

HAKAFA WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25, 2020

A Note about Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is not a Jewish holiday, but it is very much an American one. It is strong in tradition and even stronger in terms of family and community bonds of friendship and generational loved ones. This year's Thanksgiving is more difficult than most. COVID-19 has locked us down. Some of us are now homebound. Some of us are in need of basics - food, critical bills to be paid, just to feel healthy again. Some of us have lost friends and family - even members of our encirclement - to this disease. All of us are hurting.

There is no specific *mitzva* associated with celebrating American holidays, but there is our most basic one to help those in need and honor family. So, on this Thanksgiving, take the time to reach out to your family - even the cousins you only see once a year. Call an old or new friend. Drop a note to an acquaintance. And if you have the ability to help through donations of food, money, or goods for strangers in our midst who are struggling, please let us know, as we can help direct you to local organizations in desperate need of our assistance.

Happy Thanksgiving, Hakafa.

Glencoe Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Unfortunately, our annual Glencoe Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is not able to take place in person this year. Instead, Rev. Dwayne Gary, the President of the Glencoe Clergy Association, put together an online service featuring many of our houses of worship. Click here to view the service: <https://youtu.be/qGqxm3xfo9k>.

New Episode of Points on the Circle (Hakafa's Podcast)

We are thrilled to release the next episode of **POINTS ON THE CIRCLE** - Hakafa's podcast about Hakafa members, for Hakafa members! Each episode, Rabbi Elder sits down with a different member of our encirclement to schmooze, tell stories, and allow the Congregation an opportunity to get to know our guest.

Our guest this week is Marc Jacobs. To watch the episode, click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04Nk4QWcofY>.

To visit and/or to subscribe to our Points on the Circle YouTube Channel page, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40NqKUuBqN8>

Hakafa Voter Engagement Work Continues

Thanks to all of you who helped secure voter-turnout and end voter suppression during the 2020 elections. As you know, Georgia is having a run-off election on January 5, 2021, for both of its U.S. Senate seats. We continue to work with the Reform Movement's broader 2020 civic engagement campaign and have opportunities for postcard writing or phone-banking in GA to get out the vote and also remind young people who will turn 18 prior to January 5 to register to vote.

Please contact Cindy Curley (cindybcurlley@gmail.com) or Donna Fishman (donnafishman16@gmail.com) if you'd like more information or to get involved; we have more than 1,000 postcards coming in the next week!

Shabbat – November 27-28

Parshat Vayetzei

Torah Portion: Genesis 28:10-32:3

Haftarah Portion: Hosea 12:13-14:10

Shabbat Service and Oneg via Zoom

Friday, November 27, 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/292137266>

Meeting ID: 292 137 266

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

Join us for our weekly Shabbat Service via Zoom. Our service will be followed by a virtual oneg (BYO).

Midrash Class

Tuesday, December 1, 10:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/696226468>

Meeting ID: 696 226 468

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

Join us via Zoom to study *midrash* with Rabbi Elder. Midrash is the creative, interpretative process of the rabbis over generations. *Midrash Class meets every other Tuesday.*

Hebrew School

Tuesday, December 1, 4:00-6:00 PM

Our Hebrew School classes/pods will continue meeting this week for their regularly scheduled 30-minute sessions. Please contact Bibi (education@hakafa.org) or Rona (admin@hakafa.org) with any questions.

Tuesday Evening Torah Study

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30-8:45 PM

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/662730822>

Meeting ID: 662 730 822

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

Join us for weekly Torah Study via Zoom! Each Tuesday evening we proceed through the Bible, verse by verse, discussing its content and various interpretations with Rabbi Elder.

Young Adult Pre-Hanukkah Trivia Event

Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89396580681?pwd=RFhZYkdwOENuSEZacW9mdW5xb0tYQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 9658 0681

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

All young adults in their mid-20s and 30s (and their children) who are members of, grew up in, or are associated with Hakafa are invited to a virtual **Pre-Hanukkah gathering and Jewish trivia event**. It has been awhile since we have gotten together - join us for good fun and great conversation! RSVP to Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org). We hope to see you there!

Congregation Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 1:00 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85034963619?pwd=VUZqMVlpd093ZW83NHpTWfVNOXV1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 3496 3619

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

Please come to our next Congregation Meeting via Zoom. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend and to offer their ideas and opinions. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Brown (president@hakafa.org).

Endowment Meeting

Monday, December 7, 7:30 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87647111224?pwd=dDIWWkt6TTgrUmpVL3dzZWxMQkUzZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4711 1224

To Dial-In (no video): 312-626-6799

Congregation Hakafa maintains an endowment fund that we use to support new programs and activities that aren't covered by our annual budgeting process. Congregants are welcome to offer suggestions and proposals for such programs and activities. The Endowment Trustees will meet via Zoom to consider new requests. **This meeting is open to all congregants. Please attend the meeting or contact the trustees with your ideas/questions.** Our three trustees are Bonnie Koven (ekoven@aol.com), Sally Nador (nadorsally@gmail.com), and Deborah Brown (president@hakafa.org). And please remember, financial contributions to the Endowment Fund are always welcome—any time of the year.

Hanukkah is Coming!

Hanukkah is coming! We had a great response to our request for drivers to deliver candles and other special Hanukkah treats to all our families. You'll receive an email from your Hanukkah Hauler the week of December 6 to make sure you'll be around for drop off.

Hanukkah is coming - Part 2! There will be a Hakafa Community Candle Lighting each night of Hanukkah at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Hanukkah is coming - Part 3! Shabbat Services on December 11 will include special Hanukkah fun for all ages. Services will start early that night at 7:00 PM.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP/VOLUNTEER:

Winter Clothing and Sleeping Bag Drive

The Night Ministry is looking for donations of **sleeping bags** for people who are experiencing homelessness and living on the streets. Additionally, they need **warm gloves, hats, and parka-type jackets in adult sizes, especially large sizes.**

Donations must be clean, gently used, or new.

If you have a donation this November or December, please contact **Barb Scott** (bams457@gmail.com) and she will arrange a pick-up OR you can use this **Amazon link** (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3OLJZSR5Z9JWZ?leftNavSection=Reorder&ref=abls Inv_r) to purchase and ship directly to the Night Ministry. Thank you, in advance, for your donation!

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care, and human connection to members of the Chicago community struggling with poverty or homelessness. Here is the link to The Night Ministry's website: <https://www.thenightministry.org/>

Relief for Victims of the Fires in Oregon

As the fires in the West have continued, the needs of the people who have been displaced by them have grown. A number of organizations are accepting donations that will benefit the victims of the fires. Here are three that are local, grassroots, and benefiting residents of Oregon:

The Rogue Valley Relief Fund: <https://www.mrgfoundation.org/rogue-valley-relief-fund1/>
Unete's Immigrant Fire Relief Fund: <http://uneteoregon.org/>
OHRA - Options for Helping Residents of Ashland: <https://helpingashland.org>

Please help, if you are able.

Help Provide Sunday Lunch at A Just Harvest

Due to COVID-19, A Just Harvest now serves a daily boxed lunch to more than 150 people (no seated dinner). No volunteers are permitted in the kitchen, but Hakafa still provides the Sunday lunch on our designated Sundays. **Volunteers are needed to provide the fried chicken entrée, salad, vegetables, fruit, and dessert on the second Sunday morning of the month.** The fried chicken needs to be ordered and picked up at 11:00 AM from the Jewel on Howard and delivered to A Just Harvest. All other items should be left at A Just Harvest's door at 10:00 AM. *Hakafa's tzedakah fund can reimburse you for expenses, if needed.* **To sign up to volunteer, click here (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49aea92ea3f49-provide>).** Please contact Monique Parsons (monique.parsons@gmail.com) or Debbie Charen (debbie.charen@gmail.com) with any questions.

"Sponsor" a Virtual Oneg

Have you wanted to celebrate a special event, commemorate a yahrzeit, or honor someone by providing a Friday night *oneg* but have been unable to do so because of us being on Zoom these past months? Do you have an organization or cause you support that you would like others to support, too?

Moving forward, you will have a chance to do both - by sponsoring a virtual *oneg*. Here's how it works:

- 1) **Choose a Friday night to sponsor, and sign up online at this link (<http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>)** or by contacting Suzanne Shore or Ilene Holt-Turner (oneg@hakafa.org).
- 2) **Make a donation to a charity about which you are passionate.**
- 3) **Light the Shabbat candles** that night at services (Sara will lead us all in the blessing, unless you would prefer to recite it yourself.).
- 4) During announcements, you will be able to **tell us about the place to which you donated.**
- 5) **Hakafa will make a donation** to that organization in your honor.
- 6) Even if you cannot be at services that evening, we will tell participants about your cause, and Hakafa make the donation in your honor.

Please contact Suzanne or Ilene with questions. We look forward to learning about and supporting causes that matter to you.

Bakers, Drivers, and/or Friendly People Needed

Hello bakers, drivers, and/or friendly people! We're looking for volunteers to bake, buy, and/or deliver challah to new members after they join. (Hakafa will reimburse costs.) If you'd like to do any of these from time to time, please contact Barbara Miller at vicepresident@hakafa.org.

HAKAFA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 409, Glencoe, IL 60022

Phone: 847-242-0687

Hakafa Website: www.hakafa.org

Congregation Email: conghakafa@hakafa.org

Rabbi Elder: rabbi@hakafa.org

Bibi Patt, Director of Education: education@hakafa.org

Sara Goodman, Music Director: music@hakafa.org

Rona Elder, Administrator: admin@hakafa.org

Deborah Brown, Congregation President: president@hakafa.org

Lori Wilansky, Newsletter Editor: wilanskyl@comcast.net

- If you would like an announcement included in this weekly update, please email your announcement to Rona Elder (admin@hakafa.org) by Tuesday afternoon.
- If you would like an article included in the monthly newsletter, please contact Lori Wilansky, our volunteer newsletter editor at wilanskyl@comcast.net. Articles must be *submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter's publication.*

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING – INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING

***Please note that all Hakafa Zoom gatherings are now password protected. Contact Rona (admin@hakafa.org) if you need the password.**

For each Zoom gathering, we will provide both a **link** and a **phone number** (and a Meeting ID for use with the phone number). You can choose to either join the gathering via computer/iPad/smartphone OR by telephone. **Please note that each Zoom gathering will have a different Link and Meeting ID.**

*** If you access the link on your computer:** It should open automatically when you click on the link. If it asks you if you want to use the computer's audio, say yes. The same for the video. If your video doesn't come up automatically, you can turn it on by clicking on the video icon at the bottom, left side of your screen.

*** If you access the link on an iPad or smartphone:** When you click on the link, it might ask you to download the Zoom app. If so, after you download it, you should be able to access our gathering by clicking on the link a second time - including the video. If not, **please text or call Rabbi Elder** (847-266-8854).

*** If you call in by phone or don't want to use Zoom:** Just dial the phone number provided. When you hear a recording, it will instruct you to type in the Meeting ID number, followed by the # sign. You will be able to hear clearly and participate like everyone else.

Protect Yourself from SPAM Emails Seeming to Come from Hakafa

Unfortunately, some Hakafa members received "spoofing" emails over the past few weeks - emails that appeared to be from a Hakafa officer or staff member but were, in fact, malicious emails meant to deceive. If you receive a suspicious email, please take the following steps:

- * **Don't click on anything within the suspicious email message, open any attachments, or respond to the email** - particularly ones asking for money or 'help' or ones which state something is needed 'right away' or bad things will happen.

- * **Check the email address on the suspicious email.** It will likely NOT be an @hakafa.org or @hakafamail.org address but will be some address you haven't seen before but that is similar. If unfamiliar, it's likely not legitimate.

- * **You can check whether the email is legitimate** by contacting whoever supposedly emailed you - but DON'T click "Reply" (which would connect to the spoofer). Instead, type in a legit email address directly, as it appears in our members' directory. Or feel free to call to confirm.

- * Spammers are expert at creating bogus emails that look like familiar Hakafa communications. If you receive a request for cash donations, credit card donations, or gift cards (e.g., to help the refugee families we work with) **be sure to double check personally via phone or a trusted email with Hakafa to confirm the request is legitimate.** DO NOT necessarily assume the email you got is trustworthy even if it looks like it might be.