

AZOY

"Is that so?"

2017
DECEMBER
5778



TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County

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Religious School Update by Linette Sternlicht

The children of the religious school are pressing onward with their studies. This past month they were lucky enough to do a hamsa art project with Tammy Marinuzzi and Pavel Amromin. Also, Barbara Shykoff taught two sessions on the Siddur and had them make their own personal siddurs, and Rabbi Wasserman talked to them about a Jewish perspective on Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, the children also continue their Hebrew lessons with Dan Sternlicht. As a musical component of their studies, Dan is hoping to teach the children to play some songs on the ukulele. If any of you have an old ukulele that you would be willing to lend to the religious school, please contact contact Linette Sternlicht at 850-895-1547 or linetesternlicht@yahoo.com.

Don't forget our annual **Chanukah Party** hosted by the Sunday Shul, December 17 at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited!



Party like it's 5778 @ TBI's

CHANUKAH PARTY

10:00 am Sunday December 17



The Lighting of the Chanukah
by Rabbi Alana Wasserman

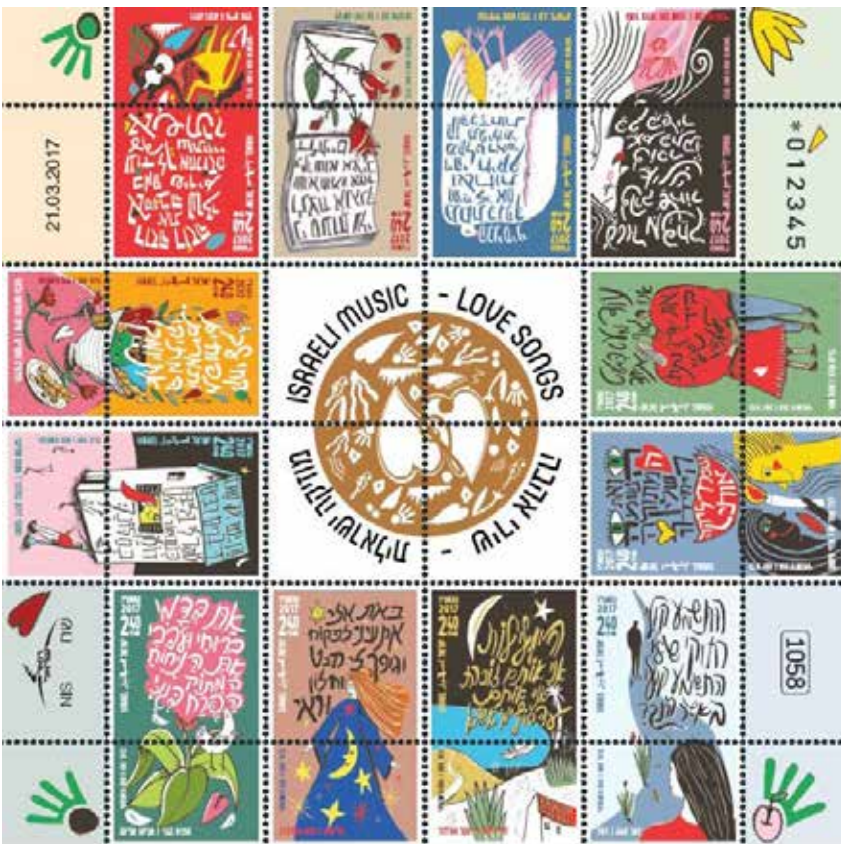
Every year, on the twenty fifth day of the month of Kislev, we celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. We take out our Chanukiot (Chanukah menorahs) and light the candles. We place the candles in from right to left, and light them from left to right, each night lighting one more candle than the night before. Why do we light the Chanukah in this way?

There were two different schools of thought concerning the lighting of the Chanukah. One came from the House of Shammai, and the other from the House of Hillel. Shammai argued that the number of candles we light should correspond to the number of days left of the holiday. On the first night of Chanukah, we should light all eight candles, on the second night, seven candles, etc. Hillel argued that each night, we should light one more candle than the night before. Therefore, on the first night, we light one candle, the second, two candles, etc. Obviously, Hillel won the debate, as we light the candles in accordance with his instructions.

The students of the House of Hillel explained that the reason why we add a candle each night is because “we should ascend in holiness, not descend.” In keeping with Hillel’s reasoning, I would like to suggest other ways in which we can “ascend in holiness” during this season. I have eight suggestions, one for each night Chanukah.

- 1) Join us on Friday, December 15th at 6:00 pm for Shabbat/Chanukah dinner, followed by services at 7:00 pm.
- 2) Join us on Saturday, December 16th for Havdalah and an oil tasting, to remind us of the miracle of the oil.
- 3) Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
- 4) Collect gifts for needy children one night.
- 5) Donate to a relief effort.
- 6) Donate to Mazon, a Jewish Response to Hunger.
- 7) Retell the story of Chanukah in a fun and interactive way.
- 8) As Chanukah is a time for family and friends, sit down with them and play a game of dreidle.

By participating in these activities, we illuminate our lives and the lives of others, just as the candles of the Chanukah illuminate our homes. Happy Chanukah!



Left: New Israeli Music: Love Songs stamps, issued June 2017. | *Above:* Canada’s first Chanukah stamp, issued November 20, 2017.



From the Temple President
by Mike Starkman

It is time to light up and we will be celebrating Chanukah with the religious school children leading us in the candle lighting prayers at the Temple's Chanukah party on December 17th at 10:00 am. The entire congregation is invited. Rabbi Wasserman will be here for the weekend and will be conducting Shabbat

services on Friday evening. There will be more information to come about the weekend.

We need volunteers to prepare the latkes for the Chanukah party. If you are interested in helping preparing the latkes, please contact me.

We need help with home hospitality for the Rabbi's visits. If you are able to host the Rabbi during her weekends here, please contact me or sign up on the sheets available at the entrance to the Temple.

The Temple will be hosting the quarterly Interfaith Harmony Council pot luck dinner on January 20th at 4:30 - 6:30PM. The Rabbi will lead us and our guest in the Havdallah service prior to the dairy/fish meal. I would like for our congregation to come out and support this event. I will need some help in setting up the Temple for hosting this meal.

I still would like your input in what you would like for the Temple to for

you. Should we continue the lay led services? Do we continue with the same format or is a change necessary? What else would you like for us to provide?

In light of recent events, we are concerned for security at the Temple. What is your opinion as to what actions we should take? Do we want unarmed or armed security? Do we modify the front door? What are your ideas?

We have a box of Chanukah wrapping paper in the Temple which we are selling for \$4.00 a roll.

We are still in need of a Treasurer. If you have any booking or accounting experience or are just willing to learn our Quickbook system please contact me. You can reach me at president.templebnaiisrael@knology.net.

Happy Chanukah. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Temple. L'Shalom - Mike

MITZVAH CARDS FOR NOVEMBER

Mitzvah cards were sent to
Alma & Sonny Glass
on the passing of Alma's Brother-in-law

Judith Scott & Sarah Farkas
Mike & Mary Starkman
The Zipes Family



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All Settled in

by Carly Abramson, ISJL

You know, it's funny, I was speaking to my roommate the other day and I asked her, "When you were a freshman in college and you heard that daunting question... 'Where do you see yourself in five years?' What did you answer?" We both looked at each other, paused, and in unison, "Not in Jackson, Mississippi that's for sure!" After we stopped

giggling from answering simultaneously, our breath steadied. At that moment we both realized we were standing comfortably in a place we never imagined we would be five years ago.

It has been six months since I left the vivacious city of Austin, Texas and entered into the stillness of Jackson, Mississippi. I have to say that there is something beautiful about this place. There is an overwhelming sense of community here that I was not able to feel in Austin. While I did make a community for myself there, it was as if I had to stand on my tiptoes and stretch my neck over a sea of people just to find my friends. In Jackson, I no longer have to crane my neck in the hopes of finding a familiar face. Really, all I have to do is take one step off my screened-in porch and there they are.

In Austin, there was the excitement of being in the "Music Capital of the World," with a diverse population: from hippies to hipsters to techies

to pseudo-wall streeters. And in all of that, it was difficult for me to find someone who understood why I was moving to Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson has its own charm, its own music scene, its own diverse population.

That's not to say it's been an easy transition. Like almost all, transitions are hard, and this one was no different. This was my first time with a full-time job, first time living away from my parents, first big leap into the adult-world. But through getting to know the city, the job, and the new community, I've felt more at home everyday.

Sure, my life is very different now than it used to be. I spend my time enjoying the funky music from New Orleans, the slower-moving pace, and the canopying-trees. On Fridays after work, I sit on my screened-in porch – a southern staple. But for now, this Texas girl is only breathing in this moist Mississippi air; I am now all settled in.

Meet TBI's new logo by Robert Goetz, Board Member, Membership Chair & Webmaster

Check out TBI's new logo being used for the first time, on page 1 of this issue of *The AZOY*. The new graphic was approved by the Temple board during its November meeting. B'nai Israel lacked a professionally designed logo so this was a necessary and logical step toward expanding our reach. Designed by TBI member and vice president, Pavel Amromin, the logo encapsulates the Temple B'nai Israel experience and our brand of reform

Judaism in a beach resort community. We hope you find it distinct and professional. We hope you like it as much as we do. Please let us know.

During the coming weeks we'll be in the process of transitioning over to the new logo. Look for it on synagogue communications, notecards, business cards and of course, on website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

Philatelic update from www.canadapost.ca

"Canada Post introduced a stamp recognizing Hanukkah, the Jewish faith's eight-day celebration also known as the Festival of Lights on November 20, 2017 (see page 2). The stamp's geometric design represents the different types of menorahs, along with a strong contrast between light and dark, which creates the appearance of flickering flames. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Kislev, the ninth month of the ecclesiastical year on the Hebrew calendar. This year, the festival takes place from sunset on December 12 to nightfall on December 20.

The stamp was unveiled at the Starry Nights event held at the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library and hosted by Ve'ahavta, a Jewish charitable organization delivering programs that alleviate poverty. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, Judaism's holiest site, in the second century BCE, after the Maccabees regained religious freedom. The Temple menorah (a seven-branched candelabra) was supposed to stay lit at all times. However, there was only enough oil to last one day, and it would take eight days to harvest and press the olives, and transport the oil to replenish the supply. Miraculously, that small amount burned for the next eight days, which is why the kindling of a menorah, adding a light each day, is central to the eight-day Hanukkah celebrations."

DECEMBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

Y A H R Z E I T S - THEIR MEMORIES ARE FOR US A BLESSING

12/01 ANNE ALPER – MOTHER OF SARAH FELDSTEIN
12/07 JIM NORMAN – HUSBAND OF HELAINE NORMAN
12/10 WILLIAM ROSEN – FATHER OF ALMA GLASS
12/14 DELOY KELLY – FATHER OF MARSHA KRASELSKY
12/19 WILLIAM ALPER – FATHER OF SARAH FELDSTEIN
12/24 ARTHUR SKOULA – HUSBAND OF ANITA SILVER SKOULA
25 KISLEV MAURICE STARKMAN – FATHER OF MICHAEL STARKMAN



BIRTHDAYS

12/03 ANNE MILLER
 12/09 ALVIN GINGOLD
 12/09 JOHN OSWALD
 12/19 MARILYN NATIONS
 12/22 ROBERT GOETZ

ANNIVERSARIES

12/02 DARREN & BRANDY HAIMAN
 12/07 LISA RAHN & STEVE THEBERGE
 12/07 GEORGIE & TERRELL HARTZOG
 12/16 NATE & HEATHER MEWHINNEY
 12/21 AVIVA & JOHN MALLARY

CONGRATULATIONS to NATE & HEATHER
on their 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	12/03	9:30 am	Sunday Shul
SUN	12/10	9:30 am	Sunday Shul
TUES	12/12		1st light of Chanukah
WED	12/13	6:30 pm	Temple Board of Directors Meeting
FRI	12/15	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner – <i>please bring a side dish</i> Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wasserman
SAT	12/16	12:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Wasserman Havdalah at Oaks by the Bay Park, Panama City Olive oil tasting at Emerald Coast Olive Oil Company, Panama City Beach
SUN	12/17	10:00 am 11:30 am	Chanukah Party, hosted by Sunday Shul – <i>all are welcome to attend</i> “Stump” the Rabbi
WED	12/20	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Meeting
THUR	12/24		no Sunday Shul
SUN	12/31		no Sunday Shul – <i>New Years Eve!</i>

December Shabbat Candle-Lighting Times

Take a break from the hectic work week and mark the Day of Rest with lighting of the candles.

12/01 | 4:24 pm 12/08 | 4:25 pm 12/15 | 4:26 pm 12/22 | 4:29 pm 12/29 | 4:34 pm



BIG Chanukah Sale extended through Dec 17th!

We have great gifts to make your Chanukah happier! Select from a variety of unique and beautiful menorahs and receive a free box of candles! Jewish jewelry is 20% off and includes Mogen David pendants and earrings, Tree of Life earrings and pendants. We have a variety of mezuzahs to choose from for your home and they are 20% off for this sale only! Chanukah gift wrap, candles and dreidles. This is a

once-a-year big sale giving y'all the opportunity to purchase Jewish stuff locally. You'll be helping the TBI Sisterhood, who in turn will be helping the shul.

Just call Sarah at (507) 990-6724 or email her at farcott@gmail.com for an appointment to get you these fabulous deals!

