



חדשות Chadashot

News from The West Temple

Kislev/Tevet 5784
December 2023



Chanukah Sameach!

Features

Rabbi's Desk ...1,2

You're invited ...3,4

President's Desk ...5

Educator's Desk ...6,7

Photos ...8,9

Celebrations ...10

Yahrzeits ...11

Service Schedule ...12

Contributions ...13



Rabbi Brown

Standing with Israel during the March in Washington

On Tuesday, November 14, at around midnight, my child and I boarded a bus for Washington, DC – one of 25 buses leaving from the Cleveland area. (For logistical reasons, my husband drove separately on Monday and met us on Tuesday in D.C.) We drove through the night and arrived at the Kennedy Center around 7:30 AM. After a bathroom break, some breakfast, and receiving a box lunch, we walked the two miles or so to the Washington, DC, mall, where we spent the rest of the day – mostly crowded in tightly with others, not really able to focus on the speakers and presenters. Around 4:00 PM, we walked back to the Kennedy Center, where we got back on the bus for the ride home. We returned to Beachwood Place Mall around 11:30 PM or so, about 24 hours after we left.

(continued Page 2)

During the month of crying every day about what the hostages in Gaza must have been going through, feeling helpless in the face of media reports and reports from my own friends about their family members who were kidnapped, it felt incredibly powerful to be part of such a large group of Jews and Jewish supporters. I was impressed by how well Jewish Federation of Cleveland organized the trip - from how the buses were organized, to how our local Jewish Federation Security officers traveled with us on the buses, to providing each participant with three meals plus snacks, to the WhatsApp groups organized according to bus so that we could be in touch with each other as much as we needed through the day. I was impressed with how all Jews in the United States (and some from Canada!) were represented at the March, and I was impressed with how peaceful the day was.

It was not an easy day – the pace of traveling was hard on our bodies. Not sleeping for 24 hours messed me up for the rest of the week. By the time the weekend arrived, I felt under the weather, and our tempers were thin. But it was worth it. It was worth it to rearrange our schedules to make time for this and put ourselves through it to show up.

On that day, I truly felt the power of “*Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh*” – Every one of us in the Jewish world is responsible for every other person in the Jewish world. It was a powerful day that illustrated, in strong relief, that 99.9% of Judaism is *simply* showing up – being part of the *minyan*, part of the group – to support and hold each other.

By the time you read this, a number of hostages will have been released – maybe even all of them. If they haven’t yet been released, I pray that all are released soon. I pray that the Israeli government and Palestinian leadership forge ways for both groups of people to live together in peace. I pray that the extremists on both sides stop attacking each other and reign themselves in to make room for peace. And I pray that we all live to “...see the day when war and bloodshed cease, when a great peace will embrace the whole world.”

Rabbi Rachel Brown

Lifelong Learning Series:

The Art of Jewish Pop Music with Joel Keller

Sunday's January 7, 21 and February 4, 2024 at 7:30 pm-8:30 pm

"The Art of Pop Music – Barry Manilow "



Barry Manilow got his big break while working with Bette Midler at the Baths in New York City. He became her Musical Director and went on to become one of the most recognized singer/songwriters of his day. We will be learning about his life and hearing a number of his most popular hit songs.

"The Art of Pop Music – Carole King" *



Carole King's career began at age 8 with a performance of "If I Knew You Were Coming, I'd've Baked a Cake" on a children's radio program in New York. Her career as a composer and performer will be presented along with many of her songs sung by both herself and other artists for whom she composed. The program will follow her career from the 1950's through her 2015 induction as an Honoree of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Art of Pop Music – Neil Diamond" *



Neil Diamond's career as a singer/songwriter got off to a rocky start, but once his early songs began being covered by other artists, he

took off like a rocket. We will learn about his early life, the lean 7 years before he became a household name. We'll listen to a number of his most memorable recordings and learn about the many honors he has earned as a recording artist.

"The Art of Pop Music – Bette Midler" *



This presentation follows the career of "The Divine Miss M" from her birth in Honolulu, Hawaii through her move to New York and beyond. In addition to learning about her life and musical successes, we will listen to many of her recordings.



“The Art of Pop Music – Billy Joel” *

Billy Joel is one of the top singer/songwriters of the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. We will learn about his background and listen to many of his hit songs, including “Piano Man,” “We Didn’t Start the Fire,” and “The Longest Time,” and explore some of the high (and low) points of his career.



“The Music of Barbra Streisand” *

Barbra Streisand is the “Grande Dame” of music and movies during the last half of the 20th Century. This program will first provide her biographical and professional information, including some details of her personal life. We will then listen to 10 of her top hit songs including “Woman in Love,” “Evergreen,” “Don’t Rain on My Parade,” and “You Don’t Bring me Flowers,” the last of which was sung as a duet with Neil Diamond.

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From the President

Happy Chanukah!

Around the world, and in many religions, the darkest time of the year is when we celebrate - by lighting candles, or holiday lights - to cheer us, and to remember that longer, warmer days are ahead of us.

For many of us in Northeast Ohio, colder weather is digging in, even if the snow is relatively scant (it may yet surprise us in February) but we feel nature take a pause.

Let's pause as well. Let's listen to one another, and welcome conversation.

Some time ago, I read a good rule for how to conduct oneself at meetings, or at other times when we are burning to say something. It went like this:

There are three things you must always ask yourself before you say anything.

Does this need to be said? Does this need to be said by me? Does this need to be said by me now?

I try to keep this in mind. It helps to center me, to consider others, to reflect before I speak. This resonates with me because I have made mistakes in the past, like - being too eager to express an ill-considered opinion I later regret sharing; not giving someone else the chance to say the thing that needs to be said (if I pause, often someone else will say it); and finally, remembering that just because I have an opinion, *right now* might not be the right time to share it. Of course, it also might be the perfect time to share it. But pausing first allows my intuition to surface.

December is a good time for us to light candles. To walk in the woods. To listen.

And thanks to comedian and late night talk show host Craig Ferguson for coming up with the "three things you must always ask yourself" rule. He claims it took him three marriages to understand why it might be important!

Walter Wright

From the Educator

As we conclude 2023-we wish everyone a Happy Chanukah and holiday season with their family and friends!



On Friday, December 8 at 6:00 pm we will have our Congregational Shabbat , Menorah lighting service and Chanukah dinner at Beth Israel-The West Temple.

6:00 PM Menorah Lighting and Shabbat Service



6:45 PM Chanukah Dinner

Delicious fried chicken, latkes, and beverages provided. Each guest/family with last name **A-K please bring a dessert to share (Donuts, cookies, non-dairy family favorites)**

Each guest with last name L-Z please bring a side to share (green salads, picnic salads, fruit, non-dairy vegetable sides)

COST \$10.00 per person (no charge for age 5 and under, \$30.00 per family maximum)

Pay by cash or check at arrival, or on the Temple Venmo account-@bitwt

RSVP's MUST be made by Wednesday, December 6, 2023 to

Beryl Palnik berylpalnik@yahoo.com

Children can enjoy a Chanukah activity and craft center

Debbie Chessin

SAVE THE DATES!! Get Ready for Mitzvah Day and Winter Yom Israel- January 2023!

On Sunday, January 14, students in grades PK-12 will participate in a Mitzvah Day- we will be assembling bagged lunches for the Lutheran Men's Homeless Shelter. We kindly ask that each grade level donate the following items for the lunches.

Grades PK/K- Each family donates two loaves of bread.

Grades 1&2- Each family donates one jar peanut butter and one jar of jelly.

Grade 3&4- Each family donates two packages of cookies.

Grades 5 & 6 Each family donates- one box of individual pretzels or chips.

HS- Each family donates one bag of clementines.

Yom Israel



Yom Israel will bring together the entire congregation for special inter-generational learning opportunities that will explore the diverse culture of Israel through an interactive Israel Scaventure, art, music and food. The date for the program will be Sunday, January 28 from 10-12 pm. More information to come!

December Schedule:

Saturday, 2nd- Kinder Kraft and Kooking Chanukah Celebration-11-12pm at the Westlake Recreation Ctr., RSVP to Debbie Chessin at bitwteducator@gmail.com

Sunday, 3rd- Religious School-10-12 pm

Monday, 4th –Hebrew--6:30 pm

Thursday, 7th- First night of Chanukah



Friday, 8th- Congregational Chanukah Dinner and Shabbat Service- Service 6:00pm and dinner is at 6:45 pm. See the details in the bulletin article.

Sunday, 10th - Religious School- 10-12pm

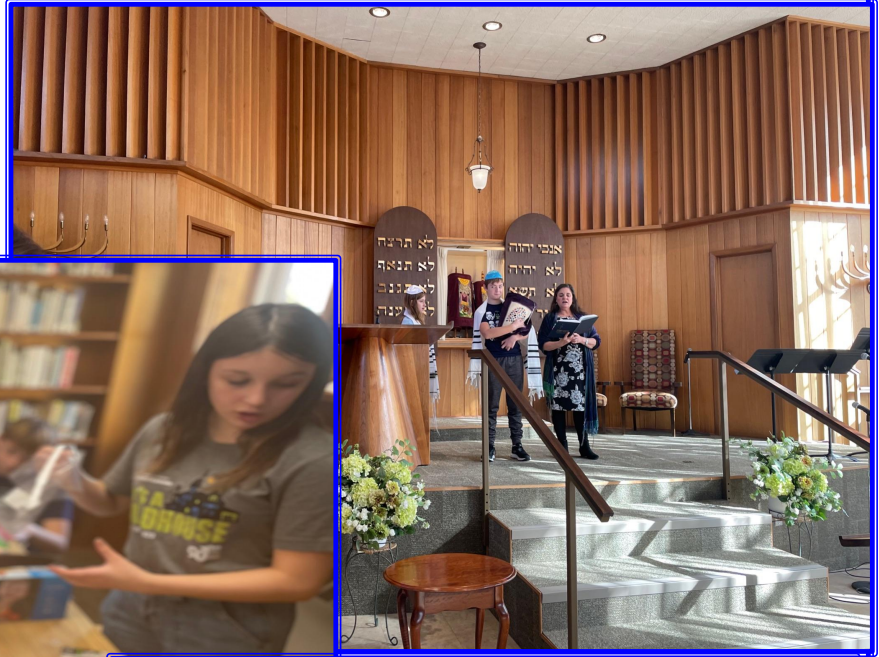
Monday, 11th –Hebrew School- 6:30 pm

Sunday 17, December 19- Saturday, January 13 – No Religious or Hebrew School- Winter Break

Debbie Chessin, Director of Education*

*This position is partially funded through the Fund for the Jewish Future of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

Grades 5&6 Grades students and their families participated in their Bar and Bat Mitzvah Retreat. Grades PK-6 also enjoyed a music class with Miss Jami!



Ariella Epstein and her daughters in Washington DC on March 14, 2023 at March for Israel.



☆ Celebrations ☆

December Wedding Anniversaries - 2023

John & Ellen Goodworth	December 3	46 th
Dr. Arnon & Laurie Chait	December 10	40 th
Sandu & Dr. Adriana Leibovici	December 15	38 th
Dr. Robert & Lisa Goldberg	December 19	24 th

December Birthdays – Young People

Mara Wald	December 3	3 rd
Samuel Decker	December 8	11 th
Davia Kane	December 16	15 th
Zachary Eshbaugh	December 20	8 th

December Birthdays – Adults

Tina Keller	December 1	Sarah Bedrossian	December 17
Dr. Mary Kay Greenberg	December 2	Aimee Greenfield	December 18
Dr. Neil Greenberg	December 2	Sandra Cohen	December 19
Tammy White	December 2	Holly Neumann	December 20
Adam Rosen	December 5	Dee Lazarus	December 21
Dan Chessin	December 6	Tracy Grauel	December 23
Diana Gold	December 7	Lesley Watilo	December 24
Donald Mansfeld	December 7	Leonard Weiss	December 25
Brian Friedman	December 8	Dr. Theodore Provder	December 26
Melanie Shmois	December 9	Laurie Chait	December 27
Dr. James Wilson	December 9	Todd McAleer	December 27
Walter Wright	December 12	Garik Shmois	December 28
David Neumann	December 13	Evan Fleisher	December 29
Sid Ordog	December 14	Shimson Balanson	December 30
Anna Batyreva	December 15	Gloria Cutrona	December 30
		Linda Keller	December 31

MAZAL TOV! Congratulations on the marriage of **Deborah Mason**, daughter of member Carole, and the late Philip, Mason of Strongsville, Ohio to **Adam Lefkowitz**, son of Wendy & Alan Lefkowitz of Melville, New York. They were married by Deborah's cousin, Rabbi Marc Wolf on November 11, 2023, in Brooklyn, New York, where the couple resides.

PERPETUAL YAHRZEITS

December 2023

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 2

Fannie Melnick
Lisa Reminick
Leslie Dus
Mort Epstein
Samuel Donofrio Bruckman
Oscar Sattinger
Harry Barkan

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 9

Miriam Jaslove
Fred Pyritz
Selma C. Keller
Herbert L. Levy
Marvin Sheflin
Rosellen Weiss
Jody R. Wolfe
Joseph Lisbon
Judd Seldin
Geraldine MacNeil
Sidney Martin
Sidney Schwartz
Stuart Schwartz

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 16

Bertl Loeb
Lillian Feigenbaum
Willy Neufeld
Harvey Sherman
Ruth Friedman
Trudy Isaac
Irving Gilbert
Al Gluck
Estelle Loeb



WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23

Bracha Alterovitz
Janet Slatkin
Samuel Romain
Abraham Bruckman
Anna Goldberg
Leah Krisch
Henry Caro
Suzanne Friedman
Eleanor Neumann
Anne Webster

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30

Irving Priesand
Philip Mason
Reva Clymer
Janet Goodworth
Barbara Margelefsky
Jack Palnik
Isidore Freundlich

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 6

Abe Levy
Francis Diamond
Hedwig Eckstein
Leah Bloom
Mary Koshel
Samuel Lowy
Ilse Machol
Cecil Bruckman
Earl Priesand
Rabbi Herbert J. Wilner

May their memory be for a blessing

Service Schedule December

Friday Evenings

All Friday services on ZOOM,
unless otherwise noted.

December 1

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
On ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

December 8

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Rabbi Brown

December 15

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Shosh Ault

December 22

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

December 29

7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
ON ZOOM
Luis Fernandez

Saturday Mornings

All Saturday services in person,
unless otherwise noted.

December 2

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Rabbi Brown

December 9

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Rabbi Brown

December 16

9:30am Torah Study
11:00am Shabbat Service
Scott Machol & Luis
Fernandez

December 23

9:30am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service
Luis Fernandez

December 30

9:30am Torah Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service
Luis Fernandez

CONTRIBUTIONS

November 2023

General Fund

We gratefully acknowledge donations from

- Eleanor Dreshfield
- Dr. Robert Dreshfield
- Geralda Simko

In Honor of Will Weisman

- Kyle Simko

In Memory of

Michael Horvitz

- Larry Horvitz & Sonia Horvitz

Jean Loeb Lettofsky

- Charles Feinberg

Vivian Lopatin

- Sylvia Rimm

Rabbi Brown's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of

Milton Hyman

- Carole Mason

Religious School Fund

In Memory of

Dr. Stephen Kollins

- Susan & Tom Wagner

Jean Loeb Lettofsky

- Susan & Tom Wagner

-Jeanene M. Kress

Harry Barkan

- Sylvia Rimm

The Alan B. Lettofsky Fund for The Center for Jewish Life

In Memory of

Jean Loeb Lettofsky

- Rabbi Enid & Dr. Harry Lader

Tree of Life Fund

In Memory of

Jean Loeb Lettofsky

- Beryl & Michael Palnik