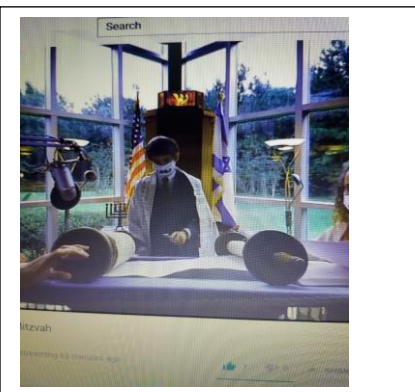


August

SO, NU?

12411 PARK SHADOWS LANE HOUSTON TX 77058

RILEY'S BAR MITZVAH!



FROM THE RABBI.

What a special Shabbat we had, despite the threat of Tropical Storm Hanna, celebrating **Riley's Bar Mitzvah!** Riley and his family beautifully rose to the occasion, adeptly surmounting the many obstacles COVID-19 put in their path. Brandon did a fantastic job enabling the many remote service watchers to enjoy Riley leading the service, and Riley's humor shining through was the icing on the cake! Mazel tov Riley and the Dunegan family

Sadly, we mourn the passing of Jerry Cahn, and as soon as we have details about his service, we will share them with you. Heartfelt condolences to Tara Fowinke, Jerry's step-daughter and her family who lost not only Jerry but not too long ago, also their beloved mother Jean.

Before we know it we will be celebrating with **High Holy Days** together, not in the way we anticipated, but together as a TBT family, whether you decide to join us in person at TBT, or remain in the comfort of your home as you tune in through our private YouTube channel. Thank you in advance to the Dunegan family for being our remote gurus for the High Holy Days. **You will be receiving a reservation form enabling you to sign up to join us in person at TBT, all participants will be temperature checked before being allowed into the synagogue, socially distanced and masked. The first ones to sign up will have priority so don't delay in sending your registration form.** We will maintain a waiting list in case those who signed up to come have a change of plans. **Please note, that there will be NO ONEG following services.** I know that I shouldn't be spilling the beans, but Deb is investigating special ordering TBT mask, so like at Riley's bar mitzvah, we can match one another!

I look forward to leading services with Cantor Francyne August 21st. Be well and stay safe, Warmly, Rabbi Deborah



AUGUST SCHEDULE!

7th- MEET JULIAN our ISJL Fellow! 7 p.m. Short fun summer service!

9TH- Special children's service with Julian! 10:00 a.m.

14th- Rabbi 7 p.m.

21st Rabbi & Cantor Francyne – 7 p.m.

28th – Myrna and her music! 7 p.m.

MEET JULIAN COHEN:



SEPT. SCHEDULE

4th- Myrna

11th- Lets get ready for the High Holy Days Service – 7 p.m.

18th- Rabbi

Rosh Hashona

19th- Rosh Hashona

25th – Rabbi 7 p.m.

STUART OUR ZOOM MASTER WILL SEND OUT THE LINKS!

We would like to introduce our new ISJL Education fellow for the coming year, Julian Cohen! Julian was born and raised in Arlington, Virginia. As a child he went to synagogue with his parents and was actively involved in religious school, first as a student and then as a teacher. He fostered his love of Judaism by singing in the youth and teen choirs. He was lucky enough to have the opportunity to sing at the opening of the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. After high school, Julian left home to attend Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. This was where, in addition to earning degrees in French Horn performance and Gender Studies, he served as Hillel president his senior year. Being involved with Hillel of less than 20 members was where he developed his passion for small Jewish communities and his desire to continue working with them. He is very excited to be your Institute of Southern Jewish Life Education Fellow for the 2020/2021 year! PLEASE come and meet him at our August 7th service at 7 p.m. and the interactive children's service on Sunday at 10 a.m should be very fun for our kids!!!



We're in the lazy hazy crazy daze of August.

Texas lays claim to the first hurricane of the season – why do we always have to do something BIG?

If you need something really good to watch – because you've binged everything on TV already: twice...check out the show on Amazon Prime: "When Jews Were Funny". This documentary explores the role of Jewish comedians in the history of North America.

It also explains how Jews used humor through the worst of times and how it shaped our culture and brought us together.

Give it a listen – it couldn't hurt.

And speaking of the joy of being together: please join us for Shabbat services – we need each other during this time, and I wish you well and healthy - Deb



THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A JOKE:

Two old men meet at Central Park and go to sit on a bench. As Moishe sits he lets out an “Oi Vey”

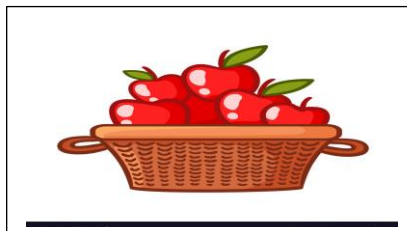
Chaim replies: “I thought we weren’t going to talk about the kids”

**A TISKET A TASKET A
HIGH HOLY DAY
BASKET!**

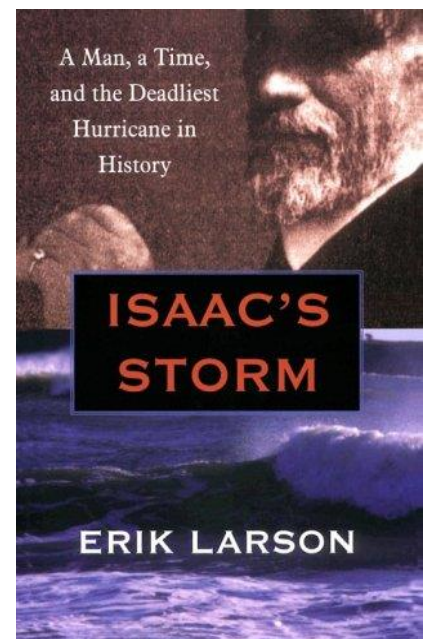
WOULD YOU LIKE to start 5781 with a beautiful decorated basket from our awesome religious school kids?

The basket will contain fruit, a card and maybe a surprise baked good not to mention the priceless art work by our students!

BE on the lookout for an email asking if you would like one and how to get it! But you’ll have to respond to get one of these treasures!



BOOK OF THE MONTH



Next book club is August 14th – if you are interested, please email Jeanne Sheinberg: Jeanne.sheinberg@gmail.com (there’s a dot between her names)

It is one of the best books on the 1900 storm – and this being August, it’s the perfect book!



**OUR NEXT AREA
OF FOCUS: YOU!**

Did you know our BOARD meets on the second Wednesday of every month?

If you have an idea or a program you would like to bring to the Temple, please email me at tbtpres@gmail.com

Your voice is important to us!

ENJOY THIS WONDERUL TALE FROM JOE WALLACH, RITUAL DIRECTOR

The Great Teacher Rebbe of Clean Lake

There is a legend in the Talmud that there is a group of fallen Lamed Vavniks who have formed a secret society of Redemption and vowed to bring light to the darkest corners of the World.

Years ago there was a small Congregation just outside of the Big City called Clean Lake that wished to not be small anymore. In order to increase membership the Temple constructed its own synagogue and had a big inauguration ceremony planned with a featured well known national speaker hired to give the keynote Sermon. Accompanying this was a new formal dues policy designed to support the increased budget with a theme song version from Ringo Starr, "Got to pay your dues if you want to be the Jews...".

Just the Temple's luck, forty minutes before the Service was to start, rain of biblical proportions descended on the Temple. Fortunately, one of the lesser known agreements from the flood story, between God and man, was the invention of the umbrella. Instead of "It was a dark and stormy night", as Southern Jews say "It was a chai storm and schvitzing night." This just added to the drama of the occasion.

More bad luck was seven minutes before the Service the featured speaker called the President to say he thought he had the flu and would not be able to attend. The President and Ritual Director huddled next to each other to try and decide what to do. After the service started the President and Ritual Director simultaneously looked down at their cell phones then up at each other, nodded their heads and mouthed "it's going to be okay".

When it came time for the featured Sermon, just as the President began to rise there was a blinding flash of lightning and a thunderous noise as if a transformer had been hit, and a momentary flickering of the lights. No one noticed him enter and he went straight to the lectern with no introduction.

The title of the Sermon was "Is it true that when God says Noah he really means yes." He asked the members what they thought of the Noah flood story. The answers were generally that mankind was evil and needed to be destroyed. He then pointed out that if you look at the complete story carefully, interestingly, Noah, a man, is shown as the perfect one, and it is actually God who confesses that he made a mistake and it is God who repents from his mistake (I myself thought I made a mistake once, but it turned out I was wrong) and starts over. How can this be since all agree that God is perfect.

The story then cannot be intended to be literally true. The intent must be to teach a lesson. And what is that lesson.

We need to turn on our spiritual wipers and clean off the physical so we can see the light. Everyone makes mistakes, we all agree, so that is not the lesson. But everyone is capable of repenting and starting over again. No matter what the catastrophe, whether it's flood, relationship or pandemic. If God, who is perfection, is capable of admitting mistake, repenting and starting over then everyone beneath is too. And everyone is beneath.

As the Sermon was ending the Ritual Director said to the President "great job finding him". The President said "I thought you found him, I got a text." The Ritual Director said "I got a text." They both looked at their phones but there were no recent texts on either.

When the Sermon was over everyone turned to their neighbor and agreed that it was the best Sermon they had ever heard. When they looked back up he was gone. The Ritual Director ran to the door to see him out, especially since the flood of waters was once again upon the earth (no one noticed that it had stopped raining as soon as he showed up) and no one remembered him having an umbrella even though there was not a single drop of water where he had been on the Bimah. But he was nowhere to be seen.

Strangely, no one remembered anything about what he looked like. All that was remembered was his Sermon and what the faithful that await his return have called him since that night, The Great Teacher Rebbe of Clean Lake.

THANK YOU, JOE!

THIS IS YOUR PAGE TO WRITE YOUR OWN STORY