

## **ANSHE EMETH E-NEWSLETTER – HAPPY HANUKKAH!**

### **Friday, December 8, Hanukkah 2<sup>nd</sup> Night! In-person and on Zoom.**

6 p.m. \* Soup and Latke Supper, Dreidel Playing & Gelt

7:30 p.m. \* Shabbat Service with Oneg to Follow (Sufganiyot and more!)

*Please bring your Hanukkiah and candles to light up the sanctuary.*

*Thanks to Gary and DeDe Shuchat for the Hanukkah decorations.*

### **Wednesday, December 6, Jewish Decisions at the End of Life, a Zoom program,**

**7 p.m.** Pre-registration required. This is being sponsored by the Jewish Community Legacy Project. Our congregation is a part of this group of small congregations.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsd-uqrj0jGdDCeZYGRByl3ADqmzjJtBHI>

### **Yahrzeit's for December... of Blessed memory:**

**Charles Bailen, Herman Barr, Harvey Buller, Lila Murstein Freed, Saul Goodman, Howard Kastner Erving Kastner, Nathan Katz, Frieda Kramer, Teddie Litchfield, Fannie Louis, Ruth Louis, Elliott Murstein, Mark Schaffer, Brian Stuckey, Arthur Willner, Jacob Zimmerman.**

### **Israel:**

#### ***Greetings to Children in Israel – by Judy Feinstein***

Our children will be sending messages and books to 4 children in Israel. Their American mothers are related to a friend of ours. Their Israeli fathers are currently serving in the military. This Hanukkah seems like a good time to send something special to Israeli families.

#### ***News about Israel & the Jewish World***

Dayton Jewish Observer Editor, Marshall Weiss, notes: “News has been carefully vetted from a variety of reliable news outlets.” Go to [facebook.com/TheDaytonJewishObserver](https://facebook.com/TheDaytonJewishObserver)

**MisheBerach – Prayers for Healing:**

**Neal Schmidt, Sharon Lemmon, Terry Livingston**

**Message from Rabbinic Intern Gretchen Johnson:**

Dear Congregation of Anshe Emeth:

In Vayishlach, our Torah reading for the first Shabbat in November, Jacob returns to Canaan twenty-two years after Jacob stole Esau's blessing and fled for fear that Esau would take vengeance. Jacob sent messengers ahead with placating words for Esau, and the messengers returned to say that Esau was on the way to meet Jacob with 400 men. Genesis 32:8 says, "Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed..." In Genesis: The Book of Beginnings, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks quotes Bereshit Raba 76:2: "Are not fear and distress identical? The meaning, however, is that "he was afraid" that he might be killed; "he was distressed" that he might kill. For Jacob thought: If he prevails against me, will he not kill me; while if I prevail against him, will I not kill him?" Jewish law permits self defense and also permits killing a pursuer to save the life of the intended victim. However, 17<sup>th</sup> century commentator Rabbi Shabbetai Bass argues that even in these circumstances Jews are required to use the minimum necessary force. According to Rabbi Bass, "If the pursued could have been saved by maiming a limb of the pursuer, but instead the rescuer killed the pursuer, the rescuer is liable to capital punishment on that account. Hence Jacob feared that, in the confusion of battle, he might kill some of Esau's men when he might have restrained them merely by inflicting injury on them."

Of course, not every Jewish commentator interprets the limits on permissible violence as strictly as Rabbi Bass. Realistically, in the confusion of battle it is not possible to use the exact minimum amount of violence necessary or to avoid all collateral damage. On a national scale, the calculation of how much violence is necessary is very complicated. The fact remains that Judaism does not rejoice in violence. In a speech given a few months after the Six Day War in 1967, Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin said, "We find more and more a strange phenomenon among our fighters. Their joy is incomplete, and more than a small portion of sorrow and shock prevails in their festivities, and there are those who abstain from celebration. The warriors in the front lines saw with their own eyes not only the glory of victory but the price of victory: their comrades who fell beside them bleeding, and I know that even the terrible price which our enemies paid touched the hearts of many of our men. It may be that the Jewish people has never learned or accustomed itself to feel the triumph of conquest and victory, and therefore we receive it with mixed feelings." It is in this spirit that our Rabbis chose to make

Hannukah a celebration not of the Maccabees' victory over the Syrian Greeks, but of the seemingly small miracle of the persistence of light.

To Jacob's great surprise, the story of Jacob and Esau ended with no violence at all. Instead, their story concluded in forgiveness, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. Right now it is hard to imagine such a happy ending in Israel, but keeping hope alive, over millennia if necessary, is something our people is very good at. We keep hope alive on Hannukah when we sing "Not by might, & not by power, but by spirit alone ("ruach"! ) shall we all live in peace." I am also reminded of these words from a song by Carrie Newcomer:

And it will take a change of heart for this to mend

It will take a change of heart for this to mend

But miracles do happen every shining now and then

If not now, if not now, tell me when?

Shabbat Shalom,

Gretchen Johnson

**Other fun Hanukkah activities:**

Beth Jacob – Music with the Menorahs, Saturday, December 9 at 7 p.m. Lighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle of their outsider menorah followed by lighting your own menorahs inside (bring your favorite menorah along with candles) followed by Hanukkah activities inside.

**JOIN IN PERSON OR ZOOM.... ZOOM LINK HERE:**

**To Join Zoom**

**Service:**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

**Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:**

**Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092**

**Or simply dial by your location: 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #Passcode: 0092 and push #

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