

HaKol

The Voice of
Congregation Kol Emeth
5130 W. Touhy Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847-673-3370
www.KolEmethSkokie.org

January/February 2018
Shevat/Adar 5778



Message From The Rabbi

“All the World is a Stage”



Shakespeare's lines in *As You Like It* conjure up the world of Purim. Almost, but not quite. We are introduced to an incredible world in which a stupid king (Ahasuerus) guided by an evil man (Haman) passes a law to annihilate all the Jews in his massive Persian Empire, but the plan is thwarted, and all the Jews saved, by the beautiful secretly-Jewish queen (Esther), guided by her uncle (Mordecai). Can this be anything other than a play, a fable, a fairy-tale?

Surely that is why the holiday of Purim itself was really the birthplace of the Yiddish theater. It was the Purim-Spieler, or Purim players, who would go from house to house, re-enacting the story, and receiving money from householders to whom they would say: “Haynt is Purim, morgen iz ois, gib mir a groshen un varf mich arois!” (Loosely translated: “Today is Purim, tomorrow it's done; give me a penny and I'll be gone.”)

Actually to the Jews of Eastern Europe throughout past centuries, the first part of the story, the attempt to destroy the Jews, must have seemed all too real. After all the persecution they had suffered, the expulsions, ghettoization, pogroms--a government edict to destroy all Jews in a country was an exaggeration, maybe, but within the realm of possibility. They would have had no difficulty believing it. (And a little later, alas, it proved to be all too true.)

But the second part, the saving of all the Jews, and through a royal personage, no less, who turned out to be Jewish--this would have been impossible to imagine. No, it would have to be a play. Real life was not like that.

Could this be why we are enjoined on Purim to get drunk? Rava said: A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he does not know the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordechai" (Talmudic Tractate Megillah 7b). (Before you rush out to stock up on alcohol in preparation for inebriation, I hasten to add that Maimonides, puritanical here as in other areas, "explains" that the Talmud merely means one drinks enough to fall asleep and it is then that one does not know the difference between Blessed be Mordecai and Cursed be Haman.) Is it only in that state that one can believe this story with the happy end? I hope not. After all, we are the people of eternal hope. Despite everything that has befallen us, we have witnessed the miracle of the State of Israel in our own time. Let us therefore rejoice in Purim, reasonably sober, or if not, not, and celebrate our history and our future.

Rabbi Barry Schechter

Purim Service (including Megillah reading)

Wed., February 28, 2018

at 6:15 pm

Followed by CKE's



Traditional Hot Dog Dinner

and delicious Hamantashen

Members - \$13:00

Non-Members \$16:00

**Reservations must be in by Friday,
February 23rd**

**Please join us for the reading of the Megillah
on Thursday, March 1st at 9:15 am**

MESSAGE FROM KOL EMETH'S PRESIDENT



As President of Kol Emeth I am asked to include some thoughts for this new issue. This time of year is one of celebration which, for our community, has always been somewhat problematic. I therefore thought I would pass on parts of this very thoughtful article written by Tracy R. Rich from the Jewish Chronical, which cleverly frames our dilemma. I am sure we could all add to what the author has to say. Greetings to all and we will hope to see you at our Shabbos services.

Paul Helman

Christmas is not a Jewish holiday. Many Christians think of Christmas as an American holiday, a secular holiday or a cultural holiday, but most Jews today do not think of Christmas that way. According to the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, 82% of Jewish households *never* have a Christmas tree (and the idea of a "Hanukkah bush" is mostly a joke, not anything anybody takes seriously). A 2013 Pew survey found that less than a third of Jews have a Christmas tree, and most of those are intermarried. Even among those who are intermarried, only 71% had a Christmas tree, far less than the 92% of Americans who celebrate Christmas. A 2007 survey by InterfaithFamily.com found that only 37% of interfaith families that have decided to raise the children Jewish have a tree in the home. It has become a cliché to talk about the "December Dilemma," the problems that Jewish Parents face when their children become jealous of the presents and the fanfare of Christmas, or when interfaith couples must decide what to do for the December holidays.

Many Jews (even highly assimilated Jews) are uncomfortable about Christmas. We don't mind other people celebrating Christmas. We aren't offended at a good-natured "Merry Christmas!" We don't mind the festive lights, Christmas music playing 24/7 in every public place and many radio stations (although I find other things to listen to), and we're more than happy to share your cookies and candy (as long as it's kosher). Enjoy the holiday to your heart's content; just allow us to

refrain if we choose to. So if Jews don't celebrate Christmas, then what do we do on December 25? In some years, Christmas overlaps with Shabbat, in which case you can always go to synagogue! We shouldn't be doing anything on Shabbat anyway! But they won't overlap again until 2020, and even when they do overlap, synagogue isn't an answer for everybody, because a lot of Jews don't observe Shabbat strictly. So what do we do? It's tough to find something to do on Christmas, because just about everything is closed. Here are a few of the more popular Jewish December 25 activities for 2018.

Go out for Chinese food

Go to the Matzah Ball

Go to a movie

Get together with family

Volunteer

December 25, 2017 at CKE

IN REVIEW



Film: Chariots of Fire

Chariots of Fire is a 1981 British historical drama film. It tells the fact based story of two athletes in the 1924 Olympics: Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who runs to overcome prejudice. The audience viewed the movie with great intent and interest.

Thank you Rabbi for providing the movie.



Chinese Lunch

Following the movie a Chinese lunch was served to the CKE members and guests. The warm food and the pleasant company added much needed warmth to an otherwise very cold and dreary December 25th day.

CHANGES ARE COMING DOWNSTAIRS



With the changes come new vocabulary. The basement will now be referred to as the “lower level” and we will no longer have a kitchen but a “food preparation area.” Below is an explanation from Mike Okmin as to what will be occurring in the lower level in the near future.

Our current estimate is that construction for the lower level will begin in mid to late January. This will involve upgrading the fire alarm system, installing a fire sprinkler system, bringing in a new six inch water service from the city main under Touhy Ave, terminating our existing two inch domestic water service and various related electrical work. This work is necessary in order for CKE to have a tenant operate an educational program in the lower level. The Village of Skokie is using an updated fire code which requires these changes. We will provide you with more specifics as the information becomes available. While there will be the least disruption possible, at that time it will be necessary for you to check with the synagogue office to see if it is safe to come to the synagogue as there will be construction in front of the building and in all areas of the lower level. The water supply to our building will also be disconnected for a number of days. This will not alter the schedule of services and activities.



SEASON 8 – OUR HISTORY, OURSELVES

Tickets are available for purchase. Call the synagogue office at 847-673-3370 to reserve seats

**THE DIARY OF ANN FRANK WAS A HUGE
SELL OUT SUCCESS
GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY
SELL OUTS ARE LIKELY**



February 3, 4, 10, 11 G-d's Favorite
by Neil Simon

March 17, 18, 24, 25 Sorry Wrong
Number and
The War of the Worlds

April 21, 22 Musical Review

**Saturday Performances 8:00 PM
Sunday Performances 2:30 PM**



DON'T FALL VICTIM TO THE MOST COMMON SCAMS

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. The following is a list of scams that are prevalent.

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- **Avoid** ‘open enrollment’ scams especially now with the new tax bill that will be coming into effect
- Never give out bank account numbers
- Never give out social security numbers
- **Do not send** money to anyone claiming a friend or relative has been jailed and needs bail money. Find out where that relative is and call the police.
- **Do not invite** into your house or make appointments for unsolicited repairs
- If your gut tells you a phone call is suspicious, you are probably right, **HANG UP**
- If emails ask for information or sound threatening **DO NOT OPEN**

MEN'S CLUB NEWS



On December 3, 2017, Jeffry Mallow, a member of CKE, spoke on the topic: The History of Yiddish from Bubbe Mayses to Bashevis Singer. His presentation was both educational and humorous. He explained the differences between Yiddish and Hebrew writing and pronunciation. Dr. Mallow also gave the audience an historical perspective of the origin of both Yiddish and Hebrew.

The CKE Men's Club and the audience would like to thank Jeffry for a very insightful and educational presentation.

The Men's Club Presents

David Arieti
Speaking on
**The Environment and
a
Personal Trip to the
Amazon River**



January 28, 2018 @ 10:30 AM

A dairy brunch will be served.
Men's Club member families are
free.

Non Men's Club members and
their families are
\$10 per person.

Please RSVP to Larry Rabyne at
larry.rabyne@sbcglobal.net
By Monday, January 22nd.



SISTERHOOD NEWS



Sisterhood is taking a winter break



During the cold winter days find a good book, curl up on the sofa and drink a cup of hot chocolate. Picture the flowers blooming in Spring. Winter will soon be over and CKE Sisterhood will again provide programs.



FAMILY COOKING TRADITIONS IS COMING BACK SOON

Do you have a recipe that everyone loves? Are you or someone you know willing to share your cooking secrets? Do you know someone who is willing to share and demonstrate their cooking or baking skills? If so call the synagogue office at 847-673-3370.



Congregation Kol Emeth is proud to be a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Neil and Leila Handelman
Stephen and Gail Myers Jaffe

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Iris Okmin



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Len Colen
Brian Katzman
Elissa Feldman-Curth
Gillian Goodman
Paul Goodman
Howard Harris
Avril Klaff
Betty Klein
Iris Okmin
Esther Peven
Milt Port
Phyllis Projansky
Jacob Reifer

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nata Andinysh
Judy Blinick
Stanley Chencinski
Rick Daitchman
Bill Dunn
Jack Eisenberg
Ariel Elizer
Steven Elizer
Trudye Fischhoff
Grace Jaffe
Max Lorig
Anita Robbins
Sheila Wexler
Eleanor Zeff



Howard Bernstein—Thank you for the birthday Leagrams

Sarine Rohde – I want to thank everyone for my Leagrams, phone calls and cards to help me celebrate my birthday. I really appreciate it. Thank you to one and all.

Jerry Wadro and Bernie Pearlstein – Thank you for the Leagrams in honor of our birthdays.

Len Colen – Thank you for all of the well wishes



Barney Berlin
Beatrice Berlin
Len Colen
Ronna Gollman
Bernard Katz
Mitchell Sweig



Condolences to:

Robin Kacel on the passing of her mother, long time member of CKE, Marcy Schwartz

Zelda Rich on the passing of her sister, Janice Cohn



YAHREZEIT DONATIONS October 27—December 24

Howard Aronson
Lester Ascher
Nissin and Olema Behar
Berta Benhabib
Howard and Beverlee Bernstein
Richard Bloom and Micki Ross
Leona Boris
Ned and Teri Chamlin
Len Colen
Barry and Sharon Curtis
Bill Dunn and Jennifer Blitz
Sofia Dziadek
Norman and Betty Elkin

Blanche Feldman
Nanette Greenspan
Stephen and Gail Myers Jaffe
Bernard and Fern Katz
Bill and Betty Klein
Gloria Manus
Joyce Messer
Howard Mirsky
Diane Mulkerin
Tyra Notorangelo
Herman and Ruth Nussbaum
Janine Oberrotman
Mike and Iris Okmin

Phyllis Projansky
Larry and Vicki Rabyne
Bill Raffeld
Jacob and Harriet Reifer
Bob and Sarine Rohde
Ron Roth
Gordon and Harriet Rubin
Lois Schwartz
Judith Silver
Lorraine Trachtenberg
Linda Wolff



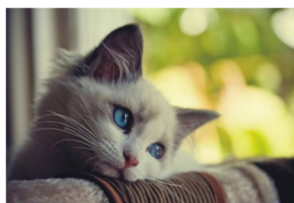
GENERAL DONATIONS October 27—December 24

Helene Ellis
Hackberry Endowment Partners
Stephen and Gail Myers Jaffe
Brian Katzman

Leona Katzman
Janine Oberrotman
Mike and Iris Okmin

Larry and Vicki Rabyne
Bob and Sarine Rohde
Ron Roth

THINK WARM THOUGHTS



Beginning January 1, there are only 80 days until the first day of spring and then summer is not far behind. With this unending cold and snowy weather, we could all use some nice warm thoughts. So here you go.

Remember the fun experiences you had last summer, that special spring or summer trip last year, grilling, beaches, sunny resorts, sun, green grass, the warm outdoors, and all the fun stuff that comes along with warm weather. It will be here soon.



AN AFTERNOON OF GAMES

COME IN OUT OF THE COLD AND HAVE FUN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

FROM 1:00 PM—5:00 PM



FREE EVENT

BRING A GAME IF YOU CAN

BRING AN INEXPENSIVE PRIZE

BRING A FAVORITE KOSHER DAIRY OR PAREVE SNACK TO

SHARE

HOT BEVERAGES AND POPCORN WILL BE SERVED

PLAY

MAH JONGG

SCRABBLE

CHESS

CARD GAMES

RUMMIKUB

BRIDGE

BOARD GAMES



CHECKERS

Call the Synagogue office at **847-673-3370**
or email office@kolemethskokie.org no later than

Wed. Jan. 19, 2017,

indicating how many people will be attending .



Jennifer Blitz
Sandy Cochrane
Elissa Feldman-Curth
Gail Myers Jaffe
Bernard Katz
Fern Katz
Brian Katzman
Leona Katzman
Odette Langer
Bill Raffeld
Sam Sulaka



Shabbat Service & Dinner

Friday, February 2, 2018

Service at 6:15 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Pa Nosh Catering

Reservations and payment for the dinner must be
in the CKE Office by Monday, January 29, 2018

Fried Chicken	Member(s) \$18 pp
	Non-Member(s) \$20 pp
Vegetarian	Member(s) \$18 pp
	Non-Member(s) \$20 pp



Donation Opportunities at CKE

Besides sponsoring an Oneg or a Kiddush and
general donations you can support Congregation
Kol Emeth by purchasing any of the following:

- Shabbat and Festival Prayerbook
 - Etz Hayim Chumash
- High Holiday Prayer Books
- Tree of Life - acorn, leaf, or rock
 - Memorial Plaque

Or by making

- Good Will Donations
- Yahrzeit Donations

SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 5 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

January 6 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

January 7 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

January 12 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

January 13 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

January 14 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

January 19 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

January 20 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

January 21 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

January 26 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

January 27 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

January 28 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

February 2 Service at 6:15 pm
Dinner at 7:00 pm

February 3 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

February 4 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

February 9 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

February 10 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

February 11 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

February 16 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

February 17 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

February 18 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

February 23 Service at 8:00 pm
Followed by an Oneg Shabbat

February 24 Service at 9:30 am
Followed by a light kiddush

February 25 Sunday Morning Minyan 9:15 am

February 28 Purim Service at 6:15 pm
Annual Hot Dog Dinner at 7:00 pm

March 1 Purim Service at 9:15 am



SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN RETURNS JOIN RABBI BARRY SCHECHTER EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:15 AM



If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat please call Judy in the Synagogue office at 847-673-3370 to find out more details and make arrangements. We need to have at least 2 weeks notice prior to any sponsorship in order to get the appropriate food ordered. Payment for any sponsorship is also due at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

The next issue of HaKol (March/April 2018) will come out towards the end of February. All contributing articles are welcome. Please hand in all articles by Feb.15, 2018 to langero50@gmail.com.

Odette Langer, Editor of HaKol.

RABBI: Barry Schechter
PRESIDENT: Dr. Paul Helman
VICE PRESIDENT—HOUSE: Len Colen
TREASURER: Mike Okmin
SECRETARY: Lisa Garbaty
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Bill Raffeld
OFFICE MANAGER: Judy Aronson
HaKol EDITOR: Odette Langer



Wishing everyone a
HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND PEACFUL
NEW YEAR