TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM BULLETIN

KISLEV - TEVET 5783 DECEMBER 2022 - VOL. 13 NO. 4

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FROM YOUR RABBI

As I approached December, I struggled, trying to decide what to write. I thought about the anomalies of the holiday season, but that might ruin an upcoming class that I want to offer. I thought about talking about the elections, and well, mom taught me that if you can't say something nice ... So, I nixed that idea. I then toyed with the idea of delineating the reasons that Chanukkah gets spelled so many different ways in Hebrew. I thankfully thought better of that idea, too. So, here are my thoughts for this month:

RABBI MARC'S TOP FIVE REASONS TO CELEBRATE DECEMBER HOLIDAYS!

Reason number 5 – Latkes, Jelly Donuts, Gingerbread cookies, everything one would traditionally eat for Thanksgiving, and fruit cakes that have been regifted over the last five years running (tradition requires that include these). Gastronomy – every religious holiday has to involve special foods or no foods. Jews and Christians love December because our holidays both involve food.

Reason number 4 – Lights. Going back to ancient teachings from the Talmud, we read, "Dinah d'malchutah dina – the law of the land you live in is the law you live by." In essence, Judaism requires us to be relevant parts of our communities. So, we all decorate. Some houses have dreidels, others have trees, and, of course, in the mingled world in which we live, some have both. That said, In Red Bank, New Jersey, the Cohen family won the city home decorating contest every year. They wrapped their home in lights to make it look like the most beautiful present waiting to be opened. We love the joy that beautifully lit houses bring to our streets!

Reason number 3 - Family comes home! Whichever we celebrate, we know that schools and businesses take a break near the end of the year allowing people to spend extra time with family and friends. Reason 3a, though, is that there is some truth to the adage that company and fish are great for the first couple of days. We get just enough time with folks interrupting their lives or ours to still be able to look forward to next year's visits!

Reason number 2 – Presents and smiles! Of course, whether it is after lighting the menorah, sitting around the tree, or out at holiday parties, we love watching the faces of people as they open the gifts we brought. Ok, this moment of joy ignores the way too much money we spent over the holidays and should help us remember that Purim is actually the Jewish gift-giving holiday, but as long as we are not holding the credit card bill in that same moment, we can celebrate the pure joy of sharing.

MARC'S NUMBER ONE REASON TO WANT TO CELEBRATE THESE HOLIDAYS IS – they really should provide us with the spirit to live every day as if it was a miracle of faith! We know that both the Jesus birth and Chanukkah stories have experienced embellishment and mutation over a couple of thousand years. We also know that the stories exist to remind us that love is universal, faith is mightier than the sword, spiritual light moves our souls for the good, and our commitment to care for each other is both awesome and awe-inspiring.

Whichever one's tradition during this time, let's remember that helping each other celebrate is holy. Even if the holiday is not ours if we can help others learn that it is about feeling blessed and enlightened. Happy Chanukkah to all our families. Merry Christmas to our family members who celebrate. For everyone – may this season bring joy and wholesomeness for all!

Rabbi Marc Kline

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great time of year to be part of the TOS family.Can you recall a busier November?I can't.There was a well-attended Soup and Study, a fabulous service and Oneg dedicated to our Veterans – thank you for your service to our country and our community.How about the Books, Bagels and Basketball program for Ohev preschoolers planned by Barb Plesco? So much fun. Is there anything cuter than little kids with big basketballs? I don't think so. And the Sisterhood once again knocked it out of the park with its celebration of 25 years of Books, Authors, and Dinners and Cathy Barrow's



"Bagels, Schmears and a Nice Piece of Fish."I for one never heard of beet-cured gravlax, and now I am a fan.Over 65 people enjoyed the dinner, talk and desserts.And how about Tot Shabbat?It's the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am and the tots are loving it.As are the parents!

December has also brought about the departure of our dear friend, Michelle Darr, the TOS Office Administrator for the past 13 years. She leaves us to pursue an opportunity at a local accounting firm. I can't think of a single congregant, or member of the public who called or came to temple, who hasn't benefited from knowing Michelle. She has been a true asset to TOS, and an asset to me in my role as president of the Board. I want to thank Michelle for her dedicated service to TOS and hope you will join me in extending TOS's best wishes to her in her new position.

So what else is in store for TOS in

December?It's countdown to Chanukah!And all



the holidays our TOS families celebrate.I look forward to this time of year, despite the cold weather, because it is a time to gather with family and friends.I for one am looking forward to the TOS Chanukah dinner on December 18.Are you Team Applesauce or Team Sour Cream?Remember to check our TOS website, which is full of great information.Events frequently are added to the calendar.What would you like to see happening at TOS? We welcome all ideas.

Whatever holiday you celebrate in December, I hope it is a joyous one.To all, I wish a happy and healthy new year.Looking forward to 2023!

Best wishes, Audrey Miner, Board President

BOARD SPOTLIGHT: ARI NEPON



Ari Nepon moved to Mechanicsburg in July 2019, and is delighted to be back on the East Coast after more than a decade living in California.

Ari spent his early life in rural New Jersey, and moved to Allentown, PA as a young child, where he and many of his family were members of Congregation Keneseth Israel. Ari met his wife, Rachael, at Ursinus College. They moved to California and were married in 2009.

Outdoor lovers, Ari and Rachael found their home in the towering redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains between Palo Alto and the Pacific Ocean. The family grew with the arrival of Isaac in 2012 and Ben in 2014.

In California, Ari worked for Apple. During his time in Cupertino he worked in project, product, and, for the final 11 years, in progressively senior engineering leadership roles, most recently as part of the team that brought Apple Pay to the world. Ari left Apple in November of 2021 to focus his time on political campaigns, most recently serving as the Finance Director for a Pennsylvania campaign for US Congress.

Since moving to Mechanicsburg, Ari and his family have spent the time catching up with grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. Isaac is in fourth grade at Elmwood Academy and Ben is in 2nd grade at Broad Street Elementary. Rachael works at <u>Study.com</u>.

Ari is the 2nd Vice President here at Temple Ohev Sholom, and serves on the Information Technology, Endowment+Legacy, Investment, Finance and Social Action Committees.

Call for Social Action Participants

The social action committee is firing back up under the mission of tikkun olam! If you are interested in joining this team dedicated to organizing and being part of social actions, please email Andrea Grove at andrea@elementarycoffee.co (yes, .co, not .com)!

Veterans' Shabbat



Veterans Shabbat service on November 11, 2022 was very special. Rabbi Marc led a heartfelt service honoring our Veterans with a group Aliyah! The Baturin family

suggested the idea to honor Floyd Baturin, husband of Kickan, father of Monica, Madeleine and Harry Baturin. They hosted an elaborate, delicious Oneg Shabbat!

Bruce Feldman presented a pin to Gary Rosenstrauch, Morrell Fox (father of Barry Fox 'z), Diane Stolberg, Teresa Dorritie, Ernie Jose, Bruce Feldman, Ken Stewart, Paul Rokoff, and Moe Kaplan.

Gift Shop Reopens With New Merch



Come visit Temple Ohev Sholom Gift Shop on Sundays from 9:30 to noon.

We have new merchandise, including a variety of Hanukkah items:

dreidels,

Hanukkah banners, menorah drip trays, beeswax candles, gelt, jewelry and much more.

Please email Denyse Miskin if you have any questions.<u>denysemiskin@gmail.com</u>

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Religious School is in fantastic shape and looks forward to some exciting events in December. Along with the Sisterhood's Social Action Committee, the 4th, 5th and 6th graders are conducting a holiday drive for Caitlin's Smiles, a local non-profit that brings cheer to children in hospitals with arts & craft bags. Gail shared this idea with me and I was happy to tell her that ten years ago this was my daughter Shula's Be Mitzvah service project. Like Shula, our students are decorating shopping bags, making cards, and collecting donations from the Ohev community. Caitlin's Smiles needs play do, markers, gel pens, stickers, and journals. Amore extensive list can be found on their website: <u>https://www.caitlins-smiles.org/donate/donate-supplies/</u>

This R.S. holiday drive coincides with the 4, 5, and 6th grades combined family shabbat service on December 16that 6pm. Services will be followed by a Chanukah themed ice cream bar. Everyone is invited and encouraged to donate craft supplies, participate in the ice cream bar, and attend services. Please stay tuned for details.

Our Religious School teachers are achieving incredible things! On November 4th,

2022, Cara Grossfeld (our K/1stGrade teacher and mom of 6) started a weekend of running in the happiest place on earth, Disneyworld. Cara and her sister, Audra, ran in honor of their mother, Eileen, who had passed away 5 years ago from Breast Cancer. They wanted to celebrate her together, doing something hard and that would make their mom proud. Plus, who doesn't love Disney? On Friday morning, she woke at 230am to be ready and board a bus by 330am to be at the 5k start line by 430am. Race starts at 5am. This was the first of 3 races. Saturday morning was the 10k and Sunday the Half Marathon. All three races were through Disneyworld properties all starting and ending in Epcot. These races were full of magic and fairy dust, Disney characters and runners dressed up in lots of



crazy outfits, sweat and determination, and just pure happiness. Cara Grossfeld finished all three races and is looking forward to returning to Disneyworld in January to run in Marathon weekend on behalf of the American Cancer Society. If you'd like to support Cara's runs, here's the link to her page for the American Cancer Society

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=103453 &pg=personal&px=57220213

We celebrate Cara and look forward to her daughter Jordyn's Be Mitzvah on February 18th.

We also congratulate our Education Committee chair Dr. Erika Saunders, who has been elected president of the American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP). Erika has provided excellent guidance and support during my transition here and is the Religious School's biggest cheerleader. In addition to work, her presidential duties, and home life, Erika is teaming up with Mia Rosenberg to organize R.S.'s potlucks. Please join us in congratulating and thanking her for all she does!

Getting From Here to There

Shelley Adler

December 2022

The role of the Rabbinic Transition Team is reflected in Pirkei Avot 2:21, Sayings of the Fathers. *Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor: Our job is not to complete all the tasks, but neither are we free to desist from it either.*

When our congregation experienced a change in rabbinic leadership, the leadership took the next step to address the human processing of this change and the reorienting from one reality to another. A Rabbinic Transition Team was appointed to guide this initial process. In consultation with Rabbi Marc Kline, the team organized a variety of Meet and Mingle gatherings. These gatherings have been a vehicle to create community in conversation.

Seven in-home gatherings were held in diverse geographic locations. Each of our gracious hosts created a relaxed and inviting occasion for Rabbi Marc to share his role as our interim rabbi. Congregants were invited by Rabbi Marc to ask questions, offer suggestions or express concerns in an embracing atmosphere that made everyone feel acknowledged.

We are grateful for the following congregants who offered their hospitality: Bruce and Gail Feldman, Gail Riegler, Cindy and Don Lynch, Doreen Evrard, co-hosts Kim and Les Poolman with Marjorie and Bruce Spivak, Lisa and Bob Wolff, and co-hosts Monica and Kevin Lutkins with Kickan Baturin.

Several gatherings were also scheduled in the chapel for congregants who did not have the opportunity to attend one of the in home gathering. Days and times were varied to accommodate schedules.

The themes that emerged from these conversations will be used for an upcoming focus group initiative planned by our Board of Trustees.

The Rabbinic Transition Team included Shelley Adler, Irith Harpster, April Hutcheson, Reyna Jose, Jeanette Krebs, Steve Miskin and Bekah Saidman-Krauss.

Book Review Recap By Irith Harpster

What a fabulous evening with Cathy Barrow and her latest award winning cookbook BAGELS, SCHMEARS, and a nice PIECE OF FISH. Every recipe from the book was outstanding . Thank you Francesca Romani for the fabulous photos, Cathy Barrow for her beautiful presentation and all the cooks and helpers who made the night such a huge success.





By attending services, events, classes or meetings, you consent to be photographed or videotaped and agree to allow Temple Ohev Sholom to use any photos or videos for future promotional purposes.

SAVE THE DATE | JANUARY 13

Special Justice Shabbat program. Details are forthcoming.

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

Dear Congregants,

There is so much going on at the synagogue these days and Sisterhood is excited to be a part of the programming and events offered to our members.

Our big event coming up is the Designer Bag Bingo event and fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The cost is \$30 ahead of time and \$36 at the door. Bingo players have a chance to win Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Coach and other handbags. It will be a fun time and everyone is welcome. Tell your friends! If anyone is interested in sponsoring a handbag, please let us know. Please email Jodi at<u>jinoosh@hotmail.com</u>to sign up for the event.



FOR INCREMENTION AND TO REP CONTACT: JODI NEUSCHIWANDER - UN OCSHOH OTWAIL.COM

Also this month, please sign up for our temple's Hanukkah Dinner that will happen on Sunday,

Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Bring your menorah, candles and appetite! It will be a great event. Cost is \$18 for anyone over age 13. Please email Jeanette with your reservations, jeanettedkrebs@gmail.com.

We also want to thank Irith Harpster and her book review committee for a wonderful evening on Nov. 10. The Symons/Rose Book Review was a huge success! We welcomed author, Cathy Barrow, who discussed her book, *Bagels, Schmears and a Nice Piece of Fish*. The dinner portion of the event was sold out!

If you have not joined Sisterhood yet, it isn't too late! See Jeanette, Reyna or Sarah Brown for information.

Wishing you a wonderful December and Happy New Year! Reyna Jose and Jeanette Krebs, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Thanks to all who attended the Sisterhood Presidents' Dinner

Mitzvah Day 2022

Sunday, December 25 | 1 - 4 PM

It's good to do a mitzvah! Add some love and kindness into our community and help our organizations in the work they do each and every day. Many volunteer opportunities available for all ages and interests!

Learn more and register at jewishharrisburg.org/mitzvah-day-2022



Bagels & Basketball





FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, JOIN RABBI MARC AND LORI FOR SONGS, STORIES, AND SNACKS AT

TOT Shabbat

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 10:00AM IN THE LEHRMAN CHAPEL



Welcome To Our New Members

Rabbi Marc, the Board of Trustees, the TOS staff and entire congregational family would like to welcome these individuals and families who became a part of Temple Ohev Sholom during 2022:

> Francesca Romani Amy & Steve Leasure Halle Nelson Karen Grossman Miriam Siegel Alicia & Timothy Duke Martha & Jim McGraw Madeline & Mark Fortelka



JOIN OHEV SHOLOM FOR A

FESTIVE HANUKKAH DINNER

\$18 PER PERSON, CHILDREN UNDER 15 ARE FREE

SUNDAY, DEC. 18 | 6 P.M. SISTERHOOD HALL

PLEASE RSVP TO JEANETTEDKREBS@GMAIL.COM

BRING YOUR MENORAH, HANNUKKAH CANDLES AND APPETITE!

SPONSORED BY SISTERHOOD



KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR A LETTER IN EARLY 2023 ABOUT THE **SISTERHOOD DONOR DINNER**



PLANNING IS IN THE WORKS FOR AN AWESOME EVENT!

DECEMBER KADDISH

December 2

Louis Adler J. Helen Goldberg John Goldsmith Rosa M. Goldsmith Etta J. Goodman Bill Gross Ida Gross Abraham A. Jaffe Bessie Kline Margaret W. Kohn **Barry Krause** Charles Laubheim Jack Lieberman Diana Maglin Edward Maglin **Roselle Roth** Frank L. Rubin

December 9

Milton S. Abel Richard I. Baum Sam Begler Lewis A. Bernard Sr. Harry Chernicoff Jeffrey Cohen Ilse Feldhiem Jay Feldman Martin L. Finkelstein Herbert Galowitz Joseph Goldstein Clara Goodman Dorothy Sweedler Hess Andrea Huggard Anita Jaffe Carol Kaye Lynn Liberman Roth

Norman Neiman Trudi Pepper Carolyn Schwartz Jerry Schwarz Sally Aronson Yoffee

December 16

Melvin Asher **Phyllis Bagley** Harry Becker **Florence Berger** Michael Brenner Grace S. Buxbaum Sylvia Casher Abe Epstein Reuben Ettinger Michael P. Feldser Ken Hess Sue Hoffman Israel Kades Shirley Klawansky Martha Lehrman Joseph E. Morris **Bernard Zeliger** Natalie Zisman Lila Zlotoff

December 23

Matilda Arch Myra Bornstein Albert Bryant Helene Cohen Nap Epstein Minnie Gordon Louis C. Jacobs Seth Jacobs Robert Ketchem Blanche Krauss Abe May Phillip Menaker Saul Migatz Bessie B. Miller Moe Mishkin Rheda Rubin Saxe Shirley S. Schneiderman **Caroline Schultz** Morrie Schwab Jean Sensel Abram D. Sharosky **Clarabelle Sharosky** Leroy Shellhammer S. James Shwartz III Abe Yamin Morris S. Yoffee

December 30

Robert Baum Beatrice K. Clymin Lita Cramer Harvey Danowitz Kay DuPont **Beth Fine** Max Garner M. Lee Goldsmith Goldie Kassnar Jack Klawansky Joseph Klein Moses Landis David Lang Irving Levine Henrietta H. Mayer Bernard Rosenstrauch Max Salkin Harry Yablonowitz

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- December 2 Shabbat Services 6pm
- December 3 Tot Shabbat 10am, Designer Bag Bingo, 6pm
- December 4 Religious School 9:30am
- December 6 Religious School Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- December 8 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- December 9 Shabbat Services 6pm
- December 10 TOS Board Shabbaton at HACC All Day
- December 11 Religious School 9:30am, Sisterhood Board
- Meeting 9:45am
- December 13 Religious School Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- December 16 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Family Shabbat/Services 6pm
- December 18 No Religious School, Community Chanukah
- Program @ JCC 10am, Sisterhood Hanukah Dinner 5:30pm
- December 20 Religious School Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- December 23 Shabbat Services 6pm
- December 25 No Religious School
- December 26 Temple Office Closed
- December 27 Religious School Committee Meeting 5:30pm
- December 30 Shabbat Services 6pm

TOS TEEN SCHEDULE

Dear teens and families -

I want to offer the following classes for all of our teens. I will run them as if I were running a confirmation seminar – thoroughly interactive. This program will not be like anything they have done in religious school to date. I will break out 10th graders later in the schedule to prepare for Confirmation, itself. I have avoided any conflicts with the JCC programs and have segmented the topics that students won't be left out of an 'escalating curriculum" for missing a class.

I have never had a teenager regret being part of this process in almost 30 years. In fact, in the last 5 years, I have been asked to write 6 letters of recommendation for college applications. Teens – I want to help you figure out your Judaism – not mine. More importantly, I want you to learn that you matter – now. Parents, please help your child(ren) participate.

I am trying to put together a HS trip either to DC or to Alabama (the freedom trail).

With prompting, food can always be included. Thanks in advance!

Rabbi Marc

December 4 – All Teens – Tattoos, Piercings, Dating, College, Marriage, And All Sorts Of Things You Are Not Old Enough To Talk About ... But Should.

December 18 – All Teens – Chanukkah – Thank God For The Maccabees Or Were They Problem? American, Jewish, And American Jewish Holidays – They Are Not For Children – Part 2

January 8 – All Teens – Arguing For Justice – It Is Never About Just Us – A Look At Why The Jewish Leadership In The Civil Rights Movement Has Been Forgotten By So Many – Especially Jews

January 29 – All Teens – Why Judaism Matters In 2023 – Why Should I Force Mom And Dad To Bring Me? "No Normal Person Prays!" Nah – We Pray All Day And Everyday – Huh????

February 5 – All Teens -Tu B'shvat – The Single Most Important Of All Jewish Holidays And Why It Is Crucial For America To Learn And Celebrate - American, Jewish, And American Jewish Holidays – They Are Not For Children – Part 3 February 19– All Teens – Purim – Who Really Is The Enemy Of The Story And Why Does The Messiah Depend On This Story?

March 12 – All Teens - Can I Pitch On Yom Kippur? Jewish Sports Heros, Comedians, And Important People – Also Known As "Why Do People Love Jewish Lawyers?"

March 26 – 10th Grade – Preparing For Confirmation

April 2– All Teens 10-11:30 & 10Th Grade 10:00 Until 12:30 – The Holocaust And America -Anti-Semitism, Ignorance, And How Not To Be Part Of The Problem. Then, Preparing For Confirmation

April 23 – All Teens – Why Israel Matters – Yes, It Is Half-Way Around The World & Why We Need To Be Concerned?

May 14 – 10th - All Teens – Final For TOS Teens - 2023 – Wrap Up

May 21 – 10th - Grade Preparing For Confirmation

May 26 – Confirmation And Shavuot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Publicity	Marc Levy
Religious School	Erika Saunders
Social Action	Andrea Grove
Worship	David Geller
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Youth Activities	Barb Plesco

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Cemetery	Austin Wolfe and Rich Sgrignoli
COVID Response	Rob Teplitz
Rabbinic Search/Transition	Shelley Adler and Bruce Feldman
Strategic Planning	Chad Harvey

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