



HAR SINAI TEMPLE BULLETIN

Kislev/Tevet 5759

Vol. CXLI No. 5

December 1998

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, December 4th at 8:00 PM
Shabbat Service
 Pulpit Guests **Abdul Malid Imam Ali**
 and **Rev. Hugh Smith** will join with
Rabbi Koshner to discuss
*"The Binding of Isaac:
 An Interfaith Dialogue"*

Saturday, December 5th
 at 10:30 AM
 Bat Mitzvah
Jessica Haley Cickay
 Daughter of Susan and Steve Cickay

Friday, December 11th at 8:00 PM
Shabbat Service
 Pulpit Guest: Storyteller
Peninnah Schram

Saturday, December 12th,
 at 10:30 AM
 Bat Mitzvah
Allison Brooke Mandell
 Daughter of Margaret
 and James Mandell

Friday, December 18th at 7:30 PM
**Chanukah Family
 Shabbat Service**
 December Birthday Blessings

Saturday, December 19th
 at 10:30 AM
 Bat Mitzvah
Adena Pamela Schwartz
 Daughter of Jill and Ariel Schwartz

Friday, December 25th at 8:00 PM
Shabbat Service
No Babysitting Available.

BABYSITTING AVAILABLE

Babysitting if available for
 children, age 9 and under, during
 Shabbat services each Friday
 evening (*No babysitting will be
 available either December
 25th or January 1st*).

Reservations are requested and
 made by calling the Temple office
 at **609-392-7143**.

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

The story of Chanukah is found in the Books of the Maccabees. These books are unique in that, as they discuss the battle fought and won by the Maccabees, they do not mention God. The story told is a human one. It is the story of human choices, human battles, and human victories.

The Greco-Syrians, under whose domination the Jews lived, were dedicated to spreading the "light" of Hellenism. The oppressive laws imposed on the Jews by Antiochus were designed to wipe out Judaism and replace it with Hellenism. For example, circumcision was outlawed. In that way, when the men participated in the traditional athletic games (in which participants were naked), there would be no physical distinctions between Jewish men and others. The Holy Temple in Jerusalem was converted into a temple for the worship of idols.

In the traditional telling of the story, Mattathias refused to bow down to the idols of the Syrians, sparking the Maccabean Revolt. Those who joined with Judah, his fathers, and his brothers, in battling against the Hellenists were making the choice to stand up for what they believed, to fight for what they knew to be right. They were not blind to the benefits of Hellenistic Society. But neither were they blinded by them.

A different anti-assimilation faction among the Jews, the Hasidic or Pious Ones, chose to die rather than give up their Judaism. They refused to take up arms against their oppressors because they would not fight on Shabbat. The Maccabees, on the other hand, believed that Jewish survival took precedence over the traditional laws of the Shabbat. They were able to straddle two worlds at one time, being neither assimilationists nor separatists. They understood not just the need to maintain their own faith and identity, but also to be open to absorbing some of the most positive qualities and benefits of the society in which they lived.

The Maccabees made choices. They actively chose to be Jewish in a non-Jewish world. They chose to live a life that was a little bit different than that of their non-Jewish neighbors. They chose to live a life defined by Jewish time, by holidays and festivals and Shabbat. They chose to live a life enriched by relationship to God. But they also chose to learn from the society in which they lived, and to incorporate that which was enriching but not contrary to Jewish life.

The battle the Maccabees fought was one for the right to be Jewish in a non-Jewish world. The Maccabees stood up against the predominate, enlightened culture of their time and, in effect said: 'We accept that there is a great deal of good, important value in your culture. We are willing to learn and incorporate some of the best of whom and what you are. But fundamentally, in our soul, we are Jewish. And we always will be. You cannot take that from us. We will not allow that.'

And the Maccabees were victorious. They won the right to live Jewishly in their modern world.

Human choices, human battles, and human victories.....

Perhaps God is not mentioned in the telling of the Chanukah story, because the story is one about the choices and the battles that we humans must face.

We are the heirs to the Maccabees, faced with the same choice of total assimilation and disappearance; a melding of the best of American culture with our faith; or a total rejection of secular society. Clearly, we have rejected the latter. We can choose to disappear into American secular society, or we can choose to be Jewish, in a uniquely American way. The choice the Maccabees made more than two thousand years ago led to a Festival of Rededication and light. As we light our Chanukah this year, we must ask ourselves: "What choices are we making, and what will be the results of our choices?"

Human choices, human battles, and human victories.....

May the choices we make and the battles in which we engage lead to a victory of the spirit, a renewal of our faith, a rededication to the teachings of our tradition, and a reaffirmation of our identity.

Alan, Jenny and Becky join me in wishing all of you a happy, healthy, light-filled Chanukah!

SO, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME WHEN....

It has often been said that every life is a story waiting to be told. In our congregation of almost 500 families there are undoubtedly many stories about exotic travels, strange experiences, exciting adventures, heroic episodes and who knows what else. In learning about these stories we could come to know and appreciate each other more as well as in telling them we would be imparting valuable information to the next generation. How often have we heard the lament that "if only I had had the opportunity to ask him/her more about their life" when someone passes away? Here is an opportunity for you to tell your story whether in writing or on tape recording. Let us know that we can be of help in learning more about you. Call the Temple Office and say, "I have a story to tell."

THE HAR SINAI LIBRARY

by Rita Allen, Librarian

We're searching for a title for what we hope will be a regular feature. Submissions may be made to the Librarian, either in person, or in writing.

The following books were recently donated to our library:

Putting God on the Guest List, by Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin (donated by Debbie and Len Mannella in honor of their son, Seth, who became a Bar Mitzvah).

The Haftarah Commentary, by W. Gunther Plaut (donated by Sylvia Aronis in memory of her dear friend, May Medoff).

New books received from our Book Fair can be found on the bookcases just outside the Library doors. PLEASE...in taking inventory of our Library collection, it is astonishing and disturbing to discover how many books are missing, notably Young Peoples' fiction and Holocaust materials. We beg you to search in your homes, your bookshelves, under the beds and anywhere else books may be hiding and return them to us. Delighted as we are that Library books are being read, they cannot be enjoyed by others if they are buried on your shelves. Returned Library materials may be placed in the metal cabinet at the front of the Library.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

by S. Richard Brenner, Chairperson

This year's agenda covered the continuing problems with water leaks from the roof and outside walls, including the two towers. Some leakage was due to the windows in the front of the towers. The committee met many times regarding this problem and the design of ADA approved bathrooms for disabled persons. The masonry repairs and roof problems are almost completed. The ADA bathrooms are under construction and should be completed shortly. Carpeting has been installed in the coatroom next to the bathrooms.

There were discussions regarding some renovations to the social hall, classrooms, and the installation of exit lighting. These issues will be covered upon the completion of the repairs to the walls and roof.

Thanks to all the members of the committee for their continued interest in the building and grounds of Har Sinai Temple and especially to Mark Ellenbogen for undertaking the contracting and supervision of these important jobs.

SAVE THE DATE FOR RENAISSANCE

Sunday, April 18th

**"Treasures of Imperial Japan:
The Meiji Period"**

Wilmington Riverfront Arts Center

The "ARTS AT HAR SINAI '98-99" Presents



Sunday, December 6th,
at 7:30 PM

**"Sunday Evening Of
Wonderful Music"**

INSIDE THE COMPOSER'S HEAD

A lecture/demonstration and performance of the oratorio

"ABRAHAM AND ISAAC"

Composed and Conducted by **Dr. Arthur Frank**

Featuring the **Greater Trenton Choral Society**

under the direction of **Joseph Pucciatti**

Soloists playing the fascinating Biblical characters in this startling and important story are noted musicians and singers from our area, **Wesley Beaumont, Richard Bossman, Nancy Jackson, Muriel Long, and Anthony Hall**. The 11-member chamber orchestra will include Temple member, **Dr. Stuart Hirsch**, on clarinet.

Composer/conductor and Har Sinai member **Arthur Frank** has served as Musical Director and conductor at McCarter Theater, Trenton Theater-in-the-Park, and the famous Lambertville Music Circus, among others. He has served as musical director in more than 125 Equity productions with such stars as Gordon MacCrae, Elaine Stritch, Julius LaRosa, Dom Deluise, and Tommy Tune.

Joseph Pucciatti, director of the Choral Society, is cofounder of the Boheme Opera NJ and is also director of the Congregation Beth Chaim Choir of Princeton Junction. He has been guest conductor of the Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets for the performance may be purchased through the Temple office in advance for \$18.00 each or at the door for \$20.00.

Funding for these concerts is partially provided by the **Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission** through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, by **Jean and Morton Goldstein**, and by **Albert Kahn, III**.

ADULT LEARNING FOR JEWISH LIVING

Friday-Sunday, December 11th-13th MASTER STORYTELLER PENINNAH SCHRAM TO BE FEATURED AT HAR SINAI TEMPLE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Nationally renowned storyteller and author **Peninnah Schram**, will be our special guest for Scholar-In-Residence Weekend, Friday, December 11th through Sunday, December 13th. Highlights of the program will include special **Friday evening Sabbath Services** with storytelling by Ms. Schram (at 8:00 PM), a **Torah 'N Tots** program for preschoolers on **Saturday morning** featuring Ms. Schram (beginning at 9:15 AM), a **Saturday evening Coffeehouse Cabaret** where she will be joined by Fran Avni, nationally known Jewish folk singer (beginning at 8:00 PM with a \$10.00 per person contribution), and a **Sunday afternoon educators' workshop** entitled "Bringing Storytelling Techniques To Your Classroom" at 1:00 PM (\$10.00 per person covers dairy lunch and materials...RSVP by December 8th).



Widely known for her colorful and imaginative presentations, Ms. Schram's art brings to life legends, parables and folk tales from a variety of Jewish sources, both oral and written. Animated facial expressions and spoken or sun words are her tools, which create stories to teach, enlighten and entertain. Ms. Schram weaves a magical experience for her audience, often involving them and opening them to appreciate this important part of Jewish heritage. She has had a profound influence on the craft of Jewish storytelling, and has appeared at conferences and festivals nationally as a featured story teller and workshop leader, as well as keynote speaker and scholar-in-residence.

Ms. Schram is Associate Professor of Speech and Drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University and is the Founding Director of the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. The author and editor of numerous books, her stories have been recorded on audiocassette anthologies.

Monday, December 7th, at 8:00

HOME STUDY GROUP

Our Home Study Group meets once a month in each other's home for an evening of learning and fellowship; it is open to all adult members of our congregation. In December, we will continue to look at the roles of women according to the Halacha as well as the relationship between women and Torah. Come join us on Monday, December 7th, at the home of Barbara and David Goldberg. For directions and to RSVP, please call the Goldbergs in Lawrenceville at 609-882-6074.

Tuesday, December 15th, at Noon LUNCH 'N LEARN WITH THE RABBI

In November and December, we will be discussing the different denominations in Judaism, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reconstructionist, their philosophies and teachings. You can bring your own lunch or we will order a sandwich for you if you call the Temple office before 9:30 that Tuesday morning.

HOME STUDY GROUP TOO!

A second rabbi-led home study group is forming. The group will meet one evening a month. For more information, please call Rabbi Koshner or Robin Levinson at 609-584-9330.

January 11, 18, 25 and February 1, 8, 22 at 7:00 to 8:00 PM TORAH TROP

Taught by our very own Cantor Emeritus, Marshall Glatzer, this 6-week course will teach you the basics of chanting Torah. A reading knowledge of Hebrew is required. Call the Temple office if interested.

Friday, December 4th

SHABBAT SERVICE WITH GUESTS

IMAM ABDUL-MALIK R. ALI OF THE MASJIDUL TAQWA MOSQUE
AND REV. HUGH SMITH OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
who will dialogue with Rabbi Koshner

"The Binding of Isaac: An Interfaith Dialogue"

In preparation for the December 6th "Evening of Wonderful Music," Rabbi Koshner will participate in a panel discussion with other religious leaders in which each will offer their own perspective and interpretation of this controversial Biblical passage.

Saturday Evening, December 5th at 7:15 PM

"TAKE A JEWISH JOURNEY: A NIGHT OF

LEARNING AND INSPIRATION"/JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Join us for an evening of learning, study, and fun. Following Havdalah at 7:15, you'll have the opportunity to take two classes, taught by our community's rabbis and educators. Courses range from "Famous Trials in Jewish History" to "Whose Bar or Bat Mitzvah Is This Anyway," from "It's Not Your Bubbie's Judaism" to "Holy Sparks: What Can We Learn From The Kabbalah."

At 9:45, there will be refreshments and entertainment with pianist Jeanne Nahan. Advanced registration at \$7.00 is suggested. Admission at the door is \$10. For more information, call Sue Millstein, program director at the JCC, 609.883.9550 (NJ) or 215.750.6676 (PA).

BLOOD DRIVE

by Dr Glenn Palsky, Chairman

December 20, 1998, is the date of our annual blood drive. In past years, we have had great response with many repeaters coming in to donate blood year after year. I hope that this year will be our best drive ever. Serious blood shortages have been a problem in recent months, and the holiday season is a time when this problem is particularly acute. Donating blood in our social hall, accompanied by others who can share in this mitzvah, is a truly uplifting experience. Remember, we don't need your money this time-only your blood!! Please call the Temple office if you plan to donate on December 20th. Please try to join us.

SISTERHOOD NEWS AND VIEWS

by Nancy Levine

Sisterhood is a primary source of support for the synagogue. This benefits all our members as well as our community. Sisterhood is continuing to supply desserts and snacks to the people residing in the Route One motels. For information, please contact Gail Reiss through the Har Sinai office.

Mark your calendars for the **Chanukah Dinner** on December 18th at 6:00 PM. Abbie Katz, chairperson, has promised a wonderful dinner. Reservations are required so get yours in quickly since seating is limited. Please contact Abbie at the synagogue if you would like to help.

Future events for the New Year include a **"Girls Night Out for Dinner and a Movie"** and participation in the **Super Bowl Party** for the Homeless. Keep a watch out for information.

And last, just a reminder that Entertainment 1998 Is Here! The 1999 Entertainment Books are available in the Temple office. Remember that through your Entertainment Book Membership, you can receive great discounts at restaurants, hotels, travel, and entertainment events. We are selling the Philadelphia East and Lower Bucks/Montgomery County editions for only \$25.00 this year and Central Jersey editions of the publication for \$30. For more information, contact the Temple office.

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy Chanukah and a **healthy and happy New Year**. We hope to see everyone at all our events in 1999.

I am pleased to announce the success of the HSTY barbecue at Rabbi

HSTY (*Har Sinai Temple Youth*)

by President Jamie Miller

action and recreational events for this year. We'll keep you posted!

Koshner's house on November 1st. This year we had a record turnout and it may have to do, in some part, with the superb culinary skills of the Rabbi's husband, Alan, along with Si Kimmelman. Also, a thank you to Susan Dorfman and Lisa Kimmelman for helping at the party and to Laurie Miller for doing the food shopping. Led by the NFTY/GER Southern Vice President and the President of Beth Chaim's Youth Group, our whole youth group was brought together through a social mixer game and some pretty stylish name tags. Elections also took place at the gathering and I wish to congratulate the new Youth group board members:

President: **Jamie Miller**

Membership Vice President: **Lauren Fine**

Religious and Cultural Vice President:

Elizabeth Kimmelman

Programming Vice President: **Ken Niernberg**

Social Action Vice President: **Jessica Schor**

Treasurer: **Bryan Troll**

Secretary: **Lindsay Dorland**

NFTY/GER Liaison: **Mark Treilman**



The HSTY Board met for the first time on November 14th. It was a bonding experience for us all and we were able to plan our first event, bowling and a dinner party. Future HSTY events will include Midnight Bowling and volunteering at Har Sinai's Superbowl Party for the Homeless.

HSTY is also currently discussing additional possible social

The newly elected HSTY Board. In front: Jamie Miller, advisor Tara Tengood, and Lindsay Dorland. Across the back: Bryan Troll, Jessica Schor, Ken Niernberg, Lauren Fine, Elizabeth Kimmelman, and Mark Treilman.)

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Beth Brobst and Mary Kirsch, Chairpeople

Thank you to all Har Sinai members who participated in the Mitzvah Day activities on October 25. We had a wonderful turnout of members who helped with clean up at the AARK, an animal shelter in Newtown and who gave their time at Pennington Market to help with the food drive for Crisis Ministry. Also, thanks to our confirmation students who spent the morning with the residents of Greenwood House and to our talented seventh graders who spent the morning cooking for the Super Bowl Party. A special thanks to Lynda Meshkov for organizing our successful Greenwood House visit and to Abbie Katz for leading the Cook-a-thon.

And, thank you to all Har Sinai members who remembered to drop off their warm winter wear for our annual coat drive. Again, this year, we were able to donate many, many, useable winter clothing to Mercer Medical Center. Evelyn Gerofsky deserves our thanks for organizing this event.

Calling all Game Players:

We have been invited by Jewish Family and Children's Services to participate in a brand-new initiative at the Highgate Apartments - to play games. Jewish Family and Children's Services would like us to commit to one evening a month to play cards and other games with residents of Highgate Apartments. Anyone who is interested, please contact either Mary Kirsch (215.321.3496) or the Temple Office. The exact days and times will be agreed on by those who wish to participate.

Holiday Food Baskets

December

Again, the Social Action Committee and the students of the religious school will fill food baskets for the residents of Womanspace. If you would to donate any food or holiday items (candles, festive napkins, etc.), please give Janice Blumberg (215-321-0292) or Lynda Meshkov (215-493-6751) or the Temple Office (609.393.7143) a call.

Usable Sporting/Recreation Goods Sale

January, 1999

When you are packing up your coats and other warm clothes for the Coat Drive, set aside all those old ice skates, tap shoes, hockey sticks, lacrosse helmets, and other recreational goodies that you either have outgrown or given up. Then, you can donate them to the Religious School Usable Sporting/Recreation Goods Sale in January.

Ongoing Projects:

Har Sinai Caregivers

We have initiated a "Har Sinai Caregivers Program" to help those in our own congregation who may need some temporary or long term extra attention. The Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Trenton will be providing training for anyone who wants to participate. If you are interested in joining us, please give Rabbi Koshner a call.

Route 1 Meals

Hot meal preparation and delivery for families housed in the motels on the Route 1 corridor on the first Thursday of each month continue. The assistance of all congregation members who have so faithfully volunteered to cook, pack, and deliver meals is truly appreciated. But, new volunteers are always welcome. Please call Randi Lawrie (215.493.9181) or the Temple office (609.392.7143) if you can volunteer to help out with the long-term Har Sinai project.

Toys for Tots Program

And, again this year, Har Sinai congregants will be donating holiday gifts to the Stuyvesant Avenue Mini-Station for the neighborhood Toys for Tots Program. Please drop off any donation at the Temple by December 13. All gifts should be unwrapped. Any and all donations, including wrapping paper for this program, will be gladly accepted.

NEWS FROM THE JUDAICA SHOP

by Linda Bolder, Co-Chairperson

Chanukah is coming December 13th! We have a great selection of items for gift giving or to please yourself! We have something for every family member, friend or acquaintance. Our prices range to meet the needs from our younger customers to our more sophisticated buyer. Come check us out every Sunday morning and plan on attending our special Chanukah Sale days on December 6th and 13th. Your children will be there and we will have plenty of toys, Rug Rat tapes, CD's, Board Games, dreidels (3 kinds!), cookies and Chanukah gelt. Also, we will be selling Chanukah candles through the Hebrew School. Place your orders and we will deliver your candle order to your children on December 6th in Sunday School. Information will be coming. There will be free gift wrap for all items \$25 and above. New items are being delivered all the time. Come check out our selection of jewelry, judaica, toys, menorahs, cards, serving pieces, and more!



Bulletin Board



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Arielle Levy - 11 yrs
- 4 - Nathan Peppernan - 8 yrs
- 5 - Michael Biros - 11 yrs
- 6 - Rachel Thomas - 8 yrs
- 11 - Cameron Ellenbogen - 10 yrs
- 13 - Jordan Schnoor - 6 yrs
- 15 - Michael Dorf - 13 yrs
- Lena Potechin - 12 yrs
- 16 - Rachel Stinger - 12 yrs
- 17 - Abby Stern - 10 yrs
- Nicole Egan - 11 yrs
- 24 - Jack Brickner - 4 yrs
- 31 - Andrew Sadowsky - 11 yrs

SPECIAL DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - James Kline
- 3 - Ruth Gross
- 12 - Dr. Joseph Kline
- 13 - John Wilner
- 25 - Morris Greenfield
- Herman Chernak

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 - Lois & Nicholas Lardieri - 30 yrs
- 9 - Emily & Thomas Dorf - 20 yrs
- 14 - Sara Jane & Morris Harris - 40 yrs
- 24 - Dr. Bruce & Vicky Seiler - 20 yrs
- 25 - Ruth & James Kline - 64 yrs
- Sharen & Jerome Popkin - 40 yrs
- 28 - Cynthia & Joseph Spiegel - 58 yrs

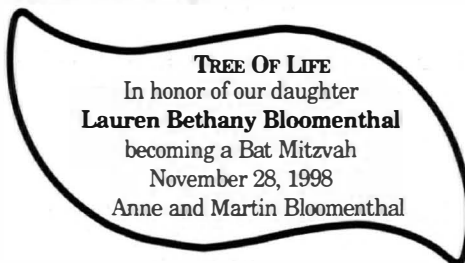
PULPIT FLOWERS November

- 6 - The **Mannella Family**, in honor of their son, Seth, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- 13 - Sisterhood
- 20 - Sisterhood
- 27 - **Susan and Harold Mozer**, in honor of their granddaughter, Lauren Bloomenthal, who became a Bat Mitzvah.

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSORS November

The **Mannella Family** sponsored an Oneg Shabbat in honor of their son, Seth, who became a Bar Mitzvah.

Mrs. Gladys Bloomenthal sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in honor of her granddaughter, Lauren Bloomenthal, who became a Bat Mitzvah.



MAZEL TOV

Muriel and Fred Rosenfeld, on the October 24th birth of their granddaughter, Melissa Gwen Spero, the daughter of Dr. Kenneth and Carolyn Spero.

Eunice M. Levie, on the November 14th birth of her great grandson, Karl Andrew Rickels. Karl is the son of Alyssa and Michael Rickels and the grandson of Sally and Richard Levie.

IN MEMORIAM

*May we extend our
deepest sympathy in remembering*



Dr. Martin L. Dean
Brother of Dr. Alfred Dean
Rose H. Feldman
Mother of Arnold Feldman
Bonita Glasshofer
Mother of Carol Bluestein
Minnie Ornstein
Aunt of Ruth Levine

Savoir FARE

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215-321-8312

OUR CHANUKAH GIFT FROM THE IRS

It's that time of year again. As end of the secular year approaches, our minds turn to vacations, Chanukah parties, ski slopes, warm, sunny beaches...and last minute tax deductions! It seems that every day there are a dozen requests for funds in our mailboxes at this time of year. Yet, we all have our priorities. We know what is important to us and we know where we want our tzedakah to go. One of those places is Har Sinai. This is the place we have chosen to call our Jewish home-away-from-home. This is where we nourish our Jewish roots. This is the place we come to celebrate Shabbat, to enjoy Purim, to find renewal on Yom Kippur. This is the school we have chosen to help us educate our children. This is where we celebrate the markers in our lives...birth, bar/bat mitzvah, confirmation, marriage, death...This is the congregational family we turn to in good times and bad, knowing that our rabbi, our cantor, our educators, our teachers, our staff, and our members will all be here for us, with open arms, warm hearts, and strong, supportive shoulders.

And the IRS will reward us for sending in our donations. If we itemize our tax return, the government allows us to deduct monies given to charity. Har Sinai qualifies as a tax-deductible, philanthropic organization. All we must do is to date our check and postmark our envelope no later than December 31, 1998. Voila! Instant tax deduction!

Another option is to transfer to Har Sinai highly appreciated stock. If you sell the stock yourself, you incur capital gains taxes. If you donate it, unsold, to Har Sinai, you will receive a tax deduction for the present fair market value of the stock on the official date of transfer. You will not pay any capital gains tax.

Both you and Har Sinai will benefit. Do yourself a favor and help Har Sinai meet its 1998-99 budget. We need you. And you need us. No gift is too small. Each of us has something we can contribute and that contribution is vital to our continued communal strength. The great Rabbi Hillel taught: If I am not for myself, who will be for me. But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, then when?

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Bulletin Board



HAR SINAI THANKS

Joan and Seymour Goldstein, Rabbi Koshner's parents, for the donation of a Mickey Mouse Kitchen Set and the pots and pans and utensils for it for our Babysitting Area in the Youth Lounge.

Marcie Lapido, who for almost two years has been doing a fabulous job of maintaining Har Sinai's web site, "www.harsinai.org"....the ultimate "behind the scenes" kind of work.

Mary Kirsch and Beth Brobst, for chairing Mitzvah Day in which all our students participated....special thanks to **Lynda Meshkov** for organizing the Greenwood House visit and to **Abbie Katz** for leading the Cook-A-Thon.

Evelyn Gerofsky, for organizing the November Coat collection for the homeless.

Debbie Mannella for chairing the successful Book Fair, the many parents who helped, and a special thanks to **Rita Allen** for her support.

Hope Kadesh, and **Abbie Katz** (Sisterhood) for providing snacks once a month to our satellite schools.

Rabbi Koshner for the gracious use of her house for the barbeque and first meeting of the 1998-99 HSTY, our Senior Youth Group on November 1st, and to her husband Alan, Lisa and Si Kimmelman, Susan Dorfman, and Laurie Miller for all their help.

The **Religious School** parents who attended the Parents' Meetings on October 26th, 27th, and November 5th for interest, valuable input, and encouragement.

Rhoda and Dick Brenner for hosting the October Home Study Group meeting and **Barbara and David Goldberg** for volunteering their home for the November Home Study, the first month with its new day, Monday Evening.

Harriet Gould, for arranging a wonderful outing for Renaissance on November 1st, the sold-out trip to the beautiful homes of Odessa, Delaware, following by a sumptuous lunch at the Dupont Hotel and an afternoon visiting the very popular Nicholas and Alexandra Exhibit in Wilmington.

Roberta and Art Frank, for hosting the October Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Marlene Troll and Phyllis Miller, for chairing the New Member Shabbat Dinner on November 13th, to the many Board and Membership Committee members who helped so much by contributing to the lovely meal, and to those who came and set up that morning and served that evening: **Nora Erlichman, Mort and Jean Goldstein, Jan Introligator, Jan Kind, Jean Burdick and Larry Miller, Alison and Rachel Miller, Rose Movitch, Alice Welt, and Renee Wolfson.**

EXCITING UPCOMING UAHC RETREATS

Winter Spirituality and Study Retreats

January 8th-10th: Miami, Florida
March 19th-21st: Houston, Texas

Slalom Rav: A Jewish Ski and Study Adventure in Snowmass, CO

March 24th-28th

For information on either program 0000, call **Ben Cohen** at 212-650-4087 or e-mail ajgrowth@uahc.org.

UPCOMING JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE PROGRAMS

December 3rd and 17th (10-11:30 AM)
Single Jewish Seniors Discussion Group

December 8th (10-11:30 AM)
Workshop: *Where Will I Live When I'm 85?*

December 16th (10:30 AM-Noon) and 17th (7:30-9 PM)
A Bereavement Workshop: Handling The Holidays

January 25th to 29th (9 AM - 3:30 PM)
Project Re-Employment (for displaced professional and managerial employees)

Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Program
For NJ Residents Only

For further information about any of these programs, call 882-9317 or 215-493-8224

KEEP CLERGY INFORMED

It is always a pleasure to hear good news from Har Sinai Temple members and to celebrate life's joys. Often it helps to share problems or illnesses, too. Please make sure to let us know if you or another Har Sinai Temple member you know might be helped by a visit or phone call. Many people assume that "everyone knows," but a note or call to our Rabbi or Cantor's study would guarantee that they do know.

MEDICAL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP LOANS

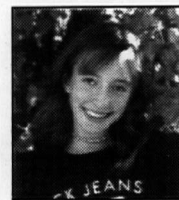
The Dr. Joseph M. Blum Trust has funds to lend Jewish students from the Trenton area who are in need of help to pay their tuition at medical school. Preference will be given to those students who have a parent who is a member of the Jewish War Veterans of Trenton. No interest is charged on the loans until ten (10) years after the recipient commences the practice of medicine, unless the loan recipient leaves school before graduation. Interested students should contact **Edward S. Kahn, Esq.**, at his law office., 609-895-1190.

Christmas Day Volunteers Needed By Mercer Medical Center

*Please Call The Temple Office
To Volunteer
Chairman: Dick Nitzberg*

B'NOT MITZVAH December

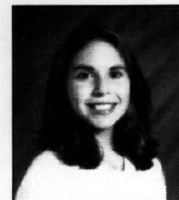
Jessica Cickay



Allison Mandell



Adena Schwartz



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT

MEET YOUR CHILD'S WEEKDAY TEACHERS by Arthur L. Finkle, R.J.E.

Listed below are Mid-week teachers who were not mentioned in the November issue:

Yardley Location

Third Grade: Jannah Bensch is a licensed therapist who works as a Human Resources consultant. Jannah also teaches in a nearby Religious school.

Fourth Grade: Phyllis Warshafsky comes to us from another synagogue where she has taught practically all grades. Phyllis is a graduate of Hebrew College in Boston.

Fifth Grade: Linda Warren is a teacher who has spent a large part of her life involved local Jewish philanthropic agencies. She is very active in another synagogue.

Hebrew Tutor: Beth Darman, a holder of a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, is our Hebrew tutor. Beth also works as a Disability Consultant.

Lawrence Location

Third Grade: Carole Smith, a certified teacher in West Windsor-Plainsboro School system, also teaches at older students at another synagogue.

Fourth and Sixth Grade Judaica: Gloria Porcaro, possessing a degree in psychology, has also completed course work at Hebrew College in Boston. Gloria is an expert crafts consultant.

Fourth and Sixth Grade Hebrew: Laurie Mann returns to Har Sinai Temple. Lori has taught in various synagogues for fifteen years.

Fifth Grade: Beth Wolk is attending The College of New Jersey, majoring in literature and education. Beth is involved in theatre production and has worked as a camp counselor.

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES by Susan Dorfman

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming Religious School events:

December 6 — Confirmation will attend the "Abraham and Isaac" Oratorio at 7:30 PM. Class begins at 7:00.

December 11 — Fifth Grade will help conduct Shabbat services at 8 PM.

December 12 — Torah and Tots will meet at 9:15 AM to celebrate Chanukah. As a special treat, they will be entertained by famous storyteller, Peninnah Schram.

December 13 — Peninnah Schram will delight all the school children with her wonderful stories during both sessions. Parents are invited as well! This is also the 1st night of Chanukah! "Chag Sameach"!

December 20 — Fourth Grade Chanukah "PACT" program meets today. "Chai High" meets tonight at 7 PM. Tonight's topic is "The Jewish Perspective on Homosexuality". Our guest speaker is Rabbi Julie Wolkoff.

December 20-December 22 — These are the last days of Religious School before Winter Break. Happy vacation to all!

January 3 — Religious School closed. Happy 1999!

Har Sinai goes to the movies: "Prince of Egypt" at the Princeton Marketfair...watch for your flyer!

January 4 — Religious School resumes. Welcome back!

January 8 — Ninth and Tenth Grade Fundraising Shabbat Dinner for Ethiopian Jewry at 6 PM. Kindergarten and First Grade Shabbat Service/Children's Liturgy Service at 7:30 PM.

January 16 — Torah and Tots Tu B'Shvat celebration at 9:15 AM.

January 17-18 — No Religious School.

January 22 — Sixth Grade Shabbat Service at 8 PM.

January 29 — Seventh Grade Shabbat Service at 8 PM.

January 31 — Superbowl Party for the Homeless. Passover Candy Sale begins. (Religious School in Session). "Chai High" meets today ("Habitat for Humanity" Project).

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*Founded 1857 Affiliated with the Union of
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HELEN M. FRIEDMAN'S 95TH
BIRTHDAY: Natalie & Amel Stark

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH IN YOUR HOME

WHAT IS CHANUKAH?

Chanukah is an eight day festival, celebrating the miraculous victory of the Jewish revolt against the Hellenistic rulers of Israel in 165 BCE. Antiochus IV, the King of Syria, sent officers to the cities of Judea to command the people to break the Sabbath and ignore the holy Jewish festivals. They placed an idol on the altar of God and incense burned in its honor. An officer asked Mattathias, a great and popular priest of the city of Modin, to be an example to the people and be amongst the first to worship the idol. Mattathias refused for himself, his sons, and all faithful Hebrews. Eventually, the oppression of the Hebrew people led them to go to war under their commander-in-chief, Judah The Maccabee, a son of Mattathias. Because they were dedicated to their religious heritage and to the principles for which it stood, they were filled with the courage and strength to finally be victorious against the Syrians.

Judah, his brothers, and all loyal Jews came to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple which had been converted into a pagan temple for the worship of Zeus was rededicated. This dedication began on the 25th day of Kislev and lasted for eight days, just as did the dedications of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness (Leviticus 8:1 –9:10) and of King Solomon's temple (I Kings 8:54-66). Talmudic legend attributed the length of the festival to a miraculous cruse of consecrated oil for the Temple's Menorah. This little cruse, uncontaminated by the Greek pagan sacrifices, contained barely enough oil for one day, and yet, somehow, the flames lasted for 8 days until new, pure oil could be pressed. Later generations of rabbis decided instead to focus on the allegory of kindling lights against the darkness, and the power of each of us to create light. The shamash or worker candle recalls how one person, Mattathias, Judah Maccabee's father, sparked an entire revolt that ultimately led to the restoration of Jewish sovereignty over the land of Israel and the Temple.

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

The lights of Chanukah are a symbol of our joy. In time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom: freedom to be themselves, freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples.

ברוך אתה יי. אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

Baruch ata Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam, asher kid'sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-tav vitzi-va-nu l'had-lik nayr shel Chanukah.

*Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe,
Who has sanctified us by Your laws and commanded us to
kindle the Chanukah lights.*

ברוך אתה יי. אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו
במים הים בזמן הזה.

Baruch ata Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam, she'asa ni'sim
la'avotayne ba'ya'mim ha'haym ba'zman ha-zeh.

*Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe,
Who did wondrous things for our ancestors in those days.*

(for first night only)

ברוך אתה יי. אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לזמן הזה.

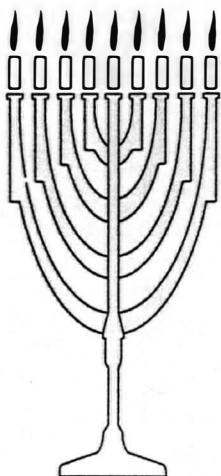
Baruch ata Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam, she-he-che-ya-nu,
v'ki-y'ma-nu, v'hi-gi-g-nu la'zman hazeh.

*Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruling Spirit of the Universe,
Who has granted us life, sustained us and permitted us to
celebrate this joyous festival.*

CREATE CHANUKAH TRADITIONS IN YOUR HOME

- Each family member can create or purchase his or her own Chanukiyah (Menorah). Each night everyone lights their own chanukiyah. Your home will certainly glow with all the lights of Chanukah.
- Or, work together to design and create a family Chanukiyah
- Create a Chanukah family album. Each year take a picture of your family in front of the Chanukiyah and keep the photos in your Chanukah album.
- Every dinner during the week can feature a special Chanukah food traditional somewhere in the Jewish world.
- Use the CCAR Chanukah Book, *Haneiros Halalu: These Lights are Holy*, for a brief family reading each evening before lighting the candles.
- Collect Chanukah "gelt" and decide as a family to which cause you will donate the money.
- Make the 8th night of Chanukah extra special. Instead of exchanging gifts on this night, donate \$18 to the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jews to buy food for a child. See the flyer included in this Bulletin.
- Design your own Chanukah gift wrap or greeting cards. Cut a potato in half. Draw a Chanukiyah, a dreidel or a Jewish star with a pencil on the cut side. Then cut in the design with a small knife about 1/2 inch into the potato. Cut away the part outside the design. To print, either use stamp pads, or brush tempera paint on the design. Press evenly onto the wrapping or card paper.
- Placing our Chanukiyot outside, or in the window, is a way of "announcing the miracle." Together, list the miracles God has performed for the Jewish people. Discuss the miracles you, as a family, have experienced during the past year.
- Make a Chanukah Siddur with a great number of empty pages. Include in the beginning the words to the Chanukah blessings. Each year, write a family prayer thanking God for that which you have experienced during that year and include it in your family siddur. Add those prayers to your family candle-lighting ritual.

The warmth of Chanukah and its lights can bring a special warmth and beauty to your home, and create wonderful Jewish memories that will be cherished for a lifetime.



DID YOU KNOW.....?

We are taught that our Chanukiya should be placed outside if at all possible, so that passers-by will see its light. If we can't put it outside, the next best thing is by a window.....

The account of Chanukah is not mentioned in the Bible. Rather it appears in the Books of the Maccabees, which are part of the Apocrypha (extra-Biblical books)

The name of God is never mentioned in the Books of the Maccabees.

FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND LEFT TO RIGHT

The candles are placed in our Chanukiya from the right to the left as you look at it, the same way we read Hebrew. However, we light the candles from left to right. Why? So we can give the newest candle, and thus the newest day, the honor of being lit first.

Say the blessings, then light the shamash candle. Use the shamash candle to light the others.

Normally we light our Chanukiya after sunset. However, on Shabbat, we do it before sunset and before our Shabbat candles. You can use your shamash candle to light your Shabbat candles.

MENORAH VS. CHANUKIYAH

While all Chanukah lamps are menorot (plural for menorah!), not all menorot are Chanukah lamps. A menorah is a seven branched candelabrum, with three branches on each side of the center. This type of lamp was used in the Tabernacle in the desert, in the Temple of Jerusalem, and is now one of the symbols of Israel. A "Chanukiya" must have eight candles, plus a shamash (helper candle) to light the others.

IS THE SCORE 8 TO 1; OR IS IT 1 TO 8?????

Two of the great Rabbis, Hillel and Shammai, argued about the lighting of the Chanukiya. Shammai claimed that since there was less and less oil left burning in the Temple each day, the number of lights in the Chanukiya should decrease daily. In other words, on the first night of the festival, the Chanukiya should be filled with 8 brightly burning candles. By the last night, one lone candle would remain.

Hillel disagreed. He taught that each night, the miracle of the oil became greater. Therefore, he argued, on the first night, we should light one candle, and on each subsequent night, we should add another. On the last night, there will be 8 candles burning brightly for all to see.

WHY DO WE PLAY DREIDEL ON CHANUKAH?

When the Syrians decreed that the teaching or studying of Torah was a crime meriting a severe punishment, Jewish children defiantly studied in secret. When Syrian patrols came near, the children pretended to be playing an innocent game of dreidel.



WHAT IS A DREIDEL

A dreidel is a spinning top. It has four sides and on each side there is a Hebrew letter. The four letters are nun, gimmel, hay, and shin, the first letters in the Hebrew words which mean "A great miracle happened there." In Israel, the four letters on a dreidel are nun, gimmel, hay and pay, the first letters in the Hebrew words for "A great miracle happened HERE." The miracle, of course, is the miracle of Chanukah which happened in Israel over 2,000 years ago.

HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL

Dreidel is a game of chance for two or more players. To play, you will need a dreidel and whatever you're playing with: raisins, nuts, pennies, candy, etc. **Begin** by giving all players an **equal** number of whatever you're playing with (example: 10 raisins). Play begins with each player "putting in" one raisin in the center. The players then take turns spinning the dreidel. Each time the dreidel stops spinning, one of its four letters will be facing up. Each letter means something different and indicates what that spinner must now do:

- ⌚ (Nun) means the player who spun the dreidel does nothing.
- ⌚ (Shin) means the player puts one raisin in the center.
- ⌚ (Hay) means the player wins half the raisins in the center.
- ⌚ (Gimmel) means the player wins them all.

After Gimmel (a player takes all the raisins), each player must put one raisin in the center and the game begins again. The next player spins the dreidel. Any player who has lost all his raisins is out of the game. The game ends when one player has all the raisins or at a predetermined time like after 10 gimmels.

ROCK OF AGES

Rock of ages, let our song
Praise Your saving power;
You, amid the raging foe
Were our sheltering tower.
Furious, they assailed us
But Your arm availed us,
And Your word broke their sword,
When our own strength failed us.



December 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12 Kislev 5759 Renaissance Jewish Heritage Trip to NYC Religious School 4:30 - 6:30 1	13 Kislev 5759 2	14 Kislev 5759 3	15 Kislev 5759 Shabbat Services 8:00 <u>Guest Speakers</u> <u>Rev. Hugh Smith and Imam Abdul Malik Ali</u> <i>"Interfaith Perspectives on the Binding of Isaac"</i> Complimentary Babysitting 4	Va-Yishlach B'nai Mitzvah Class 9:30 Shabbat Services & Bat Mitzvah Celebration, Jessica Cickay, 10:30 JCC Take A Jewish Journey 7:15 5
17 Kislev 5759 Religious School Judaica Shop Open 8:30 - 1 Confirmation Class 7:00 Festival of the Arts <i>Abraham and Isaac</i> Oratorio 7:30 6	18 Kislev 5759 Religious School 4:00 - 6:00 Home Study at the Joseph's, 8:00 7	19 Kislev 5759 Religious School 4:30 - 6:30 8	20 Kislev 5759 9	21 Kislev 5759 10	22 Kislev 5759 Shabbat Services 8:00 <u>Guest Scholar: Prof. Peninnah Schram</u> <i>"Chosen Tales for Shabbat & Chanukah"</i> 5th Grade Service Complimentary Babysitting 11	Va-Yeshev Torah 'N Tots w/ P. Schram 9:15 B'nai Mitzvah Class 9:30 Shabbat Services & Bat Mitzvah Celebration, Allison Mandell, 10:30 <u>Coffeehouse w/ P. Schram & Fran Avni 8:00 pm</u> 12
Light First Chanukah Candle Religious School (parents invited for assembly w/Schram) Confirmation Class 11-1 Judaica Shop Open 8:30 - 1 <u>Educator's workshop w/ P. Schram 1-2:30</u> 13	Light Second Chanukah Candle 25 Kislev 5759 Religious School 4:00 - 6:00 Community Menorah Lighting at JCC 6:30 14	Light Third Chanukah Candle 26 Kislev 5759 Lunch 'N Learn 12:00 Religious School 4:30 - 6:30 15	Light Fourth Chanukah Candle 27 Kislev 5759 16	Light Fifth Chanukah Candle 28 Kislev 5759 17	Light Sixth Chanukah Candle 29 Kislev 5759 Chanukah Dinner 6:00 Shabbat Services 7:30 Complimentary Babysitting Available 18	Rosh-Chodesh Light Seventh Chanukah Candle Mi-Ketz 30 Kislev 5759 B'nai Mitzvah Class 9:30 Shabbat Services & Bat Mitzvah Celebration, Adena Schwartz 10:30 19
Rosh-Chodesh Light Eighth Chanukah Candle 1 Tevet 5759 Religious School 4th Grade PACT program Blood Drive 8:30 - 1 Chai High 20	8 Chanukkah 2 Tevet 5759 Religious School 4:00 - 6:00 Board of Trustees Meeting 8:00 first day of winter 21	3 Tevet 5759 Religious School 4:30 - 6:30 22	4 Tevet 5759 23	5 Tevet 5759 24	6 Tevet 5759 Volunteer Mitzvah Day Shabbat Services 8:00 No Babysitting Available 25	Va-Yiggash 7 Tevet 5759 26
8 Tevet 5759 27	9 Tevet 5759 NFTY WINTER CONCLAVE BEGINS 28	10 Tevet 5759 NFTY WINTER CONCLAVE 29	11 Tevet 5759 NFTY WINTER CONCLAVE 30	12 Tevet 5759 NFTY WINTER CONCLAVE 31		