

TEMPLE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume LII, No. 4

December 2017



Chanukah Dinner & Celebration

Friday, December 15, 2017

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Followed by a

Tablesideshabbat Service & Chanukah Celebration
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Join others from Temple Sinai to light the Chanukah candles (bring your own menorah), play Spin the Dreidel, sing songs, and enjoy chicken, latkes, pasta, applesauce, salad, and dessert.

Sit and schmooze!

Family and friends are welcome.

Save money by turning in your reservation by Friday, December 8th.

***** Clip and return to the temple office or register online through tsinai.org *****

Chanukah Dinner

of Adults age 13 and up @ \$15 by 12/8 (\$17 after 12/8*) _____

of children age 4 – 12 @ \$10 by 12/8 (\$12 after 12/8*) _____

of children under age 4 @ no charge _____

Totals _____

Family Name _____ Phone # _____

Can you help set up at 3:30 p.m.? Yes _____ No _____

 Event may sell out prior to December 8th. Reserve early to guarantee your spot! 



Hearing Loop

The Temple Sinai Bulletin is published monthly by Temple Sinai,
363 Penfield Road, Rochester, NY 14625. Phone (585)381-6890 Fax (585)381-4921



Handicap Accessible

What is Chanukah Anyway?

The celebration of Chanukah often revolves around gifts, candle lighting and the eating of latkes, while the story of Chanukah revolves around the unlikely military victory over the Greeks under the watchful eye of the Romans. The account of the oil expected only to last for one day's lighting but miraculously lasting for all eight days, didn't actually appear in our literature until centuries after the Maccabees in 167 B.C.E. The coupling of the later story about the miracle of the oil and the military triumph, make it easier for some people to observe the *customs* of Chanukah while leaving some others deeply challenged to believe the story many of us were told as children.

We are not alone. The Rabbis of the Talmud also wrestled with Chanukah during a 3-page long discussion about how the kindling of the lights should take place. [Quick reminder: Candles are added to the *chanukkiyah* from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. On the Shabbat during Chanukah kindle the Chanukah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.] Right in the middle of their lengthy, scholarly discourse, we find the surprising question, "What is Chanukah anyway?" (Talmud tractate Shabbat 21a-24a). A shocking question from a group of Rabbis who clearly should have known what Chanukah was! Their question on the *peshat* or simple level seems bizarre but straight-forward. While on a deeper level, their question speaks to a global question: What are we doing (in this case, when observing Chanukah) or why are we performing these rituals?

The 16th Century Maharal of Prague, Rabbi Judah Loew suggested that the main reason that the days of Chanukah were instituted was to celebrate the victory over the Greeks. However, so that it would not seem that the victory was due only to might and heroism, rather than to Divine Providence, the miracle was denoted by the lighting of the Menorah, to show that it was *all* by a miracle, even the war. The Rabbis of old worked hard to offer us an understanding of Chanukah fitting for their times, and in concert with their understanding of God. We are left asking, does their explanation still resonate today? This becomes our challenge each year as we welcome Chanukah and look to both understand it in its historical and military context and at the same time, imbue it with meaning and purpose in our times.

The Rabbis from the Talmud sound to many, like good, Reform Jews and debate has continued over

the years to understand this specific passage. Some have argued that they clearly must have known what Chanukah was as they were in the midst of debating how it should be observed.

While others have compellingly argued that the question pointed to their discomfort with the focus of Chanukah being on the Maccabean victory. In either case, asking, "What is Chanukah anyway?" was the Rabbi's way of saying, "what deeper theological, spiritual and practical meaning might we glean from this experience?" which remains for us in contemporary times, a significant and worthwhile question.

There is much to enjoy about Chanukah: the giving and receiving of gifts is nice, candle lighting reminds us we how we can illumine the darkness, and strive to spread that light more generously into the world, and enjoying latkes is a reminder of the importance of being with family and friends. Chanukah also is a time to remember that our Jewish survival has never been, and can never be a matter of military might alone, but also a matter of spirit, of the possibility of miracles past and present, and of faith. During the Shabbat of Chanukah, we read the words of the prophet Zechariah (4:6): "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the God of Hosts." These are words which are also familiar to many of us from our time at Jewish summer camp, as members of youth group and sung at worship services that have been adjusted ever so slightly: Not by might and not by power but by spirit alone shall we all live in peace.

Wishing you a *Chanukah Samaech*, a happy, meaningful, spirited and peace-filled Chanukah.

Rabbi Debbi Till



Contacting The Rabbis

Please let the temple office (381-6890) know of any illnesses, deaths or joyous occasions so that the Rabbis and the congregation can respond appropriately. Also, remember not to schedule any life cycle events at which Rabbi Katz or Rabbi Till will be present without speaking to them first.

To reach Rabbi Katz in an emergency, please call both his home phone (872-6722) and his cell phone (662-5418). To reach Rabbi Till in an emergency, please call her cell phone (355-0192).

It is a mitzvah to visit those who are ill. We ask temple members who are aware that one of our members is in a hospital to please call the Temple Sinai office so that one of our Rabbis may visit them.



In 1968, the "Democrat and Chronicle" newspaper had a section titled "Her View," where they published articles written by, and of special interest to women. In November of that year, my mother, Saundra Braitman, submitted an article titled "Christmas and the Jewish Mother" and it was published.

She wrote about Christian friends sending Jewish friends Christmas cards (so that the Jewish friends wouldn't feel left out), and of Jewish friends then replying with "season's greetings" cards to be polite, until it spiraled into Jews sending other Jews Christmas cards (albeit secular "peace on earth" ones). She wrote about our neighborhood in Pittsford at the edge of East Rochester where all of the houses had Christmas trees, and about her difficulties when my sister and I were envious of the holiday décor. She wrote about her Santa Claus dilemma. She wrote that when we were told, "We don't believe in Santa Claus," my sister and I responded "but WE do!" Apparently, we told her that Santa even looked Jewish. He really did look a great deal like some of the Jewish grandfathers we knew, with the long white beard and glasses. She then swore us to secrecy and told us the "truth" about Santa, and hoped we wouldn't share it with the neighbors.

My mother's article, full of self-deprecating humor, won her a \$25 savings bond. It also flooded the newspaper with responses, mostly negative, and flooded our mailbox at home with hate mail and a few death threats. There were even many Jews that wrote responses to the paper, suggesting that my mother should learn to compromise and assimilate and allow us to believe in Santa. An editor finally ended the debate with the suggestion that the public was losing its sense of humor.

My mother was not one to compromise or to lose her own sense of humor. She began to spin the tale of "The Great Latke" who rose from his frying pan every Chanukah, and flew through the air to bring presents to all the good little Jewish boys and girls. By this point, my sister and I were a little too old to truly believe and we had already had our illusions

shattered by the "truth" about Santa, and later, the stork, but we loved that we had a story of our own. Admittedly there was some potential crossover to Charlie Brown's "The Great Pumpkin," but it did explain the Chanukah presents.



My mother's dilemma, of course, was that Chanukah did not have either the religious or the retail significance of Christmas. There were latkes, there were candles, and there were miracles and military victories, but it wasn't the "Jewish Christmas" that we were frequently asked about.

Looking back, my strongest memories of Chanukah really came from after my parents divorced, when my mother belonged to a singles group at the JCC. The singles group had an annual Chanukah party, and my mother would invite half a dozen women over the house to make the latkes. Women would sit at the kitchen table, each with a plastic bowl and a box grater, and others would take turns frying and packing. I would sit in the kitchen and listen to them talk, watching them shred potato and an occasional onion, and watching my mother finish each bowl with egg and matzah meal and send it to the fryers. They made hundreds of latkes in an afternoon, and I enjoyed the camaraderie of the kitchen. It was from these women that I learned the bond that comes from cooking together--and the memories that get built that way. The smell of latkes frying still transports me back and warms my heart. And I have a "Great Latke" platter that my sister made for me a few years ago to put my latkes on.

I look forward to seeing you all at our annual Chanukah Dinner and Service on Friday December 15th at 5:30 p.m., where we can share warmth and light and friendship and abundance. Maybe the "Great Latke" will even show up!

Blanche Fenster





School of Jewish Life and Learning

Pinat Ha-Talmid (The Student Corner)

By Ilan D. Adar,
Education Director

Thank you...

...to our 6th grade students who helped leading the Erev Shabbat service.

Candles for All Occasions

Our school will provide our Temple members (and other interested people) with the opportunity to purchase beautiful candles made in the city of Tzfat (Safed), Israel. We will begin to sell Shabbat and tapered candles just before Thanksgiving on Sunday, Nov. 19; and continue with the selling of Chanukah, Shabbat and tapered candles on Sunday, Dec. 3, during our annual Chanukah Happening, till Sunday, Dec. 10.

Inflatables Solar Lantern for every student

You will be able to help by purchasing these lanterns for the students of Sebastian's village (South Sudan) during our Chanukah Happening. Our goal this year is to provide 300 lanterns (there is the need for 1,000) to the students in Sebastian's village.

It happened in November

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Our 5th-7th grade students (and a few parents) attended a special program presented by Mark Schulman. The program centered on his book Scrawl.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, our 4th grade and their parents/grandparents attended the annual Naming Program. The program topics included when was the first "naming ceremony" mentioned in the Torah; when do we name a boy or a girl; when do Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews provide names after relatives; and the origination of last names. The program concluded with a related scavenger hunt game.

On Sunday, Nov. 19: Our 5th grade students and their parents gathered in the Social Hall to participate in a special program titled: "Exploring Our Roots." During the program students interviewed members of their family, focusing on the Jewish experiences of one of their family members growing up; identified on a world map the place where their parents came from; and created an artistic family tree.

December Schedule of Events

Friday, Dec. 1: Family Service (6:00 p.m.)

followed by a catered dinner; students of our 5th grade class will lead parts of the service.

Sunday, Dec. 3: Chanukah Happening; our classes will visit it during school hours

Friday, Dec. 8: Young Family Service (6:00 p.m.), featuring our 2nd grade students and followed by Shabbat dinner.

Sunday, Dec. 10: Sprouts

Friday, Dec. 15: Temple Sinai Chanukah Dinner and Program

Sunday, Dec. 17: Sprouts; Coffee for a Cause social action

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Wednesday, Jan. 3: No School (winter recess)

Happy Chanukah



Our kindergarten class celebrated their Consecration on Simchat Torah! 1st Row – Ezra Drew, Miriam Newburge, Cameron Nelson, and Henry Soriano-Turque. 2nd Row – Mrs. Marilyn Fenster, Justin Wackerman, Eli Mendler, Max Ordan, Ariel Tabachnikoff, and Naomi Marx. 3rd Row – Rabbi Alan Katz, Rabbi Debbi Till, and Mr. Ilan Adar.



Be part of the Sinai Community!

Join our service as our Bat Mitzvah leads us in worship.



Ashlyn Markowitz

December 16,
10:30 a.m.
service

Daughter of
Ben & Anna
Markowitz

YOUTH CORNER

RATSY

Snow might be falling but RATSY's year is only starting to heat up! In the last month, RATSY members had the privilege of attending our region's Fall Kallah with over a hundred other teens from throughout the region. Coupled with our first successful shul-in of the year on November 11, RATSY's members are fully enjoying the year so far!

For the upcoming month, RATSY has two major events. On December 10, RATSY will have a night out at Lasertron in Henrietta. RATSY members will receive discounted games as they team up against other teenagers in an awesome night of laser tag and arcade games. The following weekend, we will be hosting our annual White Elephant Bowling event at Bowl-a-Roll in Henrietta. To celebrate Chanukah, attending teens will bring one gift (\$10 limit) to the event to give to another RATSY member. All games will be free to RATSY members or individuals attending their first RATSY event.

RATSY also is hosting a study hall/study break night in the Temple youth lounge for all Temple Sinai teens, allowing them to either receive help on homework from other members or unwind for a night from the pressures of school and other commitments. Attendance is encouraged; our two study halls for December will be on Tuesday, December 12, and Tuesday, December 19, both of which will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. For additional information on RATSY, upcoming events, or membership, please visit tsinai.org/youth-groups or contact RATSY advisor Michael Pascutoi at michael.pascutoi@gmail.com.

SAWCY

Last month, SAWCY had a great event. On Nov. 19th, they started by having a yummy lunch and then split into two groups. The first group learned about improv and did several team building activities. The second group learned how to make icing for cookie decorating and practiced using a piping bag. Please check out the SAWCY bulletin board outside the temple office and Facebook (under groups "SAWCY") for updated event information. SAWCY is full of opportunities to have fun, give back and perform tzedakah, collaborate with RATSY, cook traditional Jewish goodies and learn about each other. Please contact Diana Seroski with questions: sawcy18@gmail.com.



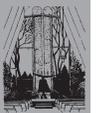
Adult Education

Rabbis Katz & Till will continue to offer a class entitled, "A Taste of Talmud." PLEASE NOTE: This class is being taught entirely in English and no prior familiarity with Talmud will be assumed. The format will be very similar to last year's – very popular – offering on Responsa, with a different contemporary issue being addressed each week and an opportunity to learn and discuss what the rabbis of the Talmud had to say. You may be surprised at the timelessness of some of these topics! Each class will be self-contained. Please drop in for any (or all) as your schedule allows. Classes are on Sunday from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. when religious school is in session

I am happy to let you know that we are now planning the "launch" of conversational Hebrew at Temple Sinai!!

Classes will meet on Sundays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. when religious school is in session (please check your bulletin and snippets for the actual dates). If you have not already expressed your interest, please contact Liz Ornstein at lisbethorn@gmail.com.

The text that we will be using is Shalom: A Beginner's Comprehensive Course in Modern Hebrew by Orly & Shalom Shoer and the price of the book is \$18.



Within our Family

In Memoriam...

Temple Sinai notes with sorrow the passing of:
Igor Sopochnikov, nephew of Nina Rivshin
Louis Fraum, husband of Bernice Fraum
Leonard Singer, father of Stefanie Singer
The Temple family extends its heartfelt sympathy to the families.

Mazal Tov to...

Mike & Janet Goldman on the birth of
granddaughter Violet Olivia Goldman,
daughter of Dan Goldman and Jessica Spies
Heather Zimmler-DeLorenzo & Jeremy Speed-
Schwartz on the birth of son Nathaniel
Ruthven Zimmler-Schwartz
Marsha & Dave Boelio on the birth of grandson
Ethan Bradley Kalb, son of Lisa & Adam Kalb
Rabbi Alan & Jan Katz on the birth of their new
granddaughter born to Tara & Ben Katz

Todah Rabah to...

Gary Levy of Gary Levy Photography, for
taking the Kindergarten Class photo
Stan & Reenie Feingold for donating the
printing of our High Holy Days Yizkor
Memorial Booklet
Remy Fenster for donating the printing for our
High Holy Day Appeal letters
Ellie Kriger for her donation to the Rosh
Hashanah Food Baskets
Elaine Montrose Usdane for her donation to the
Women's Chavurah in honor of her family

Welcome New Members...

Rebecca Schachter
Aaron & Janetta Ruby

FRIENDS OF SINAI

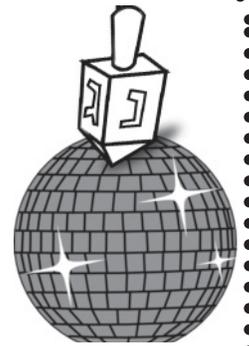
Temple Sinai gratefully acknowledges our Friends of Sinai. For over 30 years, funds from the Friends were used for numerous building and grounds improvements and much needed purchases that enhance congregational life.

We applaud the Friends for their lasting contributions that benefit the entire congregation and acknowledge Liz Ornstein, who rejoined the Friends of Sinai in October.

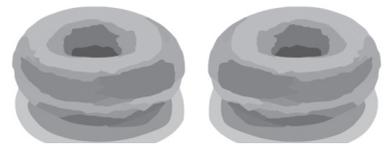
As a family or as an individual, you can become a Friend of Sinai for a minimum annual contribution of \$360 above regular dues. Call the temple office for more information.

Monika Katzel, Friends of Sinai Chair

Join us on Friday,
December 1st at 7:00
p.m. (after the 6:00
service) for our
Shabbat Dinner
with Friends. Our
theme is "Doughnuts,
Dreidels and Disco"



and we will feature all of your
favorite foods from the
'70's as we get ready to
celebrate Chanukah!!



Hiking Chavurah Christmas Day Hike and Asian Lunch

Temple Sinai Hiking Chavurah invites interested outdoor enthusiasts to a morning hike, Monday Dec. 25, Christmas Day at Harriet Hollister Park, 6775 Canadice Hill Rd, Springwater, NY 14560, followed by lunch at Chakara bistro and bar, 7328 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd. Fairport, NY 14450

For those interested in carpooling, we will meet at the home of Ron and Karen Newman, 24 Bishops Court, Pittsford 14534, no later than 9:15 a.m.

Those preferring to meet at the park, please plan to be at Harriet Hollister, no later than 10:15 a.m. We will start hiking promptly.

Dress for the weather. Bring your own water and snacks. If there is snow you may wish to bring snowshoes or XCountry skis. Plan on hiking about 2 - 2.5 hours. The hike leaders are Ron and Karen Newman.

After the hike we will drive to Chakara Bistro, 7328 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd. Fairport NY 14450. The more the merrier!

Kindly RSVP to Jill Orbach at Jworbach@gmail.com or (585) 746-4176.

December 2017 Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



It's December and it is getting cold. If you will be gone for the winter, email Joyce Schachter at jschachter@tsinai.org and we will make sure you get all your Temple Sinai news.

Erev Shabbat Family Service with Birthday Blessings, 5th Grade Participating 6:00 p.m.
Shabbat Dinner with Friends 7:00 p.m.
Torah Portion: Vayishlach Genesis 32.4-36.43

10th Grade Shabbaton
Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.

3 School in Session Chanukah Bazaar 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Keshet 12:00 p.m. Afternoon School 12:00 p.m.	4 College Connection 6:30 p.m.	5	6 School in Session Klezmer Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Erev Shabbat Young Family Service followed by dinner 6:00 p.m. Schmoozin' Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayeshev Genesis 37.1-40.23</i>	9 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
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10 School in Session, Chanukah Program Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Sprouts 9:30 a.m. Keshet 12:00 p.m. Afternoon School 12:00 p.m. Women's Chavurah to Nancy Gong Studio 2:00 p.m. RATSY to Lasertron 5:00 p.m.	11	12	13 School in Session	14 Rochester Coalition Against Human Trafficking 4:00 p.m. Religious Practices Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Erev Shabbat Service & Chanukah Dinner 5:30 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Miketz Genesis 41.1-44.17</i>	16 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
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17 School in Session Coffee for a Cause Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Sprouts 9:30 a.m. Keshet 12:00 p.m. Afternoon School 12:00 p.m.	18 Shalom Hartman Adult Ed (pre-registration required) 6:30 p.m.	19	20 School in Session Bogrim 6:00 p.m. Klezmer Band Practice 7:00 p.m. RATSY Schmoozin' Study Hall 7:15 p.m.	21 Membership Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m.	22 Schmoozin' Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayigash Genesis 44.18-47.27</i>	23 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
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24 NO SCHOOL NO ADULT ED RAIHN	25 OFFICE CLOSED RAIHN	26 RAIHN	27 NO SCHOOL RAIHN	28 RAIHN	29 Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayechi Genesis 47.28-50.26</i> RAIHN	30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. RAIHN
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NO SCHOOL
NO ADULT ED
RAIHN

January Erev Shabbat Services

- Jan. 5 Erev Shabbat Family Service @ 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Young Family Service @ 6:00 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Service @ 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 19 Erev Shabbat Service @ 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 26 Erev Shabbat Service @ 8:00 p.m.

REMINDER

Letters have been mailed to parents whose children were born in 2007 and will celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in the year 2020.

If you did not receive a letter regarding this important life cycle event, please call Holly Woloshyn in the temple office at 381-6890.

Yahrzeits

The departed live on in the hearts of those who cherish their memory

December 1 & 2

Stanley Abrams
Gerald Berg
Calvin Berger
Murray Berlowitz
Mindy Dennis
Lillian Dollinger
Lorrayne Dorfman
Stuart Epstein
Philip Fain
Sylvia Feingold
Ella Feygin
Eileen Gerber
Renee Gimple
Polina Ginzburg
Samuel Guest
Donald F. Hogan
Ethel Hyman
Phyllis Kaplan
Samuel Nitzberg
Sima Novozhenets
Dorothy Paganelli
Irma Pekurovsky
Sydney Phillips
Sidney Rayburn
Martin Rosenberg
Bernard Rudnick
Robert R. Smith
Herman Supnick
Leonard Tebor
Guido Troiano

December 8 & 9

Matilde Aroesty
Josephine Auerbach
Jenny Berman
Stanley Bershod
Alberto Biton
Harriet Braverman
Frederic Brewer
Nathan Fox
Millie Goldensher
Myer Grisbord
Bernard Gross
Louis Grossman
Frank Hennig
Molly Hewitt
Alice Jaffe
Sam Kaufman

Milton Kunken
Helene Lipton
Leonard Maas
Ansel Marblestone
Fannie Mazur
Sara Orbach
Israel Parnes
Edward Perlstein
Herbert Rabinowitz
Josephine Schwartz
Marcia Shaffer
Leonard Stoler
James Yerger

December 15 & 16

David Ball
Mildred Beckwith
Sally Berman
Lewis Bernbaum
Ethel Cooper
Bernice Cornell
Eva Cresov
Sid Dorfman
Abram Dorren
Marian Eckstein
Anna Fain
Ronja Feiner
Erwin Fenster
Ray Frankel
Louise Goldberg
Harvey Gottlieb
Ronald Green
Julius Greenfield
William Heller
Ian Ingram
Dorothy Katz
Arkady Katz
Phyllis Kieva
Florence Kirschen

Morris Levenberg
Bernard Lilien
Alex Novozhenets
Tillie Oster
Tillie Oster
Robert Roodman
Goldie Rosenstein
Susan Schrader
Mannie Siegle
Elizaveta Yermis
Lillian Zeman

December 22 & 23

Jack Apter
Irving Birken
David Conway
Sarah Etlinger
Ida Feldman
Anna Geiger
Frank Goldman
Max Goldman
Charles Gordon
Glory Green
Vivian Green
Ruth Greenhouse
Adam Hendelson
Belle Hitchcock
Loretta Howell
Sylvia Hymes
Dorothy Jacobs
Sofia Katz
Michael Kevin
Estelle Lazeroff
Arthur Louis
Julia Meyerowitz
Harry Nemetz
Sigmund Piekunka
Allen Rosenberg
Ethel Rosenbloom

Pearl Rubin
Florence Salitan
Ruth Schneeberg
Evelyn Seidman
Cohen
Avrom Shamaskin
David Silver
Janet Simpkins
Samuel Weitz

December 29 & 30

Ida Ash
Carol Behrman
Zelma Bessette
Hilda Biernbaum
Gertrude Drexler
Sylvan Druce
Bertha Eissenstat]
Epstein
Eleanor Freedman
Jacob Friedland
Rae Goldstein
Alfred Greenspan
John Hart
Mildred Horowitz
Janet Joseph
Sigmund Kirschen
Sidney Kraus
Thomas Kulick
Seymour Kushner
Jarrett Lobb
Lillian Meyers
Harry Olsen
Anna Catherine Price
Abraham Rifkin
Robert Rockmaker
Eugene Rosenbaum
Edward Schulzinger

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Elise Wojciechowski
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Youth Initiatives Eric Rozen
Caring Community & Social Action
Anne Ghory-Goodman



CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

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Chanukah begins at sundown on Tuesday, December 12

BACKGROUND:

Chanukah is a holiday commemorating the Jewish victory for religious freedom fought in 167 B.C.E by the Maccabees in response to the Greek rule of the Jews, which had outlawed Jewish worship and rituals. On the 25th of Kislev, the Temple was taken back by the Maccabees and rededicated. The word Chanukah means dedication.

The holiday also celebrates the miracle described in the Gemara, which describes the story of a small cruse of oil found by the Maccabees miraculously lasting 8 days when there was only enough for one day. This reminds us of God's role in the miracles within our lives.

TRADITIONS (MINHAG):

 Play the dreidel game: the dreidel has four sides, each bearing a Hebrew letter - nun, gimel, hey, and shin - the initials of "Ness Gadol Haya Sham" meaning "a great miracle took place there."

Everyone in the game starts with 10-15 tokens (m&m's, pennies, etc). Each player puts one token in the middle. One player spins the dreidel at a time. The player does the following, depending on which letter lands face up:

Nun: (nothing) player does nothing

Gimel: (all) player takes everything in the middle

Heh: (half) player takes half of what is in the middle

Shin: (put in) player adds two tokens to the middle

 Eat latkes or soufganiyot (fried donuts)—each is made with oil to remind us of the miracle of the oil.

 Exchange gelt (money or chocolate coins) or gifts (this is a relatively new tradition).

 Sing songs: Maoz Tzur, Mi Yimalel, I Have a Little Dreidel, Oh Chanukah, or other songs.

 Discuss a Jewish theme of value each night as you light the candles. (Such as Heroism, Religious Freedom, Miracles, Dedication, Light, Family, Tzedakah, Tradition.)

COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT):

We light candles each night to celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days. We begin with one candle on the first night, and add one candle

each night for eight nights. In addition, we light an extra candle each night, the *shamash*, which we use to light the other candles.

We place the candles in the Menorah from the right to the left, and light them from left to right, lighting the new candle first.

The following blessings are said each night with the lit *shamash* in hand, and the candles are lit immediately after reciting the blessings. The first two are recited every night during the candle lighting ceremony. The third is traditionally recited at the beginning of all festivals. The third blessing is only recited on the first night.

1. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tsivanu, l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified our lives through Your commandments, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

2. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam she'asa nisim la'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'heyim bazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors, in those days, in this season.

3. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam shehecheeyanoo, v'keey'manoo v'heegeeyanoo lazman hazeh*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for helping us to reach this moment.

HOW TO CELEBRATE AT TEMPLE SINAI:

- Come and shop at our Chanukah Bazaar on December 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Religious school children will celebrate on Sunday, December 10th with an assembly and latkes during class time
- Come to the Chanukah dinner and celebration on Friday, December 15 starting at 5:30 p.m. (pre-registration needed) followed by Erev Shabbat service and Chanukah celebration at 6:30 p.m.



THE TEMPLE SINAI WOMEN'S CHAVURAH
INVITES YOU TO OUR 10th ANNUAL
ARTIST'S STUDIO TOUR
at the

GONG GLASS WORKS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th
2:00 p.m.

Nancy Gong is a Rochester glass artist who specializes in contemporary glass sculpture and architectural art glass, including the design and fabrication of leaded, etched, carved, mosaic, chipped and painted original glass work. Nancy combines the traditional techniques of stained glass craftsmen and stone carvers with contemporary processes and her own style of creating texture and painting. Her work can be found in many public venues, businesses and residences around Rochester and around the country. See her web-site at <http://nancygong.com>.

We will meet at the Gong Glass Works, 42 Parkview Drive, Rochester, 14625, just north of Ellison Park. Nancy will show us some of her work and discuss the various techniques she uses in her glass creations.

Please RSVP by December 7th to Carol Yunker at VPKelly@aol.com or 385-3910.

This program will be limited to 30 people. And as always, not for women only!

ONEG CELEBRATION

Friday, December 22

Please join us as we celebrate our 60th birthdays with a special oneg for our Temple Sinai—the community that has provided a sukkat shalom, a shelter of peace, where we have found dear friendships and the opportunities to learn and pursue justice.

Susan Stanger and Joe Wojciechowski

Social Action

Continuing the discussion...why we should think about white privilege

On October 16, Donna Goldberg and Nancy Kraus led a discussion about the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. The discussion was a follow up to Ms. Irving's presentation at the First Unitarian Church the previous week. The group that attended and the Social Action Committee and the Rabbis feel it is important for all of us to take time to personally access how white privilege has impacted our own lives.

Waking Up White is a memoir which focuses on the author's great privileges afforded her family growing up in suburban Boston and summering in Maine. Think back on your own childhood experiences. What kinds of things did you take for granted? Did your family ever discuss race or class differences?

As an adult Ms. Irving realized that many of her good intentions were misplaced and she began to learn about what her advantages had brought her and see what others lacked. Do you ever stop to think about what it means to be white in our country? Try to mentally list or write down what advantages you think you have had.

Ms. Irving writes, "People need not see themselves as good or bad when it comes to racism, but as players in the system." She goes on to write, "Either I'm intentionally and strategically working against racism, or I'm aiding and abetting the system." These are statements worth spending time to consider on your own or to discuss with a friend.

She challenges us by writing, "If we don't take on the task of educating ourselves about how to dismantle racism both in ourselves and in our communities, we can do more harm than good. This challenges all of us move from being a bystander to becoming an ally.

What do you think we can do as a religious community to further our congregant's education on racism and to become allies? There are lots of useful resources on this topic at www.debbyirving.com.



HIGH HOLY DAYS APPEAL

Thanks to the following Temple members who have so generously donated to the Temple Sinai High Holy Days Appeal (between October 11 and November 10, 2017).

A donation has been made by:

Adam & Jennifer Anolik
 Claudia & Steve Brent
 Lillian Courtheoux
 Ruth Goldberg & Mitchell Ehrenberg
 Jeff & Jan Feldman
 Ward Ghory & Anne Ghory-Goodman
 Barry Goldfarb & Judy Abelman
 Robert & Marilyn Israel
 Rabbi Alan & Jan Katz
 Martha & John Osowski
 Arlene & Howard Schenker
 David & Susan Spector
 Carole Teegarden
 Mark Winsberg & Diane Morse

In memory of:

Miriam B. Altman, by Karen Altman
 Sarra and Khananiya Kaplan, by Robyn & Irene Belyakov-Goodman
 Donald T. Hiller, by Nancy Hiller
 Minnie & Irving Frank, Joyce & Earl Mehlenbacher, by Sandy & Earl Mehlenbacher
 Moe & Bea Wiesenberg and Joe & Hilda Keil, by Jerry & Arlene Wiesenberg
 Golde Wolkoff, by Michael Wolkoff
 Arlyn Grossman, by Bob Grossman
 Diane Silver-Hassell, by Seth & Suzanne Silver
 Esther & Harold Borg and Lottie, Stanley & Ellen Wexler, by Roberta & Seth Borg
 Henry Stein and Stanley Schachter, by Joyce & Charlie Schachter
 Len Cohen, by Stefan Cohen & Jodi Beckwith
 Robert L. Algase & Louis P. Dudek, by Leslie Algase & Gary Dudek
 Sam Leonard, by Bruce & Ann Leonard
 Leah & Manuel Lederman and Sheryl Lederman, by Norm & Donna Lederman

Elise & Joe Wojciechowski
 Adam Blickstein
 Seth Madway & Wendy Beller-Madway
 Victor & Joyce Poleshuck
 Bob & Fran Schoenfeld
 Pauline Rosenberg
 Pamela Leve
 Ethan Borg & Jennifer Leigh
 Ellie Kriger
 Gail & Hank Ferraioli
 Linda and Stephen Alpert-Gillis
 Dolores Kleinberg
 Robert & Charlene Zand
 The Spiller Girls
 Joel & Ann Shamaskin

In honor of:

Eva Regan, by Susan Stanger & Roy Berns
 Rabbi Katz & Rabbi Till, by Marcia Elwitt
 My children and grandchildren, by Bonnie Guon
 Evelyn Mitzner-Wohl, by John Page & Sandra Mitzner
 Bella & David's birthday, by Isaak & Nina Rivshin
 Klara Shadunskaya, by Gregory Shadunsky
 Jessica Ellis' 30th birthday, by Ralph Ellis & Alice Rudolph
 My children & grandchildren, by Arlene Cooper

In appreciation of:

Our High Holy Day services, by Ellen Rockmaker



RABBI KATZ'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of

Joseph Lipton, by Florence Drexler
 Lois Bessette, by Lowell & Bertha Lisker
 Deborah Wittenberg, by Pam & Warren Rosenbaum
 Louis Fraum, by Rebecca Drayer, Caren Rudin & Alan Gurwitz, Judy & Allan Schwartz, Steven & Susan Silberman
 Ernest Brownell, Jr., by Gail Brownell & Jay Supnick
 Bennett Applebaum, by Sandra Frankel
 Willard Lissou, by Donna & Michael Goldberg
 Saul Skerker, by Allan Skerker
 Eileen Farber, by Debbie & Sid Farber
 Jacob Farber, by Debbie & Sid Farber

In honor of

Rabbi and Jan Katz, by Robert Lebman
 Our new grandson, **Graham Eli Rosenbaum**, by Pam & Warren Rosenbaum

In appreciation of

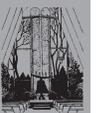
Rabbi Katz for Jamie's Bar Mitzvah, by Ruvim & Maryana Falkovich
 Rabbi Katz, by Owen Gottlieb
 Rabbi Katz for naming Dylan Greco, by William & Rebecca Greco

A donation has been made by Ellen Loughrin

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION FUND

In memory of

Abraham Auerbach, by Karl Auerbach
 Louis Fraum, by Jill Orbach



RABBI TILL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND*In memory of*

Louis Fraum, by Barb & Al Mendler
Saul Skerker, by Allan Skerker
Ernest Brownell, Jr., by Gail Brownell & Jay
 Supnick
Mildred Schiller, by Cathy & Lou Schneider

In appreciation of

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 Maryana Falkovich
Rabbi Till, by Robert & Charlene Zand, Owen
 Gottlieb

PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation has been made by Sarah Graff

ADULT EDUCATION FUND*In memory of*

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 Guttman
Louis Guttman, by Steven Zwart & Barbara
 Guttman
Irving Glasner, by Alan & Ronny Frishman
George Adler, by Peggy Cherkasky
Louis Fraum, by Marilyn & Dennis Drayer,
 Allan Skerker, George Okrent, Reba Silterra,
 Stella Levinson
Samuel Paulin, by Bev & Marv Groden

In appreciation of

Rabbi Reuven Firestone, by Arlene & Jerry
 Wiesenberg

A donation has been made by Jaklyn Buff

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Wolf Feygin, by Michael Feygin
Sylvia Utell, by Lois & Mark Utell

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Louis Fraum, by Marcia & Harry Rosenfeld

Healing wishes to

Susan Bondy, by Joyce & Charlie Schachter

A donation has been made by Al Benjamin

FLORAL FUND*In memory of*

Ethel Rosen, by Phyllis Rosen

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND*In memory of*

Lois Bessette, by Monika & Les Katzel, Steve &
 Mimi Greenfield
Louis Feldsott, by Art & Jill Feldsott
Louis Fraum, by Howard & Susan Itkin, Linda
 & Milton Rapkin
Mary Israel, by Robert & Marilyn Israel

In honor of

Ed Muszynski's retirement, by Monika & Les
 Katzel
 The birth of Ed & Bess Lewis's grandson
Graham, by Monika & Les Katzel
Jan Katz being accepted into the HUC-JIR
 Rabbinic program, by Monika & Les Katzel

GENERAL OPERATING FUND*In memory of*

Jay Braus, by Pat Braus
Lloyd Paperno, by Jill Paperno
Naum Lyubchanskiy, by Zina Lyubchanskaya
Igor Sapozhnikov, by Isaak & Nina Rivshin
Yuda Gurevich, by Brokha & Grigoriy
 Novozhenets
Fanya Shablya, by Brokha & Grigoriy
 Novozhenets
Alex Novozhenets, by Isaak & Nina Rivshin
Louis Fraum, by Willy & Carol Larsen, Robert
 & Marilyn Israel, Lee & Alvin Friedman

A donation has been made by Rebecca Drayer

ISRAEL YOUTH FUND*In memory of*

Louis Fraum, by Jill & Sam Kastner and family

JOEL BLOOM MEMORIAL FUND*In honor of*

The birth of our grandson **Graham Lewis
 Gilbert**, by Ed & Bess Lewis

LIBRARY FUND*In honor of*

The birth of Marsha & Dave Boelio's grandson
Ethan Bradley Kalb, by The Mitzvah
 Connection

A donation has been made by Owen Gottlieb

SHABBAT FAMILY PROGRAM
 ENDOWMENT FUND*In memory of*

Ruth Rose, by Sylvia Rose



MITZVAH CONNECTION FUND

In memory of

Ida Altman, by Lillian Courtheaux
Arline Forman, by Randi Forman & Mark Anderson
Louis Cohen, by Ellie Kriger
Norma Ethel Cohen, by Ellie Kriger
Bernice Finver, by Ellie Kriger
Carol Pess, by Ellie Kriger

In honor of

Marilyn & Remy Fenster's anniversary, by Michael & Carol Yunker

In appreciation of

Barb & Al Mendler, by Marty Bulger
The Mitzvah Committee, by Owen Gottlieb

ONEG FUND

In memory of

Louis Fraum, by Joyce & Charlie Schachter

In honor of

Joyce & Charlie Schachter's anniversary, by Norm & Donna Lederman, Michael & Carol Yunker

In appreciation of

Temple Sinai, by Ellen Loughrin

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of

Frances Bullard, by Ed & Sarah Bullard
George Adler, by Marv & Irene Barkin
Elaine Adler, by Marv & Irene Barkin
Libby Adler, by Marv & Irene Barkin
Ben Seidman, by Harriet & Lou Slawetsky
Anne Slawetsky, by Harriet & Lou Slawetsky
Annette Eisenstat, by Marv & Irene Barkin
Erwin Newell, by Marv & Irene Barkin
Louis Fraum, by Amy Tackaberry

In honor of

Harry Gan's 90th birthday, by Marv & Irene Barkin

Healing wishes to

Chuck Kiner, by Marv & Irene Barkin

RAIHN FUND

In memory of

Ethan Ross Diggory, by John & Lorri Diggory
Louis Fraum, by Elaine Usdane

In honor of

Jan Katz beginning Rabbinical studies, by Arlene & Howard Schenker

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of

Leo Kanner, by Debbie Kanner
Ada Cohen, by Nadine & Steve Friedlander
Jared Kanner, by Debbie Kanner
Richard Friedlander, by Nadine & Steve Friedlander

In honor of

Marilyn & Remy Fenster's anniversary, by Norm & Donna Lederman

In appreciation of

Ilan Adar, by Ruvim & Maryana Falkovich, Arlene & Jerry Wiesenberg
Pauline Rosenberg, by Ruvim & Maryana Falkovich

DICK SCHONFELD SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of

Evan Cherkasky, by Peggy Cherkasky
Mary Ghory, by Ward Ghory & Anne Ghory-Goodman

In honor of

The marriage of **Andrew Schenker to Melynda Fuller**, by Alan & Ronny Frishman

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In memory of

Louis Fraum, by Carol & Dennis Goldsmith, Rochelle Cresov, Michael & Carol Yunker, Arlene Cooper, Tobie & John Olsan

In honor of

Joyce Schachter's milestone birthday, by Ellie Kriger

TREE OF LIFE FUND

In memory of

Louis Fraum, by Joan & Paul Gelrud

WINDOWS OF LIGHT FUND

In memory of

Lou Fraum, by Ron & Karen Newman

*For information about these funds, go to our website:
www.tsinai.org/About Us/Contributions/*

Tributes received after November 10th will be recognized in the January bulletin



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College Connection

Temple Sinai wants to remain connected with our congregation's undergraduate college students. Each year students receive two holiday packages at school. It's always fun to receive packages when you are away from home, and we would like to be a part of that experience for your college student!

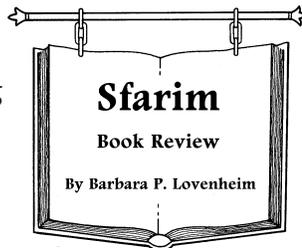
Because college addresses change frequently, the College Connection Committee starts a new list every year, so it is important to contact us even if a student was on last year's list. Parents of **undergraduate** college students should email the temple at jschachter@tsinai.org or call the temple office, 381-6890, with the student's college contact information and email addresses. **Please note that we can only send packages to students at**

colleges within the United States. Postage is costly and an accurate address ensures that your student will receive the packages meant to help them celebrate holidays away from home.

If you would like to be involved with this fun committee, please email Joyce Schachter at jschachter@tsinai.org or call the temple office at 381-6890. *We are meeting on Monday evening, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge to pack the Chanukah boxes. Please join us if you can!*

College students are encouraged to keep in touch with Rabbi Katz or Rabbi Till at any time. They would love to hear from you! Their email addresses are rabbikatz@tsinai.org and rabbittill@tsinai.org.

Our thanks go out to Barbara Lovenheim, who started writing our Sfarim Book Reviews in 2006. Please visit our website, tsinai.org, to read her review of Michael Chabon's book Moonglow, her final submission for this column. *Barbara, we wish you the best!*



DON'T FORGET TO STOP IN AT OUR ANNUAL
CHANUKAH HAPPENING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

TEMPLE SOCIAL HALL

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

