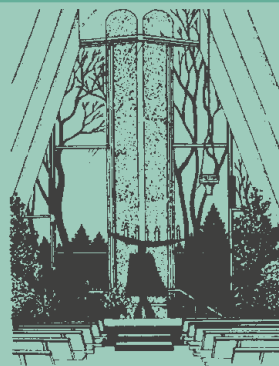


# TEMPLE SINAI BULLETIN

Volume LV, No. 4

December 2020



## Gelt & Goodies To Go: A Sinai "Car"nival of Lights

A temple-wide, socially distanced celebration of a favorite holiday!

Please join us on Sunday, December 13 (the fourth night of Chanukah) for a light-filled mini-event in the temple parking lot. Arrive by 4:50 p.m. and park in any available spot and stay in your car. Bring with you some type of light – flashlight, cellphone light, battery operated menorah, etc. At 5:00 p.m. Rabbi Till will lead us in the candle blessing for Chanukah and participants can shine their lights from their cars. Cantor Braun will then lead us in one or two festive songs.

Following this short activity, cars will line up and drive past the clergy, offer a quick holiday greeting and receive a fabulous, fun Chanukah goody bag – appealing to kids and adults! Congregants of all ages are encouraged to participate.



Hearing Loop

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363 Penfield Road, Rochester, NY 14625. Phone 585-381-6890 [www.tsinai.org](http://www.tsinai.org)



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In Mishnaic times (c. 200 CE), there were two traditions of how to light Chanukah candles:

*Beit Shammai say: On the first day one kindles eight lights and, from there on, gradually decreases the number of lights until, on the last day of Chanukah, one light is kindled. And Beit Hillel say: On the first day one kindles one light, and from there on, gradually increases the number of lights until, eight lights are kindled. (Talmud Bavli, Shabbat 21b)*

*The House of Shammai's opinion is to begin by lighting eight candles (on the first night) and descend to a single candle, whereas Beit Hillel, whose teaching we follow, suggests starting with a single candle and increasing daily to eight on the final night. Why the debate? Rabbi S.Y. Zevin wondered the same and asks: Do we perceive fire as something that illuminates or as something that burns and consumes?*

Rabbi Alex Israel writes, "Fire gives light. Chanukah comes when the days are short and dark, and a single candle dispels much darkness. Torah too is compared to light (Proverbs 6:23), as it is the human soul: "the light of G-d is the soul of man." (Proverbs 20:27) The ideals we hold dear as humans and Jews have the power to illuminate, inspire and give meaning to our personal lives and national ethos, to brighten and the show the way to creating a better world. But fire also has the capacity to burn and destroy. From this angle, fire represents the social mandate to fight against and expunge forces of evil, corruption, violence, and harmfulness.

Shammai and Hillel disagree. Beit Hillel argue that when one generates more light, when we increase the goodness in the world, hate and ugliness are forced into retreat. Each day, as another candle is added, a momentum of increasing light is created that dispels the darkness. But Beit Shammai disagree. We cannot just rely on the positive to fight the negative. One cannot raise oneself, one cannot move forward in society, until one expunges the harmful, the pain, and the violence that surround and suppress goodness. Fire burns the evil around us so that by the end of

Chanukah, wickedness is consumed. As evil dies down, so do the flames that consume it, and as such, the eight candles are reduced to a single flame. Then, true goodness can emerge."



Chanukah typically falls during the darkest days of winter, beginning this year on the eve of December 10<sup>th</sup>. As we spin our dreidels and eat latkes, as we retell the story of the battle for religious freedom, so too do we consider what darkness needs to be illuminated? What threats need to be expunged? How best to maintain and strengthen our Jewish identity? Hillel and Shammai debated which was more relevant, to light or to burn? Our minhag (custom) is to follow Hillel suggesting that where there is light there is hope.

May your festival of lights bring brightness, good health and fill you with hope. Wishing you a chag Chanukah samaech!

*Rabbi Debbie Till*

## Contacting the Clergy

Please let the temple office (381-6890) know of any illnesses, deaths or joyous occasions so that the clergy and the congregation can respond appropriately. Also, remember not to schedule any life cycle events at which Rabbi Till or Cantor Braun will be present without speaking to them first.

To reach Rabbi Till in an emergency, please call 355-0192. To reach Cantor Braun in an emergency, please call 973-953-2489.

It is a mitzvah to visit those who are ill. Please remember that HIPAA regulations prevent hospitals from alerting us when someone is ill. We ask temple members who are aware that one of our members is in a hospital to please call the Temple Sinai office so that one of our clergy may contact them.



In the beginning of this month we will celebrate the Holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. Chanukah commemorates the victory of Judah Maccabee and his followers over the forces of the Syrian tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes. Chanukah also celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem which the Syrians had profaned. However, Chanukah celebrates more than just the end of an unsuccessful attempt by an outside power to destroy Judaism. The threat to Judaism was both internal and external. The assimilation to Hellenistic culture was so great that certain elements within Jewish community were about to assimilate into Greek culture. The heroic resistance of the Maccabees and their followers prevailed! Maccabees saved our people from assimilation and preserved Judaism. The story of Chanukah is the age-old struggle of the Jewish people to remain Jewish in a non-Jewish world.

Most of you know the story of Chanukah, where the Hasmoneans (Maccabees) recaptured and cleansed the Temple, they were able to find enough oil for only a single lighting of the Menorah. But, as the story goes, a miracle occurred, and the oil burned for eight days. Therefore, the eight-day Chanukah celebration has become a symbol for both our physical and spiritual resistance to tyranny and assimilation. The heroic Maccabean triumph is expressed in the words of the prophet Zechariah: "Not by might and not by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord" (4:6).

This Chanukah season is not going to be the same for all of us....We all yearn to be together with our families, friends and loved ones. We all yearn to come back to our beautiful Sanctuary and join our voices together in song! During this difficult time of physical separation, I encourage all of you to keep up a good spirit, think positively and join us for many wonderful Chanukah events that we have planned for you!



In the month of December, Temple Sinai will enlighten you with numerous exciting Chanukah events for ALL! These events will include Temple community virtual and drive-by parade celebrations! Please watch for the Snippets announcements for times and dates.

It will be dark outside, but we will have LIGHT in our homes as we gather together as one community!

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday of LIGHTS!

I pray that in the near future we all see the LIGHT at the end of this long, long tunnel!

May this be God's will! Kein Yehi Ratson!

B'shalom,

*Cantor Renata Braun*

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January 27 – 30, 2021**

**Sermon in Song! Havdalah!  
Learning Opportunities! Concert!**



**Watch Snippets and the January  
bulletin for further information.**

**-> REMINDER <-**

Letters have been mailed to parents whose children were born in 2010 and will celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in the year 2023.

If you did not receive a letter regarding this important life cycle event, please call Bobbi Simmons-Sarnov in the temple office at 381-6890.



*"God takes nothing from the world  
until he puts something else in its place"*  
*Midrash ha Gadol*

As I write this article, the incidence of COVID-19 in our area is once again on the rise. A few months ago, I held out hope that we would once again be able to physically assemble together to celebrate the Chanukah season. It appears that our ability to be physically together will remain "taken from us." Given that this appears to be the case, what then, has God put in its place?

We have been given the opportunity, albeit at a more frenetic pace than we have preferred, to become experts in making use of technology to engage...to maintain relationships...and to share our faith and celebratory rituals together. The skills that our congregation is developing in this area will serve us well into the future. We have learned that many of our congregants have benefitted from this forced introduction to technology as a means of connection. The eradication of COVID-19 will happen and we will both rejoice, AND, continue to expand and improve upon our use of technology.

I want to deeply thank our clergy, our board, our congregants and all of the committees that are generating and facilitating ideas that keep Temple Sinai connected. This month of December presents us with an array of events that while virtual in delivery, are born from the love and commitment that our congregation feels for each other, and for Temple Sinai as a whole.

## **Language & Culture through Israeli Television with Rami Katz**

Thursday, December 3

(Adult Education Committee)

Rami will use Israeli TV comedy clips to highlight Israeli culture and teach basic Hebrew language – open to all, don't need to know Hebrew!

## **The Shabbat Sweet Spin: Delicious Marshmallow Dreidel Delights to Make**

Saturday December 12, 2:00 p.m.

(Membership Committee)

Information for this fun event can be found on page 12.

## **Gelt & Goodies To Go: A Sinai "Car"nival of Lights**

Sunday, December 13, 4:50 p.m. (Temple Life)

A temple-wide, socially distanced celebration

of a favorite holiday! See the bulletin cover for details.

**Young Family Shabbat Service with craft activity & Erev Shabbat Service – Chanukah Choral Shabbat**  
Friday, December 11



## **Chanukah Video Project**

December 10 through December 17 (Adult Education)

A follow up to our very well received High Holiday Elul Video Project!!

Eight congregants/congregant families will be invited to read some text, ask and respond to questions, all reflecting on eight Chanukah themes. A link to each of these videos will be sent to the entire congregation for each of the eight nights of Chanukah.

## **Live Zoom Candle-Lighting**

Taking place on each evening of Chanukah when there is not other programming scheduled. (Congregant Connections)

## **Havdalah For All & Games For All Ages**

December 12 5:30 p.m.

All ages welcome!! Join us for a festive Havdalah Service followed by a variety of Chanukah themed games!!

We want you to know that many corners of Temple Sinai are hard at work putting together thoughtful and creative programming that we hope you will continue to find engaging and meaningful. Energy is being funneled into programming that will speak to different cohort groups of congregants such as Young Families, Next Stage, Teens. Etc. An example of this is a program presently in the works that will focus on engaging our congregants in their 40's and 50's.

Please keep your eyes on Snippets, our website and Facebook groups and emails for more information and details.

While our building remains closed, the community of Temple Sinai remains open and vibrant. We are here for you!

*Keith Greer*



## School of Jewish Life & Learning

### Pinat Ha-Talmid

(The Student Corner)



The leaves are falling from the trees - the mowing of our yards changes to blowing and gathering of fallen leaves, and we begin to realize that shortly we'll need to remove snow from our driveways . . .

### Special Programs in November

On Sunday, Nov. 1, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents gathered around their laptops in their homes to learn about the lifecycle of Naming. We discussed the first naming "ceremony" in our Torah (when God asked Adam to name the animals); the difference between the Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions in providing Hebrew (and English) names; and each participant shared the "history" of his/her name.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents participated in the class' curriculum centered on Exploring our Roots.

### 2020 Chanukah Happening/Bazaar

To our dismay, because of COVID-19, the wonderful event of our Chanukah Happening/Bazaar will not take place this year. We hope that it will happen again next year.

### Family Chanukah (Zoom) Assembly

An abbreviated Family Chanukah assembly will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13, 9:30-10:00 a.m. We invite our parents and grandparents to join us. Please login to our weekly Tfilatom zoom link.

### December Schedule of Events

Friday, Dec. 4: Shabbat Family Service at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5: Havdalah service and Zoom Games for the entire family

Friday, Dec. 11: Young Family Service at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13: Family Chanukah Program (9:30-10:00 a.m.); Chanukah Drive-By Parade at 4:50 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 – Sunday, Jan. 3: No School (winter recess) – Classes resume Wednesday, Jan 6.

**Happy Chanukah!**

*Ilan D. Adar*



## Simchat Torah and Consecration 5781

On Simchat Torah, our Kindergarten class joined the congregation to celebrate the beginning of their religious education.



While ago, I wrote about the need to embrace change. We were about to recognize Rabbi Till as our Senior Rabbi, we were moving to two clergy from three, and a reconfiguration of administrative responsibilities was happening in the office. Just as we began to find our rhythm, we were blindsided by the coronavirus. Suddenly, the priorities we established and our plan of action to address them were taking a back seat to newly identified challenges.

For all of us that were grappling with an organized and thoughtfully-planned incremental changing landscape, we were thrust into an environment that required quick thinking and expeditious action to provide services – religious and administrative – in a way that minimized risk to our congregants, clergy, and staff. The main difference in managing the changes was that, now, we did not have what we had failed to recognize as the luxury of months of planning to ease us into a new way of operating. We were dropped running into a race that none of us had willingly entered. Our new priority was maintaining our warm and welcoming community while being physically separated.

Our lay leaders, committee members/volunteers, office team, school staff, and clergy did an amazing job with a pivot from face to face services, classes, and events to a Zoom platform. We received an unexpected reception to meeting via zoom for services. Many congregants expressed an appreciation for being able to socialize before services at a time when social distancing left them feeling disconnected and isolated. Although we recognized a sustained presence of congregants and students via our video conferencing, and although we had received messages of appreciation for same, we also experienced significant loss.

In addition to the acute loss of person to person interaction, we lost our opportunity to give a timely and well-deserved farewell to Rabbi Katz and welcome to Rabbi Till as she assumed her new role. Our confirmation students lost the experience of traveling to New York City, and the group traveling to Israel lost their planned trip. Our B'nei Mitzvah students have faced the choice between a Zoomed service or rescheduling for an unknown length of time in the hopes of being in the sanctuary with family and friends. Many lifecycle events which would normally include the comfort of family and friends being with us were experienced without that longed-for presence.



While it would not be unreasonable to dwell on these losses related to social distancing as they continue, that has not been our experience. Temple Sinai has persisted despite the overwhelming and sometimes heartbreaking loss that has come with the pandemic. The congregation has stepped up and leaned in to our (hopefully temporary) new normal. We have experienced more volunteers pulling up a seat to the table to help us navigate the situation in which we find ourselves. We are fortunate to have medical doctors helping us understand the illness, teachers overcoming the complexities of engaging “Zoomed-out” students, congregants joining together to create beautiful lay-led shabbat services, and a community that fails to be immobilized by difficulties.

Instead of suspending the mission of Temple Sinai, the community has charged forward with impressive vigor. I look forward to 2021 and wish you health, happiness, and continued strength in the coming year!

*Mary Mansfield*

#### Temple Contacts

##### Rabbi

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##### Executive Director

Mary Mansfield [mmansfield@tsinai.org](mailto:mmansfield@tsinai.org)

##### Rabbi Emeritus

Alan Katz

#### Officers

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Keith Greer

##### Secretary

Renee Brownstein

##### Immediate Past President

Blanche Fenster

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**Congregant Connections** Esther Brill

**Finance** Jamie Spiller

**Education** Josh Faber

**Religious Practices** Ellen Goldenberg

**Youth Initiatives** Marilyn Fenster

**Caring Community & Social Action**

Abby Urban-Rifkin



# Yahrzeits

*The departed live on in the hearts  
of those who cherish their memory*



7

## December 4 & 5

Stanley Abrams  
Matilde Aroesty  
Gerald Berg  
Murray Berlowitz  
Stanley Bershod  
Alberto Biton  
Frederic Brewer  
Nathan Chatlin  
Toby Fay Cherry  
Edith Folkman  
Polina Ginzburg  
Millie Goldensher  
Myer Grisbord  
Samuel Guest  
Sam Kaufman  
Milton Kunken  
Helene Lipton  
Alois Luck  
Leonard Maas  
Anthony Marciano  
Sara Orbach  
Dorothy Paganelli  
Israel Parnes  
Leonard Stoler  
Herman Supnick  
Leonard Tebor  
Guido Troiano  
James Yerger  
Moshe Zaiydel

## December 11 & 12

Murray Astarita  
Mildred Beckwith  
Jenny Berman  
Ethel Cooper  
Eva Cresov  
Sid Dorfman  
Abram Dorren  
Ronja Feiner  
Marc Feldman  
Peter Fischer  
Nathan Fox  
Irving Fraum  
Carol Freeman  
Louise Goldberg

Harvey Gottlieb  
Lee Halperin  
Molly Hewitt  
Ian Ingram  
Dorothy Katz  
Sofia Katz  
Arkady Katz  
Phyllis Kieva  
Florence Kirschen  
Bernard Lilien  
Ansel Marblestone  
Fannie Mazur  
Alex Novozhenets  
Tillie Oster  
Edward Perlstein  
Herbert Rabinowitz  
Goldie Rosenstein  
Josephine Schwartz  
Josephine Steinberg  
Schwartz  
Elizaveta Yermis  
Lillian Zeman

## December 18 & 19

Jack Apter  
David Ball  
Sally Berman  
Irving Birken  
Evelyn Seidman Cohen  
David Conway  
Bernice Cornell  
Marian Eckstein  
Sarah Etlinger  
Anna Fain  
Philip Fain  
Ida Feldman  
Erwin Fenster  
Ray Frankel  
Max Goldman  
Glory Green  
Julius Greenfield  
William Heller  
Adam Hendelson  
Loretta Howell  
Sylvia Hymes  
Dorothy Jacobs

Michael Kevin  
Philip Kinel  
Ira Kinel  
Carl Kolman  
Lisa Kubby  
Morris Levenberg  
Julia Meyerowitz  
Marvin Mindell  
Harry Nemetz  
Sigmund Piekunka  
Robert Roodman  
Allen Rosenberg  
Ethel Rosenbloom  
Pearl Rubin  
Florence Salitan  
Todd David Satell  
Sidney Schantz  
Susan Schrader  
Mannie Siegle  
David Silver

## December 25 & 26

Ida Ash  
Gertrude Drexler  
Henry Flamholtz  
Jacob Friedland  
Milton Friedman  
Vivian Green  
Alfred Greenspan  
John Hart  
Mildred Horowitz  
Janet Mirjam Joseph  
Sigmund Kirschen  
Sidney Kraus  
Seymour Kushner  
Arthur Louis  
Lillian Meyers  
Mikhail Pikus  
Anna Catherine Price  
Abraham Rifkin  
Robert Rockmaker  
Eugene Rosenbaum  
George Roth  
Edward Schulzinger  
Avrom Shamaskin  
Janet Simpkins  
Alex Stark

## January 1 & 2

Minnie Aron  
Marcia Baldwin  
Carol Behrman  
Hilda Biernbaum  
Enid Bondy  
Edward Braiman  
Sidney Chernak  
Tony Dechario  
William Denithorn  
Elliott Dicker  
Sylvan Druce  
Bertha Eissenstat  
Epstein  
Lillian Fain  
Elana Farkas  
Todd Fleischman  
Anna Geiger  
Rae Goldstein  
Nicholas Greenfield  
Meyer Horowitz  
Leonard Kaplan  
Harold Katzel  
Thomas Kulick  
Steven Kushner  
Boris Lembersky  
Mikhail Lender  
Abraham Medoff  
Harry Olsen  
Scott Rosenfeld  
Marie Rosenzweig  
Harold Rubel  
David Schwartz  
Sylvia Snyder  
Harold Solomon  
Louis Sporn  
DuWayne Statz  
Berton Stern  
Gail Strodel  
Douglas Strodel  
Carol Tolin  
Beatrice Voldman  
Ruth Warnick  
Estelle Weiner  
Rosalie Yacknin

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Temple Sinai, Rochester, NY

03-1320



# December 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div></div>		1 Social Action Discussion – “I Am Not Your Negro” 7:00 p.m.	2 School in Session Adult Education Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	3 Adult Education- Language and Culture Through Israeli Television 7:30 p.m.	4 Erev Shabbat Family Service with Birthday Blessings 6:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayishlach</i> <i>Genesis 32.4-36.43</i>	5 Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Havdalah For All 5:30 p.m.
6 School in Session T’filaton 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Keshet 11:00 a.m.	7	8	9 School in Session	10 Chanukah - First Light 	11 Young Family Service followed by craft activity 5:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service – Chanukah Choral Shabbat 6:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayeshev</i> <i>Genesis 37:1-40:23</i> Chanukah - Second Light 	12 Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. The Shabbat Sweet Spin: Delicious Dreidel Delights 2:00 p.m. Chanukah - Third Light 
13 School in Session Chanukah Program T’filaton 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Keshet 11:00 a.m. “Car”nival of Lights Drive By Parade 4:50 p.m. Chanukah - Fourth Light 	14 Book Group 7:00 p.m. Chanukah - Fifth Light 	15 Social Action Book Discussion 7:00 p.m. Chanukah - Sixth Light 	16 School in Session Chanukah - Seventh Light 	17 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m. Chanukah - Eighth Light 	18 Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. Torah Portion: <i>Miketz</i> <i>Genesis 41:1-44:17</i>	19 Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
20 School in Session T’filaton 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:00 a.m. Keshet 11:00 a.m. Bogrim 11:00 a.m.	21	22 Membership Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	23 School in Session	24 OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON	25 OFFICE CLOSED Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. <i>Torah Portion: Vayigash</i> <i>Genesis 44.18-47.27</i>	26 Torah Study 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
27 NO SCHOOL	28	29	30 NO SCHOOL	31	<div><div><div></div><div>January Erev Shabbat Services</div><div>PLEASE CHECK SNIPPETS AND OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION</div><div></div></div><div>Menorah lighting art by Agarunov Oktav-Abraham from the Noun Project</div></div>	

## Be part of the Sinai Community!

Join our Zoom service as our Bat Mitzvah leads us in worship.



**Grayce  
Peltz**

December 12,  
10:30 a.m.  
service

Daughter of  
Jack Peltz &  
Gena Merliss

## Within Our Family

### *In Memoriam...*

*Temple Sinai notes with sorrow the passing of:*  
Moisey Rabinovich, father of Iosif (Adelina)  
Rabinovich

Suzanne Cramer, temple member  
Hope Mann, mother of BJ Mann (Recep Morel)  
Jacob Handelman, brother of Allen Handelman  
Zorina Walitsky, mother of Laura Walitsky  
(Angelo Caruso)

Dennis Drayer, father of Rebecca Drayer

*The Temple family extends its heartfelt  
sympathy to the bereaved families*

### *Mazal Tov to...*

Roseann Kraus on the marriage of son Nathan  
Kraus-Malet to Mariel Lugosch-Ecker  
Ed Muszynski & Bonnie Hughes on the birth  
of grandson Mateo Oscar Del Balso, son of  
Lauren Muszynski & Eduardo Del Balso  
Seymour & Myrna Weinstein who celebrated  
their 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in September  
Stacy Martin on her marriage to Eric Dykstra in  
October

### *Welcome to our new member...*

Max Stwertka

Your 'nachas' is our 'nachas'! Email any good news you would like to share with the congregation to [jschachter@tsinai.org](mailto:jschachter@tsinai.org).

If you or someone you know is ill or going through difficult times, please call the Temple office at 381-6890. Our clergy want to be there for those in need.



## Adult Education

*Adult Education in the Temple Sinai School of Life and Learning invites learners at all stages, novice to "seasoned," to forge connections through group exploration of Jewish texts and topics.*

Last month saw not only an election but the election of about a dozen people, congregants and guests, to study Torah cantillation (trope) with Cantor Braun. The four-week class was spirited and joyous, with participants taking turns modeling their new cantillation skills in an intimate, comfortable Zoom environment. Cantor Braun taught the major trope patterns and, importantly, positioned participants to explore additional, less frequent, patterns independently. There are preliminary stirrings to form a leyning (chanting) club in order to consolidate knowledge, practice in a safe environment and empower more people to chant Torah publicly. If you are interested in joining such a group, please reach out!

This month, AdultED offers two opportunities for engagement. In the first, "Language and Culture Through Israeli Television," instructor Rami Katz will use popular Israeli TV shows including, for example "Srugim" (available on Amazon Prime Video), commonly touted as "Israeli 'Friends,'" to teach Hebrew vocabulary, expressions and grammar, and to offer insights into Israeli society and culture. The program, which takes place Thursday, December 3, 7:30-8:30 p.m., on Zoom, is open to everyone, regardless of Hebrew proficiency. Come to learn some Hebrew; come to learn about Israel; come because Rami is a wicked funny guy! No pre-registration required; please see the temple website for Zoom link.

The second AdultED offering this month is a recapitulation of the wildly successful Elul Video Project. Because people reported really enjoying and appreciating the connection the videos fostered and the reflection they spurred, we're back for more! The Hanukkah Video Project will span the eight days of Hanukkah. Select congregants will film themselves reflecting on salient Hanukkah themes, spinning (like the dreidel pun?) their own interpretations of the themes, and applying the themes to their own lives. Their videos will invite us to approach our own candle lighting with intentionality and reflection. So be on the look-out for those the mornings of December 10 through 17.

Based on the success of Nora Rubel's discussion about Shtisel and this month's programming, if you'd like to see more discussions related to Israeli and Jewish pop culture, please let us know.

May your Hanukkah celebrations this year be filled with light and meaning!

**Susan Rizzo**, chair, AdultEducation  
[adulthood@tsinai.org](mailto:adulthood@tsinai.org), #GetAdultED



# CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

*Chanukah begins at sundown on Thursday, December 10*

## BACKGROUND:

Chanukah is a holiday commemorating the Jewish victory for religious freedom fought in 167 B.C.E. by the Maccabees in response to the Greek rule of the Jews, which had outlawed Jewish worship and rituals. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev, the Temple was taken back by the Maccabees and rededicated. The word Chanukah means dedication.

The holiday also celebrates the miracle described in the Gemara, which describes the story of a small cruse of oil found by the Maccabees miraculously lasting 8 days when there was only enough for one day. This reminds us of God's role in the miracles within our lives.

## TRADITIONS (MINHAG):

- Play the dreidel game: the dreidel has four sides, each bearing a Hebrew letter - nun, gimel, hey, and shin - the initials of "Ness Gadol Haya Sham" meaning "a great miracle took place there." Everyone in the game starts with 10-15 tokens (m&m's, pennies, etc). Each player puts one token in the middle. One player spins the dreidel at a time. The player does the following, depending on which letter lands face up:
  - Nun: (nothing) player does nothing
  - Gimel: (all) player takes everything in the middle
  - Heh: (half) player takes half of what is in the middle
  - Shin: (put in) player adds two tokens to the middle
- Eat latkes or soufganiyot (fried donuts)—each is made with oil to remind us of the miracle of the oil.
- Exchange gelt (money or chocolate coins) or gifts (this is a relatively new tradition).
- Sing songs: Maoz Tzur, Mi Yimalel, I Have a Little Dreidel, Oh Chanukah, or other songs.
- Discuss a Jewish theme of value each night as you light the candles (such as Heroism, Religious Freedom, Miracles, Dedication, Light, Family, Tzedakah, Tradition.)

## COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT):

**We light candles each night to celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days. We begin with one candle on the first night, and add one candle each night for eight nights. In addition, we light an extra candle each night, the *shamash*, which we use to light the other candles.**

**We place the candles in the Menorah from the right to the left, and light them from left to right, lighting the new candle first.**

**The following blessings are said each night with the lit *shamash* in hand, and the candles are lit immediately after reciting the blessings. The first two are recited every night during the candle lighting ceremony. The third is traditionally recited at the beginning of all festivals. The third blessing is only recited on the first night.**

1. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tsivanu, l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified our lives through Your commandments, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

2. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam she'asa nisim la'avoteinu ba'yamim ha'heym bazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors, in those days, in this season.

3. *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam shehecheeyanoo, v'keey'manoo v'heegeeyanoo lazman hazeh*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for helping us to reach this moment.

**HOW TO CELEBRATE AT TEMPLE SINAI**  
(Check the temple website at [tsinai.org](http://tsinai.org) for up-to-date information):

- Live Zoom candle lighting each night
- Chanukah Choral Shabbat on December 11
- Chanukah craft and story on Zoom on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Come make a delicious dreidel!
- Religious School children will celebrate virtually on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>
- Chanukah Drive By Parade on Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>



## Social Action Committee Sponsors Discussion of James Baldwin and Race in America

The Social Action Committee's initiative to promote understanding of what it has meant to be black in the United States continues on December 1 at 7:00 p.m. with a discussion of the writer and activist James Baldwin. The conversation will focus on the 2016 film "I Am Not Your Negro," created by Raoul Peck and narrated by Samuel Jackson, which powerfully draws on Baldwin's own words to depict struggles for racial justice in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century America. Participants should view the film—available on Netflix and through the Rochester Public Library and Kanopy—before the program. Congregants Joanie Rubin and Dan Borus, both affiliated with the University of Rochester Department of History, will lead the discussion. They encourage participants to supplement the film with Baldwin's brief essay, "A Letter to My Nephew," online at progressive.org and reprinted in Baldwin's book *The Fire Next Time*. Everyone who wishes to talk about these urgent, vital issues is welcome to join, whether or not they have had a chance to examine the film and the reading. To access this event via the temple website.

## Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action

We are proud that Temple Sinai (along with nearly 40 other local houses of worship) has been a steward of the earth, supporting local, solar energy and also a steward of our congregation saving us over \$1000 in the past year on our utility bill.

Subscribing to community solar is probably the easiest thing that an individual or small commercial institution can do to support the clean energy transition but it can seem confusing or like a gimmick to some.

That is why the Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA) is devoting the next installment in their Virtual Summit: Words of Spirit Ways of Action, to a webinar on Community Solar. Please join us on December 8 at 7 p.m. Visit <https://www.raica.net/event-details/community-solar> to sign up.

Ampion, one of the local companies offering Community Solar will explain how individuals and small businesses can benefit from clean, renewable energy without any upfront cost and nothing to install. There is no obligation, but for those interested we encourage you to have your utility bill on hand. Support will be available to walk you through the sign-up process at the end of the call.

For more information go to [www.RAICA.net](http://www.RAICA.net).

## The Shabbat Sweet Spin: Delicious Marshmallow Dreidel Delights to Make

**Saturday, December 12**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**CALLING ALL YOUNGSTERS AND YOUNG-AT-HEART CONGREGANTS:** Join us for a fun filled hour of marshmallow dreidel making and storytelling by accessing the Zoom link on our website.

It's simple! Have the ingredients and utensils ready and follow the directions as they are demonstrated on Zoom. We're looking forward to seeing you. Guaranteed to be a good time!

### Marshmallow Dreidel Recipe

(Makes 12 but can make a lesser amount)

#### Ingredients

- 8 oz. chocolate chips or 8 oz. blue candy wafers (available at Michaels)
- 12 Hershey Kisses
- 12 regular size marshmallows
- Snyder Dipping Pretzels (or pretzel sticks)
- 1 tube of white gel for writing

#### Utensils

Microwavable bowl, spatula, wooden spoon, tray or large plate to hold all the dreidels, parchment paper or waxed paper, small knife

#### Directions

- Melt chocolate or candy wafers in a microwave safe bowl for intervals of 1 minute on 50% power, stirring frequently, until melted.
- Dip bottom end of a candy kiss into the melted chocolate and place in the center of one end of a marshmallow. Place each marshmallow on a waxed paper covered plate or tray.
- Place in refrigerator for 10-15 minutes to set.
- Cut a small slit in the bottom of each marshmallow. Insert a pretzel stick in each slit.
- Reheat the melted candy (if necessary) for 30 seconds on 50% power and stir. Add canola oil, one capful at a time if the melted candy is too thick for dipping.
- Holding onto the pretzel, dip each marshmallow into the melted candy until covered. Place side down on the wax paper covered plate. Place in refrigerator for 10 minutes until set
- Using the tube of white gel, write one Hebrew letter on up to three sides.

Enjoy this delicious dreidel!!



# HIGH HOLY DAYS APPEAL

*I want to express my deep appreciation to you, our Temple Sinai family for your generous response to the 2020 High Holy Days Annual Appeal. Thank you for helping to build and ensure the strength of our vibrant community into the future! -- Keith Greer*

*A special thanks to the following Temple members who have so generously donated to the Temple Sinai High Holy Days Appeal. (October 11 thru November 10, 2020)*

## *A donation has been made by...*

Rebecca Drayer  
Vicki & Thomas Finnefrock  
Carol & Michael Yunker  
Jeffrey & Janice Feldman  
Joel & Ann Shamaskin  
Joseph & Elise Wojciechowski  
Karen Altman  
Pamela Leve  
Peter & Susan Bondy  
Remy & Marilyn Fenster  
Sanford & Jill Miller  
Wayne & Susan Willis

## *In appreciation of...*

Rabbi Katz, by Ann & Bruce Leonard  
Rabbi Till, Cantor Braun, the Board of Trustees and the High Holy Days team, by Lester & Monika Katzel  
RAIHN, by Robert & Janice Daitz  
Rick and Susan Post Rizzo for their generosity, creativity, patience, and commitment to preserving (in a new way) some of what is best about Temple Sinai's High Holiday services, by Tziporah Rosenberg

## *In honor of...*

All involved in the innovative & inspiring 2020 High Holy Days services, by Jill Orbach  
Our grandchildren - Ethan, Penny, Daniel & Miriam, by Ronald & Karen Newman  
Temple Sinai & Joyce Schachter for all of her COVID care, by Rozanne Marcus

## *In memory of...*

Jack & Evelyn Frishman and Toby & Irving Glasner, by Alan & Ronny Frishman  
Lewis & Marian Eckstein, by Audrey Sussman  
Irma Lee Rosenthal, by Bernard Rosenthal  
Stanley Schachter, Belle & Henry Stein, by Charles & Joyce Schachter  
Anne & Seymour Ginsburg, by Gary Ginsburg  
Marshall Spiller, by James Spiller & Anne Macpherson  
Ronie Feiner, by Kenneth & Beth Rabinowitz  
Abraham & Betty Rifkin, by Marsha Rifkin & Abigail Urban-Rifkin  
Donald Hiller, by Nancy Hiller  
My parents & sister, by Pauline Rosenberg  
Evan Cherkasky, Paul Cherkasky & George Adler, by Peggy Cherkasky



We would like to add to Monika Katzel's list of thank yous for all the Temple mitzvah makers and other community members that made it possible through

their generous donations to contribute nearly \$4,000 towards meals for hospital workers in NYC during March and April. In addition, donations were made to provide cloth masks in memory of Betty McCollum, a colleague of Nancy's who succumbed to COVID 19 on April 21, 2020. These donations along with many others across the country enabled us to make and ship over 1,000 masks, 300 medical caps (and counting) to NYC hospital workers and a Florida nursing home.

An enormous thank you to these temple Mitzvah Makers for their generous donations: Ralph Ellis and Alice Rudolph, Roseann Kraus,

Sydney Kraus Malett, Ann and Joel Shamaskin, Monika and Les Katzel, Rebecca Russo, Genevieve Russo, Sally and Sandy Constine, Steve and Susan Silbermann, Allen Handelman, Carol and Michael Yunker, and Arlene and Jerry Wiesenbergs.

A big thank you to community members Dr. Susie Strang who sewed surgical caps, Sew Creative Fabrics for providing a number of masks and thread, Chestnut Bay Quilting for providing bags of fabric and J. Madeline's Quilt shop for donating fabric worth several hundred dollars. A special thank you to Dr. Ann Shamaskin for stringing hundreds of masks with elastic before they were shipped to NYC in the midst of the pandemic. This has been and continues to be truly a community effort with many people donating time, effort and funds in the face of this pandemic.

*Nancy and Charlie Kantor*





## Contributions

*Todah Rabah to all those  
who remembered  
Temple Sinai when they  
remembered others*

### ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION FUND

#### *In Honor of*

**Joel and Anne Shamaskin, and their family,**  
by Shai & Sharon Shafrir

#### *In Memory of*

**Susan Platt,** by Lisa Altman, Gabriel & Cindy  
Geiger

**Abraham Auerbach,** by Karl Auerbach  
**Jacob Handelman,** by Noreen Salerno

A donation has been made and a Yahrzeit  
plaque purchased in memory of **Muriel  
Steinberg,** by Elizabeth Steinberg

### ADULT EDUCATION FUND

#### *In Honor of*

The **excellent programs** the committee has been  
leading, by The Fabers

### CANTOR BRAUN DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### *In Appreciation of*

**Cantor Braun** for her unending enthusiasm,  
creativity to include the musical talents of so  
many Temple members in our services, and  
the joy that she adds to each service, by Ellie  
Kriger

**Cantor Braun** for her tremendous work for  
Leila's Bat Mitzvah, by The Fabers

#### *In Memory of*

**Saul Skerker,** by Allan Skerker

### COLLEGE CONNECTION FUND

#### *In Memory of*

**Sanford Zeman,** by Paul & Marianne Weiser

### FLORAL FUND

#### *In Memory of*

**Ethel Rosen,** by Phyllis Rosen

### GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

#### *In Memory of*

**Dennis Drayer,** by Alan & Judy Wertheimer,  
Charles & Joyce Schachter, David Kotok &  
Wahyu Dilts

**Bima Dilts,** by Carol & Michael Yunker,  
Marvin & Loretta Friedman

**Evelyn Greenfield,** by Kevin Cavanagh & Carla  
Greenfield

**Julius Greenfield,** by Kevin Cavanagh & Carla  
Greenfield

#### *Wishing Mazal Tov to*

**Ed Muszynski & Bonnie Hughes** on the birth  
of their **grandson Mateo Oscar Del Balso,** by  
Wahyu Dilts & David Kotok

### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

#### *In Appreciation of*

**Rabbi Till; Cantor Braun; Student Rabbi  
Leah; Ilan Adar** and the rest of the **Hebrew  
school's professional staff; our Board  
President, Keith Greer,** and all of the **Board  
members; our amazing Temple office staff;  
all of the volunteers** who keep our Zoom  
sessions up and running and support our  
technology challenges; to our wonderful  
**custodial staff; and to anyone I may have  
missed,** by Ellie Kriger

**Democracy, Unity and the Power of Prayer,** by  
Ellie Kriger

**Esther Brill,** by Julie Alweis

**Rick Rizzo and Bruce Dunn** for their work in  
producing the High Holidays services, by  
Lisa Altman

#### *In Honor of*

The birth of **Herb & Fran Feinstein's grandson,  
Benjamin,** by Lester & Monika Katzel

The birth of **David & Denise Cyrkin's  
granddaughter, Claire,** by Lester & Monika  
Katzel

**Bev Groden,** by Warren & Joyce Heilbronner

#### *In Memory of*

**Yuda Gurevich,** by Grigoriy & Brokha  
Novozhenets, Zina Lyubchanskaya

**Fanya Shablya,** by Grigoriy & Brokha  
Novozhenets, Zina Lyubchanskaya

**Alex Novozhenets,** by Isaak & Nina Rivshin

**James Holzbach,** by Juliette Holzbach

**Dennis Drayer,** by Lester & Monika Katzel

**Sanford Zeman,** by Lester & Monika Katzel

**Naum Lyubchanskiy,** by Zina Lyubchanskaya

#### *With Loving Wishes to*

**Bonnie Hughes,** by Lester & Monika Katzel

### HHD MEMORIAL BOOKLET

#### *In Memory of*

**Hope Mann,** by Nancy and Russ Phelps



**JOEL BLOOM FUND***In Appreciation of*

**Temple Sinai** and the wonderful, hardworking gardeners, by Dama Jung

*In Honor of*

The Bar Mitzvah of **Marjorie Price's grandson, Ethan Rhodes**, by Jerome & Arlene Wiesenberg

*In Memory of*

**Louis Fraum**, by Bernice Fraum

**Max Schnoll**, by Bernice Schnoll Fraum

**Sylvia Schnoll**, by Bernice Schnoll Fraum

**Dennis Drayer**, by Jerome & Arlene Wiesenberg

**Paula Stoler**, by Jill Orbach

**Jane Blumoff**, by Jill Orbach

**Bima Dilts**, by Jill Orbach

**LIBRARY FUND***In Memory of*

**Samuel Paulin**, by Beverly & Marvin Groden

**Joe Groden**, by Beverly & Marvin Groden

**MITZVAH CONNECTION FUND***In Appreciation of*

Support at a difficult time, following the death of **Bima Dilts**, by Wahyu Dilts & David Kotok

*In Honor of*

**Marilyn Horowitz's** birthday, by Ellie Kriger

*In Memory of*

**Carol Robinson**, by Blanche and Ed Fenster

**Barbara Horwitz**, by Juliette Holzbach

**Dennis Drayer**, by Lori Conway

**Bima Dilts**, by Noreen Salerno, Sylvia Rose & Paul Rosenfeld

**MUSIC FUND***In Memory of*

**Dennis Drayer**, by Judy & Allan Schwartz, Marcia Elwitt

**NEXT STAGE FUND***In Memory of*

**Dennis Drayer**, by Herb and Francine Feinstein

**RABBI TILL DISCRETIONARY FUND***In Appreciation of*

**Rabbi Till** for inspiration, compassion and kindnesses always expressed in her D'var Torahs, by Ellie Kriger

**Rabbi Till**, by Jeffrey Wexler

**Rabbi Till** for her tremendous work for Leila's Bat Mitzvah, by The Fabers

*In Memory of*

**Saul Skerker**, by Allan Skerker

**Ernest Brownell, Jr.**, by Jay Supnick & Gail Brownell

**Isabelle Rosenbloom**, by Joe & Jeni Behrman

**Paula Stoler**, by Marcia and Paul Rothberg

**Dennis Drayer**, by Rebecca Drayer, Norm & Donna Lederman

**Mary Israel**, by Robert & Merilyn Israel

**Jack Bell**, by Lea Bell

**RAIHN FUND***In Memory of*

**Natalie Evelyn Teegarden**, by Carole & David Teegarden

**Bima Dilts**, by Lester & Monika Katzel

**Brian Salerno**, by Noreen Salerno

**SOCIAL ACTION FUND***In Memory of*

**Hope Mann**, by the Temple Mitzvah Connection

**SCHOOL 45 DONATION***In Memory of*

**Bertha Cohen**, by Peggy Cherkasky

**Evan Cherkasky**, by Peggy Cherkasky

**George Adler**, by Peggy Cherkasky

**WEINSTEIN-FINNEFROCK FUND***In Honor of*

**Myrna & Seymour Weinstein's** 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary, by Vicki & Tom Finnefrock

For information about these funds, go to our website:

[www.tsinai.org](http://www.tsinai.org) / About Us / Contributions /

Tributes received after the 10<sup>th</sup> of November will be acknowledged in the January bulletin

**High Holy Days Food Collection**

On Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Till urged us to contribute to the High Holy Days Food Drive and challenged us to support those having trouble in these difficult times. And we responded! Esti Kilimnick, Case Manager from Brighton Food Cupboard wrote to express her gratitude for the 2480 pounds of food donated on Yom Kippur. This is the largest collection that we have done in a very long time! Thanks to those who made the effort and took the time to make an extra trip to temple to fortify the supply at the Cupboard.

Our thanks go out to Mary Mansfield for organizing and Mary and Ilan Adar for collecting and loading the vehicles on Yom Kippur and for delivering the food to the Brighton Food Cupboard.



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## TEMPLE SINAI EVENING BOOK GROUP

Please join the group for a Zoom discussion on the following books in December and January.



Monday, December 14: Inheritance by Dani Shapiro

Monday, January 25: No Time For Tears by Cynthia Freeman\*

\*This book is over 600 pages long.  
Forewarned is forearmed!

## Rabbi Alan Katz

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

GALA  
event

Rescheduled Date:  
April 25, 2021

DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, DANCING

SAVE THE DATE