



Voices from the Heart
An Interfaith Gathering
on Israel-Palestine
Saturday, Nov. 11,
** See Pg. 5 **



Begins sunset, Dec. 7
Ends nightfall, Dec. 15
Hanukkah Celebrations,
** See Pg. 8 **



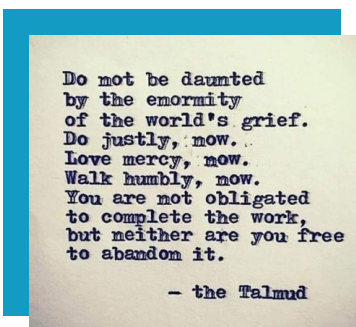
Welcoming over 17 new
households in 5784!
Shabbat, Dec. 9, 10:00 am

DEPARTMENTS

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Rabbi's Letter

by Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit



Rabbi Rami Shapiro, the prophet Micah
with the “now” added. Pirkei Avot 2:16,
Rabbi Tarfon.

*“When a person has reason to cry, and
wants to cry, but is not able to cry —
that’s the greatest cry of all.”*
– Menachem Mendel of Kotzk

I write to you at this moment, reflecting on the events of the last few weeks, with these words already time-stamped in the past because the news is shifting so quickly. My heart aches when I think of those Israelis of all backgrounds, citizens of many countries, who were ruthlessly ripped from this world by Hamas. I scan the faces to see not headlines, but individual lives hanging in the balance: those taken hostage, those who are huddling in shelters (including my goddaughter, family, colleagues, and friends), those called up for military operations, the ones possibly dead, injured or traumatized by the time this Kol Shalom gets released.

*“Whoever can protest for their household and does not,
is accountable for their household;
if they could protest to their townspeople, they are accountable,
if they could protest to the whole world,
they are accountable for the whole world.”*
– The Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 54b

I hear from those under settler violence and coercion in the West Bank, and messages relayed from terrified Gazans fleeing for their lives, whole communities flattened, thousands of civilians now dead, crushed in the rubble and reduced to statistics, or perhaps used as shields on top of Hamas living in networks underground. We pray, we organize, we support through actions—none of which are a panacea for those whose lives are on the line every moment.

*“The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe...
whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality.”*
– James Baldwin

Amid this nightmare in broad daylight, for as long as it continues and continuing beyond any cessation of violence, we can take action in numerous ways and join with individuals and communities in our own

(continued on the next page) _____

back yard, as well as Israelis, Palestinians and others who have refused to give up their individual or organizational solidarity in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. (See page 5 for additional resources.) Many of you have important personal connections in the region as well. Do not underestimate what it is for us to hold together as a sacred community during such distressing events, and to see differences, tensions, and affirmations received in a caring way with dignity and depth of feeling.

Our love and concern is the empathetic ground for compassion and must drive our actions for justice and peace everywhere. How we continue to treat each other, how we respond to world events: that is a spiritual practice and an activist stance. We gain nothing and fail to help those closest to the suffering by "othering" each other; that distracts and prevents us and our community from being of service and support in moments of greatest need.

I do not want to contribute to severing relationships or avoiding difficult conversations, so have made a point of reaching out on my and our behalf to the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders with whom we have ongoing connections. That has often meant listening to their confusion and questions about the historic and current situation in Israel and Palestine, or brokering misunderstandings and projections between people and communities, including Jewish leaders and organizers, in the volatility of current circumstances. It has also meant calling out antisemitism and Islamophobia where they occur in ever-increasing incidents. The work is local and global at once. It requires personal outreach, voice to voice, not only texts and social media in traumatic times.

In the midst of whatever has already taken place or may yet happen, the Jewish year cycle arrives with our 2000-plus-year-old celebration of Hanukkah. What could this light in the darkness mean for us now? What can this lifting up of Jewish liberation and rededication to identity, culture, religious freedom and the right to self-determination mean in the face of such strife and struggle?

Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan saw Hanukkah as a key festival in the ongoing reconstructing of Jewish life to remain relevant and compelling: "If the observance of Hanukkah can awaken in us the determination to reconstruct Jewish life, by informing it with a

religious spirit characterized by absolute intellectual integrity, unqualified ethical responsibility and the highest degree of aesthetic creativity, it will indeed be a Festival of Dedication." ([*The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion*](#))

In explaining why the Hasmonean Jewish leaders constructed the blessing "to kindle Hanukkah light" and not "lights," Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel, wrote, "A person drawn to one light believes if another person is predisposed to different lights the quality of light is diminished. However, as each person strives to strengthen the positive aspect toward which they are naturally inclined, the collective is built up and improvements multiply... Peace will prevail in the future when it is clearly recognized that all of the different, individual lights are in fact one single light." (Olat Re'iyah, p. 435) Our Jewish tradition, spiritual practices, and core commitment to tikkun (repair and rebalancing of the world and of our own souls) can and must guide us through the turbulent seas we now navigate. The possibilities and challenges of Hanukkah are imperative for us today.

*"Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity.
It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring
injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying
the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is
neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit
of reconciliation and justice.
It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set
both the oppressed and oppressor free."
– Shane Claiborne, Common Prayer:
A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, MLK Jr.*

I pray that we can truthfully say chag sameach to each other as we explore the season of light in the the darkness and darkness in the light—with all of us realizing we are in fact part of one precious planet, and one radiant light! AND this light will not self-regulate. Through love, radical and responsible welcoming and determined activism, over and over again, we can be shomrim/upstanders of the [principles](#) and values we hold dear. Hazak Hazak V'nithazek—let's stay strong as a community in loving support of each other and in service to the greater world.

(continued on the next page)

*"We are not born free and equal, but we are born to
become free and equal.
It is the goal of all social endeavors to bring about equality
in the inequality into which people are born.
It is the goal of spiritual endeavor to make humanity free."*

– R. Mordecai M. Kaplan
Diary, June 1915

Yes, it is possible to hold
all these beliefs simultaneously.
The human heart can contain many rooms.

We must forge a new path
through this rubble towards lasting peace
if we can ever trust each other and
rebuild the world again.

Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie
@amichailavie

Lifelong Learning



It was truly a blessing to be with one another, whether in person or on Zoom, for our Days of Awe: to share in community, connect spiritually to our meaningful tradition and shared values, and celebrate together through reflection and engagement. Perhaps you were able to hug someone, give a heartfelt wave on Zoom to someone you haven't seen in a while or witness the genuine expression of warmth and inclusion deeply embedded in the soul of Mishkan Shalom. Adult Education would love to weave the threads of these experiences throughout 5784 by encouraging you to learn, grow, and be in community to deepen our collective spiritual, ethical, and emotional bonds.

Please consider our robust offerings here: <https://www.mishkan.org/adult-education> and contact Kiera Faber, Lifelong Learning Committee chair, at mail@kierafaber.com and Rabbi Shawn Zevit rabbishawn@mishkan.org, if you have any questions or want to become involved in any capacity.

Highlights from our High Holy Days 5784

Here is a list of offerings from Rabbi Shawn, member rabbis, our rabbinic intern and community members during this years Days of Awe.

- ★ [HH 5784 Theme: Sovereign Self and Sacred Community](#)
- ★ [Open Up the Gates Chant](#)
- ★ [Mishkan Shalom Rosh Hashanah Day I - sermon "Sovereign Self" Rabbi Shawn Zevit](#) (Video)
- ★ [Yom Kippur 5784, September 25, 2023, Sovereign Self and Sacred Community](#)
- ★ [Neshamah Klalit](#): Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit (Text)
- ★ [Yom Kippur Sermon Musaf Yizkor Mincha Neilah 2023](#) (Video)
- ★ [Member Reflections, Additional Poems and Prayers](#)
- ★ [Acts of Caring](#) (Text)



**HIGH
HOLY DAYS**
AT
**MISHKAN
SHALOM**

Board Bulletin

by Elissa Goldberg

- Both before the October 7 massacre by Hamas and the Israeli retaliation, and in the midst of ongoing terror in the region, Mishkan continues to advocate for justice, equity and peace. Along with more than 2,000 academics, clergy and public figures from Israel, the United States and around the world, Mishkan, as a congregation, has signed the letter, ["The Elephant in the Room."](#) That letter, brought to the board from Marcy Boroff, chair of the Israel/Palestine committee, and David Love, board representative for tikkun olam, calls on North American Jewish leadership to support the Israeli protest movement; support organizations defending Palestinian human rights; commit to overhauling Jewish education to provide an honest appraisal of Israel's past and present; and to demand that U.S. elected leaders help end the occupation. While several Mishkan members had already signed the letter individually, Mishkan is one of the first synagogues to add our name to the long list of supporters.
- Mishkan has agreed to co-sponsor an initiative led by Rivkah Walton (not a member) for Jewish Aging in NW Philly, called Shtetl 2.0. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Tsurah August, tsurah@icloud.com, or Lynne Iser, lpiser@aol.com.
- While we send in our dues annually, the Executive Committee of the Board formally agreed to renew our membership in Reconstructing Judaism.
- The board welcomes new members Marc Jacobs, spiritual life portfolio; Janet Garretson, treasurer; Meredith Barber, membership portfolio. In addition, Sharon Gornstein has graciously moved into the position of co-vice president. We are looking for another co-vice president, as well as an assistant treasurer. Please reach out to Jean Brody, jeanbrody@comcast.net, if you are interested in these (or other) leadership positions.



OUR INCREDIBLE MISHKAN-A-THON

On Saturday, Oct. 28, we made our Mishkan site and Sam's Forest in the Wissahickon more beautiful. At home, site stewards, parents, teachers and kids planted native plants and cleaned and beautified our stream. Older kids joined parents, teachers and [Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers \(WRV\)](#) for tree planting at Sam's Forest in the Wissahickon, a memorial site for Mishkan congregant Sam Ozer.

You can still support our school. [CLICK HERE!](#)

Letter from the President

by Jean Brody

Dear Mishkaners:

This letter to you was largely written before the terrible, brutal attacks by Hamas and the equally horrifying response by the Israeli military. I know that many of us are struggling with our sorrow and anger and fear as the conflagration escalates. Let us have the patience and the compassion to hold each other through these difficult times. Please be sure to read Rabbi Shawn's messages about the actions Mishkan has taken along with opportunities to support the causes that call to you.

At this time of year, as we conclude our High Holy Days and enter into another active fall, I want to express my gratitude.

I hope you all have been as touched by our High Holy Day observances as I have been. I am grateful for the beauty of Rabbi Shawn's and Noah's services, and for the many offerings of our congregants who leyned, sang, read and wrote poetry, spoke about important issues, and participated in services in so many ways. I also want to thank our tireless staff, who have worked so hard to prepare for this important time of year. Rebecca, Maria, Lynn, Holli, Gabby, Noah and Rabbi Shawn have all earned our thanks. And the truth is that without the many, many volunteers who also stepped forward to prepare the sanctuary and the social hall, to improve our audio and video, to greet and check lists, to stand out in the parking lot, to hand out prayer books, and all of the many other ways you all contributed to the beauty of these days, we wouldn't have had the chance to enjoy these meaningful services and time to gather as a community. Thanks to you all!

This year I'm also grateful to have a full executive committee, nearly all seats on the board filled, and many committee and community leadership positions

newly filled. My thanks to those who helped with finding all of our new helpers and leaders, and to all who said yes to contribute what they can.

Our congregational school is thriving, and we have a wealth of lifelong learning opportunities this year. Thanks go out to all who offered to teach, and to all of you who've been able to take these classes. These are great opportunities to increase your learning and connect with your fellow Mishkaners.

I also want to express my gratitude to everyone who has offered financial support during this season. It's been moving to see so many members giving from their heart, as each is able. If you'd like a full report on membership and fundraising successes, be sure to put our fall community meeting on your calendars: on December 10, we'll have a combined Hanukkah party and community meeting, where you'll hear more detailed news and reason to celebrate. Watch for Ma Hadash in your email every week for more info on both ongoing and occasional programming.

At Mishkan, we stand for and support each other. My personal thanks to all of you who offered meals and personal support during my husband Louis's two surgeries and recoveries these past few months. And thanks to all of you who continue to support each other as other members share both joys and the need for prayers and support of many kinds.

May we all find opportunities to share our best selves with each other in "Sha'ah Tovah" (the right time) and "Makom Tovah" (the right place).

Jean



Voices from the Heart: An Interfaith Gathering on Israel-Palestine

Saturday November 11, 2023 -- 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Mishkan Shalom

Speakers, both virtual and in person,

include: [Peter Beinart](#), professor of journalism and political science at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York, editor-at-large at Jewish Currents, a contributor to The Atlantic, a political commentator for CNN, and a fellow at the Foundation for Middle East Peace; Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders, including Rabbi Shawn.

Mishkan members and other volunteers with We Are Not Numbers (<https://wearenotnumbers.org/>) will share their experiences working with young Palestinians in Gaza and elsewhere to help them write about their lives. They will also share what they have learned from these young writers about life in Gaza now.

We hope to have a representative of Habonim Dror in Israel who will share her experience and the experience of other young Israelis since the October 7 attack by Hamas. Given the time difference, this will be a pre-recorded message.

There will also be musical performances by Aaron Schneyer, and perhaps others. Aaron is the founder and director of [Heartbeat.fm](#) which brings together young Israeli and Palestinian musicians to make music together, learn about each other's cultures, reduce prejudice, increase trust, build self-confidence, and develop a sense of responsibility to work for peace



and civil rights. Please join us for this moving and informative evening.

TO REGISTER: Please send your name, email, and phone number, and whether you plan to attend in person or on Zoom, to Rachel Kabasakalian-McKay, rachelkmckay@gmail.com. Expect a confirmation email within a day or two; if you don't receive one, please email Rachel to make sure your registration was received.

Mishkan Shalom is a host and co-sponsor of this event, and is being organized by local members of [Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom](#), including Sharon Sigal, Sandy Green, Rabbi Simcha Zevit, Gail Montgomery Watson and Cindy Shapiro. Other event organizers not involved with SOSS include Marc Jacobs, Ali Michaels and Rachel Kabasakalian-McKay. Special thanks to Jim Feldman for writing and editing support.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE RESOURCES

Informed by our [Statement of Principles](#), Israel and Israel/Palestine-related programming and resources at Mishkan Shalom evolve in relation to the needs and concerns of the times.

[Prayers, Resources and Articles on Israel-Palestine 2023](#)

[Kol Shalom Issue on Israel - Palestine, April 2018](#)

<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/israel/>

<https://www.mishkan.org/israel-israel-palestine>

VIDEOS

[Shabbat Bereysheet: In the Aftermath, Oct 14, 2023](#)

[Rabbi Amy Klein Preserving Democracy in Israel Mishkan Shalom May 22 2023](#)

[Race, Ethnicity in Israel and America June 7 2023](#)

[R Sheila Weinberg Activism and Mindfulness](#)



Mishkan member Ron Goldwyn is pictured here carrying Mishkan's Torah to the our current building on Freeland Ave. in 2002.

The Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum in London, far left.

Kristallnacht Commemoration Honors Rescued Torahs Including Mishkan's, at Rodeph Shalom

Mishkan Shalom's Holocaust Torah will be part of a Kristallnacht gathering of more than 100 Holocaust scrolls from the Middle Atlantic region at **Congregation Rodeph Shalom on Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m.** It will also be livestreamed (RSVP required to watch) at <http://rodephshalom.org/livestream>

The gathering is a partnership of the Memorial Scrolls Trust of London, which administers the loan of the scrolls, and Rodeph Shalom, the Reform congregation at 615 N. Broad Street in Philadelphia. Mishkan members are invited to attend. Registration is required at bit.ly/mstgathering. (There is parking available at 1339 Green Street).

The ceremony is expected to draw and display as many as 136 rescued Holocaust Torahs from congregations and organizations in Pennsylvania, central and south New Jersey, and Delaware. Jeffrey Ohrenstein, Chairman of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, will travel from London to preside at the ceremony.



The synagogue in Uherske Hradiste in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) in the 1930s.

Rabbi Shawn will join host Rabbi Jill Maderer of Rodeph Shalom and religious leaders from other participating congregations in the ceremony. Each congregation will set up a display that tells the story of its Memorial Scroll and the Czech community from which it was rescued. Members Carol Towarnicky and Ron Goldwyn have been representing Mishkan with the organizers of the gathering.

Mishkan's Holocaust Torah is from the community of Uherske Hradiste in the eastern Czech Republic. Almost 40 years ago, in February 1964, it was one of 1,564 Torahs from the Czech provinces of Moravia and Bohemia that had survived the Holocaust and had been mouldering in an abandoned synagogue on the outskirts of Prague. The Communist government was anxious to sell them.

A philanthropist in London arranged to buy the lot, many in deteriorating condition. The Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST) was formed at Westminster Synagogue in London to repair and distribute these Holocaust scrolls worldwide. A museum has been opened at the synagogue in London. MST's remarkable website telling the story of these Memorial Scrolls is <https://memorialscrollstrust.org>. This gathering is one of several worldwide to celebrate MST's 60th anniversary.

The Holocaust Torah was Mishkan's first scroll, arriving shortly before the congregation called itself into existence at Rosh Hashanah 5749, September 1988. Each year, in January or February, Mishkan honors its sacred scroll and the Jews of Uherske Hradiste who worshiped from it. We leyn from the Torah itself. Then the congregation recites kaddish and the names of the nearly 300 Jews from that community—from infants to elderly adults—who were murdered in the Shoah.

Mishkan's next Holocaust Torah service will be February 24, 2024.

HANUKKAH

IS A NOUN
DERIVED
FROM THE VERB

להנוך
LAHANOKH

LAHANOKH
"TO DEDICATE."

ON SHABBAT HANUKKAH, SOME JEWISH COMMUNITIES
READ OUTLOUD ZECHARIAH'S PROPHETIC VISION OF

THE
GOLDEN
MENORAH.

THE OIL FOR THE
LAMPS PERPETUALLY
FLOWS FROM 2
OLIVE TREES.

ZECHARIAH IS GUIDED
THROUGH THE VISION
BY AN ANGELIC
MESSENGER.

କର୍ମ କଳା
? ଯଦି

WHAT DOES
THIS MEAN,
MY LORD?

ZECHARIAH 4:4-6

1-3:3 7'70b

ד'ח'ב	ד'ח'ב
ב'ח'ב	ב'ח'ב
ח'ח'ב	ח'ח'ב

"NOT WITH FORCE, NOT WITH POWER,
BUT WITH MY RU'ACH (SPIRIT/BREATH)"
— THIS IS THE WORD OF HASHEM!

(continued on the next page)

THIS VERSE REMINDS
ME OF THE FINAL
STANZA OF ADON OLAM,
A MEDIEVAL POEM
INCLUDED IN OUR LITURGY:

"IN G-D's HAND,
I ENTRUST MY RU'ACH."



THIS TENDER IMAGE MOVES ME TO OFFER AN INTERPRETIVE
TRANSLATION OF THE VERSE FROM ZECHARIAH:



NOT WITH FORCE, NOT WITH POWER,
BUT WITH APPRECIATION FOR THE
PRECIOUSNESS OF LIFE.



Dedication

IS A RITUAL WHERE ONE DEDICATES A PRACTICE
TO A DEAR ONE, AND IN DOING SO, BRINGS
THEIR PRESENCE, THEIR RU'ACH, INTO THE SPACE.

DEDICATION IS ONE
WAY TO DEEPEN
THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE ACTION...



...AND TO EXPRESS
GRATITUDE FOR
PROFOUND IMPACT
ONE LIFE CAN
HAVE ON ANOTHER.

I DEDICATE THIS COMIC TO MOUNIRA, WHO LISTENED TO
THE STORY OF MY NAME CHANGE AND SHARED HERS WITH ME.

נח

NOAH

I WAS SEEKING
A MASCULINE
NAME AND
LEARNED THE
MEANING IS
"REST"

منيرة

MOUNIRA

SHE WAS SEEKING
AN ARABIC NAME
AND LEARNED
THE MEANING IS
"ILLUMINATION"



LINGUISTICALLY
CONNECTED TO
MENORAH!

WHOSE RU'ACH ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR THIS HANUKKAH? — NOAH DOR

Class acts: What's happening in Mishkan's Congregational School?



Gan/Aleph/Bet

This year we will be exploring Jewish ritual objects and spaces. In our first few classes, we've learned about the shofar and how its job is to "wake us up"; we've rejoiced in the Sukkah by decorating it and having fun in it; and we got up close and personal with the Torah

for Simchat Torah by rolling out a tiny Torah, making our own yad and getting to join in the dancing and singing with the congregation!

Gimel/Dalet

Kitah Gimel/Dalet has gotten off to a great year! First of all, the biggest class ever, with 14 students: what a blessing! We are also blessed to have Ari Block as our Madrach; I had him as a student and I am so happy he wanted to return. We learned about Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We made DIY shrinky-dinks for the Sukkah and made tastable Torahs with edible markers to write words on the parchment (tortilla). I look forward to settling into the Bible curriculum after the holidays.

Hey Vav

Kitah Hey/Vav launched 5784 by joyfully decorating the sukkah, shaking the lulav and etrog, and sharing

our knowledge about Sukkot with Rabbi Shawn at services. We also danced with the Torah on Simchat Torah and learned a new song all about celebrating the "book" that has linked Jews to one another across the globe for thousands of years. Some of us have been greasing our Hebraic wheels while others have experienced the excitement—and at least a little bit of nervousness—of just beginning to learn the alef-bet. We

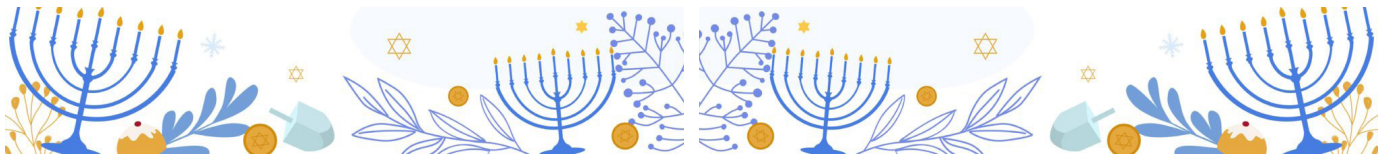
began our unit on American Jewish history by delving into the United States' track record on religious liberty. Students discussed the difference between "tolerance" and "acceptance" and examined a letter from George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, guaranteeing Jews religious freedom. Some amazing stuff!



Zayin

Since the Zayin class is small this year, we changed the model a bit so that we are meeting twice a month on Wednesday nights and once a month on Sunday to do some type of experiential learning. So far, we've done some icebreaker games, got to hang out in Rabbi Shawn and Rabbi Simcha's sukkah, talked about how we are feeling about our upcoming b'nai mitzvah, and started brainstorming some ideas for our tikkun olam/repair of the world projects. We are so excited to be able to learn and grow more together as the year goes on.





CELEBRATING CHANUKAH/HANUKAH/HANUKKAH



However you spell it, you can be sure we are eager to celebrate the Festival of Lights this year! Members are also invited to JOIN us for our annual tradition of nightly candle lighting on Zoom! See listings below and please check Ma Hadash and the [Mishkan calendar](#) for more information and links.

When the ritual of lighting the [Hanukkah Menorah](#) began, it was originally an oil lamp lit on the outside of the home doorway—a way of rededicating ourselves and claiming Jewish identity and the willingness to shine our light into the world and not hide from engagement in the larger society. As we dispersed around the world, sociopolitical and meteorological realities forced the menorah indoors, and the custom developed in some communities to put it on the windowsill instead. Either way, shining our light within and into the world during the longest nights of the year is a vital balancing energy to the hate and division so many of us are rising to heal and overcome in our daily lives.

★ **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 5:45 P.M.**

“Latkepalooza” Shabbat Hanukkah, a fish-dairy-veggie (no nuts) potluck dinner (feel free to bring your home recipes), followed by 7 p.m. service



★ **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 10:00 A.M.**

Human Rights Shabbat and
New Member Shabbat



- ★ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**
5:30-6:30 P.M. Intergenerational Hanukkah
 Party and Candle Lighting
6:30-8:30 P.M. Fall Community Meeting



- ★ **DEC. 7-15** - Zoom Candlelighting every night!

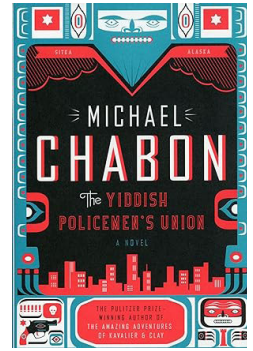
AND MORE RESOURCES HERE:

- [Light One Candle \(Peter, Paul & Mary YouTube video!\)](#)
- [5 important things to know about making latkes \(PBS video\)](#)
- [Hanukkah resources from Reconstructing Judaism](#)
- [Light One Candle in the Dark - Rabbi Shawn Zevit](#)



From the Bookshelves:**One Book Mishkan's 19th Annual Program Series:
The Yiddish Policemen's Union, A Novel, by Michael Chabon**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon's novel is an alternative history whodunit—and love story—deftly juggling humor with secular/religious tensions...and a heavy dose of Yiddish (glossary included) thrown in. His earthy characters provide fertile ground for exploring complex issues.



Imagining the 1948 collapse of the new State of Israel, the novel posits a worldwide search for a Jewish homeland, ending in Sitka, Alaska. Vintage Chabon, being wildly inventive? Actually, no.

For Europe's post-WWII Jewish refugees, the road to resettlement in Israel passed by many possibilities: Uganda, Rhodesia, Birobidzhan, Crimea, Australia's Kimberley region, Tasmania's Port Davey and, yes, albeit briefly, Alaska.



Known for his use of complex language and metaphor, Chabon's writing is both enchanting and thought-provoking. His highly imaginative storytelling offers a great read for days when cozying-up with a good book is one of life's simplest pleasures!

We hope you'll join us for this year's One Book Mishkan programs. Watch this space and Ma Hadash for dates and details:

- ★ **Chess Tournament/School Tournament with Ashkenazi Nasherei!** (at Mishkan)
Saturday, December 2, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Fun for the whole family...players, watchers, cheerleaders, nosherers!
- ★ **Saturday Night At The Movies** (on Zoom):
February 3, 6:30 p.m.
While we finalize our choice for just the right noir detective film, plan your ideal "Mishkan-away-from Mishkan" Movie Night Watch Party! Gather some friends and some good eats (including popcorn, of course) and catch the film (with a glimpse into other watch parties) on Zoom. Adam Blistein, our longtime movie maven, will facilitate pre- and post-film discussions, as always.
- ★ **Book Discussion** (at Mishkan)
Date TBD (April/May)

Library Catalog Online! Shehecheyanu!

We are delighted to announce that the collection, including the children's collection, is not only completely cataloged, but now online! Easy to access and navigate, here's the link to the catalog on TinyCat:

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/mishkanshalom>

Library Refresh

We're grateful to have reached the point of beginning to return the Library to its pre-pandemic state. We're planning several work-days to renew the collection, as well as the children's library, now housed with the main collection.

(continued on next page)

If you'd like to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us! Come on one, or both, of these Shabbat afternoons: November 18 and December 16, 2-4 p.m. Best to let us know you're coming; snacks provided!

Please Don't Leave Boxes of Books in the Library!

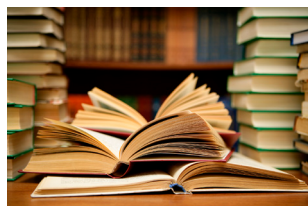
We know how difficult it can be to whittle down your own collection or empty your elder loved ones' bookshelves, but please, PLEASE don't leave boxes of books in the library! It's likely we already have most titles, leaving us to deal with boxes of books.

We Do Welcome Approved Donations

With such limited space, we need to ensure donations suit our collection and our community's needs. Certain books of Jewish content, in good condition, would be welcome, with approval. Here's what to do:

- ★ With our catalog now online, you can easily check to see if we already have the book.
- ★ If not, send the title, author's name, year of publication and one-line description to library@mishkan.org, and we'll let you know.

Questions? Be in touch! Contact Andrea Nunez, library committee chair, at library@mishkan.org.



**See you on Zoom and,
hopefully soon, in the library!**

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**Next deadline for articles due to Mindy Dorfman:
December 15, 2023 for January/February issue**

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HIAS PA is in urgent need: Winter wear and summer glimpses

HIAS PA is in urgent need of in-kind donations and would love our help. They need household items to set up the homes of newly-arrived refugees as well as winter coats for our clients. Please see below for ways you can help.

HIAS PA's fiscal year ended on September 30th; over 290 refugees were welcomed this year. Typically, they arrive with nothing but a few personal items and basic clothing. With the large number of arrivals, we are low on some essential household items. We especially need twin bedding, pots and pans, hygiene products, flatware, etc. Here's how to help:

- ★ Purchase an item from our Target Community Registry <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/hiaspa-refugee-needs>
- ★ Share our needs on your social media
- ★ Donate [gently used household items](#)
- ★ Do a drive for us with your congregation, school, workplace or other group (please contact us before starting a drive so we can let you know what to collect)

In addition to household items, we are also in great need of winter coats, hats, and gloves, particularly for adults. This



winter we will be working with hundreds of recently arrived clients who don't have warm outerwear for winter. We are looking especially for new coats since many of the used coats we receive are not in good enough condition to give to clients. However, we will accept used winter gear in excellent condition. Please share our seasonal registry or contact me if you want to do a drive: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/hiaspa-emergency-needs>

Please note, that for registries, any items purchased through our Target registry links get shipped right to HIAS PA! Just select to have your item shipped. Once you are logged into your Target account, choose the option for "Shipping to the address on HIAS Pennsylvania's Registry."

For questions, please contact [Gail Bober](#).



These photos say it all! Update on Afghan Men

One is a festive gathering with the men and volunteers from Mishkan Shalom and St. Vincent's Catholic Church, at the home of Judi Bernstein-Baker. We were celebrating all the men had accomplished since arriving in Philadelphia June 2022. The other is a photo of Khalid (left) Abdullah, and Gail Bober at a Phillies game. It was the first time either man had been to or even seen a baseball game.

G'milut Hasadim/Acts of Caring

by Susan Schewel, Steve Perkiss,
and Mindy Fernandez-Sheinbaum

Acts of Caring notifies the Mishkan Shalom community about significant events in the lives of our members so that we can offer support to one another in times of grief, illness, and joy. Please reach out to us at actsofcaring@mishkan.org with your good news or bad so that we can let the community know. Also, expressions of support to congregants listed below are always welcome!

Mazel Tov!

We send a hearty mazel tov to Luz Fernandez-Sheinbaum, Elliot Selvin, Ari Block, Rachel Mbuvi, Tina Ramberg-Michael and their families as they celebrated their b'nai mitzvah ceremonies during this season.

Condolences

We send condolences to the loved ones of Mishkan members John Palmer, Ray Kaplan, Harold Gorvine and Robin Leidner.

We also send condolences to the loved ones of Victor Fuchs, father of Nancy Fuchs Kreimer; Edgar Galson, father of Wendy Galson; Blanche Ladenson Singer, mother of Karen Singer; John Weston, father of Nat Weston; Carleton Schwager, stepmother of Michael Schwager; Diana MacNeil, mother of Rod MacNeil; John Weaver, brother of Jackie Jonas; Ross August, brother of Tsurah August; Bernard Goodman, father of David Goodman; Anne Lee Dorfman, mother of Mindy Dorfman; Bernie Goodman, father of Rabbi David Goodman; Betty Joyce Kullman (Kullie) Mellor, mother of Kris Soffa; David Schneider, father of Rabbi Simcha Zevit; Bernard (Nardie) Stein, father of Jessie Stein Diamond; and Jack Tarash, father of Ariel Tarash. May all of their memories be for a blessing and may their loved ones be comforted among all who mourn.

Prayers for healing

We send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Louis Schwartz, Rabbi Ariel Tarash, Ellen Berkowitz, David Calloway, Orly Zeewy, Linda Ruthen, Denise Kulp, Ben Field, Andrea Madden, Mark McCullen, Stacey Meadows, Bob Prischak, Rivka Jarosh, Fred Kaplan-Mayer, Wendy Erslev, Deenah Loeb, Robin Berenholz, Natalie Gorvine, Gene Shultz and to all



A reminder: Snail-mail cards are always welcomed by all those who are healing and mourning.
If you think of it, do it!

those Mishkan members in need of healing but who seek to remain private.

We are keeping these individuals in our prayers as well: Marc Sawaya (son of Madeleine Boskowitz), Marc Weaver (son of Ellen Weaver), T (sister of Leigh Robert), Gene Schultz (child of Shoshana Bricklin and Bert Shultz), Betty Morduchowicz (mother of Graciela Slesaransky-Poe), Carol Soffa Baldrige (sister of Mark Soffa), Brian Ruder (brother of Abby Ruder), Hans Jack Apfelbaum (father of Claudia Apfelbaum), Michael Boe (brother-in-law of Mindy Dorfman), Debra Singer (sister of Karen Singer), Patrick Windle (brother of Susan Windle), Sal Berenholz (father of Robin Berenholz), Jackie Berman-Gorvine (daughter-in-law of Natalie Gorvine), Don Levinson (brother of Eileen Levinson), Evelyn Haas (mother of Mark Haas), and Julie Post (sister of Nancy Post). May they all experience a refuah sheleimah, full healing.

Are you receiving Acts of Caring via email? All members receive Acts of Caring emails. If you are not, please check your spam folder, or if you have gmail, your solicitations folder (Acts of Caring is distributed by Constant Contact). If you unsubscribe from Ma Hadash, intentionally or accidentally, you will also be unsubscribed from Acts of Caring. Please contact the office for clarification.

Hineni – Here I Am

Hineni offers concrete support to members in need of short-term help, including meals, visits, transportation, etc. If you could use a little help because of illness or joy (new baby!) or you know of a Mishkan member who is reluctant to ask, please email actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will reach out. If you would like some help, but do not wish a public solicitation, please contact the rabbis or actsofcaring@mishkan.org; we will speak with you privately and seek to arrange help. Our Hineni coordinators are Lisa Mervis and Chris Taranta.