Aline & Gaylordia Warren”

Gloria Asher – General Fund “In memory of Joseph Erdman”

Bruce Stiftel & Janet Kodras - Prayer Book Fund “In memory of Isabelle Stiftel”

Bruce Stiftel & Janet Kodras – Education Fund “In memory of Isabelle Stiftel”

Dedicated Funds and Plaques

The following is a list of dedicated funds to which donations may be made, and plaques which may be purchased. Minimum donations are indicated where they apply.

Debbie Sachs Fund: For future educational facilities.

Education Fund: Auxiliary support for the congregation’s educational programs and youth services.

General Fund: Payment of all regular operating expenses of the congregation.

Library Fund: To purchase books to add to the Shomrei Torah library.

Marshall Harris Fund: To provide scholarships for Shomrei Torah children to attend Jewish summer camp.

Mortgage Fund: To make the synagogue’s regular mortgage payment in the event there are inadequate resources in the General Fund.

Noah Paul Gusky Fund: Additions and upkeep for the synagogue playground.

Prayer Book Fund: For the purchase of any needed prayer books or chumashim.

Rabbi Fund: To pay for the transportation, accommodation, and other expenses associated with bringing visiting rabbis to Shomrei Torah.

Torah Plaques (located on the right-hand wall as you enter the social area): minimum donation \$500.

Tree of Life Leaves (located on the left-hand wall of the lobby as you enter the building): to celebrate simchas and milestones, minimum donation \$75.00.

Tzeddakah Fund: To assist members of the congregation who are experiencing sudden, unforeseen financial difficulties.

Yahrzeit Plaques (located on the side walls of the bimah): minimum donation \$350.

SHELTER REPORT

Wow, what a night! Shomrei volunteers served a record (for us) 252 dinners at the Shelter on February 28. We were rockin' and rollin' as we adapted to some logistical changes made in the dining room.

Thanks to Ken, Sarah, and Jennifer for handling the food serving duties, in conjunction with Mira and Shuli who were kept busy folding napkins and handing out forks. Gar was scooping ice at record speed (and doubled as a table wiper), and Nechama was pouring water like a champ, even handling those special requests such as "no ice", or "fill my water bottle". Jan was handing out cups of water and making sure nobody went without. She also made sure that anyone who needed a little extra help received it. Mike helped with moving chairs and tables and cleaning them off, and shared door-holding duties with Irwin, who also doubled as a table wiper. Shimon and Rhea were taking tickets, greeting people, and in general providing a friendly hello and goodbye. Carol and Mark were amazing, filling in wherever needed, just seeing what needed doing and stepping in to do it. They did everything from putting donated food supplies away to emptying garbage containers.

I'm also proud to report that Shomrei donated 325 ounces of coffee, our Easy Mitzvah I.T.E.M. of the month, and we also took 90 (yes, 90!!) mega-rolls of toilet paper to the Shelter thanks to the generosity of Linda and Rick Hyson.

Once again, I am in awe of Shomrei's volunteers and what we can accomplish!

Our next dinner service at the Shelter will be on Sunday, March 27. If you'd like to join us, please let me know. Our Item of the Easy Mitzvah for March will be a chance for the Southerners to redeem themselves after the Northerners won the oatmeal/grits challenge by a small margin. So for March, the **Dixies bring barbeque sauce** and the **Yankees bring spaghetti sauce!** Please pick up an extra bottle of sauce the next time you are at the grocery store, and drop your donations off in the marked boxes in the lobby the next time you are at Shomrei. We will take them to the Shelter on March 27. Doing a mitzvah doesn't get any easier than this!

Congregation Shomrei Torah

Israeli Falafel Plate

with --- Pita, Hummus, Tahini, Tabbouleh, & Salad

Vegan / Vegetarian

Calling ALL Falafel Booth Helpers!

Bob Cohen will again lead this year's Falafel Booth!

Congregation Shomrei Torah – Tallahassee Jewish Food Festival event

Sunday, April 10, 2016

starting at 10:00 am at Temple Israel!

Menu Falafel Plate \$8.00
Israeli Fries \$4.00

We need volunteers to help with various portion of the food preparation – such as Humus, and other associated foods on the following dates:

Saturday, April 9: 8:00-10:00 p.m. (10-12 people needed)

Sunday, April 10: 7:30-9:30 a.m. for transport of materials from Shomrei Torah and set-up at Temple Israel (8 people needed)

Sunday, April 10: (Temple Israel):

9:30-11:30 a.m. Set-up and Falafel Preparation (10-12 people needed)

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Falafel Prep (cooking) and Food Sale at Booth (10-12 people needed)

1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Falafel Prep (cooking) and Food Sale at Booth (10-12 people needed)

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm: Clean-up, packing and unloading at Shomrei Torah. (6 people needed)

RSVP with your available dates and times to work to Bob Cohen at bcohenlaw@comcast.net or 591-4919.

Also, please advise whether you have a Congregation Shomrei Torah T-Shirt, If not, indicate your size.

If you are available on any of these dates or have any questions, please contact: Bob Cohen at [591-4919](tel:591-4919) or bcohenlaw@comcast.net

Congregation Shomrei Torah Officers

President: David Abrams (339-5721)

Building Vice President: Dwight Kingsbury (491-9759)

Education Vice President: Robyn Rachin (559-3223)

Membership Vice President: Sarah Wachman (562-4039)

Ritual Vice President: Barbara Abrams (339-5717)

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

Secretary: Jesse Haskins (919-667-4689)

Treasurer: Sam Kimelman (562-3540)

Sisterhood President: Paula Saunders (385-8485)

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

At-Large Board Members: Chuck Aronovitch, Bob Cohen, Nechama Gottschalk, Raul Soria, Lori Holcomb, Melissa Dembicer, Jonathan Lyons.

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Please send all bulletin materials to administrator@shomreitorahonline.org by the 20th of each month.

Website Details

www.shomreitorahonline.org. The Shomrei Torah website is maintained and edited by Barb Lyons. Please send any queries about the website to Barbara Forbes-Lyons at webmaster@shomreitorahonline.org.



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