

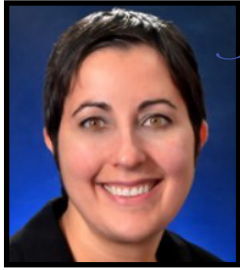
the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

December 2020

Kislev/Tevet 5781



from the desk of
Rabbi Nadia Siritsky,
LCSW, BCC

Hanukkah: A Time for Light
and Miracles

We all know the story... a little bit of light, only enough oil for one day, miraculously lasting for eight days...just enough time for the Maccabees to make more...so that they could rededicate (Hanukkah=Hebrew for dedication) the Temple by rekindling the Eternal Light in front of the Holy of Holies...

The Maccabees, small in number but mighty in spirit, who bravely summoned their might and courage to defeat the massive Seleucid Empire against all odds...and had just recaptured their beloved Temple, in Jerusalem, that had been overrun by pigs and ancient Greek gods...the battle-weary Maccabees who were trying to sweep it clean from all the broken glass and the remnants of what had once been their sacred and holy space...

One can only imagine how exhilarated but exhausted they must have been, and then the crushing devastation of entering that once sacred space, hallowed by generations of memories and thousands upon thousands of people, praying, crying, rejoicing...to find the Eternal Light, representing G'd's abiding presence, extinguished, pigs roaming freely, and much worse...

To start again, when we feel empty...to be pushed to the end of one's rope, and to be forced to keep going...to push past one's limits...to go beyond what one thinks is possible, and to keep going, trying, starting over even when there is

no logical and rational way for it to be possible... to see the darkness of the Temple, the broken glass, and to find the strength, nevertheless, to rekindle that lamp, even when there is barely any oil...to do it anyway...to keep trusting... to keep trying...forcing one's self to do the irrational...reaching deep into the depths of one's being to try...to believe...to kindle light...

This is Hanukkah...it is the triumph of the Will... it is the ability to go past one's limits and keep going...it is the faith to kindle Light even when it seems evident that it will be extinguished immediately...it is clinging to hope even when everything is telling you to give up....

Hanukkah...it comes at the darkest time of the year...it is the reminder that when we are bathed in darkness, we must kindle light...when we want to give up, we must push ourselves past our desire to give up and find the strength to search out light...and then to place that light at the window...to share that light with someone else...to remind others, who are lost in the darkness...that miracles are possible...that we have experienced miracles before and that they can happen again...but only if we do our part...

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister famously said: "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles". And indeed, Israel is another example of this same indomitable spirit, this unique mixture of hope and faith, of tenacity and audacious courage, that is the essence of the Jewish spirit...the essence of Hanukkah...that is best expressed in our national anthem: Hatikvah (=the hope).

Because this Hanukkah spirit is what animated those first brave pioneers, who had survived the Holocaust, working themselves beyond human limits, pushing past all odds, defying everything,

THE SHOFAR

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Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month which precedes the month of the publication. Late submissions will be held for the following issue.

only to brave the journey to the promised land and to drain the swamps and plant trees in the desert and extend olive branches to those who declared war against them and vowed to drive them into the sea...and to nevertheless keep trying...to keep planting trees despite how many times those who hated them would burn down their forests and much worse...

This is Hanukkah...the triumph of the spirit... the ability to keep forging forward when every part of you says, give up...this is Hanukkah... to kindle light when you know it will be extinguished and to see a flame last longer than it should and to recognize it as a miracle...

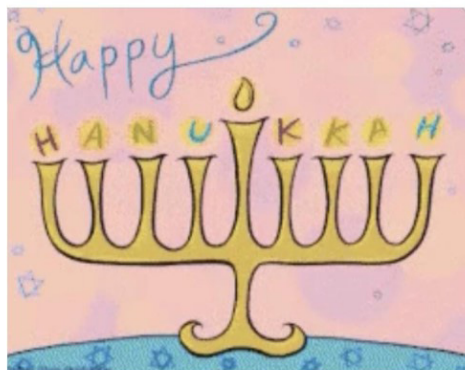
No less than Moses stood at that bush in the desert...that bush that was burning as likely many bushes did burn in the desert...and to stop and watch...always looking for a miracle...and to recognize that this bush was not consumed by the fire...how many bushes had he stopped at before he heard a Voice that changed history for us all? And so it is that it is 2020...and many of us are weary...and many of us want to give up...and many of us have begun to wonder if Light and hope and miracles are still possible...and many of us may be struggling...many of us are trying to make ends meet against all odds...and many of us are praying that a few drops of oil will last...a few dollars can somehow be enough to feed a family and keep a roof over their heads...

For those of us who have any light...any ability to give...however little it may seem...now is the season to trust that even the smallest amount can be someone else's miracle....There are many ways to give light...from reaching out to someone we have not spoken to in ages...to donating to a fund like the Murray Weiss Fund which was specifically created for times like these...so that those who are struggling can be blessed with miracles...

This Hanukkah, may we be amongst those who kindle light and remind others that miracles are possible...May this season renew our faith and strength, our courage and our will...and may we share what light and hope that we have with all those that we encounter...for who knows what history is waiting to be written by one who is able to discern the sacred power of Light that others discount?



from the President, Ruth Kurlandsky



Welcome to winter? Although it's warm here, Hanukkah is coming. When I wrote about this last year, I was told that this eight day holiday is spelled Chanukah, at least for the TBY Shofar. Hanukkah is the spelling I grew up with, so I loved this greeting cartoon above when I came upon it, and thought I'd share it with you. In the meantime, here is the really correct spelling:

חַנּוּכָּה

These letters are Chet, Nun, Chaf, Hay, in case you want to know. It might be good for a trivia contest some day!

There is not much news, as you might imagine, on the re-opening front. The spread of Covid-19 is ongoing, and we are going to do our best to stay as safe as possible. There are lots of prayers on the internet, in case you feel the need. If you specify Jewish in your search, ones relevant to Jewish life show up. I came across this personal modification of our traditional MiSheberach, the prayer for healing, and decided to offer it here:

May the one who blessed our ancestors bless and heal those who are sick, suffering, and dying. May the one who blessed our ancestors give me strength to continue on, day by day, one foot in front of the next, with my intention set on doing everything within my power to contribute to the process of global healing. May that healing come in whatever forms are most needed. May we all be blessed. And let us say: Amen.

If you'd like to see the article and the author's explanation of how this prayer came to her, click here: <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/belief/articles/prayer-for-pandemic-times>

Last, but not least, consider this if you need a gift idea:



In Memoriam

December 1st, Sara Boyarsky,

Mother of Cherie Hamilton

December 2nd, Ida Wosnitzer,

Aunt of Jackie Witte

December 3rd, Anne Cohen,

Mother of Mark Cohen

December 3rd, Louise Duke,

Mother of Ellen Mensh

December 3rd, Geri D. Lindsley,

Sister of Iris Goldstone

December 3rd, Elsbeth Moss,

Aunt of Chuck Meiselman

December 3rd, Adel Extrowich Rosenthal,

Mother of William Rosenthal

December 3rd, Russell Selig,

Father of Karen Selig

December 4th, William Drimmer,

Great Uncle of Terre Wallach &

Barbara Carman

December 4th, Eva Pinsker,

Mother of Clive Pinsker

December 5th, Stephen Duke,

Brother of Ellen Mensh

December 5th, Agnes Fargis,

Grandmother of Merrie Meiselman

December 5th, Selena Jane Siegel,

Daughter of Rosalie Siegel

December 5th, Isadore Simon,

Father of Bruce Simon

December 6th, Mary Strum,

Grandmother of Larry Kurlandsky

December 7th, Henry Miller,

Father of Harold Miller

December 8th, Martha Greenfield,

Mother of Paul Greenfield

December 9th, Todd Dinsmore,

Son-in-law of Isabel Sherman

December 10th, Sylvia Schachnovsky,

Mother of David Schachnovsky

December 10th, Lena Strock,

Grandmother of Rabbi Fred Raskind

December 11th, Cecelia Berman,

Mother-in-law of Sara Berman

December 11th, Trudy Carman,

Mother-in-law of Barbara Carman

December 12th, Heimie Eskowitz,

Father-in-law of Arnie Levine

December 12th, Bernard Grolman,

Father of Ellen Grolman

December 12th, Irving Smith,

Grandfather of Barbara Molinari

December 13th, Zelda Byer,

Aunt of Chuck Meiselman

December 13th, Elliot Stone,

Husband of Min Stone

December 14th, Edward Drimmer,

Grandfather of Terre Wallach &

Barbara Carman

December 15th, Elliott Carman,

Husband of Barbara Carman

December 15th, Rose Eskowitz,

Mother-in-law of Arnie Levine

December 15th, Lena Simon,

Grandmother of Bruce Simon

December 16th, Jean Emerick,

Aunt of Dinah McNamara

December 16th, Reuben Feirman,

Father of Leon Feirman

December 17th, Seymour Stoll,

Father of Ellen Miller

December 17th, Sylvia Strock,

Aunt of Rabbi Fred Raskind

December 19th, Leo M. McCarthy,

Father of Leo McCarthy

December 19th, Morton Swickle,

Father of Jane Seiden

December 20th, Murray Carman,

Father-in-law of Barbara Carman

December 20th, Cary David Yales,

Husband of Bonnie Yales-Gibson

December 22nd, Pearl Case,

Sister of Mimi Selig

December 22nd, Melanie Perretti,

Grandmother of Jen Sherman

December 23rd, Clara Fisher,

Grandmother of Sharon Rice

In Memoriam Continued

December 23rd, Michael Satz,

Father of Phyllis Greenfield

December 23rd, Fredrica B. Shartin,

Mother of Iris Goldstone

December 24th, Max Marsh,

Father of Janice Angorn

December 25th, Michele Miller,

Daughter of Phyllis and Paul Greenfield

December 26th, S. Harry Meiselman,

Uncle of Chuck Meiselman

December 26th, Beatrice Saslafsky,

Mother of Ileine Hoffman

December 27th, Louis Henkin,

Grandfather of Bruce Simon

December 28th, Mildred Smith,

Grandmother of Gale Zucker

December 28th, Robert Sorkin,

Husband of Nancy Sorkin

December 28th, Helen Steinberg,

Grandmother of Carol Levy

December 29th, Herman Lavenberg,

Grandfather of Barbara Kushner

December 29th, Marvin Strum,

Uncle of Larry Kurlandsky

December 30th, Doris Levi,

Mother of Barbara Rogove

December 30th, Joseph Sukel,

Grandfather of Debra Morris

May their memory be a blessing

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam

General Fund

Paul & Phyllis Greenfield - In memory of friend Marc Gladstone & stay well wishes to Carol Gladstone; happy grandparent wishes to Robert Dawkins & Laura Weiss

Marcia Rector - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Shelly & Marty Cohen - In honor of Barbara Rogove's special birthday

Phyllis & Maury Keiser - In honor of OSU & Penn State for Big 10 Football

Carol & Bernie Levy - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Ellen & Myron Mensh - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Terri & Sheldon Beasley - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Nancy Sorkin - In memory of Marc Gladstone; in honor of special birthdays of Barbara Rogove and Shelly Cohen; in honor of birth of new granddaughter for Robert Dawkins & Laura Weiss

Flagler Hospital Rehab Department - In memory of Marc Gladstone from Lisa Black's Flagler Hospital Rehab Department work family

Lisa Brousseau - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Donations Continued

KeHE Distributors - In memory of Marc Gladstone, from coworkers of Marc's daughter Amy Powers at KeHE Distributors

Sharon & Rod Rice - In memory of Marc Gladstone - with deepest sympathy for his family

Susan & Ron Elinoff - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Carol Gladstone - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Shirley Rudnick - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Patricia Stamm - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Religious School Fund

Phyllis & Maury Keiser - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Andi & Joe Marx - In memory of Marc Gladstone, Irmgard Marx, Mother of Joe and Robert Leibowitz, Father of Andi

Education Tuition Fund

Carman Rivas

Non Member High Holiday Fund

Ron & Deb Price

Rabbinic Leadership Fund

Earl & Maggie Brown - In honor of the Gladstone & Black families for their sterling contributions to TBYS & in memory of Marc Gladstone

Barbara & Art Rogove - In honor of Shelly Cohen's special birthday; in memory of Marc Gladstone

Bobbi Carman - In memory of Elliott Carman, husband of Barbara Carman & Edward Drimmer, grandfather of Barbara Carman & Terre Wallach

Murray Weiss Fund

Meri & Leo McCarthy - In memory of Meri's mother Pauline Diamond & Marc Gladstone

Ileine & Harvey Hoffman - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Bernice Cruise - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Ellen & Harold Miller - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Bobbi Carman - In memory of Marc Gladstone and Trudy Carman, mother-in-law and Murray Carman, father-in-law of Barbara Carman; in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Barbara & Art Rogove's grandson and the new granddaughter of Robert Dawkins & Laura Weiss

Cathy & David Kasriel - In memory of Marc Gladstone

Jacqueline Witte - In memory of Marc Gladstone & Ida Wasnitzer

Donations Continued

Sanctuary Fund

Terre Wallach - In honor of Laura Weiss & Robert Dawkins new granddaughter; Shelly Cohen's special birthday; Barbara & Art Rogove's grandson's Bar Mitzvah; in memory of Marc Gladstone

JNF Trees Fund

Shelly & Marty Cohen - In memory of Marc Gladstone
 Ellie Sussman - In memory of Marc Gladstone
 Toby & Stan Weintraub - In memory of Marc Gladstone
 Diana Azpiazu - In memory of Harry Terris

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Carol Gladstone with love and gratitude to Rabbi Nadia and the loving congregation of TBY

Prayer Book Fund

Jackie Witte - In memory of Maurice Aronowitz, brother of Jacqueline Witte

Musical Program Expenses Fund

Dinah McNamara

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee would like to thank Rabbi Nadia for leading an inspirational and meaningful Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. There were eleven different speakers from varying faith communities plus several musical offerings, including two by the TBY Choir, which made for an inclusive service. We would also like to thank all the TBY Congregants who attended the service for your support.

Another Interfaith event around Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday is in the planning stage so watch for details.

Dining With Dignity is still operating under pandemic guidelines and still needs your help with food donations. Please check the DWD spreadsheet on-line to see what our needs are for any given month. Thanks to all who have donated in the past.



Let's Celebrate!

December Anniversaries

December 19th, Phyllis & Leon Feirman, 55th anniversary

December 24th, Phyllis & Maury Keiser, 59th anniversary

December 28th, Toby & Stan Weintraub, 68th anniversary

December Birthdays

December 2nd, Meri McCarthy

December 4th, Gary Feldman

December 4th, Steven Rich

December 6th, Nancy Cohen

December 9th, George Stern

December 15th, Davis Love

December 15th, Cynthia Weiss

December 16th, Dr. James Kaye

December 16th, Bruce Simon

December 19th, Jeremy Gordon

December 23rd, Ariella Chupella 3rd birthday

December 25th, Ananda Gordon 11th birthday

December 26th, Ben Feldman 17th birthday

December 26th, Jane Seiden

December 30th, Martin Newman

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Laura Weiss at (805) 705-6266 or l.s.weiss@comacast.net.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

TEMPLE BET YAM

PO BOX 860098

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086



DONOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF (OR OTHER DESIGNATION)

<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
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MITZVAH FUND	_____
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND	_____
PRAYER BOOK FUND	_____
SANCTUARY FUND	_____
TORAH FUND	_____
MURRAY WEISS MEMORIAL FUND	_____
HIGH HOLY DAYS CONTRIBUTION	_____
RABBINIC LEADERSHIP FUND	_____
TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION	_____
*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	_____

**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

Upcoming Events for December. Mark your calendar!

Please note all services and functions will be via Zoom until further notice.



Tuesday, December 1st, 6:30pm, Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd, 3:30pm Meditation with Sheila Lieberman

Sunday, December 6th, 9:00am, Religious School

Tuesday, December 8th, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Book Club

Friday, December 11th, 6:30pm, Shabbat/Hanukkah Family Service

Saturday, December 12th, 11:00am, Talmud Class (Part 2)

Saturday, December 12th, 12:30pm, Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class

Sunday, Decemeber 13th, 12:30pm, Sisterhood General Meeting - Living La Vida Latkes with Rebbitzen Cindy - Open to all!

Wednesday, December 16th, 3:30pm Meditation with Sheila Lieberman

Friday, December 18th, 7:30pm, Sisterhood led Hanukkah Service

Monday, December 21st, 5:00pm, Dining with Dignity

More Upcoming Events. Mark your calendar!



Tuesday, January 12th, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Book Club to be led by Jane Lynn - *Kosher Chinese, Living, Teaching and Eating with China's Other Billion*, by Michael Levy



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