

# The Gates Way

December/January

## Covid Holidays

by Rabbi Gerber

As the rest of the world faced their first major family holiday (Thanksgiving) during the pandemic, we Jews already have the experience of Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot under our belts. We've been modifying our expectations for nine months now. Still, it doesn't make it any easier.



As we approach Chanukah, New Years, and all winter holidays that may be special to members of our family, we are reminded once again how difficult it can be to see empty chairs at our table.

Still, we must be steadfast in our adherence to our well-established best practices for staying healthy. Covid cases are spiking and while fatigue may be setting in, we know that our best chance of returning to normal is to stay the course.

The holiday season can be difficult, so I'd like to take the opportunity to remind us all that even though we haven't been together in a while, we are all part of a wonderful, caring, sacred family.

The clergy at Gates of Prayer are all available if you ever want to chat; either here at Gates or via Zoom. Sometimes a friendly voice can help get through a difficult moment in the winter.

If you know of anyone who could use a call or visit, please let us know. Especially if it is someone who has difficulty connecting electronically.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, my friends. But until then, may we all feel the warm (virtual) embrace of our Gates of Prayer family.

## December

### Worship Schedule

Erev Shabbat Worship  
Friday Nights 6:15pm  
In-Person  
or  
[Online \(Click here\)](#).

Shabbat Morning  
Torah Study 9:15am  
In-Person  
or  
[Zoom \(Click here\)](#).

Shabbat Worship 10:30am  
In-Person  
or  
[Online](#)

## January

### Worship Schedule

In January we will return to our regular Friday night service times. The online links will remain the same.

The first Friday will be at 6:15pm, subsequent Fridays will be at 8pm

Please consider Congregation Gates of Prayer in your year-end giving!

Every gift, great or small, helps fulfill our mission of creating and sustaining our sacred community.

# Coming up in December...

GATES OF PRAYER & ST. CLEMENT OF ROME

## INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

TO BENEFIT THE ST. CLEMENT  
OF ROME FOOD PANTRY

PLEASE DROP OFF NONPERISHABLE  
FOODS AT GATES OF PRAYER BY  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD



# AIPAC

Rose Kreditor from AIPAC will join us (virtually) for Shabbat on December 4th!

# Disney SHABBAT



**Celebrate the MAGIC of Shabbat with Cantorial Soloist, Jordan! Sing your favorite prayers and Disney songs, listen to stories and play games! Also... Rapunzel will be there!**

**Be our guest on  
Saturday,  
December 12th  
@ 10 am**



Be our guest on Saturday, December 12th at 10 am for Disney Shabbat!

Sing your favorite Jewish prayers and Disney songs, listen to stories and play games!

Shabbat is the most special day of the week, so why not invite a very special guest to our Shabbat celebration?!

RAPUNZEL will be coming to sing and play games with us. Kids and families of all ages will love this very fun and engaging Shabbat experience!

Get in the spirit by coming in your favorite Disney or princess themed outfit if you have one.

RSVP on Eventbrite!

# Coming up in December...

**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
LIVE**

*A Night of Songs, Games, and Fun!*

Join us on Zoom as the CGoP Sisterhood welcomes Cantorial Soloist Jordan Lawrence! Sing, schmooze and mix it up with your sisters.

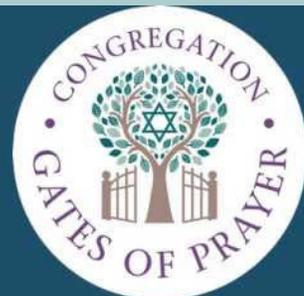
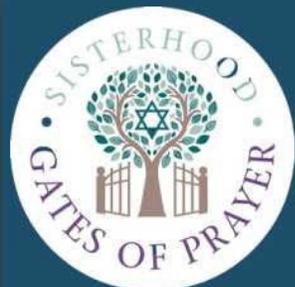
Everyone present will be entered to win a prize!

**Wednesday, December 2 @7pm**

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR ZOOM EVENT](#)



Connect with  
Gates of Prayer:



J-FLEX

## *Sisterhood Mini Chanukah Bazaar*

Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Gates of Prayer

Parking Lot & Gift Shop



Mark the evening of Dec. 2 on your calendar for our opening program, Wednesday Night LIVE, featuring Cantorial Soloist Jordan A. Lawrence and lots of other fun activities. The details are in the flyer below. You can't click the Zoom link on the flyer, so here it is:

Zoom Link for Wednesday Night LIVE:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86441711543>

A huge shout-out to Sarah Rudy Schatzmann, Lauren Gerber, Jennifer Lefkow Daley and Barri Bronston for planning what promises to be a wonderful program!

Mini Hannukah Bazaar  
December 6th from 9am to 11:30am during J-Flex in the Parking lot and Gift Shop.

Book Club Famous Potluck on December 14th @ 7pm  
"Zoom in your living room"

Join us with your favorite cocktail or dinner, and share some fun with the book club members and friends. Open to everyone in or out of town.

<https://zoom.us/j/951455331>

Meeting ID: 951 455 331  
Password 143105

Questions about Book Club contact:  
Dianne Green-Freeman and Amy Thomas  
Dianne -504-939-9630 [dlesg@cox.net](mailto:dlesg@cox.net)  
Amy - 504-473-0360 [amythomas9999@yahoo](mailto:amythomas9999@yahoo)

We are working on our Sisterhood Shabbat on January 15th and a great activity planned for February. More information coming up soon.

Till then,

Claudia Shabetai  
President  
Congregation Gates of Prayer Sisterhood



The brotherhood is working with Rabbi Lexi to help with the food drive that is being held in place of our joint Thanksgiving service with St Clement.

Donations of any non-perishable food is due to the Synagogue office by December 3rd.

On December 21'st we have a great opportunity to listen to Rabbi David Saperstein give a talk online on "THE EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DENOMINATIONS".

This is a service of MRJ but all who are interested are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining us for this presentation please email me at [brmann@gmail.com](mailto:brmann@gmail.com) and

I will send you the information to register. For 40 years, Rabbi Saperstein directed the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, representing the Reform Jewish Movement, the largest segment of American Jewry, to the U.S. Congress and Administration and currently serves as its Director Emeritus.

Looking to a very happy Hannukah for all.

Chip Mann  
Brotherhood President

# לְכֹל זְמַן וְעֵת לְכֹל־חֶפֶץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

A season is set for everything, a time for every  
experience under heaven



## SIMCHAS:

Mazel Tov to **Claudia & Rafael Shabetai** on the birth of their grandson, **Rex Rafael Shabetai**. Parents are **Jade Sonnier** and **Michael R. Shabetai**.

Mazel Tov to **Erin & Randy Springer** on the engagement of their daughter, **Hannah Springer** to **Ryan Kornrumpf**.



## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Jacob Wurtzel

Dec 19, 2019      21 Kislev 5780

Leo Wurtzel

August 20, 2020      30 Av 5780



Contact Leslie to add any  
life cycle events to our list.

[office@gatesofprayer.org](mailto:office@gatesofprayer.org)

# From Rabbi Lexi Erdheim

“Just as fire does not ignite in a lone stick of wood by itself, so too, matters of Torah are not retained and understood properly by a lone scholar who studies by himself, but by a group of Sages.” (Ta’anit 7a:9). Jewish tradition clearly states here and throughout our texts that there is nothing more powerful than working as a team. We are a faith that believes wholeheartedly that nothing happens by one person’s hands alone, and that collaboration is not just effective, it is sacred.

That is why I am thrilled to share that Tribe, our 20’s and 30’s group, is now being led by an incredible group of leaders with diverse backgrounds and skills. Tribe and the entire Gates of Prayer community is beyond lucky to welcome Kendal Jaffe, Terrell Mims, Jordan Lawrence, Josh Hare, Eden Abraham, Jordan Kaiser, Stacie Schwartz, Michael Mann, Sarah Bate, and Becca Paillet to our board. And just a few weeks past our first board meeting, they have already given us a taste of the kind of incredible work they are capable of.



On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Tribe brought together 25 young adults in person and virtually for our “Gin & Jews” event. Sazerac House Events Manager, Jen Merryman, presented on the Jewish mixologist Joe Scialom, his famous cocktail creations, and his jet-setting, fast-paced life amongst some of the wealthiest and most powerful people in the world. Participants also learned how to create Scialom’s signature cocktail!

We are looking forward to partnering with JNOLA for a Virtual Chanukah Gelt Together on December 15th ! If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with Tribe, please reach out to me at [rabbierdheim@gatesofprayer.org](mailto:rabbierdheim@gatesofprayer.org).

Warmly,  
Rabbi Lexi

**JNOLA Virtual Chanukah Gelt Together!** 

<p><b>Cookie Demo</b></p> <p>Bake GIANT cookies with pastry chef, Lindsay Morrison! Sign up today for your free jar of cookie mix.</p> 	<p><b>Best Dressed Menorah</b></p> <p>Dress up your Menorah for the chance win a prize!</p> 	<p><b>Truth or Dreidel</b></p> <p>A fun twist on the classic Chanukah game.</p> 
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*Tuesday Dec. 15 at 7p.m.*  
*Register today!*



# A Special Thanks...

We at Congregation Gates of Prayer are blessed to have a vibrant, versatile, and experienced clergy team. With the addition of Rabbi Lexi Erdheim over the past two years, we have been able to expand our Social Justice efforts, innovate our preschool Judaic curriculum, and grow our 20s and 30s outreach into a truly transformational and impactful program.

Our ability to retain Rabbi Lexi as our assistant rabbi is due to the generosity of several members of our community. I would like to thank them here, as well as invite anyone who is interested to contact me if you would like to make a donation towards funding our assistant rabbi into the future.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Wolfson, President

Thank you to those who have pledged a donation...

Darrah and Ben Caplan  
David and Kristen Dulitz  
Jonathan and Leslie Fawer  
Jejei Feinberg  
David and Lauren Gerber  
Julian and Julie Landau  
Alli and Kevin Maney  
Chip and Diana Mann  
Lee and Jill Plotkin  
Rafael and Claudia Shabetai  
Aaron and Daliah Wolfson  
Shael and Laura Lee Wolfson

Please contact Rabbi Gerber for information on donating.

## From Cantorial Soloist Jordan Lawrence

I'm beginning month six at Congregation Gates of Prayer, and I couldn't be more thrilled! I've really enjoyed being a part of leading Shabbat services and leading the choir in a different direction. I am excited to continue to bring more to the table.

While it has been a little bit difficult getting to know all of you because of Covid restrictions, I have felt extremely welcomed into the community and would love to continue meeting all the wonderful members of this community! The members of the choir have been flexible with our new protocols of singing with masks on outdoors, as well as putting in the effort to learn the technology to make our amazing videos.

Check the CGoP Youtube for our most recent "America, the Beautiful" with St. Clement of Rome. We will continue making videos to share with the community and finding creative ways to make and share music!

I am very excited about Disney Shabbat coming up on December 12th, a family program open to all ages that will include a short service with familiar Disney melodies, stories and a special visit and games with a Disney princess! I am really looking forward to this program and getting to know more of the families and kids of the congregation and getting a feel for what type of programs you are all interested in.

I would like to start a Family Programming Committee of parents who have fun and innovative ideas for creating memorable and enriching experiences for the families of this community. If you are interested in volunteering to be involved in helping brainstorm/plan special programs for your own family and the families of this congregation, please fill out this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/CGUQ31bf5KGz2fRc8>

If you are interested in getting involved with the choir at both/either our in-person socially distanced rehearsals or just our virtual videos, please email me at [jordan@gatesofprayer.org](mailto:jordan@gatesofprayer.org)

Warmly and excitedly,  
Jordan Lawrence





## Louise Hayem Manheim CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

From Jessica Sintes, Director of the Louise Hayem Manheim CECE

We're grateful for our CECE students and families! This year's Thanksgiving Feast was gobbled up by our little turkeys and pilgrims. Each of our pods celebrated the spirit of giving and thanks with their own gatherings. Dinner included dino nuggets, mac and cheese, corn and cranberry sauce. Of course, everyone agreed the best part was dessert!

Barnhill Preserve visited the center with 5 special friends - an armadillo, a skink, an opossum, a spectacled owl and the crowd favorite - a baby sloth! All of the students were able to meet each animal and take a photo with their favorite one! Did you know that sloths only poop about once every two weeks? Sounds like the perfect pet to me!



With Chanukah right around the corner, our students are gearing up with Chanukah songs, crafts and activities. We're even having a Chanukah spirit week, so get those Chanukah pajamas and GOP Chanukah 2020 shirts ready! Our students will be preparing for a Chanukah celebration suited for 2020 and we can't wait to share it with our families in a few weeks!

It's hard to believe that 2020 is almost over! We hope that all of our families have a wonderful, relaxing, safe and healthy winter break and we're looking forward to another successful semester in 2021!



# N'davot - Donations

## **General Fund**

### **In memory of:**

#### **Kohlman and Andrea Campell**

Alan and Carol Campell

#### **Sarah Easterling**

David and Lisa Wurtzel

#### **David Felix**

Betty and Harry Lazarus

#### **Fran Lake**

Marilyn and Marvin Bernstein

Cathy and Andy Burka

Matthew L. Colvin

Michael Davidson

Lester and Dee Dee Dulitz

Dianne Green-Freeman and David Freeman

Judy Gainsburgh

Julian H. Good, Jr.

Linda Green and Michael Brown

Cynthia and Hank Greenwald

Oscar and Yvonne Gwin

Sherry, Keith, and Shepard Harris

Celia Katz

Judy Antin and Irwin Lachoff

Betty and Harry Lazarus

June Leopold and Marty Goldstein

Carrie and Austin Marks

Rachel and Jack Merlin

Heather and Leon Rittenberg III

Susan Ladner Saporow

Stephen L. and Caroline W. Sontheimer Fund

Art and Martie Waterman

#### **Cecile Washofsky**

Lester and Dee Dee Dulitz

#### **Celia Washofsky**

Lester and Dee Dee Dulitz

#### **Lillian Wurtzel**

David and Lisa Wurtzel

### **In honor of:**

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Judy and David Stiebel**

Sheila Rubin

#### **Birthday of Nita-Joan Sams**

Rachel and Jack Merlin

### **In appreciation of:**

#### **Nathan Fischman**

Sherry Harris

#### **Rabbi Robert Loewy**

Sherry Harris

## **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

### **In memory of:**

#### **Adolph Edward Asher**

Joseph and Marilyn Kline

#### **Miriam Levy Asher**

Joseph and Marilyn Kline

#### **Sadie Goldman**

Joseph and Marilyn Kline

#### **Janet Asher Goldstein**

Joseph and Marilyn Kline

#### **Steven D. Kraus**

Marjorie Kraus

#### **Fran Lake**

Michelle Horton

### **In appreciation of:**

#### **Rabbi David Gerber**

Sherry Harris

Maxine and Bob Kaplan

Jonny Lake

## **Rabbi Emeritus Discretionary Fund**

### **In memory of:**

#### **Fran Lake**

Brian and Judith Siegal

## **Assistant Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

### **In memory of:**

#### **Manny and Helen Denn**

Sue and Harold Singer

#### **Robyn Gerson Barocas**

Sue and Harold Singer

#### **Simon and Esther Rosenberg**

Sue and Harold Singer

## **Caring Fund (Lev B'Lev)**

### **In memory of:**

#### **Fran Lake**

Rachel Bergman

Sue Rae and Ken Bishop

#### **Jesse Reingold**

Estelle Reiner

#### **Sunny Solomon**

Rachel Bergman

# N'davot - Donations

## **Cemetery Fund**

In memory of:

**Eli Abramovitz**

Sandra Cameron

**Frances Abramovitz**

Sandra Cameron

**Samuel M. Alexander**

Lazelle, Amy, and Becky Alexander

**Fran Lake**

Linda and Bobby Brandt

Sandra Cameron

Marilyn Cohen

Ellis Gensburger

Marion and Harry Mohre

**Elsie Mohre**

Michele, Vadim, Hannah, and Kaitlin Gelman

**Leonie G. Polskee**

Lazelle, Amy, and Becky Alexander

In appreciation of:

**Phil Gaethe**

Sandra Cameron

## **Endowment Fund**

In memory of:

**Fran Lake**

Greg Burke

Jeff and Christina Burke & family

Tracy Burke & family

Annette and Scott Erstein

Ainsley, Adele, and John Gorrilla

Phyllis Hengst & family

Paula and Rick Stein & family

## **JewCCY Program**

In memory of:

**Dora Ferber**

Ferber Family of Houma Foundation

## **Louise Hayem Manheim Center for Early Childhood Education Fund**

In memory of:

**David Felix**

Sue and Fred Preis

**Fran Lake**

Carol and Harold Asher

Cindy and Avrom Denn

Janet and Kevin Krane

Sue and Fred Preis

Nita-Joan Sams

Rachel and Steve Shankman

**Rene LeBlanc**

Diana and Chip Mann

**Esther and Simon Rosenberg**

Cindy and Avrom Denn

**Myra Silverman**

Cindy and Avrom Denn

In honor of:

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Judy and David Stiebel**

Diana and Chip Mann

**National WRJ Board Installation of Diana Mann**

Janet and Kevin Krane

## **Louise Hayem Manheim Center for Early Childhood Education Fund**

### **Infant Care Center**

In memory of:

**Gladys and Irving Stetzer**

Cynthia Stetzer

Richard and Celine Stetzer

## **Louis Leopold Gertler/Plotkin Israel Action Fund**

In memory of:

**David Gertler**

Steven and Lynn Plotkin

**Fran Lake**

Steven and Lynn Plotkin

**Sarah Regina and Sam Plotkin**

Steven and Lynn Plotkin

# N'davot - Donations

## **Marcus and Millie Landau Lecture**

### **Fund**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

Cynthia Stetzer

## **Music Fund**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

Susan and Gerald Levin

Albert Israel Paillet

Susan and Gerald Levin

## **Prayer Book Fund**

In honor of:

Rabbi Lexi Erdheim

Janet and Kevin Krane

## **Rabbi Nathaniel Share Religious**

### **School/J-FLEx Fund**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

Jonnie and Diane Share

## **Samuel O. Kancher Memorial Fund**

### **for the Lake Library and Media**

#### **Center**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

John and EllenRae Shalett

Rhoda and Larry Webber

## **Simon L. and Flo C. Streiffer**

### **Leadership Development Fund**

In memory of:

Shirley Caron

Ann and Rick Streiffer

Zeline Caron Klau

Sandra S. Schwarcz

Ann and Rick Streiffer

Fran Lake

Sandra S. Schwarcz

Ann and Rick Streiffer

## **Social Action Fund**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

Guy and Kelley Brenner

Barri Bronston

David Herman Levin

Susan and Gerald Levin

## **Sisterhood**

In memory of:

Fran Lake

Stanford Latter

In honor of:

Jack Schulman

Janet and Kevin Krane

## **Sisterhood Sarah Winsberg**

### **Memorial Flower Fund**

In memory of:

Stanley S. McCarty

Anne M. Chirinos

Esther Barber Rosenberg

Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

In honor of:

Naming of Rex Rafael Shabetai,

Melech ben Michael

Rafael and Claudia Shabetai