

Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center
 193-10 Peck Avenue ✧ Flushing, New York 11365 (718) 357-5100

THE BULLETIN

Nov.-Dec., 2018
 Vol.17. No. 2

Kislev/Tevet
 Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon
 Cantor Aaron Katz

HAPPY CHANUKAH



Coming Events

Saturday, Nov. 3

On November 9 and 10, we mark the Eightieth Anniversary of Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass”. We are hosting a Commemoration Service on Saturday, November 3, at 11:00AM.

Thursday, Nov. 8

Sisterhood Board Meeting and Program.

Topic: “Elder Care Fraud Awareness and Abuse”, **Speaker:** Daren Wilkes, a paralegal from the Queens D.A.’s office.

Cost: \$10.00 at the door.

Thursday, Nov. 29

The Book Club will review: “Behold the Dreamers” by Imbolo Mbue.

Monday, Dec. 3



Join us for our Annual Chanukah Party! Enjoy a delicious “Chinese Buffet” Luncheon with latkes and other goodies. Entertainment by Diane Cypkin who will perform a musical salute to Molly Picon, star of the Yiddish Theatre.

Cost: \$30 per person

Time: 12:30PM

WATCH FOR THE FLYER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2018

Friday, Nov. 2

Mincha/Maariv.....5:30PM
Candle Lighting Time.....5:32PM

Saturday, Nov. 3

Parashat Chayei Sarah
Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00AM
Kristallnacht Commemoration.....11:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....6:39PM

Friday, Nov. 9

Mincha/Maariv
Second Day Rosh Chodesh Kislev.....4:15PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:24PM

Saturday, Nov. 10

Parashat Toldot
Shabbat Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:31PM

Friday, Nov. 16

Mincha/Maariv.....4:15PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:18PM

Saturday, Nov. 17

Parashat Vayeitzei
Shabbat Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:25PM

Friday, Nov. 23

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:13PM

Saturday, Nov. 24

Parashat Vayishlach
Shabbat Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:21PM

Friday, Nov. 30

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:10PM

Saturday, Dec. 1

Parasht Vayeishev
Shabbat Mevarhim Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:18PM

CHANUKAH EVE-FIRST CANDLE-DECEMBER 2nd

Friday, Dec. 7

Mincha/Maariv 6th Candle.....3:45PM
Shabbat Candle Lighting Time.....4:09PM

Saturday, Dec. 8

Parashat Mikeitz
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Tevet Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:17PM

Friday, Dec. 14

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:10PM

Saturday, Dec. 15

Parashat Vayigash Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:18PM

Friday, Dec. 21

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:13PM

Saturday, Dec. 22

Parashat Vaaychi
Shabbat Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:21PM

Friday, Dec. 28

Mincha/Maariv.....4:15PM
Candle Lighting Time.....4:17PM

Saturday, Dec. 29

Parashat Shemot
Shabbat Services.....9:00AM
Shabbat Ends.....5:26PM



ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

Please don't forget to call the office to let them know when you are leaving for Florida so that you can continue to receive our mailings



*Daylight Savings Time
ends on
Sunday, November 4th*



Mazal Tov

To: David Nagan on the birth of his grandson Ezra on September 24, 20

Thank You

To: The Leo Brown Memorial Fund which sponsors a Kiddush the first Saturday of every month during Summer, in memory of Leo Brown.

To: Michael and Judy Krutoy who sponsor a Kiddush every year to celebrate Rosh Hashanna. This year was no exception. They sponsored a beautiful Kiddush on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

Get Well Soon-Refuah Shelayma

To: Rosalie Weiner, who met with a pedestrian/van accident. She is at NY Presbyterian Hospital in Queens.

To: Gertie Isaacs. We miss you and pray for your speedy recovery.

Congratulations

To: Elyssa Lily Shenker on her Bat Mitzvah, October 6th, 2018. Proud Bubby: Lois Shenker.

Special Thanks

From: Byron, Irene Dresner, and their family, wish to thank their friends and all our members for their prayers and good wishes for Irene who underwent major surgery. Irene is now at Margaret Tietz where she will be doing physical therapy. Hopefully she will be home in a week or two.

From: Charlotte Kohn and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes for her speedy recovery. Charlotte is convalescing at home.

From: Lois Shenker who is recovering from triple by-pass heart surgery. She is so grateful for everybody's concern and is looking forward to see us as soon as possible.

Center News

On Monday, October 1, and Tuesday, October 2, we celebrated Simchat Torah. On the eve of Simchat Torah light refreshments were served and on Simchat Torah we had a special luncheon. We enjoyed the food, the singing and dancing.

TODAH RABBAH

Thank you to all those who helped make our High Holy Day Services the dignified and meaningful experiences they were. Thank you to our Gabbaim David End, Stuart Cohen and David Nagan for implementing the honors and aliyot at the services as well as overseeing the reading of the Torahs and offering the appropriate "Mi Sh'berach" prayers. Thank you also to David End for his renditions of Pesukei D'zimrah at the services. Thank you to all participants. Yashar Ko-ach!!

TODAH RABBAH

A massive undertaking such as our Shirathon takes great effort and expertise to make it the success that it was. We appreciate our synagogue leadership's support in advancing the concept and allowing it to come to fruition. However, behind the scenes the silent workers should be thanked for their untiring dedication to the event. Thank you to Zach Levine, Sandra Schwadron and Michael Silver for their work in publicizing the event, Matilda Cohen and our Secretary Marcia Federman for the lovely program booklet. Thank you to our custodial staff, Vincent and Howard, as well as Matilda Cohen for setting up the refreshments. We also extend our appreciation to all those who participated in giving their musical talents and to their respective synagogues for their cooperation and support of this memorable occasion. Many favorable comments and compliments were received. Thank you to all those who helped make our Shirathon 8 on October 28th the best one yet.

Sincerely

Rabbi Gerald Solomon



Sisterhood News

We are happy to report that our Sisterhood functions as well as it does because of all the cooperation of our Board members who are always there to help. We are proud that, because of our efforts, Sisterhood gave \$2,000.00 to the Center at the Yom Kippur appeal.

Our two luncheons for Succoth were beautiful. Unfortunately, the first one had to be held indoors because of the weather. But the food was good and the company was good. Thank you to Rabbi Solomon for entertaining us at that occasion. The next day the weather cooperated, and we sat in our Succah to eat, socialize and join in singing with Cantor Katz. Much thanks to Matilda Cohen for making all the arrangements. Also thank you to our custodians, Vincent and Howard, for all the work they do building the succah, moving the tables and chairs, setting up and cleaning up.

The Sisterhood Calendars are available at the Center office to pick up. Everyone is welcome to have one which lists the birthdays, anniversaries and yahrzeits for those who subscribe.

The October 18 luncheon featured Dr. Jennifer Lee of Northwell Health speaking about Stress management. Our next luncheon is scheduled for November 8 when we are presenting another informative program. Watch for the flyer and please join us.

The Book Club will be meeting on November 29 at 10:30 AM when we will be discussing "Behold the Dreamers" by Imbolo Mbue. Books are available at the Fresh Meadows library. There will be no book club in December. The next meeting will be on March 28th when the book to be reviewed is "Beneath the Scarlett Sky" by Mark Sullivan. Books will be at the library around February 7th.

On Monday, December 3rd we are planning a beautiful Hannukah Party. There will be lunch followed by entertainment. Please respond promptly to the flyer with your check when you receive it.

We wish everyone a healthy winter and wish the snowbirds a good stay while they are away.

Joan and Marilyn, Co-Presidents

TORAH FUND

As the Women's League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, the Torah Fund enters its 77 year. "Atid" meaning future in Hebrew is the word on the new pin which those of us who contribute to the project wear. By wearing a Torah Fund pin, you are demonstrating your support of the students enrolled in our seminaries around the world, who will become our movement's Rabbis, Hazzanim, Educators and the most innovative thinkers. Please consider becoming a pin level donor this year so that you, too, may wear this year's Torah Fund pin with pride. For information call Joan Levine- 516-708-9517

"The Simcha Cake Project"

Sisterhood has created a way of announcing special Simchas and other events to support the Torah Fund of the Jewish Theological Seminary. At each meeting, we will be able to announce our Simcha and have it published in the Bulletin with a minimum donation of \$1.00. This is in lieu of putting Tzedakah boxes on the tables. Torah Fund contributions ensure our legacy to future generations of Conservative Jews by training Rabbis, Cantors, Educators, Scholars and Lay Leaders.

The following was announced at the October 18, 2018 Sisterhood Meeting

Eva Beckhaedt	For the good health of my family
Inge Berger	Good winter to everybody
Marilyn Brown	Good health to all
Matilda Cohen	Hoping to see Charlotte, Irene, Lois and Rosalie in Shul soon!
Marcia Federman	Get well wishes to Irene Dresner, Lois Shenker and Rosalie Weiner
Eleanor Frommer	Dana & Peter, Happy 1 st anniversary
Susan Gastman	Happy anniversary to Jane & Kent
Bette Glasser	Get well wishes to Lois Shenker & Rosalie Weiner
Evelyn Hurr	
Goldie Kerstman	For my husband's and my 60 th anniversary
Lynne Kirby	The very best to my grandchildren
	A speedy recovery to Rosalie Weiner with love"
Joan Levine	R'fuah Shlaymah to Rosalie Weiner, Lois Shenker and Irene Dresner
Janet Pearlmutter	For Debra and Herschal's 1 st Anniversary
Anita Seelig	Dear Lois-Wishing you well
	Dear Gertie-Wishing you well
	Dear Rosalie-Wishing you a speedy and total recovery
Sylvia Udasin	Mazel Tov to my Great granddaughter
Tene Umlas	Wishing everyone a colorful, beautiful fall
Joyce Warshowsky	Good wishes to Rosalie Weiner for a speedy recovery
	Happy birthday to all 4 granddaughters
Stella Weingord	Granddaughter Erica's wedding shower
Lyn Weisel	Special blessing for sons Dave & Bob. Good health to all
Ellen Zilka	Get well wishes to Rosalie Weiner, Lois Shenker & Irene Dresner.
	Mazel Tov to granddaughter Nina on her marriage to Trevor Witter



Break -Fast News

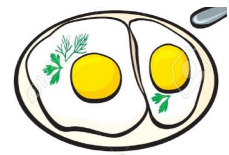


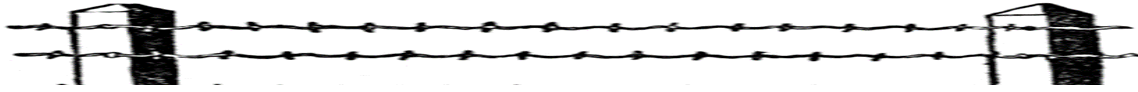
We would like to thank everyone who came and enjoyed their Break- Fast dinner following Yom Kippur services. We hope to see all of you and many more again next year. Additionally, we would like to thank all those who assisted in putting the dinner together.

Special thanks to Paul, Sue and Steven Dunaisky, as well as Kim McDonald for making our Break-Fast such a huge success

We would also like to thank all of the following companies for helping to make our Break-Fast such a rousing success.

A to Z
 Apple and Eve
 Best Markets
 Bagels and Company
 Benny's Kosher Pizza
 BJ's
 Bromley Tea
 Costco
 Friendship
 Iavarone Bros
 Martins Potato Bread
 Oh Nuts!
 Seasons Deli Department
 Shoprite
 Starbucks
 Stop and Shop
 Sweet n Low
 Target
 Trader Joes





In the Trenches: Kristallnacht: We Remember

On November 9 and 10, we mark the seventieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "night of broken glass." Rampaging mobs, spurred by the Nazi leadership, attacked Jewish targets throughout Germany & Austria. The damage was immense. Hundreds of synagogues were burned to the ground. Thousands of Jewish-owned businesses were ransacked. Nearly 100 Jews were murdered in cold blood. And tens of thousands of Jews were arrested and deported to Buchenwald, Dachau, and other coarrested and deported to Buchenwald, Dachau, and other concentration camps.

Their crime? They were Jews. It was as simple as that. Observant or atheist, Zionist or anti-Zionist, bourgeois or socialist, they were all subject to the same fate.

The Second World War had not yet officially begun. That would start on September 1, 1939, not quite ten months after Kristallnacht. But the Nazi war against the Jews was already well under way.

The goal was to rid Germany, Austria, and, eventually, all of Nazi-occupied Europe of Jews.

The Nazis almost succeeded. By the war's end in 1945, six million Jews, or two-thirds of European Jewry, had been annihilated. And ancient centers of Jewish civilization, from Vilna to Salonika, from Amsterdam to Prague, had been all but wiped out.

On this tragic anniversary, and every day, remembrance is essential.

We remember the Jews of Germany and Austria, who had contributed so greatly to what they believed to be their homelands, and who became the targets of a genocidal policy.

We remember the new alphabet of annihilation created by the Third Reich, which began with "A" for Auschwitz and ended with "Z" for Zyklon-B, the killing agent used in the gas chambers.

We remember the vibrant lives of Jewish communities across Europe that were extinguished in the flames of the Holocaust.

We remember the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered in the relentless Nazi pursuit of the so-called Final Solution.

We remember how many borders were so callously closed to Europe's Jews when there was still a chance to escape.

We remember that our own country, the United States, yielding to domestic isolationism and anti-Semitism, did far less than it could have to shelter Europe's Jews.

We remember a world without the one country, Israel, which could have provided a haven to all Jews seeking sanctuary.

We remember that earlier in 1938, prior to Kristallnacht, Nazi Germany had moved with impunity into the Sudetenland, then part of Czechoslovakia, and Austria, with barely a peep from the international community.

We remember that just weeks before Kristallnacht, the British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, traveled to Germany for the third time in two weeks and returned to London to assure the British public that there would be "peace for our time."

We remember the valiant forces of the Allied nations that ultimately destroyed the Nazi Reich and saved the world from Adolf Hitler's boast of a thousand-year reign.

We remember the military cemeteries across Europe, and beyond, filled with the graves of young soldiers who fought with such courage and bravery to defeat Nazi Germany and its allies.

And we remember the examples of those few who, at such risk, sought to shield Jews from harm.

Kristallnacht reminds us of the lurking capacity for inhumanity that resides in the human spirit.

Kristallnacht reminds us of nations that prided themselves on advanced levels of civilization, yet had a capacity for barbarism that exploded in ways never before witnessed.

Kristallnacht reminds us of the dire consequences when a targeted people is utterly without recourse to any means of self-defense.






Kristallnacht reminds us of the fertile soil of anti-Semitism, cultivated for centuries by religious, racial, and political ideologies obsessed with murdering, exiling, converting, segregating, or scapegoating the Jews.

Kristallnacht reminds us that there is a slippery slope from the demonization of a people, to the dehumanization of a people, to the destruction of a people.

And Kristallnacht reminds us that, in the face of evil against fellow human beings, never can silence be an option, indifference a strategy, or "never again" a mere slogan.





November 2018

Cheshvan/Kislev, 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 23 Cheshvan	2 24  5:32PM	3 25 Parashat Chayei Sarah Kristallnacht Commemoration Ends: 6:39PM
4 26 Daylight Savings Time Ends	5 27 Rabbi's Classes <i>Life Cycle of the Jew</i>	6 28	7 29 Rabbi's Classes <i>God, the Jews and History</i>	8 30 <i>Sisterhood Luncheon and Program</i> 12 noon	9 1 Kislev  4:24PM	10 2 Parashat Toldot Ends: 5:31PM
11 3	12 4 Rabbi's Classes <i>Life, Cycle of the Jew</i>	13 5	14 6 Rabbi's Classes <i>God, the Jews and History</i>	15 7	16 8  4:18PM	17 9 Parashat Vayeitzei Ends: 5:25PM
18 10	19 11	20 12	21 13	22 14 Thanksgiving	23 15  4:13PM	24 16 Parashat Vayishlach Ends: 5:21PM
25 17	26 18	27 19	28 20	29 21 Book Club <i>"Behold the Dreamers"</i> 10:30am	30 22  4:10PM	

December 2018

Kislev/Tevet, 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 23 Kislev Parashat Vayeishev <i>Ends: 5:18PM</i>
2 24 Erev Chanukah 1 Candle	3 25 Chanukah Party 2 Candles	4 26 3 Candles	5 27 4 Candles	6 28 5 Candles	7 29 6 Candles  4:09PM	8 30 Parashat Mikeitz <i>Ends: 5:17PM</i> 7 Candles
9 1 Tevet 8 Candles	10 2 	11 3 	12 4 	13 5 	14 6  4:10PM	15 7 Parashat Vayigash <i>Ends: 5:18PM</i>
16 8 	17 9 	18 10 	19 11 	20 12 	21 13  4:13PM	22 14 Parashat Vaaychi <i>Ends: 5:21PM</i>
23 15 	24 16 	25 17 	26 18 	27 19 	28 20  4:17PM	29 21 Parashat Shemot <i>Ends: 5:26PM</i>
30 22 	31 23 					



Rabbi's Message

GUIDANCE FOR THE NEW YEAR 5779 IN PORTIONS GENESIS AND NOACH

In Parashat Bereishith, we learn many important lessons, but none more significant than the power of words and speech. The Torah teaches us that God created the world through ten verbal utterances. With each utterance our universe slowly took shape and was formed. God has implanted this gift of speech within man. We learn that speech has the power “to create.” Of all earth’s creatures, only humans are endowed with the ability to verbally communicate intelligently and to thereby “create.” We must be ever mindful that, even as God created through “words,” on our own level, we too create through words.

We are cautioned to be very careful with that which we say, for as King Solomon tells us “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” (Proverbs 18:21) Before speaking, stop and consider how your words will impact others. Do you think about what you’re saying before you say it and the effect that it will have on those to whom it is said? How careful are you with that which proceeds out of your mouth? Will you be understood or possibly misunderstood?

There are more commandments in the Torah in regard to speech - 31 to be exact, than to any other mitzvah: seventeen negative and fourteen positive mitzvot. We are advised to think before we speak and ask: Will my words generate light or darkness, love or hatred, blessing or curse? The choice is ours to make.

In Parashat Noach we are concerned with “the proper response,” “the appropriate way to proceed,” in life with moral and ethical correctness, with the return to the way that G-d originally created man, with return to the “adam yashar” concept, the concept that G-d made man “straight,” that G-d made man with G-d’s own spirit and thus to be good like G-d. We remember that G-d did teach (commanded) appropriate behavior to our first father Adam and that it was man, the descendants of Adam and Eve who chose to deviate, and lead a crooked life and called it straight.

In Parashat Noach we pay tribute to the truth that the world was destroyed because of a sin that everyone knew was wrong, the sin of stealing - for it is a mitzvah muskelet, a logical mitzvah. G-d knew that that generation knew that they were doing wrong, that it was illogical to steal. That is why they were punished. They understood the logic of why stealing is wrong and they did it anyway.

History has shown that people have often intentionally sought to **pervert** their sense of logic so that they could sin with impunity because if a person doesn’t know that they are doing wrong, in a lot of cases they are not culpable. Yes, sometimes ignorance is an excuse. But it certainly is no excuse if one intentionally seeks to pervert their sense of logic. It has been pointed out multitudes of times that some people who use alcohol and/or other drugs to extremes may be trying to cloud their innate sense of logic to avoid responsibility for their actions. This is nothing new and those who do this should be informed that while they might be able to fool others some of the time, but they cannot fool others all of the time and they can never fool G-d, Who sees and knows the hearts of His creations, Who knows our true motivations for acting the way we do.

Thus, we see right from the beginning of human history in Bereshith and Noach how leaving the straight path was so easy and had dire consequences for all of humanity. Our task is to learn from this and work to

set the world once again on the *derech hayashar*, the straight path, which is the path of honesty, of honest thinking and honest doing, commitment to living lives of truth and integrity that we too may realize the destiny depicted by the Psalmist who wrote:

“O Lord, who shall dwell in your sanctuary? Who shall abide on Your holy mountain? He who lives with integrity, does what is right and speaks the truth in his heart; who has no slander upon his tongue, who does no evil to his fellow man, who does not reproach his neighbor. In his eyes, a vile person is despised, but he honors those who revere the Lord. He takes an oath even to his own harm and does not change. He does not give his money at usurious interest, he does not take a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall stand firm forever.” (Psalm 15).

May the new year of 5779 be the year in which we do those things that will enable all of us to stand firm forever.

Love and blessings to all,

Rabbi G.M. Solomon

FOR YOUR INFORMATION –FROM THE RABBI

* “I speak as Israel’s former ambassador to the United Nations, and I have the stage there every year, so every year I say what I have to say about the UN. But I said yesterday that the hall is still full of the stench of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic decisions – which are the same thing. I want to thank you for cleansing the bad air from this hall. . . I would like to thank you and say how many people in Israel and many friends of Israel around the world appreciate this. We appreciate this and I want to thank you for that.” — Prime Minister Netanyahu. Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley on the sidelines of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly on Friday, Netanyahu praised Haley for “clearing the stench” of antisemitism that he was “so used to encountering” at the UN. (*Jewish Press*, Sept. 29, 2018)

**“Jeremy Corbyn’s Labor Party is a toxic cocktail of unrepentant Marxism-Leninism and unacceptable anti-Semitism. They are giving all the errors of the 20th Century another chance to wreck our society. When our Jewish friends and neighbors live in fear for their futures, let us stand with them against prejudice, against intimidation, against bigotry and against hate. Let a message come loud and clear from this hall, a message of unshakeable solidarity with the Jewish community.” — UK Environment Secretary Michael Gove. (*Jewish Press*, Oct. 2, 2018)

**“Israel is the one country that protects the human rights of all. We protect the religious rights of all. We don’t just protect Christian religious sites – we protect Christian people. Christians should enjoy all the freedom to worship as they please in the Middle East and anywhere else and the only place in the Middle East where they can do so is Israel. — Prime Minister Netanyahu. Netanyahu hailed Israel as the only real protector of Christians in the Middle East at a Christian Media Summit in Jerusalem, while accusing the PA of persecuting the minority. “We have no better friends in the world than our Christian friends and I take this opportunity to thank you for your steadfast support. You are standing up for Israel and you are standing up for the truth and we stand up for you,” he added. (*The Hill*, Oct. 9, 2018)

**“Regrettably, when the UN itself ends up electing human rights violators to the human rights council, it indulges the very culture of impunity it is supposed to combat. The world’s democracies must join in the preservation and protection of the council’s mandate and not end up accomplices to its breach.” — Irwin Cotler, the head of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights and a former Canadian minister of justice. The U.S. administration withdrew from the human rights council in June, saying its decision was prompted by the presence of serial human rights abusers and a lack of competitive elections. Nikki Haley, the outgoing US ambassador to the UN, called it “a cesspool of political bias”. The US’s decision was also prompted by the HRC’s hostility towards Israel. (*Guardian*, Oct. 11, 2018)

SHABBAT IN THE HOME



1) **Candle Lighting.** The image of a Jewish woman kindling her Sabbath candles is a timeless symbol of Judaism. Eighteen minutes before sunset, we light the candles, inviting peace and harmony into the home, infusing the atmosphere with physical and spiritual light.

Candle lighting brings peace, warmth and a special Shabbat glow into the home. Light candles before sunset -- check the synagogue bulletin for the time. You usually can pick up a box of white Shabbat candles at any supermarket. You only need to light one, though the custom is to light two.

2) **Evening Services.** The melodies of the prayers for Kabbalah Sabbath welcome the Sabbath with deep reverence and joy. Dancing often has broken out in some synagogues and homes as Jews embrace the spirit of closeness with fellow Jews in a day of rest, sanctity, good food, and song.

3) **Shalom Aleichem.** Once gathered at the beautiful Sabbath table, we sing "Shalom Aleichem." This song greets the angels that escort a person home from synagogue, as we seek their "blessing" for a good Sabbath.

4) **Eishet Chayil.** There are many levels of meaning to this beautiful song that praises the Jewish woman who is accomplished and cares for her family, is kind to the poor and needy, and is God-fearing. Shabbat is also compared to a bride or queen, so the song is also in praise of Shabbat.

5) **Blessing the Children.** Right before Kiddush, many parents bless each of their children to walk in health and strength on the path of our holy ancestors.

6) **Kiddush.** Everyone stands as the leader cradles a full cup of wine or grape juice, to sanctify the Sabbath by remembering that "in six days, God created the heaven and the earth --and on Shabbat He rested."

Our week is filled with work and creation, but Shabbat is the day of rest and reflection. "Kiddush" literally means to make a distinction, to elevate something physical and make it spiritual. By reciting Kiddush, we elevate not only the cup of wine, but the very day of Shabbat itself.

7) **Hand washing.** We wash our hands in order to purify ourselves before we break bread. First remove all rings and coverings as the water must cover your hands completely, and then say the blessing.

8) **Ha-Motzi.** Two challahs are placed on plate or board, covered with a decorative cloth, and set on the table. The two loaves commemorate the double portion of manna which fell from the heavens each Friday while the Jews were in the desert. After the blessing, the leader cuts the challah for everyone and serves. We place salt on the bread because salt is a preservative, symbolizing that this meal is no longer merely a

9) **Festive Meal.** A traditional Friday night dinner usually includes several courses: fish, soup, entrée and dessert. This is a time to enjoy each other's company while partaking in the delicious Shabbat food. Each family or circle of friends creates their own Friday night traditions that include Shabbat songs, words of Torah, stories for children, and time for the children to share what they learned in school about the week's Torah portion. In some homes, people go around the table to share what they are grateful for, or to tell a small miracle story.

10) **D'var Torah.** Literally "a word of Torah," the D'var Torah is what really separates the Shabbat table from any other "fun dinner party." Choose a topic that's deep and relevant, and discuss it together.

11) **Songs.** We may remember a few favorite songs from the days of Cheder, Hebrew school or summer camp. The mystics say that "song is the expression of an excited soul." Song will relax you and propel you into the Shabbat experience. Besides, if there are any children around, they'll love it. And don't worry if you can't follow the words -- it's the melody and rhythm that will give you the greatest lift.

12) **Grace After Meals.** After the scrumptious Sabbath meal, we thank God by reciting the Grace After Meals. There is a tradition to prepare for the blessing by rinsing our fingertips with water, called Mayim Acharonim, which is usually passed around the table. *(Parts adapted from Aish.com)*

Please observe what you can! Enjoy!

Shabbat Shalom!

CHANUKAH

Under Syrian Rule

It was in the time of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, nearly twenty-two centuries ago, that the events took place which we commemorate each year at Chanukah time. The Jewish people had returned to the Land of Israel from the Babylonian Exile, and had rebuilt the Holy Temple. But they remained subject to the domination of imperial powers, first, the Persian Empire, then later, the conquering armies of Alexander the Great. Upon the death of Alexander, his vast kingdom was divided among his generals. After a power struggle which engulfed all the nations of the Middle East, Israel found itself under the sway of the Seleucid Dynasty, Greek kings who reigned from Syria.

Alexander Bows to the High Priest

The Talmud relates that when Alexander the Great and his conquering legions advanced upon Jerusalem, they were met by a delegation of elders, led by the high Priest Shimon HaTzaddik. When Alexander saw Shimon approaching, he dismounted and prostrated himself before the Jewish Sage. To his astonished men, Alexander explained that each time he went into battle, he would see a vision in the likeness of this High Priest leading his troops to victory. In gratitude, and out of profound respect for the spiritual power of the Jews, Alexander was a kind and generous ruler. He canceled the Jewish taxes during Sabbatical years, and even offered animals to be sacrificed on his behalf in the Temple. Unfortunately, history would show that Alexander's heirs failed to sustain his benevolence.

The "Madman"

Though at first, the rule of the Seleucids was rather benign, there soon arose a new king, Antiochus IV, who was to wage a bloody war upon the Jews, a war which would threaten not just their physical lives, but also their very spiritual existence. Over the years of Greek domination, many Jews had begun to embrace the Greek culture and its hedonistic, pagan way of life. These Jewish Hellenists became willing pawns in Antiochus's scheme to obliterate every trace of the Jewish religion. The Holy Temple was invaded, desecrated, and looted of all its treasures. Vast numbers of innocent people were massacred, and the survivors were heavily taxed. Antiochus placed an idol of Zeus on the holy altar, and forced the Jews to bow before it under penalty of death. And he forbade the Jewish people to observe their most sacred traditions, such as the Sabbath and the rite of circumcision. Antiochus went so far as to proclaim himself a god, taking the name "Antiochus Epiphanies" - the Divine. But even his own followers mocked him as "Antiochus Epimanes" - the madman.

Jason and Menelaus

His Hebrew name was Joshua. But he changed his name, as did many among the Hellenists, to Jason. And he offered King Antiochus a generous bribe to depose the High Priest and appoint him to the coveted position. It was the beginning of the end to the integrity of the Temple Priesthood. The "High Priest" Jason erected a gymnasium near the Temple, and proceeded to corrupt his fellow Jews with pagan customs and licentious behavior. But before long, another Hellenized Jew, Menelaus, beat Jason at his own game and bought the High Priesthood with an even bigger bribe, financed with the golden vessels pilfered from the Temple. Jason then amassed an army and attacked Menelaus in the Holy City, massacring many of his own countrymen. Antiochus interpreted this civil squabble as a revolt against his throne, and sent his armies into Jerusalem, plundering the Temple and murdering tens of thousands of Jews. It was neither the first time, nor the last, that assimilation and strife brought calamity upon the Jewish people.

The Turning Point

In every city and town, altars were erected with statues of the Greek gods and goddesses. Soldiers rounded up the Jews and forcibly compelled them to make offerings, and to engage in other immoral acts customary to the Greeks. As Antiochus's troops tightened their grip on the nation, the Jews seemed incapable of resistance. It was in the small village of Modin, a few miles east of Jerusalem, that a single act of heroism turned the tide of Israel's struggle, and altered her destiny for all time. Mattityahu, patriarch of the priestly Hasmonean clan, stepped forward to challenge the Greek soldiers and those who acquiesced to their demands. Backed by his five sons, he attacked the troops, slew the idolaters, and destroyed the idols. With a cry of "All who are with G-d, follow me!" he and a courageous circle of partisans retreated to the hills, where they gathered forces to overthrow the oppression of Antiochus and his collaborators.

Guerrilla Warfare

The army of Mattityahu, now under the command of his son Yehuda Maccabee, grew daily in numbers and in strength. With the Biblical slogan, "Who is like You among the mighty ones, O G-d?" emblazoned on their shields, they would swoop down upon the Syrian troops under cover of darkness and scatter the oppressors, then return to their encampments in the hills. Only six thousand strong, they defeated a heavily armed battalion of forty-seven thousand Syrians. Enraged, Antiochus sent an even larger army against them, and in the miraculous, decisive battle at Bet Tzur, the Jewish forces emerged victorious. From there, they proceeded on to Jerusalem, where they liberated the city and reclaimed the Holy Temple. They cleared the Sanctuary of the idols, rebuilt the altar, and prepared to resume the Divine Service. A central part of the daily service in the Temple was the kindling of the brilliant lights of the menorah. Now, with the Temple about to be re-dedicated, only one small cruse of the pure, sacred olive oil was found. It was only one day's supply, and they knew it would take more than a week for the special process required to prepare more oil. Undaunted, in joy and thanksgiving, the Maccabees lit the lamps of the menorah with the small amount of oil, and dedicated the Holy Temple anew. And miraculously, as if in confirmation of the power of their faith, the oil did not burn out, and the flames shone brightly for eight full days. The following year, our Sages officially proclaimed the festival of Chanukah as a celebration lasting eight days, in perpetual commemoration of this victory over religious persecution.

Lighting the Channukah Candles (Chanukah Begins on the Evening of December 2nd)

On the first night of Channukah, put one candle on the right side of your Menorah and say these blessings before lighting it. Light the Menorah before lighting Shabbat candles on Erev Shabbat.

1. Barukh atah Adonai, elohenu melekh ha'olam, asher kidshanu bemitsvotav, vetsivanu lehadlik ner shel Channukah,

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us through His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Channukah light.

2: Barukh atah Adonai elohenu melekh ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avotenu bayamin hahem bazman hazeh. Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this time. On the first night only we add:

3: Barukh atah Adonai, elohenu melekh ha'olam, shehekheyenu vekiyemanu, vehigi'anu lazman hazeh. Blessed are you, L-rd our G-d, Who has kept us in life, and sustained us and brought us to this season.

On the second night, put two candles in, and light starting from the "new" candle on the left, reciting only the first two blessings. Keep on increasing each night, until you've got all eight candles lit.

The lighting of the Menorah is done at home, at nightfall or when the family has gathered. Some people put the Menorah in the window for the purpose of "publicizing the miracle." In many synagogues, special prayers of thanksgiving are added to the services, and a special Chanukah paragraph is added to the Birkat HaMazon - the blessing after the meal..

Other Customs

In addition to the beautiful ritual of kindling the Chanukah lights, there are many other customs to help celebrate this fun-filled holiday. Foods such as latkes and doughnuts remind us of the oil of the miracle, games and songs help express our joy and gratitude, and stories help explain the different aspects of the holiday.

S'vivon Sov Sov Sov!

S'vivon is the Hebrew name for dreidel, the popular Chanukah game. What's a dreidel, you ask? A dreidel is a four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side - Nun, Gimmel, Heh and Shin. Outside of Israel, the letters stand for Nes Gadol Hayah Sham - "A Great Miracle Happened There." In the Land of Israel, a Pey is in place of the Shin, meaning Nes Gadol Hayah Po - "A Great Miracle Happened Here". The letters also (conveniently) stand for the Yiddish words Nit ("nothing"), Gantz ("all"), Halb ("half") and Shtell ("put"), which tell us how the game is played.

The game begins by each player taking a supply of pennies, nuts or chocolate "gelt" and contributing some into the "pot". Each player in turn spins the dreidel. When the dreidel stops, the letter facing up determines what you need to do. If it lands on Nun, "nothing" happens. If it lands on Gimmel - you "get" everything in the pot (and then each player contributes more). If the dreidel lands on the Heh - then "Half" is taken from the pot. If it lands on Shin or Pey, - you "Put" something into the pot.

How did the dreidel come to be part of Chanukah? Although the four sided spinning top is actually a traditional European toy, legend has it that when Antiochus ruled over Israel and outlawed the study of Torah, many Jews defiantly continued to study, doing so in secret. In order to hide their true activity, they would keep a dreidel at hand. If they were found by Antiochus' troops, they would stop discussing Torah and pretend to play dreidel. With the dreidel as a tool of rebellion, the study of Torah was kept alive.

Kupferberg Holocaust Center
Queensboro Community College
222-05, 56th Avenue, Oakland Gardens
Presents

The Kindertransport: 80 Years Later

Date: Wednesday, December 5th, 2018

Time: 12:10pm

Admission Free

Musical Performance by: The Astoria Music Project

One of the survivor speakers being interviewed is our very own member
Ellen Zilka

Commemorate Kristallnacht

On November 9 and 10, we mark the eightieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass"
We are having a Commemoration Service on Saturday,
November 3, at 11:00AM.



