

The Bridge

December 2022, Beth El Congregation

A Message from our Rabbi

Hanukkah: The Creation of Joy

Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner

As the darkness of night in the winter season descends upon us earlier while the days grow shorter, many traditions incorporate themes of hope and rebirth as cathartic celebrations to fill the spirit with joy and anticipation to the return of life and brightness. When many species hibernate to escape the cold, dark days of winter, the human spirit captures the expectation of the return of the multitude of noises that fill the spring air. The majority of people in our culture, when asked what is the most joyous time of year, will assert with reverence that it is one in the same time when the daylight hours are fewest.

Humanity has created patterns of observance representing the uncertainties life beholds and our ritualized endeavors to master it. As we pass the autumnal equinox, the time when we forcibly bring darkness earlier by the movement of hands backwards on our timepieces, we displace the consequent anxiety of the unknowns in the dark and dress up as our favorite daunting creatures and sweeten our lives with treats for the children. As we move closer to the heart of winter we master the innate fear of scarce provisions with a bountiful meal centered around the largest foul with which we are familiar. And in our American culture, a syncretistic culture of blended backgrounds, most of those around us decorate the greenery of spring, brought into their homes and observe the festivals of lights, festivals determined to impose our will of hope and not succumb to the darkness of the solstice.

The traditions behind our own seasonal observances have no relationship to those of our neighbors. But we, too, celebrate a festival of lights as we light our menorahs each evening. We celebrate divine and human miracles. We have created a culture in which we have imbued in our children – indeed, even within us – the joyful anticipation in what otherwise would be the gloomiest season of the year. We have succeeded in conquering the fears of nature with the Will of God, and as night of Hanukkah approaches we anticipate that early arrival of nightfall each night for eight nights with eager anticipation of joy and celebration. Instead of anxiety we have imposed joy on the natural cycle. We have incorporated the love of God and the Jewish people and created joy where there should be gloom, light in the place of darkness. And by the time the holiday is over we witness the beginning of the return of longer days and the anticipation of life-blooming spring.

Our tradition teaches us that we elevate the mundane to the holy by bringing the beauty of our tradition to our everyday lives, and through this tradition we master the forces around us so that we know that meaning of life is entwined with our people and our relationship with God.

A Message from our President

I hope everyone had a great month

We are continuing to return from the Covid pandemic. Service on Friday nights have been well attended. Twice a month we are trying to have 2 sponsored Onegs following service. On the Friday nights where there is no sponsored Oneg, we always manage to find some leftovers to share. Please join when you can. When you can't, all Rabbi led services will continue to be live streamed so that everyone has the opportunity to "attend".

For the 1st time in three years, we are having a Chanukah dinner at the Temple. You should have all the information needed to attend. I'm hoping we will

have a good response to the dinner. Thank you Sisterhood for this and all you do.

On Thursday morning December 8th, the Men's Club is providing lunch at the Catholic Church for those in the area who are much less fortunate than us. I consider this a Mitzvah and we welcome anyone from the congregation who would like to help. Just let me know you would like to help. The time frame is 9:45-10:00 AM until about noon.

I will always be open to any suggestions on what we can do to make our "communal home" a good experience for everyone.

We have signed a new annual agreement with the Ashburn's. I personally want to thank Barbara and Clarence for ALL they do to keep the Temple **always** looking great. When you see them, let them know how much they are appreciated.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I know I have a lot to be thankful for including the honor of being your Congregational President. I'm thankful for having Rabbi K-L living in our community and for all of my fellow Board Members who make my job much easier. Thank you! It does "take a village" to keep the Temple running smoothly. With the year coming to an end, I want to wish everyone a healthy and safe end of the year and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. Be safe.

Have a great month everyone!!!

December Yahrzeits

1
Sadye Spiro 1953 Member

3
Alfred Ney 1954 Member
(Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandfather)

4
Mona Weiss 2014 Ron Rubin's Sister

5
Anna Bloom 1932
Elizabeth Levey

6
Sebastion Goldsmith 1929 Member
Albert Klingstein 1957

8
Mollie Katzen 1986 Member

9
Max Frankel 1980 Member
Elaine Trubitz 1983 Mark Trubitz' Mother

12
Rabbi Jacob Schvanenfeld
Barnett Nelson
Molly Feig Betty Nemoytin's Mother

13
Bertha Schvanenfeld 1948 Rabbi's Wife
Roselea Kohen 1998 Andy Kohen's Mother
Shirley Merlin 2014 Member

14
Simon Wender 1976 Member

16
Agnes Moore Cleda Frankel's Mother
William A Loewner 1980 Member (Austin)
Simon Oestreicher 1918 Member

17
Carl Ney 1967 Member

18

Louis Hamburg
Rhoda Mintzer

21

Esther Derechinsky Max's Mother

22

Sarah Rabinowitz Josh Robinson's Grandmother
Gladys Ney 1984 Member
Rabbi Burton Padoll 2004
(Life Member Sheila Padoll's Husband)

23

Albert H Ash 1946 Eddie Ney's Grandfather

24

Nace Cohen
Irma Nemoytin 2018

25

Theresa Hirsh 1952 Member

26

Amelia L Figgatt 1980 Member (Mimi)
Mal Mintzer
Joshua Rader Stein Roberta Stein's Son

27

Annie Robinson 1949 Member Josh Robinson's
Aunt

28

Josephine Metzger 1928 Member

29

Pearl Rachel Katzen
Joseph Howard Rubin 1988 Ron Rubin's Father

30

Eddie Ney 1940 Member Eddie Ney's
Grandfather
Doris Kalman Brian Kalman's Mother
Bertha Hammer 1957 Member

31

Lenora Myerberg 1997 Member
Sarah Miller 1989 Member

Recent Donations

Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit – Annie Ney
Judith Freudenthal – New Mahzor
Mary Handley – New Mahzor
Arnold Kahn & Ellie Swecker – 2 New Mahzors
George Harris – General Donation
Douglas & Ellen Stein – Yahrzeit Evonne
Schecter (Sherri Alt's Aunt)
Elliott & Thea Golub – New Mahzor's – 2 Books
Peter & Linda Kohn – New Mahzor – 1 Book
Catherine Rogers – Yahrzeit – In memory of her
father
Allan Poster – Yahrzeits – Evan Poster, Edward
Poster; Rose Carr
Pam Ungar – 2 New Mahzors
Ron Rubin - Yahrzeits – Mona Weiss – Sister;
Howard Rubin – Father

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BETH EL CONGREGATION

DEC 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
				Men's Club Vinny's Italian Restaurant 6:00 pm	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
	04	05	06	07	08	09
Religious School 9:30 am		Crash Course in Jewish History 7:00 pm Zoom	Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Men's Club Spaghetti Lunch at Catholic Church for Friendship House Ministries – Congregation welcome 9:45am-12:00pm Details in Scoop	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Board Meeting 6:30 pm Zoom also	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
Torah Tots 10:30am						
Sisterhood "It's Not Chanukah" Dinner 5:00 pm						
	18	19	20	21	22	23
1 st Night of Chanukah	2 nd Night of Chanukah	3 rd Night of Chanukah	4 th Night of Chanukah	5 th Night of Chanukah	6 th Night of Chanukah Lay Services 7:30 pm	7 th Night of Chanukah
Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town
	25	26	27	28	29	30
Last Night of Chanukah					Lay Services 7:30 pm	
Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town
						31