



## Rabbi's Message



Photo Credit: Justine Cooper

This month we will celebrate Hanukkah. The story of Hanukkah is written in the First and Second Books of Maccabees, which are not part of the Bible. Hanukkah is a post-Biblical holiday, meaning that the events on which it is based took place after the Bible was already canonized. In the Jewish cycle of festivals, Hanukkah is a minor holiday. It has no days on which work is restricted (except, of course, for the Shabbat of Hanukkah, but work is restricted on that day because it is Shabbat, not because it is Hanukkah). In Israel, present-giving is not associated with Hanukkah. Candles are lit, Hanukkah blessings are said, and that's it.

The prevalence of Hanukkah in the American Jewish community, of course, comes from its proximity to Christmas on the calendar. We don't want our kids to feel deprived because they are Jewish, so we jump on the consumer bandwagon and give presents for Hanukkah around the time non-Jewish kids are getting Christmas presents. I'm not opposed to presents for Hanukkah—my kids get them too. I don't think it's necessary or appropriate, though, for Hanukkah to be emphasized so much that it seems like the biggest holiday on our calendar.

The word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." In 167 BCE, the Seleucid (Syrian Greek) king Antiochus IV desecrated the Second Temple in Jerusalem and consecrated it as a temple to Zeus Olympias. Antiochus also decreed that the Jews could no longer practice their religion. The same year, Mattathias and the other Maccabees revolted. Not all the Jews agreed with the Maccabees, and the war was a civil war between the Maccabees and the Hellenizers—Jews who were comfortable with Greek culture and didn't believe it needed to be expunged from Israel. The Maccabees won, mostly.

In 164 BCE, the Temple was purified and rededicated, though conflict continued with the Seleucids. The territory of Israel was expanded, and for over a century, it was ruled by the Hasmonean dynasty (the successors of the Maccabees). Though the Maccabees fought in part to eliminate Greek culture from Israel, the Hasmonean kings had Greek names in addition to Hebrew ones, and the military and civil structure of the kingdom was Greek in form. *(Rabbi's Message continued p. 2)*

## Shabbat Services



### December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Friday Evening 8:00 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

### December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

#### *Chanukah Service*

Friday Evening 6:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

No Services Saturday Morning

### December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

No Services Saturday Morning

### January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Friday Evening 8:30 PM  
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

## Rabbi's Message (Continued)

In the end, though it was not their goal, the Maccabees achieved an outcome that made it possible for Jews to practice Judaism while also incorporating significant elements of non-Jewish Greek culture into their lives.

Today, we live in a society in which our Judaism is highly integrated with the non-Jewish culture of our country. The way we celebrate Hanukkah is one example of how this has worked. Let us remember that we are celebrating the rededication of the Second Temple, and let us take this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our Jewish practice. Let us give Hanukkah its place and enjoy it as a Jewish holiday, not as a competitor with Christmas. Let us resolve to celebrate our major holidays—Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot—with even more fervor the next time they come around. Let us take this time to consider how we might bring more Jewish practice into our lives, whether through unplugging from email and social media on Shabbat, by lighting candles at home for Shabbat, by giving more tzedakah, or in one of any number of other ways.

This month brings ample opportunity for us to celebrate together. On December 10, Mama Doni and her band will return to treat us to a wonderful Hanukkah concert. If you were at last year's concert, you know how much fun Mama Doni is. If not, don't miss it this year—Mama Doni is great.

### Mostly Israeli Dancing



Back By Popular Demand

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

\$12 per class for Temple members, \$15 for non members

*Light Refreshments served*

The Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus, Shir Chadash, will perform at Temple on December 18. With a program of beautiful Jewish music, some contemporary, some classic, some lively, some calmer and more contemplative, this will also be a concert not to be missed. Currently six of our congregants are members of the chorus, and this concert will be a fundraiser for us as well as for the chorus. Guest soloists will include Cantor Sam Levine of East Midwood Jewish Center, our own Cantor Nonie Schuster, and me. Do turn out to enjoy the music and support the temple. This is a concert for the whole family.

On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, services will incorporate Hanukkah music, and all are invited to bring a menorah and candles with them, which we will light together. This is a warm and joyous service, as it should be for the Festival of Lights.

These are just a few highlights of what's happening. Whether for one of these events or something else we have going on, I look forward to seeing you at temple!

*Rabbi Heidi Hoover*

### Ditmas Park Scrabble Club

Thursday Evening, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 – 10 PM

Light refreshments and (small) prizes for the highest score and the highest one word score.

\$5 for Temple members; \$10 for non-members.

Club meets monthly  
RSVP at [dpscrabble@gmail.com](mailto:dpscrabble@gmail.com).

### Shir Chadash presents L'Dor V'dor

Sunday Afternoon, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM

Shir Chadash: the Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus with guest artists Nonie Schuster Donato, Cantor Sam Levine and Brian Gelfand

\$15 in advance; \$20 at door

Children \$5/\$10

**SISTERHOOD NEWS**



Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Brunch 10:00 AM/Lecture 10:30 AM

**Guest Speaker:** Jeffrey Levinson

\$5 (members), \$10 (non-members)

*Temple Banquet Room*

**New Yiddish Rep@TBE  
Presents  
Anita Keal  
in  
"Eva's Song"**

By Angelo Parra and Anita Keal  
Directed by Joe Brancato  
Accompanied by Paul Greenwood

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
3 :00 PM

\$10 suggested donation  
Reservations: Visit [newyiddishrep.org](http://newyiddishrep.org)  
Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Presented in English, this one-woman show, with Broadway and TV veteran Anita Keal, tells the story of the immigrant experience of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jews.

**Centennial Perspectives**

From the Board of Trustees minutes of Temple Beth Emeth, **August, 31, 1933:**

A minute of silence and a Resolution of Condolence was read by former President William Goldschmidt on the death of Meyer Yondorf on August 1, 1933. (Note: Meyer Yondorf was one of the founding members of Temple Beth Emeth. He served as Secretary on the Board of Trustees, and had that position well into the 1920's. Meyer was married to Laura Hirsch; Laura was one of Hannah Hirsch's daughters.)

Also from **August 31, 1933:**

Some of the items in the budget listed for the year September 1, 1933-August 31, 1934:

- Rabbi \$6,000
- Cantor \$1,200
- Coal or oil \$1,000
- Electricity \$700
- Telephone \$200
- Gas \$50
- Postage \$300

From the minutes of **October 26, 1933:**

"Rabbi Levinson reported that we had 43 applications for membership." (Note: Keep in mind that by the late-1930's and early-1940's Temple Beth Emeth's membership approached 900 family units.)

From the minutes of **November 23, 1933:**

"Religious School: Miss Wolf reports that they may have to engage another teacher that 285 children have registered."

*Ron Schweiger*

**Shalom Shabbat**

Friday Mornings, 10:00 AM

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

January 6<sup>th</sup>

Presided by Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Saturday Morning, 10:00 AM

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Presided by Lizz Goldstein, Holder of the Jacqueline Smith Memorial Rabbinic Internship

For Children under 5 and their Caregivers

## Member of the Month

Hazel Tishcoff



Educator, singer, Temple Board member and genuine nice person. These are the things we already know. Meet Hazel Tishcoff.

A native of Brooklyn, Hazel’s formal religious education began at a Conservative synagogue. She is a graduate of James Madison High School (where her foreign language was Hebrew) and Vassar College. Believe it or not, she was President of the Student Government at BOTH institutions. While at Vassar, she taught at the religious school of Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie – a sure sign of things to come. She then received her Master’s degree in education at Yeshiva University. She was a chemistry teacher at both Abraham Lincoln and Edward R. Murrow High Schools (bonus points if anyone can tell us what the original name of Murrow was) and, for 23 years, was the College Advisor at Murrow.

Hazel joined the Temple in 1978 when her children Joel and Leah were ready to attend Hebrew School. Since then, she was on the Religious School Committee and has helped run brunches, cover dish (“pot luck”) suppers, movie nights, and square dances. It was in 1986 that then-president Arnold Block asked her to teach in our school. In 2009, she, along with the rest of the present faculty of the Religious School, was honored by the Temple at the annual dinner dance.

Away from Temple, Hazel co-founded the Flatbush Frolic, initiated the Rugby Road Sukkoth celebration, served as the chair of Jewish Education for Park Slope Hadassah, and is an original member of the Shir Chadash Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus. She participates in a weekly discussion group called “The Bible Babes”.

Hazel was married for 45 years to Sandy who passed away just this past winter. Sandy was a native of South Bend, Indiana and became a fixture in the Flatbush community as the proprietor of Mostly Books on Cortelyou Road. Sandy and Hazel were long-time Board (continued)

members – a position that Hazel still holds. They were the honorees at the Temple annual dinner dance in 1999. Their children, Joel and Leah, became Bar and Bat Mitzvah, respectively, at Temple and also celebrated their confirmations here. Hazel’s greatest joys in life are her grandchildren Zeke, Zachery, Natalie, Ezra and Sami. Sami Rae, born after Sandy passed away, was named for him.

After all these years of being so active in so many ways at Temple, Hazel says, “It has been a privilege to teach our children. I hope I have given them, in some small way, an appreciation of Jewish life and values so that they can begin to make Judaism and Torah a guiding source in their lives. My father, especially, gave this to me and my sisters and I hope I have been able to pass some of this down to my family and students.”

*Alan Zarrow*

## Book Plates



Bookplates are available for placement in prayerbooks - either Shabbat or High Holy Days. Donation for each plate is \$18. Bookplates could be for either “in memory of”, “in celebration of”, or “in honor of”.

Contact the Temple Office for donating.

## Celebrate Shabbat at Our Monthly Potluck Dinner



Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM

Chicken provided, Bring pareve side dish or dessert

Services follow at 8:00 PM

**November Sisterhood Lecture**

On Saturday morning, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we were treated to an insightful commentary by Past Temple President and Brooklyn Historian Ron Schweiger. Ron reported on how the City of New York came into being following the incorporation of Brooklyn into Gotham on January 1, 1898. Presenting a chronology of events Ron led us through to the fateful vote consolidating five counties into the Greater City of New York.

Tracing milestones from the 1600's and the establishment of six original towns in Kings County, which became the City of Brooklyn in the 1800's, Ron reviewed the political and economic rationale for creating a consolidated city. Although some members of the audience called for a "recount," Ron reported that the citizens of Brooklyn voted in favor of the consolidation by a margin of a mere 277 votes.

On the stroke of midnight ushering in the new year of 1898, poet Will Colton read aloud his poem, "The Passing of Brooklyn" to a crowd assembled at what was Brooklyn City Hall on Joralemon Street. The final lines of the poem read, "Brooklyn it is, Brooklyn it remains, and Brooklyn are we." Well said indeed.

**Rabbi Hoover in the News**



◆ *Rabbis Heidi Hoover, Carie Carter, Dina Rosenberg, Linda Goodman and Ellen Lippmann are making Brooklyn proud!*

The Winter 2011 edition of *Brooklyn!*, *Where New York City Begins,* (<http://www.brooklyn-usa.org/pages/paper/brooklyn.htm>) the official newspaper of Borough President Marty Markowitz, featured Rabbi Heidi Hoover as one of five women rabbis serving as the spiritual leader in Brooklyn congregations. Rabbi Hoover was quoted in the article as saying, "I don't think of myself as a female rabbi, but a rabbi." She stated further, "My most important task as a rabbi is to bring people into a living tradition, helping them become knowledgeable about and empowering them to wrestle with it and make it their own."



**Torah Study**

Saturday Morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM

Friday Evenings, December 9<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM



With Rabbi Heidi Hoover

**When called upon to read the Blessings**  
**Will You Be Ready?**  
 If not,  
 learn to read Hebrew  
**at the Adult Prayer Book Hebrew Class**

**The Adult Prayer Book Hebrew Class**  
 Please contact Alice at Temple Office 718-282-1596  
 on Saturdays from 9:30 am to 10:00 am  
 Classes will be held in the Banquet Hall.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

**Donor**

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Phyllis Nadler  
Saul Radow  
Susan Bilecky  
Lyle Silversmith  
Arthur Gold  
Beth Moskowitz  
Beth Moskowitz  
Jeffrey Feldman  
Mildred Morel  
Gale Resnicoff  
Steven and Anne Garner

**In Memory of**

Betty Menken  
Sylvia Steinhardt  
Samuel Yudelowitz  
Elise Cohen  
Jacob Radow  
Henrienne Rubowitz  
Morris Silversmith  
Geraldine Gold  
Miriam Moskowitz  
Benjamin Moskowitz  
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Rhoda Epstein  
Max Resnicoff  
Sybil Garner

**RECOVERY FUND**

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Natalie & Werner Friedlander  
Mildred Morel

**Speedy Recovery**

Lawrence Frost  
Jay Lipades

**MORTON MEYER FUND**

**Donor**

Sara West & Sheldon Greenberg  
Sara West & Sheldon Greenberg  
Gerard & Judy Soffian

**Speedy Recovery**

Lawrence Frost  
Sara West  
Lawrence Frost

**Birthday Wishes**

Sara West & Sheldon Greenberg Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> to Miriam Meyer  
Evelyn Frieman Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> to Miriam Meyer  
Helen & Marvin Jacobs Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> to Miriam Meyer  
Beatrice Jacobs & the Ribler Family Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> to Miriam Meyer

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Nancy Ostrover for Wallace's Unveiling  
Leon & Marjorie Rossman

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

**CELEBRATION FUND**

**LIBRARY FUND**

**IRMA WOLVEK SISTERHOOD LECTURE FUND**

**RABBI SOSKIN FUNDSHIP**

**JACQUELINE SMITH MEMORIAL RABBINIC INTERNSHIP  
BLUESTONE PRAYERBOOK AND PULPIT FUND**

**MAMA DONI  
FUNKY MUSIC WITH A JEWISH  
TWIST!**

Saturday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM



\$20 per family ; \$15 for Temple members

**TRUSTEES MEETING**



Wednesday Evening  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 PM  
Temple Banquet Room

**Toy Drive**



Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> thru Saturday,  
December 17<sup>th</sup>

New toys labeled with age and gender

**YAHRZEIT KADDISH LIST**

The names listed below are taken from the *Bronze Tablets* and the *Book of Life*. Names are read at the Sabbath service following the date of passing. For information about *Memorial Plaques* and perpetual Kaddish, please call the Temple Office.

**December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

Moe Berkowitz  
 Joel S. Berks  
 Monte Maurice Bliss  
 George Blixman  
 Helen Block  
 Hyman Jacob Cohen  
 Jess Cohen  
 Gussie Dicker  
 Rose Dratch  
 Helen Jacobs Epstein  
 Siegmar Friedlander  
 Sybil Garner  
 Hilda K. Girshick  
 Max Girshick  
 Ann Edith Goldberg  
 Fay Goldberg  
 Lawrence Gutter  
 Harry Herzog  
 Isadore Jacobs  
 Samuel Janover  
 Solomon Joachim  
 Yetta Kartell  
 Anna H. Kestenbaum  
 Hilda Kuhn  
 Flora Laskey  
 Fanny Lazarus  
 Matthew G. Mendell  
 Barney Miller  
 Auguste L. Newman  
 David Rosenberg  
 Robert S. Rubenstein  
 Anna Sacoder  
 Addie Shank  
 Fiest Strauss  
 Sadie Suber  
 Sidney Wedeen  
 Florrie Wolff  
 Louis Wolff

**December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Samuel Bergmann  
 Harold Chamack  
 Becky Cohn  
 Benjamin Dannenbert  
 Philip Dicker  
 Hannah Fischgrund  
 David Freeman  
 Bruce Fremer  
 Mamie Goldstein  
 Esther Geduld  
 Mollie Greenman  
 Amailia Gumpert  
 Charles S. Halpern  
 Leonard Harris  
 Harry Hechtman  
 Gisha Herwitz  
 Anna Isbiz  
 Mandell Javer  
 Elias Kaggen  
 Mary E. Kasper  
 Louis Kottick  
 Amy Jill Lehrer  
 Joseph Loeffler  
 Camilla L. Minzesheimer  
 Edmund Piesen  
 Rosalie Piesen  
 Gustave Rothapfel  
 Charles Rubens  
 Sadie Schoendorf  
 Max J. Schwalbe  
 Leah R. Silverman  
 Max Simon  
 Bruce Solomon  
 Ruth Solomon  
 Caroline Strauss  
 Edward Tobias  
 Louis Victor  
 Sophie Witze  
 Edith Zucker

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

Kate Appel  
 Jeffrey Baer Edelson  
 Benno A. Berstein  
 Francis Florsheim  
 Ruth Frost  
 Birdie Gewant  
 Joachim Ginzberg  
 Abraham Goldfarb  
 Sadie Gardner Goldman  
 Louis Goldner  
 Jennie Golluber  
 Adeline Herzog  
 Jacob Hirschberg  
 Lenore S. Jacobs  
 Fanny Kleiner  
 Isabella Krupin  
 David Levine  
 Lazarus Lipschitz  
 Herman Mehrlust  
 Rae Nebenzahl  
 Jacob Newman  
 Henrietta Norton  
 Minnie Petrie  
 David S. Rabinowitz  
 Theophile Souweine  
 Abraham Sustick  
 Louis Tartikoff  
 Amelia Hernstadt Tischler  
 Rose Frye Winkel  
 Stella Wolff

**December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>**

John Allen  
 Morris Becker  
 Raphael Berger  
 Maud Bernstein  
 Delphine Block  
 Morris Braverman  
 Rudolph Chess  
 Elias Cohen  
 Stanley A. Edwards  
 Isidor Enselman  
 Arnold Gewirtz  
 Sadie Goidel  
 Daniel Goldman  
 Anna Greif  
 Jack Gumpert  
 Ann Heiffel  
 William Henris  
 Regina Kiss  
 Henry B. Laskey  
 Edna Strich Lindauer  
 Aaron Markman  
 Esther Tobia Newman  
 Jean Stern  
 Sophie Sternberg  
 Carrie Strauss  
 Rose Strich  
 Juliette Tapolow  
 Henrietta Tobias  
 President Harry S. Truman  
 Mamie Victor  
 Sarah Weiss  
 Pepi Zuckerman



The Truth

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