

The Meaning of the Chanukah Lights



Saturday night, December 8, is the first night of Chanukah! Jews throughout the world will celebrate by lighting candles, singing songs, eating latkes, and telling the story of the rededication of the Temple in the time of the Maccabees.

The tradition is to light the menorah by putting the candles in from right to left, and lighting the newest candle first (that is, light them from left to right). We do this to show that each day of the holiday is equally significant.

The traditional story tells us that after the Temple was recaptured by the Maccabees and rededicated, only one cruse of oil was found which still had the seal of the High Priest on it. This oil was enough to last for only one day. It would take 8 days for new oil to be prepared, but the Maccabees lit the menorah anyway. Miraculously, the light stayed lit until the new oil arrived.

One of the lessons of Chanukah is found in the meaning of these lights. We all face darkness and difficulty in our lives, but if we want to have success, we need to have the courage to try! It has been said that "life is filled with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." We never know how much success comes from failure until we try.

I once read that the great Israeli leader, Golda Meir, at first lamented the fact that she wasn't beautiful. As a teenager, it hurt her tremendously that she wasn't popular. But, because she wasn't ever going to be beautiful, she began working hard at developing other parts of her personality -- things she would have neglected if all the boys thought she was beautiful. When trouble causes us to reach deep within ourselves, unexpected possibilities might emerge.

As we light the Chanukah candles this year, let us take some time to remember that even though we might not be able to make our lives perfect, there are still things we can do to make our world better. Just like the Chanukah candles, as the days get darker we add another and another candle. Each light we add removes a little more of the darkness!



Chag haOrim Sameach!
("A Happy Festival of Lights")

Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Ph. D.

The blessings for lighting the Menorah

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, asher kiddishanu be'mitzvotav, ve'tzivanu, lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, she'asah nissim la'avoteinu, bayamim hahem, bazman hazeh.

Then light the candle, and on first night only, add:

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haOlam, she'che'che'yanu, ve'key'yemanu, ve'higeeyanu, lazman hazeh.



Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who sanctified us with commandments that make us holy and commanded us to light the Chanukah lights.

Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days during this time.

Also, on first night:

Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this season.

Check the monthly calendar
at
www.templechaverim.org
for a complete & updated
listing of services, events,
programs & more.

President's Message— FIND YOUR EMOTIONAL CONNECTION TO TEMPLE CHAVERIM



The greatest challenge for our clergy and our lay leaders here at Temple Chaverim is to find ways of touching the hearts and minds of our congregants and their children. We attempt this through interactive and meaningful worship services, by educating our children in interesting and thought-provoking ways, by offering a myriad of educational and social programs for adults of all ages and interests, and by "being there" genuinely and reliably for our members and their families during happy times -- simchat -- as well as sorrowful times.

Whether through religious traditions, adult education, youth engagement or social events such as Family BINGO, our Sukkot Social, Pizza in the Hut or a fundraiser such as our Casino Night, we are always thinking of ways to engage our members to spend time here in our lovely building so they may feel the warm embrace of our Chaverim family.

I became a board member while my daughter, Jordyn, ran through the halls with a sense of freedom and safety, knowing her parents were here, people were friendly and the clergy and staff as familiar as family, all of them giving her that special ingredient called "love." Here is how she expressed her emotional connection to Temple Chaverim:

Because my mom and dad were involved with Temple Chaverim, they have given me the opportunity to explore my own connection to Judaism, and to further my Jewish education. I watched my mom practice chanting Torah for her adult Bat Mitzvah, and I became motivated myself to excel on the bema for my own Bat Mitzvah. I learned about the mitzvah of tzedakah through the actions of my parents' dedication to helping people with various charity events, and I now am a leader of Shabbat services at Somerset Gardens Assisted Living.

I have observed my parents' involvement in the Jewish community through my years of growing up and I, myself, have become a leader in the Jewish community. I, who had never been to Israel, took the initiative to embark on a four-month journey there during high school, to explore my Jewish identity and my roots. Now, I am so fortunate to have this congregation to return to and to share my experiences with. My parents have instilled in me a true appreciation for our synagogue and the love of Judaism, and for that I am very grateful.

This is priceless! THIS is the connection I want YOU to give to YOUR children. I want you to feel at home in this busy "beehive" of a hamish community. I want you to feel so connected to this temple as if it were your own home. The more you take advantage of all that we offer, the more time you spend here with us, the more you get involved in shaping the future of your temple, the more you, too, will feel ownership of this wonderful community and the more your entire family will feel that special connection in your heart.

If I can accomplish just one thing during my tenure as President, it would be to help you form that emotional connection between your heart and the soul of Temple Chaverim. I'm here for you and am eager to help your family find strength, peace, connection and great happiness here at Temple Chaverim. Contact me at bruce@steifman.com anytime. Shalom.

Bruce Steifman, Board President

Shalom, Chaverim!

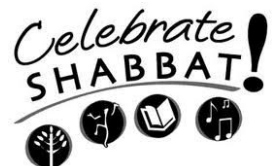
Welcome to Our New Members

Andrew, Yazmin, Eliana & Hanna Kazin
 Leor, Lisa, Joseph & Emmy Gamzo
 Dan, Lisa, Gabrielle & Emily Sorgie
 Glenn, Merri, Brooke & Samuel Erlich
 Paul, Suzanne & Jenna Rabin
 Russell, Lori, Ian & Evan Irushalmi
 Craig, Susan, Chloe, Hannah & Rachel Wolfson
 Douglas, Rebecca, Matthew, Joseph & Ashley Plotz
 Jonathan, Jodi, Jacob & Lucas Modell
 Scott, Sharon, Jared & Alec Pardo
 Gregg, Barbara, Brooke & Amanda Krugman
 Harriet Werner
 Amir, Randi, Harley, Isabelle & Noah Weiss & Dorothy Cooper
 Jonathan & Marissa Ohebsion
 Gary, Janni, Benjamin & Isabella Silber
 Wayne, Audrey, Scott & Randi Sosin

Shabbat Dinners

It's that time of year again, the High Holidays are over and we want to reconnect with old friends and meet some of the new families that have joined. Temple Chaverim's Shabbat dinners are one way to do that!

On **Friday, December 14th**, we will have a very special Chanukah Shabbat, including a wonderful Italian dinner. Our in-house caterer, Hasson Caterers, will prepare the Italian dinner especially for this occasion. Please remember to bring with you, your family menorahs to participate in a group candle lighting!



After a long winter we return on **Friday, March 15th** with a Matzoh Ball Soup Shabbat. Come in from the cold and join us for this warm and cozy dinner.

And last, but certainly not least, as the weather gets warmer our Men's Club ends our Shabbat dinners with their annual BBQ. Join your chaverim for a fun and entertaining casual meal, watching the men prepare a wonderful, "welcome to summer" dinner.

All of our dinners will begin at 6:30 pm (unless otherwise noted). Please stay for services that begin at 8:00 pm, a relaxing and traditional way to unwind and begin your weekend.

For more info & to RSVP contact Caryn in the Temple office at (516) 367-6100 x112.

Board News



Since our previous board update, there is much to report. Sue Gold, our Executive Director, has accepted a position in a temple in Brooklyn Heights where she recently moved. Sue has been the “hub” of our Temple, connecting with the commu-

nity, congregants, staff and clergy. She will be missed by all. Sue has put a plan in place to insure a smooth transition for the new Executive Director. A search committee interviewed candidates to select an Executive Director that is a perfect fit for our temple.

The High Holy Day services were well attended and beautiful. Rabbi Hecht and Rabbi Bennet, as well as Cantor Hyman brought meaning, spirituality and purpose to the holidays. The Junior Congregation was also a huge success.

“Tuesday Night Live,” our new Youth Engagement Program, got off to a great start. Learning and socializing in a new way is a combination that should not be missed. If your teen is not already signed up, give it a try!

Karen Bressner, Chair of Fundraising, along with her committee, is working hard to raise needed funds for Temple Chaverim. The Circles campaign is underway. Please consider joining or rejoining this very important part of our Temple. There will also be a temple-wide raffle starting soon, with great prizes such as a TV, iPad, and jewelry. The drawing will take place on February 7. Please support our efforts.

Anissa Wilensky, our Adult Ed. Chair, announced that there will be format changes with more variety in the classes that are offered to encourage greater involvement. Find something that interests you and sign up today!

Rabbi Hecht suggested that everyone “LIKE” Temple Chaverim on Facebook. This will bring more people to our site, and they can learn about all the wonderful things that are happening at Temple Chaverim. Let’s see how many new “LIKES” we can get.

Meryl Wittenberg, Board Secretary

Welcome to Winter Connections

Our daily lives and good intentions were derailed by Hurricane Sandy, followed by a nor’easter snow storm. In our efforts to publish the newsletter as quickly as possible, although a bit late, we left in mention of Temple Chaverim’s programming and events that took place earlier in December. We strive for accuracy to the best of our abilities during these especially trying times and apologize for the delay.

Sheila Schroeder, Editor & **Darlene Friedman**, Designer

Welcome to our new Executive Director

At the beginning of November, Temple Chaverim welcomed Eileen Schneyman as the new Executive Director. She is exactly what the Board of Directors was hoping to find -- smart, dedicated, committed to the Jewish community and much more.



Eileen Schneyman

Eileen is a local lady, born, raised and still lives right here in the Plainview area. She attained her Masters in Social Work from Adelphi University with a concentration in Group Work. Her professional work experience began at the Mid-Island Y Jewish Community Center. She created and implemented programs for teens, children and seniors. After a number of years of working there, she began working at the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center. There she gained experience supervising and directing programs including the UJA Federation funded Connect to Care and an array of afterschool and youth programs for those with special needs.

In addition, Eileen has experience in facility and building management, staff supervision and office administration. She has written grants and developed a social media presence in her prior positions. Most recently, Eileen was the Executive Director for Music for Autism.

Eileen also volunteers, including ushering at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and serving Thanksgiving dinner to the poor on Thanksgiving Day. She is passionate about music and reading and loves to needlepoint.

What she is most proud of are her twin daughters Alyssa, a student at C. W. Post, and Nicole, a student at Adelphi.

Stop by Eileen’s office, introduce yourself and begin to get to know her. You will understand why the Temple Chaverim Board of Directors is very pleased to have her as our new Executive Director. Maybe she will even tell you her favorite color!

Inside this edition:

<i>Rabbi’s Message</i>	1
<i>President’s Message & Board News</i>	2-4
<i>Sisterhood</i>	5
<i>Lifelong Learning Programs</i>	6-8
<i>Social Action & Outreach</i>	9
<i>Youth & Religious School Programming</i>	10-12
<i>Donations & Fundraising</i>	13-14
<i>Directory</i>	15

Meet the Committee Chairs....



Karen Bressner – Chair, Fundraising

As the Chair of the Fundraising Committee I am charged with raising money beyond annual dues. Our most profitable activity is the Circles of Giving program. The Fundraising Committee also oversees Casino Night, a huge success in 2012, which promises to be even more so in 2013. We initiated the first annual Temple Directory, *The Blue & White Pages*, filled with recipes, ads and coupons from our local merchants. I encourage everyone to find a way to share in the mitzvah of giving.



Robin Faiguenbaum - Chair, Religious School

I was looking to become more involved in temple life, and joining the Religious School Committee seemed like the right fit for me. I have two older children, long ago graduates of our wonderful Hebrew school. I am a Jewish educator. We welcome everyone to come to our meetings and would love to have participation from parents with school age children. We meet once a month and we ask only for your ideas and opinions.



Alyssa Feller – President, Sisterhood

My goals as Sisterhood President are to increase Sisterhood's membership, have new and old members get more involved in our fun events and raise money for the temple to help meet its needs and goals.



Florence Halperin – Chair, Sociable Seniors

As the chair of the Sociable Seniors Committee, I'm excited to bring a new mix of lectures and entertainment to our group. We have grown in numbers over the years, and we look forward to reaching out to the community.



Jodi Kirschner – Co-Chair, Bar/Bat Mitzvah

I am a member of Temple Chaverim since 2006, and I wanted to be part of this committee this year. After watching my son and his friends become bar and bat mitzvah last year, I wanted to help organize this milestone for the future Hebrew school students.



Fred Krellenstein–Liaison, Partners in Caring

As a member of this "Community of Friends" for the past sixteen years, being a liaison to the Partners in Caring Program offers me an opportunity to share that sense of caring and belonging with our Temple members and neighbors.



Lise Mayer – Chair, Membership

I am a person who likes to tell my friends about a good thing. Over the past six years, since we've been members, my family has found friends, learning and spirituality at Temple Chaverim. As Membership Chair, my goal is to share the joys of membership with many new families.



Sheila Schroeder-Chair, Congregant Relations

The Congregant Relations Committee is concerned with the integration and retention of Temple members into the Chaverim community. My husband Roger and I have been temple members since 2007. I also serve as editor of the Connections newsletter, and enjoy helping to showcase the best of what Temple Chaverim has to offer.



Phyllis Spisto – Vice-Chair, Sociable Seniors

I formerly practiced law for 20+ years, have 2 children, 2 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren and enjoy leading hikes for several outdoor clubs. For the past 12 years, I have been in the wine and liquor retail business, and will be offering a wine tasting at the Temple in January. I am thrilled to be given the honor of being the Vice-chair of the Sociable Seniors Committee. As Fundraising Chair of the Tobay Hadassah Chapter, I hope to continue our Tobay Hadassah Shabbat program at Temple Chaverim.



Alicia Steger - Chair, Communications

Currently the Director of Marketing and Communications for Nassau Community College, Alicia has a strong commitment to Temple life and the community it creates. "Although I have been at Temple Chaverim a short time, I see how dedicated the Clergy and the lay leaders are committed to keeping Temple Chaverim a strong and vibrant community. Prior to joining Temple Chaverim I was active in my previous Temple where I was a member for over 30 years. I look forward to using my past experiences in advancing Temple Chaverim's goals."



Beth Tabak, Michelle Chalfen - Co-chairs, Youth

We are happy to represent Temple Chaverim's Youth Committee. We are both educators who are dedicated to providing fun learning experiences for the youth of the temple. Last year was a very successful year, and we look forward to another year of exciting events. We have had the fortunate opportunity in getting to know the clergy and the board members at our synagogue.



Anissa Wilensky – Chair, Adult Education

I have the hope and vision of bringing many people together to learn and grow as members of the congregation. If you want to be part of the process, consider joining our committee and sharing your ideas for activities of interest to you.

Interested in joining a committee?

Leave a message in the Temple Office for the chairperson.
(516) 367-6100

Sisterhood

Sisterhood welcomes new & current members at all these wonderful events.

UPCOMING SISTERHOOD EVENTS—2012-2013

Stitch & Schmooze	Every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm <i>Randi Gertler 516 381-1755</i>
Hanukkah Hannah (Latkes & Vodkas)	Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 pm <i>Susan Stewart 516 695-1320 or Rhonda Green 516 361-2008</i>
Wingo, Wine & Wings	Wednesday, January 16th at 7:00 pm <i>Jody Steifman 516 659-4426 or Joan Kimmel 516 937-6992</i>
Mah Jong Night	Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm <i>Carolyn Tucker 516 965-1558 or Mindy Brown 917 885-8106</i>
Purim Baskets & Purim Carnival	Sunday, March 3rd at 9:30 am <i>Sharon Bluth 516 576-1109 or Jan Kreckel 516 528-1113</i>
Women's Seder	Thursday, March 7th <i>Sherri Pagliaro 516 822-4605</i>

To participate or volunteer, contact event coordinator. For more information, visit www.templechaverim.org or call 516 367-6100.

Be sure to visit Sisterhood's Judaica Shop inside the Temple Lobby.

Stop in any time you see it open or call Alyssa Feller (516-650-2828), Sisterhood President, to shop by appointment.

SAVE THE DATE!

Temple Chaverim will host several Hadassah chapters at a special **HADASSAH SHABBAT** on **FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013.**

The evening's service will be preceded by a festive Shabbat dinner, a wine-tasting, with a special oneg to follow.

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for additional information this Spring.

HA
DAS
SAH.



Stitch & Schmooze meets on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm. Bring your old and new knitting, crocheting and needlepoint projects and get them finished in a fun atmosphere. Call Randi Gertler with any questions. 516 381-1755



Wishing you all the love & happiness in the world.

Temple Chaverim Men's Club Card Night

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. For more info, leave a message for David Bluth, Men's Club President in the Temple Office (516) 367-6100.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS — ADULT EDUCATION



Rosh Chodesh with Rabbi Bennet

Beginning Again. Renewal. Tradition. Innovation.

Every month, we celebrate the new moon and the beginning of a new Jewish month. Rosh Chodesh, or literally "Head of the Month," joins together the old and the new, our past and our present.



Over the course of this class, we will explore the history of Rosh Chodesh, its unique link to women within our tradition, and how, through this celebration, we can redefine the course of the Jewish year for ourselves and our families.

Each session will include an opening ritual to commemorate and welcome the new month; a teaching about a Jewish woman, past or present, who is linked to the month; and a relevant discussion and exploration of themes relating to the month.

Topics will include defining our Judaism in a non-Jewish world, exploring the role of women in Israeli society, the Jewish value of modesty and how we interpret it today, and Jewish self-perception: does the myth of the self-hating Jew prevail?



Rabbi Debra Bennet will teach these classes at 8 pm on the following Mondays:

Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, and May 8

Book Club

Temple Chaverim's **Book Club** meets every other month on **Wednesday** at the temple at **7:30 pm**.

Come join our open discussion. Share your impressions of the book. Become aware of enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking books that you might never have thought to read. You are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book.

Refreshments are served, and there is no charge for this challenging, enjoyable evening of learning, discussion and camaraderie. RSVP to learning@templechaverim.org, or to the temple office at 516-367-6100 by the Friday prior to the meeting.

A Sampling of Upcoming Books

January 16, 2013 *Rashi's Daughters – Book 1 Joheved* by Maggie Anton – Joheved, the eldest of three daughters, in the year 1068 in France, is forced to choose between marital happiness and her love of the Talmud.

March 6, 2013 *The Lost Wife* by Alyson Richman – The story takes place in pre-war Prague where two lovers are separated by the Nazi invasion.

April 17, 2013 *Binocular Vision* by Edith Pearlman – This is made up of twenty-one vintage stories and thirteen scintillating new ones that take us around the world from Jerusalem to different locales and varied characters.

Jewish Meditation & Spirituality—Strategies for Relaxation & Inner Peace



Donna Bloom,
Instructor &
temple
member

Wednesday Morning @ 10:30 am

Classes incorporate breathing techniques, guided imagery, meditation and Jewish spiritual discussions.

Join us for strategies to relax, and for simple tools to find inner peace.

You will learn to quiet your mind and listen to your heart.



Contact Donna for more information at 516- 933-3669.

Thursday Evening Mini-Series @ 7:30 pm

Jewish Healing

♦ *Self Healing* December 13, 2012

Jewish Stress Busters

- ♦ *Hineni - Here I Am.* A mindfulness practice for being present January 10, 2013
- ♦ *A Prayer for Appreciation,* to alleviate anxiety & frustration January 24, 2013
- ♦ *Responding with Wisdom* February 7, 2013

Creating Your Own Authentic Life

- ♦ *Self Acceptance* February 14, 2013
- ♦ *Your Focus* February 28, 2013
- ♦ *The Power of Imagination* March 14, 2013

Writers' Workshop—New Program

Join Marsha Bank & Debbye Brandell for "Writers' Workshop with a Jewish Twist." The focus will be on transformational moments in our Jewish lives. We will find ways to remember important times in our lives and record them for posterity. Through conversation and reflection, the one-hour sessions will be relaxed and rewarding for all participants.



Plan on joining us at all or any sessions.
Mondays at 7:30 pm

December 3, February 25, March 18.

Bring a notebook and pen.

For more information, contact learning@templechaverim.org.

Sociable Seniors

This fall, Sociable Seniors broke attendance records with 250 people mesmerized by the stories of the early life and career of Sid Ceasar! Yes, the programs this year have been absolutely captivating. So many people attend that one is absolutely guaranteed to have a very sociable time!

So don't even think of missing Thursday, December 6th's program featuring the **"Songs and Stories of Edith Piaf."** The Little Sparrow, as she was known in France, is considered a cultural icon who became widely regarded as France's national popular singer, as well as being one of France's greatest international stars. During WW II she was a member of the French Resistance. "L'Accordeoniste," one of her most beloved songs, was written by Michel Emer, a Jewish composer and songwriter. She gave Emer money and helped him to quietly escape the country before the Nazis could catch him.

All newcomers and regulars are welcome. Start the first Thursday of the month with a delicious bagel lunch and programs that give you something to talk about for days.

Please invite your parents, neighbors, and join us anytime you are free for a wonderful lunch and lecture. Reservations are a must to insure we have enough food for all. You know your mother would never approve of running out of food for company!! So just give us a call and tell us you are coming,

Remember that Sociable Seniors takes a short winter break during the months of January and February.

Sociable Seniors resumes on March 7th with an amazing program about the **"Seven Jewish Judges Who Have Shaped our Government and Law"** presented by Professor Christopher Williams.

April 4th will feature an exotic program on the **Jews of India**; yes, the diaspora included India! Save your curiosity and questions for this amazing presenter, Rahel Musleah. She was born in Calcutta, India, the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th-century Baghdad. At the age of six her family moved to Philadelphia. Through her multi-media song, story and slide programs she shares her rare and intimate knowledge of this ancient community's history, customs and melodies.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming programs. If you have any questions or need more information please contact the Co-Chairs:

Florence Halperin, at

dfhalperin@aol.com

or **516-781-9438**;

Phyllis Spisto, at

PhyllisSpisto@gmail.com

or **516-547-0497**.

We would love to hear any programming ideas.



Lower East Side Walking and Food Tour

*On **Sunday, March 17**, please join our very own Joel Newberger, tour leader extraordinaire, for a special tour of the Lower East Side. He will showcase old favorites including **Yonah Shimmel's Knishes** and the world famous **Katz's Deli**.*

It all will begin at 12 pm when we meet in front of **The Pickle Guys**, 49 Essex St. just below Grand St. You will be amazed at what **The Pickle Guys** can pickle; last time they had pineapple!! There are various sour pickles, sour tomatoes, and fresh horseradish. Just before Jewish holidays the line is endless which makes for a very festive atmosphere. In addition to sampling the goodies, the fellow who is making the fresh horseradish is masked so the fumes do not overcome him! It all adds to a carnival feeling. There is even pickle flavored gum.



About a block away, is the BEST donut store in all of NYC: **The Donut Plant**. You must come and taste one of their donuts; they are unbelievably delicious. Every calorie spent here will be more than worth it.

Additional stops include Rivington Street's **Economy Candy**, "a pure over-the-top New York, a font of variety and abundance that would leave Willy Wonka weeping in his cocoa. Jerry Cohen owns this sweet shop, a Lower East Side landmark since 1937." A few blocks down on Rivington is a *must* visit to **Streit's Matzoh** factory. Your children don't know from sampling WARM matzoh! They give samples right off the production line!

There are endless places to eat. Joel will be providing easy to read hand drawn maps with locations of all his recommended places. There is a municipal parking garage on Essex St. just south of Delancy St. on the west side of the street.

So bring your kids or grandchildren and make a memory together they will always cherish. For more information contact learning@templechaverim.org.

ISRAEL IS TURNING 65 AND WE ARE CELEBRATING ALL JANUARY!

Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Ph.D.



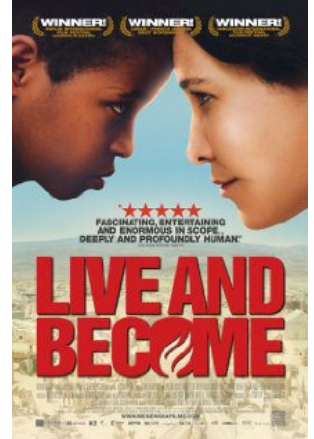
At **Shabbat Services** on **January 11**, we will hear from fellow Chaverimers about our December congregational trip to Israel, and from young people who have been on Birthright and NFTY in Israel programs. The Cantor will be teaching Israeli music and there will be a special Oneg with Israeli food.

On **Sundays, January 6, 13, and 27**, we will once again celebrate Israel through film. This year's films are **Footnote** and **Live and Become**, as well as 3 Israeli TV shows.

On **January 6**, at **3 pm**, we will show **Footnote**, a film by Joseph Cedar. It is a powerful family melodrama, at times humorous and at times a serious philosophical inquiry. The setting is the Talmud department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Professor Skolnik, popular teacher of Talmud, is being inducted into the Israel Academy of Science. His father, also a professor at the Hebrew University, seethes with jealousy and disappointment over how marginalized his academic career has been. Mistaken identity and role reversals ensue. The film won "Best Screenplay" at the Cannes Film Festival.



Live and Become, a film by Radu Mihaileanu, explores the life of an African boy who came to Israel during the Ethiopian Jewish immigration in 1984. This movie explores issues of identity, minority status, discrimination, and the power of the mother-child relationship. Shlomo is conflicted by his desire to remember the family he left behind in Somalia and his need to fit into his new homeland, Israel. **Live and Become** won best film at the Berlin Film Festival and will be shown on **Sunday, January 13**, at **3 pm**.



On **Sunday, January 27**, we will preview three different TV shows: "**Serugim**," which means "knit yahmulka," is about 5 friends who live in one of Jerusalem's "yuppie" neighborhoods. They struggle with trying to balance work, dating, and religion, in the Modern Orthodox world. "**Ramzor**" ("Traffic Light") and "**Arab Labor**" are sitcoms set in Israel. "**Arab Labor**" is funny and controversial. It deals with the life of an Israeli Arab who works for an Israeli television station.

Please join us as we celebrate 65 years of Israel!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service


Temple Chaverim participated in the sixth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plainview. Food was collected for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Tu Bishvat Seder Coming

On **Friday night, January 25**, at **7 pm**, we will celebrate the blossoming of the trees in Israel and the first signs of Spring.



Tu Bishvat, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, is celebrated by Jews throughout the world with a Tu Bishvat "seder." We will eat different kinds of nuts and fruit from the Land of Israel.

Our evening begins with a brief Shabbat Service at 7 pm, and then we move right into the seder.

Please join us for this festive holiday.

Celebrate Tu Bishvat

Social Action Actions

Snowflake Wishes Campaign

This will be the fifth year Temple Chaverim is fulfilling "Snowflake Wishes." Each year, we fulfill about 30-40 wishes for teens in foster care.

"This is a good project to do with your child; it will give you a chance to talk about how fortunate we are."

Collections run through the first week in January. "Snowflake Wishes" request cards are filled out by teens in foster care with the Jewish Child Care Association of New York. While this agency receives many donations for the younger children, the adolescents are usually forgotten.

Our goal is to provide a holiday gift for all the children. These anonymous gifts can generate hope in these children who need it the most. With the mission of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), the not-for-profit Jewish Child Care Association, works diligently to give these children a chance.

This is a good project to do with your child. You can read the different snowflake requests together. Choose one and then shop together for the gift. It will give you a chance to talk about how fortunate we are and how other children have serious challenges.

Please stop by the temple lobby to see the "Wishes" that need to be fulfilled; your donation can help make all the difference to these adolescents in need.

For more information, email **Rhonda Green kov64@hotmail.com**.



The **Social Action Committee** suggests practicing the following **top 10 "cheseds"** when traveling on the Long Island Railroad this winter season.

10. Avoid sitting in an aisle seat; it forces other passengers to ask if they can climb over you, and many people are uncomfortable asking or climbing!

9. Keep the seat next to you open, so someone can sit down without having to ask; see number 10.

8. If you're near the door at the end of the car, hold it open for passengers who wish to go into the next car.

7. Thank the LIRR staff.

6. Have your ticket ready and smile; see number seven.

5. In Penn Station, ask the soldiers if you can get them something, and thank them for their service.

4. Offer your seat to another passenger.

3. Avoid talking loudly on your cell phone.

2. When you get to Penn Station and a passenger has dozed off, give the person a gentle and friendly wake-up.

1. Dispose of your trash properly.

Please, if you see something, say something; and watch the gap!

"Chesed" means an act of kindness, such as visiting the sick, helping the poor or the needy.

Easy Acts of Kindness Through Recycling

Food Donations—From Our Tables to Others:

Do you have extra food from a celebration or untouched food from a house of mourning? Join TANS in donating food to people in need. This is a **perishable food recovery** program.

Donations are made to local shelters and group homes. There is nothing in Jewish law that prohibits food from being taken out of a shiva home. Rabbis will agree that it is a mitzvah to donate food to others in need.

The following is a sampling of locations that accept perishable food donations: **Glen Cove Emergency Pantry** 516-676-4041, **Island Harvest** 516-294-8528 and **The Ronald McDonald House** 516-775-5683.



Computer Donations: www.comp4kids.org

Comp4kids collects, refurbishes and distributes XP computers - FOR FREE - to low income families across Long Island, NYC and lower Westchester. Last year, Comp4kids was able to distribute over 1500 computers.

Eyeglasses: www.neweyesfortheneeded.org

The focus is on improving the vision of poor children and adults by purchasing new eyeglasses in the US. They also recycle donated glasses for distribution in developing nations worldwide.



Wanted: MITZVAH MAKERS

Can you say "Shabbat Shalom?" Be a greeter at Friday Night Services!

For info, please contact Lise Mayer (516) 931-0639

YOUTH

Wonderful Children's Books

Debbie Brandell

Religious School Principal

We are the people of the book. We have a heritage that we can carry with us everywhere we go. We don't have sacred monuments to our faith, but we do have books. Jewish publishing is flourishing. You can find Jewish books of daily inspirations, intricate treatises on Talmud, novels, wonderful children's books, "how to" books on every aspect of Jewish life and modern interpretations of the classical texts which define our tradition. There are cookbooks that teach as much about our history as they do how to cook.

Reading is one of my favorite pastimes. Forget about "Raindrops on Roses" or "Schnitzel with Noodles" for me. My favorite things are browsing through a bookstore or reading outdoors on my deck. November is National Jewish Book Month and in its honor I would like to share my list of Favorite Jewish Children's Books. I don't claim that they are the best Jewish children's books ever written, only that they are books that I have read to my children and we found to be meaningful and enjoyable.

There are picture books and chapter books on my list; some are about Jewish holidays and others are just wonderful stories. I offer this list for two reasons: to entice you to read one of these books to your kids and to get you to share your favorites with me. I am always looking for a good read! Besides, books make great Chanukah gifts. Happy reading!!



Stay, Play and Pray

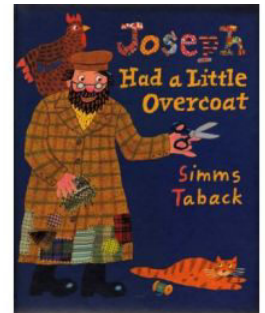
We are happy to introduce **Stay, Play and Pray** an exciting new program. **Stay, Play and Pray** is a series of creative workshops designed to introduce our **youngest students (ages 4 and 5) and their parents** to the Jewish Holidays. Please join us as we discover the Jewish year through projects, stories, songs, food and fun!!

Our first workshop was October 28; upcoming workshops and their themes are **Chanukah** on **December 2** and **Passover** on **March 17**. Each session is from **9:00-10:15 am** and the cost is \$5.00 per session.

One Candle by Eve Bunting -- For one family the traditional Chanukah celebration has a deeper meaning. This touching and joyous story about the importance of remembrance is beautifully illustrated.

Miriam's Cup A Passover Story by Fran Manushkin -- It's Passover at the Pinsky home and amidst the Seder preparation Mama stops to tell her children a very important story: that of Miriam, whose faith and spirit helped the Jewish people survive.

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Tabac -- As you turn the pages in this Caldecott award winning picture book, holes are cleverly used to show what Joseph will make out of his old clothes until...he has nothing...and then he makes something out of that!



Herschel and the Hanukkah

Goblins by Eric Kimmel -- The holiday-hating, hill-dwelling hobgoblins are bound and determined to ruin yet another Hanukkah for the villagers. This is a fabulously creative adaptation, with amazing illustrations, of the ancient Hanukkah story in which the Syrians forbade the Jews to worship as they wanted.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry -- In 1943, Annemarie Johansen's life in Copenhagen is a mix of home and school life, food shortages, and the constant Nazi presence. In this Newberry Medal winning tale of an entire nation's heroism, we learn that there is pride and decency in the world even during times of war and terror.

Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen -- As Molly nears her first Thanksgiving in the New World, she doesn't find that much to be thankful for. She is embarrassed when her mother helps with a class Thanksgiving project that looks more like a Russian refugee than a New England pilgrim. But that modern Pilgrim helps Molly find her place in America.

The Carp in the Bathtub by Barbara Cohen -- Passover, aside from more important things, meant eating Mama's gefilte fish, which she made from fresh carp. Mama bought the biggest fish she could, a week in advance of the Seder and stored it in the bathtub! Aside from teaching kids about bygone traditions, this story explains that they cannot always have what they want.



Tuesday Night Live! Teens Galore!

The new **Tuesday Night Live!** at Chaverim is very much alive with dozens of our Temple teens. Every Tuesday our young people are meeting together to learn, laugh and develop their Jewish identities in a fun setting.

The teens fill the Temple with chatter and laughter that only adolescent high energy creates! Within the first few months of the program Rabbi Bennet has brought interactive programming to our young people that has included challah making, learning about world hunger through a Hunger Banquet, and attending the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which included a private meeting with one of the local clergy. They had the opportunity to learn about another religion and ask questions, which they did in a most thoughtful and respectful way!

The electives this session include **Art and Judaism, World Religions** and the Cantor's very popular "Guy Class" - **Surviving My Teenage Years**.

The Confirmation Class meets with Rabbi Hecht to reflect and clarify values from a Jewish perspective on various issues. Through a short questionnaire they learned about some of their own personality traits and the "famous" people who also share these.

The weekend of December 7-10, a group of our **Tuesday Night Live!** confirmation students will be traveling with Rabbi Bennet to Washington, DC to participate in the Reform Action Center (RAC) political advocacy program. They will learn about key issues, how to lobby, and have a chance to go to "The Hill" to meet our politicians and use their new skills.

Joining **Tuesday Night Live!** includes membership in our CHATY youth group and NFTY. Got questions?
Call Rabbi Bennet at 516-367-6100, ext. 121.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Michelle Chalfen & Beth Tabak,
Youth Committee Chairs



Temple Chaverim's **youth group (CHATY)** provides our youth with opportunities to engage in interesting and meaningful activities with their Jewish peers.

CHATY is proud to be part of NFTY, The North American Federation of Temple Youth. Our calendar consists of an array of fun-filled events, social action projects and holiday celebrations that will strengthen Jewish connections.

Rabbi Debra Bennet, the congregation's Assistant Rabbi, will oversee all youth programs, along with Robyn Smith, our enthusiastic Youth Engagement Coordinator. Rabbi Bennet and Robyn will be working with a committee of adult volunteers under our leadership. The bonds formed in youth group often last a lifetime!

Please look for emails regarding **Junior Congregation & Shabbat Experiences**, as well as **Shabbat Late Nights**.

We would like to thank all the parent and CHATY volunteers who helped make Junior Congregation Services run smoothly. Volunteering is a Mitzvah, and we hope to see you and your child(ren) soon!!

Some of the upcoming events include:

A Taste of JCHATY—4th Grade Shabbat Late-Night
Friday, February 8, 2013
(Following 4th Grade Service)

JCHATY (5th-7th Grades)
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
Chanukah Celebration/Sufganiyot (Donut) Making @ 6:00 pm

Friday, January 11, 2013
5th Grade Shabbat Late Night
(Following 5th Grade Service)

Monday, January 14, 2013
Havdallah Hangout @ 6:00 pm

Post your photos,
comments and news on
Temple Chaverim's
Facebook page.

8th Grade Lounge Nights Details to follow!

CHATY (9th-12th grades)
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
Chanukah Celebration at Tuesday Night Live! @ 6:15 pm

Sunday, January 6, 2013
Lounge Night

Monday, February 4, 2013
Trip to HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen in NYC

NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth)

NFTY is a Reform Jewish community for high school students bringing together individuals from different synagogues in New York and across the country.

- ♦ Sun., Dec. 9, 2012 **Social Justice Day in NYC**
- ♦ Fri., Jan. 11–Sun., Jan. 13, 2013 – **NFTY-NAR Winter Kallah**
- ♦ Fri., Feb. 15–Tues., Feb. 19, 2013 – **NFTY National Convention**

Bar Mitzvahs & Bat Mitzvahs



Olivia Cohen	12/1/2012
Andrew Curreri	1/19/2013
Evan Epstein	12/1/2012
Evan Gorelik	1/5/2013
Jack Gross	12/8/2012
Samuel Gross	12/8/2012
Ilyssa Halbreich	1/12/2013
Josh Liebman	2/10/2013
Ori Milchan	1/19/2013
Rona Moriah	1/5/2013
Max Moritz	2/2/2013
Jaclyn Paradiso	12/15/2012
Ben Radisch	12/15/2012
Carly Rosen	2/2/2013
Nicole Schwartzberg	12/1/2012
Jordan Stewart	2/2/2013
Jonathan Temkin	1/12/2013

Cantor's Yad-Making Workshop



WANTED

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Committee Needs
You!

**Now's the best time to be on the
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Committee...**

Get involved with the scheduling process of Temple Chaverim's 2016 Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates, as well as assigning ushers for services!

Volunteer your time...

Sign up to be an usher, so our services can be a great experience for all!

Contact Jodi at kirsch44@verizon.net for more information.

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION...

*Thank you to our members for their generous donations August 4 through November 19, 2012.
Every effort was made to ensure accuracy. We apologize in advance for any errors or misspellings.*

RABBI HECHT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Edwin & Ethel Lokshin
Richard & Randi Gertler
Anita Eidenberg
Andrew & Karen Ansel
Stephen & Diane Shushan

In Honor Of

The Bat Mitzvah of Emily Blank
Daniel and Elisa Blank
The B'nei Mitzvah of Sam & Hannah Goldberg
Debbie Novick and Mark Wasserman
Sue Gold
Rosen Family Fund (Paige Bravin & Jill Lacks)
The Bar Mitzvah of Alex Wright
Michael & Barbara Wright

In Memory Of

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Marvin & Joyce DeSiver
Betty Salkin
Nirit Weiser
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The Bat Mitzvah of Emily Blank
Daniel and Elisa Blank
The B'nei Mitzvah of Sam & Hannah Goldberg
Debbie Novick and Mark Wasserman
The Bar Mitzvah of Alex Wright
Michael & Barbara Wright

In Memory Of

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Morris Alpern
Steven & Paula Lefkowitz

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Adele Hecht
Temple Chaverim Sisterhood
Lola Richter
Temple Chaverim Sisterhood
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Dorian Rehfield
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Steven & Ilene Walker
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Allen Silverstein
Andrea Ross
Jamie & Laurie Shapiro
Mac Katz
The Herenstein Family

PRAYERBOOK FUND**In Honor Of**

The Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lefkowitz
Florence Berman
The Bar Mitzvah of Jack Lefkowitz
Steven & Paula Lefkowitz

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**In Honor Of**

The Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Lewis
Debbie Brandell
Lauren, Michael, Sarah and Alexa Giliof
Sandra Bruh

In Memory Of

Molly Barsky
Ron & Paula Barsky
Arnold Kass
Sharon Feller

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**In Memory Of**

Albert Kannett
Roger & Sheila Schroeder

SENIOR PROGRAMMING FUND**In Memory Of**

Sonia Rowen
Susan Hirschstein

SUNSHINE FUND**In Honor Of**

Sue Gold being honored by UJA
Rami & Helayne Giller
Sue Gold
Burt & Carol Minov

In Memory Of

William Steckler
Temple Chaverim Sisterhood
Suzanne Ilgner
Temple Chaverim Sisterhood
Bernice Roeper
Temple Chaverim Sisterhood

TORAH FUND**In Honor Of/In Memory Of**

Ruth Kramer & Eli Kramer
Ted, Pamela & Evan Kramer

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES**In Honor Of**

The Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Alex Stewart
Poppy Joel & Grandma Lynda
The Bat and Bar Mitzvah of Samantha Lesser and Jake Lesser
Michael & Cheryl Lesser
The Bat Mitzvah of Olivia Paige Cohen
Jonathan & Jennifer Cohen
The Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Brooke Lewis
Rick, Ariann, Zach and Jake
The Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Kellner
Richard & Joanne Kellner
The Bat Mitzvah of Erica Kam
Burton & Carol Minov
The Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Jacob Wright
Michael & Barbara Wright
The Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Stewart
David, Susan & Hannah Stewart
The Bar Mitzvah of Adam Louis Tucker
Bill & Carolyn Tucker
The Bar Mitzvah of Jason Cohen
Bruce & Jodie Cohen

TREE OF LIFE BOULDER**In Memory Of**

Murray Rubin & Melvin Hahn
Howard Rubin & Elise Hahn Rubin

YOUTH PROGRAMMING FUND**In Memory Of**

Larry Wolf
Mitchell & Lisa Bobrow
Max Weiner
Howard Rubin & Elise Hahn Rubin



*If you would like to
make a donation,
please contact the Temple Office.
516 367-6100*

Memorial Plaque List

*In loving tribute, the following names
have been inscribed on our Memorial Wall.*

William Steckler - September 9, 2012
Robert Slotnick - March 30, 2012
Millicent Apfel - June 11, 2012
Maurice Apfel - June 11, 2012
Bea Carter - March 7, 1999
Joseph Carter - May 8, 1997
Lillian Max - June 1, 1999
Leonard Max - December 5, 1989
Jerome Footer - July 17, 2008
Helen Konowitz - November 20, 2003
Seymour Konowitz - October 16, 1992
Frederic G. Levy - October 15, 1975
Toby Adler - February 25, 2012
Albert Darrow - December 8, 2008
David Kovensky - March 19, 2012

Memorial List

Gerard Frenkel, father of David Frenkel, passed away on August 26, 2012
Florence Friedland, aunt of Debra Sorkin, passed away on September 2, 2012
William Steckler, father of Kenneth Steckler, passed away on September 9, 2012
Rose Ansel, grandmother of Andrew Ansel, passed away on September 15, 2012
Suzanne Ilgner, mother of Kenneth Ilgner, passed away on September 21, 2012
Bernice Roper, mother of Mia Schwartz, passed away on October 4, 2012
Max Weiner, father of Helayne Giller, passed away on October 9, 2012
Harriet Orgel, mother of Barry Orgel, passed away on October 14, 2012
Rabbi Alan Kay, husband of Jo Kay, passed away on October 24, 2012
Diane Richter, mother of Mickey Richter, passed away on November 14, 2012
Florence Berman, mother of Paula Lefkowitz and grandmother of Brett Kushner, passed away on November 19, 2012

Fundraising News

The Fundraising Committee had a busy fall with the High Holiday Appeal and the Circles of Giving Program. There is still time to donate for 2012 and join the **Circles of Giving Program** -- think tax deduction!

The focus through the spring is on **Casino Night 2013**, celebrating our "Lucky 13" year at the Temple's Washington Ave. location. If you would like to support the Spring Fundraising Effort there are many ways:

1. Save the date for **Casino Night, Saturday, April 20, 2013**.
2. **Contribute items for the Casino Night raffle** baskets, or donate a basket of items or gift certificate from your business. Tickets to sporting events, concerts, etc., are especially popular as raffle items. We raise thousands of dollars through this raffle.



3. **Purchase an ad** in next year's 2013 Blue and White Pages Member Directory. You might want to say, "Congratulations to Temple Chaverim on 'Lucky 13' years on Washington Avenue!"
4. **Volunteer to help** solicit local businesses for merchandise for Casino Night baskets.
5. **Volunteer to help** at Casino Night!

Casino Night was a blast last year and we expect this year will be even bigger and better. The Lucky Chai lounge, with comedy and music, was a huge hit and will be returning by request of the attendees! We hope to see you there.

Please feel free to contact Karen Bressner with any questions, to volunteer or to donate to Casino Night 2013.

Please consider joining the Circles of Giving:

CIRCLE OF HONOR
dues + \$500 or above
CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION
dues + \$1000 or above
CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE
dues + \$1500 or above

Karen Bressner

Chair, Fundraising Committee
Karen.Bressner@gmail.com or 917-836-2207

Ask Dear Yenta

Dear Yenta,

I am a single Jewish Mom in my mid 40s. Where are the best places for me to meet a caring man (not a jerk) to spend time with? SJF



Dear Yenta,

I am a good natured, single Jewish Dad in my late 40s. Where do you think is a good place to meet a woman, good enough to meet my children? SJM

Dear SJF and SJM,

Since you both asked the same question, the obvious answer is that you should meet each other at a Temple Chaverim Friday night service or at one of the fun upcoming events. I took a poll of some of my single friends and got the following suggestions for you:

- ◆ JDate
- ◆ Go to a movie alone and sit near some single people who look interesting to you.
- ◆ Ask all your friends to set you up on blind dates.
- ◆ Go to the gym, bicycle riding, skiing, do yoga, or go any place where there is activity and an environment conducive to talking.
- ◆ Take your dog to the dog park. If you don't have a dog, take a friend's dog.
- ◆ Take a cooking class; attend a lecture; join a museum.
- ◆ Treat yourself to a singles' weekend at a resort.
- ◆ Volunteer for a cause you believe in.
- ◆ Attend a family Shabbat service, dinner, or oneg.
- ◆ Join a committee at Temple Chaverim.

One last thought, as my mother used to say, we have to put ourselves out there to meet someone; no one is going to come knocking at the door. Although I do know at least one instance where that rule was broken -- and someone met her future husband when he did come knocking at her door. So get off your tuchus and get out there!



*If you have an interesting story about how you and your spouse met, please send it to **Dear Yenta** and add to the suggestions for these two and all the single adults at Temple Chaverim.*

Submit your question to **DEAR YENTA** at connections@templechaverim.org with "Dear Yenta" in the subject line.

Connections

connections@templechaverim.org

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Darlene Friedman, *Design & Layout*

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Clip coupon and pass along to a friend or family member who might be interested in joining our congregation.



FRIEND OF A FRIEND

I am interested in joining Temple Chaverim and was referred by _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Present this coupon when you join Temple Chaverim and your friend will receive a special thank you!



Congregants pitched in to clear the tree blocking our driveway.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy....



Cabin Fever—Kabbalat Shabbat by lantern light



No electricity, but lots of spiritual energy!



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