

DECEMBER TEMPLE e-NEWSLETTER

Happy Hanukkah ** Services on Friday, December 18

(even though the 8th and last night is Dec. 17, if you still have candles, we encourage you to join in the community lighting with each of our Hanukkihs at our Dec. 18 service).

Chag Chanukah Sameach! Message from Rabbinic Intern Tzvia Rubens

Shalom,

Chanukah is officially here. With it comes the delicious latkes, sufganiyot, and gelt. We spin the dreidels and find out which family members are the most competitive. The story of Chanukah is a fascinating one. The story begins where most stories end. The battle was lost, the Greeks had desecrated our Temple by sacrificing pigs. We were Hellenized. The story *should* end there. However, we Jews are a tenacious group. We never accept 'no' as our answer. When we lost our Temple, instead of giving in to despair we rose up and fought back for it.

Even in the darkest of days, when hope seemed to escape us, we were determined to bring back the light. We rose up in numbers, and lead by the heroic Judah Maccabee fought to reclaim the Temple. Then, of course, there is the iconic miracle of the oil lasting 8 days so that the oil supplies could be replenished, so that the Nir Tamid, the eternal flame, could remain lit. Now, we celebrate Chanukah by lighting our Chanukiot and reminding ourselves of this great miracle.

Interestingly, Chanukah is celebrated for 8 days, much like the holiday of Sukkot. This is by no means a coincidence. The Rabbis saw that during the war, the Jews of Judea were unable to celebrate Sukkot, so, when they once more had control of their land, they established Chanukah as a second Sukkot if you will. Celebrating it for 8 days, being with family, and welcoming guests to our houses by putting our Chanukiot in the windows, are all very similar to Sukkot.

This feels very much like our year now. We did not get to celebrate Sukkot in the traditional way this year. Our society dictated that it was not safe. Now, here we are, ready to light our candles, looking at the year to come. Many of us will wonder what else will be different. What other traditions that we hold dear will we be asked to sacrifice in the name of safety? However, we must not let our despair overwhelm the light that the candles provide us with these 8 days. We must look at the light as a symbol of hope, that even in our darkest hours, we will prevail. Just as Judah Maccabee lifted his sword and shield to reclaim our traditions, so must we do what we can to spread light to those who need it.

At our next service, we will begin in song together. Even though Chanukah will have just ended, we will sing songs of the miracle that God provided for us. We will also light our Chanukiot as a community, bringing in the light. During the service, we will not have a Torah reading, but we will go into breakout rooms. **The questions for this upcoming service will be: In what ways do you spread light to those around you? And, what is the message of Chanukah mean to you?**

Chag Chanukah Sameach – May we all find the light during these darkest days,

Tzvia

Thank you for your support!

Hillary B. Zimmerman

Neal, Lauren and Jason Schmidt in memory of her parents and her cousin Robyn.

Cory & Sharon Lemmon

Martha Moody Jacobs given in honor of Eileen Litchfield's work

Thank you to the Temple Mitzvah Fund for the Hanukkah Surprise bags and to the delivery people: Karen Bowman, Brenda Peck, Eileen Litchfield, Judy Feinstein And thank you to **Connie Hornung**, Temple Shaare Zedek, Lima, President for the Hanukkah Gift Bag Delivery (done with modifications). Please see the attached photo. This was well received by the members.

MISHEBERACH: *Prayers for healing to*

Meredith Carpe, Fred Freed, Carol Polino, Shelley Roberts, Mike Swanger

Yahrzeits for December: *May their Memory be for a Blessing*

Charles Bailen, Herman Barr, Harvey Buller, Lila Murstein Freed, Saul Goodman, Jack James II, Erving Kastner, Howard Kastner, Nathan Katz, Frieda Kramer, Teddie Litchfield, Fannie Louis, Ruth Louis, Elliott Murstein, Janet Foster Sylva, Arthur Wilner, Barbara Young and Jacob Zimmerman

CONGREGATION ANSHE EMETH AND HANUKKAH FEATURED IN THE DAILY ADVOCATE (GREENVILLE NEWSPAPER).

Thanks, Carol Marsh!

Please see attached photo

How do I get on Zoom for Services???:

1. Go to Zoom and enter the **Meeting ID: 810 4667 9632, Passcode: Shalom 5781**

OR

2. Join Zoom Meeting **LINK** for all upcoming services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81046679632?pwd=WGpGQnM1cTJDOXZqVHhpT2Rabmttdz09>

3. **OR**

Dial from any phone

929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 810 4667 9632 # Passcode: Shalom 5781 #

