

KESHER

Our
Seventy-Ninth
Year!

FROM RABBI SAM

Chanukah - the festival of lights? Sure! Now it is. But it has only been that way for the recent 1900 years or so. What of the first several hundred years? How was this minor festival (post Torah) intended to be celebrated by its originators? If you have been in a Chanukah Adult Education or a Religious School session with me, you may remember or have some sense of the answer. If not, there will be opportunities to explore these and other Chanukah aspects of the rich history and traditions of the festival this month.

One interesting tradition concerns the recent spate of public lightings of Chanukiot (Chanukah Menorahs). New Hampshire is now entering into this arena with a public lighting at the State House at 5:30 on the first night (December 12). Boston even has two lightings (one at the State House and one by Chabad) and traditionally the Mayor of Boston attends both.

I have heard some express the concern that we are only doing this as an answer to the American (read: Christian) long-standing custom of a tree lighting well in advance of Christmas. While that may be a part of the current practice, it is not the whole story of Chanukah.

In actual fact, the Mishna (written down 1800 years ago and reflecting a much older oral tradition) declares that the Chanukiah must be placed for all out side of the house to see. It was intended as a public demonstration of faith and the remembrance of the Maccabee story. Public lighting of a Christmas tree, on the other hand, may be an innovation of only the last 400 years or so.

Chanukah is a time of lighting of the lights and giving gifts but not as a parallel or answer to Christmas. Rather the lights of the Chanukiah are only to be used as a reminder of the story and are strictly forbidden from being used for any other purpose. The gifts that are given, traditionally, are to be offered to the poor and needy. The gifts of gelt to the children offered a taste of sweetness but were also intended to be shared with others.

The dreidl (and its associated game) has its own rich history. Join us this festival season at any, or all, of the Temple's special events (listed in the Keshet and on the calendars) to learn, sing, and celebrate as a community.

Happy Chanukah to all and wishes to all for 8 very good nights.

Temple Israel Board of Trustees - 2017-2018

Ken Litvak, President Melissa Brahms, Carole Krassner, Co-Vice Presidents
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Nathan Pastor, COASTY Representatives

KESHER

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

Ideas for submissions
and/or letters to the editor
may be submitted by
members of the Temple
Israel family and all others
who would like to share
news or information with
the Temple community.

All communication with
the Editor should be by e-
mail. Publication of any
flyer or any other article or
submission is limited by
editorial and space consid-
erations.

The deadline for submis-
sion is the twentieth (20th)
of the month for the fol-
lowing month's issue of
Kesher.

email to:

Rabbi Sam Seicol
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

Shabbat @ Temple Israel

Friday evening services 7:00

Dinners & Adult Ed 6:30

Saturday mornings 10:30

Please note special programs

Friday Dec 1

7:00 Religious School led

Saturday Dec 2

10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

11:30 Adult Hebrew Class

Friday Dec 8

4:00 Challah Baking

7:00 Shabbat Service

Saturday Dec 9

No Service of Torah Study

Friday Dec 15

6:30 Dinner & Menorah lighting

Pot Luck Meat/Vegetarian Dinner (No Dairy)

Saturday Dec 16

10:30 Shabbat Service & Torah

Chanukah Shabbat music with Noam

Friday Dec 22

7:00 Shabbat Service

Saturday Dec 23

10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

Friday Dec 29

7:00 pre-New Year Service

Saturday Dec 30

10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

From the Board

One of Judaism's primary goals, is the transformation of people into menschen (mensch plural!). As Jews, the feeding of the hungry, housing of the homeless, and lending a hand to people in need are not acts of charity, but commandments. We are commanded through mitzvot to do these things. You might say we are hard wired to "repair the world". In Judaism Tzedakah is an obligation.

What is Tzedakah? I have read many translations: charity, justice, righteousness and righteous giving. In whatever way you choose to interpret the meaning of Tzedakah, it involves the obligation to establish justice by being compassionate and helpful to others.

In our immediate area, there are many opportunities to participate in Tzedakah.

Congregants Cathi Cherry-Liston and Julie Serrano head our Caring Community, and are available to provide ritual and traditional support to people who are sick or in mourning. Our temple is a member of Dover Cooperative ministries, a faith based volunteer group that helps make the Dover community a better place. The Dover Friendly Kitchen, The Dover Food Pantry and The Dover Share Fund are all run under the umbrella of Dover Cooperative Ministries.

Our Temple group volunteers at the **Dover Friendly Kitchen** the first Tuesday of every month. Please consider coming. We would especially love to see parents with young families and teens volunteer. It is a rewarding experience, and you can come for as little or as long as you like. It is a wonderful opportunity to share your time, and help those who don't have what you have.

The Dover Food Pantry is always looking for people to greet guests, stock shelves, help with food deliveries, and pack bags. Involve your whole family by picking up a bag of groceries for the food pantry.

The Dover Share Fund is a nonprofit, community outreach program that assists Dover residents who are experiencing temporary financial hardships such as layoffs, unexpected medical emergencies and loss of transportation.

Information on these three groups is posted in the Keshher under the "Temple Israel in the Community" banner. I can also answer any questions at: sbsegil@gmail.com

By giving, we create a just world. We have many opportunities to give in Dover and in other communities. Go further than giving money, give of yourself.

Shalom,

Stacey Segil



DO YOU SHOP FOR GROCERIES?

Shop at Hannaford and help the Temple.

Buy Gift Cards at the Temple.

Contact Carole Krassner for more info.

(603) 749-2751

**THANK YOU TO OUR
ONEG HOSTS**

Dec 1 Religious School families
Dec 8 Lessa Brill & John Wallace
Dec 15 Melissa Brahms & Mark Manganiello
Dec 22 Cathi Cherry Liston & Mel Liston
Dec 29 Karen Mott
Jan 5 Carolyn Anderson & Phil Ginsburg
Jan 12 Pot-Luck Style—MLK weekend
Jan 19 Patty & Andy Diengott
 Stacey & Jeff Siegel
Jan 26 Mary & David Kaye
Feb 2 Religious School families

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



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

**Plaques in the Sanctuary honor
the memory of a loved one.**

**For more information,
contact: the Temple office.**

**[templeoffice@
dovertemple.org](mailto:templeoffice@dovertemple.org)**



**Mazal
Tov**

to our members who are celebrating
special days in November

**Join us at the
December 1 at 7:00 PM
In honor of your special day.**

Birthdays

Michele Samuels (1),
 Rita Robbins (2),
 DeeDee Goldstein (4),
 Burton Cohen (6),
 Mort Cherim (7),
 Jerrold Pollak (8),
 Brendon Kotlus (15),
 Arthur Saunders (21),
 Marc Weinstein (23),
 Louisa Samuels (26),
 Ashley Barajas (26),
 David Goldstein (29),
 Michael Kaplan (30),
 Abigail Kaye (31)



5788

Bar Mitzvah celebration

April 28 Marcus Anderson



Join Us this Chanukah and Festival Season

December 9 6:00 Interfaith Middle School Event at Durham Church 17 Main St

December 10 11:00 Pre-Chanukah Latke/Sufganiyot Party

December 15 6:30 Shabbat/Chanukah dinner and candle lighting

December 16 10:30 Shabbat/Chanukah service and sing-a-long with Noam
7:00 First annual Latke-Vodka event

Religious School

Welcome to the New Year

All are **WELCOME**

December

- 3 9:30 Religious School classes
- 9 6:00 Middle Schooler Interfaith Holiday Event
 Durham Community Church 17 Main Street
- 10 9:30 Religious School classes
- 11:00 Annual Latke/Sufganiyot Party
- 17 9:30 Religious School classes
- 24 **No Religious School classes - Winter Vacation**
- 31 **No Religious School classes - Winter Vacation**

January

- 7 9:30 Religious School
- 14 **No Religious School classes - MLK Weekend**
- 21 9:30 Religious School classes
- 28 9:30 Religious School classes
- 11:00 Annual Tu Bishevat Community Celebration

MONTHLY MEDITATION



**Shorter days, longer nights –
The first full moon of winter has passed.
Setting out the Chanukiah, dreidls, gelt, candles –
Families prepare for evenings of joy and celebration.
Gathering to share latkes, sufganiyot, festival foods –
Brighten the nights, tell the stories of days gone by:
Miracles for our ancestors remembered;
Hope for the future envisioned.**

Temple Israel in the Community

The Dover Food Pantry

Items can be donated to the Food Pantry any time.

Drop off may done at the Temple.

The Food Pantry is open

Tuesdays 3-5PM and Thursdays 9-11AM

In addition to donations of food and/or personal items

volunteers are always welcome

to help work at the Dover Food Pantry.

Please contact Karen Robichaud

at (603) 749-4235 or blrklr2@aol.com

The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents with needs that are not met through other

helping agencies,

providing them with shelter

and support for utilities and medical care.

Your support is appreciated!

www.dovershare.org

Dover Friendly Kitchen

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

PLEASE JOIN THE COMMUNITY!!!

Temple Members help 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 time slot 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

OCTOBER DONATIONS

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and/or to offer tributes to friends, relatives and members of the community through a donation Temple funds. We express appreciation to:

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Florence Pastor:

Cathi Cherry-Liston and Mel Liston
Ken and Bertha Litvack
Muriel Slutzky
Gabriele and Eitan Zeira
Rita Novak

In honor of Jeremy Giguere's

Bar Mitzvah

Carole Krassner
Ken and Bertha Litvack

Hospital Visits:

Please keep us informed!

If you or someone you know will be or is in the hospital please call the Temple office. You can also ask a nurse to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there. Rabbi Sam and the Temple Israel community would like to be able to offer support and comfort to you and your family if you desire.

rabbisam@dovertemple.org

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 loved one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.

Week of December 2: Barnett H. Book (26), Phyllis Wagner Brill (27), Pierette Zinck (27), Edward Wheeler (28), Faye Shear (28), Lawrence Felsenberg (29), Edward Seperson (29), Lillian Smith (30), Ruth E. Fain (1), Mildred Lane (1), Newton B. Cohn (2)

Week of December 9: Joseph P Giffen (4), Sarah Zirpolo (5), Morris Levy (6), Sidney Zeff (6), Stacia Nesin (6), Arnold M. Baer (7), Morris Isacoff (8), Davida Gelfman (9), Selma J. Nasberg (9)

Week of December 16: Deborah Most (10), Rita Peters (12), Gert Sternberg (12), Rose Cohen (13), James Green (13), Arnold J. Ashline (14), Robert Goren (14), Rabbi Aaron Ilson (15), Jean Lafargue (16), Milton Brody (16), Catherine Most (16), Jacob H Cohen (16)

Week of December 23: Eva Gordon Baer (19), Minnie Cooper (19), Bernard Fine (20), Ralph Noveletsky (20), Katrina Bradbury (22), Floretta Osman (22), Gloria Adler (23)

Week of December 30: Julius Nasberg (24), Sayde Harris (24), Charlotte Brody (26), Samuel N. Cook (26), Beatrice Book (27), Louis J. Magerer (27), Abraham Issokson (27), Adolph Baer (27), Benjamin Radner (28), Bernard Luloff (28), Herman Cherim (30),

Memorial Wall

Members may add the name of a loved one or reserve a space on the Memorial Wall with a minimum contribution of \$300. Please contact the Temple Office (templeoffice@dovertemple.org) for more information.



**Temple Israel
of Dover**

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



Temple Israel is a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation. We welcome all who wish to participate in Jewish study, worship, and fellowship. Our mission is to be a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday services and programs, sharing of life-cycle events, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and support 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:
Ken Litvak
president@dovertemple.org
Rabbi:
Sam Seicol
rabbisam@dovertemple.org
Temple Office:
TempleOffice@dovertemple.org

December 2017

- 01** 7:00 Service led by Religious School
- 02** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Torah Study
- 11:30 Beginning Adult Hebrew Class
- 03** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 08** 4:00 Challah baking with Allen, Karen, and Lynne
- 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 09** **No Shabbat Morning Torah Study**
- 6:00 Interfaith Middle School Event
Durham Community Church 17 Main St
- 10** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 11:00 Annual Latke/Sufganiyot Party
- 12 – 19 Chanukah Candle Lighting**
- 15** 6:30 Chanukah/Shabbat Dinner & Songs
Pot-luck Meat/Vegetarian & Bring Menorahs
- 16** 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service with Noam
- 7:00 Latke Vodka Celebration
- 17** 9:30 Religious School Classes
- 22** 7:00 Shabbat Service
- 23** 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study
- 24** No Religious School – Winter Vacation
- 29** 7:00 pre-New Year Shabbat Service
- 30** 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study
- 31** No Religious School – Winter Vacation