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B’nai Zion Officers & Staff

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Synagogue Services:

Weekday Services:
Monday - Friday 7:00 am
Monday - Thursday 6:30 pm

Friday Kabbalat Services:
Kabbalat Service 6:15 pm

Saturday Shabbat Services:
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 9:30 am

Jr. Congregation
December 7 and 21 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Mincha followed by
Seudah Shlesheet, Ma’ariv,
Havdalah
December 7, 14, 21 4:45 pm
December 28, 5:00 pm

Sunday Services:
8:30 am
By request only: 5:00 pm
(contact the office by the
Monday before)

Please Join us For Services

The Messenger is published monthly.
DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER IS
December 13th

Articles and photos should be
emailed to the synagogue office at: 
programs@chzep.org

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The office will be closed on
December 25th
January 1st
A great Chanukah debate began in the first half of the 20th century. Jews from Eastern Europe began supplementing the traditional candle based observance of Chanukah with potato latkes, while German Jews chose jam-filled fritters (sufganiyot) to mark their celebration. The dietary realities of life in these two European communities set off what would become a calorie-filled debate that would last over a century. Which food should be used as part of the celebration for Chanukah?

Jews who migrated to North America from Eastern Europe set an early stake in the battle for Chanukah food supremacy in the new world, ‘latkes would rule.’ In Israel, the German Jews took control and jelly donuts became the choice source of ingested oil for the festival. As time passed and the Jewish community in both Israel and North America became more diverse, both latkes and sufganiyot became readily available in both lands.

As a Jew of Eastern European descent, would I be considered a traitor if I chose to serve sufganiyot in place of the mandatory latkes for our family Chanukah celebration? As a rabbi of a diverse community, must I insist that both latkes and sufganiyot be served at communal celebrations as a matter of respect to our community’s diversity? Complicating matters further, what impact should our societal concern about fats have on our holiday observances? Should El Paso’s Jews, advocate for the establishment of our own dietary custom relative to Chanukah? Perhaps sopapillas? Or churros?

On a serious note, the foods that we eat to add to the joy of our Chanukah observance were not selected solely because they were prepared in oil. The latke/sufganiyot debate is one that is based in our ethnic history and the realities our ancestors faced as they developed observances to enhance this festival. As Jews, many of our dietary traditions link us to our past and remind us of the realities of life experienced by our forebears. The foods our ancestors enjoyed and the recipes they passed on represent a rich cultural heritage that adds meaning to our sense of identity. Knowing our roots and understanding the actualities our ancestors experienced strengthens our appreciation for the customs we observe and value today. Food is just one point of access to our past—and this debate, though silly at one level—lends insight into a question that I know both we and our children ask.

As we celebrate Chanukah together this year, may we each be inspired to use the lessons of our rich history to create meaningful contemporary experiences for ourselves and for our families. The value and significance of Chanukah burns brightly in our day!
Some time back, a friend asked me what the meaning of Chanukah is and as I began explaining the dedication of the second temple and the celebration of lights, I began to reflect on what it means to me as a member of Congregation B’nai Zion. How can we, in modern times, celebrate the dedication of the temple? How do we celebrate the miracle of light? Most importantly, why do we have the privilege to do so?

We can celebrate the dedication of the temple by ensuring that future generations can continue to call B’nai Zion their spiritual home. It is not only our duty, but our most honorable privilege to ensure that our traditions and way of life are passed on L’dor V’dor, from generation to generation. Our synagogue is and has been a part of our lives and our ancestors’ lives for nearly one hundred and twenty years! What has been achieved by the hard work and dedication of many people who came before us is no small feat! This community was built on a sound and sturdy foundation that was built by our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and even generations before that. Even though there have been some struggles, we have all worked diligently to continue to reinforce this strong foundation and build upon it. Over the last few years, we have added more and better programs. We have become a more welcoming community. We have improved communication with you, our members, through the e-blasts, postcards, website, and The Messenger.

It is no secret that we have had and continue to have financial struggles, but we have implemented fundraising events that will help us overcome those struggles. We will have our annual casino night in February, with a few exciting changes that will help us raise even more money than before. We will be hosting a fun-filled food festival that will not only raise money, but will certainly entertain many people from all over this wonderful city of ours. In the spring, we will have a golf tournament that will include a very large prize giveaway. Please reach out to us and let us know how you would like to help us with these upcoming events or to give us ideas for other fundraising opportunities.

It’s an exciting time to be CBZ!

-Edward “Doobie” Dubowitz
There’s big news in the office. Kaitlin Conner has joined the office staff as our Administrative Assistant. Kaitlin adds a warm, welcoming presence to the office. She’s only been with us a few days as I write this article, but she’s already demonstrated how terrific she is. Kaitlin is a polyglot (polyglot - a cool word to have in your trivia basket; look it up); she speaks multiple languages. Before coming to B’nai Zion, Kaitlin taught foreign language at a private school and prior to that she was the Administrative Assistant at the El Paso Jewish Academy. If you haven’t met Kaitlin yet, I encourage you to stop by the office or give her a call to introduce yourself and welcome her on board.

It’s December, that time of year when we ask ourselves, “Where did the year go??” At B’nai Zion, we’re 11 months into a very busy holiday and event-filled year. Early in the year we had synagogue skills classes, the first On One Foot course was on-going, there were Israeli Dance classes, Talmud Torah and Sisterhood Shabbat. We celebrated Purim with the community, enjoyed early onegs on Friday nights, held Junior Congregation services, introduced Jews Chews for teenagers and celebrated Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. We came together for a community Passover Seder in the spring, reacquainted ourselves with leaven at a Post Passover Pizza party and counted the Omer together. We recognized moms in our congregation on Mother’s Day and dads on Father’s Day. In addition to our regular Shabbat services, we spiced things up with themed Shabbat dinners like the Red, White and Brew dinner in honor of Independence Day and our annual Hawaiian Shabbat dinner. We learned how bread and Torah are connected at the Most. Unique. Event. Ever. Then, just before the High Holidays, we held the smash-hit Republic of Georgia Shabbat dinner, the first in a series of Jewish Heritage Shabbat dinners, followed by our first CBZ Book Zone event. After our wonderful High Holiday services, we dwelled in our newly reconstructed and beautifully decorated sukkah. Three more Book Zone events and one Blessing of the Animals activity later and, of course, daily and Shabbat services, and we find ourselves here, asking, “Where did the year go??” If you can’t find an answer, I recommend you re-read this paragraph.

There’s much more going on at B’nai Zion before we close 2019. Celebrate Chanukah at B’nai Zion on Wednesday, December 18 with a delicious dinner sponsored by Stanlee and Jerry Rubin. Steve Katz, founding member of Blood, Sweat and Tears, will talk about his new memoir, Blood, Sweat, and My Rock ‘N’ Roll Years, and entertain us with his wonderful musical talent. And, finally, join us as we celebrate the 8 days of Chanukah, beginning the evening of December 22, when we light the first candle.

One final note: Please think about B’nai Zion when making your giving decisions this month. From a budgetary perspective, December is a slower month for us and a little boost from our membership would be most appreciated.

Wishing you a Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year,

-Debra Pazos

The CBZ Book Zone is made possible by the Book Zone Committee, Rabbi Rosenberg, Farrol Eiland, Patty Hutman and Joan Korn, and by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. The Jewish Heritage Shabbat series is brought to you by the Heritage Shabbat Committee, Robin Krasne, Laurie Davis, Judy Weiser and Mario Ochoa, and by a generous grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of El Paso.
Talmud Torah Students Address Tough Questions

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

~To be created in the image of God does not mean you are like Him. It means that you are like Him sort of. One example of it is that He is smart. If we want to, we can be smart like Him. Though there are ways we are different. One of those different things are that He thinks through everything unlike us.

~Being created in the image of God means this. Everyone has a part of God in him/her. You can see God in everyone. It means that you should not do sins. It also means that everyone around you is the same and different. And you should not hurt other people or you are hurting God.

~It means that everyone should be kind to everyone. No matter how they look or act. If you mistreat someone, you are mistreating God. Because God is the Holy One. No matter what. And God made everyone with the same intention: Be a good person to everyone.

How is self-worth connected to being?

~Um....it is connected by how are are created by God. So you are loving yourself so that basically means that you love yourself and God. And you are loving yourself in the thought about everything good for you. When you are being created by God, it is in the thought of Himself. I don’t know what else to write so, yeah!

Blessing of Animals

On Sunday, November 3rd, community members and their pets gathered at B’nai Zion for our annual Blessing of the Animals. Present were a number of dogs, cats, kittens and birds. Rabbi Rosenberg interviewed pet owners about their pets and gave each pet a Hebrew name that was tailored to fit their unique personalities and character traits. Then he signed Naming Certificates to commemorate the occasion before blessing the animals.
The Food Explorer by Daniel Stone has been described as, “Original, colorful, and irresistibly charming.” The same can be said about the author himself! Mr. Stone is a well-seasoned writer, appearing in National Geographic and Newsweek. On October 28th, Congregation B’nai Zion had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Stone talk about his book that captures the fascinating story of David Fairchild and the foods he brought to America.

On November 6th, Carla Naumburg lit up the social hall at CBZ with laughs and loads of fun while she discussed her book and shared useful tips from, How To Stop Losing Your Sh*t With Your Kids. Not only is Dr. Naumburg down-to-earth and humorous, but she holds a PhD and has written articles for highly esteemed platforms such as the Washington Post and the Huffington Post.
Karen Treiger, author of the award-winning book, *My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story*, left her law practice in order to explore the story of her in-laws, who met by chance in the midst of WWII chaos. She spoke about both her journey and theirs—taking us on an adventure through her three-year inquiry to find the truth on November 10th at the El Paso Holocaust Museum.

**Melanie Benjamin**

Melanie Benjamin is a New York Times bestselling author. She is also the author of *The Girls in the Blue Silks*, *The Immortalists*, *The Mothers*, and *The Melting Pot*. Her latest novel, *In the Absence of the Ritz*, is a story of the extraordinary real-life Zantra Aziz, a Jewish woman who forged papers to create a life for herself abroad and who secretly worked for the resistance all while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the legendary Ritz.

**Don’t miss our upcoming BOOK ZONE events**

- **December 18, 2019**  
  *Steve Katz* on his book *Blood, Sweat and My Rock ’n’ Roll Years*

- **February 13, 2020**  
  *Rebecca Erbelding* on her book *Rescue Board*

- **April 28, 2020**  
  *Yousef Bashir* on his book *The Words of my Father*
Thank you to the following members for sponsoring:

**Saturday Kiddush Lunch**
11/16 Linda & Art Corral- In loving memory of Eric Rose

We thank Lupe & Ignacio Ramos for sponsoring the beautiful flowers that adorned our Bimah on Friday, November 8th, in loving memory of their son Sammy Ramos.

Mazel Tov to Sheri & Dr. Todd Reiter on the engagement of their daughter, Shannon Reiter to Patric Holderfield.

Enjoy a special Kiddush Lunch sponsored by Joyce and Carl Lieb in recognition of their 40th wedding anniversary.
Saturday, January 11, 2020
Everyone is invited
Special menu for the kids
BUILDING FUND DONATIONS
In Honor Of
Steve Geller- wishing you a full recovery from Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice, and Shayna Kurland

In Memory Of
Muriel Kaplan from Linda & Art Corral

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE
In Memory Of
Esther E. Mintz from Debbie & John Johnson
Hirsch Kofsky from Herbert Kofsky
Moe Isaac Levenson from Sandra & Sherman Levenson
David Koortz from Bertie Siegelman

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN 2018
In Memory Of
Felix Rubinstein from Martha & Jaime Rubinstein

GENERAL DONATION
In Memory Of
William Kurman from Selma Chasens
Samuel Kurman from Selma Chasens
Bertha Davidoff from Joyce Davidoff
Muriel Kaplan from Pearl & Robert Kaplan

Muriel Kaplan from Marie & Dr. Louis Robbins
Ninette Altus from Stanlee & Jerry Rubin
Elizabeth Alvillar from Catherine & Jeffrey Weislow
Helen & Ruby Berman from Robin Gold
Ninette Altus from Herbert & Brenda Ehrlich

In Honor Of
Loretta & Randy Fertel's 22nd Anniversary from Audrey & Eitan Lavi
Marlene Levine – Wishing you a speedy recovery from Herbert & Brenda Ehrlich

HYMER & VICKI ROSEN FUND
In Memory Of
Hymer Rosen from Lynn & Victor Butcher
Anne Butcher from Lynn & Victor Butcher

TALMUD TORAH FUND
In Honor Of
David Goldman- wishing you a speedy recovery from Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice, and Shayna Kurland

USY FUND
In Honor Of
Sandy Nadler- for coordinating High Holiday Honors from Irwin, Beth, Debra, Maurice, and Shayna Kurland

November Yahrzeits

12/1 (3 Kislev)
Milton Davis
Nathan Friedman
Rose Rosenberg

12/2 (4 Kislev)
William Robinson

12/3 (5 Kislev)
Allan Bolotin
Aron Gottlieb

12/4 (6 Kislev)
Herbert Feinberg
Isaac Plaut
William Roth

12/6 (8 Kislev)
Patricia Green

12/7 (9 Kislev)
Hennie Komito
Isaac Goldberg
Jacob Batt
Sam Shabot

12/8 (10 Kislev)
Sarah Intebi

12/9 (11 Kislev)
Joan Cherno
Luisa Margolis

12/10 (12 Kislev)
Annette Goldberg
Dorothy Kovan
Jacob Chasens
Jeanette Fenenbock
Marla Stein
Milton Max Perloff
Rose Grodin
Yetta Siegelman

12/11 (13 Kislev)
Boris Zditowski
Juan Roberstein

12/12 (14 Kislev)
A. Milton Feinberg
Bernard Chasens
Bessie Starr
Jeffrey Cernich

12/13 (15 Kislev)
Ida Epstein
Rachel Lipson

12/14 (16 Kislev)
Alexander Jaffee
Joseph Ovetsky

12/15 (17 Kislev)
Adolf Weiss
Jon Heller
Louis Pulner

12/16 (18 Kislev)
Mark Kupfer

12/17 (19 Kislev)
Joseph Reiter
Savannah Rose Valdes

12/18 (20 Kislev)
Sadie Aaronson

12/19 (21 Kislev)
Bashe Schlusselberg

12/20 (22 Kislev)
Jennie Chasens
Mary Gross
Xochitl Wiener

12/21 (23 Kislev)
Bertha Roth
Dora Hughes
Mina Gerstl

12/22 (24 Kislev)
Florence Drucker
Sylvia Heim

12/23 (25 Kislev)
Ahida Wiener
Goldie Cohen
Jacobo Svarzbein
Louis Thompson
Sara Hauptman

12/24 (26 Kislev)

12/25 (27 Kislev)
Bessie Thompson

12/26 (28 Kislev)
Fannie Schmalholz

12/27 (29 Kislev)
Isidore Erlich
Joan Feinberg

12/28 (30 Kislev)
Malke Fahn
Sophie Liebman

12/29 (1 Tevet)
C.L. Scoggin Sr.
Doris Jacobson

12/30 (2 Tevet)
Frymet Gritz Gottlieb
Necha Silver

12/31 (3 Tevet)
Harry Goldberg
Julia Weiss
Saul Frank
Taube Goldfarb