

HAKOL

The Voice of
Congregation Kol Emeth
5130 W. Touhy Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077 847-673-3370
www.kolemethskokie.org
December 2015—January 2016
Kislev—Tevet—Shevat 5776



Rabbi's Message

Thoughts on Thanksgiving
and Hanukkah

When I first arrived in the US all those years ago, I was amazed and thrilled to be present at a kosher Thanksgiving dinner. I know you'll think this reaction a little overblown, but let me explain. Having grown up in England, which was kind enough to have given my parents sanctuary from the Nazis in 1938, I nevertheless felt alienated, as a Jew, from general society. As the child of immigrants in a society that then referred to immigrants, not entirely flatteringly, as foreigners, I would also read articles and hear programs that made me feel a member of some exotic tribe with strange and bizarre customs.

Then I arrive here and join in a celebration that encompasses all the people in this country, all religions, creeds, races. For the first time I felt that I really belonged somewhere. In fact it was only then that I became aware of how alienated I had felt all those years growing up in England, rather as you sometimes become aware of a headache or an irritation only after it stops and you feel free of it for the first time. So for me, being present at that Thanksgiving dinner was a new and strange and wonderful feeling.

That is why I am a little saddened to learn that some Orthodox Jews do not join in this celebration, for reasons best known to them. We are, after all, part and parcel of this remarkable country, we should feel kinship with all our fellow-Americans, and we should also give thanks for the existence of the United States, what it means to the world, to us as Americans, and, especially, to us as Jews.

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President's Message

This New Year of 2016 is especially significant for Kol Emeth as we celebrate our congregation's Golden Anniversary. This is a year to rejoice and to remember.



Fifty years has changed us individually, and altered the world profoundly. We were founded in a time of great turmoil and find ourselves fifty years later in a period of equal sorrow, fear and uncertainty. So much is different, yet in other respects, the same.

Kol Emeth has been a fixed and unchanging point as the winds of history swirl around us, and a special place of community to shelter us from the storm. Over these years, we have been blessed by wise leadership, especially our spiritual leaders. Rabbi Schechter has represented and guided us with his great humanity, wisdom and welcoming warmth. His voice, spoken and sung, comforts and inspires us. His humor especially, has been a joy and a wonderful means of imparting those profound truths that always underlie the story. Rabbi Schechter and his wife Julie are our treasures.

In conclusion, may I emphasize that while individuals

Men's Club Corner

As we end the year the Mens Club will begin planning for a fun event in the late January timeframe, just in time to help beat the winter blues! Keep an eye for the upcoming notification and have a great Hannukah and New Year!"

Bill Dunn

We Celebrate... We Pray ...

We Remember...

MAZEL TOV

Fern and Bernard Katz on the graduation of their granddaughter from nursing school

Bill Raffeld on being honored with the Distinguished Service Award from UIC

NEW MEMBER S

Welcome to Mel Kimmel

Allen and Rachel Perl with Emery, Eden, and Ellie

DONATIONS FOR SIMCHAS AND GET WELL

Leonard and Helene Colen

William Dunn and Jennifer Blitz

Clara Foreman

Barry and Iris Jutovsky

Bernard and Fern Katz

Sara Kleinman

Odette Langer

Leon and Suzanne Mendelsohn

YAHARZEIT AND YIZKOR DONATIONS

Maurice and Eve Alfille

Nata Andinysh

Helen Applebaum

Howard Aronson

Berta Benhabib

Sonia Berk

Howard and Beverlee Bernstein

George and Judy Blinick

Leona Boris

Leonard and Helene Colen

Walter and Patricia Fleishacker

Chester Gaynes

Freya Greenspahn

Elaine Heilig

Bernard and Fern Katz

Alfred and Shirley Kleifield

Ellen Marchi

Mitchell and Joyce Messer

Howard Mirsky

Tyra Notorangelo

Herman and Ruth Nussbaum

Janine Oberrotman

Arnold and Karen Okmin

Michael and Iris Okmin

Esther Peven

Harriet and Jacob Reifer

WISH ES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Bill Klein

Richard Rosen

Howard Meron

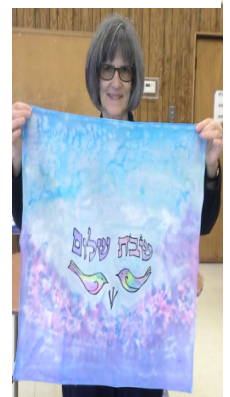
Happy Hanukkah—
Wishing you a sea-
son of lights and all
the best in 2016.



Thank you to Jennifer Blitz and her two wonderful helpers, Rachel Dunn and Allison Dunn for



Odette Langer (left) and Gail Myers Jaffe (right) show the wonderful silk paintings that they did in the Craft Club



organizing and transporting the food that was collected for the Ark during the High Holidays. We have all contributed and made a real difference in the world.

Sisterhood News

Our membership luncheon in October was enjoyed by all who attended. We were happy to have Edna Schrank, the regional president, join us. Our next event will be the Torah Fund luncheon, April 5th, with Sue Lewis returning, Speaking on "ALL YOU THOUGHT ABOUT PASSOVER BUT DON'T." Some of us are already wearing our beautiful Torah Fund pins with the theme of planting a vineyard by our own labors, leaving a legacy.

Visit the Hanukkah tables that are in the social hall. Take advantage of the reduced prices.

Our Book reviews, with Selma Katz, will resume on March 29th with the discussion of MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES by Alice Hoffman.

The Family Cooking Traditions program kicked off this fall with Ina Pinkney who shared stories of her fascinating life with approximately two dozen attendees. Ina's warmth and good humor shone through her stories—from her origins in Brooklyn, New York when she contracted Polio as a toddler, through making her first cake, to opening the now-famous Ina's, through retirement as Chicago's "Breakfast Queen." Those who were there were also treated to Ina's famous vanilla bean pound cake prepared by Jennifer Blitz and Lisa Garbaty, and an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of *Ina's Kitchen, Memories and Recipes from the Breakfast Queen*. Thank you to Julie Foreman and Jennifer Blitz for bringing Ina to Kol Emeth.



Ina Pinkney (left) and **Julie Foreman** together after Pinkney's presentation.

Our Craft Club had another successful session of painting on silk which was brought back by popular demand. Participants created their own wall-hangings, scarves, or challah covers. (See photos to the left.) The Craft Club's Winter project will be no-knit scarves. Watch for details on this upcoming project. Thank you to Lisa Garbaty for chairing this program.

As I depart for California until March, wishing all of you a safe and warm winter.

Sheila Wexler

(Rabbi—Continued from page 1)

This spirit is well expressed by a prayer composed for Thanksgiving by the late Rabbi Joseph Lookstein and recited at services in Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun (Orthodox) in New York in 1940:

We pray sincerely for America and the ideals of democracy and freedom that are here enshrined. May she be strong to withstand all the currents that assail her and all the forces of evil that would invade her sacred precincts. A tower of light to her own citizenry, may she cast a steady beam and light up all the dark areas of the world and show to a perplexed and straying humanity the path of freedom, of life and of peace.

So much for Thanksgiving.

How widely known Hanukkah is (or was) in England can be gauged from this conversation I had in London with a (Jewish!) friend, a lady then in her 80's:

"What is the name of the Jewish holiday that comes around Christmas time?" she asked. "Peggy," I said, "it is called Hanukkah. And would it surprise you to learn that in Chicago where I live, a great number of people who are not Jewish know the name of this holiday?" She was amazed.

Again, on my arrival in the US, I was surprised, and elated to find that Jewish holidays—Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah—were well-known to the population at large, and not just to Jewish people. Of course someone is going to tell me, rightly, that while this is true for large cities here, once you go to smaller communities, the non-Jewish population won't know what I'm talking about. But remember, I am comparing like with like. I grew up in London, not some small English village. It was in London that I had this conversation about Hanukkah with my elderly friend. And it was in London that I found that even if these holidays were known, they were considered strange and exotic.

Thus both the experience of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah made me feel at home in America, almost immediately on arrival, and it is here that I have stayed.

Rabbi Barry Schechter

Program and Activities

Committee

Save the Dates for Special events coming to CKE in December and January!!

Friday December 11- Chanukah Celebration Services and Dinner at 6:15 pm

Enjoy the holiday with CKE members and friends- Service at 6:15 pm followed by the lighting of the Hanukkah candles and a delicious dinner featuring Latkes, Oven Fried Chicken, Vegetarian options, and special Hanukkah desserts.

Friday December 25- The Rabbi's Jewish film series and a delicious Chinese lunch- 10: 30 am

Sunday January 24- An Afternoon of Games- 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Come and chase the winter blues away by joining with the members and friends from the synagogue – playing the board and card games many of us love so much! Bridge, Canasta, Trivial Pursuit , Scrabble , Gin Rummy , Chess , Checkers, Monopoly, Mah Jong, Rummy Que and more. Relax and enjoy snacks- and cookies, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Free to everyone.

Make your reservations with Judy in the office – 847-673-3370.

The Old World Theatre Company

THE OLD WORLD THEATRE COMPANY continues its successful 6th season with three more plays in 2016! Enjoy the new year celebrating theatre at CKE.

COMING IN FEBRUARY ...DRIVING MISS DAISY By Alfred Uhry—February 27, 28, March 5, 6. See the original play from which the movie was developed! An instant classic whose title has become a household name.

COMING IN APRIL . . .BUNNY, BUNNY: GILDA RADNER...A sort of love story by Alan Sweibel— April 2, 3, 9, and 10. A delightful look back at the life of Gilda Radner while on Saturday Night Live and her years following SNL thru the eyes of her closest friend on SNL, writer Alan Sweibel.

COMING IN MAY....THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO- May 21, 22. OWTC is producing this production as a celebration of CKE's golden anniversary. Classic radio programs in a nostalgic journey back to the 40's—THE GOLDBERGS, BABY SNOOKS, THE BICKERSONS, JACK BENNY, FRED ALLEN, JACK ARMSTRONG, soap operas plus more surprises of your favorites!

CKE'S own cultural gem has provided us with first class productions with a super talented company of actors! Purchase your tickets now from the office—call 847-673-3370. Remember a portion of your ticket is actually a donation to CKE. **Bill Raffeld**

Thank You ... Todah Rabbah...

Happy Hanukkah and all good things in 2016 to our Kol Emeth friends. **Iris and Barry Jutovsky**

Thank you to **Jerry Wadro** and **Bernie Perlstein** for decorating our Sukkah for this year.

Judy Kessler Thank you to everyone who remembered my birthday. You helped to make it a special one.

To my Friends at Kol Emeth—Thank you very much for sending your good wishes on my birthday. It's a wonderful feeling to be remembered. Wishing everyone happy and healthy days in 2016. **Jacqueline Balter**

Thank you for the lovely wishes in honor of our 63rd wedding anniversary. **Sol and Jane Bernstein**

Sarine Rohde - I want to thank everyone for my birthday Leagrams and for all my lovely birthday cards. I really appreciate all your lovely remarks and caring. I will have a great birthday because of all my friends and a few relatives at Kol Emeth. It was so nice to receive so many warm thoughts from everyone. Thank you once again.

Congregation Kol Emeth is a Conservative synagogue and a member of the USCJ

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Sisterhood Representative	Sarine Rohde

HaKol is produced every other month by Judy Kessler. Please get all articles in by January 15, 2016