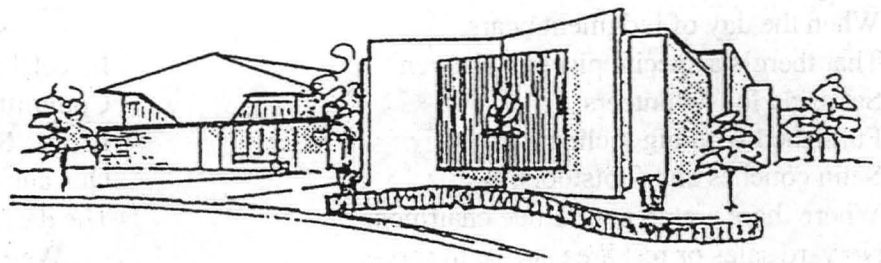


Monmouth Reform Temple bulletin

The more Torah, the more life.

מְרַבֶּה תּוֹרָה מְרַבֶּה חַיִּים



KISLEV-TEVET 5761

DECEMBER 2000

Fri. 1 Sabbath Eve - 8:15 PM
Sermon: **LEARNING TO
WRESTLE**
Torah Portion: Toledot
Gen. 25:19-28:9

Fri. 8 Tot Shabbat 6:30 PM
Shabbat Eve- 8:15 PM
Jewish Book Month Sabbath
Guest Speaker: Susan Dworkin
The Nazi Officer's Wife:
Survival of the Jewish Spirit
Torah Portion: Vayetze
Gen. 28:10-32:3

Fri. 15 Shabbat Eve - 8:15 PM
Family Service
Conducted by Grade 6A
Torah Portion: Vayishlach
Gen. 32:4-36:43

Fri. 22 Shabbat Chanukah - 8:15 PM
**A CLOSER LOOK AT
THE MUSIC OF CHANUKAH**
Torah Portion: Vayeshev
Gen. 37:1-40:23

Fri. 29 Sabbath Eve - 8:15 PM
Conducted by Ayse Dilber
Guest Cantor: Menorah Winston
Torah Portion: Miketz
Gen. 41:1-44:17

OTHER SERVICES

Sat. 2 Sabbath Morning - 10:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Jared Walsh
Son of Lori Brenner
Sermon: **WAS ISAAC FOOLED?**

Sat. 9 Sabbath Morning - 10:30 AM
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Program
Bat Mitzvah of Beth Nelson
Daughter of Tina and Larry
Sermon: **PAYING ATTENTION**

Sat. 16 Sabbath Morning - 10:30 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Sethe Block
Daughter of Jill Saunders and
Robert Block
Sermon: **REMEMBERING
RACHEL**

Sat. 23 Sabbath Morning - 10:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Mintz
Son of Shelley Samuels and
Donald Mintz
Sermon: **DREAMERS AND THEIR
DREAMS**

**Rabbi Priesand is looking for volunteers to read
Torah on the following dates:**

June 29 July 6, 13, 20, 27 August 3, 10

**All that is required is familiarity with the Hebrew
alphabet, a willingness to practice, and a desire to
fulfill this mitzvah.**

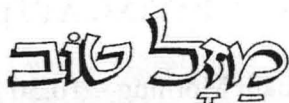
**If interested, please call the Rabbi and reserve
your date now.**



REFLECTIONS

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there's a special place in Heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairmen,
No yard sales or rest area coffee to serve,
No library duty or bulletin assembly,
There will be nothing to print or staple,
Not one thing to fold and mail,
Telephone lists will be outlawed.
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits,
And not once volunteered on Earth.

From "Dear Abby"



SHARING SIMCHAS **THE TEMPLE FAMILY EXTENDS** **MAZEL TOV TO:**

Cora and Stu Tuchband on the birth of their
granddaughter Skylar Irene Oliver

Dorian Meyer – for being the third American
woman to finish in the New York Marathon in 2 hrs.
and 45 minutes. Dorian finished 17th place overall.

*Please keep us informed so we can share your simchas
with your Temple Family*

Reminders

Flyers are due in the office by the 10th of each month

Bulletin articles are due by the 15th of each month

No parking in the front of the building

LIBRARY NEWS

JEWISH BOOK MONTH EVENTS

In celebration of Jewish Book Month, the Library
Committee is sponsoring the following events:

I. BOOK FAIR

Our annual Book Fair will take place in December.
The dates are as follows:

Wed. Dec. 6th - 4-6PM (during Religious
School)

Fri. Dec. 8th - after services, for browsing only

Sun. Dec. 10th - 9:30AM-1:00PM (during
and after Religious School)

Barnes & Noble in West Long Branch will provide a
terrific selection of several hundred adult and
children's books. We will distribute a list of
children's books ahead of time to the Religious
School students. Besides providing "good reads"
and great Chanukah gifts for everyone, the Book
Fair is a fundraiser for the MRT Library. This year
we will also have a selection of books set aside for
people to purchase and donate to the library. Donate
a book in honor of a family member or special event
– we'll have bookplates on hand to fill out.

II. SPECIAL CHILDREN'S AUTHOR VISIT AND BOOK SIGNING

On Sunday, Dec. 10th, Fran Manushkin, author of
many children's books, will be returning to MRT to
present a program about her new book Come Let Us
Be Joyful (the story of the song Hava Nagila). Fran
was a big success when she was here 5 years ago,
and we're delighted to have her back with us. Fran
will also autograph copies of her book.

III. JEWISH BOOK MONTH SABBATH

Speaker to be announced. Come and hear about a
new book and browse the Book Fair at the Oneg
Shabbat. *Rosalind Reisner* *Shelley Gordon*

SAVE THE DATE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

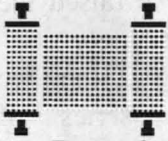
February 2 – 4

Dr. Pamela S. Nadell

Author of *Women Who Would Be Rabbis*

will speak on the theme

Encountering American Jewry



FROM RABBI PRIESAND

Recently, the Jewish people lost one of its greatest leaders: Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from 1973 to 1996. I still remember the day he assumed his post. I had just completed the first year of my rabbinate at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue and was attending my first UAHC Biennial in New York City. Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath was stepping down, and Rabbi Schindler was to be installed as his successor. Just before Shabbat dinner, on the opening day of the convention, the unthinkable happened. Rabbi Eisendrath suffered a fatal heart attack. What was to be a time of joy became a time of grief, and instead of workshops and plenary sessions, we attended a funeral held at Central Synagogue. Afterwards, Rabbi Schindler insisted that the convention proceed as scheduled.

Rabbi Schindler was a man of extraordinary vision and purpose. He supported with enthusiasm the social action agenda of our Movement, so firmly established by Rabbi Eisendrath, while at the same time breaking new ground in so many different areas. Outreach was his idea. He was committed to an inclusive, all-encompassing Judaism that embraced interfaith families and welcomed Jews by choice. He was a champion of civil rights and the rights of the gay community. A strong supporter of Israel, he expanded Reform Jewish involvement through the creation of ARZA (the Association of Reform Zionists of America). He was proud to have the UAHC publish Rabbi Plaut's Torah Commentary which would later come to rest in synagogue pews throughout the world, including our own. The list of his accomplishments is never-ending and I could go on and on, but what I admired most about him was his eloquence and his ability to inspire others to take action. He was a passionate and poetic preacher; in my opinion, the last of the great orators of Reform Judaism in our time.

His farewell address at the UAHC Biennial in Atlanta included a communal ethical will in which he summarized the meaning of the synagogue in today's world. As we reflect on his words, we give

thanks for his life and pray that his memory will ever be a blessing.

A Reform Judaism of substance is a life path that links the past to the future through the wilderness of our lives.

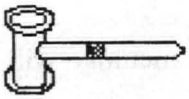
Our lives are a wilderness, uncharted and unpredictable – untimely deaths, unexpected blows, unsuitable matches, unfulfilled dreams.

And yet, by gathering our heartaches into a house or worship, we find something transformative happening – our sorrows become windows of compassion. Paths through the wilderness, hewed and marked by past generations, give us our bearings. Patterns of meaning and significance emerge. We are moved from self-pity to love. Our individual heartbeats merge with the pulse of all humankind. Suddenly we no longer tremble like an uprooted reed.

The synagogue is the regenerative soil of Jewish life. Just beneath its statuesque surface, our roots densely intertwine. Like giant redwoods, standing shoulder to shoulder in every shrinking forests, we Jews share a reality of interdependence, holding one another up.

Nowhere is this reality more strikingly revealed than in our congregations, our houses of gathering. Bialik called the synagogue "the mystic fount... the treasure of our soul." The Talmud called it the place "where heaven and earth kiss," The Zohar: "an earthly copy of the heavenly original." I simply call it home.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd like to use this month's column to provide an update on a number of board-related activities and ad hoc committees.

In November, several members of the board of trustees, along with Rabbi and Cantor, attended the Regional Biennial of the NJ West Hudson Valley Region of the UAHC. We attended many interesting seminars and addresses, and brought back a lot of ideas for our committees and congregation. Other highlights included speeches from Rabbi Eric Yoffie (President of the UAHC) and Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch (Director of ARZA/WORLD UNION), Shabbat evening and morning services, and sharing ideas with members of other congregations. MRT also showcased the Kosovo/Turkey fund raiser during the biennial. Thanks to all the members of the congregation who attended the biennial with me: Bob Blank, Stephanie Fitzsimmons, Karen Karl, Steve Mahan, Susan St. Lifer, Rabbi Priesand, Cantor Rosenfeld, and Jeff Willard. We look forward to the UAHC National Biennial which will be held in Boston in 2001, and hope that we can bring a large delegation to that convention.

You may have noticed the workers repairing the brick facing on the Temple during November. In addition to the brick work, a half dozen, or so, sources of leaks are fixed. There is still a little more work needed to finish the repairs on the area of the roof above the ark in the sanctuary. After this work is completed, we should have a respite from the intermittent leaks and replacement of ceiling tiles. Thanks to the house committee, lead by Joan Denton, for their continued efforts in repairing and maintaining our Temple building and grounds.

The ad hoc Bema Committee is assessing the possibility of expanding the bema and making it handicapped accessible. The Committee has also recommended that we purchase a new organ. I have mentioned this in a previous article, and we are now proceeding with choosing the proper organ for our sanctuary. You will be hearing more about this in a letter to the congregation. We will need between \$30,000 and \$40,000 to pay for the organ, and will be looking to our Temple family to assist in this

effort. Most likely a special fund will be set up to accept donations, similar to the way we raised the money for the new ark doors several years ago.

The ad hoc Long Range Planning Committee completed its job, and sent a series of recommendations to the board in November. As a result, we expect that a number of focused task forces will be created to assess how we address these specific areas: Adult Jewish Learning, Spirituality, Membership Involvement, and Staffing. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please give me a call, or leave a note in my mailbox at Temple.

Shalom, Gerald Reisner

BOOK DISCUSSION

Our newly formed Book Group has had two successful discussions. In September Anita Diamant's The Red Tent was analyzed and in November Simon Weisenthal's The Sunflower was debated. A nice size group was in attendance for each; the discussions have been thought-provoking and enjoyable.

On Sunday, January 14th, the Book Group will again meet in the social hall to discuss The Romance Reader by Pearl Abraham. The author, who grew up in a Hasidic community herself, presents the story of Rachel, a girl caught between the strictly controlled world of ultra Orthodox Judaism and the seductive yearnings of her own heart. It is both a coming-of-age story and a brave, beautifully rendered expose of a hidden, insular world.

Join us for bagels and discussion!

9:30 – 10:00 bagels

10:00 – 12:00 book discussion

All are welcome! Please contact Amy Shore at 706-5495 or Amyle3@aol.com for more information.

MRT LOGO T-SHIRTS AND BACKPACKS

STILL AVAILABLE

Show Your Temple Spirit!!

\$10.00 for T-Shirts \$20.00 for Golf Shirts

\$12.00 for Backpacks

Available when gift shop is open for Chanukah or call Susan St. Lifer anytime 780-4778



A Note from Cantor Daniel M. Rosenfeld

Shalom!

I hope the change of seasons finds you all healthy and in good spirits. In a matter of days we will begin our observance of Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights. Chanukah is different from the other holidays we celebrate during the year for a number of reasons. First of all, it is not a *festival* or in Hebrew, *chag*. In Jewish tradition, the term *festival* refers to three celebrations: *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot* all of which originate in the Torah. Chanukah comes from the Book of Maccabees which is not included in our Bible. Rather it is part of a collection of writings known as the *Apocrypha*, selections that the sages of old omitted from the Bible when they canonized or standardized it.

Another difference between Chanukah and the festivals is the music. As I have written earlier, Chanukah has no specific *nusach* to distinguish it from any other holiday. However, it does have special tunes associated with it such as *Maoz Tzur*, *S'vivon*, *Ner Li*. These songs inevitably conjure up memories of the rituals and practices surrounding the holiday such as the smell of *sufganiot* (doughnuts) and *latkes*, and the spinning dreidel. The lack of *nusach* is important because it means that there is no special liturgy to be included in the service. The only exception is the inclusion of *Al Hanisim*, the passage which commemorates the battle between the Hasmoneans under Mattathias and the Greeks under Antiochus.

I would like to discuss the significance of this particular passage. *Al Hanisim*, means *concerning the miracles*. In this case, the miracles refer specifically to the victory of the few, the Hasmoneans, over the Greeks, the many. It lauds the courage of those who fought to preserve the sanctity of the Temple against those who would profane it with pagan practices.

In recent years, there has been discussion as to how much significance we should attribute to this holiday for at least two reasons. Some have suggested that Chanukah is a glorification of war and that it should be observed minimally if at all. Others

have suggested that Chanukah celebrations should be played down because the holiday falls around the same time as Christmas, leading to the false notion that it is a "Jewish Christmas."

I have wrestled with this issue for some time, and I have reached the following conclusion: as Jews in the Diaspora, I believe that it is especially important for us to celebrate Chanukah. I grew up in a small town where we were one of two Jewish families. The town was quaint and lovely, like something out of a Winslow Homer painting. The only blatant anti-Semitism I experienced was when, in the Fifth Grade, one of my classmates told me that the Jews killed Jesus Christ. As I look back over the years, I realize that there were other more subtle cases of anti-Semitism which I failed to recognize at the time, either because I was unaware of it, or I chose not to recognize it. In any case, my own background coupled with my awareness of anti-Semitism in our time has convinced me of the importance of Chanukah. Perhaps even more significantly, the celebration of Chanukah serves as a reminder to all Jews of our history and our past. It calls us to remember that past, and to celebrate it with joy and pride. I bring these ideas to bear when I sing the songs of this holiday. I hope you do as well.

I wish you all a happy and uplifting Chanukah.



L'shalom v'ahavah,
Cantor Rosenfeld



Message from Sisterhood

Chanukah is fast approaching and MRT's Judaica Shoppe offers one stop shopping for all your Chanukah needs. We have Menorahs, Dreidels, wrapping paper, gift cards, jewelry, decorations, small gift items, latke trays, and Chanukah platters. All of our merchandise is available daily (just stop into the Temple and Elinor or Mindy will help with your purchase), or come in with your shopping list on Sundays, December 10th and 17th during Religious School hours (9:30 – 12:00).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Cole at 957-0552. Thank you all and have a wonderful holiday!

Sheri (870-1183) & Beverly (544-9138)

Message from Brotherhood

Brotherhood members and guests broached a difficult subject on November 12th – Financial Planning. Bob Blank, Brotherhood member and attorney organized and moderated a superb panel discussion with colleagues from his law firm, Lomurro, Davison, Eastman and Munoz, Robert Munoz and Elaine Stein, along with Roy Baker, Brotherhood member and financial planner. Please see the ads at the end of this bulletin. Usually my eyes glaze over on this subject but not at this meeting. The subject was clear and the response enthusiastic. Thank you to all the speakers.

There will be no Brotherhood meeting in December. Brotherhood will conduct the Shabbat service on Friday, January 12th.

I enjoy Friday night services, but Saturday services with B'nai Mitzvah readings are especially joyful. Please call the Temple office if you could serve as Brotherhood Representative at Saturday morning services. (This would be a great help alleviating some of my phone calls).

Men, join Brotherhood! Your ideas, your work and your company will always be welcome!

Bob Gabel

ARTS FESTIVAL

Things are starting to fall into place for Festival 2001. Our own Maureen Welton and her friend Jackie O'Keefe have agreed to be the show designers. They have some terrific new ideas for the show. We have also re-hired last year's publicist Midge Guerrera and have also retained the services of Chris Mumford as the caterer for the opening night reception. Alice Berman and the Art Selection Committee have completed their review of new artists and have sent out invitations to those they want to participate in Festival 2001. We still have a few posts to fill and I will be making calls in an effort to fill them. Of course, I will be glad to hear from anyone that wants to volunteer.

Shalom, Baldy

Our thanks to our friends in the congregation for your condolences and visits during the loss of our beloved Sandy and for your concern during her illness. Your support helped ease our grief.

The Brandwene Family

MITZVAH OF THE MONTH BINDERS

Mitzvah of the Month binders have been prepared for every Temple member. If you did not receive your copy on Mitzvah Day, please pick one up in the Temple office. You will be receiving additional Mitzvah of the Month sheets periodically. They will be 3-hole punched and ready to be placed into your binder.

ATTENTION INTERFAITH FAMILIES

Please join us for an Outreach Program "Getting Through December: Holiday Issues for Interfaith Families"

Sunday Morning, December 3rd

9:30 AM till Noon

Some questions for discussion:

When all the Christmas decorations go up, when carols fill the air, and everyone you meet says, "Merry Christmas," I feel...

My fondest memory of the December holiday season growing up is...

During the December holidays, grandparents should...

I think one of the benefits of being part of a dual heritage family is...

Please join us for coffee, tea, bagels, and interesting conversation.

DESIGN YOUR OWN MITZVAH

Opportunities for volunteering exist at MRT

Volunteer to teach Hebrew to beginners who want to learn

Contact Karen Karl

Help to organize a room in our building for committees to use when needed

Contact Joan Denton

Visit the sick at Monmouth County Convalescent Centers or be a Christmas Day volunteer

Contact Bob Blank

Please contact Florence Diller or Fayth Newell to help with any of the above mitzvot

SOCIAL ACTION

Mitzvah Day IV was a tremendous success! On Sunday, October 29th, over 400 people from our congregation participated in acts of *tikkun olam*, the repairing of the world. The day commenced with a brief, inspirational service organized by Rabbi Priesand. The service came to an emotional high with a wonderful rendition of the song "Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof," which speaks of the prophet's dream of justice coming down like waters and righteousness descending like a mighty stream. Special thanks go to Cantor Dan Rosenfeld, former staff member Mary Jane Leland on piano, Ron Bernstein on guitar, and singers Steven Hayet and Jonathan Kaye for presenting a fine rendition of this song.

This was the first year that Monmouth Reform Temple participated in the community wide Mitzvah Day, spearheaded by the Jewish Community Center of Western Monmouth County. We can be proud of the enthusiastic support which our congregation gave to the community wide projects which included a blood drive, food and clothing drives.

The event concluded with the annual temple picnic. Many participants brought salads and desserts to add to the basics which were supplied by Dean Ross.

The day was capped off by an evening presentation featuring Rabbi Dannel Schwartz. The topic was "Jews, Joy and Spirituality." The presentation was sponsored by JAR (Jews, Addiction and Recovery) a task force of the Jewish Family and Children's Services, and funded by the Continuity Commission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Monmouth County.

It was a spiritually uplifting day. It was also very satisfying to see so many people work together to make Mitzvah Day IV happen. There were over 20 volunteers who put this day together, including many new members of the Social Action Committee who brought fresh ideas and much spirit. There were so many people who worked hard to make the event a success, that it is not possible to thank each of them individually in this article. Special thanks go to Roy Eisen and Roy Baker, the Mitzvah Day co-chairs, Pam Burke for her work on project coordination, and Jeff Willard and Steve Mahan for their work on registration and the picnic. Of course, Rabbi Priesand's untiring dedication to and support

of the Social Action Committee and Mitzvah Day merit a huge "*Todah rabbah!*" We are also most grateful for the support and cooperation of David Levinsky, Religious School Principal, and all of the teachers of the religious school. Thanks also to Bob Rosin is for setting up Mitzvah Day Registration online through the MRT website. Likewise, we express our gratitude to the MRT office and custodial staff for the important work they do to make Mitzvah Day possible.

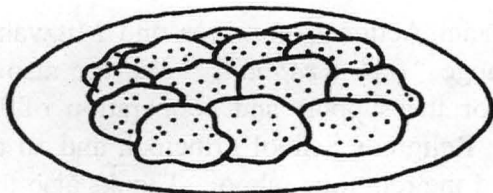
A more complete report will be sent to the congregation in a special Social Action mailing. Please watch for it.

An "Issues Forum" was co-hosted by the Social Action Committee, along with the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women and the Red Bank Chapter of Hadassah on October 26th. Pat Freeman and Marie Curtis, from the League of Women Voters, presented a comparison of the views of the major candidates on topics such as Social Security, Medicare, education, the environment, campaign finance reform and gun control.

Planning for the Christmas Day volunteer program is now underway. Each year we send volunteers into local nursing homes to perform the Mitzvah of visiting the sick. It is a very satisfying experience which I highly recommend. It also permits the facilities to cut back their regular staffing requirements, thus enabling more of our Christian neighbors to spend time with their families on Christmas Day. Bob Schulman and Cheryl Gaudette are coordinating the efforts. Please watch for a sign up flyer in the mail. You may also call the Temple office to volunteer.

Would you like to become a member of the Social Action Committee? For more information or to volunteer for any Social Action projects or events, you may reach me during the day at (732) 625-0776. My e-mail address is boblank98@aol.com. You may also call the Temple office.

Bob Blank



Please stop in to buy *Scrip* before going to your favorite Supermarket

We have:

Foodtown	Pathmark
ShopRite	GrandUnion
Acme	A&P

Shop early for the holidays for those hard-to-please people. We have:

Macy's	Gap
Old Navy	Barnes and Noble
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MRT'S FIRST GOLF OUTING

MEN AND WOMEN
SUMMER 2001

Join the Golf Committee

For more information

Call Dean Ross 483-0387 or Lynn Shapiro 530-8927

ANNUAL REGIONAL WINTER KALLAH

Speaker: Professor Alyssa Gray

Instructor of Codes and Responsa Literature,
HUC-JIR

Saturday, February 3, 2001

9:30AM - 5:00 PM

Spend Shabbat in Study, Worship & Song
At Barnert Memorial Temple, Franklin Lakes, NJ

Send \$36.00 per person to:

UAHC

56 Ridgewood Rd, Washington Twp, NJ 07676

Register by January 20, 2001

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*It is a great way to reach over 375 families
and to also help support the Temple.*

Call Barbara Goldstein
747-0824 for details

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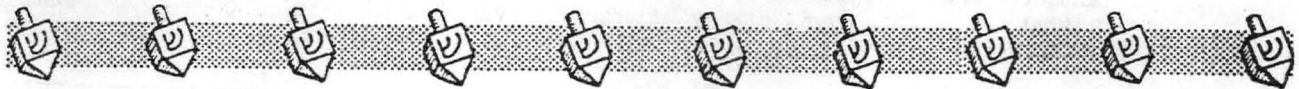
CHANUKAH AT MRT

Friday, December 22
8:15 P.M.

Chanukah Shabbat Service
A CLOSER LOOK AT THE
MUSIC OF CHANUKAH

Sunday, December 24
9:30 A.M. - 12:00 noon

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
for the entire Temple family -
Bring your menorah



The History of Chanukah

The Hebrew word "Chanukah" means "re-dedication". The holiday derives its name from the Maccabean re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem on the 25th of the Hebrew month, Kislev, 165 B.C.E. Prior to the year 167 B.C.E. Palestine and the surrounding lands were ruled by the Greeks and Syrians. A part of their ruling policy was a relentless campaign to destroy Judaism.

In 167 B.C.E. on the 25th of Kislev, they entered the Temple in Jerusalem, defiled it by constructing altars to idols and began conducting pagan rites. That same year the Jewish people, under the courageous leadership of the High Priest Mattathias, and then his son Judah Maccabeus, began their revolt. For three years Judah and his followers, who became known as the Maccabees, waged a continuous fight for religious freedom. Finally, in 165 B. C.E. they dislodged the enemy from large portions of Palestine, gained control of Jerusalem, restored and cleansed the Temple.

Victoriously on the 25th of Kislev, the same date the enemy had defiled the Temple, the Maccabees rededicated it as a symbol of their struggle for religious freedom. We are told that "Chanukah", the ceremony of rededication, like Sukkot, lasted eight days. Some scholars believe, that because the Maccabees could not celebrate Sukkot during the years of their revolution, they combined that holiday with the festivities of their rededication of the Temple. This would explain the reason why Chanukah is eight days in length.

Each of the eight branches of the Menorah stands for one day of the festival. The lighting of the Menorah during the eight days has come to symbolize the victory of the Maccabees and the values of our faith for which they struggled. It reminds us of the importance of religious pluralism. All people should be free to worship as they wish, in the manner which best suits their needs and way of life. That is the true message of Chanukah.

76. LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Words and Music by Peter Yarrow

With Conviction (♩=112)

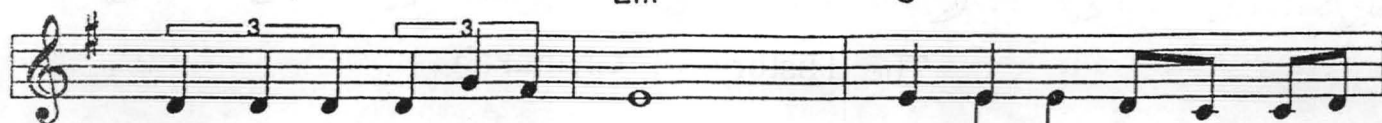
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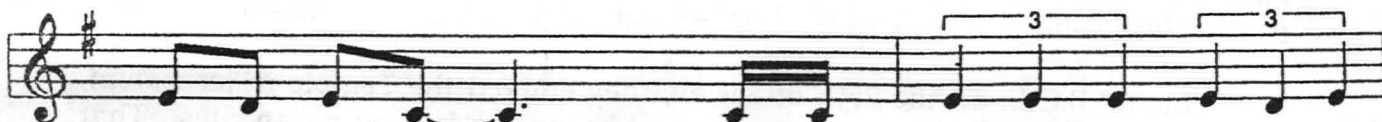
1.Light one can - dle for the Mac - ca - bee child - ren. Give
2.Light one can - dle for the strength — that we need to
3.What is the mem - o - ry that's val - ued so high - ly that

Em

C



thanks that their light did - n't die. Light one can - dle for the
nev - er be - come our own foe. Light one can - dle for
we keep a - live in that flame? What's the com - mit - ment — to



pain they en - dured — when their right to ex - ist was de -
those who are suf - fring the — pain we learned so long a -
those who have died — when we cry out, "They've not died in

B7

Em



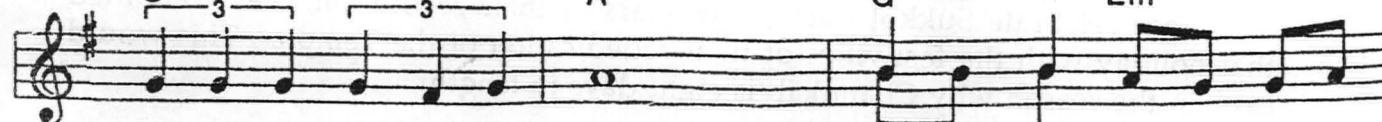
nied. Light one can - dle for the ter - ri - ble sac - ri - fice —
go. Light one can - dle for — all we be - lieve — in, — let
vain." We have come this far — al - ways be - liev - ing that —

C

A

G

Em



jus - tice and free - dom de - mand. Light one can - dle for the
an - ger not tear us a - part. Light one can - dle — to
jus - tice will some - how pre - vail. This is the bur - den — and

A CHANUKAH GAME

Who will be the first to reach the Temple? Use one marker for each player and a dreidle for a spinner. The player who spins a Π first begins, and play continues in a clockwise direction. Players take turns spinning the dreidle, moving forward or backward according to the letter showing on the dreidle and the printed directions. The first player to reach the Temple is the winner.

- ψ — move 1 space backward
- \mathcal{J} — move 1 space forward
- Π — move 2 spaces forward
- λ — move 3 spaces forward

36 T E M P L E	35	34	33	32 WIN GREAT BATTLE. MOVE TO TEMPLE	31
25	26	27	28 WIN SMALL BATTLE. TAKE EXTRA TURN.	29	30
24 TOOK WRONG ROAD. LOSE NEXT TURN.	23	22 CAPTURED SYRIAN ARMS. MOVE AHEAD 4 SPACES.	21	20	19
13	14 FOUND PASS IN MOUNTAINS MOVE AHEAD 3 SPACES.	15	16	17	18 LOST SMALL BATTLE. GO BACK 2 SPACES.
12	11	10	9 PASSED ENEMY LINES. TAKE EXTRA TURN.	8	7
1 START AT MODIN	2	3	4	5 NEED MORE SUPPLIES. GO BACK TO MODIN.	6

CHANUKAH WORD SQUARE

L	A	J	G	T	H	G	I	E	R	E	A
T	E	U	F	E	A	S	T	M	K	I	A
R	E	D	E	D	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
E	R	A	D	A	Y	S	M	A	S	C	T
L	C	H	A	N	U	K	A	H	L	H	I
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	C	L	E	A	O
A	E	H	E	A	A	P	C	J	V	R	C
R	P	O	I	L	N	E	A	E	S	O	H
I	N	R	E	I	P	D	B	W	O	N	U
M	Y	T	D	H	E	M	E	S	N	E	S
S	N	O	I	G	I	L	E	R	S	M	R
E	M	S	A	I	H	T	A	T	T	A	M



Each of the underlined words can be found in the word square above. Words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Circle each word as you find it. The letters remaining that are not in circled words spell out a special Chanukah message.

In 165 B.C.E., Palestine was ruled by Antiochus, King of Syria. He placed idols in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and would not let the Jews follow their religion. Judah the Maccabee and his brothers, the Sons of Mattathias from the town of Modin, led a revolt against the Syrian rulers. Though small in number, the Jews repeatedly defeated the large, well-trained Syrian Army. Their final victory came when they reached Jerusalem. They cleaned the Temple and let worship take place again. They could find only enough oil for the Ner Tamid for one day, but instead it lasted for eight days. We remember the rededication of the Temple and the miracle of the oil by lighting candles in the menorah for eight days beginning on Kislev 25. This feast of dedication or feast of lights is better known as Chanukah.

Write the hidden message here.

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE

A HOME SERVICE FOR CHANUKAH

This service for lighting the menorah celebrates the values of Judaism. Each night, after the opening prayer, a meditation is read, the candles are kindled, the blessings recited, and a closing prayer is offered.

OPENING PRAYER

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.

Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world. May they illumine our lives even as they fill us with gratitude that our faith has been saved from extinction time and again.

The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left,
and kindled from left to right

ברוך אתה	Holy One of Blessing
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ	Your Presence
מִלֵּךְ הָעוֹלָם	fills creation.
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ	You made us holy
בְּמִצְוֹתַי	with Your commandments
וְצִוָּנוּ	and called us
לְהַדְלִיק	to kindle
נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה:	the Chanukah lights.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer ki-de-sha-nu
be-mits-vo-tav, ve-tsi-va-nu
le-had-lik neir shel Cha-nu-ka.

ברוך אתה	Holy One of Blessing
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ	Your Presence
מִלֵּךְ הָעוֹלָם	fills creation.
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים	You performed miracles
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ	for our ancestors
בְּיָמֵי הָהֵם	in days of old
בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה:	at this season.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-sa ni-sim
la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-heim
ba-ze-man ha-zeh.

ברוך אתה	Holy One of Blessing
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ	Your Presence
מִלֵּךְ הָעוֹלָם	fills creation.
שֶׁחַיָּינוּ	You have kept us alive
וְקִיָּמָנוּ	You have sustained us
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ	You have brought us
לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:	to this moment.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu,
me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu
ve-ki-ye-ma-nu ve-hi-gi-a-nu
la-ze-man ha-zeh.

FIRST NIGHT - FREEDOM

MEDITATION: We kindle these Chanukah lights in memory of the dedication and courage of the Maccabees. Believing that they should be free to worship God as their hearts and minds dictated, they willingly gave their lives for freedom. Now, kindling these candles, we rededicate ourselves to the task of creating a world where all may know the joy of freedom.

LIGHT CANDLES, RECITE BLESSINGS

PRAYER: Our God and God of ages past, on this eve of Chanukah, we rededicate ourselves to You. Let these lights shine forth brightly, reminding us that all people are created equal in Your sight. Inspire us anew that we may serve the cause of freedom as valiantly as did our ancestors before us. We praise You, O God, who has implanted within us a love of freedom.

SECOND NIGHT - FAMILY

MEDITATION: Tonight, as we celebrate Chanukah together, we are conscious of our precious gift of family. So often we take one another for granted, forgetting to express our love and concern. As we kindle these festive lights, let us rededicate ourselves to sharing our interests and time with one another. Like the Maccabees of old, let us always face the tribulations and the joys of life united by our family bonds. May our love for each other increase through deeds of kindness and thoughtfulness.

PRAYER: Eternal God, Source of all goodness, we thank You for the blessings You have bestowed upon us, and we pray for health and joy. May all families everywhere experience the love for one another which we share. We praise You, O God, for enabling us to be together on this joyous festival.

THIRD NIGHT - STUDY OF TORAH

MEDITATION: On this third night of Chanukah, we rededicate ourselves to the study of Torah. As the Maccabees courageously fought to preserve our tradition, we too are duty-bound to sustain our heritage and deepen our understanding of it through study. By increasing our knowledge of Judaism, we become more sensitive to its abiding values and more aware of our responsibility to realize those values in our society. Study opens our minds and fortifies us against tyranny. Learning secures our freedom. As we kindle these candles, let us rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition.

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE DECEMBER 2000 EVENTS

Friday, Dec 1	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 2	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Jared Walsh Bar Mitzvah)
Sunday, Dec. 3	9:30 am – noon	Religious School
	9:45 AM	Outreach Program
Tuesday, Dec. 5	9:30 AM	Adult Study Group
	8:00 PM	Religious Education Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 6	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Religious School
	4:00 - 6:00 PM	Book Fair
	6:00 PM	Senior Youth Board Meeting
	7:30 PM	Youth Committee Meeting
	8:00 PM	Ritual Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 7	8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 8	6:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service (Jewish Music Month Sabbath)
Saturday, Dec. 9	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Beth Nelson Bat Mitzvah)
	10:30 AM	Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Program
Sunday, Dec. 10	9:30 AM-noon	Religious School
	9:30 AM-noon	Book Fair
Monday, Dec. 11	7:30 PM	Arts Festival Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 12	9:30 AM	Adult Study Group
Wednesday, Dec. 13	4:00-6:00 PM	Religious School
	8:00 PM	Executive Committee
Thursday, Dec. 14	7:00-9:00 PM	Teen Hangout Night
	8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 15	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service (Grade 6A Family Service)
Saturday, Dec. 16	10:30 AM	Sabbath Morning Service (Sethe Block B/M)
Sunday, Dec 17	9:30 AM – noon	Religious School
	11:00 AM	Religious School Parents' Meeting
	3:00 PM	Cultural Series Part II – at Temple Rodeph Torah
Monday, Dec. 18	7:00-8:00 PM	Pre-School Program
Tuesday, Dec. 19	9:30 AM	Adult Study Group
	8:00 PM	Temple Board Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 20	4:00-6:00 PM	Religious School
Friday, Dec. 22	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 23	10:30 AM	Sabbath Morning Service (Benjamin Mintz B/M)
Sunday, Dec. 24	9:30 AM - noon	Religious School (Chanukah latke party)
Tuesday, Dec. 26	8:00 PM	Social Action Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 28	8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 29	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27 & SUNDAY, DEC. 31
OFFICE CLOSED: MONDAY, DEC. 25

HAPPY SECULAR NEW YEAR!

PRAYER: O God, may we ever recognize our obligation to learn. Increase in us the desire to pursue knowledge as an instrument which strengthens our way of life. Humbly we realize how little we know of our world and our faith. Let these Chanukah lights serve to remind us of our need to study and increase our understanding. May they inspire us to enlighten our minds and use them for the benefit of all humanity.

FOURTH NIGHT - HOPE

MEDITATION: Our ancestors taught us that in hope the future of humanity is illumined and made creative. Many people in the world live in fear and great despair. But like the Maccabees of old, we must learn to build our lives on hope: hope that ultimately truth will triumph over falsehood, and confidence that knowledge and understanding will finally depose superstition and tyranny. As we kindle these Chanukah lights, may our lives be strengthened by the highest hopes and visions of our faith.

PRAYER: Eternal God, Source of our upward striving, inspire us with hope to face courageously the trials and challenges which confront us. Based on truth and honesty, may our efforts bring to fulfillment our highest aspirations. We sincerely hope for the day when all people will be free and war will no longer delay the dawn of justice and peace. We praise You, O God, who has implanted within us a steadfast hope in the future.

FIFTH NIGHT - CHARITY

MEDITATION: Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean war for freedom, all Jews, both children and adults, contributed charity toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. Many forms of oppression still exist in the world today: sickness, hunger, ignorance, prejudice. Tonight, we like our ancestors set aside gifts of charity in order that we too may help bring an end to oppression. We pray that the gifts we offer will provide food for the hungry, medicine for the sick, knowledge for the ignorant, and equal opportunity for those afflicted by prejudice.

PRAYER: Our God and God of ages past, our tradition teaches that the more charity there is, the more secure does peace become. May our Chanukah candles symbolize for us the light of happiness and hope which our charity will bring to those oppressed by need. Help us always to be compassionate and generous toward others. We praise You, O God, who commands us to give tzdakah.

SIXTH NIGHT - PEACE

MEDITATION: The candles of Chanukah remind us of our mission as Jews. Like the Maccabees, we seek to rededicate ourselves to the service of God. Today one of our foremost tasks is to secure peace in our troubled world. Whenever we end disagreements through mutual understanding, whenever we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we are doing our part in making peace a living ideal. As we kindle our Chanukah candles, let us rededicate ourselves with renewed strength to the task of securing peace.

PRAYER: Eternal God, let there be a love of peace in every human heart. Help us to realize that hate and prejudice bring nothing but strife and chaos into the world. May all people come to recognize that only through cooperation and honest negotiation can the blessings of peace be made secure. We praise You, O God, Giver of peace.

SEVENTH NIGHT - RESPECT

MEDITATION: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Respect for others is the basis for harmony among people and nations. As we light these candles, may we recognize the dignity of all people and remember the respect and honor we owe to others.

PRAYER: Eternal God, Source of all goodness, teach us to be sensitive to the feelings of our friends and neighbors. Help us to understand their failings and grant us the humility to praise and applaud their achievements. We praise You, O God, who has created one human family.

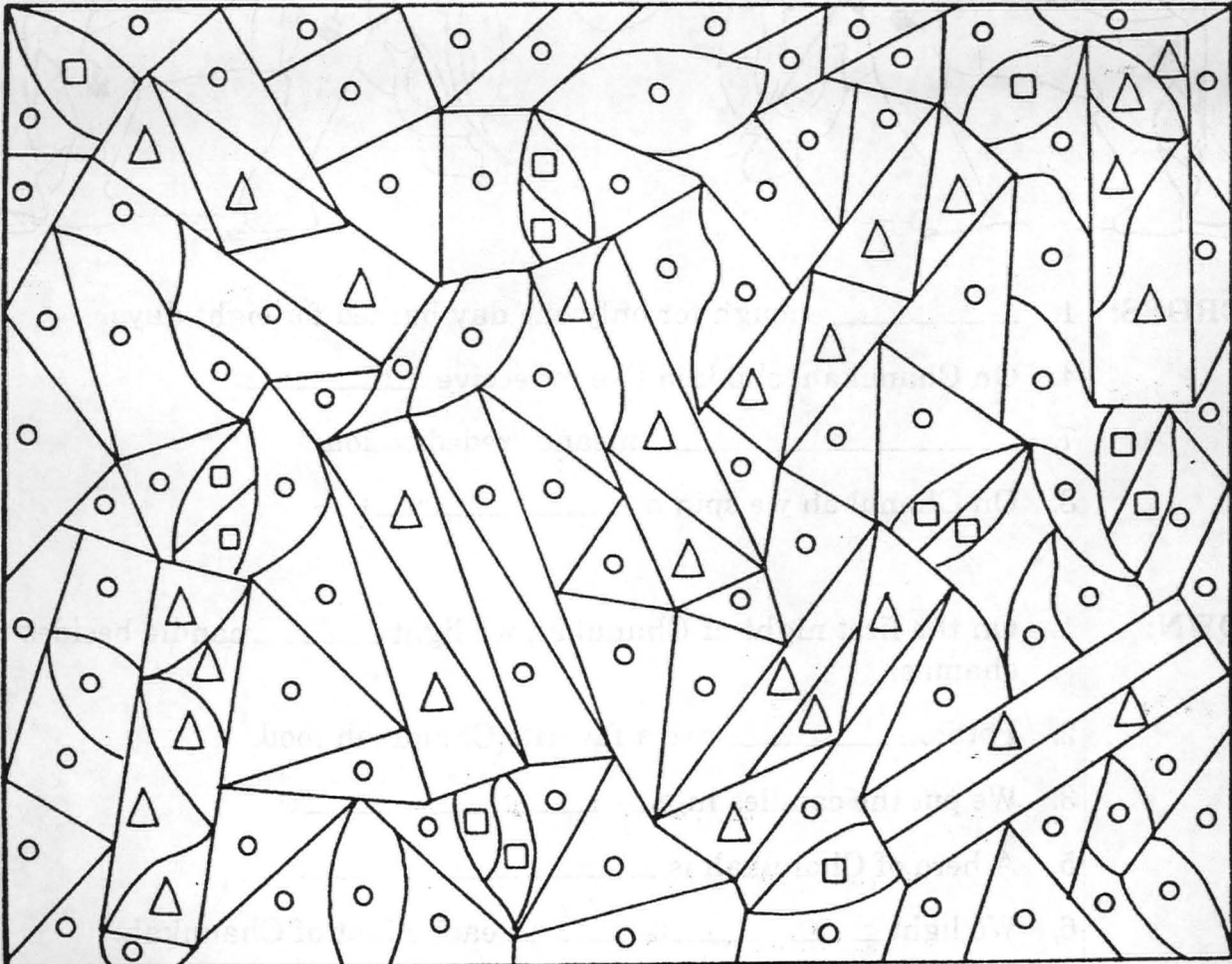
EIGHTH NIGHT - FAITH

MEDITATION: Tonight we kindle all the candles in our Chanukah menorah. Throughout the centuries, the menorah has been a symbol of our faith in God and our commitment to Judaism. Like the Maccabees of old, we rededicate ourselves to the task of living a more meaningful Jewish life. Not by might nor by power but by My spirit, says God.

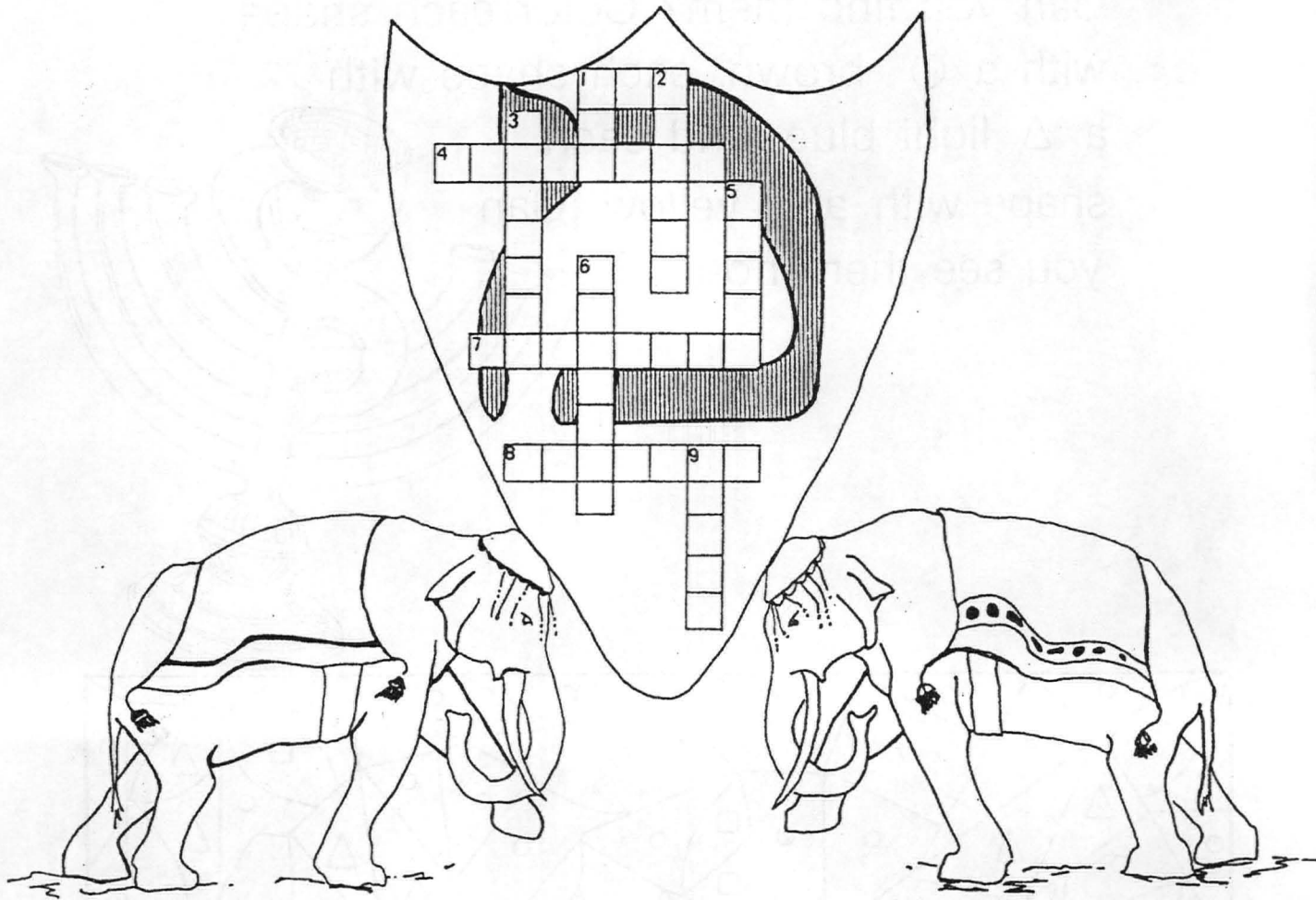
PRAYER: Our God and God of ages past, may we be sustained and strengthened by our faith. Make us ever mindful of the links that bind the generations together, and let the heritage that has been entrusted to us be secure in our keeping. We praise You, O God, for the faith of our ancestors and for the opportunity of celebrating this holiday of Chanukah.

CHANUKAH CANDLES

There are eight candles hidden here.
Can you find them? Color each shape with
a ○ brown, each shape with
a △ light blue, and each
shape with a □ yellow. Can
you see them now?



CHANUKAH CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS: 1. _____ enough for only one day burned for eight days.

4. On Chanukah, children like to receive _____.

7. _____ means "rededication."

8. On Chanukah we spin a _____.

DOWN: 1. On the first night of Chanukah we light _____ candle besides the shamash.

2. Potato _____ are a favorite Chanukah food.

3. We put the candles in a _____.

5. A hero of Chanukah is _____.

6. We light _____ each night of Chanukah.

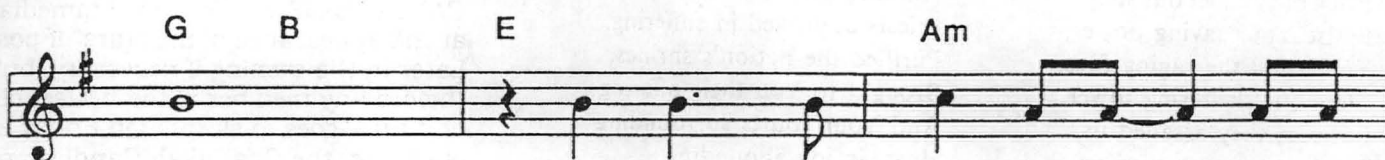
9. Chanukah lasts for _____ days.



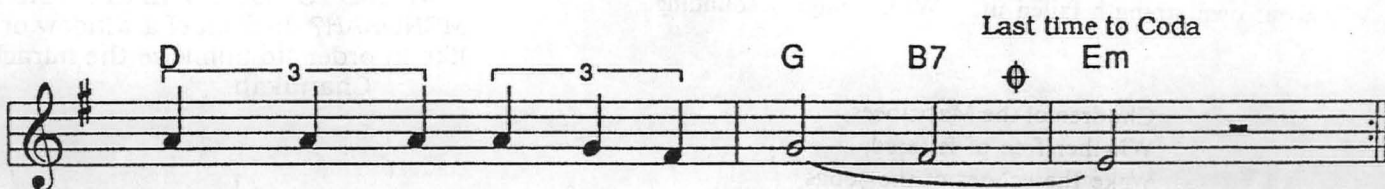
wis - dom to know — when the peace - mak - er's time is at hand. —
 bind us to - geth - ther with peace as the song in our heart. —
 this is the pro - mise and this is why we will not fail. —



Don't let the light go out. — It's last - ed for so ma - ny



years. Don't let the light go out. — Let it



shine through our love and our tears. —

Coda



Don't let the light go out. — Don't let the



light go out. —

Don't let the light go out.

Ma-oz tsur ye-shu-a-ti,
le-cha na-eh le-sha-bel-ach;
ti-kon belt te-fi-la-ti,
ve-sham to-da ne-za-bel-ach.
Le-elt ta-chn mat-bel-ach,
mi-tsar ha-me-na-bel-ach,
az eg-mor, be-shir miz-mor,
cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bel-ach.

מעוז צור ישועתי,
לך נאה לשבח;
תכון בית תפילתי,
ושם תודה נזבח.
לעת תכין מטבח,
מצר המנוח,
אז אגמור, בשר מזמור,
חנכת המנוח.

ROCK OF AGES

Rock of ages, let our song
Praise Your saving power;
You, amid the raging foes,
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.

Kindling new the holy lamps,
Priests approved in suffering,
Purified the nation's shrines,
Brought to You their offering.
And Your courts surrounding
Hear, in joy abounding,
Happy throngs,
Singing songs,
With a mighty sounding.

Children of the Maccabees,
Whether free of fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs,
Where you may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering,
That the time is nearing,
Which will see
All go free,
Tyrants disappearing.

CHANUKAH IN THE KITCHEN

Yes, Chanukah is in the kitchen, too.
One of the favorites is "latkes" or potato
pancakes. No doubt you have your own
recipe or you can easily find one. Or
perhaps you might like to try this recipe.

POTATO PANCAKES

2 cups grated raw potatoes
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. salt
1 heaping tbsp. flour or matzah meal
Pinch of baking powder
1 small grated onion

Combine all ingredients and drop
mixture by tablespoons into hot skillet,
generously greased with butter or
shortening. Fry on both sides until brown
and serve with applesauce.

Some Oft Asked Questions About Kindling the Menorah

HOW SHOULD THE CHANUKAH CANDLES BE PLACED IN THE MENORAH? Always place candles in the Menorah beginning from the far right and continuing to the left.

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE KINDLING THE CHANUKAH LIGHTS? The Chanukah Candles are kindled from left to right.

WHEN SHOULD THE CHANUKAH CANDLES BE KINDLED? "Immediately at the appearance of the stars" if possible. Later in the evening if necessary, but always "before any member of the household—child or adult—goes to sleep." On Friday evening, of course, the Chanukah Candles are kindled before we light the Shabbat candles.

WHERE TO PLACE THE CHANUKAH MENORAH? In front of a window or the like in order "to publicize the miracle" of Chanukah.

THE GAME OF DREIDEL

Dreidel is the traditional game for the festival of Chanukah. Any number can play.

Each player contributes some nuts, raisins, or candies to a central "pot" and spins the dreidel in turn.

The Hebrew letters on the dreidel stand for Yiddish words which tell you how much you win . . . or lose!

נ	"NUN" stands for נישט "Nisht"
	= win nothing, lose nothing.
ג	"GIMMEL" stands for גאנץ "Gantz"
	= take all, win the pot.
ה	"HEY" stands for האלב "Halb"
	= win half the pot.
ש	"SHIN" stands for שטעל "Shtel"
	= put one in the pot (or other pre-decided amount).

If the pot is won, every player can "ante up" again.
The letters on the dreidel have also been interpreted to stand for the Hebrew phrase:

נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם

"Nes Gadol Haya Sham"

meaning: "A great Miracle happened there" in reference to the story of Chanukah.

At our temple, loved ones are memorialized with kaddish at the Shabbat service on or following their yahrzeit. If you would like someone's name read instead on the Sabbath before the yahrzeit, please feel free to contact the temple office or see the Rabbi just prior to the service.

Yahrzeit

Dec. 1: *Ida Mann Falk, Albert B. Gomberg, Jay Stevens, Beatrice S. Leeds, Carol Shuldener, Cary Lowenstein, *Risa A. Yagoda, *Steven Stone, *Miriam Leavitt Welner, *Bernard Levy, David Litwin, Jeffrey C. Weinstein, *Abba Mayer Beerman, *Jay Schulman, *Gussie Avrin, Martin Baronoff, Joseph Dow, Roger K. Berman, *Hugo E. Fleischman, *Sally Mausner

Dec. 8: *Dr. Irma Steisel, Eleanore Ehrenberg, *Harry Kohn, Gertrude Wolf, *Flora Braunstein, *Hilda D. Salomon, *Sol Cohen, Ruth Silverberg, Harold Rosenblum, *Isidore Berman, Leda Cohan, *Betty Bermann, Joel Wiesenfeld, Ruth Welt, *Helen Davis, Murray Hymans, *Celia Spring, *Louis E. Jacobson, Abraham Golden, Susan Rosemann, Joseph Levinsky, *Mary Fleischman, *Sheldon Hillel Brown, Marion Tarash

Dec. 15: Morris Weinstein, Sam Fass, *Abraham Glasser, Florence Elias, Norman K. Brenner, *Pearl Seitz, *David Lane, Jane Marshall, *Ida Reisner, Leo Goodman, *Lois Baker Smith, Harry Katz, *Martha Lehrer Herzel, Nancy Karl, Ace A. Orange

Dec. 22: Florence Diamond, Herbert Tanzman, *Richard Klein, Harry Field, *Bette Halpern Schmelzle, *George Glasser, Molly Gurevitz, *Nettie Morse,

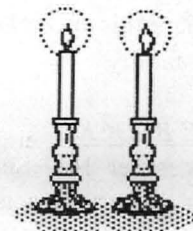
Edward Klein, Philip Kramer, Evelyn Garfield, Sylvia Snedcof Musicus, Collette Katz, Jack Ostroff, Elaine Piniak, Jennie Rosenweig, Jessie Weiss, *Mortimer Brandwne

Dec. 29: Gertrude Snyder, *Joseph Lansky, *Hyman Reisner, *Leonard Gettelson, *Esther Komar, Sam Tuttle, *Edith R. Ginzburg, Helene Backman, *Goldie Bialy, *Samuel Avrin, Lillian Rifkin, Evelyn Anna Roe Gilstein, Joseph Weisfogel, Rose Niffer Snedcof, Harold Rubin, Jonathan Matthew Reiter

**Indicates perpetual Kaddish*

TRADITIONAL SABBATH EVE CANDLE LIGHTING

Dec	1	4:11 PM
Dec	8	4:11 PM
Dec	15	4:12 PM
Dec	22	4:15 PM
Dec	29	4:19 PM



The Congregation extends warm condolences to:

David and Rita Sperling
on the death of David's father
Calmon Sperling



Semmes and Michael Brightman
on the death of their husband and father
Ian Brightman

Memorial Plaques, which are dedicated to a family member, can be purchased through the Temple office. They are hung on the side walls of the sanctuary. Spaces are available on both walls. Cost per plaque is \$400. Please call the office for details.

MEET OUR DECEMBER B'NAI MITZVAH

JARED WALSH

December 2nd is Jared's special day when he will become a Bar Mitzvah. His mother Lori and sister Samantha are very proud of him. Jared attends Tinton Falls Middle School and is in the 7th grade. His favorite subject is math. He especially likes skateboarding and playing Dreamcast. Jared would like to thank his grandfather for all his help and support. Mazel Tov to Jared and his family.

BETH NELSON

On December 9th Beth will become a Bat Mitzvah. Her parents, Tina and Larry and sister Deborah look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with her. Beth attends Tinton Falls Middle School and is in the 7th grade. Her favorite subject is computer and she is on the bowling and softball teams. She also enjoys photography and taking care of her cat. Beth has especially liked learning about her Jewish History. She is looking forward to seeing her relatives and having them share this special day with her. Mazel Tov to Beth and her family.

SETHE BLOCK

On December 16th Sethe will become a Bat Mitzvah. This is a very special day for Sethe's parents Jill Saunders and Robert Block and step-sister Katie. Sethe attends Tinton Falls Middle School and is in the 7th grade. Her favorite subjects are math and health. She plays basketball for Mid-Monmouth as well as soccer and softball. Sethe likes to sing and dance and is looking forward to her family and friends to all be together on this happy occasion. Mazel Tov to Sethe and her family.

BENJAMIN MINTZ

December 23rd will be Benjamin's special day to remember when he will become a Bar Mitzvah. His parents Shelley and Donald and brother Isaac are very proud of him. Benjamin is in the 7th grade at Knollwood School in Fair Haven and his favorite subjects are science and math. He is a Boy Scout, has achieved honor roll, and received John's Hopkin's CTY Award. Benjamin is on the roller hockey team and enjoys computer technology, magic cards, rock climbing, piano, acting and telling jokes. He is especially looking forward to his Bar Mitzvah because he enjoys studying Hebrew and performing on stage. Mazel Tov to Benjamin and his family.



TINTON FALLS CO-OP NURSERY SCHOOL

Our talented children put on our traditional shows on November 20th and 21st. Little Indians and Pilgrims held hands in brotherhood. Families were invited to bring along food for our classroom feasts, demonstrating the sharing theme of November's curriculum.

We are now collecting coats of all sizes for our Third Annual Coat Drive. The coats will be donated to Lunch Break in Red Bank. Hats, gloves, and scarves will also be appreciated. Help us to help others.

Our Nursery School Open Houses are just around the corner in February 2001. If you know anyone with a pre-schooler who wants a very warm, nurturing environment for their child, please tell them to give me a call.

My staff and I would like to wish everyone safe, healthy, and happy holidays!

Bobbie LaPlaca, Director
747-3990



MRT Tennis Party
is definitely ON!!
Jan. 6, 2001
8:00 - midnight

Colts Neck Racquet Club
\$36/person



*Open to Temple Member:
and Friends!*
Plan to join us for a
great evening of tennis,
socializing & food



**There is still some room for more players but
advance reservations are required!**

Call Barbara Goldstein, 747-0824 for more details.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

where parents set the example...

The first marking period for grades 4-7 will close December 6 and report cards should be issued for these students in the middle of December. The word "standards" has been in the news recently regarding the quality of secular education instruction. Although our standards are not career oriented, they will have some influence on the character development of your children. MRT's emphasis on personal ethics taught through Rabbi Priesand's Mitzvah of the Month program, class lessons on the prophets and the contributions of noteworthy Jews are certainly intended to mold your children's point of view regarding their treatment of other people. I hope that our History lessons strengthen your children's identification with the Jewish people.

Our Hebrew reading curriculum is intended to go far beyond the ability to read holiday prayers. A grasp of our Shabbat service liturgy directly leads to an understanding of each prayer's meaning and reason for inclusion in our service. Prayer translations are not meant to be literal; therefore, the English printed to coincide with the Hebrew provides the reader with the philosophy behind each prayer. Knowledge of each prayer's meaning and purpose contributes to a tightening of the bond between your students and their Judaism.

Our report card gives you, the parents, a record of how much your children have embraced the process of a Religious School education. Examine the letter grades and carefully read the teachers' comments and discuss both with your children. If you wish, telephone the school office to arrange a telephone or a personal interview with the teacher(s). I ask you to let your children know that you care about their Religious School education by making their report cards a serious topic of conversation.

In addition to grades and comments, be attentive of the tallies indicating your children's absences from school and the number of services needed to complete their Shabbat Service requirements.

This year Religious School will be in session on December 24 and it counts for attendance purposes. I admit that holding classes on a day in the middle of the winter break is unusual. Frankly, December 24 was included to balance the cancellation of classes during the NJEA weekend. Since December 24 falls in the middle of Chanukah, it is a perfect day to hold our Temple's annual Chanukah Celebration. As in the past, regular Religious School classes will not be held on the Sunday of our Chanukah Celebration. One or both parents are expected to attend our holiday festivities with their child(ren). It will be held as usual during regular Religious School hours. Of course latkes and applesauce

will be served and every family is reminded to bring their chanukiah to Temple for MRT's very own Festival of Lights.

Much is planned for the Chanukah Celebration. Some children will have hands on experience preparing fresh latkes. The younger children and their parents will make Holiday arts and crafts. Sessions on folk dancing, holiday music and story telling are planned as well. Our traditional "name that tune" and "jeopardy" games are in the process of being revised. A very special session for older students will be held in which they will create their own Chanukah menorahs.

In honor of Jewish Book Month, our Temple's library under Roz Reisner's and Shelly Gordon's direction, will sponsor three programs: the book fair; the speaker, Susan Dworkin, for Jewish Book Month Shabbat; and Fran Manuskin, a frequently published children's author. Ms. Manuskin will conduct assembly programs on December 10 for grades 2-7.

The Religious School children will receive a list of books before the book fair, which will be held Wednesday, December 6 through Sunday, December 10. Books may be purchased by the students for their personal pleasure or by their parents as Chanukah gifts. Please review the list and give your children spending money with which to purchase books during their class visits to the fair.

The Religious Education Committee has long felt that informational as well as social meetings for parents in specific grades would be very beneficial. The committee chair, Jay Wiesenfeld, will lead a discussion for the parents of our fourth grade children on Sunday, December 17 at 10:00am. Religious School policies and practices will be reviewed and Jay will ask questions of the parents to ascertain their feelings about the operation of our Religious School.

Lastly, October's monthly lesson summaries were distributed to your children on Sunday, November 19. Please read them and address any feedback to me at dlevinsky@monmouth.com. November and December summaries will be combined.

Shalom, David Levinsky



THE CONGREGATION ACKNOWLEDGES WITH THANKS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS

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Our marriage

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Ayse Dilber

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Ayse Dilber

Lauretta and Arnold Silverberg on the marriage of their son Eric to Dara Diamant

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Rabbi Shira Stern for receiving the Wallenberg Humanitarian Award

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Thank You To:

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Our son Jeff's Bar Mitzvah

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MRT for supporting Planned Parenthood on Mitzvah Day and all year!

Phyllis Kinsler

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Cora and Stu Tuchband on the birth of their grandson Jacob Miles Tuchband

Phyllis Kinsler

Joan and Don Leeds

Joanna Charnick for her kindness and generosity

Alice Berman

My being called to the Torah

Frank Welton

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

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Lauretta and Arnie Silverberg

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In Honor Of:

Rabbi Priesand's recent accomplishments

Ayse Dilber

Cora and Stu Tuchband on the birth of their grandchildren Jacob Miles Tuchband and

Skylar Irene Oliver

Florence Diller

Get Well Wishes To:

The grandson of Dolores and Ken Phillips

Joan and Don Leeds

LIBRARY FUND:

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Carol and Mark Salomon on the birth of their granddaughter Olivia Jane Goldenberg

Cynthia and Phil Auerbach

Benjamin Mintz's Bar Mitzvah

Jacqueline Samuels

YOUTH GROUP FUND

Isaac Blonder

In Honor Of:

Our son Aaron being recruited and signed by Rutgers Baseball for Fall 2001

Maddy and Michael Kalb

Rabbi Priesand is not always aware when temple members are ill, either at home or in the hospital. Therefore, please let the temple office know if you would like a visit from the Rabbi and if a name should be included on our Mi Shebeirach list.

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE

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See the Temple calendar on our website!!

Sally J. Priesand - 542-8431 Rabbi

Rabbi's E-mail: spriesand@monmouth.com

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Monmouth Reform Temple Calendar for**DECEMBER 2000****WORSHIP SERVICES**

Dec	1 Fri	Shabbat Eve Service	8:15 PM
	2 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	8 Fri	Tot Shabbat	6:30 PM
		Shabbat Eve Service	8:15 PM
	9 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
		Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Program	
	15 Fri	Shabbat Eve Service	8:15 PM
	16 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	22 Fri	Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM
	23 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	29 Fri	Shabbat Eve Service	8:15 PM

Torah Study every Saturday morning at 9:30 AM

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Dec	3 Sun	Religious School	9:30 - Noon
	6 Wed	Religious School	4:00-6:00 PM
	10 Sun	Religious School	9:30 - Noon
	13 Wed	Religious School	4:00-6:00 PM
	17 Sun	Religious School	9:30 - Noon
	20 Wed	Religious School	4:00-6:00 PM
	24 Sun	Religious School	9:30 - Noon

No Religious School: Wed. Dec. 27 & Sun. Dec. 31

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dec	3 Sun	Outreach Program	9:45 AM
	6 Wed	Book Fair	4:00-6:00 PM
	10 Sun	Book Fair	9:30 - Noon
	14 Thurs	Teen Hangout Night	7:00-9:00 PM
	17 Sun	Cultural Series Part II	3:00 PM
	18 Mon	Pre-School Program	7:00-8:00 PM
	24 Sun	Chanukah Latke Party	9:30 - Noon

MEETINGS

Dec	5 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Religious Ed Meeting	8:00 PM
	6 Wed	Sr Youth Board Meeting	6:00 PM
		Youth Committee Meeting	7:30 PM
		Ritual Meeting	8:00 PM
	7 Thurs	Choir Rehearsal	8:00 PM
	11 Mon	Arts Festival Meeting	7:30 PM
	12 Tues	Study Group - NYC Trip	9:15 AM
	13 Wed	Executive Committee	8:00 PM
	14 Thurs	Choir Rehearsal	8:00 PM
	17 Sun	Rel. School Parents' Mtg	11:00 AM
	19 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Temple Board Meeting	8:00 PM
	21 Thurs	Ways & Means	7:45 PM
	26 Tues	Social Action Meeting	8:00 PM
	28 Thurs	Choir Rehearsal	8:00 PM