December 2022

7 Kislev to 7 Tevet 5783

Vol. 88—Number 3



Come light the menorah! Join us from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Sunday, December 18th**, for a special Chanukah Celebration. Bring your family and enjoy the entertainment. Latkes, sufganiyot, and gelt will be served. Nosh while a juggler and stilt walker perform. There will be face painting for the kids and even a dreidel contest!

Want to get involved? Dan Sturman, Program Chairman, is looking for volunteers. Call him (817.996.9424) to volunteer. Help make this a fantastic event.

Bringing God and the Community Closer Together

A Conservative Synagogue affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

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Rabbi Andrew Bloom

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FROM OUR RABBI

Dear Friends,

Michal, Daniel, and I lived in England between 1999-2000 in a city called Saint Al-

bans, which is 19 miles outside London. Around the time of Chanukah (winter), there is an ailment called "Seasonal Depression." This form of depression occurs due to a lack of sunlight and the dreary weather that comes along with the winter. To counteract this seasonal depression, people buy certain types of lights, place them within their houses, and sit under the rays for a period of time each day. This allows the body to receive the stimuli that it needs daily.

We are currently in winter whereby light is needed, and at the same time, we are also soon celebrating the Festival of Lights (Chanukah). In the Talmud we are taught that the light of the season originated during the time of Adam.

The Talmud in Avodah Zarah 8B tells us, "As the days passed into winter, Adam noticed in terror that the days were becoming shorter, the hours of light were becoming less. He thought the world was being destroyed, disintegrating, because of his sin. He fasted for eight days until the solstice, the darkest point of the descent into darkness. Then he saw the days brightening, becoming longer, and understood with relief that it was the way of the world. As the light grew, he made an eight-day festival, and the next year, he again celebrated his reprieve." Adam understood the miracle of light was needed during the darkest times of the year.

Additionally, when speaking about God bringing light to the world in times of darkness, I am further reminded of the following midrash, which teaches us, "Onkelos, the nephew of the Roman emperor Hadrian, left the Roman court. He traveled to Eretz Yisrael and converted. The emperor dispatched his troops to bring his nephew back to Rome. When the soldiers arrived, Onkelos convinced them to convert to Judaism too. The emperor then sent a second division with strict instructions

not to engage in any conversation with Onkelos. The soldiers forced him to return with them to the emperor, but on the way, he told them, "Let me just mention a point of interest to you. If a group of people of noble rank traveled together, a baron would hold a lantern for a duke, a duke would illuminate the way for a prince, and a prince for a monarch. But, did you ever hear of a monarch who lit the way for the whole populace?" "Never," they replied. "Well, the God of the Jews illuminated the way for His entire people during their sojourn in the desert," explained Onkelos.

The perfect example of light in the desert can be found in the Torah in the Book of Numbers. Rabbi Chaim ibn Attar (1696-1743) was a Moroccan Kabbalist and Talmudic scholar. In his commentary on Parshat Ki Tissa, he wrote that Moses deserved the radiant light of God because of his extraordinary humility. We know of his humility from verse 3 in the 12th chapter of Numbers, for there it is written, "The man Moses was the most humble of all men."

Rabbi Attar while commenting on this verse, states that upon hearing these words from God's mouth, Moses decided to write the Hebrew word for humble "anav" (in its incomplete form) by omitting the letter yud. From this omission, Rabbi Attar infers that Moses wanted to limit the praise he would receive in the Torah and that he felt that writing about his humility in its complete form would represent a flaw in that humility. Therefore, when he completed transcribing God's words, there remained in his pen the ink that would have been used for that letter yud.

Thus it was because of Moses' incredible humility, represented by the remaining ink in his pen, that God blessed Moses with the radiant light.

"In light of all this," (yes, that's a pun) we can conclude that Chanukah, which is soon upon us, itself celebrates the light of God radiating during a difficult time in the Jewish People's history and man's ability to survive during dark and troubling times. In terms of ourselves, I believe the lesson is that no matter how dark things may seem in our lives, the light of goodness and hope will always return. All we need to do is look for the light within us and around us. When this occurs, we won't only be singing about the miracle of Chanukah, for we will also be living it.

Let me wish everyone a Chag Urim Samech (Happy and Light-Filled Chanukah).

B'Shalom and Friendship, Rabbi Andrew Bloom

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
CAS OFFICE IS CLOSED



LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT CENTER

November was a month full of activities and learning. On Sunday, November 6th, we planted daffodils at the synagogue's entrance, marking our 5th year of participation in the

Daffodil project. The Daffodil Project aspires to build a worldwide Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million Daffodils in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust and support of children suffering in humanitarian crises in the world today.

We also held an age-appropriate discussion about anti-Semitism for each class level in conjunction with the Daffodil bulb planting project. Each student got to plant at least 1-2 daffodil bulbs in our Star of David flower box. They marked each bulb with a small butterfly. A special thanks go out to Marti Herman for helping us plant the Daffodils.

On November 11th, we held a special pre-Thanksgiving - Family Shabbat, Mode Ani service. Parts of the regular service were led by our LEC students, who proudly sang the special songs they prepared for the program. Following services, we enjoyed a Festive Oneg Shabbat with delicious desserts.

Sunday, November 13th, was Community Mitzvah Day hosted this year by CAS. LEC students welcomed religious school students from our sister congregations. The day included adult projects and children's activity stations to benefit our local community.

The purpose of Mitzvah Day is to provide an opportunity for our Jewish community to come together and fulfill Tikkun-Olam, repairing the world, through social activities. It is also an opportunity to teach our children the importance of providing kindness and care to others as we aim to improve the quality of the many lives in our community. It was heartwarming to see young and old involved in activities such as the blood drive, knitting table, and Habitat for Humanity. The Children's activity tables included making holiday and birthday cards, decorating Hanukah bags for Jewish Family Services, Seniors, and B'nai B'rith Senior Housing residents, making birthday bags for children at the Women's Safe Haven and Tzedakah box decorating.

The one project our students were especially excited about was the canned food donation activity - the "Canstruction." It was fascinating to watch the creativity burst out as the kids built all kinds of structures in the greeting lobby using all the different cans and food donated by our community. The aim is to bring Judaism to the forefront of social action and to show that charity is

not just a matter of donating money but of making and giving time and personal commitment. This message is especially relevant in these times of economic hardship. Thank you to all our volunteers from our congregation and the communities. It was a very successful event!

The Community Mitzvah Day was presented by Beth-El Congregation, Chabad Fort Worth, Chabad of Southlake, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Shalom, and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Funding was provided by the Jobe and Helen Richards Foundation, the Chicotsky Family (Trustees), the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, and the B'nai B'rith Senior Housing.

We marked November as the time to be thankful, remember, and embrace those who enrich our lives.

B'Shalom Fani Kiselstein LEC Principal



2022-2023 Rabbi Bloom's Confirmation Class

High school students struggle with their identity. They ask a variety of questions, like "Who am I?", "What should I do with my life?", and "Where do I fit in?" The problem is compounded for Jewish youth growing up in an area where they are the minority.

The process of confirmation classes assists Jewish teenagers in developing a strong Jewish identity while helping them to develop the skills that they need in the outside world.

If you have a high schooler interested in joining these classes, please contact the LEC at lec@ahavathsholom.org.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The miracle of Chanukah is, of course, the "Miracle of Lights" these lights refused to burn out during the time of the

Maccabees and lasted for eight nights over 2000 years ago. I like to think that this year these Chanukah lights can be a beacon of light to help us through the darkness that comes in this complicated world in which we live.

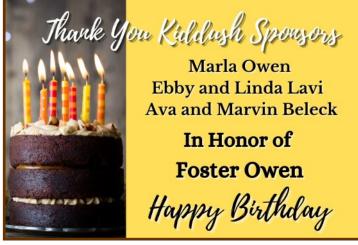
As Winter nears and cold, grey skies prevail over the lights of Summer and even Fall, we are reminded of how important light is to our survival, both physically and mentally. Our community hears the news of more and more antisemitism being exposed over the world in which we live. Social media is a mixed bag of joy and sorrows but certainly contains the dark, ugly side of people. I'm hoping we can find the courage to help be the light that cuts through the darkness and reveals these fractures for what they are and opens our eyes to help the community have the courage not to be silent but express the beliefs we hold so dear.

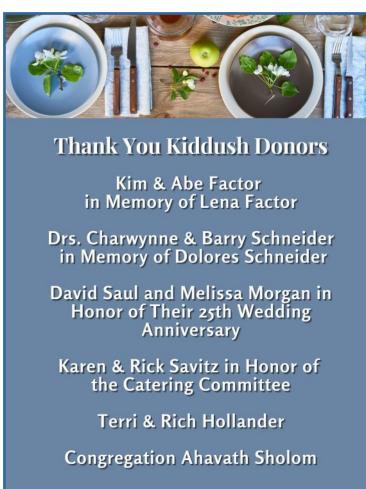
Let's hope our community can open its hearts and minds to help fight the darker sides of society. With light in our eyes and feelings of love in our hearts, may we truly experience the beauty of Chanukah.

Let's make a promise to ourselves and our community to allow for one blessing each and every night of Chanukah for all eight nights. Then this "Festival of Lights" can have meaning in our lives and our family here at Congregation Ahavath Sholom.

Chanukah Sameach, Foster Owen President









MITZVAH DAY PICS

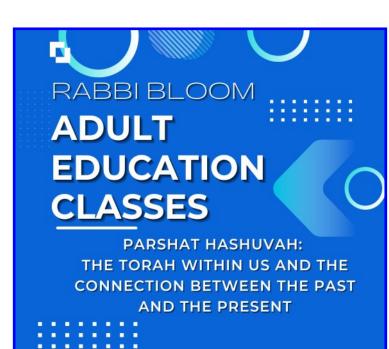
Can-Struction Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable foods for the Can-Struction project. Arbor Lawn Food Pantry was excited to receive the items (picture below) just in time for Thanksgiving!









TUESDAYS

10:30 AM AND 6:30 PM OPEN TO ALL ADULTS



We're here for your every need!

Nou choose your menu for:

*B'nai Mitzvahs * Weddings * Baby Namings

*Celebrations

We have the menus for:

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\$500 +

Kiddush Luncheon Donors

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Join us in Food for the Jewish Soul

Schedule your date with Pattie Wood 817-731-4721

Discuss menu options with Rhonda Krupp 682-429-4210

Dan Sturman 817-996-9424

CAS GIFT SHOP

The CAS Gift Shop is open the first Sunday of each month from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Just in time for Chanukah, the CAS Gift Shop has a variety of items that will satisfy everyone on your list.



ELIJAH FUND

Elijah Fund

"Let all who are hungry, come and eat."

The Torah commands us: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the corner of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest."

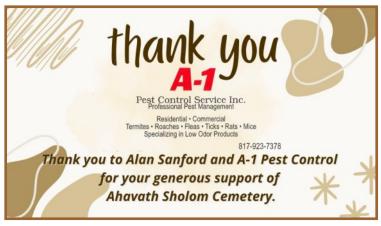
(Leviticus 23:22)

The Elijah Fund helps qualified CAS members participate in events with meals requiring a charge.

To make a donation, please call the CAS office (817-731-4721).

To request use of the Elijah Fund, contact Suzi Gardner (817-731-4721 X 115).



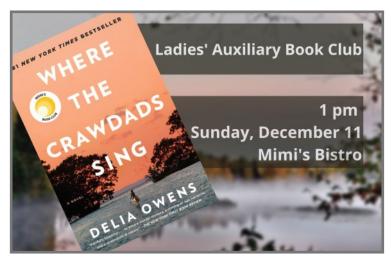








Rebecca Isgur Rich Hollander



LADIES' AUXILIARY

This month, the Ladies' Auxiliary book club will meet at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 11th, to discuss Where The Crawdads Sing written by Delia Owens. Visit goodreads.com to read the synopsis.





YAHRZEITS - MAY THE MEMORY OF OUR LOVED ONES BE A BLESSING FOREVER

Thu., Dec. 1 7 Kislev

Rebecca Leigh Benabou David Bronstein Dave Cooper Annie Gilbert Jack Solomon Howard

Fri., Dec. 2 8 Kislev

Mollie Barnett Fleeta Bass Fay Rosenthal Brachman James Cohen Sam Levine

Sat., Dec. 3 9 Kislev

M.E. Abrason Ella Brachman Max Cooper David Gordon Dorothy Gosule Abrahám Linn Shmuel Manor Judy Morris Gertrude Radin Sol Rosenthal Tillie Salam Jake Socol Elizabeth Spigel Sophia Edith Weinstein

Sun., Dec. 4 10 Kislev

Norman Abrams Joseph Colton Gary Herman Egon Herzfeld Rose Margulies Katz Abraham Lurie

Mon., Dec. 5 11 Kislev

Walter Cohen Stanley Ellis Kaye Bernard Levin Ida Perchonok Doug Queen Gertrude Reynolds Mae Rosenberg Morris Sankary Dr. Leyzer Stettner

Tue., Dec. 6 12 Kislev

Yehuda-Leib Epstein Louis Greenberg Solomon Mintz

Wed., Dec. 7 13 Kislev

Mary Frankrich Elias Marvin Glazer Allan Goelman Elise S. Miller Alvin Frank Nover Beatrice H. Wolf Norman Sol Zukoff

Thu., Dec. 8 14 Kislev

Reuben Ansel Rose DeLeon Eva Engler Hurwitz David W. King, Jr. Lillian Rose Rosenthal Samuel M. Wolin

Fri., Dec. 9 15 Kislev

Jerry Ashkinos Betty Ruth Carlson Mitchell Curtis Morris Freidlin Ida Garsek Jack Isgur Aaron Kanoff Francine A. Raileanu Melvin Rosen Regina Skibell Selma Solomon Charles Weinman John Yancy Libby Zalé

Sat., Dec. 10 16 Kislev

Sol Blum Bertha Green Annie Sturman Minnie Julius Yonach Ann Rose Zodin

Sun., Dec. 11 17 Kislev

Abe Applebaum Louis B. Bernstein Harry Fendler Jaké Furman Blanche Berenson Goldes Pearl Hayman Elaine Klein Morris Rosenberg Bernard Bubba Rubin Martin Spiegel

Mon., Dec. 12 18 Kislev

Nathan Berman Rose Davis David Eisenman Joseph Garsek

Mon., Dec. 12 (cnt.) 18 Kislev

Frieda Herzfeld Linda Karpman Brian Eliot Kimmell David Laves Louise Zaimont Menscher

Tue., Dec. 13 19 Kislev

Annette Brown David M. Cohen Norris Cole Boris Goldfarb Millie Lobel Dr. Ted Myers Sam Richard Selma Schneider **Gute Rachel** Shanblum Gussie Weinberg Louis Weinstein

Wed., Dec. 14 20 Kislev

Al Bailin Margaret Cavany J.B. Colton Don Friedman David Leva Ethel Meltzer Edward Weinstein

Thu., Dec. 15 21 Kislev

Isaac Berg Georgia Cole Audrey Faden Dora Levenson Morris Padow Celia Horn Sankary Morris Steckler

Fri., Dec. 16 22 Kislev

Sonia Chelminsky Thelma Frankrich Aron Goldenberg Alexander Gutman Gertrude Rosenthal Kantrovich David Lobel Augusta Lusher Nyman Shanblum

Sat., Dec. 17 23 Kislev

Harry Hendelman Martin Hochster Louis Klimist Sarah Kriesberg Harry Satt Najatollah Zahirpour Al Zodin

Sun., Dec. 18 24 Kislev

Rose Abovitz Paulyne Berlin Dora Bronstein Ida Cohen Bernard Doyschen Rachel Rivkah Mehl Chaya Pomeranz Howard Rog Jack Schussler Benjamin Ullian

Mon., Dec. 19 25 Kislev

Samuel Bernstein Ella Carshon Paula Gluck Leonard Goldblatt Sadie Dworkin Woods Heath Fannie Kradelman Meyer B. Resnick Irene Sorkin

Tue., Dec. 20 26 Kislev

Chayim Stettner

Herbert Berkowitz Rebecca Anton Carter Sadye Maye Garsek Elizabeth Gilbert Minette Tobolowsky Herman Max Klein Ida Reznikoff Harry Robin Morris Schwartz

Wed., Dec. 21 27 Kislev

Faye Schiff Berkowitz Jennie Bronstein Ovsey Geller Jerry Leff Abraham Meinstein Isadore Schiff Motti Sirpad

Thu., Dec. 22 28 Kislev

Esther Herzfeld Harold Martin Hollander Larry Kornbleet Lorétta Sandler

Fri., Dec. 23 29 Kislev

Lillian Anton Shirley Berman Frank Greenbaum Leona Hoffman Mamie Gilbert Lichter Peggy Norris Sarah Schuster

Sat., Dec. 24 30 Kislev Earl Givant Peter Isaacs Doris Kahn Aimee Herzberg Kriger

Sun., Dec. 25 1 Tevet

Max Barnett Kelman Belenkaya **David Canter** Ben Gilbert Sylvia Goldberg Sharon Klemow Annie Selikoff Laves Irving I. Lerner Sylvia Ross Hulda Salsberg Morris Silansky

Mon., Dec. 26 2 Tevet

Stuart Charles Bailin Sam Blinderman Bess Graubart **Ernest Joseph Hochster** Martin J. Lieberman Harold Miller Muriel Persky Janet Tannenbáum William M. Weisman

Tue., Dec. 27

3 TevetBernard Morris Berliner Hattie Lila Caldwell Barbara Goldstein Joe Weisman Hirsch Harry Schectman Joseph Silverman

Wed., Dec 28 4 Tevet

Aaron Bloch **Dorothy Moses Cohen** Abraham Jacob Cooles Fanny Fleischmann Goldie Greenbaum Edward Luskey Abe Meer Berniece Beanie Weil

Thu., Dec. 29 **5 Tevet** Dr. William Bearman

Nettie Blum Berliner Max Fischbein Anna Hirshowitz Al Kragen Harry Levine Ida Lipshitz Lenore Brod Morgan Irwin Raff Murray Rohman Sam Shosid William Snofsky Chayim Weingarten

MAZAL TOV!

Birthdays

1-Dec	Miriam Kaikov	12-Dec	Joseph Berman	17-Dec	David Widerhorn
1-Dec	Meagan Moses	12-Dec	Howard Bernstein	18-Dec	Jay Sinofsky
1-Dec	Marc Neerman	12-Dec	Michal Bloom	19-Dec	Inessa Kisin
2-Dec	Michael Mendelson	12-Dec	Linda Lavi	20-Dec	Mark Abramowitz
2-Dec	Ilene Solomon	12-Dec	Bruce Miller	21-Dec	Sydney Ratner
2-Dec	Mildred Sturman	13-Dec	Josephine Bassist	22-Dec	Alexander Nason
4-Dec	Rosemary Rector	13-Dec	Savannah Bearden	22-Dec	Nancy Sheinberg
5-Dec	Kathryn Bearden	13-Dec	Savannah Bearden	23-Dec	Ethan Bailey
6-Dec	Murray Cohen	13-Dec	Gavin Fine	23-Dec	Bessie Bodzy
7-Dec	Tucker Dubinsky	14-Dec	Hollace Weiner	23-Dec	Suzie Kuptsin
7-Dec	Norman Preston	15-Dec	Anthony Bearden	24-Dec	Cynthia Labovitz
7-Dec	Barbara Weinberg	16-Dec	Mary Frances Antweil	27-Dec	Patricia Garsek
8-Dec	Fani Kiselstein	16-Dec	Rhoda Bernstein	29-Dec	Kenna Dolan
8-Dec	Sarah Sinofsky	16-Dec	Grant Meltzer	29-Dec	Matthew Hayden
11-Dec	Edward Balmuth	16-Dec	Sarah Rubin		
11-Dec	Shoshana Thoma-Isgur	16-Dec	David Tirsun		

Anniversaries

10-Dec	Sigi and Lauren Rodriguez	17 Years	18-Dec	Paul and Pamela Kessler	46 Years
13-Dec	Stuart and Rebecca Isgur	53 Years	29-Dec	Mark and Naomi Rosenfield	28 Years
15-Dec	Red and Julie Goldstein	15 Years	30-Dec	Benjamin Isgur and Shoshana Thoma-Isgur	27 Years

YAHRZEITS - MAY THE MEMORY OF OUR LOVED ONES BE A BLESSING FOREVER

Fri., Dec. 30
6 Tevet
Barton Edwin Bernstein
Charles Cohen
Abraham Daiches
Eliezer Friedman
Malvina Klein Goldin
Hyman Karasic

Fri., Dec. 30 (cnt.) 6 Tevet Philip Klemow Doris Mermelstein Rose Silverberg Oscar J. Steinberg Nat Zoden Sat., Dec. 31 7 Tevet Lena Cohen Philip Cooles Bella Ginsberg Helen Jacobs Bella Khayt Sidney Raimey Sat., Dec. 31 (cnt.)
7 Tevet
Ben Schwartz
Dorothy Stepinoff Schwartz
Elizabeth Leah Shturman
Nathan O. Shturman
Leland Vermillion
Dorothy Weisberg

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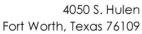
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Payment Options:								
Amount of Donation:								
Credit Card: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover Check								
Card Number:	Expiration Date: CVV:							
Name on Card: Z	Zip Code: Phone:							
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General Operating Fund	Dave Klimist Cemetery Beautification Fund							
Religious Education Fund	Rabbi Garsek Patriot Garden Fund							
Catering Fund (Kiddush Luncheons start at \$100)	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund							
USY/KADIMA Fund	Cantor's Discretionary Fund							
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Shabbat Music Fund	Yahrzeit Plaque (\$350 each)							
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Perpetual Education Endowment Fund (starting at \$250) Golden Book Inscription \$360	The Rebecca and George Levitan Planned Giving Fund							
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Congregation Ahavath Sholom 4050 South Hulen St. Fort Worth, TX 76109

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Chanukah Amazing Race

LEC Chanukah Party Sunday, December 11th

The Chanukah Amazing Race is based on a TV show, The Amazing Race. Teams complete physical, knowledge-based & eating challenges in a giant race to the final checkpoint.

We will have special challenges related to Chanukah, prizes, sufganiyot (donuts), songs, and Chanukiah candle lighting for educational purposes.

Don't miss this event! All parents are welcome!

Schedule of Our Services

Unless otherwise noted, services are held in-person and online.

Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM Monday-Friday Morning Minyan 6:55 AM

Shabbat Morning (Saturday) 9:30 AM Rosh Chodesh (New Month) 6:45 AM

National Holidays 9:00 AM Monday -Thursday Evening Minyan 6:00 PM

(online only)