

Temple Topics

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
www.urg.org

December 2023

Kislev/Tevet 5784

December Events

12/5
Bunco

12/7
Erev Chanukah
Menorah Lighting

12/7 TAFI -
Bonbino's

12/8
Chanukah
Shabbat - Dinner
& Celebration

12/19 Board
Meeting

12/25
Office Closed



Family Shabbat Service
Dinner & Chanukah Celebration
Friday, December 8, 2023
6:00pm
PJ Library Craft at 5:00pm

**Dinner & Celebration Will Follow Services
DJ & Balloon Art!**

*Rotisserie Chicken, Potato Latkes, Jelly Donuts, Beverages, Dessert!
Chicken Nuggets for the Children*



Raffles will be drawn at dinner.

RSVP BY DECEMBER 1ST

Registration is a must.

No one will be allowed in without prior registration!

Click here to reserve!

Temple Avodah, PJ Library & Bright Star Families

Adults	\$18 pp
Full Family	\$45 max*
Kids under 10	\$10 pp
Kids under 5	Free*

Non-Members May Join Us!

Adults	\$24 pp
Full Family	\$60 max*
Kids under 10	\$12 pp
Kids under 5	Free*

*Immediate Family Only



PJ Library craft and DJ
entertainment sponsored by the

Amanda Rose Kanowitz Children's Library Fund

Temple Avodah

3050 Oceanside Road, Oceanside,
New York, 11572
avodah.org

Proud Partner of



Bring Jewish stories home.
Sign up at: www.pjlibrary.org



December Service Schedule

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

5:00PM FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

6:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE & BAT MITZVAH OF MIRELLA MYRON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

7:45AM MINYAN

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

5:00PM ASK THE RABBI

6:00PM HAVDALLAH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

6:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE WITH CHANUKAH DINNER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

7:45AM MINYAN

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

5:00PM ASK THE RABBI

6:00PM HAVDALLAH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:00PM RUACH SHABBAT SERVICE - GARDEN ROOM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

7:45AM MINYAN

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

10:00AM BAR MITZVAH OF JACK BICKMAN

5:00PM ASK THE RABBI

6:00PM HAVDALLAH



December Service Schedule *continued*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

6:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE WITH ANNIVERSARYS & BIRTHDAYS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD

7:45AM MINYAN

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

5:00PM ASK THE RABBI

6:00PM HAVDALLAH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

6:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

7:45AM MINYAN

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

5:00PM ASK THE RABBI

6:00PM HAVDALLAH

**Watch for notices for possible
changes to services**



Light
אור

December 2023



Avodah
עבודה

Kislev-Tevet 5784

Dear Chaverim/Chaverot-

Chanukah begins at sundown Thursday, December 7th and ends by sundown Friday, December 15th. Even though in Judaism it is considered a minor holiday it is one many Jews love to celebrate. In Israel it's a special time to spend with family, eat fried foods like latke's and sufganiot (jelly filled donuts) and light the Chanukiah (9 candle Menorah).

The historical origin dates back to 167 BCE in the land of Judea during the rule of King Antiochus IV of the Seleucid Empire. King Antiochus made it illegal for Jews to practice their religion. If anyone tried, they were killed. It was not a good time to be Jewish. Sadly, something we'd get very used to through out history. The Greeks even took over the Temple in Jerusalem and destroyed everything inside.

Finally, having had enough Judah the Maccabee (who was the eldest son of the priest Mattityahu) gathered a small group to fight back against the King and his army. It wasn't going to be easy. King Antiochus' army was massive and strong. They had all of the modern weapons. In the end Judah the Maccabee and his small group of fighters won. It was a miracle. In the Fall of 164 the Temple was rededicated back to the Jews.

The story of Chanukah is one about resilience, bravery and perseverance. It was our first fight for religious freedom. It's about the miracle of the underdog being able to overtake their oppressor. All of which are the plots of many great movies. Since October 7th there have been many heartbreaking stories told. Sharing in the light of this holiday I want to tell you about a more recent story. It's about bravery, impossible chances, incredible James Bond driving AND miracles. It took place in Israel on Shabbat morning October 7th on Moshav Ein Habesor. This moshav is just 4 miles from the Gaza Strip AND was right in the heat of the terrorist attacks. After reading this article think about the similarities to the story of Chanukah. Imagine Judah Maccabee giving his first hand account and how many "MacGyver" moments he must have had. Reflect on the Maccabee's and those men in the moshav...how was it they persevered with all of the odds against them?

Through out our history there have been numerous stories of survival and bravery. That's not new. However when the events happen so long ago, it can be hard to relate. The story in this article is a modern day example of G-d's presence and G-d's ability to give us strength in impossible situations. Miracles happen. Survival is in our DNA. Proof is in our 5784 years of existence. On the first night of Chanukah we recite, "Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us to this season." בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה

May the light of your Chanukiot bring you warmth and peace.

Rabbi Shai

rabbishai@avodah.org

Article below from The Times of Israel. Link included...

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/heart-stopping-accounts-of-bravery-emerge-from-a-town-that-repelled-hamas-onslaught/>



Heart-stopping accounts of bravery emerge from a town that repelled Hamas onslaught

by Sue Surkes, 15 October 2023 THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Stunning stories of bravery are emerging from Ein Habesor, a moshav near the Gaza Strip, which include a hard-fought and ultimately successful battle against Hamas terrorists and a terrifying race to get a wounded fighter to a hospital with Gaza gunmen on motorcycles in pursuit, shooting at the car. The resistance put up by dozens of residents of the small community, with only four M16 assault rifles and some pistols between them, evidently convinced the terrorists to give up and go wreak carnage elsewhere. Two moshavniks were injured, none were killed, and the terror squads that invaded Israel from the Gaza Strip at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday did not breach Ein Habesor, about 4 miles from Gaza Strip.

That Moshav Ein Habesor was able to defend itself was, ironically, thanks to a spate of car thefts that had prompted the expansion of the community's defense unit from a dozen people to 78. To ambush would-be car thieves, groups patrolled the perimeter fence nightly. On Saturday morning, Yariv Ganei Levin from the defense unit awoke to what he called "extreme" shelling from Gaza. The team's WhatsApp group was filled with video clips of a truck full of terrorists, which he first discounted as fake news. That was until he snuck to look out at route 232, which runs along the western side of the moshav, and saw a truck "with six, or eight, terrorists, armed with RPGs" — shoulder-launched, rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

"I went in the direction of the [front gate] and heard crazy shooting," he recalled. "I saw three figures in the bushes. I lay on the ground. It took me time until I opened fire. I didn't know if they were from our forces." "They were crouching, and then I saw bandannas on their heads. I opened a whole magazine [of bullets] on them, I replaced the magazine, and then I got a bullet in the shoulder. I thought a wasp had stung me and I felt heat in my back." "Some of our guys were at the gate and shouted that I'd been injured," Ganei Levin went on. "I lay down on my back with my face towards the fence and continued to shoot while shuffling backward." Ganei Levin managed to get to some greenhouses near the gate to take shelter where he was finally rescued and treated.

A second unit member, Eldad Gepner, 48, was hit by a bullet in the shoulder as he fought by the gate. His brother Yftach, 44, was standing nearby holding a rock because he had no weapon. Yftach Gepner, a resident of Ein Habesor and a senior lecturer at Tel Aviv University's Medicine Faculty, spoke with The Times of Israel and described the attack. "The whole moshav only had four M16 rifles," Gepner said, pausing from time to time to take deep breaths as he relived the nightmare. Some months ago, local Bedouin had stolen weapons from the moshav armory and the army had decided to take most of the long guns away.

"Eldad got hurt, he passed his M16 onto a friend, and he called out to me. I went in my Tesla to get him," he said. "I moved the controls into performance mode [for maximum acceleration], as I understood we had to move fast. But we couldn't go from the front gate." "We drove to the back gate, which is closer to Soroka Hospital [in the city of Beersheba, a roughly 45-minute drive west] and I tried to reach the main road [Route 242] via a dirt path." "My brother warned me that there might be a lot of terrorists out there. I told him to lie down on his back," said the doctor.

Heart-stopping accounts of bravery emerge from a town that repelled Hamas onslaught

by Sue Surkes, 15 October 2023 THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

“When I got to route 242, I looked to the left. It was clear. I turned right onto the road, and in front of me, I saw two pickup trucks with about ten terrorists in each one and about five motorbikes each with two men,” he said. “I didn’t understand what I was seeing. They started shooting at us. I had no weapon. I was dressed in shorts,” he recalled. “I reversed onto the dust track and drove backward for about 100 meters at 60 kilometers an hour, with two motorcycles chasing and shooting at us.” “They shot at the car battery,” he said and Eldad got hit, in the back and the buttock. “He was in enormous pain.” “I did a crazy turn and drove at speed 90mph back towards the moshav’s back gate,” he said.

Once back at the moshav, another fighter, Raz Shapira, turned up with an ambulance. Eldad was in unstable condition at this stage. Shapira told Ynet, “We wanted to take him to the hospital on Route 241. We were talking with the switchboard at the Magen David Adom emergency service. They told us ‘Don’t even think about going on the road, everyone on the road is dying.’” “So we turned around. The whole road from the Magen Junction [north of the moshav] was full of damaged cars. The terrorists were lying by the side of the road, shooting at any car that passed and killing the drivers,” Shapira said. He continued, “On the way, I was getting locations and recordings from people at the party in Re’im begging us to come and rescue them.” Hamas gunmen were mowing down young adults at an all-night party near the Gaza border, eventually killing over 260 of them.

Police officers told Shapira they were caught up in a gunfight, Shapira recalled, “and that it was hell and that their ammunition was running out.”

Shapira and Gepner were able to reach Habadim City, a massive IDF training base south of Beersheba, and to get Eldad transferred to an intensive care ambulance and taken to Soroka Hospital. “He’s in a lot of pain, but he’ll be fine,” Gepner said Friday, insisting that The Times of Israel convey a message to the world.

Gepner said: “I live here with all the friends I’ve known since kindergarten. I have a beautiful home.”

Until the Hamas invasion on October 7, there was a feeling that there was no safer place in the world, he said. “My 8-year-old can walk alone at night with zero concern that something will happen.” Gepner is determined to revive that tranquility. “We created a beautiful place here at Moshav Ein Habesor, and soon, we will be even stronger.” “We have come through wars, and we will get through this one because we have no other choice,” he said. “This the only country for the Jews.”



From the President

\$37,000

I want to say that again: \$37,000!

As I've said before, this is my 14th year as a member of Temple Avodah, and I grew up as a congregant at Union Reform Temple. In all my years as a congregant, I don't think I've ever seen a congregation and community come together as we did on November 9th. I am so proud to say that we raised over \$37,000 to help Israel in its time of need. A huge thank you goes out to Kombert Catering, who not only provided the food, but whose workers volunteered their time that night. None of them had to be there, but they chose to and wanted to be. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

As we head into December, the weather is turning colder, but your Temple is always here to keep your heart warm. Your body... well, that depends on the heating and air conditioning in the sanctuary and the ballroom!

We have one of our biggest events of the year on Friday, December 8th – the Chanukah party! Remember to register as soon as you read this if you haven't already, and get ready for some wonderful raffle prizes, including a TV! The evening starts with our PJ Library event. All of the choirs will be involved in the service to sing with Rabbi Shai. During the dinner, we'll have a DJ and balloon act for the kids. Our Friday Chanukah service is always one of the most fun services and events that we have every year. Definitely don't miss it. A big thank you to the Amanda Rose Kanowitz Library Fund for sponsoring both of these. Remember to register today!

Lastly, I want to discuss our clergy. Thank you, as always, to Rabbi Shai for continuing to provide a strong center for our Jewish lives. We have started the search for a new person for the Cantorial role. Thank you to everyone who came to our round tables to talk about what they wanted in such a candidate. The Committee is taking your suggestions under consideration as we look for our new person to stand beside Rabbi Shai on the bimah.

I hope you have a wonderful Chanukah and remainder of 2023!



“Anachnu Maccabim!”- We are the Maccabees - our students enthusiastically repeat each time we meet during the month of Kislev. Chanukah commemorates the Maccabees’ military victory over the Syrian/Greeks and the rededication of the Beit Hamikdash, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The golden seven-branched menorah, one of the earliest Jewish symbols, mentioned twenty-seven times in the Torah, and today part of the emblem of the State of Israel was lit each day in the Temple with pure olive. The oil was kept in a container, sealed with the stamp of the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest. We all know the story of how a small cruse of consecrated oil was found and kept the menorah lit for eight days. This rededication, called hanukkat hamizbeyah, is the source of the word Hanukkah, and provides an opportune time to rededicate ourselves to our families, our Jewish values and identity and our connection to the larger Jewish community.

Today, we celebrate Chanukah in our homes. The major mitzvah is lighting of the hanukkah, the eight-branched menorah with an additional holder for the shamash (server) which we use to light all the other candles. We are also encouraged to 'publicize the miracle' by placing a hanukkah (preferably electric) in our windows so those passing by can see it. I wonder if we will feel comfortable doing that this year. I'm reminded of an incident that occurred in Billings, Montana in 1993. The entire town came together to display hanukkahs in their windows in support and solidarity of a Jewish family whose home had been vandalized after displaying a hanukkah in their window. The Christmas Menorahs is a compelling story of how each person's small act of kindness can bring some light into the world.

Teaching our students the story of Chanukah has obviously taken on a new meaning this year. We reinforce the resilience of our people and our obligation to ‘...be a light among the nations.’ We will celebrate even stronger this year our joy and pride in being Jewish!

Happy Chanukah,

Phyllis Pellman



The holidays are around the corner. PTO is hard at work supporting the other temple committees to set up our annual Chanukah Dinner on December 8th. We are looking forward to celebrating Chanukah with all of our fellow Religious School families. There will be delicious food to eat, and we are hoping to see everyone's best moves on the dance floor after we have eaten our fill of latkes, jelly doughnuts and gelt.

PTO will also be sending home our annual gifts of dreidels and gelt to the Religious School children. We wish you the best of luck – may your dreidels always land on Gimel! This is also the time of year where we collect funds to show our appreciation to our very dedicated Religious School teachers and staff. They work so hard throughout the year to give our kids the very best. You do not need to have a child or grandchild in Religious School to contribute.

PTO helped to run a table at the Holiday Boutique that was held on November 12th. We had so many talented young artists come visit and decorate their own dreidels with us. 5th graders Lily Davoli and Alana Izmirly volunteered their time during the morning shift and helped to share pop-it fidgets and teach how to make origami flowers. The money they raised at the table was donated to Rabbi Shai to send directly to Israel!

Danielle Davoli - President
Cari Catania - VP
Sabrina Cohen - Secretary
Lori Izmirly - Treasurer

Social Action In Action

NOW IS THE TIME:
THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN PUTTING
OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

The new realities facing Jews here in South Nassau County and around the world compel new thinking about what a Temple's Social Action Committee can be and can do. We invite all our fellow congregants to join the conversation as we continue our acts of tikkun olam with a new urgency, a broader perspective, and a clear through-line between who we are, what we believe and what we do.

Our committee members have been honored to work with Rabbi Shai in organizing the Prayers for Peace events on October 17 and December 3, and we thank everyone who sang, played music, organized security, greeted guests, or simply attended. Feeling the solidarity of community as we send up our prayers is a powerful and meaningful experience, and we will continue to create such opportunities to gather going forward.

Our next Oceanside Community Blood Drive – on January 9, 2024, at the Oceanside Jewish Center – is one way of demonstrating our commitment to connecting with and expanding our ties to fellow Jews as we contribute to the well-being of our entire local community. Contact the office or Betsy Meyerson (see below) to make an appointment to donate blood or to volunteer your time to organize and execute the event.

Although we organize a Mitzvah Day each year, we expect that this year it will have extra meaning and extra power for all who attend. Mitzvah Day is Sunday, May 5, 2024, and we hope you will contact us with your ideas and visions for that event.

We are here to help, so please join us on our monthly Zoom meeting, (next meeting December 11 at 7pm) or call or email us with your own ideas, links, projects, and information about what we can do to repair our world and put our faith into action.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Engel

paulmengel@hotmail.com

Lisa Goldberg

lisacarolgold@gmail.com

Betsy Meyerson

tortgirlny@aol.com



Next week, you will be lighting candles and frying latkes. There is nothing like Chanukah to illuminate the early darkness and the chill of winter, especially this year.

If you still haven't joined or rejoined Sisterhood, it's not too late. You will stand with our proud members who support our mission and want to make a significant contribution to our congregation. Our goal is 100% membership, so that Sisterhood can truly represent the glorious array of women in Temple Avodah—women of all ages and education levels. Sisterhood embraces us all. We warmly welcome you.

We want to send out a thank you to the following:

Lisa and Robyn were busy selling Judaica at the Holiday Boutique, and proceeds from the merchandise were donated to the Temple's Support Israel fund.

Sisterhood will also be donating to the Temple's Fund.

If you missed it, our resident artist Barbara Kirsh ran a workshop and education session on art. Can't wait until our next one!

Joyce Savoy and her helpers had another wonderful Thrift Sale. Thank you to all of our helpers, especially the Colella family. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Looking on the horizon, we have new and old programs in the works. Please look for upcoming flyers for Bagels and Bingo.

Mah Jongg cards are for sale until January 12! Please contact Barbara Stern with any questions at stern421@aol.com. Flyers are in Temple Topics.

Purim shmooze, similar to our cookie social! Start thinking of who your favorite Purim person is and come dressed as her!! Speaking of Purim, we will again be doing our Shalach Manot baskets.

Our Sisterhood Book Club for December is *Garlic and Sapphires* by Ruth Reichle. Please contact Connie Axelson if you would like to join us or have any questions.

As always, don't forget our ongoing participation in the We Care Blanket project! Knit or crochet a baby blanket (any pattern or color in washable acrylic yarn in 36 x36" is acceptable) and it will be donated to a local hospital for pediatric patients. Contact Ellyn Katz (Ellyn143@aol.com) for more information or to make your donation.

Our Judaica Shop has everything you need for your own home or gift giving. We can also order kippot for your simchas. Contact Lisa Goldberg at Lisacarolgold@gmail.com or RobynDrangel@hotmail.com.

Warmly,

Wendy Brumberg and Sheila London
Sisterhood Co- Presidents

Exclusive Club Formed at Temple Avodah

TABM²

There are lots of clubs, committees and groups at Temple Avodah; just prowl around www.Avodah.Org and you will see them. But when a Temple Member reaches their 83rd birthday (achieving the biblical lifetime of 70 plus 13 years to reach a bar mitzvah) they are entitled to have a second Bar Mitzvah with all the responsibilities and celebrations that go with it. And what a special event that turns out to be!

Given that this special event endows the participants with special blessings, the recent celebrants have decided to form a most exclusive club, a club dedicated to Temple study, reflecting on their preparation for their second Bar Mitzvah. Club participants are entitled to very special treatment TBA.

Interested in joining? Just ask Rabbi Shai for a membership application.

Temple Avodah "Stream Team"



We are looking for new members to join our "Stream Team".

If anyone is interested in learning about what we are doing and how the Livestreaming works, please join our "Stream Team". We will teach you how to run the show, including switching cameras, adjusting camera angles, zooming in and out and panning. We have professional quality equipment here, and you will learn valuable skills while enjoying the experience. Great for anyone interested in broadcasting, or those who just want to learn! This is really cool stuff and a lot of fun!

We have some special things planned so please let us know if you have anyone in your family who might be interested. We'd like this to be the start of a special club at Temple Avodah, open to all member families.

Contact Elliot Shulman: Elliot.shulman@avodah.org for more details

Did You Know... THAT **BENJAMIN NONES** LEFT BORDEAUX, FRANCE IN THE MID 1770's TO AID THE COLONISTS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE FOUGHT UNDER GENERAL PULASKI IN ALMOST EVERY BATTLE IN THE CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA, AND WAS CITED FOR "BRAVERY IN BATTLE" BY HIS SUPERIOR. LATER, AFTER BEING PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF A BATTALION OF SOME 400 MEN UNDER BARON DE KALB...



...AND WHEN DE KALB WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, IT WAS **NONES** WHO CARRIED HIM FROM THE BATTLEFIELD. LATER HE BECAME THE FIRST JEW TO BE PROMOTED TO MAJOR, AND HE SERVED AS AN AIDE TO BOTH GEN. WASHINGTON AND GEN. LAFAYETTE.

AFTER THE WAR, **BENJ. NONES** BECAME THE OFFICIAL SPANISH AND FRENCH INTER- FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT... AND IN CIVILIAN LIFE HE BECAME ACTIVE IN RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC AFFAIRS... BECOMING PRESIDENT OF **CONGREGATION MIKVEH ISRAEL** IN PHIL.

IN A LOCAL ELECTION HIS OPPONENT CALLED NONES UNQUALIFIED BECAUSE HE WAS "POOR, A FEDERALIST AND A JEW". PART OF NONES' REBUTTAL READ AS FOLLOWS:
"BUT I AM A JEW... AND SO WERE ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND MOSES... AND SO WAS CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLES. I FEEL NO DISGRACE IN RANKING IN SUCH SOCIETY."

LATER ON, HIS SON JOSEPH (1797-1887) HAD A COLORFUL CAREER IN THE U.S. NAVY.

**As a tribute to the late
Art Cooperman's z'l talent and
contributions to Temple Avodah, his
cartoons and commentary will
continue to be run in Temple Topics.**

We Remember With Love, The Following People Whose Yahrzeits Are Observed During The Month of December

Week of December 1

Gary Fisher
Herbert Z. Gold
Sally Haar
Florence Hasenflug
Hyman Jacobson
Paul Markun
Charlotte Honig Mitchell
David Posner
Jules Roth
Blanche Shenkman
Nathan Smulison
Dorothy Sorocki
Sylvia Spector
Anne Stutzel
Louis Weiner

Week of December 8

Max Altman
Stella Elias
Sol Grabia
Naomi Greenberg
Lawrence C. Gutman
Adele Horowitz
Philip Imberman
Erwin Kombert
Ava Kugelman
Chaim Wolf Ben Bezalel Meir
Max Nottes
Esther Rothfleisch
Martin Schwartz
Isaac Sheynberg
Edith Sobel
Julius Sosnoff
Ted H. Weiss
Herman Wolf Yager

Week of December 15

Murray Beberman
Tessie Brodsky
Alexandra Kate Dimenstein
Irving Drangel
Stephen Frank
Louis B. Frischling
Abraham Goldstein
Simon Innerfield
Gisela Kempf
Dorrie Lachter
Heli Miller
Miriam Post
Morris Rosen
Floris Epstein Singer
Ernest Solomon
Hilda Sulkes
Max Tobin
Marion Treacy
Val Yaverbaum
Jacob Zeveloff

Week of December 22

Mimi Berkin
Jacqueline Drangel
Martin Drangel
Marvin Feinberg
Adele Goldberg
Sadie Goldberg
Isidore Goldsmith
Eli Gordon
Abraham Harrison
Gittel Braina Bas Tzvi Hersh
Francis Horowitz
Arnold S. Innerfield
Simon Kaufman
Jerry Koss
Ruth Kushlan
Dr. Leo H. Newman
Elayne Phillips
Arielle Pitkowsky
Belle Pitkowsky
Morton Aaron Shapiro
Henrietta Silver
David Sobel
Adele Varney
Gussie Brenda Yager
Solomon Yeoman

Week of December 29

Galina Abramova
Franklin Berlin
Harold Carver
Irene Goldsmith
Henrietta Gubenko
Charles Klein
Hannah Klessner
Jason Leif
Rhoda Mevorah
Joseph Miles
Ruth Posner
Bernard Ross
Donald Schwartz
Fay Stempler
Jerald Uretzky
Faye Weiner



Happy Birthday to Our December Birthdays!

Finley Hannam 12/2	Mark Goldsmith 12/10	Erik Dorfner 12/19	John DiStefano 12/26
Rachel Mackoff 12/2	Denis Miller 12/10	Eric Laufer 12/19	Alexandra Miller 12/26
Mirella Myron 12/2	Gail Alazraki 12/12	Jonathan Paskoff 12/21	Hanna Rabkin 12/27
Stephanie Grann 12/3	Lenard Brodsky 12/12	Joshua Becker 12/21	Gail Eisenberg 12/27
Laurence Spector 12/3	Adam Perlman-Gutwein 12/13	Thomas Jacoby 12/21	Michele Pitkowsky 12/28
Philip Perlmutter 12/3	Hannah Kaplan 12/13	Brooke Hoffman 12/21	Scarlett Crane 12/28
Cameron Denman 12/3	Noah Engel 12/13	Arnold Kirschner 12/21	Bette Koller 12/28
Jeff Grann 12/3	Kevin Costello 12/13	Jessica Levine 12/22	Emma Sollinger 12/29
Maya Ziskind 12/3	Jack Bickman 12/14	Chelsea Gilbert 12/22	Emilia Toomey 12/29
Nicholas Feinberg 12/6	Jessica Fedor 12/15	Marilyn Cawal 12/23	Liam Kaplan 12/29
Roberta Treacy 12/6	Randi Ben-amou 12/15	Edward Brumberg 12/23	Neiv Daboosh 12/30
Charles Smulison 12/6	Amy Jordan 12/16	Amy Abbey 12/24	Ellen Perlman-Gutwein 12/30
Charles Herman 12/7	Justin Hoffman 12/16	Allison Dorfman 12/24	Carole Pitkofsky 12/30
Lawrence Gottesman 12/7	Jenna Korman 12/17	Lana Starkman 12/25	Felicia Brodsky 12/30
Debbie Lebowitz 12/8	Sheila London 12/18	Paige Appleman 12/25	Robert Epstein 12/30
Charlotte Cangiano 12/8	Andrew Goldin 12/18	Galia Myron 12/25	Morey Tobkes 12/31
Amanda Margolis 12/9		Rochelle Brodsky 12/25	Marc Aronin 12/31
		Jennifer Lewis 12/26	

Mazal Tov To Our December Wedding Anniversaries!

Andrea & Flavio Colella 12/1	Adrienne & Mark Rosman 12/18
Samara & Kevin Fried 12/1	Judith & Victor Horowitz 12/23
Danielle & William Davoli 12/13	Barbara & David Kirsh 12/26
Laraine & Edward Millman 12/15	Anne & Stewart Gubenko 12/29
Carilyn & Thomas Catania 12/16	Midge & Alan Gruber 12/30

**Come Celebrate Birthday & Anniversary Shabbat
on Friday, December 22nd at 7:00pm !**

***If your birthday or anniversary is during the month of December and is not listed here,
please log into your account to add it, or contact the Temple office so we can update your
record.***



**Mazal Tov to Mirella Myron on becoming a Bat Mitzvah!
December 1, 2023**

**Mazal Tov to Jack Bickman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah!
December 16, 2023**

**Mazal Tov to Lisa Goldberg on the engagement of her daughter
Molly Goldberg to Jason Adamo!**

**Mazal Tov to Linda & Barry Howard
on their November 62nd wedding anniversary!**

**Mazal Tov to Robyn Drangel on the birth of her grandniece Maxx,
parents are Staci & Jordan Kapnick!**

Oneg Sponsorships

12/1 Galia & David Myron in honor of Mirella's Bat Mitzvah
12/15 Carla & Edward Gutman in memory of Gisela Kempf
and Lawrence Gutman.

Please let us know if you wish to share any happy news with your fellow congregants (births, graduations, engagements, weddings, awards received, etc.).

OCEANSIDE/ISLAND PARK

HERALD



Students lend a helping hand
Page 4



Time for some Mario Kart
Page 4



Chorale perform for veterans
Page 6

VOL. 58 NO. 47

NOVEMBER 16 - 22, 2023

\$1.00



Tim Baker/Herald

Celebrating veterans in Island Park

Navy Veteran Martin Stamile and 8-year-old Franco Stamile at the Memorial Monument in Island Park. More photos, Page 3.

Sewage project construction on Sunrise nears its end

By NICOLE FORMISANO

nformisano@liherald.com

If your commute on Sunrise Highway has been interrupted by construction, there's good news: It's almost finished.

Construction crews are in the final stages of installing over 10 miles of pipe systems along Sunrise to connect two water-treatment facilities. The project, called Bay Park Conveyance, began in the summer of 2021, with the goal of eliminating excessive nitrogen pollution in Nassau County's Western Bays. The construction is now 77 percent completed, according to the Long Island Regional Planning Council.

"The construction crews have been working on that the last few weeks," Andrew Fera, the project director from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said of the final phase of construction along Sunrise Highway. "We certainly hope that we can get this complete by the end of

November."

The Long Beach portion of the larger Bay Park Conveyance Project will soon be underway as well. The project will move treated water from the South Shore Water Reclamation Facility, in East Rockaway, to the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant outfall pipe. The plant currently discharges about 50 million gallons of water into Reynolds Channel each day.

The treated water will be conveyed by a two-mile-long force main from the water reclamation facility to the aqueduct underneath Sunrise Highway, a seven-mile-long stretch of which has been the focus of the reconstruction work.

The Long Beach portion involves the decommissioning of the city's wastewater treatment plant and converting it to a pump station that will send the city's sewage to the Water Reclamation Facility for treatment. According to the city, this project will eliminate about 75 million gallons a day of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Temple Avodah raises \$33,000 in aid for Israel

Oceanside comes together for fundraising dinner

By KEPHERD DANIEL

kdaniel@liherald.com

With Israel's war against Hamas raging on, Temple Avodah, in Oceanside, hosted a major fundraising event in support of Israel on Nov. 9, and the synagogue has raised about \$33,000 since the start of the conflict over a month ago.

Temple Avodah organized the fundraising dinner with Kenny Kombert, of Kombert Caterers, and all of the proceeds are going to help the Jewish state.

"Every single person serving food volunteered their time, and I really can't say enough about how much this means not only to Israel but also to us as Temple Avodah," Matt Phillips, temple president, said.

More than 100 community members came together for the \$180-per-person dinner and cocktail fundraiser. Temple Avodah Rabbi Jeshayahu "Shai" Beloosesky explained that the price of admission held a deeper significance. In Judaism, the number 18 is considered lucky. The Hebrew word "chai" means life, and the numerical value of its letters is eight and 10, adding

up to 18. Giving gifts in multiples of 18 symbolically signifies giving the gift of life.

"One hundred eighty for one person, we can eat several dinners in a week, but it's not about the food, it's about supporting the State of Israel, now at this moment," the rabbi said.

Since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, Israelis near the Gaza Strip have required aid. Roughly 1,200 Israelis were killed during the attack and more than 5,000 were injured. Under the direction of Rabbi Beloosesky, the temple will send relief to the Friends of Israel Defense Forces, and emergency medical services such as United Hatzalah and Magen David Adom.

"It's one thing for people from Temple Avodah to come, but it's another for the community to come," Phillips said. "I can't overstate how good it is that so many people are supporting Israel."

Nearly six weeks into the war, according to the U.S. State Department, Hamas continued to hold roughly 200 hostages. In

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

HERALD
Community Newspapers

For Temple Avodah rabbi, war has taken its toll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Israel's military response, thousands have reportedly been killed in Gaza, where an estimated 600 Americans remain trapped, officials said.

During the fundraiser, community members paid their respects to the 1,400 Israeli soldiers and citizens who have been killed. Videos were played, updating those in attendance about the current state of affairs in Israel, as well as a video of Broadway performers who had recorded a version of "Bring Him Home" from "Les Misérables" in a tribute to those who remained captive. The names and ages of the victims ran along the bottom of the video, which concluded with a collage of



Over 100 community members came to show support for Israel.

the victims' faces.

As the conflict plays out, numerous hate crimes and antisemitic incidents have been reported across the globe.

"We saw that people have started to give support, also non-Jewish people, which is very good, although you can see at the same time antisemitism, which is ridiculous," Beloosesky said.

The temple's fundraiser took place on the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or "the Night of Broken Glass," when the Nazis carried out a wave of antisemitic violence on Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, which led up to the Holocaust.

For Rabbi Beloosesky, the events taking place in Israel have been especially stressful because his four sons and ex-wife are there. Three of his sons and his ex-wife are currently in the Israel Defense Forces, and due to the war, his youngest son, who is in 12th grade, is working.

"It's difficult," the rabbi said. "I'm worried. I have my anxiety and my stress. I have two of them on the front lines, and one is in the Air Force. Since there is no school, the pupils are at work, and my youngest one is working in agriculture. The situation is difficult, and it's going to be a long war. I don't have the right words, to say how I feel."

The rabbi served in Israel's military for 29 years, rising to assistant to the military secretary to the prime minister and minister of defense under late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. His 84-year-old mother is also in Israel with his sister, in



Kepherd Daniel/Herald photos

From left were Eric Abbey, first vice president of Temple Avodah; Matt Phillips, the temple's president; Rabbi Jeshayahu "Shai" Beloosesky; and Elliot Shulman, second vice president.

the city of Rishon LeTsiyon, living in a shelter amid the conflict.

"When the missiles come at night, they have to run to the shelter," the rabbi said. "A lot of people in Israel get hurt or wounded because they're running, especially at an older age. The situation is difficult."

The rabbi added that he believes the

conflict will not be resolved quickly but appreciates the support that Israel has received from the United States and in Oceanside.

"We're here to support him," Marian Keilson, the immediate past president of Temple Avodah, said. "He doesn't have them at his fingertips, but we're trying to support him as best we can."

Dear Congregants,

These are tense and emotionally overwhelming times for our people. I, like you, am disturbed by the amount of antisemitism we are seeing in the world, specifically on our college campuses. I'm reaching out to any of you with children or grandchildren on campuses in Florida. Please contact me, or have students contact me if they are feeling anxious and are looking for a safe space to talk, a warm hug, or a meal. Many of you have my cell phone number. Feel free to call or text. Or I can be reached via email at jessicagubenko@gmail.com.

With love and prayers for all,

Jessica



Donations

ALAN KATZ MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

from Carla & Edward Gutman

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory Of

William Weis from Gary & Susan Stone

Brad Perry's mother from Maxine & Leslie Dattner

William Weis from Norma Harwood

Speedy Recovery

Andrea Cassidy from Anne & Stewart Gubenko

KOMBERT GARDENS MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory Of

Brad Perry's mother from Gertrud & Larry Lieberman

Claudia Lieberman's aunt from Gertrud & Larry Lieberman

MORTGAGE PAY DOWN FUND

In Honor Of

Jocelyn Weston in honor of her starring role from Vivian Perlmutter

In Memory Of

Lillian Shulman from Phyllis & Elliot Shulman

Brad Perry's mother from Vivian & Philip Perlmutter

Speedy Recovery

Wishing Andrea Cassidy a speedy recovery from Philip & Vivian Perlmutter

Andrea Cassidy from Phyllis & Elliot Shulman

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor Of

Jocelyn Weston for her starring role in A Murder is Announced from Uri & Peppy Goren

In Memory Of

Phil Weis's dear brother from Jocelyn Weston & Paul Oresky

Murray Tanner from Laurie Williams

Stuart Tanner from Laurie Williams

William Weis brother of Phil Weis from Marilyn Frischling

Brad Perry's mother from Robyn Drangel

Speedy Recovery

Andrea Cassidy from Caryle Katz

Barry Howard from Renee & Gerald Kaufman

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by contacting the office at 516-
766-6809, or by email:
mgr@avodah.org**

Funds: Capital Campaign Fund • Simcha/Memorial Fund, Lillian Klein Adult Education Fund, Alan M. Katz Memorial Library Fund, Amanda Rose Kanowitz Children's Library Fund, Music Fund • Children's Education Fund Anita Berger Campership Fund, Sacred Book Fund • Scholarship Fund, Rabbi Philmore Berger Leadership Development Fund, Rabbi Shai's Discretionary Fund, Joan & Erwin Kombert Gardens Fund, Mortgage Paydown Fund

Temple Avodah

Happy Chanukah

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022 6:00PM

SHABBAT SERVICE, DINNER, CELEBRATION & ENTERTAINMENT

PJ LIBRARY CRAFT 5:00PM

Chanukah Raffles!

Always a fun part of the night is our Chanukah Raffle!

We are asking for your support and help by buying and selling raffle tickets to family and friends. Pricing is as follows:



- \$10 each
- \$50 for 6
- \$80 for 12



[Click here to purchase raffle tickets](#)

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN, BUT WE
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Temple Avodah

FOOD OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER



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SUPPORT THE PREPARATION OF OVER 1200 MEALS/MONTH TO
PEOPLE IN NEED.**

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“Am Yisrael Chai” The People of Israel Live

Fundraiser for Israel

American Friends of Magen David Adom

\$5.00 per bracelet

Youth & Adult sizes

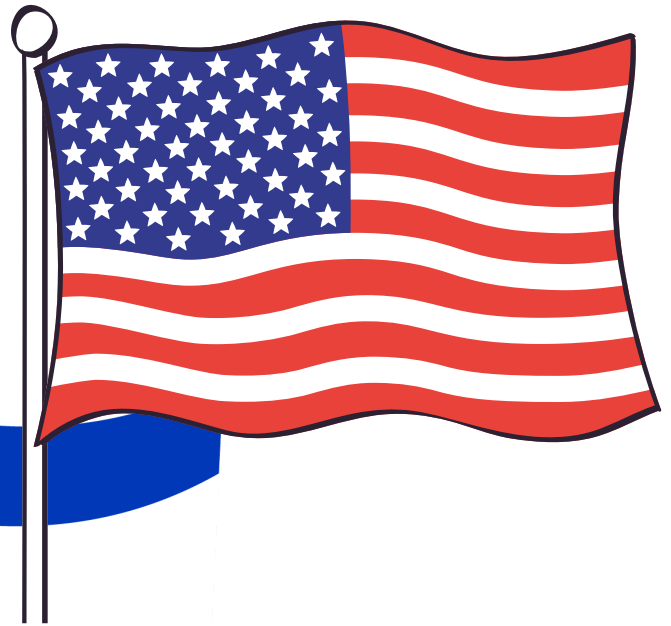
Cash or checks to Temple Avodah

Available in school or office

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572

avodah.org

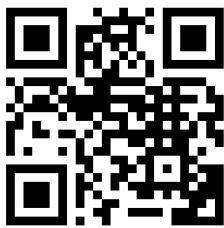
Temple Avodah



The best way we as Americans can help Israel in its fight against a savage enemy sworn to annihilate all of Israel and, ultimately, Jews around the globe, is to donate money to one of the following organizations:

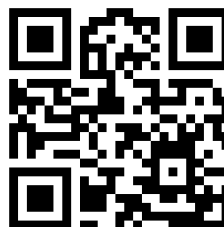
Friends of IDF

<https://www.fidf.org/>



Magen David Adom

<https://afmda.org/>



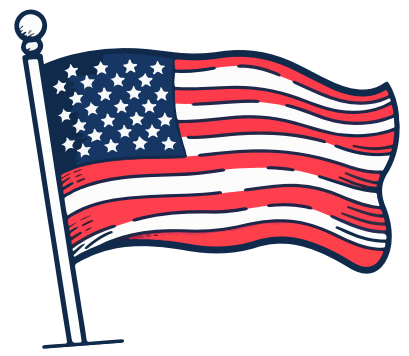
United Hatzalah

<https://israelrescue.org/donate/>





Temple Avodah



American Israeli Flag Pins

\$5.00 each to Rabbi Shai



Fundraiser for Israel

All money (100%) goes into Temple Avodah's Israel Fund, which will be fully distributed to Israeli charities at Rabbi Shai's discretion.

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572

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NEW!

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

5:00PM

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For parents & children ages 0-10!

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Temple Avodah



Prayers For Peace

Join Rabbi Shai and your Temple family at Temple Avodah Sunday, December 3 at 7pm, as we express our support for Israel with music and prayers for peace.

All are welcome.

Registration required.

Photo ID at the door required.

[Click here to register](#)

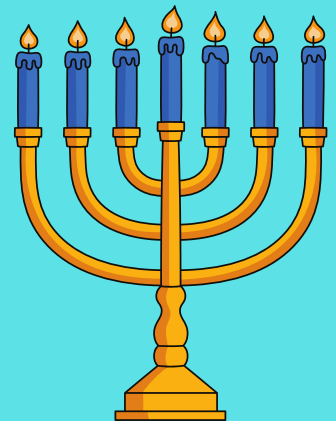


Temple Avodah

Religious School Families & Congregants are invited to participate in our Annual DIY Hanukkiah (Menorah) Project

Create an original family Hanukkiah designed in any theme and using any materials.

Hanukkiahs* will be displayed in the Lobby at the
Congregational Chanukah Shabbat & Dinner on
Friday, December 8th at 6PM



***Remember that the
Shamash (9th helper
candle) needs to be
distinguished from
the other 8 (higher,
lower, etc.)**

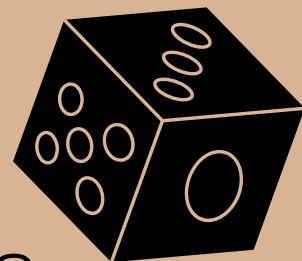
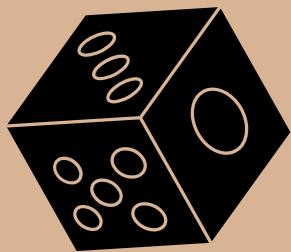
**Religious School
students please
bring your
Hanukkiahs on
12/8 or Mon.
12/11 & Tues.
12/12**

**Congregants can
bring in their
creations by
Thursday, 12/7 or
the night of the
dinner 12/8.**

Any questions? Contact Phyllis Pellman @ religiousschool@avodah.org

Temple Avodah

BUNCO NIGHT

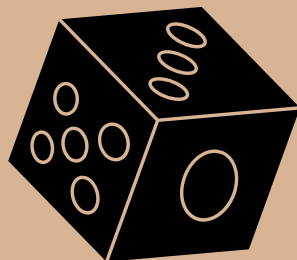


Tuesday, December 5, 2023
7:30PM

fun

&

Friends!



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pre-registered
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at the door



Questions?
Mindy @
mmsa81821@gmail.com

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Temple Avodah

TAFI



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Oceanside, NY 11572

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Temple

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Temple Avodah

Sponsor an Oneg

Honor someone you love or celebrate an upcoming simcha.

We invite you to sponsor a Shabbat or Holiday Oneg as a way to mark a personal lifecycle or a shehecheyanu experience. Sponsor an Oneg in remembrance of a loved one on their yahrzeit, in celebration of a new baby, a loved one's accomplishment, graduation, anniversary or birthday, or for any other reason that holds meaning for you.

It is a wonderful way to honor someone special in your life.

[Click here to sponsor an Oneg](#)



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What is the Sisterhood of Temple Avodah?

- Women working together for a purpose
- A bond, caring, friendship
- Learning from multiple generations
- Being a role model for your kids
- The reward of success and the feeling of accomplishment
- Knowing you've done something important
- Doing things that are measureable
- Doing things that have a real impact for all temple members even when it isn't obvious
- A sense of something bigger than one's self



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Questions - Contact Fran Skolnick - fran.skolnick@gmail.com or 516-619-6374

Please make checks payable to Temple Avodah Sisterhood
or Click on the QR code to join

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Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Checks can be dropped off at the temple office or mailed to:

Fran Skolnick
Temple Avodah Sisterhood
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Temple Avodah

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Sunday Wedding Package



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The Sunday Wedding Package

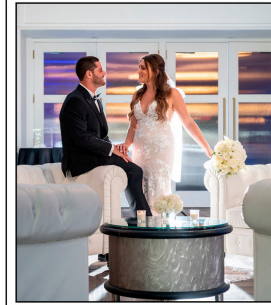
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DESSERT SYMPHONY
3-TIER WEDDING CAKE
LADIES ROOM ATTENDANT
COAT ROOM ATTENDANT
LOBBY DECOR: VINTAGE OR CONTEMPORARY
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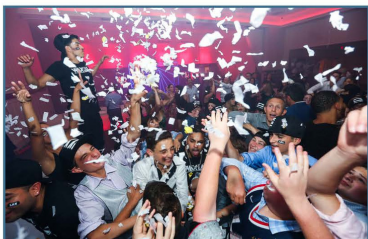
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Full Cocktail Hour includes:

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- * DESSERT SYMPHONY
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- * OCCASION CAKE

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- * DESSERT CREATIONS
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- * COUCHES & OTTOMANS
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- * LADIES ROOM ATTENDANT
- * COAT ROOM ATTENDANT
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- * EVENT PLANNER—START TO FINISH
- * DIRECTION CARDS

Photographer/Video:

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- * Full Digital Photography
- * PRE PORTRAIT SESSION
(Day of at Temple Avodah)

Decorations:

- * 8 RAISED TABLE CENTER PIECES
- * ONE POSTER BLOW UP
- * SIGN IN BOARD OR SIGN IN BOOK

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- * DJ AND MC
- * 2 MOTIVATORS/ DANCERS
- * STAGING
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- * STAGE LED LIGHTING

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PRICE ABOVE 100 PEOPLE
\$109 PER ADULT \$84 PER CHILD

2024 - \$25,500

PRICE ABOVE 100 PEOPLE
\$114 PER ADULT \$89 PER CHILD

2025 - \$26,500

PRICE ABOVE 100 PEOPLE
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(Additional 5% for Non-Temple Members)

FLORIDA

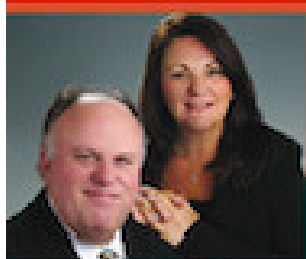
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