

Established in 1892



CONGREGATION
KNESETH ISRAEL

Lifelong Learning

Embracing Diversity

Building Community

Meaningful Observance

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From the Rabbi's Study

Happy Chanukah,
Hanukah, Hannukah,
Hanukkah....whichever way you spell
it. Be happy! Wait, that's the greeting
for Purim. Yet, Purim and Chanukah
(my preferred spelling from tradition)
are related in some ways. They are
both holidays that are not in the Torah.
They are both historical events after
the destruction of the First Temple
and the first exile. They both celebrate
a victory over an enemy bent on
destroying the Jewish people. In every
age, a tyrant rises up.

How do we mark such events? For

Chanukah, we recreate the miracle of
the oil that lasted eight days, long
enough to create new oil to dedicate
the Temple. The word Chanukah
means dedicate. We celebrate by
eating foods that are fried in oil, latkes,
sufganiot (jelly donuts). In Italy they
eat fried chicken and fried artichokes,
Jewish style. Here are some recipes to
extend your repertoire, [https://
www.allrecipes.com/gallery/hanukkah-
foods-from-around-the-world/](https://www.allrecipes.com/gallery/hanukkah-foods-from-around-the-world/) We
are a wonderfully diverse
congregation. What is your favorite

continued on page 2



President's Message

It's hard to believe that it is
Chanukah already, a time to
celebrate the victory of
good over evil and the rededication of
the Temple! Every day we hear of evil
and pray that it will end soon, with good
again being victorious, but other than
prayers and tzedakah, we have little
control.

We can, however, rededicate ourselves
to our faith and traditions. Participation
in services, shiva minyans, life-long
learning, and working with CKI
committees and the Board are great
ways to rededicate yourself. CKI

doesn't need vessels of pure olive oil,
or even a dolphin skin, but it does need
funds to operate, for heat and lights,
new windows in the Social Hall,
security, a new "Ladies' Throne," and a
water bottle filler.

I truly appreciate the opportunities that I
have had to learn and to share in the joy
of families celebrating baby namings,
consecrations, confirmation, and B-
mitzvahs. I want all of this to continue,
and I want everyone to feel comfortable
being at CKI.

In honor of all of those who have

continued on page 3

RABBI MARGARET FRISCH KLEIN

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HEATHER BAUMANN WEISER, Director of Education

cki.educator@gmail.com

ROBIN COYNE, President

robincoyne@outlook.com

PEG LEHMAN, Office Manager

cki@ckielgin.org

From the Rabbi's Study...

Chanukah dish—from your youth or more recently?

We mark Chanukah by publicizing the miracle, the miracle of the oil. That meant leaving the chanukiah outside lit, until everyone was home from the marketplace. There are many questions that could arise from that. What if you, yourself, were not home from work yet? When do you light, in this 24x7 culture? What if you are afraid to put the chanukiah outside? Some have worried about theft, about fire, about rising antisemitism.

The rabbis were ahead of you. They ruled that in a time of danger, we could light the menorah on a table in the house. This is what my family always did. In the apartment in New York, in the apartment in Evanston, and then the house in Grand Rapids. It was always a warm time, a time to gather with friends and watch the candles' glow. Here in Elgin, we usually have one menorah outside. We intend to do that again this year. Each of you must make that decision for yourself.

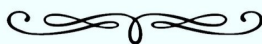
Chanukah celebrates increasing light. The Talmud teaches that we light one candle the first, two the second, three the third, etc. As our light increases, our joy does too. It can be hard to see in this darkest time of the year. By the middle of Chanukah, even the skies start to stay light longer.

Sometimes that light, which also leads to hope, can seem imperceptible. But it is there. It is there in the numbers of people who have reached out to CKI with offers of help. It is there every time I pull into the parking lot and greet an EPD officer on his/her own time making sure we are safe. It is there in the planning for the Magical Chanukah

Extravaganza. It is there in the eyes of the children reflected in the havdalah candle. Look for those glimmers. Help us increase the light. Be the light.

This time, since Simchat Torah, since October 7, has been a dark time for Jews and the world. At this season of increasing light, we rededicate ourselves to increasing the light, to teaching about antisemitism, to building bridges, and to making the world a better place.

—Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein



Chai Babies Lighting Havdalah Candle



CKI BOARD MEMBERS

President – Robin Coyne
Immediate Past President – Risa Cohen
Executive Vice-President – Jerry Niederman
VP Ritual Chair—Gene Lindow
Treasurer – Charlie Neuman
Financial Secretary – Sandi Phelan
Recording Secretary – Barbara Edelstein
VP of Education – Barb Razowsky

CKI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult Education – Myrna Rosenbaum
Bylaws – Rachel Newby
Cemetery – (available)
CKI Cares – Karen Bender & Judi Tepe
Director of Education – Heather Weiser
Fundraising – (available)
HaKol Editor – Peg Lehman
CKI Music Director – Stewart Levin
House Manager – (available)
Keruv – (available)
Kitchen – (available)
Membership – Dick Johnson
Publicity – Brad Burkner
Roth Scholarship – Maureen Manning
Tikkun Olam – (available)
Vision – (available)
Youth Activities – (available)

To contact, call CKI at 847-741-5656

President's Message Cont.

enriched my life and given me joy, I will match your donations made by 12/31/2023, dollar for dollar, up to \$2,000. Bob and Nancy Protter are generously partnering with me, offering an additional \$2,000 match for a total match of \$4,000! Anyone who wants to join Bob, Nancy, and me and do a match is very welcome to join us, the more the merrier! Have a happy Chanukah and a safe and healthy winter, please be kind, and always look for things to be joyful about!

—Robin Coyne



December 5th @ 9:00 am

Check your email or contact Rabbi Margaret at rabbi@ckielgin.org for more information.

CKI Office Hours

The CKI building is OPEN
and Peg is in the office.
To reach the office, call 847-741-5656 during
office hours, Monday—Friday:
10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

IMPORTANT REMINDER

When writing a check, make it payable to
Congregation Kneseth Israel, NOT CKI.
Please note what the money
is intended for.
Thank you!

CKI Book Club Schedule 2023—2024

Date	Book	Author	Time
July 18 (Tues.)	The Observant Wife	Naomi Ragen	10:30 am
August 15 (Tues.)	On Division	Goldie Goldbloom	10:30 am
October 17 (Tues.)	The Prison Minyan	Jonathan Stone	10:30 am
Nov. 21 (Tues.) at Gail Borden	Mr. Perfect on Paper	Gene Meltzer	10:30 am
December 19 (Tues.)	Bookish People	Susan Coll	10:30 am
January 16 (Tues.)	If All the Sea Were Ink	Ilana Kurshan	10:30 am
February 20 (Tues.)	The Three Muses	Martha Anne Toll	10:30 am
March 19 (Tues.)	Ten Year Gone	Jonathan Dunskey	10:30 am
April 16 (Tues.)	Dreamers of the Day	Mary Doria Russell	10:30 am
May 21 (Tues.)	Kantika	Elizabeth Graver	10:30 am
June 11 (Tues.)	Taking Miracles Seriously	Michael Zedek	10:30 am

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

Donations

- Douglas Bakley
- Susan Ginsberg
- Blossom Wohl

In memory of Bob Kulefsky

- Joy Wener Bang
- Myron Goldman

In memory of my father's yahrzeit

- Jerry Niederman

High Holy Day Donation

- Phyllis Guth

In memory of Herbert Franks

- Sandi & Kevin Phelan
- Stuart Hymen
- Jana & Bill McFarlane
- Charlie & Helen Neuman
- Barbara Edelstein
- Joseph G. Bisceglia

In memory of Charles Garland

- Sandi & Kevin Phelan
- Jana & Bill McFarlane
- Charlie & Helen Neuman

In memory of William Sharf & Clara Wechter

- Dick & Sue Johnson

Giving Tuesday Fundraiser Donors

- Robin Coyne
- Bob & Nancy Protter
- Dick & Sue Johnson
- Vicar Andrea & Mark Delaney
- Shira Coffee & Philip Pomerance

GENERAL FUND

Giving Tuesday Fundraiser Donors

- Sandi & Kevin Phelan
- Batbara Edelstein
- Ken More

CLARA WECHTER ED FUND

To Hillary Schneider, in memory of Arlene

- Ken & Gale Jacoby
- Paul & Risa Cohen

To Eileen Franks, in memory of Herb

- Paul & Risa Cohen
- Dick & Sue Johnson
- Ken & Gale Jacoby

To Helen Lindow, in memory of Herb

- Dick & Sue Johnson
- Ken & Gale Jacoby
- Paul & Risa Cohen

To Jay Garland, in memory of your father

- Paul & Risa Cohen
- Dick & Sue Johnson

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donation

- Earl & Debbie Sternfeld

For Food Pantry

- Stuart Hymen

Rufuah Shleimah to Barbara Maring

- Earl & Debbie Sternfeld

Special Funds

The following funds are available to receive your generous donations:

- **Clara Wechter Education Fund** – Supports Torah School and Adult Ed
- **General Fund** – For multi-purpose use
- **Jerome & Lillian Roth Scholarship Fund** See the President.
- **Building Security Fund** — EPD security for special CKI events
- **Memorial Plaques** – \$300
- **CKI Youth Fund** – Supports programs for our synagogue youth
- **Prayer Book Fund** – Siddur is \$36; Chumash is \$60
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** – Needs decided by Rabbi
- **Seltzer Music & Cultural Arts Endowment Fund** – Jewish cultural enrichment programs
- **Simon C. & Ruth L. Kaplan Torah Fund**
Repair of Torah scrolls
- **Sisterhood** – Supports women's group's various projects
- **Blossom Wohl Flower Fund** – Pulpit flowers
- **Sisterhood Vision Fund** – Large-type Siddur is \$50
- **Tree of Life** – Leaf \$125; Dove \$500; Rock \$1,250
- **Major Gifts** – \$5,000 and up. See the President

Parashat HaShavu'a: Weekly Torah Portions

Dec 2 19 Kislev	<i>Parashat Vayishlah</i> Genesis 32:4-36:43 Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21
Dec 9 26 Kislev	<i>Parashat Vayashav—</i> Two Torahs #1 Genesis 37:1-40:23 #2 Numbers 7:18-23 Haftarah Zechariah 2:14-4:7 Birkat Hahodesh— Tevet
Dec 16 4 Tevet	<i>Parashat Mikketz —</i> Genesis 41:1-44:17 Haftarah: Kings 3:15-4:1
Dec 23 11 Tevet	<i>Parashat Vayiggash</i> Genesis 44:18- 47:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28
Dec 30 18 Tevet	<i>Parashat Vayhi—</i> Genesis 47:28- 50:26 Haftarah: Kings 2:1- 12

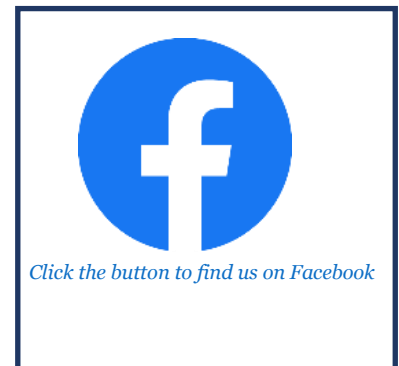
December Birthdays

Benjamin Rasmussen	Dec 1
Norman Agins	Dec 3
Rachel Bloomberg	Dec 7
Megan Placko	Dec 8
Shira Coffee	Dec 8
Aaron Schwartz	Dec 11
Joelle Rockwood	Dec 12
Melissa Margason	Dec 16
Ken Jacoby	Dec 18
Ivy Yael Castro	Dec 18
Robin Seigle	Dec 19
Sandi Perlman	Dec 20
Lee Berger	Dec 21
Malcolm Morris	Dec 21
Michael Finger	Dec 23
Joel Levy	Dec 23
Leonard Winner	Dec 25
Leah Finneran	Dec 27
Larry Steinberg	Dec 28



December Anniversaries

Earl & Deborah Sternfeld	Dec 16
Charles & Nancy Zimmerman	Dec 17
Nancy & Harvey Braus	Dec 18
Michael & Debby Poper	Dec 21
Jerry & Adrienne Himmelfarb	Dec 23



Toda Raba! Thank you very much!

Thank you to everyone who made a point of shopping the Chanukah Bazaar. **Please note that items will remain out through December 10th if you have any last-minute needs.** And remember, profits gained through this yearly fundraiser go directly to CKI to help with expenses.

Also, many thanks to Jenny Trygar and Stephanie Byk for their help with setting up, Peg and Rabbi Margaret for their help with “temporarily relocating” the tables, and the many hands that helped to move them back. Remember it’s not too late to shop and help CKI at the same time!



The "Lucky Ones:" Victims Treated at Hadassah Hospital

Oct 10, 2023 By Barbara Sofer

Michal Ohana, 27, a social media editor, just wanted to dance. She and a group of friends drove from Jerusalem to the all-night dance party near Kibbutz Re'im not far from Israel's border with the Gaza Strip. As dawn broke and they started to go home, trucks and motorcycles



carrying armed terrorists pulled in front of them. Ohana ran for her life, dodging automatic machine gun-fire and rocket

-propelled grenades in a nightmare chase. She took what she thought was refuge under an abandoned Israeli tank. But when many others joined her, they became a target for Hamas gunfire. She took a bullet in her leg.



Mihal Ohana with her mother, Rita Zack

"I was one of the lucky ones," she said. "There were murdered people all around me." Hundreds of young people attending the event were killed by the Hamas terrorists. Ohana, hospitalized at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, where her mother, Rita Zack, is a veteran nurse there, shared her horrific experience with Hadassah National President Rhoda Smolow, who flew to Israel from New York and visited the wounded who had been transported to the Hadassah Medical

Organization from the South.

"I feel privileged to be supporting a hospital that gives excellent care to the wounded civilians and soldiers," said Smolow. She conveyed the concerns and prayers of the nearly 300,000 Hadassah members, and the men and women of Hadassah International, all of whom support Hadassah's lifesaving work in Israel and throughout the world.

65 patients, most of them soldiers, have been brought for treatment at Hadassah Medical Organization's two hospitals, the other on Mount Scopus. The vast majority have serious injuries, often requiring multiple orthopedic, maxillofacial and neurological surgeries. One is a lone soldier from Houston who was shot in the face.

Meanwhile, thousands of Israelis have answered the call by Hadassah for blood donations, particularly Type O. Doctors and nurses, at no extra pay, are working far beyond their shifts to provide expert care.

Dr. Sagui Gavri, head of Hadassah's pediatric cardiology unit who lives at Kibbutz Nir Am along the border with Gaza, usually has in his hand an electrocardiogram chart of a small patient, whether Israeli or Palestinian, including many from Gaza. But for more than 24 hours, Dr. Gavri was holding a handgun, his eyes fixed on the door of the saferoom where he, his wife, Orna, and their 9-year-old son, Timor, had barricaded themselves. While armed and well-trained Hamas terrorists set saferooms on fire to drive out and murder families in nearby kibbutzim, that did not happen at Dr. Gavri's kibbutz, where he is a third generation member. According to reports, Hamas made it to the outskirts of the kibbutz but did not enter, as two Hamas terrorists were killed there by kibbutz residents. After a day in the saferoom, Dr. Gavri

and his family managed to get out and travel to Jerusalem. At Hadassah Ein Kerem in Jerusalem, a weary and tense Dr. Gavri told Smolow:

"Grandparents, parents, children were murdered. This is far worse than the Yom Kippur War."

Another kibbutznik, Baruch Cohen, 71, serves as the head of civilian security at Kibbutz Magen, also near the border with Gaza. He trained 20 kibbutzniks for armed emergency response and because of that training, he is credited with saving 300 lives on the kibbutz. He was hit by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) in the leg. When the terrorists saw that he wasn't dead, they shot him. Seriously wounded, he drove his own vehicle out of the kibbutz and arrived to the Intensive Care Unit of Hadassah Ein Kerem.

"He was in very serious condition, but thankfully he is doing much better," said Dr. Venon Van Heerden, head of Intensive Care. Dr. Van Heerden, an observant Jew, was home on Shabbat when his phone rang. "I was apprised that something major was happening and went to the hospital. "We had to move the patients in the Intensive Care Unit to take in the badly wounded. We took in 15 seriously injured patients at once. It was the worst disaster I experienced in my career."

Cohen lost the leg that took a direct hit from the RPG, but he absorbed the news with equanimity, said Dr. Van Heerden, who quoted the patient saying he would "deal with it and is grateful to be alive." "Baruch came here close to death," said his wife, Mina Cohen. "Our daughter is an ICU nurse in a different hospital, and she tells us just how hard the team here works to save every life and how professional they are." Mina Cohen told Smolow, "I know what the Hadassah organization is and the sacred work you do. I can't thank you enough."

Yahrzeits

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrzeits are commemorated during the coming weeks, and those whose names are read in the synagogue at Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services during the month of December. It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.

Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service	Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service
Joyce K. Steinberg	Dec 2	Dec 1 & 2	Suzanna Massouda Levi*	Dec 12	Dec 8 & 9
Maurice Burstein*	Dec 2	Dec 1 & 2	Bessie Wiener	Dec 12	Dec 8 & 9
Joel Abrams	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Beverly Fishman	Dec 13	Dec 8 & 9
Avrom Blumberg	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Leo Neuman	Dec 13	Dec 8 & 9
Augusta Hass	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Nancy Mariasis Ashcraft*	Dec 14	Dec 8 & 9
Ruth Kahn Gordon	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Ann Jacoby	Dec 14	Dec 8 & 9
Irving Spitzer	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Celia Raskin	Dec 15	Dec 8 & 9
Clara D. Wechter*	Dec 3	Dec 1 & 2	Renee Wielk	Dec 15	Dec 8 & 9
Anna Herzberg	Dec 4	Dec 1 & 2	Albert Goldenberg	Dec 16	Dec 15 & 16
Raul Robledo Jr.	Dec 4	Dec 1 & 2	Rhea Herzberg*	Dec 16	Dec 15 & 16
Clarisa Cortes	Dec 5	Dec 1 & 2	Earl Lesser*	Dec 16	Dec 15 & 16
Dorothy Jacobson Stein	Dec 5	Dec 1 & 2	Herman Salnick	Dec 16	Dec 15 & 16
Eileen Gross	Dec 6	Dec 1 & 2	Idelle Sherman*	Dec 16	Dec 15 & 16
Rose Goldstein	Dec 8	Dec 1 & 2	Sylvia Leavitt	Dec 17	Dec 15 & 16
Dulce Mann	Dec 8	Dec 1 & 2	Rachel Polis*	Dec 17	Dec 15 & 16
Paul Maring*	Dec 8	Dec 1 & 2	Jerome Silverberg	Dec 17	Dec 15 & 16
Rose Schwartz*	Dec 8	Dec 1 & 2	Nathan Breen*	Dec 18	Dec 15 & 16
Frieda Stein	Dec 8	Dec 1 & 2	Lillian Grosken	Dec 18	Dec 15 & 16
Esther C. Iseberg*	Dec 9	Dec 8 & 9	Beatrice Wohl Shatzkin*	Dec 18	Dec 15 & 16
Florence Rubenstein	Dec 9	Dec 8 & 9	Ida Pearl Goldstein*	Dec 19	Dec 15 & 16
Zalman Yegegarman	Dec 10	Dec 8 & 9	Joyce Kofkin	Dec 19	Dec 15 & 16
Lora Seigle*	Dec 11	Dec 8 & 9	Sylvia Glaser	Dec 20	Dec 15 & 16

There are two dates listed above on our yahrzeit list. The **first** is the **actual date of the yahrzeit**, and memorial candles should be lit on the preceding evening. The **second** are the **days of the services at which the name is read**. An **asterisk** after a name indicates that a plaque is affixed to the Memorial Tablet.

Kindle the Shabbat Candles		and HAVDALAH Candles	
Fri Dec 1	4:04 pm	Sat Dec 2	5:12 pm
Fri Dec 8	4:03 pm	Sat Dec 9	5:11 pm
Fri Dec 15	4:04 pm	Sat Dec 16	5:12 pm
Fri Dec 22	4:06 pm	Sat Dec 23	5:15 pm
Fri Dec 29	4:11 pm	Sat Dec 30	5:20 pm

NOTE: Shabbat ends 50 minutes after candle lighting time on Saturday nite

December Yahrzeits Continued

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrzeits are commemorated during the coming weeks, and those whose names are read in the synagogue at Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services during the month of December. It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.

Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service	Name	Actual Date Observed	Date of Service
Sarah Hymovitz*	Dec 20	Dec 15 & 16	Irene Kramer*	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23
Laura Zemel	Dec 20	Dec 15 & 16	Manfred Leo Lindow*	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23
Foster Poper*	Dec 21	Dec 15 & 16	Argo Parrello	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23
Sarah Meyer*	Dec 22	Dec 15 & 16	Henry Norman Eisner*	Dec 29	Dec 22 & 23
Mary Dreyer	Dec 23	Dec 22 & 23	Louis M. Brenner*	Dec 30	Dec 29 & 30
Jean Eagles	Dec 23	Dec 22 & 23	Dorothy Cohen	Dec 30	Dec 29 & 30
Alvin Hass	Dec 23	Dec 22 & 23	Vivian Atkins	Jan 1	Dec 29 & 30
Erika Lindow*	Dec 23	Dec 22 & 23	Melvin Garland	Jan 1	Dec 29 & 30
Michael Glaser	Dec 24	Dec 22 & 23	Robert Allen	Jan 2	Dec 29 & 30
Gertrude A. Cheney	Dec 24	Dec 22 & 23	Sylvia Coady*	Jan 2	Dec 29 & 30
Hyman Miller	Dec 24	Dec 22 & 23	Harry Richberg	Jan 2	Dec 29 & 30
Sarah Cohen*	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	Florence Shankman	Jan 2	Dec 29 & 30
Harold Durchslag	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	Bertha Beler*	Jan 3	Dec 29 & 30
Frances Ruth Hayden*	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	Miriam W. Cohen*	Jan 3	Dec 29 & 30
Louis Meyer*	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	Mollie Kleinman	Jan 3	Dec 29 & 30
Celia Flowers Reback*	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	James Ryon	Jan 3	Dec 29 & 30
Julie Venetianer	Dec 25	Dec 22 & 23	Harry Seigle*	Jan 4	Dec 29 & 30
Sarah Sweet	Dec 26	Dec 22 & 23	Harry Sweet	Jan 4	Dec 29 & 30
Anna Gilbert*	Dec 27	Dec 22 & 23	Irving P. Durchslag*	Jan 5	Dec 29 & 30
Lillian Salk Stein*	Dec 27	Dec 22 & 23	Donald Frisch	Jan 5	Dec 29 & 30
Maurice Davis	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23	Louis Levy	Jan 5	Dec 29 & 30
Martin Fischer*	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23	Betsy Lynn Zeman*	Jan 5	Dec 29 & 30
Henry Grosken	Dec 28	Dec 22 & 23	David Zemel	Jan 5	Dec 29 & 30

There are two dates listed above on our yahrzeit list. The **first** is the **actual date of the yahrzeit**, and **memorial candles should be lit on the preceding evening**. The **second** are the **days of the services at which the name is read**. An **asterisk** after a name indicates that a plaque is affixed to the Memorial Tablet.

Kindle the Shabbat Candles		and HAVDALAH Candles	
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Fri Dec 8	4:03 pm	Sat Dec 9	5:11 pm
Fri Dec 15	4:04 pm	Sat Dec 16	5:12 pm
Fri Dec 22	4:06 pm	Sat Dec 23	5:15 pm
Fri Dec 29	4:11 pm	Sat Dec 30	5:20 pm

NOTE: Shabbat ends 50 minutes after candle lighting time on Saturday nite

Eight Facts you may not have known about Hanukkah

1. Potatoes only reached Europe in the 16th century—following the “discovery” of the Americas. Before there were potato latkes, the tradition was to eat cheese pancakes—commemorating brave Judith who fed the Greek general before she decapitated him in his sleep, saving her village.
2. The High Holy Days can only begin on four out of seven days of the week. Hanukkah can begin on any day of the week besides Tuesday.
3. The first official White House Hanukkah party was held by President George W. Bush in 2001. He borrowed a 100-year-old Hanukkiyah from the Jewish Museum in New York for the event.
4. There are at least 44 candles in each box of Hanukkah candles. Another option, which my father Manfred did, was to use oil. My fun fact—how many partial boxes do you have in your house because of broken candles in the first box?
5. Holiday Calories. Israelis consume 24 million Sufganiyot (jelly donuts) during these eight days. The average Sufganiyah contains 400-600 calories each, which translates to approximately 10.8 billion calories. Latkes average only 150 calories each—not counting toppings—yummy!
6. Dreidels. When Greek soldiers would make a surprise raid on students studying the Torah, which was forbidden on pain of death, dreidels would come out with students pretending they were gambling.
7. Price of a menorah. In normal times in the Holy temple, the menorah was made of solid gold. Visit the solid gold replica in Jerusalem outside the Aish Ha Torah building. Depending on the price of gold, the starting price would be 3 million.
8. Hanukkah in space. Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman spent Hanukkah of 1993 in space. He could not light the candles but brought a menorah and dreidel with him. My drush (interpretation) on this is with Mel Brooks, “JEWS IN SPACE.”

The source of the above information is ANU Museum of the Jewish People, anumuseum.org located in Tel Aviv.

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

MAY WE SEE THE DAY OF THE NEXT GREAT MIRACLE—PEACE ON EARTH!

Gene Lindow
CKI Ritual Chair
cki.ritual@gmail.com



Torah School

Shalom-

In Pirkei Avot, Chapter 1, verse 15, it states, "Shammai used to say: make your [study of the] Torah a fixed practice; speak little, but do much; and receive all men with a pleasant countenance."

What does this mean? How do we take this and apply it to our lives right now?

When Hebrew Coaching students are just beginning their journey, I ask them to set aside 10 minutes a day to study. That's all I ask, 10 minutes a day to study. But do it every day! Can you find 10 minutes a day to study something new?

Schedule the time so you can do it. Really commit to it. We have an eager group of students preparing for their Mitzvahs!

On Sunday, December 10, we will be having a community-wide "Magical Hanukkah Extravaganza," beginning at 10:30 am. Torah School is going to move the start time to 10:30 in preparation for the festivities. The fee for each family to attend covers food, entertainment, crafts, and all the memories you can make! It will be a great event you don't want to miss! Bring your grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to celebrate with us!



Torah School Students Grocery Shopping for Crisis Center

Torah School will be on winter break December 24, December 31, and January 7. We will see you back on January 14.

Shammai said, "Speak little. Do much." I interpret that to be don't talk about doing it, do it!

B' Shalom,

Heather

The Soup Kettle Scoop



Thanks to Jerry Niederman, Phyllis Guth, Vern Tepe, Kathy Lange, and Robin Coyne for making the Halloween Soup Kettle at Zion Lutheran Church a huge success. We served 50 people with 50 people getting seconds!

The Soup Kettle is a safe, warm place for people to get dinner and visit. Donations, both food and money, are way down and need is way up. The 2023 October Soup Kettle saw an increase of over 100 meals over 2022 October!

Thanks to the CKI volunteers who step up for the 5th Tuesday of the month. **Next Soup Kettle is Jan. 30. Remaining 2024 dates: April 30, July 30, Oct.29, & Dec. 31.**

To volunteer, contact Barb Razowsky: barbrazowsky@gmail.com
or Judi Tepe juditepe@gmail.com

We really appreciate your help.

ACTS OF CHESED

Thank you to those who have pitched in to make CKI warm and welcoming (and safe). Many times, things are done very quietly and anonymously, so if you did something that isn't acknowledged, please know that your deed was greatly appreciated—

Jana McFarlane for generously supplying us with bathroom supplies.

Sam Steinberg & Ken Jaboby for setting up chairs for the funeral.

Geoffrey & Eddie Lindow for opening & closing the moveable wall.

Dan Marshall for checking out and clearing off leaves from the roof.

Tina and Ed Wolf for rearranging the Chanukah Bazaar tables.

Gale Jacoby for her Kristallnacht presentation.

Jerry Niederman for hosting Kiddush & Oneg Shabbat in memory of his father.

Kathy Lange for sponsoring Kiddush in memory of her mother.

Robin Coyne & Bob & Nancy Protter for partnering in Robin's Giving Tuesday matching fundraiser



Chanukah Blessings

Candle Blessings:

ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק
נר של חנוכה.

Baruch ata Adonai, eloheinu melech ha'olam
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, vitzvanu lahadlik
ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe
Who sanctifies us with commandments and commands us
to light the lights of Chanukah

ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם,
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם
בזמן הזה.

Baruch ata Adonai, eloheinu melech ha'olam
sh'asa nisim l'avotenu bayamim ha'hem,
bazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe
Who made miracles for our ancestors
In those days at this time.

1st night:

ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם,
שהחיינו, וקיימנו, והציענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch ata Adonai, eloheinu melech ha'olam

MAGICAL HANUKKAH EXTRAVAGANZA

A FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY



Click here to
register and pay.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

\$18/family
OR
\$5/individual (w/out children)

Congregation Kneseth Israel
330 Division St. Elgin

Menorah lighting, games, crafts,
DIY menorahs, hot dog & latke
bar, and a SURPRISE show



Food for Greater Elgin (FFGE) Update

Zion Lutheran Church Newsletter by Eric Hanson

As you are aware, the number of guests are on a rise. In October we had 256 guests visit us and we served 357 meals. In October 2022, we had 163 guests, and served 233 meals. Quite an increase in the number of guests over last year. CKI served 100 meals on Halloween night. Great job to them, for what they did!

Food for Greater Elgin (FFGE) will be shutting down, sometime in November, to reorganize the building. FFGE bought the other side of the building last year. They will be renting out some of the space for offices, to help cover some of the costs. With this purchase, they will have more storage area, a new giant walk-in freezer installed. The reorganization of the building will last for 2-3 days, possibly longer. What impact this will have on our soup kitchen, I'm not sure. If the construction happens on a Monday, I won't be able to pick up any items, as I usually do.

FFGE has hit a shortage of milk, due to the increased price from the distributor. The price, has risen close to \$4.00 a gallon. Rey, the distributor manager, told me the cost is impacting how much milk will be available. He said there had been a grant to help cover the cost, however that money has run out. I believe FFGE has been spending roughly \$2,000 - \$4,000 a week to cover the cost of the milk for its clients. Rey told me he usually buys 800 to 1000 gallons per week for distribution (that's somewhere between \$125,000 to \$200,000 per year). That surprising number shows the impact of costs on FFGE. Bottom line, we may have to buy milk ourselves for our dinners.

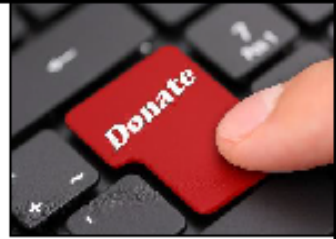
There also has been a major drop in donations to FFGE, from Costco, Target, Walmart, Trader Joes, and others. I believe corporations, are watching their bottom line and cutting their ordering, and thus fewer things are available for distribution to our organization and others through their donations.

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) hasn't had much to offer recently. I usually make out an order, 1 to 2 times a month, and go to Geneva to pick up those items. On their website, there's usually 8 to 10 pages of items that I can order from. Recently, it's been down to only 2 to 3 pages. This might mean we may be buying meat and other items at the store in the near future.

Now for some GOOD NEWS! Zion Lutheran applied for a grant from NIFB in September (about the time our freezer broke down) to be used to buy equipment for pantries and soup kitchens. I asked for \$6000 to cover the cost of our freezer, the remaining monies to be used for new pots and pans. On November 1, I received an email that Zion's Soup Kitchen will be awarded the part of the grant to cover the cost of the freezer. We had a donor who covered about 80% of the original cost of the freezer. With this grant, and the generous gift from our donor, Zion will have additional monies for buying food for our dinners. It's such a wonderful blessing!

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands—one for helping yourself, the other for helping others..." Audrey Hepburn

Easy as 1, 2, 3 ... 4 or How to Make Donations to CKI



We sincerely thank you for both your spiritual and financial support of CKI. To answer your questions on how to send in dues and donations to Congregation Kneseth Israel, here are 4 ways to donate money to CKI (in no particular order):

1. **Bill Pay** (through your bank's online app/website) to "pay a bill online."
 - a. Your bank creates a physical check and mails it to CKI.
 - b. Typically takes 5 business days to arrive at CKI. Your bank notifies you if the check isn't cashed. (Maybe it was lost in the mail.)
 - c. There is no fee to you or CKI.
2. **Zelle** to transfer funds electronically.
 - a. Funds are available quickly at CKI, often within minutes.
 - b. There is no fee to you or CKI.

*Note: This is allowed **only** through your bank app. You cannot send money directly from the Zelle app on your phone.*
3. **PayPal** payment using a credit or debit card. Note that fees apply.
 - a. PayPal reduces the funds given to CKI. For example, if you pay \$2300 for full membership dues, PayPal takes over \$47 in fees. However, if you check the box to cover the processing fees, CKI receives the full \$2300, plus you have a donation total amount of \$2347. Win-win!
 - b. The fee for each payment is based on a small dollar amount plus a percentage of the payment. So, if you make 4 donations of \$18 each at one time, the PayPal fee is about \$4. However, if you group the 4 donations into one for \$72, the PayPal fee is about \$2. You can still specify all the reasons for your donation.
 - c. These little fees add up. Donors are now taking on less and less of the PayPal fees, so CKI must pay them. We don't deduct this amount from your donation summary. However, we may need to consider it in the future. **Please consider adding the PayPal fees to your donations.**
4. **Paper Check**, payable to Congregation Kneseth Israel.
 - a. Easy to do.
 - b. Delivered or mailed to CKI

Tips on how to initially set these up.

1. **Bill Pay** – go to your bank website. Add the payee **Congregation Kneseth Israel, 330 Division Street, Elgin, IL 60120.**
2. **Zelle** – On your bank app, set cki@ckielgin.org (i.e., the CKI email address) as the recipient. Do not set it to CKI's phone number.
3. **PayPal** – Best done through the [CKI website](#) or by [clicking here](#). Because CKI is charged fees for accepting payments through PayPal, we appreciate it when you pay the fee by checking the box!
4. **Paper Check** –. Make check payable to Congregation Kneseth Israel, not CKI.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Charlie Neuman (csneuman3@gmail.com or 314-497-8688) or Sandi Phelan (pbelansan@gmail.com or 630-947-2157).

**CONGREGATION
KNESETH ISRAEL**
330 Division Street
Elgin, Illinois
60120-5685

Building Community
Embracing Diversity
Meaningful Observance
Lifelong Learning

Return Service Requested



December 2023 Shabbat Services: Fridays @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays @ 9:30 AM

Dec 1	First Friday Family Shabbat Service	5:30 PM	Dec 15	Ha Kol Submissions Due	
	Shabbat Services Hybrid	7:00 PM		Shabbat Zimrah Services Hybrid	7:00 PM
Dec 2	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM	Dec 16	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM
Dec 3	Torah School	9:00 AM	Dec 17	Torah School	9:00 AM
	Gail Borden Library Chanukah Program	2:00 PM	Dec 19	CKI Book Club	10:30 AM
Dec 5	Java & Jews Hybrid	9:00 AM		Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 PM
	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 PM	Dec 21	Torah Study Zoom	4:00 PM
Dec 7	Chanukah starts at sundown		Dec 22	Shabbat Services Hybrid	7:00 PM
	Torah Study Zoom	4:00 PM	Dec 23	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM
Dec 8	Shabbat Services Hybrid	7:00 PM	Dec 24	NO Torah School	
Dec 9	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM	Dec 25	Office Closed for Christmas Holiday	
Dec 10	Magical Hanukkah Extravaganza	10:30 AM	Dec 28	Torah Study Zoom	4:00 PM
Dec 12	Adult Intermediate Hebrew	5:30 PM	Dec 29	Shabbat Services Hybrid	7:00 PM
	CKI Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Dec 30	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM
Dec 14	Torah Study Zoom	4:00 PM	Dec 31	NO Torah School	