

TEMPLE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume LIII, No. 4

December 2018



**Reservation Deadline
December 3**



Chanukah Dinner and Celebration

Friday, December 7th, 2018

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

*Followed by a Tableside Shabbat 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 and sing songs.
Enjoy chicken, latkes, pasta, applesauce, salad and dessert.
Sit and schmooze! Family and friends are welcome.

Just a few days left to register!
Go to tsinai.org to sign up.



Hearing Loop

The Temple Sinai Bulletin is published monthly by Temple Sinai,
363 Penfield Road, Rochester, NY 14625. Phone 585-381-6890 www.tsinai.org



Handicap Accessible



A standard box of Chanukah candles contains 44 candles. This is the exact number needed for the 8 days of Chanukah, when we include the shamash (the helper candle with which we light the other candles every night). If, however, we only count the actual Chanukah candles without the shamash, we will notice that there is a total of thirty-six candles (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8=36). Gematria or numerology teaches us that each Hebrew letter has an equivalent numeric value (i.e. Aleph = 1, Bet = 2 and so on). Chai (חַי), the Hebrew word for life - consists of two Hebrew letters — chet (ח) and yud (י), which together, total 18. Thirty-six is understood to represent double chai. As we kindle our Chanukah candles, they can serve as a double glowing reminder of the value of a fuller, brighter life.

This year, Chanukah is December 2nd – 10th and as we gather together with family and friends to eat latkes and spin dreidels, we will at the same time recall the story of our people who struggled under the oppressive rule of Antiochus. We will recall the struggle of our ancestors, some of whom aligned themselves with the Greek-Syrian ways, while others, the Maccabees, a small group of Jews, resisted falling prey to assimilation. Those with young children around will delight in the re-telling of the story of the re-dedication of the Temple, and how one small cruse of oil that should have only lasted for 1 day, in fact lasted for eight. Some will reminisce, some will strive to find contemporary meaning in this story, while others will consider the complexity of the Chanukah narrative and how it has been re-cast.

Living in the west, where December holidays reign supreme, the challenge of observing this minor Jewish festival with integrity and meaning presents itself each year. In the Huffington Post article, 5 Lessons of Chanukah to Unwrap, we are offered these thoughts:

1. The Importance of Moving from Darkness to Light: We have all experienced dark periods in our lives. Sometimes that darkness stems from an individual struggle, like the loss of a job, a loved one, or a sense of purpose in one's life. At other times, it is a collective darkness... When darkness spreads it can lead to despair and hopelessness, and it is important to recognize that place before we can transcend it. Sometimes the situation calls for outward action, while other times what is needed is inward reflection.

When the Maccabees revolted against the darkness they faced as a result of the increasingly harsh treatment imposed upon them and their freedoms, they chose outward action. When



it came time to rededicate both themselves and their Temple, they called upon inward meditation to take the first step of faith in using the tiny amount of available oil to reignite the sacred light of the Temple and to rekindle their souls. As the days grow shorter and the air chills, the celebration of Chanukah shines light into the darkness and teaches us to rededicate ourselves to kindling the flame of hope.

2. Standing Up Against Oppression: The Festival of Lights is also a story about seeking freedom in times of tyranny. Though small in number against a powerful group, the Maccabees fought to regain their rights and, in the end, triumphed, as they reclaimed their Temple. These were ordinary people with extraordinary courage and commitment to fight for their freedoms. Today, we see people both at home and abroad who are oppressed and marginalized. We are reminded that it is incumbent upon us, ordinary men and women, to fight for justice where we see injustice and for liberty where we see oppression. It is important that we fight on behalf of our own freedoms as well as those of our fellow human beings. As Rabbi Hillel so famously said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

3. Finding The Balance: The concept of assimilation figures large in the story of Chanukah. How does a community or a group maintain its identity in relation to the culture at large? How much will it resist outside influences and how much will it embrace those influences? When the Maccabees revolted against the Syrian-Greeks, they were also revolting against a Hellenistic culture and philosophy. Yet as a result of living within the culture at large, Judaism moved from being philosophically illiterate to becoming a systematic and coherent faith. From the Greeks, and later the Romans, they learned the principles of legal interpretation which became the method of

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I am so honored and thrilled to be installed as the first cantor of Temple Sinai. As we begin our journey together I am looking forward to making connections with all of you. My hope is to get to know all of you and learn about your passions and what draws you to Temple Sinai. Through many interactions I want to discover what inspires you and what brings meaning to your experiences at Temple Sinai. I thought I would share with all of you some background on how women change the Cantorate in America.

As you know Jewish women in America had taken on significant roles in the development of Yiddish American theater. Not only were they performing as stars in wide range of dramatic productions, but they were singing all sorts of Jewish songs, including the religious hymns and liturgical chants. As a result, women not only sang in their homes, but they sang at public rituals and the music they sang was beyond the usual range of Jewish women's songs. All Jewish music was becoming a domain to be shared with men.

In 1948, the School of Sacred Music was established at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion for the formal academic training of cantors and music educators, in order to better serve the Reform branch of Judaism.

In 1975, Barbara Ostfeld became the first women to be invested as a female cantor. It took bravery and courage for a young woman to imagine herself in that role. At that time, cantors were still baritones and tenors. The majority of liturgical music was written for a man's voice.

Surprisingly, in the early 1900's only a handful of reform congregations in the United States had cantors. The mixed choirs or cantorial soloists was the typical musical presence in most Reform synagogues. The push to reintroduce cantors into Reform worship came in the late 1950's. Even then, the cantor's job was to sing for the congregation, not with it. Therefore, many women cantors strove to change their role from soloists to Shaliach tzipur (a messenger of the prayer). They also helped transform the formal image of the cantor to one that is more intimate and interactive.

Beginning in 1977, cantorial studies at Hebrew Union College were totally revamped. The new curriculum reflected an expectation that the cantor was part of a professional synagogue team working to enhance Jewish life. Cantors

now graduating from cantorial school are educated not only in the field of Jewish music but versed in Jewish history, in the Hebrew language and Hebrew texts. They also actively participate in chaplaincy internships at hospitals and homes for the aged.



Women cantors have clearly changed the sound of synagogue music. Some listeners would exclaim: "these women sing like angels!" Others miss the traditional male voices. Moreover, women cantors have different leadership styles than men because they have ability to intimately connect to others. For example, during worship, women cantors invite the congregants into the sacred space of a melody. At a life cycle event, women cantors seem to be more touched by a moment. Often, they bring people to tears with the tenderness of their souls and not by a voice only.

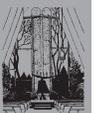
In fact, the words of our liturgy do not always speak to us. When the words and meanings fail, there is always music. The reform siddur, Gates of Prayer, reminds us: "If our prayer were music only, we could surely sing our way into the world we want, into the heaven we desire. Each would put his (her) own words to the melody; from every song would pour a hundred different prayers."

As we begin our journey through song, may we all discover a new melody that would transform us and bring peace and comfort to our souls.

B'Shalom, *Cantor Renata Braun*



On Simchat Torah, our kindergarten class joined teacher Marilyn Fenster along with Rabbi Till, Rabbi Katz, Cantor Braun and Mr. Adar on the bima.



On the evening of December 2nd, we light our first candle to begin the celebration of the holiday of Hanukkah. As children, we learned that Hanukkah was a holiday where the heroic Maccabees defeated the Syrian armies and rededicated the Temple. We learned about a small container of oil and a miracle that made it last for eight days. Hanukkah was just another one of the "us against them" holidays we were taught. "They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat!"

Hanukkah isn't a biblical holiday. It doesn't exist in the Torah. It is first found in Apocryphal writings, and the first mention of the Hanukkah miracle of the oil is not until Talmudic times. Historical records of the day also include mention of a division amongst the Jews of the age, with some wishing to adopt some of the Hellenistic culture of the time, and the Maccabees being driven out to Modiin. The holiday of Hanukkah wasn't only about rededication and miracles. It was about a fight against assimilation and Internal strife in a society.

When we light our menorah this year, we are encouraged to be the light in the darkness that the events of the past month in Pittsburgh and elsewhere have let fall on our hearts and minds. We are encouraged to be like Maccabees and be proud of our Jewishness.

Temple Sinai is our "Sukkat Shalom," a shelter of peace. We gather together in our sanctuary, feeling the warmth of community and enjoying the natural landscape both inside and outside. But the events of late have left led many in our congregation on edge. Pittsburgh has left many focused more heavily on the worries of being a Jew and less on the joys. We now have our High Holy Day guards on duty for all of

our Shabbat Services and for Sunday school. We are nervous. We call the police when cars linger too long or visitors are unexpected. We invest additional money in more locks and cameras and lighting. As Hanukkah approaches, this is who we have become.



It is true that we must now adjust to this new normal in front of us. We need to remember to close doors behind us, to RSVP and come on time for meetings or face locked doors, and to follow the "if you see something say something" rule.

The best protection in this stressful time though, is to be a community. We can recognize each other, greet each other, and introduce each other. We can bring unaffiliated Jews into our shelter and show them the joy of worship as a group. We can be there for each other when the news of the day is concerning. We can live our lives without letting those who would wish us away win.

We are taught that when we light the Hanukkah menorah, it should be in a window or visible from the street. Hanukkah is the holiday where we proclaim our beliefs for all the world to see. It is a holiday of public space Judaism. So, this Hanukkah, let the light of your menorah help dispel the darkness. Proclaim to all that you are a Maccabee. Dedicate yourself to being part of something larger and rededicate your commitment to living Jewishly without fear. "They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat."

Blanche Fenster

Contacting the Clergy

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, Rabbi Till, or Cantor Braun will be present without speaking to them first.

To reach Rabbi Katz in an emergency until December 15, please call both his home phone (662-5418) and his cell phone (233-8028). To reach Rabbi Till in an emergency, please call 355-0192. To reach Cantor Braun in an emergency, please call 973-953-2489.

It is a mitzvah to visit those who are ill. Please remember that HIPAA regulations prevent hospitals from alerting us when someone is 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.



School of Jewish Life & Learning Pinat Ha-Talmid (The Student Corner)

The leaves are falling from the trees; instead of mowing our lawns we are now raking or blowing fallen leaves; and we begin to realize that shortly we'll need to remove snow from our driveways . . .

Special Programs in November

On Sunday, Nov. 4, our 4th grade students and their parents gathered in our Social Hall to learn about the lifecycle event of naming. We discussed the first naming "ceremony" in our Torah (when God asked Adam to name the animals); the difference between the Ashkenazi and Sephardi traditions in providing Hebrew (and English) names; and each participant shared the "history" of his/her name. The program concluded with a scavenger hunt game.

At the end of our school day on Sunday, Nov. 11, we gathered in the Sanctuary to recognize Veterans Day. This year we devoted our time to hearing about the incredible work No One Left Behind does for the Afghan and Iraqi men and women refugees who worked for the U.S. armed forces in these countries.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, our 5th grade students and their parents gathered in our Social Hall to participate in the class' curriculum centered on Exploring our Roots.

Support Our School at the 2018 Chanukah Bazaar

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 offer Chanukah, Shabbat, and Tapered candles.

Inflatables Solar Lantern: This year our school will provide our temple members (and other interested people) with the opportunity to purchase inflatables solar lantern. These lanterns are "charged" by the sun; and have an eight-hour light span between charges. They are good to have in homes, cars, for camping, etc. The proceeds from the sale of the candles and lanterns will benefit our education programs.

December Schedule of Events

Saturday, Dec. 1: 10th grade Shabbaton

Sunday, Dec. 2: Chanukah Happening (Bazaar); our classes will visit during school hours; Sprouts

Friday, Dec. 7: Temple Sinai Chanukah Dinner and Program

Friday, Dec. 14: Young Family Service (6:00 p.m.) featuring our 2nd grade students followed by Shabbat dinner

Sunday, Dec. 16: Sprouts; Coffee for a Cause

Wednesday, Dec. 19: Bogrim

Sunday, Dec. 23– Wednesday, Jan. 2: No School (winter recess); **Classes resume Jan. 2.**

Happy Chanukah! Han D. Adar

RATSY

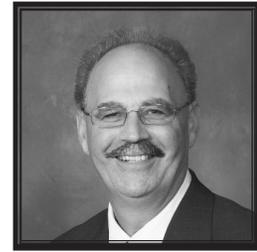
YOUTH CORNER 

As Thanksgiving has ended, we are thankful for the members of the Temple Sinai community that have supported the programs thus far and for giving our teens encouragement to participate in programs that help to develop, shape, and instill their Jewish roots and identities. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for programming, as well as if your teen wants to attend but has a conflict.

On Saturday, December 8th, we will have our next event at the Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex. We will be meeting for food at 1:30 p.m., followed by a white elephant gift exchange, and then participation in the open skate from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Cost will be \$12.00, but will be covered for those who register by Monday, December 3rd to jaredk821@gmail.com. Gifts for the exchange should be wrapped and valued between \$5-10. We look forward to seeing you there!

In addition, December 14-16 will be the next (second) NFTY-NEL event of the season, Winter Kallah, held in Cleveland, Ohio. To register, visit <https://northeastlakes.nfty.org/>. You can also sign-up to be notified when registration opens for the next event on the website; a notice will be sent in Snippets as well. They are great events for your teen to build friendships with Jewish teens in our larger community. If you need more information, I would be happy to share past experiences with you!

Jared Kronenberg, RATSY Advisor



Within Our Family

In Memoriam...

Temple Sinai notes with sorrow the passing of:
Phyllis Stoltz, aunt of Gail Ferraioli
Alan Macpherson, father of Anne Macpherson
The Temple family extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families

Mazal Tov to...

Gregg Herman on his marriage to Bridget Dougherty. Mazal Tov also to Gregg's parents, Joyce and Bob Herman
Alan & Ronny Frishman on the marriage of son Michael to Michael Cutright

Todah Rabah to...

Gary Levy for photographing our kindergarten class
Stan & Reenie Feingold for donating the printing of our High Holy Days Yizkor Memorial Booklet

Welcome to our new members...

Lisa Altman and her children Isaac & Elijah

Rabbi's Message continued from page 2

interpreting Jewish law in the Talmud. Many of the words central to the Jewish faith are Greek words, such as synagogue, Diaspora, Sanhedrin (the rabbinical high court) and even the word Judaism itself.

Just as it is important to find the balance of retaining one's culture and tradition while also being open to the gifts of the larger community, so too must we find this balance in our personal relationships. How do we connect with others, without losing ourselves? Chanukah offers an opportunity to find the balance in retaining our identity while still being connected and involved with people and communities outside of ourselves.

4. Taking The First Step: Every day we are faced with daunting tasks. Solving the deficit, fighting discrimination, ending wars and seeking a more peaceful world. It can feel overwhelming just thinking about it— let alone figuring out where to even begin. As the story of Chanukah goes, when the Maccabees returned to their Temple after the war, the first thing they needed to do was to re-light the eternal flame. But the needed oil was eight days away. It would be easy to despair, after years of fighting and now realizing they were lacking

Rabbi Katz's Sabbatical

Beginning Sunday, December 16, Rabbi Katz will be finishing the second part of his sabbatical. He will be returning to the office on Monday April 15. During this period Rabbi Katz is planning an exploration of important sites that are part of the history of civil rights in our country. In January he will be going to Israel. He will part of a CCAR mission, "Innovation, Change, and Creativity. In February he will join the Rochester partnership teacher exchange mission. In addition, he will be meeting with some of the newer and smaller Reform synagogues in Israel.

During his absence Rabbi Till and Cantor Braun are here to take care of all clergy needs. Student Rabbi Jan Katz will also be assisting.

the resources needed to move forward. But as the story is told, the Maccabees decided it had been too long since the eternal light had been ignited and so they took a first step. Despite having only enough oil for one day, they committed themselves to starting the process of rededicating themselves and the Temple by starting where they were, and taking it one day at a time. Whether factually true or not, we celebrate the fact that the oil miraculously burned for the needed eight days until more oil could be made. But the miracle only happened after people took the first step. In this story, we are reminded of the words of the Talmud: "It is not upon you to finish the work, but you are not free to ignore it." We each have a role to play in creating a better world by taking that first step, and then the next and the next.

5. Seeing The Miracles: The idea of miracles surrounds the holiday season. Jews celebrate the oil that was meant to last for only one day burning brightly for eight days. When the menorah is lit, an opportunity is provided to tap into that miracle of light shattering the darkness and opening to a world of possibilities.

Wishing you a Chanukah Samaech, a joyous, bright and peace-filled Chanukah.

Rabbi Debbi Till



December 2018 Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



January Erev Shabbat Services

- Jan. 4 Erev Shabbat Family Service @ 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 11 Young Family Service @ 6:00 p.m.
Erev Shabbat Service @ 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 18 Erev Shabbat Service @ 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 25 Erev Shabbat Service @ 8:00 p.m.

1
10th Grade Shabbaton
Torah Study 9:15 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Torah Portion:
Vayeshev
Genesis 37.1-40.23

2 School in Session Chanukah Bazaar 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Sprouts 10:00 a.m. Keshet (8 th & 9 th grade) at St. Joseph's 10:00 a.m. Hebrew Class 10:30 a.m. Keshet (10 th grade) at Temple 12:00 p.m. Chanukah First Candle	3 College Connection Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4	5 School in Session JROC Band 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Klezmer Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	6 Religious Practices Committee 7:00 p.m.	7 Chanukah Dinner 5:30 p.m. Chanukah Service with Birthday Blessings 6:30 p.m.	8 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Torah Portion: Miketz</i> <i>Genesis 41.1-44.17</i>
9 School in Session Chanukah Program Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Student Council 9:30 a.m. Keshet (9 th & 10 th grade) Chanukah program 12:00 p.m. Youth Initiative Program (6 th -8 th grade) 12:00 p.m. Chanukah Eighth Candle	10 Accessibility & Inclusion Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.	11	12 School in Session JROC Band 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Women's Chavurah 7:00 p.m.	13 Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking 4:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	14 Young Family Service featuring 2 nd Grade followed by dinner 6:00 p.m. Schmoozin' Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Chanukah Choral Shabbat with Latkes & Fun 8:00 p.m.	15 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Torah Portion:</i> <i>Vayigash</i> <i>Genesis 44.18-47.27</i>
16 School in Session Coffee for a Cause Adult Ed 9:30 a.m. Sprouts 10:00 a.m. Hebrew Class 10:30 a.m. Keshet 12:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Daytime Book Group 10:00 a.m. School in Session Bogrim 6:00 p.m. JROC Band 6:30 p.m. Klezmer Band Practice 7:00 p.m.	20 Membership Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m.	21 Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m.	22 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Torah Portion:</i> <i>Veyechi</i> <i>Genesis 47.28-50.26</i>
23 NO SCHOOL NO ADULT ED RAIHN	24 RAIHN	25 OFFICE CLOSED RAIHN	26 NO SCHOOL RAIHN	27 RAIHN	28 Schmoozin' Shabbat 6:45 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m. RAIHN	29 Shabbat Morning Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Torah Portion: Shemot</i> <i>Exodus 1.1-6.1</i> RAIHN

30
NO SCHOOL
NO ADULT ED
RAIHN

31

REMINDER
Letters have been mailed to parents whose children were born in 2008 and will celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in the year 2021. 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*



Dec. 7 & 8

Matilde Aroesty
Jenny Berman
Lewis Bernbaum
Irving Birken
Evelyn Seidman Cohen
Ethel Cooper
Bernice Cornell
Eva Cresov
Marc Feldman
Louise Goldberg
Julius Greenfield
Lee Halperin
William Heller
Loretta Howell
Ian Ingram
Sofia Katz
Morris Levenberg
Bernard Lilien
Leonard Maas
Ansel Marblestone
Sydney Phillips
Herbert Rabinowitz
Pearl Rubin
Josephine Schwartz
Mannie Siegle
James Yerger
Lillian Zeman

Dec. 14 & 15

Jack Apter
David Ball
Sally Berman
David Conway
Gertrude Drexler
Marian Eckstein
Anna Fain
Philip Fain
Ronja Feiner
Ida Feldman

Erwin Fenster
Frank Goldman
Max Goldman
Glory Green
Ronald Green
John Hart
Belle Hitchcock
Sylvia Hymes
Dorothy Jacobs
Arkady Katz
Michael Kevin
Sigmund Kirschen
Lisa Kubby
Fannie Mazur
Julia Meyerowitz
Marvin Mindell
Harry Nemetz
Alex Novozhenets
Tillie Oster
Sigmund Piekunka
Mikhail Pikus
Allen Rosenberg
Ethel Rosenbloom
Goldie Rosenstein
Florence Salitan
Samuel Weitz

Dec. 21 & 22

Minnie Aron
Ida Ash
Zelma Bessette
Bertha Eissenstat
Epstein
Sarah Etlinger
Elana Farkas
Todd Fleischman
Ray Frankel
Charles Gordon
Vivian Green
Alfred Greenspan

Adam Hendelson
Janet Joseph
Seymour Kushner
Boris Lembersky
Esther H. Levy
Arthur Louis
Leon H. Metzger
Abraham Rifkin
Robert Rockmaker
Robert Roodman
Eugene Rosenbaum
Marie Rosenzweig
Ruth Schneeberg
Susan Schrader
Edward Schulzinger
Avrom Shamaskin
David Silver
Carol Tolin

Dec. 28 & 29

Carol Behrman
Jack Bell
Enid Bondy
Morris Buyum
Sidney Chernak
Tony Dechario
William Denithorn
Sylvan Druce
Jacob Friedland
Anna Geiger
Rae Goldstein
Nicholas Greenfield
Mildred Horowitz
Leonard Kaplan
Harold Katzel
Samuel Kiener
Joseph Kieva
Ira Kinel
Sidney Kraus
Thomas Kulick

Estelle Lazeroff
Mikhail Lender
Jarrett Lobb
Abraham Medoff
Lillian Meyers
James Oates
Harry Olsen
Anna Catherine Price
Jack Shulman
Janet Simpkins
Sylvia Snyder
Harold Solomon
DuWayne Statz
Berton Stern

Jan. 4 & 5

Jacob Altman
Marcia Baldwin
Hilda Biernbaum
John Bulter
Lillian Fain
Kennard Goodman
Estelle Green
Ruth Herrmann
Meyer Horowitz
Harold Kay
Steven Kushner
Arthur Long
Herbert Molser
Gerald Regan
Harold Rubel
Mary Rudolph
Alex Schnier
David Schwartz
Louis Sporn
Beatrice Voldman
Estelle Weiner
Sidney Yates
Edwin Yunker
Bernard Zeldman
Ronald Zollweg



CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

Chanukah begins at sundown on Sunday, December 2

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'heym 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 Sunday, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Religious school children will celebrate on Sunday, December 9th with an assembly and latkes during class time
- Come to the Chanukah dinner and celebration on Friday, December 7th starting at 5:30 p.m. (pre-registration needed) followed by Erev Shabbat service and Chanukah celebration at 6:30 p.m.



Social Action

**We Must Always Remember:
David Ickovitch, age 8, Poland**

I was walking through the Children's Memorial at the Holocaust Museum in Israel. I was greeted with a photo of a bright eyed boy, who appeared to be about 8 years old. As I made my way through the memorial, names of the one million children murdered in the Holocaust were recited. David Ickovitch, age 8, Poland, was the name that I remembered. We were asked to perform a mitzvah in the name of one of the children. My child is David Ickovitch, age 8 Poland.

In David's name, I am asking you all to remember. I want you to remember man's inhumanity to man. I want you to remember that we must speak for those who are unable to so that this can never happen again.

David Ickovitch, age 8, Poland. May his memory be for blessing.

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.

*-Pastor Martin Niemöller
1892-1984*

Abby Urban Rifkin

Accessibility and Inclusion

WE'RE LOOKING AHEAD TO... JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

The Accessibility and Inclusion Committee has begun working on plans for the month of February when Jewish communities across the country will undertake a variety of initiatives to raise awareness of individuals with disabilities. In concert with Rabbi Katz, Rabbi Till and Cantor Braun, we have chosen that month's Shabbat services as occasions to mark this important effort. The topics selected for acknowledgment are as follows:

- February 1 – Visual Impairment
- February 8 – Mental Health Awareness
- February 15 – Deafness and Hearing Differences
- February 22 – Developmental and Sensory Processing Disorders

Committee members are seeking creative and informative additions to these services to broaden our understanding of these disabilities in the context of worship services. So, if you have ideas of ways to enlighten our Temple Sinai members regarding these topics, please contact us. Better yet, come join and work with the Accessibility and Inclusion Committee!

You can make a difference so that all of our members can fully participate in synagogue life at Temple Sinai!

Lauren Liberman (llieberman@brockport.edu)
and *Joel Shamaskin*
(joel_shamaskin@urmc.rochester.edu)

Temple Contacts

Rabbis

Alan J. Katz rabbikatz@tsinai.org

Debbi Till rabbittill@tsinai.org

Cantor

Renata Braun cantorbraun@tsinai.org

Education Director

Ilan Adar iadar@tsinai.org

Officers

President

Blanche Fenster

Secretary

Renee Brownstein

Vice Presidents

1st V.P. and Administration Keith Greer

Congregant Connections Esther Brill

Finance Jamie Spiller

Education Karen McCally

Religious Practices Ellen Goldenberg

Youth Initiatives Barb Snyderman

Caring Community & Social Action

Abby Urban-Rifkin

visit our website:
www.tsinai.org





Adult Education



Adult Education continues in December with the topic of **Medical Ethics**. Class will be taught by the clergy at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays 12/2, 12/9 and 12/16.

Conversational Hebrew with Rabbinical Intern Jan Katz will be held on 12/2 and 12/16 at 10:30 a.m.

Of course, we will be continuing to offer Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome, whether you have participated in the past or not. Also, it is important to know that this class is conducted entirely in English, you do NOT need to know Hebrew.

Going Away for the Winter?

Send us the dates you'll be away and your warm weather address and we will make sure your temple mail follows you! Send your information to jschachter@tsinai.org.

Women's Chavurah

The Temple Sinai Women's Chavurah invites you to a very special program
featuring

JEWISH ROCHESTER HISTORIAN PHYLLIS KASDIN

"THE FUTURE BEGINS WITH THE PAST:
THE HISTORY OF JEWISH ROCHESTER"



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th
7:00 p.m.
at Temple Sinai

Refreshments will be served.

This program is free, and guests are welcome!

This will offer a bit of nostalgia for Rochester natives, and is an excellent opportunity for newcomers to Rochester to learn about our Jewish history.

And, as always, not for women only!

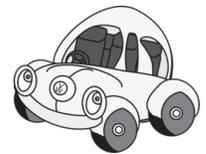
Please RSVP by December 5th to Carol Yunker at VPKelly@aol.com or 385-3910.

FRIENDS OF SINAI

We gratefully acknowledge Lois and Mark Utell who joined the Friends of Sinai for 2018/2019.

It's never too late to join the Friends of Sinai for \$360 above your regular membership commitment. The entire temple community benefits from your generous and meaningful gift. Questions? Contact the temple office (381-6890) or Monika Katzel, Chair at lesterkatzel@earthlink.net.

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE



Temple Sinai has partnered with AARP to offer a course designed for mature licensed drivers to tune up on driving skills. Upon completion, participants may receive up to 10% multi-year reduction on certain portions of auto insurance coverage. NY DMV MAY allow up to a four-point reduction.

This course is open only to Temple Sinai family members and AARP members. Fee is \$20 AARP members/\$25 non-AARP members, payable at start of first class (check only, no cash). Checks payable to AARP.

Participants MUST bring NYS driver's license to class. Attendees MUST be present for the entire session. Classes will be held in the Youth Lounge.

This is a 6-hour class. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on January 15 AND January 17.

Go to tsinai.org and click link 'AARP Smart Driver Course' to register. You will develop a greater appreciation of new driving challenges!

HIGH HOLY DAYS APPEAL

A special thanks to the following Temple members who have so generously donated to the Temple Sinai High Holy Days Appeal. Donations listed below were received between October 11 and November 10, 2018.

A donation has been made by...

Carole Teegarden
Seth Madway & Wendy Beller Madway
Bruce & Ann Leonard
David & Pauline Rutberg
Eliezer Tuber & Sheryl Silberman
Joseph & Elise Wojciechowski
Keith & Carol Greer
Lester & Monika Katzel
Lillian Courtheoux
Martin Zand & Ellen Ingram
Michael & Elizabeth Algase
Pamela Leve
Ronald & Karen Newman
Seth & Suzanne Silver
Stephen & Elise Rosenfeld
Victor & Joyce Poleshuck
John & Martha Osowski
Rebecca Drayer



In appreciation of...

Cantor Braun's Installation, by Barbara Davis & Dennis Linsner

In memory of...

The Pittsburgh victims, by Allen & Barbara Mendler
Charles E. Steinberg, by Elizabeth Steinberg Belle & Henry Stein and Stanley Schachter, by Charles & Joyce Schachter
Irving & Minnie Frank, by Earl & Sandra Mehlenbacher
Ruth K & Milton D. Battler, Shirley & Bernard H. Schwartz, by Eugene & Barbara Schwartz
Joseph H. Altman, by Karen Altman
Samuel & Fannie Mazur, by Marcia Elwitt

In honor of...

Adult B'not Mitzvah class of 2018, by Arlene Cooper
Al Benjamin, by Barry Goldfarb & Judy Abelman
Rabbi Katz, Rabbi Till and Cantor Braun, by Gail & Henry Ferraioli
Our new temple community, by Marsha & David Boelio

*Today Rabah
to all those who remembered
Temple Sinai when they
remembered others*

RABBI KATZ DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Katz's wonderful leadership on the trip to Italy, by Bruce & Ann Leonard
Rabbi Katz, by Earl & Sandra Mehlenbacher, Deniz Schildkraut, James Spiller & Anne Macpherson

In Honor of

Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by Michael and Vicki Ernst, Frances & Michael Kaufman
The 2018 Adult B'Not Mitzvah Class, by the Drayer Family

In Memory of

Saul Skerker, by Allan Skerker
Pauline Rosnick, by Sandra Frankel
Bennett Applebaum, by Sandra Frankel
Isabelle Rosenbloom, by Jeni & Joe Behrman
Willard Lisson, by Michael & Donna Goldberg
Mary Israel, by Robert & Marilyn Israel

RABBI TILL DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Till, by the Adult B'Not Mitzvah Class, James Spiller & Anne Macpherson, Deniz Schildkraut

In Memory of

Saul Skerker, by Allan Skerker
Mildred Schiller, by Louis & Catherine Schneider
Mary Israel, by Robert & Marilyn Israel

A donation has been made by Lauren Lieberman & Katrina Arndt

CANTOR BRAUN DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of

Cantor Braun, by the Adult B'Not Mitzvah Class, James Spiller & Anne Macpherson

In Honor of

Cantor Braun's Installation, by Allan & Judy Schwartz, Ron & Karen Ginsburg

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION FUND

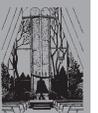
In Appreciation of

Office & Building Staff, by Sharon & Shai Shafrir

In Memory of

Abraham Auerbach, by Karl Auerbach

A donation has been made by Katrina Arndt & Lauren Lieberman



ADULT EDUCATION FUND*In Honor of*

Carol & Dennis Goldsmith's 50th Anniversary,
by Deniz Schildkraut, Joyce and Victor
Poleshuck, Charlie and Joyce Schachter
Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by Michael &
Shelley Jacobs

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND*In Appreciation of*

Esther Brill & RJ Ruble, by Deniz Schildkraut
Michael & Carol Yunker, by Deniz Schildkraut
Ellen Goldenberg, by the Adult B'not Mitzvah
Class

In Honor of

Ticia Valle's Bat Mitzvah, by Charles & Joyce
Schachter
Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by Charles
& Joyce Schachter, Earl & Sandra
Mehlenbacher, Pearl Cytryn
Carol Goldsmith's Bat Mitzvah, by Charles &
Joyce Schachter
The marriage of **Michael Frishman** and
Michael Cutright, by Charles & Joyce
Schachter, Lester & Monika Katzel
Peggy Cherkasky's Bat Mitzvah, by Charles &
Joyce Schachter
The marriage of **Jackie Beale** and **Jordan**
Dugmore, by Hillary & Pat Beale
The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Lester &
Monika Katzel, Joyce and Victor Poleshuck
Tamsin Spiller becoming a Bat Mitzvah, by
Lester & Monika Katzel
The marriage of **Gregg Herman** and **Bridget**
Dougherty, by Lester & Monika Katzel

Warmest Wishes to

Joyce and **Charlie Schachter** in their new home,
by Lester & Monika Katzel

In Memory of

Louis Fraum, by Charles & Joyce Schachter
Alan Macpherson, by Lester & Monika Katzel

Mazal Tov to

The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Bruce &
Ann Leonard
Alan and Ronny Frishman on the marriage of
their son Michael to Michael Cutright, by
Bruce & Ann Leonard

BUILDING FUND*In Memory of*

Ruth Brooks Helfand, by Mark & Lois Utell

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING*In Memory of*

Elaine Hoffman, by Douglas & Debra Rosenzweig

FLORAL FUND*In Memory of*

Ethel Rosen, by Phyllis Rosen

GENERAL OPERATING FUND*In Appreciation of*

Robert & Merylyn Israel, by Deniz Schildkraut
Charlie & Joyce Schachter, by Deniz Schildkraut

In Honor of

Peggy Cherkasky's Bat Mitzvah, by Ann
Chazan, Donald Grandaw
The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Jerome &
Arlene Wiesenberg
Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by John &
Beth Timmerman

In Memory of

Alan Macpherson, by Carol & Michael Yunker
Yuda Gurevich, by Grigoriy & Brokha
Novozhenets, Zina Lyubchanskaya
Alex Novozhenets, by Isaak & Nina Rivshin
Louis Fraum, by Jerome & Arlene Wiesenberg
Naum Lyubchanskiy, by Zina Lyubchanskaya

Mazal Tov to

Carol Goldsmith on her Bat Mitzvah, by Deniz
Schildkraut
Peggy Cherkasky, by Marcia Stern
A donation has been made by Edward
Muszynski & Bonnie Hughes

LIBRARY FUND*In Honor of*

Peggy Cherkasky's Bat Mitzvah, by Lori Friedman

In Memory of

Joseph Groden, by Marvin & Beverly Groden

MITZVAH FUND*In Appreciation of*

Monika Katzel, by Deniz Schildkraut

In Memory of

Agnes & Niyazi Ege, by Deniz Schildkraut
Arline Forman, by Randi Forman & Mark
Anderson

MUSIC FUND*In Appreciation of*

Elise Wojciechowski and in honor of her
retirement, by Deniz Schildkraut



Elise Wojciechowski, by the Adult B'Not Mitzvah Class

In Honor of

Cantor Braun's Installation, by Deniz Schildkraut
The marriage of **Gregg and Bridget Dougherty-Herman**, by H. Robert & Joyce Herman, Susan Stanger and Roy Berns

Irina Novozhenets new grandson **Leo**, by Susan Stanger and Roy Berns

Mazal Tov to

Gregg Herman and **Bridget Dougherty** on their marriage, by Bruce & Ann Leonard

ONEG FUND

In Memory of

Louis Fraum, by Bernice Fraum, Rebecca Drayer
Leonard Singer, by Michael Axelrod & Stefanie Singer

Mazal Tov to

The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Marcia Elwitt

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In Memory of

Louis Fraum, by Bernice Fraum
Renee Gimple, by David & Karen Gimple
Ronni Abramovitz, by Leslie Abramovitz
George Adler and **Elaine Adler**, by Marvin & Irene Barkin

Mazal Tov to

Peggy Cherkasky on her Bat Mitzvah, by Marvin & Irene Barkin
Donna Lederman on her Bat Mitzvah, by Marvin & Irene Barkin

A donation has been made by Ellen Loughrin

RAIHN FUND

In Honor of

Cantor Braun's Installation, by Noreen Salerno

In Memory of

Angelina Sanginario, by Harry & Louise Kahn
Ethan Ross Diggory, by John & Lorraine Diggory
Brian Salerno, by Noreen Salerno
Phyllis Kaplan, by Rob, Jan & Emma Daitz
Honey Taylor, by Shirley Reback
Bob Oster, by Shirley Reback
Francesco Madonia, by Shirley Reback

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of

Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by Barbara and Gene Schwartz

Ticia Valle's Bat Mitzvah, by Linda Steinberg

In Memory of

Richard Friedlander, by Steven & Nadine Friedlander

SHABBAT FAMILY PROGRAM FUND

In Honor of

The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Seth Madway & Wendy Beller Madway
The Installation of **Cantor Braun**, by Seth Madway & Wendy Beller Madway

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of **Peggy Cherkasky**, by David Adler, Libby Adler, Flavia Nobay
The marriage of **Michael Frishman** and **Michael Cutright**, by Howard & Arlene Schenker, Martin & Laura Kaufman, Susan Stanger and Roy Berns

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Honor of

Carol Goldsmith's Bat Mitzvah, by Bobbi Simmons-Sarnov
Donna Lederman's Bat Mitzvah, by Nancy Hiller, Frances & Michael Kaufman
The **Adult B'not Mitzvah Class**, by Ronald & Karen Newman
Our B'not Mitzvah by Peggy Cherkasky, Carol Goldsmith, Donna Lederman and Ticia Valle

In Memory of

George Adler, by Peggy Cherkasky

WEINSTEIN-FINNEFROCK FUND

A donation has been made by Seymour & Myrna Weinstein

A donation has been made by Vicki Weinstein-Finnefrock & Thomas Finnefrock

WINDOWS OF LIGHT

In Honor of

Peggy Cherkasky's Bat Mitzvah, by Nancy & Neil Rapp

In Memory of

George Adler, by Nancy & Neil Rapp
Evan Cherkasky, by Nancy & Neil Rapp

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

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



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Next Stage Invites You to Break the Winter Blahs

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Join us on a day trip to The Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY. We will enjoy a 90-minute guided tour, a hands-on sand-blasting workshop, demonstrations, and some time for individual exploring.

We will also share a hearty lunch together at the museum.

Let us know if you would like to drive or be a rider. (Drivers are encouraged to turn in their receipts for gas and toll reimbursement.)

We will meet at Temple Sinai at 9:00 a.m. Our estimated return to Temple will be at 6:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per person plus lunch cost. The museum fees will be subsidized through Sinai's Next Stage Fund.

Please RSVP by January 14th to jschachter@tsinai.org.

Interested in an Adult 'Confirmation Trip' to NYC?

We are looking into the possibility of offering a multi-day trip to NYC the first week of June. The cost would be approximately \$800 + food - and would include transportation, accommodations, a Broadway show, The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Ellis Island, The Museum of Jewish Heritage and more. Please email jschachter@tsinai.org to let us know if you would like to participate in this fun adventure.

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

for your holiday shopping

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

TEMPLE SOCIAL HALL

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

