

BRUCE ELDER, RABBI

ROBERT J. MARX, RABBI EMERITUS

D'varim

A different look at Hanukah

Hanukah was never really a holiday that celebrated religious freedom. It was, however, in its earliest form, a testament to the corrosive nature of religious coercion. Its story chronicles a small band of zealots – one man and his sons, really – whose narrowminded, spiritual sensibilities were so offended by the popular, ritual reforms of the ruling priestly clan that it decided to revolt. The zealots wanted a theocracy, one that would dictate rigorous religious practices and erase, in the most brutal ways imaginable, secular, Greek influences. ISIS, the Taliban, and other extremist movements of sanctimonious piety would do well to digest the annals of the Maccabean narrative.

The rabbis of old, whom today we look upon as paradigms of intolerance, were the opposite when it came to Hanukah. They knew the dangers of glorifying unbridled, religious exuberance and the violence that so often springs forth from it. Zealots make for great myth; theirs are the stories we relish in retelling, and they are the ones after whom so many of our super heroes and fictional legends are modeled. But, as wonderful as they are for tall tales of daring and valor, they make for lousy rulers. Religious ideologues rarely care about anything beyond their limited ideology. They seldom consider what actually goes into leading a nation. And so, once in power, their whole *raison d'être* devolves into an attempt to impose hegemony quickly, exploit resources heavily, and oppress the majority viciously. Corruption, it seems, is inevitable.

So it was with the Maccabees. The Hasmonean Dynasty that followed their coup sought to impose its stringent understanding of Jewish practice on a polity that was content with the Greek influences that had seeped into its way of life. Corruption and infighting among its leaders led to an eventual Roman takeover that was not unwelcomed by much of the population. And, that takeover led to the destruction of the very Temple the Maccabees came to power to control. In other words, to the rabbinic eye, the zealotry of the Maccabees led to the destruction of our national, religious center, a 2000-year-old calamity that much of world Jewry is lamenting to this day...

... which is why the rabbis de-emphasized the story of the Maccabees and developed the myth of the miracle of the oil. By changing the focus of the Hanukah narrative from the antics of religious fanatics to the fantastic nature of the Source of their fanaticism – God - the rabbis reoriented our people from romanticizing violent, human agency to celebrating the transcendent Being that still finds time to interact in this world and with us.

Perhaps there is a message in this for all of us. Instead of dismissing the notion of a vial of oil that managed to last eight days instead of one, maybe we should appreciate the deeper messages the rabbinic myth of Hanukah is conveying: We don't need to feed our aggressive tendencies with stories that elevate myopic ideals at the expense of accepting broader notions of what it means to be Jewish. We don't need to glorify zealots and the destruction their actions inevitably leave in their wake. We can, instead, appreciate the awe of that which is of and beyond us, that manifests Itself in both obvious and not-so-obvious ways. We can, instead, carry with us the hope the Hanukah candles contain as they brighten our homes: The hope for a better world, the hope for lights of reason in times of pietistic fury, and the hope that the lights emanating from our homes will somehow be carried far beyond our own, private selves.

Wouldn't that be miraculous?

-Rabbi Bruce Elder

Prayer and Celebration

Friday Night Services



The congregation is cordially invited to attend services at the Winnetka Community House (unless noted) on the following evenings:

December 1 Shabbat Vayishlach
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12

December 8 Chayei Vayeishev
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion Genesis 37:1-40:23
Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

December 15 Shabbat Mikeitz
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Genesis 41:1-44:17
Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

Congregational Hanukkah Celebration

December 22 Shabbat Vayigash
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

December 29 Shabbat Va-y'chi
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Genesis 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Live Streaming of Services

If you are unable to make it to our worship services, but would like to participate from your home, you may now live stream them through our website. Go to: hakafa.org and click on the listen now icon on the home page for instructions. You may also view archived events using the link. *Please note: For optimal audio output, you must have the volume turned up on both your computer and on the live stream screen itself.*

Congregational Shabbat/Hanukkah Service and

Celebration



Please join us at Shabbat services on **Friday evening, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.** in **Room 103 at the Winnetka Community House** (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) for a beautiful Hakafa tradition as we celebrate Hanukkah and Shabbat. Bring your *chanaukiot* (Hanukkah menorahs), candles, and matches, and help us celebrate Hanukkah as a community.

A special Hanukkah oneg, hosted by our Kadima group, will follow. **We are looking for volunteers to help with the oneg.** Please contact **Betsy Hersher** (847-945-5974 or Hersherb@hersher.com) or **Sharon Gutan** (847-256-0638 or EGutan627@comcast.net) if you can help. We hope you will join the fun!

Shabbat Morning Minyan

Please join us on **Saturday, December 2** at the **home of Barbara and Allen Anderson** (849 Oak Drive, Glencoe) at **8:30 a.m.** for our December Shabbat morning *minyan*. This hour-long service and study is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your celebration of Shabbat. People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to join us.

Oneg Hosts Needed

We are looking for hosts for Friday evening onegs this year. Hosting a Friday evening oneg is a wonderful way to help support Hakafa and is also a nice way to celebrate a bar/bat mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with the congregation. Many people honor the memory of a loved one on his/her *yahrzeit* by hosting an oneg.

If you would like to host an oneg, please contact our Volunteer Oneg Coordinator, **Sally Nador** (nadorsally@gmail.com or 847-727-4357), to reserve a date or sign-up at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>

Share Your Holidays

On occasion, there are Hakafa members who would like to share holidays with fellow congregants and do not have the opportunity to do so. If you would like to host a fellow congregant for a holiday meal, or if you need or want a place to go for the holidays, please contact **Sylvia Dresser** (847-945-6095).

Kumzits

"Kumzits" is a compound-word in Hebrew derived from the Yiddish words "*kum*" (come) and "*zits*" (sit). The word is used to describe an evening gathering where we come together and sing. Join us on **Saturday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **home of David and Linda Weinstein** (719 Harvard Street, Wilmette) for *Havdalah*, Hakafa style! We will sing, schmooze, and nosh. Bring your guitars, mandolins, ukes, banjos, drums, harmonicas, hands, feet, and voices.



HANUKKAH

The Hanukkah Menorah (or *Chanukiah* in Hebrew) is a candlestick that holds nine candles, specifically for Hanukkah. Eight of the candles each represent one of the eight days of Hanukkah. The ninth candle is raised above the others and is called the **Shamash**, meaning helper-candle. It is used to light all the other candles.

If possible, candles should be lit immediately after sunset and should be allowed to burn completely. One family member may light the candles on behalf of the whole family, but it is fun to have each family member light his/her own *Chanukiah*.

The first candle is lit (using the *shamash*) on the first night. On the next night, two candles are lit, and one more added each night up through the eighth night. The candles are placed in the *Chanukiah* from right to left (facing you); but, when lighting them, first kindle the “new” candle added that evening (using the *shamash*) and then proceed from left to right.

On the first night, all three of the blessings below are said. On all other nights, only the first two blessings are recited.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer keed-sha-noo
b'meetz-vo-tav v'tzee-va-noo l'had-leek nayr shel cha-noo-kah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who makes us holy with commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah candles.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-saw nee-seem
la-a-vo-tay-noo ba-ya-meem ha-hem baz-man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who made miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

Only on the first night:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֲחִינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְן הַזֶּה.

*Ba-rooch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hay-noo me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-noo
v'kee-y-ma-noo v'hee-gee-a-noo, laz-man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who gives us life and sustains us, and brings us to this season.

Member News

Shabbat in the Home: Hosts Needed for April 20, 2018

Shabbat in the Home takes place one Friday evening each year. Fifteen or more Hakafa families host a potluck Shabbat dinner, and every congregation member is invited to dine and share the evening at one of the homes. **If you are willing to open up your home to other Hakafa members for a potluck dinner on Friday, April 20, 2018 please contact Debbie Fogel** (curlyfogel@yahoo.com or 312-576-6775) or sign-up at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/shabbat-in-the-home>. We hope to get enough volunteer hosts and hope you will join us as we celebrate Shabbat, share a delicious meal, enjoy interesting conversation, meet new friends, and reconnect with old ones!

Please Help Us in Welcoming Our New Members:

Mira Neumann

Lisa and Steve Fretzin and their son, Andrew

Thank You to:

The Bickers Family and the Dresser Family for providing home hospitality for our Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Zachary Ebin, and the members of the Ton Beau String Quartet.

Harriet and Stan Rosenthal for hosting our Saturday Evening Scholar-in-Residence program.

Condolences to:

Dan Meir and Family on the loss of his mother, Tsafriira Meir.

Mazal Tov to:

Our Adult B'nai Mitvah Class for leading a beautiful Shabbat service.

Joyce Ann and Calvin McGinn on their wedding.

Steve and Jamie Miller and family on the birth of their grandchild, Mia, to Laura and Mike Sher.

If you are having a simcha – a birth, wedding, or the like – please let us know (conghakafa@hakafa.org) so that we can share your joy with our congregational community.

Worship Committee Meeting

The Worship Committee is meeting on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.**, at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). The committee will begin discussing ideas for making Hakafa services more inviting to newcomers and more meaningful to regular participants. **All are welcome.** If you have any questions, comments, or thoughts, please contact **Brian Browdy** (847-942-7318 or brian.browdy@gmail.com).

Membership Committee Meeting

Hakafa's Membership Committee will be meeting on **Sunday, December 17 at 1:30 p.m.** at **our offices at the North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) to brainstorm recruitment strategies. The meeting is open to the entire congregation, and your input would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Sylvia Dresser** (vicepresident@hakafa.org or 847-945-6095) with questions, comments, and ideas.

Throughout the year, people often ask how they can make a contribution to Hakafa
We have three funds that accept donations, and we always value your support

General Fund: Our General Fund supports the day-to-day operations of the synagogue. To donate to the General Fund, please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa."

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: Rabbi Elder's Discretionary Fund directly supports those in need in and around our community. Rabbi Elder directs the usage of these funds. To donate to the Discretionary Fund, please make your check payable to "Rabbi Elder's Discretionary Fund."

Endowment Fund: Our Endowment Fund supports special programming such as our Scholar-in-Residence program. Endowment Trustees direct the usage of these funds. To donate to the Endowment Fund, please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa" and write "Endowment Fund" on the memo line.

If you would like to make your donation in honor or in memory of someone, please be sure to include a note in your envelope with the appropriate information so that a card can be sent to the honoree to let them know about your donation. All donations can be mailed to: Congregation Hakafa, P.O. Box 409, Glencoe, IL 60022.

Member News (continued)

Please Offer Your Ideas for Endowment Fund Programs

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 be meeting on **Sunday, December 10 at 12:15 p.m.** at the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) to consider new requests. This meeting is open to all congregants. Please attend or contact the trustees with your ideas or questions.

Our three trustees are **Scott Lowtwait** (scottlowtwait@gmail.com or 847-650-6906), **Seymour Rothstein** (sybike@yahoo.com or 847-432-1756), and **Nancy Goodman** (president@hakafa.org or 847-564-3273). And, please remember, financial contributions to the endowment fund are always welcome – any time of the year.

Accessibility at Hakafa

If you become aware of any accessibility issues within the congregation, we hope you will share them with us by speaking confidentially with one of our Chesed Committee Chairs, **Ana Bensinger** (anabensinger@att.net or 847-926-3223) or **Anita Goldberg** (anitagoldberg@gmail.com or 847-432-8973). We thank you for your help in making our congregation welcoming and accessible to all.

Hakafa Location Accessibility Guide

The information provided below is designed to give general information about accessibility at the locations where we hold services, classes, programs, and events. For specific questions, please contact our office (admin@hakafa.org or 847-242-0687) or the actual location.

- **A Just Harvest** (<http://www.ajustharvest.org/>): Accessible building with street parking.
- **Anderson Household** (caabaa@sbcglobal.net): Ranch house with no steps. Two cats present.
- **Davis Household** (ablakleydavis@gmail.com): Ranch House with no steps. Dogs and cats present.
- **North Shore United Methodist Church** (<http://nsumcglencoe.org/>): No steps into the building; two-step stairway inside building (ramp available); elevator available (with help for the door) to second floor.
- **Office of Brad Reiff** (breiff@compasslexecon.com): 13th floor of accessible building.
- **Office of Phil Zisook** (zisook@dlec.com): 17th floor of accessible building.
- **Robertson Household** (mrobertson595@gmail.com): No steps into the house.
- **Takiff Center** (<http://www.glencoeParkDistrict.com/Facilities/Takiff-Center>): Accessible building; programs that take place on the second floor accessible by elevator – a short walk on the second level to classrooms.
- **Winnetka Community House** (<http://www.winnetkacommunityhouse.org/>): Ramp into building.

Chesed

Chesed is our congregation's attempt to reach out to one another. If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in crisis from an illness, death in the family, or personal stress, who could benefit from support, such as a visit, delivery and/or preparation of meals, or a ride to a health care appointment, please contact **Ana Bensinger** (anabensinger@att.net or 847-926-3223) or **Anita Goldberg** (anitagoldberg@gmail.com or 847-432-8973).

Congregation Directory

The 2017-2018 Congregation Hakafa Directory is in the process of being updated and will be delivered in January. Please contact Rona (admin@hakafa.org or 847-242-0687) with any changes and/or updates.

On Facebook

Go to https://www.facebook.com/CongregationHakafa?ref_type=bookmark and click "Like". The Facebook page allows us to communicate with you. We use it to update you on information about the congregation, to give you announcements on events that are new and immediate to the calendar, and to show off a bit with pictures of some of the places we have been, the events we have had, and the people that we are.

Chadashot

Hakafa Youth News
December 2017

Note from the Director of Education

And it is December!! We begin this month with our new Student-Led Shabbat Service on December 1st. Come join us for this special Shabbat!

On Sunday, December 3 we will be having our 2nd Family Education Day. Just a reminder to parents to please plan on attending the entire school day with your child. We are excited to have everyone learn and have fun together!

Hebrew School students will be having their 2nd Culture Day on December 12. We will have an all-school program with a Chanukah theme! It promises to be an adventure in Hebrew learning!

December is a short month. Please make a note in your calendars that our last day of Hebrew School will be on December 12, and our last day of Religious School will be on December 17.

Wishing all of you a *Chag Chanukah Sameach* and a wonderful and warm Winter Break! School resumes on January 9 for Hebrew School and January 14 for Religious School.



L'shalom,
Bibi



Student-Led Shabbat Service and Oneg

Please join us on **Friday, December 1** at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Winnetka Community House** (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) for Shabbat Services at which our Religious School and Hebrew School students will help lead the service. Services will be followed by a special oneg in their honor, hosted by our students' families! We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening together.

Hanukkah Family Education Day!

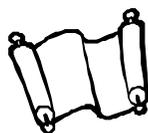


All parents of students in grades K-8 should plan to attend Religious School **with your children** on **Sunday, December 3**. Our faculty has planned a fun, cross-generational, interactive **Hanukkah educational program for the whole family to enjoy**.

Family Education Days are designed to provide our students and their families with creative, intensive, and experiential Jewish learning on a specific topic.

We look forward to sharing this fun morning with all of our Religious School families!

B'nai Mitzvah Workshops



Rabbi Elder's "Walk through the Shabbat Service" b'nai mitzvah workshop series will continue with our second session on **Sunday, December 3** at the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe). **Families with morning services will meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., and families with evening services will meet from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** This series is designed for families of students whose b'nai mitzvah celebrations will be taking place in the year after May 2017. Students and their parents should attend. All b'nai mitzvah candidates and families are welcome, even if you missed the first one. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org or 847-266-8854).



Dates to Note...

- December 1 – Student-Led Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. (WCH)
- December 3 – Hanukkah Family Ed Day
 - Meeting for Families of 5th Graders, 12:00 p.m. (TC)
 - B'nai Mitzvah Workshops, 12:45 p.m. OR 2:00 p.m. (TC)
- December 12-19 – Hanukkah
- December 18 through January 8 - No Religious School or Hebrew School (Winter Break)
- January 9 – Hebrew School Resumes
- January 14 – Religious School Resumes

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Adult Education: December Schedule
10:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)

December 3:

Study: *Hidden Wisdom: The Esoteric and the Occult in Pre – Modern Jewish Thought* with David Shyovitz

Throughout Jewish history, the notion that there exists a realm of secret knowledge or hidden wisdom that lies just beyond human grasp has motivated Jewish theologians, magicians, mystics, and scientists. The quest for such occult knowledge has played a key role in the consolidation of Jewish doctrine, the shaping of rituals and prayers, and the development mystical and magical beliefs and practices. This series of three classes will examine some case studies of the ways in which Jewish (and non-Jewish!) esoteric beliefs have shaped the course of Jewish thought and culture.

David Shyovitz is Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University, and has a joint appointment at the Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. His research and teaching focus on pre-modern Jewish cultural and intellectual history, with a particular emphasis on Jewish-Christian relations. He is the author of the recently published book A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz.

December 10:

Study: *Hidden Wisdom: The Esoteric and the Occult in Pre – Modern Jewish Thought* with David Shyovitz (continued from December 3).

Discussion: *Parenting Teens: A Conversation with a Jewish Mother* - Linda Weinstein

Do you have a teenage child or grandchild whom you just don't understand? Do you have a pre-teen who thinks s/he is a teenager or who acts like one and you don't know what to do? Whether you are wading in the waters of teen adolescence or you are drowning in it, this conversation is for you! Join Hakafa's very own Jewish mother extraordinaire, **Linda Weinstein**, as she shares some thoughts about raising teens in this day and age and then opens it up for discussion on how to survive this period in your children's and grandchildren's lives.

December 17:

Study: *Hidden Wisdom: The Esoteric and the Occult in Pre – Modern Jewish Thought* with David Shyovitz (continued from December 3 and 10).

Discussion: *LGBTQ 101* with Sarah Casper

This workshop will begin with some basics, including the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as terms and definitions such as gay, lesbian, pansexual, transgender, queer, and others. We will then discuss concrete steps that parents and community members can take to create safe, inclusive, and comfortable spaces for their children of all genders and sexual orientations. Finally, we will address challenges and triumphs in supporting children through exploration of their identity and discuss resources to they can access as well.

Sarah Casper, MS, is the Outreach Program Supervisor for the Jewish Child & Family Services Response Center. She has been working at Response since 2010, and has been supervising the Outreach team since 2012. She oversees the facilitation of empowering youth centered and justice based community outreach programs in schools, youth groups, and community settings. Topics offered include examination of LGBTQ awareness, bullying prevention, comprehensive sexual education, mental health awareness, and promoting healthy relationships. Additionally, in her time at Response Center, she has been able to follow her passion for creating and providing safe space for LGBTQ youth through a variety of programs and trainings for professionals. Sarah has recently completed a Masters in Health Communication at Northwestern University, where she gained knowledge and skills around continuing her work, aimed towards reducing health disparities in underserved youth.

Midrash Class

Join us on **Tuesday mornings** from **9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)** to study *midrash*. Midrash is the creative, interpretative process of the rabbis over generations. Through midrash, we see how the rabbis saw the text of the Bible - its lessons, its messages, its practical applications, and its relevance to them throughout time. Through the study of midrash, we will see how much of our understanding of the biblical text has been influenced by theirs. **Please Note: Class will not meet on December 26.**

Adult Education (continued)

Two Opportunities for Torah Study

Wednesday Afternoon Torah Class:

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

North Shore United Methodist Church
(213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Please Note:

Class will not meet on December 27.

Tuesday Evening Torah Class:

7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

North Shore United Methodist Church
(213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Please Note:

Class will not meet on December 26.

Nosh and Know on the North Shore

“Nosh & Know on the North Shore” will take place on **Thursday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **home of Cookie Robertson** (211 Dennis Lane, Glencoe). Join us for a lively conversation with Rabbi Elder! New participants are always welcome.

Hebrew Circle

If you are a Hebrew speaker (beginners welcome!) looking to practice your Hebrew with other Hebrew speaking Hakafa members, please join Rabbi Elder on **Thursday, December 7 at 10:30 a.m. (NOTE NEW DAY AND TIME)** at the office of **Brad Reiff** (332 S. Michigan Avenue, 13th floor, Chicago) for an hour of conversation – all in Hebrew!

Lunch and Learn in the Loop

Lunch & Learn in the Loop will take place at **noon on Thursday, December 7** at the **office of Phil Zisook** (225 W. Washington Street, Suite 1700, Chicago). Bring your own lunch and prepare to participate in a lively discussion with Rabbi Elder! New participants are always welcome.

Possible New Class: Beginning Hebrew for Adults

We are looking into the possibility of starting a new beginning Hebrew class for adults in the late winter/early spring with our wonderful instructor, Helen Melnick, who has been teaching Hebrew for twenty years at a variety of congregations across the north shore. **Please contact Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org or 847-266-8854) if you are interested in participating.**

Mishneh Torah Class

Our December sessions of Mishneh Torah (Jewish law) class will be held on **Tuesdays, December 5 and 19 at 10:30 a.m.** at the home of **Allison Blakley Davis & Kenneth Davis** (2940 Moon Hill Drive, Northbrook). Come join us and Rabbi Elder to learn more about what *Halacha* has to say on almost every aspect of life.

Social Action

Stock the Shelves for Refugees

Stock the Shelves is a North Shore grassroots organization that was organized earlier this year to provide refugee families in Rogers Park with essential daily items not covered by food stamps (i.e. diapers, laundry soap, feminine products, cleaning products, deodorant, and toilet paper). It is led by First Presbyterian Church Wilmette (FPCW) and partners with Congregation Sukkat Shalom, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, and most recently with Congregation Hakafa. *Stock the Shelves* solicits donations from schools and individuals that are distributed the fourth Wednesday of each month at Warren Park in Chicago.

Hakafa member, **Judy Bramson**, is looking for volunteers who would like to help create opportunities for donations and distribute the items. This would be a wonderful b'nai mitzvah project. Contact **Judy** (847-204-9770 or jdbramson@gmail.com) for more information.

Save the Date:

Houston Flood Recovery

Hakafa, the Winnetka Congregational Church, and the Muslim Community Center will be joining together for an **interfaith trip to Houston** the week of **January 22, 2018** to do hurricane recovery work. Details are still in formation.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (rabbi@hakafa.org or 847-266-8854) if you are interested in participating or in learning more about the trip.

Social Action (continued)

Volunteers Needed at A Just Harvest A Just Harvest: Feeding People who are Hungry and Working to Reduce Hunger!

Hakafa is committed to providing and serving food at A Just Harvest on the second Sunday of every month. The kitchen is located on the far north side of Chicago, and each month four families from Hakafa share this meaningful experience. **The volunteer roster is ready for volunteers to fill it.** Even if you won't be available to serve at the kitchen, you can participate by purchasing food or simply by contributing financially, a critical need. If you would like to help, visit the following link to sign-up OR contact **Monique Parsons** (312-420-1248 / monique.parsons@gmail.com): <http://tinyurl.com/a-just-harvest>

Composting Drop-Off at the Takiff Center

You can **drop off** your **fruit and veggie scraps** on **Sunday mornings** at the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) from **9:30-11:30 a.m.** Dump your scraps into the containers that are inside the labeled bin that is located at the Takiff Center Main Entrance Parking Lot (near the dumpsters). If you have any questions, or for further information, please contact **Barbara Miller** (barbarasmiller01@yahoo.com or 847-835-8000).

"Taking Action" Website Page

Let Hakafa support, facilitate, and empower you to make your voice heard at the federal, state, and local levels! Visit the new "Taking Action" website page on Hakafa's website (www.hakafa.org/justice/taking-action) for weekly positive actions that you may wish to take at the local, state, and federal level. Also available on this page are links to issue updates from the Religious Action Center (RAC), National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), and League of Women Voters along with resources for or about kids.

Save Your Bikes This Spring



Save your bikes! Old or New! Working or Broken! Hakafa's Second Annual WorkingBikes.org Bike Drive 2018 will take place on EARTH DAY: Sunday, April 22! Donation drop-off will again be at the Takiff Center from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We are excited to announce that this year Am Shalom and North Shore Congregation Israel, will be joining us at The Takiff Center, to help us donate and collect as many bikes as possible! Please contact **Barb Scott** (bams4@comcast.net) or **Sara Hoffman** (saramax58@gmail.com) with questions.

Winter Coat Drive



Hakafa member, **Barbara Scott**, is collecting CLEAN and gently used OR new coats, hats, mittens, and boots for children in grades K-8 at various Chicago Public Schools on the west side. Please bring the items to the box that is currently in the lobby of the Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe). This box will be in the lobby through the **end of December**. For more information, please contact **Barbara Scott** (bams4@comcast.net or 847-707-5795).

Jewish Community Resources

CJE Senior Life (cje.net, 773.508.1000) – Since 1972, CJE SeniorLife has enhanced the lives of older adults and their families through a comprehensive network that includes housing, health care, community services, health and wellness education, life enrichment programs and applied research.

Jewish Center for Addiction (jcfs.org/Jewish-addiction, 847-745-5422) – The Jewish Center for Addiction (a program of Jewish Child and Family Service) was created to build a caring community that is aware of and responsive to the problem of addiction and to support individuals and families who struggle with addiction.

Jewish Child and Family Service (jcfs.org, 855-275-5237) - Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS) provides caring and healing services to children, teens, adults, older adults and families for help with autism, support with advanced illness, special education, individual and family counseling, and more.

Jewish Healing Network (847.745.5404) – A program of JCFS, the Network's staff provides information about social services, medical resources, and spiritual resources for people who are ill, grieving, or serving as care-givers to help in their difficult times.

Shalva (shalvaonline.org, 773-583-4673) - SHALVA offers free, confidential, domestic abuse counseling services.

Congregation Hakafa Calendar

December 2017 – Kislev / Tevet 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 pm Student-Led Shabbat Service (WCH)	2 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson)
3 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School Family Ed Day (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm – Adult Ed (TC) -Study: Dr. David Shyovitz 12:00 pm Meeting about Communal B'nai Mitzvah (TC) 12:45 pm OR 2:00 pm 2 nd B'nai Mitzvah Workshop (TC)	4	5 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	6 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	7 10:30 am Hebrew Circle (Office of Brad Reiff) 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn in the Loop (Office of Phil Zisook)	8 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	9
10 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm – Adult Ed (TC) -Study: Dr. David Shyovitz -Discussion: <i>Parenting Teens</i> with Linda Weinstein 12:15 pm Endowment Committee Meeting (TC) 4:00-6:15 pm 9 th -11 th Grade Class Session II (NSUMC)	11	12 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC) 1st Night of Hanukkah	13 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC) 2nd Night of Hanukkah	14 9:00 am Nosh & Know on the North Shore (Home of Cookie Robertson) 3rd Night of Hanukkah	15 Newsletter Articles Due 7:30 pm Shabbat Service & Congregational Hanukkah Celebration (WCH) 4th Night of Hanukkah	16 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson) 5th Night of Hanukkah
17 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm – Adult Ed (TC) -Study: Dr. David Shyovitz -Discussion: <i>LGBTQ 101</i> 1:30 pm Membership Committee Meeting (NSUMC) 3:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting (NSUMC) 6th Night of Hanukkah	18 7th Night of Hanukkah	19 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC) Last Night of Hanukkah	20 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	21	22 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	30
31						

Congregation Hakafa Calendar

January 2018 – Tevet / Shevat 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	3 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	4 10:30 am Hebrew Circle (Office of Brad Reiff) 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn in the Loop	5 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	6 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson) 7:00 pm Kumzits (Home of Linda and David Weinstein)
7	8	9 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School Resumes (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	10 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	11	12 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	13
14 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School Resumes (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Congregation Meeting (TC) 3:30-7:30 pm High School Students Volunteer at A Just Harvest	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	17 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	18 9:00 am Nosh & Know on the North Shore (Home of Cookie Robertson)	19 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	20 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson) 10:30 am OR 11:30 am B'nai Mitzvah Workshop Services (NSUMC) 7:00 pm Film Group (NSUMC)
21 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm – Adult Ed (TC) -Study: Dr. Claire Sufrin -Discussion: <i>How do you find a place at the table?</i>	22	23 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	24 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	25	26 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	27
28	29	30 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	31 Tu B'Shevat 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)			



Congregation Hakafa

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The Circle

December 2017

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