

# KESHER

## FROM RABBI SAM

### Creating Light in the Darkness

Chanukah, this year, begins right before Christmas and runs almost until the new year. Many may comment that the Holiday is “late this year”. While that may seem true for the secular (Gregorian) calendar; it is not at all the case for the Hebrew calendar. Chanukah, in fact, is right on time. The moon will begin to wane during the week of December 11 and will disappear around December 25. Meanwhile, the days will continue to grow shorter and the nights longer and darker.

This scenario is the annual setting for the celebration of Chanukah on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. The moon is in its final quarter; rising later and growing dimmer with each longer night. The nights are also getting longer at that same time. Thus, when we kindle the lights of Chanukah, it is during the combination of the darkest and longest nights of the year.

When we light the candles of the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah), we not only recite the blessings but we also traditionally read a special paragraph (see page 2 for a how-to guide). In it we remind each other that we do not use the lights for any secular purpose. We are simply to look at them and remember and retell the story of a great miracle of the past.

But what was that great miracle the prayer refers to? The earliest answer can be found in the Books of the Maccabees in the Apocrypha. A later story that answers that question can be found in an early Rabbinic midrash. The most commonly known story, the amazing oil, is not recorded until at least 300 years after that. These stories will be presented in various programs at the Temple. You are welcome to see me if you would like to learn more.

As for the actual process of lighting the Chanukah candles, Rabbis Hillel and Shammai debated the proper method for this over two thousand years ago. Shammai insisted that we light the shamash and eight lights the first night, seven the second, and so forth down to one light on the last night. Hillel declared that we begin with the shamash and one light on the first night. An additional candle is then added each night. Shammai, perhaps, wanted to be sure that people did not think that their lighting of the candles could “magically” bring back the moon and longer days. Hillel’s purpose, on the other hand, may have been to remind us that we are required to add light (knowledge, caring, and goodness) to the world especially when we see darkness increasing. Ultimately Hillel’s view became the rule and the meaning still holds true for us today.

As we light our Chanukah lights this year, then, let us recommit to bringing care and support to those who are overwhelmed as we strive always to create opportunities to bring light into the darkest places of our world.

### Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2011-2012

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#### TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am– 1:30 pm

Thursday  
1:00 pm– 6:00 pm

### KESHER

*Kesher*, Connection,  
is the newsletter  
of Temple Israel  
Dover, NH.

Ideas for submissions and letters to the editor are welcomed from members of the Temple Israel family and from others who wish to communicate with the congregation.

All communication with the Editor should be by e-mail. Publication is limited by editorial and space considerations. The deadline for submission is the twentieth (20th) of the month for the following month's issue of *Kesher*.

#### mail to:

Tammy Fascetta  
TempleOffice

@dovertemple.org  
or

Rabbi Sam Seicol  
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

## Candle Lighting How-to Guide

### 1. Place candles from the right. Light the shamash candle first.

*Baruch Ata Adonai. Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, sovereign of time and space, who has sanctified us by the commandments and commanded us to kindle a light of Chanukah.

### 2. Light the candle of the night (left one) with the shamash.

### 3. Light the rest of the candles from left to right.

*Baruch Ata Adonai. Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, she'asa nisim lavoteinu bayamim haheim bazman hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, sovereign of time and space, who made miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.

### 4. On the first night only add the following blessing.

*Baruch Ata Adonai. Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, sovereign of time and space, who kept us alive, sustained us and brought us to this time.

### 5. Recite the following while looking at the Chanukah Menorah.

These candles we light are for the miracles and wonders and salvations and battles You did for our ancestors in those days at this time. For the sake of Your holy priests and each commandment of the eight days of Chanukah. These candles are holy and we may not use them except only to see them; in order to thank and to praise Your great name for Your miracles, wonders, and salvations.

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR ONEG HOSTS**

**December 2**

Pam and Steve Giguere  
Lauren and Jonathan Harris

**December 9**

Lois and Robert Costa  
Jane Liemer

**December 16**

Steve Goren  
Rita and Stan Robbins

**December 23**

Pot-luck

**December 30**

Pot-luck

**ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS**

If you are unable to host the Oneg Shabbat on the night assigned to you, please find a substitute by trading with another family from the membership directory. If you need to change your assigned date, please notify  
Cathi Cherry-Liston 603-312-0152, 603-269-4888  
ccherryliston@yahoo.com  
or Susan Shepcaro 603-964-7959

*All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and to offer tribute to friends, relatives and community members through a donation to one or more of the special funds.*

*We express our grateful appreciation to:*

**General Fund**

*Donation*

Susan Lilfen Katz

*High Holy Day Donation—Yom Kippur*

Beth Rascoe Kilinc & Aykut Kilinc

**Capital Campaign**

Cathi Cherry Liston

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Margery & George Mezei - In memory of  
Matthew Krassner,

Helen Krassner,

Bruce Krassner,

Gordie Cohen, uncle of Carole Krassner

**Mazal Tov**

to our members celebrating  
happy occasions in December!

**Birthdays**

Michele Samuels (1), DeeDee Goldstein (4),  
Mort Cherim (7), Janice Miller (8),  
Brendon Kotlus (15), Kristin Adelman (19),  
Arthur Saunders (21), Nir Yosef (22),  
Satchel Adelman (23), Marc Weinstein (24),  
Andrew McDonald (24), Louisa Samuels (26),  
David Goldstein (29), Michael Kaplan (30),  
Will Ramsay (30), Zoe Adelman (31),  
Abigail Kaye (31)



**Please consider marking special occasions and milestones along the path of life for you or members of your family by purchasing a leaf on the Tree of Life.**

**The rocks in the Sanctuary can celebrate joyous occasions or honor the memory of a loved one.**

**For more information, contact:  
Tammy Fascetta in the Temple office.**

**Anniversary**

Rick & Shelly Levy (8)

## Celebrate Chanukah

@ Temple Israel

December 15 4:00-6:00

Religious School  
Family Program

December 18

10:00-12:00 noon  
Annual Latke Party



## December 18 10:00 — 12:00 noon Annual Latke Party

Please join with the congregational community of Temple Israel of Dover for our annual Latke Party. This year the celebration will be in anticipation of Chanukah (Candle lighting should be done the evenings of December 20 — 27). In addition to consuming quantities of delicious fresh in-Temple made latkes, we will hear and sing Chanukah songs (some perhaps familiar and some perhaps new to you), play a variety of dreidl games, and the gift shop will be open. BYOD (Bring Your Own Dreidl) if you like but dreidls will be provided for all in attendance.

Because this year the Temple party is prior to Chanukah, we will not be lighting candles. Please do not bring Chanukah Menorahs to the Temple for this event.

Finally:

Left-over latkes are not as good as they are when they are fresh cooked. We would like to have enough latkes for all who attend without creating too many left-overs. To that end, we request that you RSVP so we can have a good idea of how many people to expect.

This is a free event open to all Temple Israel members, friends, and guests.

RSVP to Tammy: **TempleOffice@dovertemple.org**

# December 2011

## Happening at Temple Israel of Dover

- 01 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 02 Early Shabbat Services & Dinner
- 5:30 Tot Shabbat Program 6:00 Pot-luck Family-style Dinner 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 03 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (in Durham)  
contact [rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org) for more information
- 08 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 09 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 10 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Gen 32-36  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (in Durham)  
contact [rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org) for more information
- 15 4:00 Religious School Family Chanukah Program
- 16 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 17 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – the Service  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (in Durham)  
contact [rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org) for more information
- 18 8:30 Monthly Brotherhood morning meeting  
10:00 Annual Latke Party
- 20 – 28 Chanukah
- 22 No Religious School – Winter Vacation
- 23 7:30 Chanukah / Shabbat Service
- 24 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Gen 37-43
- 29 No Religious School – Winter Vacation
- 30 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 31 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Gen 44-47



**These certificates are available from Hadassah for \$5.00 each for the purpose of honoring someone or remembering a loved one or friend who has made an impact on your life.**

**For more information, contact**

**Donna Goldfarb  
at 603-749-3293 or  
donnadee82@comcast.net**

**Hospital Visits:  
Please  
keep us informed!**

Due to national privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to call congregations to inform them that their members have been admitted as patients.

If you know you are going to be in the hospital please call the Temple office. If you unexpectedly find yourself in the hospital, please tell a nurse that you would like to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there.

Rabbi Sam and all the Temple Israel community would like to offer support and comfort to you and your family.

**BENEFIT THE TEMPLE  
& YOURSELF**

Advertise in the Kesher, B/W or full color  
**for the same price.**

Monthly and annual rates available.

For more information, please contact Tammy:  
**templeoffice@dovertemple.org**

BUBEH MEISEHS

(From the files of Ann Isacoff)

(Sung to the tune of "As Time Goes By")

You must remember this,  
A bris is still a bris,  
A chai is just a chai,  
Pastrami still belongs on rye,  
As time goes by.

With holidays in view,  
A Jew is still a Jew,  
On that you can rely,  
No matter if we eat tofu,  
As time goes by.

Old shtetl customs. never out of date,  
All those potatoes someone has to grate,  
One flame in the window, keep counting till there's eight,  
To light the winter sky.

In the Bronx or in the Mission,  
It's still the same tradition,  
That no one can deny,  
We roam, but we recall our birthright,  
As time goes by.

Dreidels and chocolate, never out of date,  
Ancient Semitic glories to relate,  
Blue-and-white giftwrap, ain't this country great,  
And festive chazerai.

It's still the same old Torah,  
It's still the same menorah,  
We've latkes still to fry,  
December's when I feel most Jewish,  
As time goes by.

\*\*would you believe this was from an Irish Catholic friend?

## Sisterhood News

It's time to Join Sisterhood. November through December will be our Sisterhood Membership Drive. This year Sisterhood is offering a gift store discount and Chanukah craft, special for everyone who renews their membership by our Chanukah get-together. This is our way of thanking you for your support, participation and generosity which will enable us to aid our Temple functions, provide paper goods for Onegs and gifts to the B'nei Mitzvah students along with much more. Your membership is important to our Temple and we believe it will be rewarding to you. Watch your mail for the Membership dues request of \$36.00.

## Brotherhood News

We had a well attended opening meeting on November 20. We shared stories over a coffee and bagel breakfast and began to talk about events for the coming year.

### Join us Sunday morning December 18 at 8:00

- To set a calendar of events for 2012
- To help as needed with the Latkes
- To continue to share stories
- To build toward a good year together

## Temple Israel in the Community

### Dover Friendly Kitchen

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**PLEASE JOIN THE CONGREGATIONAL & COMMUNITY!!!**

Temple Members serve dinner at the Dover Friendly Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church Parish Hall on Locust Street. Temple Israel's effort needs people to help cook, serve and clean. We are there from 3:45 until around 6:15. Volunteers do not need to come for the whole time. For more information or to let me know if you plan to attend, please contact me. We welcome everyone's help! Thank you!

*Andra Welch, Coordinator*

abbwelch@yahoo.com or 534-4142

### The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents  
with needs that cannot be met through other  
helping agencies,  
providing them with shelter and support for  
utilities and medical care.  
Your support is appreciated!

### Temple Israel Mitzvah Project

Please bring food items that can be donated to the Dover Food Pantry at any time. We would like to continue our generosity to people in need throughout the year. Your help in this act of tzedakah (righteous giving) and g'milut chasadim (acts of loving kindness) is appreciated!!!

### Temple Israel of Dover has entered the world of...FACEBOOK!

Please join our group, "Friends of Temple Israel of Dover NH,"  
established by Marc Hiller.

This gives us one more way to learn about Temple events in cyberspace  
(along with our "real space" gatherings)!

Currently, this group can only be viewed by facebook members.

## Temple Israel of Dover

P. O. Box 254  
Dover, N. H. 03821  
(603) 742-3976  
templeoffice@  
dovertemple.org

www.dovertemple.org



*Temple Israel, a growing Reform Jewish congregation, welcomes all who wish to participate in Jewish worship, study, and fellowship. Our mission is to serve as a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday worship and celebration, life-cycle observances, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and for all who are in need.*

*Temple Israel is a proud member of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) We join with more than 800 congregations in the Reform synagogue movement.*

*President:*  
Carole Krassner  
c.krassner@comcast.net  
*Rabbi:*  
Sam Seicol  
rabbisam@dovertemple.org  
*Administrative Assistant:*  
Tammy Fascetta  
TempleOffice@  
dovertemple.org

## News from the School

Regular classes are held Thursday afternoons. Special family programs are planned around holiday times. Saturday mornings offer additional education and worship experiences for all students and adults.

- 01 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 02 Early Shabbat Dinner & Service
- 5:30 Tot Shabbat Program
- 6:00 Pot-luck Family-style Dinner
- 7:00 Shabbat Worship Service in honor of all students
- 03 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service — required for 6th & 7th
- 08 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 10 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study — Gen 32-36
- 15 4:00 Family Program — Chanukah
- 17 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study — The Service: Amidah
- 22 - 31 **No Religious School — School Winter Vacation**  
**Shabbat Services and Study Programs will be held**

### DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

**Week of December 3:** Sadie Cook (27), Gerald Fine (27), Katherine H. Edelstein (27), Frances Anderson (29), Abraham Fisher (29), Eileen Platania (30), Bessie W. Young (30), Gussie Flecsher (1), Fannie Krasnow (1), Baurcard Nesin (1), Richard Rowe (1)

**Week of December 10:** Barnett H. Book (4), Pierette Zinck (5), Edward Seperson (6), Faye Shear (6), Lawrence Felsenberg (6), Lillian Smith (7), Ruth E Fain (8), Mildred Lane (9), Newton B. Cohn (10)

**Week of December 17:** Joseph P. Giffen(12), Sarah Zirpolo (13), Sidney Zeff (14), Statia Nesin (14), Morris Levy (14), Julius Nasberg (14), Arnold M. Baer (15), Morris Isacoff (16), Davida Gelfman (17)

**Week of December 24:** Deborah Most (18), Rita Peters (20), Rose Cohen (21), James Green (21), Robert Goren (22), Arnold J. Ashline (22), Rabbi Aaron Ilson (23), Catherine Most (24), Milton Brody (24), Jacob H. Cohen (24)

### Week of December 31:

Eva Gordon Baer (27), Minnie Cooper(27), Ralph Noveletsky (28), Bernard Fine (28), Floretta Osman (30), Gloria Rosegarten Adler (31)

**NOTE:** *Yahrzeits are recorded according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish in the Synagogue may be recited on the Shabbat following the date of remembrance. It is traditional to make a donation in memory of the Yahrzeit of a love one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.*

### Memorial Wall



Members may add names of loved ones or reserve spaces on the new memorial wall with a minimum contribution of \$300.

Please contact the Temple Office for more information.