HANUKKAH

Family Service & Festival of Fun

Hanukkah is the season of joy and eight nights of lights filled with sufganiyot, latkes, games, candles, and friends. The Hanukkah Family Service will be on Friday, December 16. Bring your menorahs (hanukkiyot) and candles. The Hanukkah Festival of Fun takes place on Saturday the 17th. Celebrate with us for part or all of the Shir Hadash Hanukkah Festival of Fun. We will start the day with a scooter and bike (helmets too!) obstacle course for the kids, or bring your lucky dreidel and add your name to join our bracketed tournament to find our ultimate dreidel champ (adults and children encouraged). As the sun sets, we will join for classic and new Hanukkah songs and a community havdalah. We are hosting a latke dinner, and then we will truly celebrate the light of Hanukkah with a Glow Up party with lots of fun for adults and children.

Please register for the dinner on the temple calendar.
Recently, I visited my mom, who lives in the suburbs of Chicago. While visiting, we went to the Botanical Gardens for their Lightscape. It is a little like Vasona Park's Fantasy of Light; however, the Botanical Gardens use the trees and the lake as part of their creation of the lights. Each section of the gardens is created by a different light artist. And the lights change colors often. It was quite magical.

What is it about lights at this time of year? As we head into the December month, daylight is much shorter and darkness lasts longer. We seek the comfort of light. Chanukah (however you spell it) is the “Festival of Lights.” The Chanukiah is mentioned in our Haftarot read during Chanukah. It is also in our Haftarah, that we find the words, “Not by might, nor by power but by My spirit.” (Zechariah 4:6). In context, “Not by might,” according to the Plaut Chumash, means, “Zerubbabel can trust that he will succeed in finishing the Temple Building—despite slow progress and obstructionist forces. This will happen not through political power ploys but because God desires it.” It is often through God that we find our own spirit, our own spirituality. When the nights are dark, we yearn for the light; for that spirit to carry us through to the next day.

There is something comforting about light. Whether it is the natural sun or the light that comes from within our homes. We bring in Shabbat by lighting the Sabbath candles. We light a yarhtzeit candle to help us remember our loved ones; even if they are not present, the light and love they brought into our lives is a blessing. And of course, we light the chanukiah, the Chanukah menorah. Each day, adding a new candle, a new light within our homes.

One of my favorite Jewish poets, Alden Solovy, wrote a poem called “Meditation for the End of Chanukah.” The end of the poem says the following:

_We are surrounded by light. We are sources of light._

_We are mirrors of G-d’s light. And so, we are called to serve the Most High, with prayer and song, with chesed and g’milut chasadim, with tikkun and tikkun olam, with ahava and ahavat chinam._

_The miracle is ours now. We will carry it into the world. We will be the light itself. The light of justice, the light of peace._

May the bright lights of your Chanukiot offer your families warmth, comfort, spirit, and always, the gift of peace!

Here is a link to a Spotify playlist for Chanukah. I hope that the music of Chanukah will add to the lights of the Chanukiah!

And I offer this beautiful Debbie Friedman song as a blessing to all of you: Light these Lights.

And here is the playlist of Debbie Friedman Chanukah Songs.
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 11, 10:15 AM

Please join Board President Andy Altman, in person or via Zoom, for the Congregational meeting on December 11, at 10:15 am.

This meeting will provide the Shir Hadash Board with an opportunity to share programs and activities since July and to look forward to upcoming events. We will hear from our Treasurer, Dawn Gringorten, who will provide an update on our finances. Trista Bernstein, head of the Assistant Rabbi search committee, will share her committee’s timeline for the selection process.

Our Early Childhood Center (ECC), a vital part of our community, will update us on its activities and plans for expansion. I also expect to have updates from our Adult Education, Kulanu, and SALTY (youth group) leaders.

There will be time for questions, and of course, we’ll have bagels and schmear.

Hanukkah Happenings

Menorahs & Miracles. Children’s Discovery Museum, December 4, 1:30 pm. Register.

Hanukkah Service. Shir Hadash, December 16, 6:15 pm.

Hanukkah Festival of Fun. Shir Hadash, December 17, 4:00–9:00 pm. Register for dinner.

Men’s Club Latke Party. Shir Hadash, December 21, 6:00 pm. Register.

Hanukkah on Main Street. Community Candle Lighting, Downtown Los Gatos, December 22, 5:00 pm.

December Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>shirhadash.org/live</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Services are in person unless noted.

Zoom Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar.

ShirTV In person, also available live-streamed on Shir Hadash TV, at shirhadash.org/live.
A Special Conversation with Daniel Sokatch

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 PM

Daniel Sokatch’s book Can We Talk About Israel? A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted, published in 2021, is divided into three sections: a history of Israel, the changing nature of Jewish Americans’ opinions on Israel and Israel’s politics, and a valuable lexicon of terms used in the book. Sokatch’s book includes personal anecdotes from the author’s experience and is enhanced by drawings and maps illustrated by Christopher Noxon. It is a very readable book that is neutral while presenting many sides of issues facing Israel at this time. It is uncomfortable but compelling reading!

Sokatch’s book explores why so many people feel strongly about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Why does this issue alone turn some classic Jewish liberals into uber-conservatives? Why do compassionate and judicious intellectuals single Israel out for boycotts, sanctions, and a level of contempt they do not apply to other countries? Why do Evangelical Christians, who have never met a Jewish person, feel such fierce loyalty towards Israel? Daniel Sokatch delves into these questions and others and offers hope for Israeli/Palestinian relations.

We are excited to announce that on January 10, Daniel Sokatch will visit Shir Hadash to discuss his book and answer questions. We hope you will take some time during the holidays to read this book and join us in January.

Please register on the temple calendar.

MEN’S CLUB

A Night at the Shark Tank

Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun-filled evening to watch an exciting ice hockey game between San Jose Sharks and the Dallas Stars on Wednesday, January 18. The Men’s Club has reserved 20 seats in the Promenade 4 area (Section 202), and the cost will be $43 a ticket. The game time is 7:00 pm. There may also be an opportunity to meet at a downtown San Jose restaurant for dinner before the game for those interested. Your family and friends are welcome to attend with you.

To reserve your ticket(s), please contact Rich Zbriger at 408-564-3345.

Hanukkah Latke & Comedy Film Night Party

Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 PM

On December 21, the Shir Hadash Men’s Club will host our 22nd annual Men’s Club Hanukkah Latke and Comedy Film Night party. The event starts at 6:00 pm. All Men’s Club members and prospective members are invited to attend. The Men’s Club will provide catered deli sandwiches and drinks, and each member is asked to bring six latkes to share, with accompaniments (sour cream, applesauce) provided. The lighting of Hanukkah candles will precede dinner. After dinner, Steve Jackson will provide entertainment from his collection of Jewish comedy videos. There is no charge for current or prospective members of the Men’s Club. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jack_Friedman@comcast.net by Friday, December 9.

SAVE THE DATE

Mitzvah Day

Sunday, January 15, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Every year, Shir Hadash marks the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend by working to make the world a better place for everyone. The entire community—children and adults, families, and individuals—comes together to do the work of Tikkun Olam (fixing the world).

Tikkun Olam is taking responsibility for fixing what is wrong with the world. The phrase is most often used to refer to a specific category of mitzvot involving work to improve society.
During the Holiday Season in the US, 80% of the items we bring into our homes from gifts and purchases contain a significant amount of plastic. This year, before making a Hannukah gift purchase, consider the item more deeply and ask: Where does it come from? Who made it, and were they treated fairly? How long will my child/spouse/friend use it? What will happen to it when they no longer want it? How can it be disposed of?

In the past, a gift on Hanukkah was gelt, a shiny coin, or maybe a special treat like chocolate; no plastic in sight. Is this possible in 2022? Here are some ideas:

**Create new gift giving traditions:** A book exchange, a puzzle rotation, a favorite recipe swap; think about what your family loves to do or share.

**Give experiences:** Membership to a museum or botanical garden, or aquarium; tickets to a concert or show, a class to learn something new together, or a skill or time you will share with someone. A hike, an outdoor adventure, or a night out, maybe once a month or a quarter. Need something physical to give? Wrap up a calendar marked with the dates and location of the experience. Your loved ones will remember the gift of time spent with them and the memories you made together.

**Give something you make yourself:** Make your friends homemade toiletries or cleaning supplies in glass jars, Bake, knit, sew, plant, draw, paint, write a poem or story, build, and create! Share your skills and talents. The best Hanukkah gift I ever received was a recording from my daughters of the three of them playing music together.

**Give second hand or re-gifted items:** Set your family or your colleagues at work the challenge to only get gifts that are not purchased new. Shop your closets, thrift stores, or online consignment shops like ThredUp, Poshmark, and Mercari. 60% of clothing these days is made from plastic: polyester, nylon, lycra, spandex, and acrylic are plastic, and even rayon (viscose) is partially made from plastic. These fabrics shed microplastics into the water and air, and they shed more when they are new.

**Purchase sustainable gifts:** If you feel the need to purchase new gifts for the holidays, use the opportunity to help others live more sustainably. Many people use plastic because they don’t know of any alternative. Some great ideas are stainless steel or glass water bottles, beautiful travel mugs, a foldable spork or travel bamboo cutlery, silicone bowl lids or beeswax wraps to replace plastic wrap, silicone Stasher bags to replace plastic sandwich bags, a subscription for laundry sheets, shampoo and conditioner bars, bamboo toothbrushes, cosmetics in bamboo cases, stainless steel or glass food containers or jars to use at your local refillery. Check out The Source Zero in San Jose or Byrd’s Filling Station in San Mateo, or Ethos in Capitola. We list some other resources on our Sustainability resource page.

**Gifts for children:** In 2018, the American Academy of Pediatrics put out a warning that harmful chemicals found in plastic interfere with children’s hormones, growth & brain development—especially those plastics in contact with food and drink. Right now, 80% of children’s dishware and cups, and containers are made of plastics. Also, young children learn about their world through their senses, so their toys go right into their mouths to be explored.

- Use stainless steel, glass, or ceramic dishes for children. Ahimsa sells non-toxic colorful stainless steel dishes for children.
- Wooden toys, paints or colored pencils, or other art supplies are wonderful. (The neon-colored pencils make excellent non-plastic highlighters as well.)
- Anything that sparks imaginative play, from sets of colored silk fabric to wooden blocks or musical instruments, can be acquired with no plastic.
- And the categories listed above for experiences and homemade gifts are perfect for sharing with children.
- Spend some time with your kids or grandkids making things together, and you will also be making some lifelong memories.

Plastic pollution has rapidly become a problem for human health, as well as that of wildlife. It is a social justice, environmental, and climate problem. Let’s use each night of Hanukkah this year to raise our awareness as well as halt our contributions to plastic pollution during this season of giving. Send us photos or descriptions of your sustainable gifting ideas this season, and we will post them to inspire others.

Chag Sameach,
Alissa Klar & Linda Allen
Co-chairs of Shir Sustainability
We Thank the Following Donors for Their Generous Contributions to Shir Hadash:

Miriam Brody
Linda Coon
Liz Dietz
Geri Feldman
Aviva & Fred Forster
Jack & Sharon Friedman
Diane Gilden
Jamie Giller
Joshua & Judy Goldman
Mark & Andria Grodzinsky
David & Carole Harris
Michael & Diane Hudson

Warren Kaplan
Gregg & Carolyn Kerlin
Robert Keynton & Alissa Klar
Michael & Ina Korek Foundation Trust
Wayne & Tina Levenfeld
Linda Mandel
Andrew & Beth Sidlow Mann
Twefik & Nellie Mourad
Arnold & Debra Pinck
Ken Porush
Bruce & Gretchen Preville
Chuck & Pamela Robbin

Sharon Roth
Margaret Scardigli
Martin & Pamela Silverman
Pat & Pekka Sinervo
Sherrie Stone
Howard Taub
Gerald & Marita Trobough
Cindy & Jonathan Weinberg
Mildy Weinstein
Richard & Carol Zbriger

Season of Gratitude

Shir Hadash is our home away from home, a sacred place where everyone and anyone who desires to belong to a Jewish community is welcomed with open arms. It’s a place where we are ‘seen’ for who we are, and a place where our children and adults can grow and elevate their lives with Jewish tradition.

The ruach—spirit of Shir Hadash—is tangible, and as we work together to sustain and grow it, we need your participation and support. Please help us add to our gratitude list as we look toward a vibrant and thriving future. Donate now!
**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30a</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women</td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Berton Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30a</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
<td>6:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>6:15p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30a</td>
<td>Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women</td>
<td>6:15p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>6:15p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Sustainability Meeting</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30a</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Sustainability Meeting</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30a</td>
<td>Meditation Group</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Sustainability Meeting</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30a</td>
<td>Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00p</td>
<td>Men's Club Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15p</td>
<td>SALTY Event</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30p</td>
<td>Menorah and Miracles</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please visit www.shirhadash.org for the full calendar.**

Zoom Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar.

Taped in advance. Watch on Shir Hadash TV at shirhadash.org/live.

---

- **9:00a:** Kulanu Learning
- **9:00a:** Kulanu Membership Committee Meeting
- **10:00a:** Men’s Club Board Meeting
- **12:00p:** Club 456 Pizza Lunch
- **12:15p:** SHOC Event
- **12:30p:** Kulanu Hebrew Sundays
- **1:00p:** Minnathah and Minzahn
- **6:30p:** JET
- **7:00p:** Silicon Valley Intro to Judaism
- **7:30p:** Choir Rehearsal
- **6:00p:** Kulanu Hebrew Tues.
- **6:30p:** JET
- **7:00p:** Silicon Valley Intro to Judaism
- **7:30p:** Choir Rehearsal

---

**SHIR HADASH DECEMBER 2022 E-NOTES | 7**

**Congratulations!**

**11:30a: Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women**

**9:30a: Torah Study**

**10:30a: Shabbat Service**