

Message From The Rabbi



We have been hearing much terrible news about anti-semitism in France, attacks on synagogues and other Jewish institutions, anti-Israel demonstrations that turn violent, banners carrying messages of

hate against us.

Away from all this noise are the quiet beaches of Normandy, quiet now, but the place where 70 years ago, on D-Day, the allies launched the greatest amphibious invasion in history against the Germans. Julie and I recently returned from a visit to this area. Our guide led us to Utah and Omaha beaches, and Pointe du Hoc, with its 100 foot cliff, all scaled by American troops. It is one thing to read of these battles, and quite another to see where they actually took place. Just the thought of these young men having to land, being blown about by the wind, sometimes away from their target, and then having to climb great heights, all the while under German fire—very moving. And to realize that they were fighting, not for land, not to conquer, but to defeat an utterly evil regime dedicated to the destruction of all that we hold dear.

Prior to the invasion, the allies had engaged in a massive deception to convince the Germans that the attack would come further north at Calais, at a different date, even going so far as to create fake field armies in England. This great invasion succeeded, even though it proved to be, as the Duke of Wellington said of the Battle of Waterloo, “a ...close-run thing.” Eisenhower, as Supreme Commander, realized the risks involved, and had actually written a resignation letter to be submitted in the event of failure. Thank heaven it was not needed.

Our guide also took us to the very beautiful Normandy American cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer overlooking Omaha Beach, containing nearly 10,000 American military graves. Mixed in among the many diagonal rows with their white crosses are quite a number of Jewish stars. The ground is very clean with no pebbles available to pick up and place on the Jewish graves.

But one of those Jewish graves was adorned with a pebble; some recent Jewish visitors must have had the foresight to bring one with them.

On the actual anniversary of D-Day, June 8, 2014, a ceremony was held there to honor the memory of these Jewish soldiers. Their names were read aloud, Kaddish was said, and a Rabbi and choir chanted the “el male rachamim”. Rabbi Shmuel Levin, Chabad director from a neighboring town, invited participants to join in writing a new Sefer Torah dedicated to their memory.

After visiting other sites in Normandy and Brittany we traveled to Paris. There I attended a synagogue not far from our hotel on Shabbat morning.

Originally built by Ashkenazi Jews, it is now a Sephardi synagogue, filled to capacity with Jews whose families come from North Africa—Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco. And I mean to capacity. When I arrived near the beginning of the service, it was fairly full. More people kept arriving. The synagogue, through its gabbai, was kind enough to call me to the Torah for an Aliyah, and when I returned to my seat, I found that it had been taken by someone who had arrived while I was making my blessings on the Torah! Fortunately I found another seat. By the end of the service, the place was completely packed.

The joy and enthusiasm of these people in shul made me forget, for a while, the anti-semitism in France we have been hearing about. This largest Jewish community in Europe, numbering over half a million, has seen an increase in emigration to Israel recently in response to the atmosphere of hostility. Whether this will continue only the future will tell.

Rabbi Barry Schechter

Services

Friday Evening	8:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning	9:30 a.m.

Minyan

Sunday Morning	9:15 a.m.
Refer to calendar for holiday service times.	



Sisterhood News

Our opening membership luncheon was a huge success. **Selma Katz** brought Barbra Streisand to lunch and a good time was had by all following a delicious lunch arranged by **Elaine Snow**.

Our monthly book club reviews continued through November and will resume in March. Have you noticed the lovely beaded kipot that some of our sisterhood ladies are wearing? They learned how to make them at a crafts day organized by **Lisa Garbaty**. Her next project, along with **Leona Katzman**, will be knitting. Watch for the flyers with additional information.

Please support our Leagrams which are very capably handled by **Phyllis Bower** and be sure to send them directly to her, not the office. **Debbi Green**, our regional Women's League President, hosted an afternoon with our national president, **Carol S. Simon**. I was fortunate to attend, representing our sisterhood and it was inspirational to meet so many presidents from our area.

A huge thank you to **Paulette Lieb** who has shopped, prepared and hosted our Shabbat onegs for more years than I can even count. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter and I look forward to seeing everyone when I return in March.
Sheila

Men's Club News

Mazel tov to **Bill Dunn** for taking on the position of president. Watch for more information as the men's club regroups.

Celebrate Your Simcha At Kol Emeth

Celebrating a special birthday or anniversary? Did your grandchild graduate from kindergarden or medical school? Nothing beats joining your Kol Emeth family at a service where our **Rabbi Barry Schechter** gives you his blessing and congratulations.

If you wish to partially sponsor a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat you'll be performing a mitzvah, too.

Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy To Vicki Rabyne on the passing of her mother, Kathleen Weil

Yahrzeit/Yizkor Donations

Judy and Neil Adelman
Eunice Bergman
Richard Bloom and Micki Ross
Sandy and John Cochrane
Len and Helene Colen
Neil and Leila Handelman
Fern and Bernard Katz
Shirley and Al Kleifield
Shirley Krepack

Barry Levison
Wendy Mitchell
Arnold and Karen Okmin
Zelda Rich
Jean Rosenblum
Dr. Samuel and Chaja Schimmel
Brian and Rivka Weiner
Eileen and Ronald Yedlin
Eleanor and Daniel Zeff

Message From The President

With Hanukka almost upon us I thought I might give the results of some research as to the origin of two favorite customs of our Holiday namely the dreidel and the latke. Neither are by any means unique to Hanukka and with variations have been seen in many lands which know little of our celebration. Rabbi Golinkin discusses the dreidel and the latke on Wikipedia.

The main difference between laws and customs is that laws stem from rabbinic interpretations of the Torah and Talmud which then filter down to the Jewish people, while customs usually start with the people and filter up to the rabbis. Through customs, the Jewish people have shown their love for G-d and tradition and immeasurably enriched all aspects of Jewish observance.

The dreidel or sevivon is perhaps the most famous custom associated with Hanukkah. Indeed, various rabbis have tried to find an integral connection between the dreidel and the Hanukka story; the standard explanation is that the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin, which appear on the dreidel in the Diaspora stand for nes gadol haya sham "a great miracle happened there," while in Israel the dreidel says nun, gimmel, hey, pey, and stand for nes gadol haya po" which means "a great miracle happened here."

One 19th century rabbi maintained that Jews played with the dreidel in order to fool the Greeks if they were caught studying Torah, which had been outlawed. Others figured out elaborate gematriot [numerological explanations based on the fact that every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent] and word plays for the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin. For example, nun, gimmel, hey, shin in gematria equals 358, which is also the numerical equivalent of mashiach or Messiah!

In fact, all of these elaborate explanations were invented after the fact. The dreidel game originally had nothing to do with Hanukka; it has been played by various people in various languages for many centuries. In England and Ireland there is a game called totum or teetotum that is especially popular at Christmastime. In the Eastern European game of dreidel (including the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin) is directly based on the German equivalent of the totumgame: N = Nichts = nothing; G = Ganz = all; H = Halb = half; and S = Stell ein = put in. In German, the spinning top was called a "torrel" or "trundl," and in Yiddish it was called a "dreidel," a "fargl," a "varfl" [= something thrown],

Latkes are traditionally eaten by Jews during the Hanukka festival. The oil for cooking the latkes is symbolic of the oil from the Hanukka story that kept the Second Temple lit with a long-lasting flame that is celebrated as a miracle.

Prior to the introduction of the potato to the Old World, latkes were, and in some places still are, made from a variety of other vegetables, cheeses, legumes, or starches, depending on the available local ingredients and foods of the various places where Jews lived. Despite the popularity of latkes and tradition of eating them during Hanukka, they are hard to come by in stores or restaurants in Israel, having been largely replaced by the Hanukka doughnut (called sufpaniot) due to local economic factors, convenience and the influence of trade unions. The word "latke" itself is derived (via Yiddish) from the Russian/Ukrainian word meaning "patch."

I hope you found these bits of history interesting and let me wish all members of our Congregation and their loved ones a wonderful Holiday.

Paul Helman

Should you wish to honor the memory of your beloved departed one with a permanent memorial plaque, please contact the synagogue office at 847-673-3370 for additional information.

We Celebrate... We Pray... We Remember...

MAZEL TOV TO

Irv and Rita Federman on the birth of their grandson, Bennett Miles
 Dr. Paul Helman and Ruth Bittner on their new home
 Marlene Iser on the upcoming wedding of her grandson Joseph
 Iris and Barry Jutovsky on the marriage of their son, Mark to Karen
 Judy Kessler on the wedding of her son Steve to Heather Loughlin
 Deborah Schechter and Sam Majerowicz on the marriage of their daughter

HIGH HOLIDAY HONORS DONATIONS

Sarine and Bob Rohde

NEW MEMBERS

Chris Aleman
 David Goldberg
 Howard and Florie Meron
 Phyllis Sherman

CONGREGATION WANTS TO WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Phyllis Borak	Harriet Reifer
Neil Handleman	Sarine Rohde
Howard Meron	Karin Schweigert
Herman Nussbaum	Mitchel Sweig
Phyllis Projansky	Sheila Wexler

DONATIONS FOR SPEEDY & COMPLETE RECOVERIES

Helene and Len Colen
 The Jaffe Family
 Sam Majerowicz and Deborah Schechter
 Herman Nussbaum
 Bill Raffeld
 Eileen and Ronald Yedlin
 Sheila Wexler

KIDDISH AND ONEG FUND

Neil and Judy Adelman

WHY "SH" IS SO IMPORTANT IN YIDDISH:

SH NORER Someone who mooches, feeds off others, a low life
 SH LIMAZL Someone who can't do anything right, a klutz
 SH VANTZ "Tail"- for someone who is annoying, incompetent
 SH VITZ Sweat, perspire
 SH MENDRIK Sort of the same as SHLIMAZL
 SH TUPN ARAIN To stuff (forcefully) like over eating
 SH TARK VI A FERD Strong as a horse
 SH EINER PUNIM Nice "face" (pretty)
 SH ANDA Disgrace
 SH LEMIEL Same as Schlimazel & Shmendrik
 SH UL Temple, Synagogue
 SH EP NACHAS Exude abundant joy & pride, e.g. A child getting married etc.
 SH ABBOS Shabbat
 SH ADCHEN Matchmaker
 SH IKKER A drunk
 SH ABBOS GOY The non-Jew turning on the lights in Shul
 SH AYTL Wig, used by orthodox women to cover head
 SH EHECHEYANU He kept us alive, sustained us
 SH ALOM Peace
 SH NOOK A creep
 SH USH Quiet
 SH IVA Sit in mourning
 SH TETEL Small village
 SH MEER "Rub" as when bribing or spreading butter on bread
 SH A Silence (I will add SH TILL....)
 SH MUTZ Dirt
 SH MATEH Rag
 SH MEGEGI (My favorite;-) Same as schlimazel, shmendrik
 And that's the gantsa SH MEGILLA!

There are lots more "SH" words which weren't suitable for a shul bulletin. Plus there are your favorite rhyming "SH" words like calories - shmalories or fattening - shmat-tening or healthy - shmealthy. I'm sure you could come up with a few of your own shmymys! Happy Chanukah to all.



Tree Of Life

Perfect for a Special Birthday or a Special Anniversary, the Kol Emeth Tree of Life offers a unique and lasting record of your simcha. Any type of happy occasion is beautifully engraved for all to see.

Consider purchasing a Leaf, an Acorn or even a Rock for our beautiful Tree Of Life. For only \$118.00 you can purchase a Leaf, for \$236.00 an Acorn or for a Rock it is only \$354.00. Please contact **Judy Kessler** in the Synagogue Office for

Office Hours

Judy Kessler, the office manager, will be in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, and Friday from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

Attention Leagram Senders

Please mail your Leagrams to **Phyllis Bower** with your check as soon as you receive it so you will not misplace it or forget. How nice and easy to wish our Kol Emeth Family members a Happy Birthday or a Happy Anniversary greeting by sending them a Leagram. You will also be receiving full Earning Fund Credit towards our Culminating Event in June.

Phyllis does not have the time to keep calling everyone that for one reason or another forgets to send the Leagram List and check to her. Please help **Phyllis** do her job easier by mailing or giving them to her as quickly as possible. **Phyllis** will be greatly appreciative for you taking care of this.

Thank you!

We appreciate and encourage newsletter contributions from all our congregants but, hard copy (paper) submissions will no longer be accepted. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Judy** in the office. All emails must be sent to hakol@fischoff.com. Articles must be sent by the 10th for the following month's newsletter.

Ha Kol is compiled by **Judy Kessler** and edited by **Roger Fischoff**.

Congregation Kol Emeth

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Address Service Requested

Rabbi	Barry Schechter
President	Dr. Paul Helman
Treasurer	Michael Okmin
House Committee V.P.	Len Colen
Acting Financial Secretary	Michael Okmin
Recording Secretary	Ann Moltz
Sisterhood Representative	Sarine Rohde
Men's Club Representative	Bob Rohde



Mark Your Calendars

December 19- Chanukah Celebration Services and Dinner at 6:00 pm

December 25- The Rabbi's Jewish film series and brunch- 10:30 am

January 18- An afternoon of games- 1:00 to 4:00 pm

January 31, Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14, 16- OWTC "Crimes of the Heart"

February 20- Shabbat Services and Dinner at 6:00 pm

Many more activities are as of yet unscheduled. Our Culminating Event is normally held at the end of June. Inquire about how you can attend at little or no cost to you.

*The past, the Present, and the Future walked into a bar.
It was a tense situation.*

*What do you say when you're comforting a grammar devotee?
"There, their, they're..."*

Thank You... Todah Rabbah...

Marilyn Cooper - "Thank You" to all Kol Emeth friends who sent Birthday Leagrams to me. I truly appreciated receiving them.

Yona and Norman Gelfand - Wish to thank all the well wishers on the birth of their first grandchild, Ayala, born on the 3rd of Tishre 5775 to their daughter Keren Gelfand Cohen and her husband Adam Cohen. The family lives in Ramat, Gan Israel.

Sarine Rohde - I want to thank everyone for remembering me on my birthday with so many cards and Leagrams. You made me feel so terrific and special. Thank you one and all!

The sukkah was set-up and about two weeks later dismantled and stored away until next year. There aren't enough "thank yous" for **Dr. Richard Bloom, John Burns, John Cochrane, and George Mandl**. They did a great job. Stay well and we'll do it again next year. Thanks again. **Len Colen**, House VP

Since we now have a chair lift, the call went out for a donated wheel chair. Knowing where to get a wheel chair, **Bernie Perlstein** answered the call. We now have a wheel chair. Thank you, **Bernie**

Be sure to get your tickets for the next play in the Old World Theatre Company's season **Crimes of the Heart** by Beth Henley opening January 31 and continuing Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14 & 15. Tickets are just \$22.00 for CKE members. Call the office to make your reservations now 847-673-3370.

Remember... HaKol's deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Thanks!



The Festival of Chanukah It's Not a 'Jewish Christmas'!

Because Chanukah usually occurs in December, it is sometimes thought of as the "Jewish Christmas." It isn't, of course. And yet it is fair to say that the reason for Chanukah's popularity— especially in America, where it is the most widely observed Jewish holiday after Passover and Yom Kippur — is precisely its proximity to Christmas.



Chanukah used to be regarded as a minor half-holiday, cheerful but low-key. It has become something bigger and brighter in response to Christmas, which transforms each December into a brilliant winter festival of parties, decorations, and music.

Attracted by the joy of the season, not wanting their children to feel left out of all the merriment and gift-giving, American Jews in the 20th century began to make much more of Chanukah than their grandparents ever had. Today Chanukah is well established as part of the annual "holiday season," complete with parties, decorations, and music of its own. Its enhanced status is a tribute both to the assimilating tug of America's majority culture and to the remarkable openness of that culture to Jewish customs and belief.

Ironically, Chanukah was established to commemorate the very opposite of cultural assimilation. It dates back nearly 22 centuries, to the successful Jewish revolt against Antiochus IV, one of the line of Syrian-Greek monarchs who ruled the northern branch of Alexander the Great's collapsed empire.

Alexander had been respectful of the Jews' monotheistic religion, but Antiochus was determined to impose Hellenism, with its pagan gods and its cult of the body, throughout his domains. When he met resistance in Judea, he made Judaism illegal. Sabbath observance, circumcision, and the study of Torah were banned on pain of death. A statue of Zeus was installed in the Temple in Jerusalem, and swine were sacrificed

before it. Some Jews embraced the new order and willingly abandoned the God and faith of their ancestors. Those who wouldn't were cruelly punished. Ancient writings tell the story of Hannah and her seven sons, who were captured by Antiochus's troops and commanded to bow to an idol. One by one, each boy refused— and was tortured to death before his mother's eyes.

The fight to reclaim Jewish religious autonomy began in 167 BC. In the town of Modi'in, an elderly priest named Mattathias refused a Syrian order to sacrifice to an idol. When an apostate Jew stepped forward to comply, Mattathias killed the man and tore down the altar. Then he and his five sons took to the hills and launched a guerrilla war against the armies of the empire.

When Mattathias died, his third son, Judah Maccabee, took command. He and his band of fighters were impossibly outnumbered, yet they won one miraculous victory after another. In 164 BC, they recaptured the Temple, which they cleansed and purified and rededicated to God. On the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, the menorah — the candelabra symbolizing the divine presence — was rekindled. For eight days, throngs of Jews celebrated the Temple's restoration. "All the people prostrated themselves," records the book of Maccabees, "worshipping and praising Heaven that their cause had prospered."

In truth, though, their cause hadn't prospered — not yet. The fighting went on for years. It was not until 142 BC that the Jews regained control of their land. Geopolitically, that was the moment of real triumph. But Chanukah isn't about political power. It isn't about military victory. It isn't even about freedom of worship, notwithstanding the fact that the revolt of the Maccabees marks the first time in history that a people rose up to fight religious persecution.

What Chanukah commemorates at heart is the Jewish yearning for God, for the concentrated holiness of the Temple and its service. The defeat of the Syrian-Greeks was a wonder, but the spiritual climax of the Maccabees' rebellion occurred when the menorah was rekindled and God's presence among his people could be felt once again.

by **Jeff Jacoby**

This is a bonus page that does not appear in the printed version.