

Kislev / Tevet
5765
CXLVII No. 5

H A R S I N A I T E M P L E

Bulletin

December
2004

Worship Services

Friday, December 3 8:00 pm
SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, December 4 10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah
Max Adam Rigie
Son of Nancy Crell and Mitchell Rigie

Friday, December 10 7:30 pm
CHANUKAH SHABBAT FAMILY SERVICE
With participation by our Alef-Bet
through Grade 3 classes
December Birthday Blessings

Friday, December 17 7:30 pm
HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL SHABBAT SERVICE
A creative service led by Grades 8, 9, and 10

Friday, December 24 7:30 pm
SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, December 31 7:30 pm
SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, January 7 7:30 pm
SHABBAT SERVICE
With Scholar-In-Residence
Mitchell Rothman
"The Mid-East: Who are all these
People Anyway"

(See Page 8)

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

Yassir Arafat's death beckons a realistic assessment of his life. Arafat was a player in Mideast politics but he was also played by just about every dictator, autocrat, and sewer rat in that region of the world. His ego always came before his so called beloved "Palestinian People". Those world leaders who consider him a "freedom fighter," and put him on the same level as Nelson Mandela or Mahatma Gandhi, truly must be delusional. He had, especially after the Camp David Accords, the Oslo Agreement, and many other peace agreements, an opportunity to bring peace and stability to his people and to the world. He refused. Anwar al-Sadat and Yitzchak Rabin both sacrificed their lives for the goal of peace, but Arafat was embezzling too many billions to be worried about improving the plight of his people. He was the ultimate scam artist and his people bought into his warped sense of nationality. Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians died because of Arafat's malevolent leadership. He was the very definition of evil.

This was a man who thought nothing of using prepubescent children as shields against Israeli tanks. He encouraged school age children to throw rocks in the face of armed soldiers and to commit suicide in the name of his deranged world view. Still, the Palestinians accepted this filth of humanity as their "hero." I don't know what was

worse...the life of Arafat or the fact that he was "loved" by the same people he exploited and let be exploited by every Mideast potentate.

After World War II, millions of Jews from Europe and the Arab lands became refugees. Many were forced from their homes in Eastern Europe and the Mideast. The refugees settled in a dozen countries from Israel to the United States. There are no Jewish refugees today because of the extraordinary leadership of the world Jewish community. Yet, fifty years later, there are still millions of Palestinian refugees. They never settled. The Palestinians never became productive members of any country, including their own which was given to them after the United Nations mandate of 1948. They became the pariahs of the Mideast. They were the political football of their Arab and Moslem brethren. They have been used to further the political and economic agenda of the most vile and dysfunctional leaders of Arab nations and they have been slaughtered by the thousands by their own people.

Yassir Arafat on many occasions had the power to alleviate the hardship and exploitation of his people by forming a peace coalition with Israel backed by the might of the United States. But he rejected the proposals of every Israeli Prime Minister and every American presi-

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS CONTINUED

dent until George W. Bush and Ariel Sharon simply gave up. For the past three years he had been a prisoner in his compound in Ramallah. There, again offers had been made to him to stop terrorism against Israel. And again, he rejected all rational means to end the terror, suffering and agony of both Israelis and Palestinians. A journalist who visited Arafat a few months ago said the whole compound had a terrible, almost suffocating, smell. This is an apt description of not only the living quarters but of the man himself.

While Israel, a country of refugees, over the past fifty years has been producing Nobel Prize Laureates, concert musicians, Olympic champions and Israelis have worked with corporations around the world in the development of everything from computers chips to cell phones, Arafat's people have produced suicide bombers. While Israel manufactures the most fashion-

able swimwear and cosmetics in the world, Arafat's people manufacture despair.

Because of Arafat's psychotic leadership, the future of the Palestinian people is in jeopardy. As Dennis Ross, the former Ambassador, stated, "Arafat gave Palestinians a past but not a future." And such is the situation now. We can only hope that Arafat's death can bring to the fore a leader of vision and intelligence who can forward peace and assuage the immorality of terrorism. This will be a formidable task since, under Arafat, terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad have gained in strength and popularity. Yet there is always the chance that the Palestinian people will realize the uselessness of the path they have chosen to take and will finally succumb to the realities of their situation. Only then can we hope for a better Mideast and consequently a better world.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEVE MILLER president@harsinai.org

My Presidential travels brought me to Parsippany for the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial meeting. I was able to attend some interesting and inspirational seminars, but my thirst for knowledge was left unfulfilled by the constraints of time. There were seven seminars going on during each of three sessions.

While I was attending a workshop for Temple Presidents led by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, another workshop on motivating for social responsibility and still another on building strong auxiliaries such as Men's Club, Sisterhood, and Renaissance, I missed out on some workshops that I would have particularly liked to attend: Growing New Temple Leaders, Effective Communications Between a Temple and its Members, Greening our Synagogues, Environmentally Friendly Building Renovation, and Energy Practices, and many others. You probably would have enjoyed some seminars too so I'll be sure to remind you about the Biennial next year.

But that's not the big news at Har Sinai lately. I am pleased to announce that we are formally under contract for our new site. Four architects have submitted bids for a Feasibility Study that will help us determine if the site is suitable for our end use. The big question of availability of sewer service and/or practicality of using the existing septic system remains. A recent change in the political makeup in Hopewell is encouraging, but sewer access is still an open question.

By the time you read this, we may have already selected an architect to conduct the Feasibility Study. They'll look at the land, the building and the laws to see how compatible each is with the "program" we've submitted. The

program details exactly what we are trying to create in our new home. They'll determine not only if we can do what we want, but also if we can afford to do what we want with the funds we've estimated we can raise. Now is a good time to bring your Campaign Pledge up to date if it has fallen behind schedule. If your pledge is on schedule, consider completing it early. The more certain we are of our financial participation, the more Temple we can include in Phase One. We probably won't initiate another full-blown Capital Campaign until after we settle on the property, which could easily be more than a year away. By that time, plans for Phase One should be well under way.

We're working on a schedule for meetings to bring our "program" up to date. When we're ready to move forward with an architect for the actual building and renovation project, all of our needs must be clear so we will avoid costly changes.

We have an extremely talented pool of experts, members who are working on our behalf. Their expertise is reducing our expense on these initial studies, is keeping the project moving forward and will no doubt result in a finished product we will all be proud of and can afford to build.

Back to the normal temple routine, we are still collecting coats for distribution to those less fortunate. Dig deep into your closet for those gently used coats that will be so appreciated by those who would otherwise just be cold. Children's sizes are especially needed. Coats don't keep anybody warm in your closet.

HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL

BY STEVE MILLER, PRESIDENT

I wish to thank the following families who have pledged and contributed to Har Sinai's Twelfth Annual High Holiday Appeal. The proceeds from this project will be split equally between the Temple Capital Projects Fund and the Endowment Fund. Any additional donations to this vital campaign will be gratefully accepted.

Rita A. Allen, Alan Aptner, Jean S. Arnold, Sylvia Aronis, Miriam & Seth Aronson, Ruth & Don Barrack, Janice & Barry Blumberg, Cliff & Linda Bolder, Art & Diana Bowers, Ursula Brooks, Kristi Jones & Eric Chazan, Evelyn Cohen, Beth, Marty, Stephen, and Ali Deitchman, Frederica Dreskin, Barry & Ruthie Edelman, Kathy & Alvin Feldman, Jeff & Nancy Fine, Cynthia & Philip Fine, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Frank, Nancy & Barry Frost, Mimi Geller, Jerome L. & Simone G. Glickman, Dorothy Glogoff, Dr. Gilbert S. Gold, Barbara Goldberg, Jean & Mort Goldstein, Stephan & Donna Goldstein, Harriet & Sherman Gould, Madelyn & Steve Gubernick, Judy & Ted Haftel, Patty & Adolf Herst, Ellin & Stuart Hirsch, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney L. Hofing, Dr. George O. Isaacson, Laura Lichstein & Steven Isaacson, Mr. & Mrs. William Joseph, Robert & Sharon Kahn, Jane Zamost & Gary Karlin, Lisa & Simon Kimmelman, Janis Kind, Clive & Audrey Klatzkin, Bernice Kline, Rita M. Kravitz, Nancy & Vincent LaPosta, Lois E. Lardieri, Randi & John Lawrie, Herbert & Charlotte E. Levin, Allen M.H. & Ruth Levine, Betty & Robert Lipscher, Phyllis & Dennis Malinger, Steve & Laurie Miller, Judy & Donald Millner, Warren & Lesley Moore, Rose Movitch, Rabbi Bernard & Eleanor Perelmutter, Rick Pollock & Eric Risberg, Dan Popkin, Marcia Primus, Greg & Robin Rapport, Laura & Jim Reiser, Marilyn Weinstein & Stephen Ringel, Rabbi Morton & Lila Rosenthal, Rita & Sidney Rosenthal, Harriet & Herbert Schwartz, Hank & Lisette Siegel, Gale & Michael Simon, Natalie & Amel Stark, Cindy & Steven Sussman, Gail Coplein & Graham Tebb, Bernadette West & Barry Truchil, Gloria & Ted Vine, Scott & Alexis Weiner, Wendy Weiss, Alice & Howard Welt, Sue & Ron Wexler, Herbert & Carol Zemble.

Sisterhood Presents..

23rd ANNUAL CHANUKAH FAMILY DINNER

Friday, December 10, at 6:15 pm

Anyone needing a ride to or from a Sisterhood event should contact Linda Bolder or Ina Katz through the Temple office.

(Send in your reservation TODAY)

Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 pm

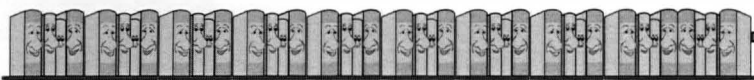
DIXIELAND JAZZ NIGHT

With Art Frank and The Ambassadors of Dixieland
(Hoagie supper, served at 6:00, precedes the 7:00 Concert)

For reservations, please mail your check (\$25/person),
made out to "Har Sinai Temple," to:

**Roberta Frank
5 Hope Street
Pennington NJ 08534**

Library News



Rita Allen, Librarian (ritaallen@sbcglobal.net)

Our thanks to Larry Miller for his donations of several children's books for our Library.

On February 6 Rabbi Pollack will be reviewing "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth, whom Rabbi has called "the premier writer of our time". Responding to what will undoubtedly be a great interest in this book, we have four copies, which we will try to keep on the bookshelves just outside the library door. But – we respectfully ask that borrowers follow this procedure: Looking in the back of the book, you will see a book card which you are asked to sign. Please place this book card in the box on top of the catalog cabinet just inside the library door. Upon returning the book, please locate your card, replace it in the pocket, and return the book to the outside shelves. This should help to insure that our congregants all have the opportunity to read and seriously consider this book.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT

Magda Reyes, Director of Education

"I Am Jewish"

Once in a while, we will introduce something really new and different in Religious School. I am never adverse to trying a new program, changing a textbook or revamping a curriculum in order to improve the quality of education at the school. But coming in December is something totally different.

The idea came from members of the Religious Education committee. While brainstorming during one of our meetings, we realized that post Bar Mitzvah kids in our school had no further education in Hebrew liturgy and worship. It felt as if the kids' learning in this one area of Jewish life came to a dead stop once they turned thirteen. As I explained it to the Hebrew High kids, now that they are young adults, their knowledge of Judaism should grow with them to a new level.

Building on the solid foundation they acquired during their pre-Bar Mitzvah religious education and taking advantage of the recent explosion of new music in the Reform movement, we have designed a Shabbat service for all Hebrew High School students that incorporates traditional prayers, introduces them to new melodies and also gives them an opportunity to show off their individual talents.

This very special Shabbat service is dedicated to the memory of Daniel Pearl, a Princeton, New Jersey native and Wall Street journalist who was brutally murdered by terrorists two years ago. His last words, "I am Jewish", show his immense pride in his heritage and enormous courage. His love of music and dialogue became an inspiration to everyone.

I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join us and participate in this special event on December 17th at 7:30PM. We will worship together, learn some new songs and revisit old ones, eat, discuss and laugh together, "kvell" over our kids but, above all, express our pride in being Jewish.

Religious School Calendar

December 2004

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sunday, December 5: | - Religious Education Committee meeting, 11AM
- Preschool meets, 10-11:30AM
- 5 th grade goes to Congregation Brothers of Israel for a community program |
| Tuesday, December 7: | - No religious school |
| Friday, December 10: | - K-3 rd grade Chanukah Shabbat Service |
| Sunday, December 12: | - 4 th grade PACT program, 8:30-11:30AM |
| Friday, December 17: | - Hebrew High School Shabbat, 7:30PM |
| Sunday, December 19: | - Gratz College Isaac Mayer Wise Program meeting, 12PM

- Hebrew High School group discussion with Linda Meisel from Jewish Family and Children's Service |
| Monday, December 20 to
Sunday, January 2, 2005: | - Religious School is closed |
| Monday, January 3, 2005: | - First class of 2005 |



Friday, October 29, Har Sinai's Grades 8 and 9 welcomed students from Temple Emanuel of Baltimore, Maryland. Our educator, Magda Reyes, is at far right, and Emanuel's educator, Karen Reiser, is at far left... *special thanks to Nancy and Stuart Crell, Gail and Barry Haftel, and Jill and Brian Shaffer for their home hospitality to the Emanuel kids.*

Adult Education...

SHABBAT SERVICES AT GREENWOOD HOUSE

Each Friday Morning in December at 10:30 am

Join Rabbi and/or Cantor every Friday at Greenwood House for a Shabbat Service with the residents. This brief service is meaningful to the residents, many of whom are still members of our congregation. They enjoy even a brief visit with other members of our congregation.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Tuesdays at 12 noon

This year in Lunch and Learn we are studying the incredible and incomparable Book of Proverbs. We will be using the new commentary to Proverbs offered by the Union of Reform Judaism. Of all the books of the Bible, Proverbs more than any other deals with an understanding of the world and an approach to life that comes from reflections based on human experience. It focuses on everyday wisdom. Bring your own lunch; we will provide dessert.

HOME STUDY GROUP

Wednesday, December 15, at 8:00 pm

The Home Study Group is discussing all aspects of Religious Freedom in the United States this year. Material will come from a number of different sources. The Group will meet at the home of Barbara Goldberg in Lawrenceville. To RSVP, and for directions, please call Barbara at 609-882-6074.

RABBI'S TORAH STUDY GROUP

Saturdays at 9:15 am

(Began November 27)

Rabbi Pollack will be leading very informal Torah Study groups from 9:15 to 10:15 am on Saturday mornings beginning November 27. The study will center upon the Jewish mystical interpretations taken from the Zohar or the Book of Splendor and other Kabbalistic sources. Some of the most extraordinary elucidations of our tradition are found in these mystical works. The sessions will be both enlightening and entertaining.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READING OF HEBREW

Sundays from 8:45 to 10:30 am

(Beginning December 5)

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please call the school at 609-392-7143

Check Temple Har Sinai's website at www.harsinai.org

Listen to WBCB, WPST 97.5FM or WHWH1350AM for information.

Whenever possible, you will also get a phone call from a class parent or school member.

Than you.

IT'S OUR ANNUAL E-MAIL APPEAL!

Synagogues today are doing a great deal more communicating with their Congregational members BY E-MAIL than ever before. For that reason, the clergy and the office staff is appealing to you, our Congregants, to update your e-mail addresses for us. If you have acquired a new (or "brand new") address within the past 12 months, please e-mail that information to Laura Reiser at LReiserHST@aol.com

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 just assume that "someone else made the phone call," but a note or call to our Rabbi or Cantor's study, or the Temple office, 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.

HAR SINAI THANKS

...Renaissance members, **URSULA BROOKS**, **SAUL FEINBERG**, and **JANIS KIND**, who were interviewed at a Hebrew High School discussion meeting on November 7 about their experiences as Jewish teens and young adults growing up in the 30's and 40's... Ariel Schwartz for video - taping the event.

...**LAURENT LEVY**, for maintaining month after month Har Sinai's beautiful and lively web site... many prospective members have found us because of our site.

...**EVELYN GEROFKY**, chair of the Social Action Committee's Winter Coat Collection in October and November, for her time and energy organizing the coats, gloves and hats for those who will be in need in the coming season...and **ALL THOSE** who donated the items.

...**DEBBIE MANNELLA**, chairperson, along with **RITA ALLEN**, **SHELLEY GALLO**, and **MADLINE GUBERNICK**, for working at this year's Jewish Book Month Book Fair for the benefit of the Religious School.

...**ILENE AND AARON WEINSTEIN**, for hosting the November 10 meeting of the Home Study Group.

...**JEAN AND MORTON GOLDSTEIN**, for chairing another amazing Renaissance success story...the 12th annual Ethnic Dinner took place on November 14 at the "Amber Cafe"...atmosphere was created by Cantor Wisnia who carried on his usual lively conversation, in Polish, with the manager while translating everything for the attendees. Renaissancers dined on wonderful hors d'oeuvres, Polish Borscht, delicious entrees and salads while being entertained by Cantor singing Polish and Yiddish songs accompanied by Har Sinai's pianist (once organist) Mark Sobol.

...**JOANNA RUDIN**, who is with the Visiting Nurse Association of NJ, for her stimulating discussion as Guest Speaker at the November 12 Shabbat Service.

...**GAIL COPLEIN**, for coordinating the Sisterhood Book Review of Anita Diamant's "*The Red Tent*" on November 14... as **Rabbi Pollack** was called away at the last minute, Gail acted as leader of a very stimulating and interesting discussion by attendees of this immensely popular novel.

THE BLOODMOBILE IS COMING Sunday, December 12

8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Har Sinai Social Hall

For Information, or to Volunteer,
Call Chairman Dr. Glenn Palsky at 215-736-2857

Saturday, January 29, at 7:30 pm COMEDY CABARET

A light supper and delicious desserts will be served
BYOB (and your friends)

Chaired by: Beth Deitchman, Lisa Kimmelman, Jill Schwartz, and Jill Shaffer

(A flyer will be in the mail in mid-December.)

HSTY NEWS Rachelle Wander, Advisor

On Sunday, November 7, HSTY tie-dyed T-shirts in the parking lot of Har Sinai. It was a beautiful, unseasonably warm Sunday in November making the buckets of plum purple, sea foam green, and evening blue glisten in the sun as the kids dipped their rubber-banded tees into the dye. The kids and I will wear these shirts for the upcoming BCTY (Beth Chaim Temple Youth) shul-in, a NFTY-GER event this weekend, November 20. The kids will get a chance to stay up all night, eat junk food, and play games with many other TYG kids. HSTY has been gaining support and interest from parents, teachers, and students one by one. We are working on a Chanukkah pollyanna at a specific location (to be announced) and many more exciting events. The Board has added one more member, Joshua Steinhouse, to act as co-president with David Azer. All Board Members have been working together as a flexible and cooperative group, and I am looking forward to expanding HSTY with the help of my Board and your support!

BULLETIN BOARD

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6	Seth Rosenau	10 yrs
10	Malcolm Bingham	12 yrs
21	Samuel LaPosta	13 yrs
22	Maxim Millan	10 yrs
24	Theodore Fine	10 yrs
28	Gordon Wolf	9 yrs

SPECIAL DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8	Miriam Geller
9	Muriel Zeltmacher
12	Joseph Kline
24	Doris Silverstein
25	Herman Chermak
30	Barbara Goldberg

SPECIAL DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Linda & Cliff Bolder	20 yrs
9	Linda & Philip Ozaroff	15 yrs
20	Judith & Solomon Lehrhaupt	35 yrs
24	Beatrice & Samuel Frey	54 yrs
28	Cynthia & Joseph Spiegel	63 yrs

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At Home Consultation

Oneg Shabbat Sponsors

NOVEMBER

Bonnie and Michael Berman sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in honor of their daughter, Alex, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Gail and Barry Haftel sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in honor of their daughter, Allison, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

The Zamost/Wolf/Karlin Family sponsored an Oneg Shabbat in honor of their son, Marc, becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Aileen and Bob Freedman sponsored an Oneg Shabbat in honor of their granddaughter, Rachael, who became a Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to...

Gail and Richard Feinstein, on the October 2 birth of granddaughter, Maya Sophie Kates. Maya is the daughter of Randi and Scott Kates.

Save The Date
Sunday, February 6
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

A RABBI POLLACK
BOOK REVIEW
"Plot Against America"
by Philip Roth



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In Memoriam

May we extend our deepest sympathy in remembering

Bernard Isaacson
Brother of Dr. George Isaacson

Jean Shine Kaufman
Grandmother of Ina Katz

Roberta Kimmelman McDowell
Sister of Simon Kimmelman



Pulpit Flowers

NOVEMBER

5 - **Bonnie and Michael Berman**, in honor of their daughter, Alexandra, who became a Bat Mitzvah.

12 - **Barry and Gail Haftel**, in honor of daughter, Allison, who became a Bat Mitzvah.

19 - **The Zamost/Wolf/Karlin Family**, in honor of son, Marc, who became a Bar Mitzvah.

26 - **Aileen and Bob Freedman**, in honor of their granddaughter, Rachael Freedman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

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CINCINNATI OHIO 45220

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, at 7:30 PM

A Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker DR. MITCHELL ROTHMAN

The hottest topic today is the Middle East. With the war in Iraq, Americans dying almost daily in that region of the world and the death of Yasir Arafat, it is important for us to understand that region of the world. Our Temple is pleased to present one of the world experts on the Middle East. This is a very rare opportunity for our membership to learn more about the countries of the Middle East than what is given in the ordinary media. Dr. Mitchell Rothman is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Widener University in Chester, PA and a Consulting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. He has been going to the

Middle East for 30 years. In the 1970's he worked on projects in Iran. He has written three books and many articles on the pre- and early historic foundations of the modern Middle East. His topic will be "The Middle East: Who Are all These People, Anyway." Dr. Rothman's multimedia presentation will give us all an unusual view of the Middle East not found in newspapers or news magazines. In addition to a geographical tour of ethnic groups and their origin, Dr. Rothman will explain how the pattern of politics and control was established thousands of years ago. Lastly, he will offer some ideas on where we go from here.

HA!

The Second City

LEGENDARY COMEDY

The 45th anniversary tour from the people who brought you Mike Myers, Jim Belushi, John Belushi, Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd, Shelley Long, Joan Rivers, John Candy, Richard Kind, Mary Gross, Rick Thomas, Alan Arkin, Eugene Levy, and many, many, many more.

Come laugh your face off!

Support your JCC! Great gift idea! Great seats available!

Saturday, December 11, 7:30 pm

Patriots Theater/Trenton War Memorial

Tickets: \$60 and \$40 at

www.TheWarMemorial.com or

Patrons: \$150: 609-883-9550

SISTERHOOD NEWS AND VIEWS

by Linda Bolder and Ina Katz, Co-Presidents

Coming in 2005

A SISTERHOOD COOKBOOK

Chaired by Jill Shaffer

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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
בימים ההם 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)

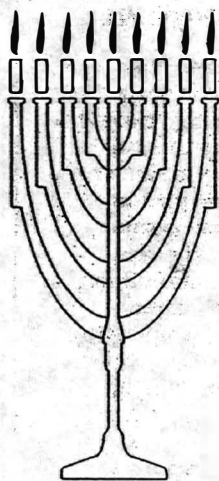
ברוך אתה יי. אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לימן הזה.

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, *Haneirot 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 Chanukiyah 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 Chanukiyah 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 Chanukiyah 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 "Chanukiyah" 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 Chanukiyah. Shammai claimed that since there was less and less oil left burning in the Temple each day, the number of lights in the Chanukiyah should decrease daily. In other words, on the first night of the festival, the Chanukiyah 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.
- ש (Shin) means the player puts one raisin in the center.
- ה (Hay) means the player wins half the raisins in the center.
- ג (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.





Har Sinai Sisterhood

Presents

Macy's Gift Cards

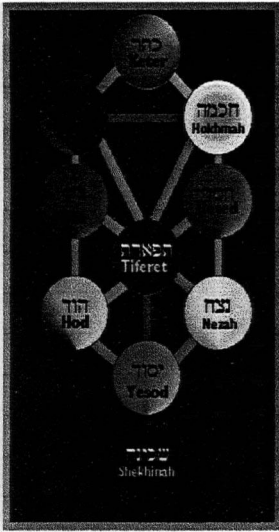


Everybody loves Macy's. Sisterhood will be selling gift cards in \$25 and \$50 denominations as an ongoing fundraiser. The Temple gets 10% of every gift card sold. Use these cards to shop for yourself or give them as gifts. They can be used in every store location Nationally.

The Gift Cards are eligible for all sales including Special Discounts & Macy Credit Card Customer Appreciation Days. Just remember to remind the associates that these cards are eligible. Cards are good for two years. You cannot pay your credit card balances with them.

It's easy to get the cards. We just need a check for the amount you need - i.e. \$25 for a \$25 gift card. Make the check out to Har Sinai Sisterhood. Either (1) send your money into the office or (2) call Linda Bolder (215) 321-3341 or Ina Katz (215) 493-0674 or (3) give your check to a Sisterhood Member. Gift Cards will be sold at all Sisterhood functions.

Mystical Torah Interpretations



Introduction to the Reading of Hebrew
Sunday Mornings 8:45 AM-10:30 AM
December 5th, 6th, 12th 19th and
January 9th, 23rd and 30th.

TTTTMMMMMMMMMMZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

DECEMBER 2004 DONATIONS

MEMORIAL FUND

Isaac Byer: Norma & Fred Byer

Jacob Cooper: Sharon & Howard Cooper

Dr. Sidney Greenwald: Sylvia Greenwald & Family

Lester Klein: Pennie Pearlman, Anne Richelson, Mae Robinson

My Dear Husband, Frank Kushner: Roslyn Kushner

Becky Levy: Florence Londoner

Dr. Arthur Sacks Wilner: Florence Londoner

TEMPLE FUND

In Memory Of:

Dorothy Gabbe, Mother of Peter Gabbe: Nancy & Barry Frost

Jonas Levin: Dorothy Zorn

Roberta Kimmelman McDowell: Barry & Nancy Frost

Abraham Schuster: Dorothy Zorn

Maurie Selzer: Seymour Selzer

John Zorn: Dorothy Zorn

In Honor Of:

Birth of Maya Sophie Kates, Daughter of Randi Feinstein & Scott Kates: Judy & Don Millner

Eunice Levie's Speedy Recovery: Dorothy Glogoff, Harriet & Sherman Gould

Charlotte & Herb Levin's Special Anniversary: Dorothy Zorn

Marilyn & Joel Orland being Honored by Israeli Bonds: Judy & Don Millner

Sena Siegler's Speedy Recovery: Dorothy Glogoff

RABBI'S FUND

In Memory Of:

Abe Graff my Beloved Brother: Bea & Sam Frey

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Pollack: Partegas Players, Larry Miller, Jane Zamost & Gary Karlin

Harriet Gould's Speedy Recovery: Edi & Bill Joseph

CANTOR'S FUND

In Honor Of:

Martin Deitchman's Speedy Recovery: Ruthie & Barry Edelman

Steven Friedland's Speedy Recovery: Ruthie & Barry Edelman

Joel & Marilyn Orland being Honored by Israeli Bonds: Ruthie &

Barry Edelman

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BUILDING FUND

In Memory Of:

Jean Shine Kaufman: Hope & Stu Kadesh

Ester Matas: Hope & Stu Kadesh

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In Memory Of:

Frances Cohen: Jean & Morton Goldstein

Jess Fagelman: Harriet & Sherman Gould

Leah Troll: Barry Troll

Alice Zelden, Mother of Gail Lipka and Sister of Celia Holman: Harriet & Sherman Gould

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

In Memory Of:

Gerald Cohan: Jean & Morton Goldstein

Jonas Levin: Jean & Morton Goldstein

FLOWER FUND

In Honor Of:

The Birth of Our Granddaughter, Ella Simone Kramer: Daniel & Doris Kramer

BLOOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor Of:

Marc Karlin Becoming a Bar

Mitzvah: Jane Zamost & Gary Karlin

ADULT PROGRAM & LEARNING FUND

In Memory Of:

Sarah Rome: Dorothy Forer

HAR SINAI ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory Of:

Roberta Kimmelman McDowell:

Janice & Martin Kline

In Honor Of:

Harriet Gould's Speedy Recovery: Charlotte & Herb Levin

STEPHANIE MANN MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of:

The Mother of Laura Feller: Judy & Lowell Mann

Andrew Uhrman: Stanley & Olene Gale

In Honor Of:

The Birth of Maya Sophie Kates,

Granddaughter of Gail & Richard

Feinstein: Lynn & Keith Pilot

Laura & Jim Reiser's Special

Anniversary: Lynn & Keith Pilot

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Memory Of:

Harry Aronis: Sylvia Aronis

Frances Aronis Garber: Sylvia Aronis

Roberta Kimmelman McDowell, :

Janis Kind

In Honor Of:

Jean Arnold's Special Birthday: Rose Movitch

Sylvia Aronis' Special Birthday: Rose Movitch

Edith & Arnold Gordon's 52nd

Wedding Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Harriet & Sherman Gould's 58th

Wedding Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Joan & Howard Henschel's 40th

Wedding Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Birth of Maya Sophie Kates: Stuart & Ellin Hirsch

Meryl & Philip Kauff's 45th Wedding Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Rabbi & Robin Pollack's 30th

Anniversary: Janis Kind, Rose Movitch

Laura & Jim Reiser's 35th Wedding

Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Harvey Silk's Speedy Recovery: Norman & Roz Coopersmith, Rose Movitch

Amel Stark's Special Birthday: Ellin & Stuart Hirsch

Gloria & Theodore Vine's 62nd

Wedding Anniversary: Rose Movitch

Theodore Vine's Special Birthday: Rose Movitch

SISTERHOOD ACKNOWLEDGES:

GROSS MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory Of:

Leon Lavine, My Beloved Husband: Evelyn Weinstein

Loren Lavine, Beloved Son-In-Law: Evelyn Weinstein

Martin Segal, Beloved Brother: Evelyn Weinstein

SPECIAL NEEDS:

In Memory Of:

Jean Shine Kaufman, Grandmother of Ina Katz: Cliff & Linda Bolder

Bertel Kaufmann, Beloved Sister of Eva Geyer: Linda & Cliff Bolder