



Chanukah - Barely has October Ended

by Rabbi Lisa Bock

Barely has October ended, and the stores, media and manufacturers are gearing up for the holiday season. It is a critical time for retail stores and establishments, who often staff up and stock up in order to meet the increased demand at this time. Media encourages us to make our list and check it twice, and the music and hubbub of energy begins.

But we may ask, is this an important time for Jews? Hmm. I'll say, no, and yes!

No, because Chanukah doesn't have the overall importance of our weekly holiday, Shabbat, our day of rest, prayer and reflection; and it doesn't compare in importance to the High Holy Days, the intense days when we reflect on our lives, atone and repent, and try to redirect the actions in our lives to be consistent with our truest selves.

But I will also say yes, as it is an important time for us even culturally; and because of our secular influences, Chanukah comes at a time at which I think it seems we most need it. This is the time of the year when we get to remember we are Jews.

We call Chanukah the "Festival of Lights," and celebrate with lighting the candles or wicks in oil of our Chanukah menorah on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. We may remember the story that there wasn't enough oil left after the desecration of the Temple to last for barely one day, but miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. We remember something about the war between the Maccabees and King Antiochus and his forces.

A significant point of our remembering and celebrating Chanukah is that ultimately we stayed together as a people and as Jews. We argued with one another about how secular or religious we should be, we fought, we disagreed, and somehow managed to survive not only fighting amongst ourselves, but also fought and won our freedom of worship and to be Jews. We did not assimilate into the Greek society. (Yes – there's much more to the story – there's King Antiochus, Judah the Maccabee, and so on...)

How do we make this relevant to us today?

How might we celebrate Chanukah in a way that reflects Chanukah as a holiday that celebrates our freedom of worship, our freedom to be Jews? We may do this by incorporating tradition, ritual, mitzvot and community into our holiday in each of our homes. How?

1. Celebrate each night by lighting the candles and saying the prayers. After saying the prayers, you might say what you are thankful for, and also what you might ask for – but not a "thing" – how about asking for such qualities as patience, strength, courage, focus, gratitude, confidence, energy, grace, and enthusiasm, for example.
2. Mitzvot: Celebrate each day of Chanukah by focusing on giving: what do others need? Again, this might be in the realm of "things" – such as food, clothing, toys for other children. What others need may also be in the realm of time, care, and attention. What might you and your friends/family do for others?
3. Take each night and make it a fun activity – it might be doing a play or skit in the living room with children and/or adults, singing songs with friends, perhaps a latke making 'party'.

These are just a few ideas...talk about it, and see what more ideas you come up with. By the way, I'd love to hear your ideas! Email me your ideas of how you make Chanukah special, and I'll share them in an upcoming **MEGILLAH!**

May the light of your spirit bring warmth and joy to your home and those you love.

Warmly,

Rabbi Lisa Bock

rabbi@templenerami.org

OY VEYGAS is October 12, 2013 - Mark Your Calendars!!



You had very little warning and we had very little time to pull off Oy Veygas this year and for that I apologize, totally my fault. FORTUNATLEY for everyone, Cathy Kim-Lieb and Barbara Davis came to my rescue!! Without all their hours of help, great ideas, positive attitudes and great organizational skills (to make up

for my total lack thereof), I would still be planing it, if I hadn't of already exploded from the stress or the stress eating. Thank you both so much for making it a great night for everyone who attended and a successful fundraiser for the temple. They are both new board members in case you didn't know.

We have already had a debriefing meeting to go over all the details of putting on this huge event so we can make it even better for next year. You will be happy to know that Cathy and Barbara are gluttons for punishment, and have volunteered to help me again for next year. We have already started to plan.

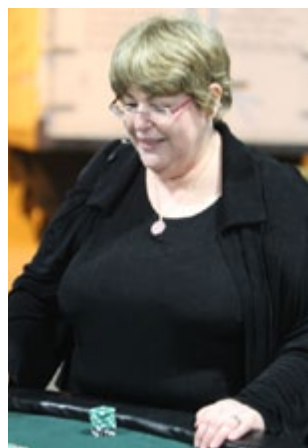
Even though are expenses were considerably higher than last year for the event, we had a net profit of a little over **\$10,000**.

I would like to thank all of you who helped in the many ways that you can to support this event, from volunteering your valuable time, to donating money or goods or services to help make all those great silent auction baskets or the casino prizes. Thanks to all of you who supported by coming to the event, the easiest and most fun way of all. Take a look at the pictures along with this article and you will probably notice a couple of things. First, everyone is having a great time, and second, who the heck are half of these people??! I don't know them from our temple. You are right! Half the people there were not from our temple and most of them aren't even Jewish. Why are they there? Because everybody loves Vegas and it's a lot easier and less expensive to drive across town than it is to take that five and a half hour drive to the desert. Not to mention, when have you gone to Vegas and got to party, mingle, play with so many of your friends? I never have.

What happens in *Oy Veygas*, stays in *Oy Veygas*—and so does the money. I know two families that were there that not only are not members, but are not even Jewish and they spent over \$3000 that night! What's the message that I'm trying to point out? Right, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!! It makes it more fun for you and more successful as a fundraiser for our temple, so it's a WIN WIN! Those two families made up 30% of our net profit, so imagine if they weren't invited.

Anyway, thank you all for everything and we look forward to making OY VEYGAS 2013 a spectacular night for all. Put it on your calendar NOW: October 12th 2013.

Your FUNdraising Chairperson,
Steve Moore



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www.TempleNerAmi.org

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Grief Support Group Forming

Temple Ner Ami and Camarillo Hospice are pleased to announce that we are forming a **Grief Support Group** at Temple Ner Ami, with Harriet Lit, Facilitator. Harriet has been trained by our local Hospice organization and we are very excited about doing this here at Temple Ner Ami.



For more information, contact Harriet Lit at (805) 484-9119.



NEW Shabbat Morning Service – 1st Shabbat Each Month

Last month we had the first of a cozy group gathering for the first Shabbat morning of the month. Come pray with us! We'll sing, pray, read Torah, learn, and be together at 10:00 am.

For an early start, consider joining our regular Torah study group at 9:00 am. All are welcome.

Please join us this Saturday, December 1st.



Bring Your Appetite & Chanukah Menorahs! Friday Evening, December 14th

Bring you, your family, friends, and your Chanukah menorah and candles on Friday evening, December 14th, as we light our Chanukah lights together at Temple Ner Ami before our Shabbat service. We'll begin at 6:00 pm with dinner of chicken, latkes, veggies, applesauce and salad (please RSVP to Mark in the office for dinner, which is \$9/person or \$18/couple, and under 13, \$5). Then stay for an evening of song, prayer, and celebration as the 5th-6th graders make a special presentation of their Jewish learning.



George Benson
Deborah Blum
Howard Brody
Arlene Cohen
Cantor Karen Dworsky
Claire Goldstein
Allen Grossberg,
father of Susan Weinstein
Jean Shev
Jim Williams
Joel Zneimer



Honorable Menschen



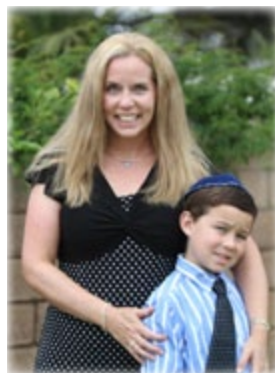
Mark Malloy, our intrepid administrator and **MEGILLAH** editor, was reelected on November 6th to the Board of Directors for the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District. Don't mention to him that he was the top vote getter, as his head barely fits in the front door as it is.

Bonnie Shubb and **Keith Elliott** have been seen in the office a lot lately helping to keep the Temple's accounting system operating smoothly after the departure of our part-time bookkeeper, Kaila Kaiden.

Once again this month's issue of the **MEGILLAH** is full of pictures, many taken by our resident photo genius, **Allyson Williams**, along with her very able sidekick, A.J. Williams.

Kudos to **Kim Honig** for many hours spent repairing our damaged database of Yahrzeit date listings. Thanks also to those who received calls or eMails from her and supplied the correct dates.

Please send your "Honorable Menschen" items to MEGILLAH editor Mark Malloy via eMail at admin@templenerami.org.



Need some time to do Hanukkah shopping? Have a date night?



You can do that on Saturday, December 1st.
Kick off the holiday season with

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT Sat. Dec. 1st

5:00 PM - Havdalah followed by a

Magic Show by Master Magician Paul Dwork

After the magic show we'll feed the kids dinner, show them a movie, and play some games. Pick up time for children - 10:00 p.m. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 28. Childcare provide by teens and staff. Free for Temple members. Nominal fee for non-members.



Sisterhood News! by Bobbe Jacobs

I want to thank those who attended our November 15th program with Patty Glick as our guest speaker talking about how to prepare nutritious meals to help our families to stay healthy.

It is hard to believe that it is December already. How time flies when we are so busy. Our Sisterhood Holiday party with the Brotherhood on Thursday December 27th should a wonderful get-together of both groups from the Temple. With a pot luck dinner and games to play, it will be enjoyable for all who come.

If you are not a member of either Sisterhood or Brotherhood, please come and join us and see what we are all about.

At the December Holiday party we will go over some of the events we have planned for 2013. Please come with ideas!

Happy Channukah and Happy New Year to all of you.

Bobbe Jacobs,
President



The Board of Directors wishes to thank those members who have made an extra special financial committment this year to support Temple Ner Ami.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rabbi Lisa & Ken Bock | Naomi Brill |
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| Gregg & Sharon Hartman | Robert & Patricia Improta |
| John & Beverly Kerwien | Judith Gale Krieger |
| Steve & Jennifer Moore | Saul Lessler/Julia Newman |
| Doris Weinberg | Joel Zneimer & Betty Fink |



Despite wearing a foot brace, Patty Glick stands and delivers for our Sisterhood on November 15th.

J.O.L.T.
Jews Out Learning Together



Arroyo Verde Park Picnic



Corner of Foothill and Day Rd. in Ventura

Let's Get Ready for Chanukah!

Sunday, Dec. 2nd - 12:15 PM

- Each family is going to build a **Chanukah Menorah** - *Chanukiya*
- We're going to decorate candles for our Chanukah Menorah.
- We need a dreidle - We are going to make a yummy edible dreidle.
- We're going to have a great scavenger hunt and sing Chanukah songs.
- We're going to have a **SURPRISE** you don't want to miss!

Bring your lunch. JOLT supplies drinks and dessert.

We are going to meet new friends, have lunch together, play at the park together, and get ready for Chanukah 2012 together.

JOLT is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ventura County in collaboration with Temple Beth Torah, Chabbad of Camarillo, Temple Ner Ami, Khilat Ha'Alonim, Chabbad of Oxnard, Chabbad of Ventura, and Am Ha Yam.



Charles Pierce's Documentary "B1719"

On Wednesday, December 19th you are invited to see a one hour documentary that will open your eyes to tolerance, forgiveness and love. A most incredible story of human triumph told by a survivor of World War II's Holocaust, Charles Pierce, a man that spent six truly horrifying and torturous years (1939-1945) as a Nazi prisoner.

What makes this story so unique, however, is that after those hellish experiences were over; even after the murder of his own parents, you will witness Charles' devotion and determination to rebuild his life free from regret, anger or revenge. He traveled to schools and other venues sharing his story of the Holocaust, tolerance and love. This is what makes our documentary most memorable to the viewer; it's an experience touching the heart and mind.

Charles passed away on October 10, 2012 but his story will live forever.

**Ventura County Conference
& Educational Center
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo, CA 93012**

December 19, 2012 at 6:30pm

RSVP: To Mark Pierce at MarkMPierce@adelphia.net or 805-443-7611

Cost: Voluntary donations to SURVIVAL STATION PUBLICATIONS to help keep Charles' story alive.

Note: Charles' autobiography will be available for purchase at the show.





Lox in a Box

Teen Connection Fund-Raiser

Saturday – December 8th

Get Breakfast delivered to you by 10:00 a.m.



Breakfast includes: Lox, bagels, cream cheese, onions, tomato, danish or sweet roll, and fruit.

\$15 for a small box - Feeds two
\$30 for a large box - Feeds 4 or 5

Please call the Temple 388-3824 by Monday 12/3 to order your food.

A tasty way to support our teens!

EAGER READERS BOOK CLUB

Meets Tuesday, December 11th, 11am

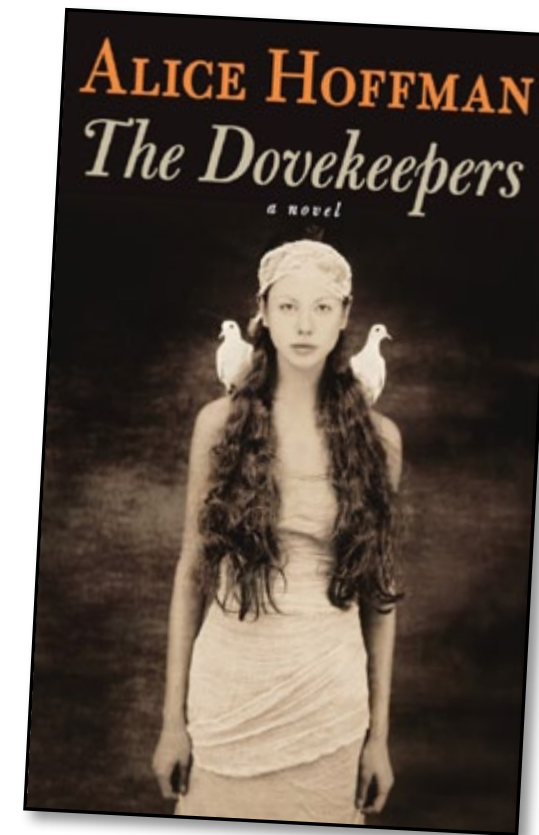
December Selection: *The Dovekeepers*
 by Alice Hoffman

The Dovekeepers is Alice Hoffman's most ambitious and mesmerizing novel, a tour de force of research and imagination.

Nearly two thousand years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. Yael's mother died in childbirth, and her father, an expert assassin, never forgave her for that death. Revka, a village baker's wife, watched the murder of her daughter by Roman soldiers; she brings to Masada her young grandsons, rendered mute by what they have witnessed. Aziza is a warrior's daughter, raised as a boy, a fearless rider and expert marksman who finds passion with a fellow soldier. Shirah, born in Alexandria, is wise in the ways of ancient magic and medicine, a woman with uncanny insight and power.

The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets—about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love.

(Book summary from amazon.com)



Each month a member selects a book for all members to read and discuss at the next meeting. Joining the club means you are reading at least one outstanding book every month. What a great idea! Please join us December 11th, at 11am.

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Sharing Our Stories

The Temple Ner Ami Torah School, in conjunction with the Jewish Federation, is launching a project to conduct interviews with Holocaust Survivors and Liberators.

The interviews will be taped and portions shown at the Community Yom Hashoah program on April 7th.

If you are willing to be interviewed, please contact Julia Newman at:

Educator@templenerami.org

or call 388-3824.



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Join, Participate—and Great Things are Possible

by Joan Frank, Vice-President, Board of Directors

It is with great joy that I may serve as the newly elected Vice-President of our Temple Ner Ami. And, the very first thing I am excited about is our successful *Oy Vegas* event, created by our wonderful Steve Moore. It was with the support and efforts of Steve and many others that an event of this magnitude could take place. All those attending had a wonderful time, and we were also able to raise funds.

When we join together, when we participate together, great things are possible!

I became a member of Temple Ner Ami over 7 years ago when I moved to Camarillo from Santa Monica. It was the friendliness and warmth extended to me by members and staff that drew me into our Temple.

It is my goal to include my past education and experiences (ranging from being a legal secretary, an educator, administrator, worked in public education, in home/hospital school setting, special education, and volunteer work. I have degrees in those specialties and business as well). It has also been my privilege to be able to assist people of all ages.

Now that I have really retired (it took a few tries), I would like to assist my beloved Temple Ner Ami, which has offered me much, especially after a difficult move and a serious illness.

It is my desire to help our Temple be strong so that it may continue as a conduit to all those, of all ages, who seek knowledge of Judaism and seek Judaism as their way.

TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Dear Members: I am pleased to report that our two new Oneg Co-Chairs, JOSEPHINE FREIFELD and ARLA CRANE, are doing a great job of recruiting Sponsors for our Onegs and setting up beautiful tables for the Onegs.

The Sponsors for the month of November were: GAIL KLEINMAN in memory of Ruth and Morrie Mitchell, Genie Mitchell, Herschel and Jenny Shklianik; SANDRA GOODWIN in memory of her mother, Kitty Copeland, and her father, Henry Copeland; RUTH FRIDBERG in memory of her husband, Charles Fridberg; ELVIRA CABELLI in honor of her birthday and TERRI MILNER in honor of her granddaughter's naming; NAOMI BRILL in memory of her mother, Rose Marcus, and JOSEPHINE FREIFELD in memory of her mother, Louise Pierantoni. A big THANK YOU to all these thoughtful and generous people for volunteering to make our Onegs so delicious and pleasant.

YOU TOO can sponsor an Oneg. Just call ARLA CRANE at 987-2000 to tell her on which Friday night you would like to volunteer. You can either bring some of the goodies or write a check to the Temple to cover same. We request that you arrive at the Temple a half hour before services are scheduled to begin so you can help with the set-up and then stay after the Oneg to assist with the clean-up. This is an easy way to help our Temple and a good way for you to become involved in Temple activities. Please remember that it is appropriate to sponsor an Oneg in honor

of someone's birthday or other happy event or you may do it in memory of someone who is no longer with us. Your volunteering is most appreciated.

Your Oneg Committee: JOSEPHINE FREIFELD, Oneg Chair, ARLA CRANE, Chair of Volunteer Sponsors, and NAOMI BRILL, Editor.



The Traditional Jewish Christmas Returns!

CHINESE FOOD & A MOVIE

Tuesday, Dec. 25th 6:00 pm
Donation \$18 - RSVP Required!

It's time for another edition of that great December 25th holiday tradition at Temple Ner Ami—Chinese food and a movie. This year we'll screen *"The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"*, a fun movie to cap off an exotic Chinese meal, a special day and the holiday season.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm buffet style in the sanctuary, with the movie immediately following. RSVPs are a must so we can order the right amounts of Kung Pau and Moo Shoo. Call the Temple office at (805) 388-3824 to RSVP or send an eMail message to admin@templenerami.org. Payments can be in advance or at the door.

This movie delighted people just last year. Come see it (again). Seven English seniors experience life changes which result in their traveling to the enticingly-pitched Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, a hotel "for the elderly and beautiful" in Jaipur, India. We watch as different characters encounter cultural and personal "situations," including romance, that they handle in very different and surprising ways.

These superb actors, including Judi Dench, Bill Nighy and Maggie Smith, show us the frustrations, challenges, and delights of their adventures in India at this point in their lives. "It's never too late to have life-filling adventures."

What part of this movie impacted you? Stimulating discussion afterwards led by Shlomo Kreitzer.



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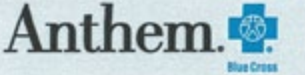


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PLEDGE for POUNDS - PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS!!

PLEASE, I need the motivational help. It's been about a month and it's time for a weigh-in. I started out at the 4XL weight of 357 lbs and now weigh a svelte 339 lbs I lost an inch off of my chest and three inches off my abdomen. My slim hips and tiny thigh measurements are the same.



I don't know about you but I think about food pretty much every minute that I am awake. When I'm eating breakfast (and you know I never miss that), I'm thinking about what and or where I am going to eat next, maybe a doughnut or a danish to tide me over till my early lunch. The lunch that I have been thinking about since the morning. My whole day is like that so I am sure that it wouldn't shock you to hear that I eat around 5,000 to 10,000 calories a day. It takes effort to be this big! Food is my vice and unfortunately you can't quit "cold turkey" (a nice cold turkey sandwich, yum); that's why I feel that it's the hardest addiction to beat. You don't have to drink and you don't have to smoke, but you gotta eat. It's a necessary evil.

I have battled (and mostly lost) with my weight for pretty much my whole life. I know what needs to be done because I've done it once before: I lost 130 lbs. In 2007 I was 385 lbs. I sold my restaurant (5th best day in my life) and got rid of a lot of stress. I went to Lindora Medical Center here in town, which is a great weight loss clinic (Fat Camp as I refer to it). Remarkably, I lost 130 pounds in 30 weeks with just diet and exercise. I really couldn't believe it. I thought that the only way that I would ever lose the weight was by surgery. The only problem

was that I spent 4 or 5 hours a day walking and exercising and that schedule is just not practical if you work and have a family. Reality set in and so did the weight. By 2009 I was no longer a healthy 255.

I am back at Lindora and trying to make a life change and get back to where I was for a brief moment in '07 and '08. You would think that it would be fairly easy to replicate my success from before, but it's not. The mind is a powerful thing that can hold you back in the "same ole same old" or it can jump huge hurdles and take you where you want to be. The problem is, the formerer is much easier and takes much less effort out of our already busy day, and it tastes good.

Anyway, I really appreciate all your support in this. I am going to do my best to make this a win for me and a win for you and our family here at Temple Ner Ami. Please give Mark a call at the temple at 388-3824. Support my efforts to "make less of me" by making a "pledge for pounds".

Your rotund fundraising chairperson, Steve Moore



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Dr. Robert Improta	10	Stanley Reshes	15	Dr. Gina Burstein	27	Ron Wallace
2	Rene D'Inca	10	Robert Scherger	16	Brian Sadowsky	28	Stan Baratta
3	Elinore Fleder	11	Joyce Brown	19	Dr. Judith Krieger	28	Gail Kleinman
6	Robert Sacks	11	Joel Zneimer	21	Sanford Garfield	29	Jennifer Greenblatt
6	Allyson Williams	12	Dr. Walter Burstein	24	Russell Kamola	29	Susan Weinstein
7	Robin Lefkovits	13	Lee Edwards	25	Marty Schneider		
7	Dorothy Rosenfled	14	Sylvia Leventhal	26	Gloria Brodie		
		14	Marcia Zatkin	26	Renee Stein		

* This table is based on Temple records. If your information is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office.

My Grandma Sold Leisure Village
JAN 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

	42084 Village 42 Valencia	18135 Village 18 Valencia
	11255 Village 11 Avalon	39032 Village 39 Amalfi
	35107 Village 35 Valencia	31320 Village 31 Capri
	16209 Village 16 El Dorado	25306 Village 25 Del Mar
	42026 Village 42 La Jolla	34101 Village 34 Capri
	42310 Village 42 Valencia	37127 Village 37 Valencia
	16206 Village 16 Coronado	3115 Village 3 El Dorado
	6141 Village 6 Coronado	30008 Village 30 Capri
	32124 Village 32 Valencia	30025 Village 30 Brentwood

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 \$_____ is my limit.

It is OK to publish my name in the MEGILLAH as one of his sponsors: Yes No

Eight Days of Fun!

Hanukkah's proximity to Christmas can complicate the holiday. For those who try to make Hanukkah more like Christmas, it inevitably seems to fall short. Yet while Hanukkah was traditionally not one of the most central holidays of the Jewish calendar, it can, nonetheless offer many opportunities for fun and joyous celebration. Here are some suggestions for how you can make this Hanukkah memorable, while still staying true to the essential meaning of the holiday.

Bringing Light out of Darkness

There are many ways to make this year's Hanukkah a real "Festival of Light." As Rabbi Arthur Waskow writes in his book, *Seasons of Joy*, "Hanukkah is the moment when light is born from darkness, hope from despair." Historically, this was reflected in the unlikely victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks, in the oil that brought light for eight days instead of one, and in the very act of lighting candles during the darkest time of the year.

Before lighting candles, try taking your family on a night walk. Go outside together and feel how dark it is. Even in the city, the month of December has a special darkness to it. Then come in from the cold and light the hanukkiah (menorah). Feel the contrast between the darkness outside and the light inside.

The oil in the Temple menorah--which was only enough for one day but miraculously lasted for eight--can be understood as an early example of energy conservation! This year, COEJL, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life is sponsoring a special program called "How Many Jews Does It Take to Change a Bulb?" The organization is helping Jewish institutions, families, and individuals purchase and install energy efficient, cost effective compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs during the week of Hanukkah. See coejl.org for more information.

Hanukkah is also a wonderful time to bring light into the lives of those around us. The winter months can be especially difficult for those who need help. Why not



take some time this holiday to volunteer as a family at a local soup kitchen, shelter, or any place that is meaningful to you? Often, Jewish homes for the aged have Hanukkah parties or communal hanukkiah lightings. These are opportunities to connect your children with the older generation and help make the celebration more festive for the residents.

Get Creative

Hanukkah can be a great time for simple and fun family art projects. There is a custom for each member of the family to have his/her own hanukkiah. This year, why not make your own? You can buy lots of small votive candles (yartzeit candles are an inexpensive way to do this) and decorate the glass with a collage of colorful pieces of tissue paper. When the votives are lit, light shines through the tissue paper like stained glass. This is a great hanukkiah for the Friday night of the holiday, when the candles are supposed to burn for at least two hours—as long as Shabbat candles burn. No matter what kind of hanukkiah you use, try to place it in as visible a spot as possible to fulfill the mitzvah of *pirsumei nisa* (publicizing the miracle).

And don't forget the decorations. Judaica stores sell lots of colorful Hanukkah decorations that make the house feel more festive. You may want to choose your own Hanukkah decorating theme. I know one family that decorate their house with homemade pictures of Jewish holiday objects, which symbolize to them the uniqueness of Judaism--definitely a theme of the holiday.

Make Each Night Special

One of the wonderful things about Hanukkah is that it lasts eight days! Giving each night a special theme can increase the excitement and take some of the attention away from presents. Themes might include "Tzedakah (charity) night," "Sing-Off Night," "Party Night," and of course, "Presents Night!" I know a family that eats a different kind of potato latke (pancake) for dinner each night. Apples, cauliflower, or even meat can be delicious additions to the traditional potato latke. For a creative collection of latkes recipes see <http://www.jewish-food.org/recipes>. Cheese is also a great Hanukkah food, as it recalls the heroism of Judith, who cleverly fed King



Holofernes salty cheese and wine. When the King promptly fell asleep, Judith cut off his head and thereby saved her town from his tyranny.

Hanukkah is also an ideal time to do fun activities like playing music, taking pictures, or making home movies documenting the year's celebration. One family I know drips Hanukkah candle wax each night on their family album. Then, the following year, they take out the album, look at the wax, and try to remember where they were and what they did on each night.

Celebrate our Uniqueness

One of the miracles of Hanukkah is that the Jewish people were able to re-consecrate the Temple--our spiritual center and a powerful symbol of our uniqueness. Hanukkah today presents us with the opportunity to re-consecrate our own uniqueness as a religion, a people, and a culture.

Hanukkah is a time to discuss as a family some of the blessings and challenges of being Jewish in a predominantly Christian country. One way to spark discussion on this subject is to watch a movie that in some way tackles the subject of assimilation. Some suggestions include: *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Avalon*, *Keeping the Faith*, *The Jazz Singer*, *Monsoon Wedding*, and *American Desi*.

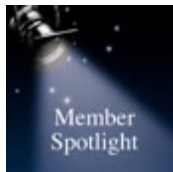
Snowflakes could be a wonderful seasonal Hanukkah symbol, as no two are alike. You can even make "Hanukkah Snowflakes" out of colorful paper and use them to decorate the house. And if Hanukkah happens to fall on a snowy day, take a walk outside and really look at the snowflakes that fall on your hand and try to see the differences between them.

Have a joyous and meaningful Hanukkah!

Reprinted from MYJEWISHLEARNING.com

Written by: Sarah Gershman. She is a Teaching Fellow at the Partnership for Jewish Living and Learning in Rockville, MD. Sarah is the president of Green Room Speakers.





Membership Spotlight - Roz Feldman

by Barbara Davis, Membership Chair

It is a rare gift when you encounter someone for the first time and feel an immediate kinship towards them but this is exactly how I felt after interviewing Rosalind Feldman and it is my joy to share her story with the TNA family.

Rosalind grew up in an Orthodox home in Brooklyn. As a child, she was always interested in the medical field reading book after book about doctors and healthcare. So imagine the disappointment she felt when she told her parents she wanted to be a nurse and they shunned the idea. Rosalind wouldn't have known at the time but in her future, she was destined to have a lineage in Medicine. Temporarily giving up that dream she entered the world of Bookkeeping and became what she calls, a "Master of Machines." Whether it be an adding machine, postage machine or typewriter, Roz had it all covered and became the office manager over fifty people at an electrical supply house.

It was at a Yom Kippur "Break the Fast" dance where Rosalind met the love of her life, Stanley. Together, they had two beautiful daughters and decided to eventually move west where Stanley would become partner in a gas station. Culture shock would put it mildly when Roz arrived nearly forty years ago in Saugus California. Picture being raised Orthodox in a dominantly Jewish neighborhood to living in a place where the only Jewish temple was reform with a healthy dose of young inter-faith marriages and not a single store nearby which sold any Matzah! Eventually, Roz and her family adjusted and she worked various jobs ranging as a Sunday school teacher at the Temple to bookkeeper at an accounting firm.

Rosalind has been in California for forty-three years and it is here that she now calls home. Her mother-in-law, Hannah Feldman opened the Tarzana Hospital gift shop and managed it until her retirement. Her daughter, Michelle Feldman Borenstein has been at Tarzana Hospital since 1979 and is currently a pediatric and PICU nurse. Continuing this great line of women in medicine, Michelle's daughter, Alicia Borenstein Lowder was not only born in the Tarzana Hospital, she is also one of their NICU nurses. And Roz herself has been an active social worker at this great hospital. Recently, the

Feldman/Borenstein/Lowder women were honored by the hospital for their forty years and four generations of dedicated service and were featured as the October "Calendar Girls". So while Rosalind's parents may not have thought the medical field was for a young girl growing up in Brooklyn, it certainly suits the family here in sunny California. Along with granddaughter Alicia, she has a grandson who will graduate from Cal Poly this year, two more grandsons both age 24, one an artist and one works for Sony; all of which she is so very proud of.

Typically I ask people what they are passionate about but I didn't even have to ask Rosalind because I could hear in her voice the love and admiration she has for her family and that they in return, have for her. At eighty-three years young, she is mastering text and picture messaging and learning how to use the Bluetooth in her car while being amazed at the technology of today. She says "each day brings new challenges and every day I just try my best."

Rosalind truly values life and sees it as precious and while her husband of 58 years, Stanley has recently passed on, she still finds the strength to seek new adventures. Recently she went to see Barbra Streisand in concert at the Hollywood Bowl. When I asked about her seats, she said they "were as high as heaven but I still had a great view and it was worth every penny." In Leisure Village, Roz helps lead the group that puts on professional entertainers ten out of twelve months. She also sells the tickets to the 400 members of these *Showtime* events along with eight of her closest friends. She enjoys going to movies, playing cards and shopping at the outlets but through it all, she says "Family comes first and I am very proud of my family who isn't ashamed to show love to each other and hug and kiss each other".

So while some of you may know Rosalind as "Roz" or "The Ticket Lady of Leisure Village", I am honored to just know her.

If you would like to be a Member Spotlight, please email Membership@TempleNerAmi.org.



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New Students Only

A Very Special Shabbat with our 7th Graders

This past November 9th, our 7th graders participated in Shabbat Services and presented their program on **Kristallnacht**. If you were there, you know what an impressive group of 7th graders we have, and what an impactful presentation we experienced!

Teachers Gil Ramot and Avram Kohls work with our 7th graders in guiding them and discussing the Shoah, the major topic of learning for their Jewish studies.

At the end of the *Kristallnacht* presentation, one of our teachers, Avram Kohls performed the song with his guitar, "Die Moorsoldaten", which in German means, "Peat Bog Soldiers".

The top photo is of the memorial at the place of the entry to the former concentration camp "Börgermoor", where the song originated. The stone shows the first verse in German.

"**Peat Bog Soldiers**" is one of Europe's best-known protest songs. It exists in countless European languages and became a Republican anthem during the Spanish Civil War. It was a symbol of resistance during the Second World War and is popular with the Peace movement today. What makes it perhaps so poignant is the knowledge that it was written, composed and first performed in a Nazi concentration camp by the prisoners themselves.

This song was written by prisoners in Nazi moorland labor camps in Lower Saxony, Germany. In 1933, one camp, Börgermoor, held about 1,000 Socialist, Anarchist, and Communist internees. They were banned from singing existing political songs so they wrote and composed their own. The words were written by Johann Esser (a miner) and Wolfgang Langhoff (an actor); the music was composed by Rudi Goguel and was later adapted by Hanns Eisler and Ernst Busch.



It was first performed at a *Zircus Konzentrazani* ("concentration camp circus") on 28 August 1933 at Börgermoor camp. Here is Rudi Goguel's description of it:

The sixteen singers, mostly members of the Solinger workers choir, marched in holding spades over the shoulders of their green police uniforms (our prison uniforms at the time). I led the march, in blue overalls, with the handle of a broken spade for a conductor's baton. We sang and by the end of the second verse nearly all of the thousands of prisoners present gave voice to the chorus. With each verse, the chorus became more powerful and, by the end, the SS - who had turned up with their officers - were also singing, apparently because they too thought themselves "peat bog soldiers".

The song has a slow simple melody, reflecting a soldier's march, and is deliberately repetitive, echoing and telling of the daily grind of hard labor in harsh conditions. It was popular with German refugees in London in the Thirties and was used as a marching song by the German volunteers of the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War. It was soon picked up by other nationalities and it appears in almost all the collected anthologies of Spanish Civil War songs.. It exists in countless European languages and became a Republican anthem during the Spanish Civil War. It was a symbol of resistance during the Second World War and is popular with the Peace movement today. What makes it perhaps so poignant is the knowledge that it was written, composed and first performed in a Nazi concentration camp by the prisoners themselves.

- Rabbi Lisa Bock

Maimonides' Mishneh Torah



A Very Brief Introductory Class

**4 Session Series - Tuesday Evenings
7:30 pm - 11/27, 12/4, 12/11 & 12/18**

"One should see the world, and see himself as a scale with an equal balance of good and evil. When he does one good deed the scale is tipped to the good - he and the world is saved. When he does one evil deed the scale is tipped to the bad - he and the world is destroyed."

-- Maimonides

You are invited...

Join us at each of 4 sessions as we learn about Moses ben Maimon of Spain, and talk together about his genius, his mastery of Jewish law and philosophy, and his dedication to the survival of Jewish life.

We will discover and discuss together:

**Preface to the Mishneh Torah
The Foundation of Wisdom
Character traits
and Teshuvah**

Mark your Calendar!

Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Temple Ner Ami Library. Materials will be provided.

This class is open to all, and if this is your first class or one of many, you are welcome to attend. All learning levels are welcome. **Please RSVP** by calling the office at (805) 388-3824 or, **send us an email and let us know that you plan to attend!**

All 4 sessions will be on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm and led by Rabbi Lisa Bock, preceded by a Hebrew letters class at 7:00 pm. *This class is free to all Temple Ner Ami members.*

A donation of \$10 per class is requested for those who are non-members. All are welcome.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	Date	Year
Shlomo & Charlotte Kreitzer	Dec. 1	27th Anniversary
Jack & Marlene Votion	Dec. 19	48th Anniversary
David & Sandra Fischler	Dec. 27	26th Anniversary

* Listings based on Temple records. If your info is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office so we may correct our database.

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

Honorariums & Memorials

Isabel Blau in memory of her mother Betty Miller and her mother-in-law Bertha Blau

Della Carmona - Recognizing Mark Malloy for his re-election to the Board of Directors for the Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks District

Lee Edwards - In loving memory of her husband Jimmy

Lee Edwards, Verna Merrin, Sylvia Lippe and Rabbi Lisa Bock in memory of a good friend to all, Gerald Birnbaum

Sandra Goodwin in loving memory of her mother and father, Kitty and Henry Copeland

Diane Honick in loving memory of her late husband, Bob Seiden

Libby Pierce in loving memory of Libby's mother, Emma Beacher

Stanley & Loretta Reshes in memory of Marty Simmons

Libby Pierce in gratitude for everyone's kindness

Muriel Rosenkranz in loving memory of her mother, Jennie Tenenbaum

Betty Stallman, In loving memory of her loving husband, Edwin Stallman

Dorothy Rosenfeld in loving memory of her beloved husband, Harry Rosenfeld

Libby Pierce for the Yahrzeits of her father, Abraham Beacher, and her brother, Matthews Beacher

Isabel Blau, children Ronna, Gary, Brian and grandchildren Dara, Aaron, Ava – in loving memory of dear husband father and grandfather Sy

Note: The above listings cover donations recieved between October 20th and November 23rd.

December Members' Yahrzeits

November 30, 2012 (Kislev 11-17)

Fannie Smith.....grandmother of Dr. Robert Improta
 Louise Perantoni.....mother of Josephine Freifield
 Samuel Cooperman.....father of Gilbert Cooperman
 Gus Honick.....husband of Diane Honick
 Barbara Zimmerman.....daughter of Myrna & Seymour Zimmerman
 Jeffrey Okun....brother of Kaila Kaden
 Maurice Clark.....father of Michael Clark
 Morris Stolman.....father of Betty Stallman
 Etta Bach.....grandmother of Sarene Wallace
 Nadine Zneimer.....wife of Joel Zneimer
 Rose Marcus....Mother of Naomi Brill

December 7, 2012 (Kislev 18-24)

Dora Chorna....mother-in-law of Max Heller
 Laurie Perr.....wife of Jack Perr, mother of Daniel Perr
 Samuel A. Friedman**father of Beverly Kerwien
 Blake Weiner.....father of Juliaan Howell
 Miriam Miki" Kaden....mother-in-law of Kaila Kaden
 Adele Carner.....mother of Dorothy Rosenfeld
 Michael Metz.....brother of Cathye Clark
 Sid Reshes.....father of Stanley Reshes
 Nadien Zneimer....wife of Joel Zneimer
 Jack Gorelick.....father of Diane Honick

December 14, 2012 (Kislev 25-Tevet 2)

Emma Sacks.....mother of Robert Sacks
 Natalie Krantz**wife of Marvin Krantz
 Jack Stolman.....brother of Betty Stallman
 Norman Graff....father of Stephen Graff
 Isaac Shev.....father-in-law of Jean Shev
 Beverly Randall.....grandmother of Barbara Davis

December 21, 2012 (Tevet 3-9)

Doris Hershberg.....sister of Frank Seiden
 Morris Jaffe.....father-in-law of Elaine Jaffe
 Betty Miller....mother of Isabel Blau
 Bernice Persky**mother of Marlene Votion
 Rose Weinstock**mother of Pam Veselak
 Hyman Fink.....husband of Betty Fink

December 28, 2012 (Tevet 10-16)

Frank Spiegel**husband of Stefania Spiegel
 Bertha Blau....mother-in-law of Isabel Blau
 Anne Borovoy.....mother of Verna Merrin
 Florence Koenig....mother of Sharon Green
 Abraham Lewine**father of Dr. Yale Lewine, z"l

Dec. 30 - Jan. 5, 2013 (Tevet 17-23)

Eugene Borelli....father of Lawrence Borelli
 Minnie Lewine**mother of Dr. Yale Lewine, z"l
 Seymour Cohen.....father of Roberta Jacobs
 Margie Bonderman** wife of Aaron Bonderman z"l
 Sigmund Jaffe.....husband of Elaine Jaffe
 Esther Moskowitz....wife of Robert Moskowitz
 Calman Rosenkranz.....husband of Muriel Rosenkranz

** Name on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial Yahrzeit Board.

z"l In blessed memory.

The Temple's Yahrzeit Board has spaces available for remembering loved ones who have passed away. The requested donation for memorial plaques on the Yahrzeit Board is \$350.00 per plaque.

TORAH SCHOOL CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sat	1	Shabbat service (10:00 a.m.)
Sat	1	Magic Show/Havdalah/Parents Night Out
Mon	3	Regular session Junior Junior Youth Group (4 th grade)
Wed	5	Regular Session
Fri	7	Teen Shabbat - Lox in the Box (sleepover & delivery on Saturday)
Mon	10	Regular session- Camp Kadimah - Hanukah
Wed	12	Regular session - Camp Kadimah - Hanukah
Fri	14	Shabbat Service with the 5th/6th Grade (Dinner)
Sat	15	B'nai Mitzvah Family Education (10-12)
Mon	17	Regular session
Wed	19	Regular session
Mon	24	WINTER VACATION
Wed	26	WINTER VACATION
Fri	28	Family Shabbat Dinner (6:00) and Service (7:00) Special activity for tots
Mon	31	WINTER VACATION

JANUARY

Wed	2	WINTER VACATION
Sat	5	Shabbat Service (10:00 a.m.)
Mon	7	Regular session
Wed	9	Regular session
Mon	14	Regular session
Wed	16	Regular session
Mon	21	NO TORAH SCHOOL -MLK Holiday
Fri	25	Family Shabbat Dinner (6:00) and Service with the 4th Grade (7:00)
Mon	28	Regular session - Camp Kadimah - Tu B'shvat
Wed	30	Regular session

We are always busy at Torah School. It's no wonder, because we do A to Z!
Look at what we've done this semester!!

Archeology of Israel, Art
Bible, Basketball, Brachot, B'nai Mitzvah
Camp Kadima, CPR (teachers) Cooking: honey cake, challah, latkes, Stone Soup
Drama, Drawing
Enrichment: Art, Music, Cooking
Family Shabbat Service, Friends
Gaga, Games, G'milut Hasadim
Holocaust Education , Hebrew, Hanukah; Hafsakah (recess)
Israel: Current events, history, folk dancing
JOLT, Jewish Values, Junior Youth Group
Kristallnacht, Kiddush
Life Cycle: Comparative Religions & Cultures
Madrichim: Mazal Dov, our school mascot
NAUTY (Ner Ami United Temple Youth—our teen group)
Oneg, oreo cookies
Praying, playing, parties
Quiet (we're not that!); Questions
Reading
Simchat Torah, Sukkot
Torah, Ten Commandments, Theology, Tutoring
Yoyo; Yiddishkeit
Zoo - JOLT Scavenger Hunt, Santa Barbara Zoo

December Outside Organization Meetings



CITY OF HOPE
No Regular Meeting in December
Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President



ORT
Board - Thursday, November 1, 2012 - 10am
General Meeting -Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012 - 10:30am
For info call Shirley Law, 987-5468
President, Sharron Parker - 805-443-1998



NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Tues. Mixed Meeting 7-8:15 pm,
Tues. Mtg. Pot Luck, 11/27, 6pm
Wed. Mixed & Ladies Mtgs. 7-8:15pm
Sat. Mixed 6:30-7:30 pm, Pot Luck, 11/10, 5:30pm
Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am

TEMPLE NER AMI - December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
Chanukah 2nd Candle	9:30 City of Hope Board Mtg. 4:15p Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed Series 2	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, Is	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, Is	Open House 6p Wine & Cheese Schmooze 7p Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9 Torah Study Class 10 Shabbat Morning Service 6p Magic Show & Parents Night Out
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chanukah	4:15p Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection 6:15p Junior Youth Group	1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed Series 2	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, Is	10 ORT Board Meeting	7:30p Teen Shabbat & Sleepover Lox in a Box 9 Torah Study Class	Chanukah 1st Candle Lox in a Box 9 Torah Study Class
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Chanukah 3rd Candle	Chanukah 3rd Candle 4:15p Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	Chanukah 4th Candle 11 Eager Readers Book Club 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed Series 2	Chanukah 5th Candle 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, Is 7p Board of Directors Meeting	Chanukah 6th Candle 7p Brotherhood Meeting	Chanukah 7th Candle Chanukah 7:30p 5th & 6th Grade Led Shabbat Sr	Chanukah 8th Candle Chanukah 9 Torah Study Class
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Chanukah	4:15p Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed Series 2	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, Is	7:30p Shabbat Service	7:30p Shabbat Service	9 Torah Study Class
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Faast of the 10th of Tevet	Christmas Eve 4:15p No Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p No Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p No Teen Connection	Christmas 6p Chinese Food & Movie Night 7p Sisterhood Meeting	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p No Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p No Torah School - PreK, Kinder	12p ORT General Meeting 6p Sisterhood meeting and potluck di	6p Bing Your Own Dinner 7p Family Shabbat Service	Rescue Mission Service 9 Torah Study Class
30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5
	New Year's Eve 4:15p No Torah School Grades 4.5.6.7 6p No Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p No Teen Connection	New Year's Day	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p No Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p No Torah School - PreK, Kinder	10 ORT Board Meeting	7:30p Shabbat Service	9 Torah Study Class 10 Shabbat Morning Service

Go to www.TempleNerAmi.org for the latest Calendar Information!



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The **MEGILLAH** is published monthly for members of TEMPLE NER AMI. Complimentary copies are available by contacting the Temple Office.

Suggested donation for non-members is \$36.00 per year. Make your check payable to Temple Ner Ami.

For information call 805-388-3824, or eMail your request to:

admin@templenerami.org

Submission date for all material:

15th of each month

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In loving memory of: _____

From: _____