

TEMPLE SINAI

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

templesinaict@gmail.com

www.sinaict.org

860/561-1055

December, 2015
Kislev/Tevet 5776

Series 54 Issue 4

Happy Chanukah

41 West Hartford Road, Newington, CT 06111

Rabbi's Message

As the days grow darker and colder, we find ourselves hibernating in the warmth of our homes. Winds blowing, snow falling and temperatures dropping all remind us of winters past and question our choice to live in such a cold climate. We hold tight as each day grows darker. As we approach the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, we look forward to longer days and more sunlight. It is no coincidence that every culture celebrates a holiday during the winter to bring festivity to this gloomy time of year. Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, makes the darkness more bearable and even enjoyable as we remember the heroism of the Maccabees.

The Maccabees are our heroes, a small band of Jews fighting the mighty Syrians for religious freedom. The

truth of this story is that the Maccabees not only fought a mighty army, but they fought apathy and conflict within their own community as well. The Maccabees rallied other Jews to renew and rededicate their own faith. The tension that persists in the Middle East feels dark and gloomy and yet, we all hold out hope that peace can be achieved. Perhaps the cynics will say it isn't possible for the Palestinian people and the Israelis to live peacefully. Like the Maccabees we must fight our apathy and skepticism in order to rededicate ourselves to the hope for peace. I want to believe that even in the midst of violence, those who deter the peace can be turned toward peace. And those who support it will raise their voices together to drown out those who are against it. We must

hold onto the hope. As the days grow shorter, we live with eager anticipation of the light from the Chanukah menorah which illuminates the darkness in our lives and in our world. Our tradition teaches us to add a candle for each successive day of Chanukah. As the menorah light becomes brighter and our days grow longer, we hold onto our hopes and prayers for a season of light, joy and peace. The Hebrew word "Chanukah" means to rededicate. We pray that as we celebrate our Festival of Light, a new light will shine upon the world and enlighten the leadership of the many countries at war to move with all their might toward a peaceful coexistence one with another.

Rabbi Jeffrey Bennett

From Adult Education

Sat., Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m. Pizza & Movie Night. The movie is "Gett—The Trial of Viviane Amsalem" Rabbi Bennett will lead a discussion following the movie. Cost: \$12 per person. Call the temple office to reserve.

Sat., Dec. 19, 9:00 a.m. Beginning Torah Study. This class will meet monthly and is designed for the novice learner. All are welcome.

From Social Action

Social Action will be volunteering at **Mercy Shelter on Sun., Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m.** If you would like to volunteer to prepare a meal for shelter residents, please contact Leland Brandt at lbrandt@therd.net or Beth Merenstein at bethmerenstein@gmail.com. **Fri., Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m.** is Human Rights Shabbat Social Action will hold its **annual gift card collection for needy Newington teens** for the holidays. Please bring your donated gift cards to the temple office by **Mon., Dec. 14**. Suggested value \$25 or more.

From Religious Affairs

The Congregation enjoyed the new High Holyday Prayerbooks, **Mishkan Hanefesh**. We are continuing to take dedications for \$36 per set. Call the temple office for details. You may also dedicate **Mishkan T'filah**, our Shabbat prayerbook, also \$36.

From the Chai Club

The Chai Club will hold a Chanukah Party and pot luck dinner at the temple on **Sun., Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring a grab bag gift. We will have food & fun and surprise entertainment. Additional information will be sent to Chai Club members shortly.

We hope you are all happy to receive the Temple bulletin at home with the calendar of events as a convenient "pull-out" section. In order to make it financially feasible to mail to all members, we had to make some changes. Flyers with details of upcoming events are available on our website and lists of donation will be published periodically rather than in each issue.

We appreciate your support of Temple Sinai. To make a donation, purchase a leaf for the Tree of Life, purchase a Memorial plaque, or discuss any other matters such as updating your records (new address, email, etc.), Call the temple, 860/561-1055 Ext. 10. If you wish to make a donation of securities, contact the temple office or David Klein at: investment_committee@sinaict.org. We are a 501(c) (3) organization; your donations are tax deductible.

President's Message

Dear Temple Sinai Members,

On behalf of the Board, I would like to say a big thank you for your generosity. Our holiday donations to Foodshare, and our High Holiday Pledges were very significant. I am very grateful for your continued generosity.

I am excited to report that the Temple is bustling with activity. We continue to make progress on our three main priorities of service, education, and community. In the area of service, we have decided to focus our energies on Hunger. We will look to compliment the great work the social action committee is already doing on this. Stay tuned for more information of how everyone can play a part.

As far as community, we have so many wonderful programs going on for our Temple Community and the wider community. Please check out our website sinai.org. Also, please stay tuned for more information on our 60th Anniversary Celebration Weekend April 29th - May 1st.

In the area of education we recently provided training to our teachers on how to best use the new laptops in the classroom.

Finally, I wanted to share with you that the Rabbi, Carol, Joyce and I have just returned from the URJ Biennial (Union for Reform Judaism). The Biennial was pure magic, from the incredible music, powerful worship, interesting and helpful workshops, and finally to listening to Vice President Joe Biden. We have learned many helpful things we can possibly put into practice at Temple Sinai. I do want to emphasize that as I sat in meetings with Presidents from other congregations, I realized even more how special a place Temple Sinai is! I heard of so many different significant challenges facing these congregations, and we are much better off than most. I am very proud of the culture of inclusion we have led by the Rabbi, and how we have such a wonderful caring Temple Community.

Please let me know if anyone has any comments or suggestions, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Chanukah Shabbat on December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you.

Ken Lesser, *President*

**CONDOLENCES FROM THE
CONGREGATION TO THE FAMILY OF:
Mary Patricia Priola (aunt of Bea Priola)**

Mazel Tov

To: Ann & Ken Speyer on the birth of their grandson, Sidney Charles Speyer on October 24, 2015.

Todah Rabah

To: Dick White for covering the Temple Office the first week in November.

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Religious School News

Our teachers and teen assistants enjoyed the annual Mitnick Conference that was held on November 1st. They are excited to bring new ideas into the classrooms!

At the Friday evening Shabbat Family Service on **December 4th, 6:00 p.m.**, the 1st graders will be Consecrated. They will be called to the Bimah to receive their very own miniature Torah scroll at their Consecration service. On **Friday, December 11 at the 6:00 p.m.** Shabbat Family Chanukah Service, the Kindergarten class will participate. The 2nd graders will participate in the Shabbat Family Service on **Friday, January 8th at 6:00 p.m.** There is no Religious School from Wednesday, December 23rd through Sunday, January 3rd. School resumes on Wednesday, January 6th, 2016.

I wish you a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Peaceful 2016!

L'Shalom,

Rena Citron, *Director of Education*

Religious School & Temple Closing Information

On Wednesdays & Sundays, listen to: WTIC AM 1080.

Closing announcements will also be on Channels 3 & NBC Conn.

Announcements will be made *after 7:00 a.m.* on Sundays or *during the afternoon* on Wednesdays.

Call the Temple Office, 860/561-1055 and press menu key 1 for closing information due to inclement weather.

From the Cantor Search Committee

Following Cantor Donna Gordon's announcement of her retirement, the Executive Committee of the Board formed a Cantor Search Committee to find a new Cantor. We are seeking an ordained Cantor or a cantorial soloist who would work part-time or full-time and participate in B'nai Mitzvah, lead Shabbat services every Friday, Saturday and Holiday, assist Rabbi Bennett in lifecycle events; teach music in the Religious School, teach the B'nai Mitzvah students, and enhance the musical life of our congregation with musical programming. Most importantly, we seek someone who will share music with our congregation in a way that will lift our spirits and forge community. We have been placing notices of this opportunity on relevant listservs, at music programs and Cantorial schools, throughout the Reform movement, National Jewish communal job search websites such as jewishjobs.com, and in *The Jewish Ledger*. On Nov. 13th, our first Cantorial Candidate led a pre-service session of songs and prayers which was followed by the 6:00 p.m. Shabbat service which was led by the candidate and Rabbi Bennett. The Cantor Search Committee members are Andrew Wizner, Chair; Jeff Israel, Barbara Lederer, Ethan Nash, Elana MacGilpin, and Lauren Krasnow. Please contact them to share your visions, concerns and comments as well as your feedback regarding particular applicants. You can reach the Cantor Search Committee by email at cantorsearch@sinai.org.

Andrew Wizner

Chair, *Cantor Search Committee*

Sisterhood's Page

SISTERHOOD SPEAKS....

Plan on an evening out on **Saturday, December 12**. Everyone is invited to the Super Supper and Silent Auction at Temple Sinai! The evening will begin at 6 pm. Homemade sauce and pasta, salad and bread, and of course, desserts will be on the buffet table. Five dollars get you a plate for all you can eat!

Shortly after 6 pm, the bidding will begin. Sisterhood has been collecting donations of gift cards, museum passes, jewelry, hand crafted items, household items, decorative items and art works for a Silent Auction! Items will begin bidding below their real values to start the fun. Each item will have a place to write your name and bid on it. While you enjoy your dinner, check on your favorite item to make sure you're still the winner! Bidding will close at 7:30 pm and we will announce the winners. You can then bring your item to our cashiers (we take checks and cash) and bring it home with you. And before you go, stop by our baked goods table and pick up a goody to go!

Sisterhood has done all the work preparing this evening. All we need to add to it is you! Please invite your friends to come with you; let us know you are coming so we can get ready for a great evening. Email us at sisterhood@sinaict.org or call the temple (860) 561-1055 by Tuesday, December 8.

CELEBRATING? DID YOU KNOW?

The Sisterhood of Temple Sinai can provide the items below for you!

NO TAX, NO SHIPPING COSTS, and NO WORRIES!

- Order Invitations & Thank You Notes @ 20% off Retail
- Gifts & religious items at the Judaica Shop ~ open Sundays during Religious School.
- Create a lasting tribute to a special event with a Golden Book Inscription.*
- Recognize someone special with a bulletin tribute ~ just \$5.00 each!
- Celebrating a special event? Order beautiful Flowers* for the Bimah, and/or sponsor an Oneg* after Friday services.

Please email sisterhood@sinaict.org and the Sisterhood coordinator will contact you with more information.

Or call the Temple office, 860/561-1055 and leave a message.

*All/portions of these items may be tax-deductible; ask your tax advisor!

Your support of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai enables so many of the ritual and community events to occur during the year- additional donations & participation are always welcome!

CHANUKAH IS COMING SOON!

**FIND YOUR GIFTS OF MENORAHS, DREIDELS, CANDLES, GELT AND OTHER HOLIDAY ITEMS AT THE SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP
OPEN SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:00-11:30 a.m.
(during Religious School hours)**

How to send Sisterhood Tributes:

Tributes are a great way to recognize someone special. They are available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Any additional donations are always appreciated. Golden Book tributes are inscribed at a cost of \$15 for 1/4 page, \$30 for a 1/2 page and \$60 for a full page. Blanche Moskowitz is Tribute and Golden Book Chair. Contact Blanche at: sisterhood_tributes@sinaict.org to send a tribute or call her at 860/666-8832. Sisterhood appreciates every tribute you send. They are mailed promptly after your request.

To: Mark Levitz, wishing you a complete & speedy recovery, from Ina Neiman.

To: The Levin family, congratulations on your new home, from Mildred Whipple & Joni Peterson.

To: Sid Morochnik, sending wishes for a speedy recovery, from Rose Ulan.

Sisterhood Rummage Sale Thank You!

The Sisterhood fall rummage sale was a huge success. Many thanks go to our generous congregation for all their donations. We would like to thank the following volunteers who worked very hard to help set up, sell, and clean up and whose efforts contributed to a profitable event (apologies to anyone that we may have missed):

Eunice Gordon	Marilyn Winograd
Lori Sullivan	Myra Wishnick
Shirley Berman	Beth Mendelsohn
Stu Winograd	Julian Cogan
Gail Slusarski	Phyllis Battisti
Jacqueline Sturm	Cindy & Erika Fenton
Jane Weisberg	Ann Speyer
Arline Seltzer	Liz Miller
David & Anne Gerstein	Roz Spiegelman
Ed Pawlak	Jane Roth

Blanche Moskowitz
Seventh grade Religious School students and their teachers.
Special thanks go to Joyce and Aurel for all their assistance.

Flowers/Mazon Baskets & Oneg Sponsors:

Beautify our Sabbath and your special occasions by donating flowers and/or a Mazon Basket and Sponsor and Oneg. Email Jane Roth: sisterhood_onego@sinaict.org.

Oct. 16 Rita & Arnie Miller, oneg, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Noah Miller.

Oct. 24 Deborah & Michael Weber, flowers in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jessica.

Nov. 13 Marji Siegel and Jonathan Siegel, flowers & oneg in Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Tobey Siegel.

Nov. 21 Cyma Shapiro & Richard Roland, flowers in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Abira Roland.

Mah Jongg Cards

It is time to order your 2015 Mah Jongg Cards. The cards are \$8.00 for the standard size and \$9.00 for the large print. Send your order with your checks made payable to:

Temple Sinai Sisterhood

c/o Sue Austin, 198 Tremont St., Newington, CT 06111
All checks must be received by January 20, 2016.

December, 2015— Kislev/Tevet 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting	4 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Family Service; 1st grade Consecration	5 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Gruber 6:00 p.m. Adult Ed Movie Night
6 6:30 p.m. Chai Club Chanukah Party 1st candle Chanukah	7 2nd candle Chanukah	8 3rd candle Chanukah	9 4th candle Chanukah	10 5th candle Chanukah	11 6:00 p.m. Family Shabbat & Chanukah Service' Kindergarten participation 6th candle Chanukah	12 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah of Becca Rutsky 7th candle Chanukah 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood's Dinner & Silent Auction (open to all)
13 8th candle Chanukah	14	15	16	17	18 6:00 p.m. Human Right Shabbat Service	19 9:00 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
20 9:15 a.m. Temple Board Meeting 1:30 p.m. Jewish Genealogy Society	21	22	23 No Religious School	24	25 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service	26 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
27 No Religious School	28	29	30 No Religious School	31	Jan. 1, 2016 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service New Year's Day Temple Office Closed	Jan. 2 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service
Jan. 3 No Religious School	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	Jan. 7 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting	Jan. 8 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Family Service; 2nd grade participation	Jan. 9 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Service

Jewish Genealogical Society of Conn. (JGSC)

This year we are hosting the JGSC. The January meeting is on Sun., Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. The meeting is open to all temple members. There is no charge. Barney Miller, a Past President of Temple Sinai, is a Vice President of the JGSC and welcomes your participation.



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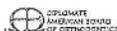


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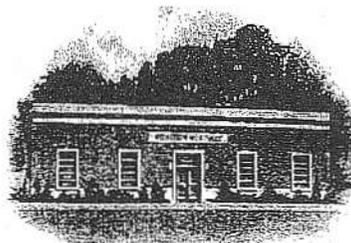
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1086 Elm Street
Suite 101A
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Mitchel G. Katz, MD
Phone (860) 757-3352
Fax (860) 757-3704
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