



TEMPLE

SHALOM
A Reform Congregation



December 2024

Volume 17 Issue 7

Last year, on December 11, 2022, Nitsan Keidar wrote in an article for [Israelnational-news.com](https://www.israelnational-news.com): “A week to go until the holiday of Hanukkah and Ukraine's Jewish communities are preparing for the festival of lights. The heads of the Jewish communities face a dilemma: how do you celebrate when there is a non-stop war going on, when most of the country's civilians spend most of the day in total darkness, and many of them are under curfew?” Later in the article, Keidar writes: “With the ongoing war, the dilemma is substantial. On one hand, the will to celebrate the ancient Jewish holiday and to cheer up the communities' Jews. On the other hand, during a war, the erection of a menorah can be seen as a lack of consideration for the rest of the citizens who are under the terror of war.”

With three (3) weeks to go until we light the first candle, I find myself asking a similar question – should we celebrate Chanukah with Israel at war and antisemitism reaching an all time high? Temple Shalom has four (4) Chanukah celebrations planned: our traditional “bring your menorah to Friday night services” on December 8 for a group candle lighting, a Chanukah Bluegrass concert on December 9, and on December 10 a trivia and latke party followed by the community candle lighting at Market Common. Are we being insensitive to celebrate while we, as a people, are fighting for our lives, suffering, and grieving?

When I start asking questions, the English major still in me after all of these years, starts researching to find answers.

From a Post entitled “Celebrating Hanukkah in the Epstein Home,” Gemma Solomons, the Marketing & Communications Coordinator at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum discusses the tradition and meaning of Chanukah: “In the Jewish faith, every moment is a story. And from every story, comes an opportunity to learn [and] to interpret new meanings from centuries-old tales in order to make sense of modern-day hardships...While there is much to be appreciated from a military battle, it is the story of the aftermath, the survivors, the miracle of their continuation that early Rabbis chose to focus on. Hanukkah is the holiday of rededication, in remembrance of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem which had been sacked and destroyed during the fighting...The Jewish tradition is the tradition of storytelling. [Many] of these stories are ones of struggle, oppression, and subjugation. [To that end], each Hanukkah candle becomes the hero of that story, glowing in the windows of tenements and houses over the decades and throughout the country.”

From excerpts of a transcript from a story that aired on Weekend Edition Sunday on Dec. 18, 2022, by Deena Prichep, A. MARTÍNEZ hosts a discussion about why we should celebrate Chanukah --

“A MARTÍNEZ, HOST: Hanukkah began last night. The Talmud directs Jews to not just celebrate the holiday but to do it publicly, placing their menorahs where passersby can see the lights...”

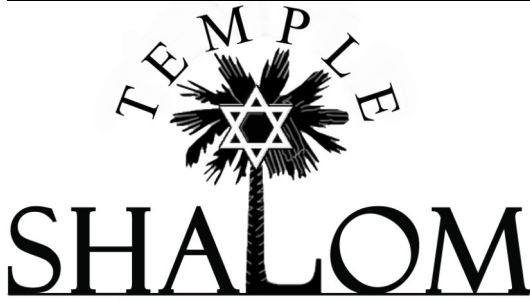
PRICHEP: There is a phrase in the Talmud - *pirsumei nisa* - that tells Jews to publicize the miracle. It refers to Hanukkah, and also Passover and Purim. David Shyovitz teaches Jewish history at Northwestern. He says those three holidays were chosen for a reason.

DAVID SHYOVITZ: These are stories where Jewish visibility, where Jewish difference from the surrounding culture is causing problems and leads to threats.

PRICHEP: And there have been many times when celebrating those stories would not have been safe, whether you're talking about the Spanish Inquisition or Nazi Germany. But Shyovitz says it could also serve as a human moment and show people who their neighbors are.

SHYOVITZ: Jewish observance is supposed to create connections - connections in the Jewish home, within the Jewish community, within Jewish institutions, but also between all of those things and the broader non-

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



A Reform Congregation

4023 Belle Terre Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
(843) 903-ONEG (6634)

David Weissman Rabbi

TempleShalommb.org

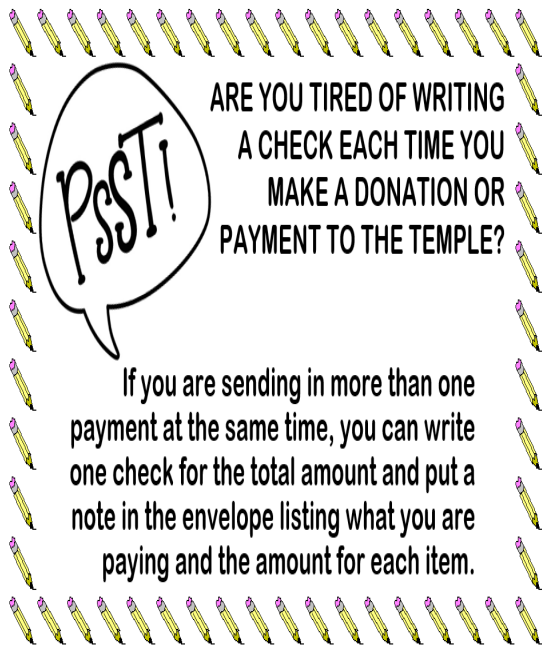
SHABBAT SERVICES

We meet at 4023 Belle Terre Blvd.,
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579.

Our **Friday evening** services begin at
7:30pm. Saturday at 10:30 AM. Members
who cannot physically attend Friday night
or scheduled Saturday services can
view services via Zoom.

Contact

President@templeshalommyrtlebeach.org to
request a Zoom invitation.



Throughout history, Jewish thinkers have tried to define God. God has been defined as an all-powerful ruler of the universe who controls everything that happens. More modern Jewish thinkers have defined God as having limited powers, as not controlling everything that happens, but who can inspire us to do good things and who can comfort us in times of despair. Still others have looked upon God as an impersonal force that is the ground of being and the source of salvation in the universe.

I think that God is really beyond human understanding and attempts to define God are beyond our reach. So perhaps instead of talking about God, we should try to feel God's presence in our everyday experiences. We should experience God instead of talking about God.

Every time we perform what is called in Hebrew Gemilut Chasadim, acts of lovingkindness, we can feel God's presence in our lives. Every time we donate to charity, or comfort those who are ill or mourning the loss of a loved one, we can feel God's presence in our lives.

When we have feelings of unconditional love toward other human beings, sometimes in spite of their faults, we can experience God's presence in our lives.

Just recognizing the magnificence of the universe by gazing at the stars at night or enjoying the brilliance of a sunny day or the birth of a newborn baby can create a sense of awe and cause us to experience God's presence in our lives.

If prayers are recited or sung with feeling and thought rather than just by rote, they can cause us to experience God in our lives. But we have to recite them with what in Hebrew is called kavana, which means feeling or intention. If the prayers are in English, pay attention to the meaning of the words, but recognize that some of the prayers are metaphoric and should not be taken literally. If they are in Hebrew and you don't understand Hebrew, sing them with feeling. God is experienced not through intellect, but through emotion.

When we are ill or are depressed because of the loss of a loved one, experiencing God's presence in our lives can serve as a source of comfort to us. And when we recover from an illness or depression caused by the loss of a loved one, we can experience God's presence in our lives.

When we have difficult decisions to make, experiencing God's presence in our lives, sometimes expressing itself as the voice of our conscience, can guide us in making the right direction.

And when we light the Chanukah menorah in recognition of the Maccabees' miraculous defeat of the troops of the Syrian-Greek King Antiochus, whose goal was to wipe out the practice of Judaism, we can experience God's presence in the survival of Judaism and the Jewish people.

I once drove past a church with the following words inscribed on its wall: GOD IS LOVE. Perhaps that's the best definition. GOD IS LOVE.

Chag sameach. Mary and I wish you a happy Chanukah.

Rabbi David Weissman

What's Happening

Friday 12/01/2023	Shabbat services at 7:30 P.M.
Saturday 12/02/2023	Shabbat services at 10:30 A.M.
Friday 12/08/2023	Shabbat services at 7:30 P.M.
Friday 12/15/2023	Shabbat services at 7:30 P.M.
Friday 12/22/2023	Shabbat services at 7:30 P.M.
Saturday 12/23/2023	Shabbat services at 10:30 A.M.
Friday 12/29/2023	Shabbat services at 7:30 P.M.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, December 8, bring your menorahs and candles to our 7:30 P.M. Shabbat service. We will be lighting candles for the second night of Chanukah as a group before lighting the Shabbat candles. Zoom members – we will move the camera so you will be able to participate.

Saturday, December 9 Chanukah Blue Grass concert at 7:00. If you have not pre-registered and have not attended an event at Temple Shalom in the past, please contact templeshalommbpresident@gmail.com. Cost is \$10 at the door.

Sunday, December 10 Trivia and Latke party at 2:00. Email templeshalommbpresident@gmail.com to make your reservation and complete the flyer in in the December newsletter to pay for the event.

Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 Menorah lighting at Market Common. We will light the fourth candle as a community. Please join Rabbi David and Temple Shalom for songs and Chanukah gelt. There will be security at this event.

VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is a research institute, an institution of higher learning, an adult education organization, a cultural organization, and a world-renowned library and archive. Their mission is to preserve, study, share, and perpetuate knowledge of the history and culture of East European Jewry worldwide. YIVO offers adult education, Yiddish language programs, lectures, conferences, art exhibitions and concerts, some free and some for a fee. <https://www.yivo.org>

Sample learning opportunities:

Sunday, December 10 | 3:00pm ET DYLAN SEDERS HOFFMAN On Zoom. Nu, vilst redn a bi-sele yidish? Monthly YIVO Yiddish Club sessions take place in English and are liberally peppered with Yiddish. This session features actor, singer, and filmmaker, Dylan Seders Hoffman. She is the founder and artistic director of Chava Productions, a film production company which presents original works located at the intersection of pop culture and 21st century Jewishness with a generous dose of Yiddish.

Monday, December 11 | 7:00pm In Person at YIVO in NYC and on Zoom. Join YIVO for a performance of the music of Shir Hashirim (The Song of Songs), a 1911 operetta by Joseph Rumshinsky and Anshel Shor. Shir Hashirim is a musical comedy which features several interlocking love triangles that include an aging composer along with his children and their lovers and friends. The work also touches on serious topics including love, mortality, and women's suffrage. Reconstructed from a variety of archival materials collected at YIVO, UCLA, and the Library of Congress, the operetta will be performed by students of the Bard Conservatory Vocal Arts Program.

Also, check out the Events Recorded section.

 President's message (cont'd from page 1)

On the subject of balancing joy with sorrow: the Velveteen Rabbi (<https://velveteenrabbi.blogs.com>) shared this message: "...everyone lives in the balance, the tension, the middle ground between sorrow and joy. This is spiritual life. This is human life. May we recognize that even at times of rejoicing, we and our loved ones may be carrying grief...and may we help each other access gratitude and joy even during life's times of darkness."

Should we celebrate Chanukah with Israel at war and antisemitism reaching an all-time high?

My answer is YES. We should celebrate the victory and miracle of Chanukah for ourselves, our ancestors, and all of those who are unable to celebrate this year.

At the same time, we should keep supporting our brothers and sisters fighting for survival in Israel and fighting antisemitism in the United States and around the world.

Pray: for the State of Israel, the Israel Defense Forces, the civilians held captive, and for peace. The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) has compiled a free booklet of prayers. Advocate: We must urge our government officials to help secure the release of the hostages in Gaza by working with the international community. Contact President Biden, our US Senators and Representatives and ask for their support for programs benefiting Israel and fighting antisemitism. Thank those who have stood up in support of important programs benefiting Israel and securing our Jewish community institutions.

Participate: Join in the various learning opportunities being emailed to you -- Learn how to respond to social media posts that are antisemitic, anti-Israel, and/or contain misinformation or disinformation.

Donate: to a charity of your choice or through our local federation. The Charleston Jewish Federation has launched the Charleston Stands With Israel Fund to help families and children in danger, to provide food and medicine for the elderly, including Holocaust survivors and disabled, to assist victims of physical and emotional trauma, and to find a safe haven for all in harm's way. 100% of proceeds go to supporting Israeli lives.

By the time this is published, I pray that we will be celebrating another victory, the release of hostages, and a decrease in antisemitism. May your Chanukah be filled with hope, love and joy.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL (<https://www.nli.org.il/>)

Read articles, listen to music and attend online events.

AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (<https://aifl.org/events>)

Participate in events about Israel's entrepreneurship, culture, medical research, environmental protection initiatives, and so much more.

URJ (<https://reformjudaism.org/>) – choose the calendar tab

Are you a foodie? Check out The Jewish Food Society at <https://www.jewishfoodsociety.org/> for interesting stories and recipes. Also visit Jamie Geller at <https://jamiiegeller.com/author/jamie-geller> and Jewish at <https://aish.com/jewish/recipes>.

Music

LichvodHahanukahCut <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnYWtonpZ-s>

Candlelight by The Maccabeats <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSJCSR4MuhU>

Nefesh Mountain | The Hanukkah Dance by Woody Guthrie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBbTj86UCxA>

Debbie Friedman - The Latke Song (2001) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhFiszfdt18>

Joe Buchanan - Shine (Acoustic) - A Chanukah Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muzkDN-dZx8>



HANUKKAH PARTY
with Team Trivia and Nosh followed by
MARKET COMMON MENORAH LIGHTING at 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us at the temple for our annual Hanukkah party. This year we will play Team Trivia and nosh on latkes, donuts, veggies, and fruit while enjoying the holiday.

After the party, we will meet at Valor Memorial Garden at Market Common for the lighting of the menorah and traditional Hanukkah songs. As always, you may attend the menorah lighting without attending the party.

Reservations and pre-payment are required for the Hanukkah party.

Hanukkah Party Cost Per Person

Members - \$15.00

Non-Members - \$22.00

LAST DAY FOR RESERVATIONS: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Email Hope at TempleShalomMBPresident@gmail.com or call/text (843) 903-6634 to make your reservation **then** complete the form below and mail it in along with your payment. If you prefer to pay with a credit/debit card, please go to www.TempleShalomMB.org, select Donations, and complete the form making sure that you type in the name of this event where appropriate.

DONATIONS TO TEMPLE SHALOM ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

HANUKKAH PARTY RESERVATIONS

Please send completed form and your payment to: TEMPLE SHALOM, 4023 Belle Terre Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Name: _____ Email: _____

No. of Members: _____ at \$15.00 per person

No. of Guests: _____ at \$22.00 per person

General Donation: \$ _____ (Optional)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 6, 2023

Temple Shalom is firmly committed to protecting the health and safety of our members and guests.

All first-time guests will be required to show their ID in order to enter the building.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL FOR ANY REASON.

Temple Shalom is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 20-3142057



IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS OR CONCERNING ACTIVITY, please contact local law enforcement and/or the relevant suspicious activity reporting authority.

Another way we've committed to combating antisemitism and hate in the Lowcountry is through the creation of the first **Joint Incident Reporting Tool**, in partnership between our Federation, the ADL Southeast, and Secure Community Network. Now, when you witness an act of hate, you can report it so that all three organizations can collaboratively respond, investigate, and track patterns of similar incidents around the state.



*The **Secure Community Network (SCN)**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official homeland safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.*

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December 2023

KISLEV 18 – TEVET 19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  Service: 7:30PM 18 KISLEV	2 Service: 10:30 19 KISLEV
3 20 KISLEV	4 21 KISLEV	5 22 KISLEV	6 23 KISLEV	7 24 KISLEV	8  Service: 7:30PM 25 KISLEV	9 26 KISLEV
10 5PM Menorah lighting at Market Common 27 KISLEV	11 28 KISLEV	12 29 KISLEV	13 1 TEVET	14 2 TEVET	15  services : 7:30PM 3 TEVET	16 4 TEVET
17 5 TEVET	18 6 TEVET	19 7 TEVET	20 8 TEVET	21 9 TEVET	22  Service: 7:30PM 10 TEVET	23 Service: 10:30 11 TEVET
24 12 TEVET	25 13 TEVET	26 14 TEVET	27 15 TEVET	28 16 TEVET	29 services : 7:30PM 17 TEVET	30 18 TEVET
31 19 TEVET						



DONATIONS AND DEDICATIONS TO TEMPLE SHALOM

Donations to Temple Shalom can be made in several ways and are greatly appreciated.

- MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUES** are a great way to remember someone perpetually. Every year, on their Yahrzeit (anniversary of death), the person will be remembered in regular services. Available to and for members only.
 Cost: \$200.00
- \$100.00 deposit required
 - takes at least 6 weeks
- Name on plaque: _____
 Date of death (English): _____ We will figure Hebrew date.
- TREE OF LIFE PLAQUES (LEAF)** commemorates special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other life events we want to celebrate. Available to members only.
 Cost: \$50.00 – small leaf OR \$75.00 – large leaf
 Inscription: _____
- HIGH HOLIDAY DONATION** is a great way to make an annual donation to Temple Shalom for any amount. Available to all.
- CHAI CLUB OF TEMPLE SHALOM** is a unique way to support Temple Shalom with a donation of \$18 per month per individual. The club is open to everyone. This can be set up on a monthly pay basis or \$216.00 per year. There are no club meetings or responsibilities. Available to all.
- Yahrzeit** is a wonderful way to remember loved ones who have gone before us and can be in any amount. Congregation members receive notices prior to Yahrzeit observances. Available to all.
 Yahrzeit for whom: _____
 Relationship to Donor: _____
- IN MEMORY/HONOR OF** is a tribute on behalf of someone who was/is special in your life and can be in any amount. Available to all.
 In Memory/Honor (circle one) of: _____
 Relationship to Donor: _____
- GENERAL DONATION** is a way to support Temple Shalom and is a mitzvah (good deed). Available to all.

Please take a moment to select your donation(s), write a check, and mail it to Temple Shalom, or use PayPal.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEMPLE SHALOM.
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD, PLEASE GO TO DONATIONS
 PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE – www.TempleShalomMB.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!

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