



**PARKING LOT:** St. Paul's Community Care Center parking lot may **ONLY** be used **during services on Fridays and Saturdays** and at no other time. The entrance is on Third Ave. between Maple and Nutmeg Streets.

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
 Ohr Shalom Synagogue  
**Sunday, Dec. 7, 9:00- 2:30pm**  
 See page 15 for details

**NEW MEMBER'S LUNCH**  
**Sunday, December 7, 12:30pm**

**Kabbalat Shabbat**  
*with the Ohr Shalom Choir*  
**Friday, December 12, 6:15pm**

**ADULT EDUCATION**  
**HOW TO HELP YOUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOSPITALIZED**  
**Sunday, December 14, 10:00am**

**Shabbat Kehillatit**  
**Friday, December 19**  
 Family-Friendly Service: **6:15pm**  
 Community Dinner: **7:15pm**  
 RSVP **by Monday, Dec. 15**

Ohr Shalom's Annual  
**CHANUKAH PAJAMAKA PARTY!**  
 Bring your Chanukiah and let's celebrate Chanukah together!  
**Sunday, December 21, 5:30pm**  
 Join us for singing, games and lots of latkes and donuts!

**100 YEARS**  
 1926-2026 CENTENNIAL

# DAVAR MEGILLAH

DECEMBER 2025 • MONTHLY NEWSLETTER • KISLEV/TEVET 5786

## Dedicating and Educating This Chanukah



Rabbi Scott Meltzer

A little over two thousand years ago our ancestors fought a war against an invading army - the Seleucid Empire.

They fought for their political freedom, in the Land of Israel, and they fought for their right to live as they saw fit, as Jews.

Being victorious, they were not only able to re-establish an independent Jewish monarchy, after more than four hundred years of occupation by foreign powers, they also re-dedicated the Holy Temple and its altar. This חנוכה המזביח (*chanukat hamizbe'ach*), "dedication of the altar," is the basis for the festival's name - Chanukah.

Nearly twenty-two centuries later we observe these eight days as days of celebration and joy. We light candles. We sing songs. We play games and we feast.

Beyond fun and games, these eight days also call us to live up to the example set by our ancestors. We too are called upon to follow in their footsteps, and dedicate ourselves to our community, our covenant, and our history.

We do this in many ways. For many of us we dedicate our time, energy, and resources to the community. We show up. We get involved. We volunteer. We give generously. We do it here locally, and we do it in Israel.

We also dedicate ourselves to our covenant. We rekindle the flame of our spiritual commitments and connections. We come to Shabbat services. We log in

to our daily minyan. We pray when we lie down and when we rise up. We follow the calendar, not only for these eight days but throughout the whole Jewish year - knowing the dates, and observing even the lesser-known holidays.

Beyond all of this, we dedicate ourselves to our connection to our history. We need to be mindful of the people and places from which we come, so that we can be conscious of who we are, and intentional about where we are going. We remember what happened in the days of Matityahu the Kohein Gadol, and all of Jewish history from then, even before then, until now.

Finally, Chanukah is not only dedication, it is חינוך (*chinuch*) "education." Ironically for those who are still students in school that it happens around the start of Winter Vacation, but we rededicate ourselves to making sure that education is central to our lives - from the youngest of us to the oldest. We are obligated to learn something each and every day. We study Torah, Jewish history, texts, literature. We also study ... well pretty much anything we can get our hands on.

We are a people of lifelong learning, and Chanukah is exactly the right time to refocus, to make sure we find time daily, and to celebrate the opportunities for learning that abound all around us.

So during the upcoming festival, while we light candles, sing songs, spin the dreidel, and eat latkes, we dedicate ourselves to our Jewish lives and our Jewish learning - and we do it all in celebration.

חג אורים שמח (*chag orim same'ach*) - Have a joyful Festival of Lights!



## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Marvin Yudkovitz**  
President

# Announcing New Leadership and Vitalization of the Ohr Shalom Men's Club

Recently **Aaron Lipner** was elected as the Ohr Shalom Men's Club President. With new leadership of this important arm of the Synagogue, it is definite that you will be hearing a lot more from the Men's Club over the coming months and years. And this also means that there is an increased opportunity for all Synagogue men to become involved in the Men's Club.

For some of you, you may recall when our Men's Club was more active with various programs and activities. For those of us at Ohr Shalom more recently, though, this has not been the case.

For many years the Ohr Shalom Men's Club has held a **Poker night**. Recently this has been occurring with less frequency, but is still an option for those men who are interested.

Since November 2024, we have held a monthly **Men's Discussion Group** at Pure Project brewery. Hopefully you've seen the announcements in the Davar and online. These occur on the third Thursday. We usually have about 8 to 10 men present for these discussions and remain open to others who wish to participate.

In this column, I want to share with you what other Men's Clubs (also called Brotherhoods) are doing at various other Conservative Synagogues around

the country, to whet your interest in becoming involved. Because it is only with involvement from many men of Ohr Shalom, that our club can truly grow and flourish.

The **FJMC** International (formerly the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs) has a very robust website at [FJMC.org](http://FJMC.org) which can be easily accessed, and provides a lot of information, photos, and explanations about what is happening in clubs throughout the US and Canada.

Here are some activities that others are doing, which over time our Men's Club can consider:

- a. Sunday morning minyan and speaker
- b. Steak and Scotch night
- c. Combined Sisterhood and Men's Club dance
- d. Sports afternoon or evening – watching or attending a game together
- e. Gathering of men with common interests/experiences (fathers with young children, men at similar transition period at work, men with similar hobbies such as running, bicycling, woodwork, surfing, etc.)
- f. Fielding a team in the JCC softball league.
- g. Beer or scotch tasting night with invited specialist to explain.
- h. Programs can be held at the Synagogue, people's home, or

elsewhere

- i. Game night
- j. Determining which programs are for men only and which are open to all

So what happens next? Elsewhere in this Davar you will find Aaron's brief bio and an announcement of the first **Men's Club meeting – Sunday, January 18, 10:00am**. I encourage all of you who are interested, to attend this meeting. This will be an opportunity to begin formation of the leadership of the Men's Club (VP, Secretary, Treasurer, other officers) as well as initiate the process of determining how it will run (e.g. will there be dues, what are the first programs to be held, frequency of meetings, potential connection with FJMC International).

And BTW - for those of you not aware of this: besides becoming the Ohr Shalom Men's Club President, he also becomes a member of the Ohr Shalom (OS) Board. This will ensure that the Men's Club is aware of what the leadership of the Synagogue is planning, and will also ensure the Men's Club is heard by the OS leadership as needs and issues arise.

This column is written with deep appreciation and thanks to our long time Men's Club President Joe Hartman z"l who guided us for over 20 years with his strong and unwavering leadership.

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# OHR SHALOM'S SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Services are in person and on **Zoom**

Friday	December 5	6:15pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service "Ask Amos"
Saturday	December 6	9:30am	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday	December 12	6:15pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Choir
Saturday	December 13	9:30am	Shabbat Morning Service
Friday	December 19	6:15pm	Shabbat Kehillatit Service/Dinner
Saturday	December 20	9:30am	Shabbat Morning Service
		10:30am	Tot Shabbat with Jennifer Meltzer
Friday	December 26	6:15pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday	December 27	9:30am	Shabbat Morning Service

NO Shabbat Morning Babysitting Available



## Kabbalat Shabbat Service "Ask Amos"

Friday, December 5 at 6:15pm

5:00pm Wine and Cheese with  
Israeli Author Amos Davidowitz

Author, tour guide, kibbutznik and Saba to 5. In the last 25 months he has served in the IDF for 18 months in Gaza, 4 months in Lebanon, and 1 month as military international relations.

## Kabbalat Shabbat with the Ohr Shalom Choir



Friday, December 12, 6:15pm



## Shabbat Kehillatit

Friday, December 19

Family-Friendly Service: 6:15pm

Community Dinner: 7:15pm

RSVP by Friday, Dec. 12

to the office or click/scan QR



### Members\*

Adults: \$20

Children: \$12

(3-13 years old. Children under 2 FREE)

### Non-Members\*

Adults: \$30

Children: \$15



## FAMILY TOT SHABBAT

with  
Jennifer Meltzer



2025-2026 / 5785-5786



DECEMBER 20

JANUARY 10

FEBRUARY 14

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 20

AUGUST 8

10:30AM START  
KID-FRIENDLY SERVICE  
STORYTIME  
LUNCH PROVIDED



KIDS ARE WELCOME TO BRING  
THEIR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
(NON ELECTRIC)

## FAMILY TOT SHABBAT

Saturday,  
December 20, 10:30am

with  
Jennifer Meltzer





# GIFT BAGS FOR CHANUKAH

***This year give the gift of calming creativity!***

Our 5786 Chanukah Gift Bags will help your friends and family relax and get creative at the same time. This year's gift bag includes a Diamond Art Coaster Kit, Jewish Star Mandala coloring book with pencils, Stress Ball, Travel Chanukiah and candles, and Artisan Bowl all enclosed in a reusable, recycled gift bag, hand crafted by women in Mexico.

**Gift Bags \$36**

*Email or call the office to buy your Crafty, Creative & Calming Chanukah Gift Bag. Delivery in San Diego only. Send these to all your friends as a unique gift that also supports Ohr Shalom.*

# CHANUKAH PAJAMAKA PARTY!

**Sunday, December 21 at 5:30 PM**

**Come in your most festive Chanukah Pajamas (or comfy Chanukah clothes) to celebrate the last night of Chanukah at Ohr Shalom!**

**We will light candles, sing songs, eat latkes and soufganiyot and have some fun project for both kids and adults. And of course our Chanukah Pinata!**

**This year's party will also be a make-a-mitzvah party! We will make no-sew blankets, cards, care bags and more for JFS.**

***Please RSVP, we don't want to run out of latkes!***

- 5:30pm - Singing with Zeji
- 6:05pm - Chanukiah Lighting
- 6:15pm - Minyan - Kid-friendly dinner & dreidel games, Make-a-Mitzvah Projects and kids art projects
- 6:45 pm - Dinner & projects continued for those who attended Minyan



## CHANUKAH PAJAMAKA PARTY

# DECEMBER END OF YEAR DONATION MONTH



## CHANUKAH COMMUNITY CANDLELIGHTING ON ZOOM

**at 6:05pm during the Minyan Minute**

**December 14 thru December 22**



# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS RUN

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025**

Join us for the Festival of Lights Run! Join the 1-mile fun run/walk, USATF sanctioned 5K or 10K and celebrate the season with movement, music, and community. Open to all ages and fitness levels - run, walk, or groove your way to the finish line!

**1-Mile Fun Run/Walk  
Beginning at 8:30 am**

**Sanctioned 5K & 10K  
Beginning at 9:00 am**



Lawrence Family  
Jewish Community Center  
JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

**LFJCC.ORG/HH**

4126 Executive Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037 • Lawrence Family JCC





## MEN'S CLUB

**Aaron Lipner**  
Men's Club President

Shalom! My name is Aaron Lipner, and I am honored to be picking up the torch from Joe as President of the **Ohr Shalom Men's Club**.

My connection to Men's Club began long before I joined Ohr Shalom. I was first introduced to the idea of a Men's Club by my late dad, who was a board member at Temple Beth Emet in Anaheim, the synagogue where I grew up. Watching him volunteer, build friendships, and serve our congregation taught me that great communities do not happen on their own. They grow when people step up, contribute, and show up for one another.

After attending UCSD, I made San Diego my home. I married into Ohr Shalom about 20 years ago, joining my wife Masha and her family, who were already members. We have three kids who keep us busy and connected.

Helping make hamantaschen for Purim has become one of my new traditions. Passover and Chanukah are my favorite

holidays because we gather in Orange County to celebrate with my mom and my sister's family.

I enjoy building and fixing things, playing cards, backgammon, and hitting golf balls at the range. When I get a minute, I like to watch sports.

Looking ahead, I want the Men's Club to be a place for all adult men for fun, learning, friendship, and helping others. We can hold social events, hear speakers, volunteer, play sports, and team up with Sisterhood. Nothing is off limits if it helps us strengthen our relationships, support our Synagogue, and make a positive impact.

With your participation, ideas, and leadership, we can make this a special group. My goal is simple. Build a strong, welcoming community that reflects who we are and who we want to be. I look forward to meeting more of you and working together to build the future of the Men's Club. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Another Private Ohr Shalom tour of



### **Eduardo Chillida: Convergence** Sunday, January 18, 3:30-5:00pm

Based on requests from congregants who couldn't attend in October, Marvin is conducting another San Diego Museum of Art private Ohr Shalom tour of "**Eduardo Chillida: Convergence**."

Featured with over 100 works including the full range of the highly celebrated artist's practice, including early forged iron sculptures, massive structures made from oak, glowing sculptures cut from alabaster, solid clay forms, and works on paper. A highlight of the exhibition is an immersive virtual reality experience of *Comb of the Wind XV, 1977*, his site-specific installation at La Concha Bay, San Sebastián, Spain. Chillida's body of work is closely linked to the landscape and traditions of his Basque Country homeland in northern Spain. This is the most comprehensive survey of his work in North America in nearly half a century.



**Please RSVP** to Marvin Yudkovitz ([president@ohrshalom.org](mailto:president@ohrshalom.org)) with number of attendees. I may have some museum passes available if anyone needs them. (Note – the exhibition will run until Feb 8, so this will be my final tour of this amazing exhibition.)

## MEN'S CLUB MEETING

*the first meeting will be*

**Sunday, January 18, 10:00am**  
at Ohr Shalom

**All Ohr Shalom men are welcome to attend.**  
**Hope to see you there!**

## MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

*the next meeting will be*

**Thursday, December 18, 7:00pm**

Pure Project  
2865 5th Ave. 

**Topic: "What Does it Mean to Be a Conservative Jew?"**

For more information contact:  
Robert McNeese ([robertmcneese50@gmail.com](mailto:robertmcneese50@gmail.com))  
Robert Houston ([bayfruitandherb@gmail.com](mailto:bayfruitandherb@gmail.com))



## SISTERHOOD

**Eti Chall**  
Sisterhood President



### Sufganiyot: The Sweet Story of Chanukah's Beloved Pastry

What would Chanukah be without jelly doughnuts? Called *sufganiyot* in Hebrew, these confections are fried in oil to commemorate the miracle of the Second Temple, when a small cruse of oil lasted eight days. The word *sufganiya* comes from the Hebrew *sfog*, meaning "sponge," referring to how the dough absorbs oil during frying.

#### Early Origins:

The earliest known mention of a fried Chanukah pastry appears in the 12th-century writings of Rabbi Maimon ben Yosef, father of Maimonides. He wrote:

"One must not make light of the custom of eating *sofganim* on Chanukah. It is a custom of the Kadmonim (the ancients)."

These early fritters were likely sweet, syrup-soaked pancakes rather than the filled doughnuts we know today.

By 1485, *Kuchenmeistere*i—one of the first printed cookbooks in Europe—featured a recipe for *gefüllte krapfen* (filled doughnuts) made with jam and fried in lard. Jewish cooks quickly adapted the recipe, substituting goose or chicken fat to make it kosher. The pastry became known as *ponchik* in Poland and later evolved into the jelly-filled *sufganiya*.

In the early 20th century, Jewish immigrants brought these pastries to pre-state Israel. The Histadrut, Israel's national labor federation, encouraged bakeries to make sufganiyot during Chanukah to create jobs for Jewish workers. Fast forward to today: Israelis eat nearly 20 million sufganiyot each Chanukah. Even the Israel Defense Forces order more than 50,000 a day for soldiers.

While the classic filling remains strawberry or raspberry jam, modern bakeries offer flavors like caramel, pistachio, halva, cappuccino, and even whiskey cream. "Mini" versions now provide a smaller, more manageable indulgence.

My childhood friends of Mizrahi origins had yummy Chanukah versions of fried dough pastries. My Tunisian friend's mother used to make *sfinge*—airy, unsweetened rings of yeast dough, deep-fried until crisp and dipped in honey syrup or sprinkled with sugar. It was usually served with fresh Nana (mint) tea.

Other communities prepare bimuelos (or bunuelos), small fried dough balls steeped in sugar syrup and flavored with citrus, rose, or orange-blossom water. Egyptian Jews call them zalabia; Iraqi Jews enjoy zengoula, spiral fritters soaked in syrup.

Each variation honors the same essence of celebrating an abundance of oil and the miracle of Chanukah.

I am looking forward to prepping dough for your *Sufganiyot* on **Sunday, December 7**. We will prepare the dough, which can be stored in your freezer until you are ready to fry them on Chanukah!



## CHESED

**Aviva Rosenberg**  
Chesed Committee Chair

### Spreading the Light: A Chanukah Message from the Chesed Committee

As we gather to celebrate Chanukah—the Festival of Lights—we are reminded that even a small flame can dispel great darkness. This season, the Chesed Committee invites our community to share that light through acts of kindness and generosity.



Just as the Maccabees rededicated the Temple, we can rededicate ourselves to caring for one another. Whether it's checking in on a neighbor, delivering a meal, contributing to our Chanukah Giving Drive, or offering a warm smile at services, each gesture keeps the light of *chesed* burning brightly in our congregation.

A heartfelt thank you to those who have recently signed up to be part of the Chesed Committee, your willingness to help makes a real difference. If you're interested in joining our efforts or learning more, please reach out to me—we'd love to have you involved!

May this Chanukah bring light to every home, warmth to every heart, and renewed strength to our community.

**Sisterhood**  
Ohr Shalom Synagogue

**Prepping Dough for your Sufganiyot**

**Sunday, December 7, 9:30am**

We will prepare the dough, which can be stored in your freezer until you are ready to fry them on Chanukah! **RSVP Required, \$18**



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Gillian Argoff-Treseder**  
Executive Director

## L'Dor V'Dor : From Generation to Generation

Since my father's passing in 2023, I've filled these pages with bits and pieces of Yiddish wisdom from him. I've told stories of his side of the family, my mother's side of the family and our whole mishpucha. His love and dedication to Judaism is reflected in how my mother and I continue to be involved in this shul and the Jewish community at large. His moral compass was beyond measure and he quietly guided others along this moral and ethical path. The stories I've put in the Davar have become a mini anthology of my family's history and legacy. A true expression of l'dor v'dor maintaining our Jewish history and traditions from generation to generation.

So, why am I telling you all of this? Because, Ohr Shalom has been working on its own legacy. We have been working with the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) for many years to create an Ohr Shalom Legacy Society that will continue to fund Ohr Shalom for many years to come. JCF has been a wonderful partner helping to provide infrastructure and a path to helping us secure a strong future.

The combination of losing my father in the past few years and working on this initiative has encouraged me to make and review my estate plans. This is not a sad topic about death but an inspiring topic about my children's future and the future of Ohr Shalom (and probably the Humane Society). By naming Ohr Shalom and other charities as beneficiaries of certain accounts or stocks, I not only provide a future for those organizations but hopefully alleviate stress for my children.

The more I work with JCF on our Legacy Society and my own personal plans, the more I realize how easy it is to make simple arrangements to help secure a lively Jewish community at Ohr Shalom. We are about to celebrate 100 years of Jewish continuity at Third and Laurel, and I hope my legacy will be part of

making sure we are able to celebrate 100 more!

For those who have already joined the Ohr Shalom Legacy Society by submitting a declaration of intent to me or JCF, we are having a special **Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner on Friday, January 9** to show our appreciation for your dedication to the future of Ohr Shalom. If you would like to become part of the Ohr Shalom Legacy Society, email or call me anytime.

### SUNSET OCTOBER 7 2025

At the beach, on a trail, walking  
Away from the Sun.

No clouds. Just in my mind.  
Two years now since the Nova Music Festival.

Two years of listening. I hear you. Opinions.  
Propaganda. Lies. I hear you.

I walk. I breathe. I listen. I hear the Seabirds.  
The Sun, setting fast, elongates my shadow.

My shadow is about One Hundred feet long now.  
I still recognize myself. My gestures. Scrappy,

They call it. I imagine myself as a Golem.  
A One Hundred foot tall Golem. The avenger of Jews.

All happy and jolly. To stop the hate.  
Stop the lies. I hear you.

Jim Lewis  
7/25/2025





Allyson Darroch  
Davar Editor

## When Compostable Isn't

Sophie Slivowitz is a real Balabusta. From the herb garden in the window box to the shine on the floor BEHIND the refrigerator if you look up balabusta in the Joys of Yiddish it would not come as a surprise if her picture were next to the definition. However, things have become more complicated since the Great Trash Revolution. It started small, just small bins in public places for bottles or cans and one for Everything Else. But the revolution grew along with the realization that the planet was not an infinite provider of raw materials nor of places to put the garbage those materials became. Now, next to the garage there are large bins; green ones, blue ones, black ones, and a little one supposed to sit on an otherwise spotless counter? Hummph. But the Slivowitzs have adapted. The kids and even Mr. S are very eco conscious and the pantry is overrun with bags and plates all marked "compostable."



Except that much of it is not. Aluminum foil, paper bags (such nice heavy paper) are all recognizable and disposable with minimum guilt, (except for the trees maybe?). But what about the rest of this stuff? On the compostable sandwich bags there are warnings that this bag is NOT compostable except in an Industrial Composting Facility. Something even Amazon doesn't have as a kitchen appliance and neither, as it turns out, does San Diego.

So, what are the rules? How to comply? Here is the 411 as

Tamar would say:

❑ **Bagasse (sugarcane):** Often composts in 60 to 90 days in an industrial or home compost pile, especially if broken into smaller pieces. Some are certified compostable and can be composted without pre-treatment.

❑ **Bamboo:** Compostable, but may take longer (4 to 6 months) to break down in a backyard system. Cutting it into smaller pieces speeds up the process.

❑ **Palm leaves:** Typically compostable, though some may not be certified. Backyard composting is an option, and some brands say their palm leaf plates can go in the regular trash if home composting isn't available.

❑ **Corn (PLA):** Some products made from corn starch (PLA) are certified compostable, but they usually require the high temperatures of an industrial composter to break down. These may not break down quickly in a backyard pile.

❑ **Other plant fibers:** Other plant-based materials like cardboard can often be composted.

Bottom line: Use good old brown paper bags, cardboard boxes, and newspaper. Better still, if they are made from recycled paper or bamboo, you are on top of it. Sophie breathed a sigh of relief. Paper bags? This she understood and her Bubbe, as it turns out, would have been a real eco mavin.

<https://organicwasterecyclesd.org/>

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Disposable Cups

#### ACROSS

- 3. A substance that is an environmental problem
- 5. A layer covering the inner surface of something
- 7. A protected natural area
- 8. Of great or serious importance
- 9. Able to be broken down by bacteria

#### DOWN

- 1. What disposable item is Ireland making?
- 2. Trash people leave in public spaces
- 3. A 100% biodegradable material
- 4. Made to be thrown away
- 6. A country making disposable cups

Answers on page 10



2026 Building  
Centennial Celebration and Annual Gala



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **May 3, 2026**

To mark the 100th birthday of our beautiful Synagogue building, on Sunday, May 3, starting at 4:30pm, Ohr Shalom will hold a Centennial Celebration that will include:

- A Rededication Ceremony in the Sanctuary, building upon the rites observed by Congregation Beth Israel at the building's formal opening on May 14, 1926. There will be music and remarks from invited dignitaries, clergy, and historians.
- A complimentary Cocktail Party for honored guests and other attendees.
- Ohr Shalom's Annual Dinner and Gala (aka "Lights"). Look for upcoming issues of the *Davar*, and Ohr Shalom's electronic news, for information about food, entertainment, and tickets.

**Mark your calendar now.**

**Make yourself part of that  
momentous and spectacular day!**



# CALENDAR STORIES 2025-26

**Lynn Mendelsohn**  
Imm. Past President/Special Projects

For the December Davar, we continue to savor the stories and other add-ons submitted by Ohr Shalom members to accompany the recipes in our current 5786 wall calendar. As one would expect, the December calendar page is all about Chanukah – “Jammin” for the holiday. The single source of the recipes for Strawberry Peach Jam, Pear Jelly and Apple Butter is the **Zubiller family: Love, Matt, India, and Texas**. When she submitted the recipes, Love commented:

*Anybody can make jam! It's not as hard as it sounds. My parents have been making jams and jellies for fifty years and entering them in the San Diego County Fair. They have a giant box of ribbons, many of which are First-Place and "Best-in-Show." Making jam and jelly with my parents is one of my fondest childhood memories. My dad cultivated a gorgeous garden with exotic fruit. It wasn't uncommon for us to make etrog marmalade, jalapeno peach jelly, or blackberry jam from the fruits we picked ourselves. The tradition has been passed down to my kids, who are now First-Place winners at the Fair in their own right.*



One of the recipes highlighted in the calendar for September 2025 is Toni Goldstein's Zucchini Bread, a recipe submitted by her daughter **Jennifer Meltzer**. Calling the bread “amazing,” Jennifer wrote: “We used to love it toasted with cream cheese on top. Now my children get really excited when she makes us a loaf to enjoy. It never lasts long.”

The October page is the home of Josephine Jelinek's Four Apple Strudels, contributed by **Melody Lewis**. We truly can call this “an old family recipe.” It is a Czech version of a strudel that was passed to Melody by her mother, **Margaret Jelinek Lewis**, from her own grandmother Josephine. Melody says that the key to success with the strudels is mastery of

the art of stretching the yeast-less dough. In her “Notes on Technique” that accompanied the recipe, Melody advised:

*Use a cotton tablecloth with a smooth surface. It should hold the position of the dough as you are stretching it and help it release easily when rolling it up. Begin by rolling the dough out until it is a rough rectangle, then gently pick it up and draw it out with your fingers, working your way evenly around the dough until either it is translucent, or (if it's your first few times) it starts to tear. Keep in mind that there is no way to repair rips in a dough this delicate. Don't push it. Work smoothly and quickly; the dough will get harder to handle and tear more easily as it cools. If you need, you can bunch up a “handle” of the dough (think pizza crust) at the edge to make it easier to pull, but keep in mind that this will result in a less delicate crust.*



*The technique for rolling it up is much the same as rolling sushi with those little bamboo mats. Use the cloth to roll it over and tuck it in, peeling the cloth away from the dough as you roll. Use a little water or butter brushed on the edge to seal it before transferring it to the pan.*

“Finally,” wrote Melody, “Josephine wasn't joking about beating it with a rolling pin during the kneading step. Give the dough ball a few hearty whacks. It helps develop the gluten. Really.”

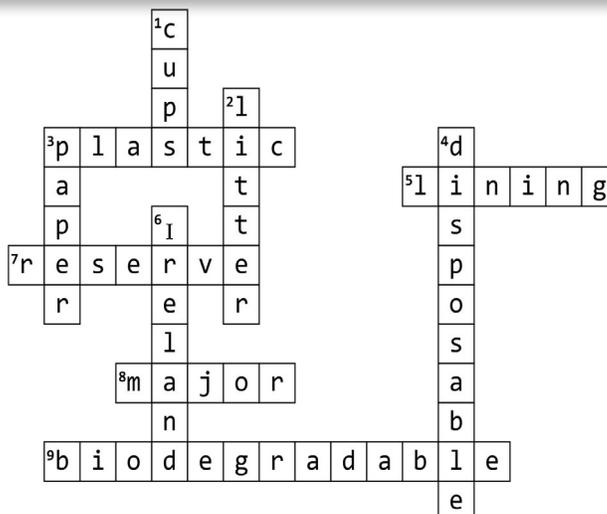
## OHR SHALOM'S INREACH PROGRAM

Get more involved with Ohr Shalom's activities and programs.

**Scan or click** QR code to let us know how to connect you with the programs that interest you.



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS





## MEMBERSHIP

**Alex van Frank**  
Membership Chair



### Shall We Dance? Bring Your Timbrel: An Invitation to Israeli Dancing

From the very beginning, dance has been part of the Jewish story. Our movement as a people began not in silence, but in rhythm and song. When we crossed through the Red Sea to freedom, Moses led the men in song, and then Miriam, filled with joy and faith, took up her timbrel and led the women in dance. It is a striking image: the first moments of liberation expressed not through speeches or proclamations, but through music, movement, and community celebration.

We all know that the Torah tells us that the Israelites left Egypt in haste, so quickly that their bread had no time to rise. Yet somehow, amid the chaos of escape, the women still brought their timbrels. That small detail has captured the imagination of generations. The third-century Rabbi Yishmael once asked, "Where did the women get their timbrels and dance flutes in the desert?" His answer was as beautiful as it was profound: "The women of that generation were confident that miracles would come,

that better times would come, so they brought timbrels out of Egypt."

They did not wait for joy to arrive before preparing to celebrate. They carried faith in their hands. They trusted that after hardship would come music, and after sorrow would come dancing.

That same spirit is alive in Israeli dance. It is a modern expression of our ancient impulse to move, connect, and celebrate life together. Israeli dance draws from the many cultures that make up the Jewish people: the folk steps of Eastern and Southern Europe, the rhythms of the Middle East, and the creativity of contemporary Israel. It is joyful, expressive, and welcoming to all ages and abilities. You do not need to know the steps or consider yourself a dancer to participate. You only need the willingness to show up, move, and share in the energy of community.

In January, we invite you to join us for an afternoon of Israeli dancing in the social hall. Whether you come

alone or bring a friend, you will find a space filled with laughter, learning, and the simple joy of moving together. Our instructors, Marcia and David Wollner, will guide us through dances that are both accessible and fun, offering gentle instruction and a warm atmosphere.

Come experience the same confidence that moved our ancestors to pack their timbrels before leaving Egypt and the faith that joy is always on its way. Israeli dancing is more than exercise or recreation; it is a celebration of resilience, a way to embody our history, and an invitation to live with hope and unity.

Join us as we step, join hands, and celebrate together. Let us honor the legacy of Miriam and the women who believed in miracles.

**When:** Sunday, January 25, 2026  
**Where:** Social Hall, Ohr Shalom  
**What to Bring:** Comfortable shoes, curiosity, and an open heart

Let's dance our way into better days, just as our ancestors once did.

**NEW MEMBER'S LUNCH**

**Sunday, December 7, 12:30pm**

**Fun for the entire family!**

Join us for an evening of

**Israeli Dancing**

**Sunday Jan 25, 2026**  
**4:00pm-5:30pm**

Don't worry if you don't know how to dance. Some instruction will be provided!

*Light refreshments will be served.*

RSVP to the office.



## RABBINIC INTERN

**Brianah Caplan**  
Rabbinic Intern

### Not Your Perfect Chanukah

Every year when Chanukah rolls around, I imagine myself lighting the menorah with serene, Instagram-worthy calm—soft music playing, the room glowing, everyone contemplating the deep mysteries of light. And every year, without fail, something goes wrong.

Last year, for example, I discovered that the box of candles I confidently bought in advance (look at me, a pillar of preparedness!) did not actually fit into my menorah. I tried shaving them down. I tried melting the bottoms. I briefly considered duct tape. In the process, I managed to light exactly one candle and simultaneously set off my smoke alarm.

There’s nothing quite like reciting the *shehecheyanu* while flapping a dish towel under a blaring detector. Very spiritual. Highly recommended.

But honestly, every year it hits me: *this is the whole point*. Chanukah was never meant to be perfect. It’s a holiday built around the idea that things are basically a mess—and you do your best anyway.

We often talk about the miracle of the oil lasting eight days, but sometimes the real miracle is that someone bothered to light that menorah in the middle of chaos. The Temple was wrecked. People were exhausted. Resources were low. Hope was... not exactly overflowing. And still someone said, “Okay, let’s try this. Let’s just get one tiny candle going.”

That’s the energy I’m bringing into this Chanukah—partly because it’s spiritually meaningful, and partly because judging by my track record, expecting perfection is just not realistic.

And I think many of us need that reminder. When December hits, the world goes all-in on polished images: glittery decor, coordinated family photos, impossible standards of tidiness and cheer. Meanwhile, most of us are doing the holidays in real life: mismatched candles, half-wrapped gifts, emails we meant to answer two weeks ago, a to-do list that keeps regenerating like a rogue video game boss.

But Judaism doesn’t ask us to have everything together before we bring in the light. It asks us to light first—and let the glow grow night by night.

The Chanukah candles don’t get smaller as they burn down. They get brighter as we add more of them. It’s permission to build slowly, to let meaning accumulate, to believe that small things matter.

A phone call to someone you’ve been thinking about.

A donation that’s not huge but heartfelt.

A moment of rest you actually allow yourself.

A messy, crooked candle standing bravely in its place.

These are real miracles—everyday ones. The kind that don’t get posted online but do, in fact, illuminate the world.

So, this year, may your Chanukah be beautifully imperfect. May your candles stand mostly upright. May your smoke alarm stay quiet (or at least cooperate quickly). And may you feel, in whatever small ways you can, that hope is something we build not in grand gestures, but in tiny flames that somehow—miraculously—keep burning longer than we expect.

Wishing you a warm, light-filled, and delightfully human Chanukah.

## COMMUNITY EVENT

### JEWISH POETS-JEWISH VOICES: THE MAGIC OF SPOKEN WORD

with the Ohr Shalom Choir  
Lawrence Family JCC

**Tuesday, January 13, 7:00pm**  
**JEWISH POETS OF THE PAST**

Celebrate the 18th season of  
**Jewish Poets-Jewish Voices!**

**Featuring** Jewish Poets of the Past: Itshe Slutsky, Russian-Yiddish Poet; Naomi Shemer, Israeli poet/songwriter.

Ohr Shalom Choir, director, Elisheva Edelson. Readers, TBA.  
*Selections curated by Janice Alper and Guri Stark.*

*Readings in Yiddish and Hebrew and translation to English*

*Reception to follow*

**Price: Complimentary**



### Donations Needed



COMMUNITY-WIDE ESSENTIAL GOODS DRIVE

ITEMS NEEDED IN **NEW!** CONDITION

**Cleaning Supplies**  
**Full-Sized Toiletries**



- laundry detergent
- dish soap
- dishwasher pods
- all-purpose cleaner
- Clorox
- toilet cleaner
- sponges
- trash bags
- body wash
- hair conditioner
- double-ply toilet paper
- tissues
- paper towels

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



**Davin Widgerow**  
Social Action Chair



# Be the Light of Chanukah: Eight Ways to Make a Difference

During Chanukah, our Festival of Lights, I often think about a mystery pondered by our sages. The sages note that God created “light” and “darkness” on the first day of Creation, but that the physical sources of light—the Sun, the Moon, and the stars—were only created later, on the fourth day. If the physical sources of light were created only on the fourth day, what “light” did God create on the first day?

The sages explain that the light created on the first day was a primordial spiritual light, an “*Ohr HaGanuz*,” or the “Hidden Light” that is revealed through acts of mitzvot and righteous deeds. Indeed, before anything else could be created, God enmeshed the Universe with a hidden bedrock of righteousness, the *Ohr HaGanuz*. Kindness, justice, charity, repentance, and prayer are all avenues to reveal the *Ohr HaGanuz* in our world and time. I like to think we can glimpse the *Ohr HaGanuz* when we kindle the Shabbat and Chanukah lights.

Eight days of candle-lighting can result in a lot of access to *Ohr HaGanuz*! To facilitate the flow of righteous light from the spiritual world into our physical world, here are **eight actions** you can take through Ohr Shalom—one for every

Chanukah candle—to create kindness and righteousness in the world:

**1. Prepare for and attend an Ohr Shalom/JFS Safe Parking Dinner.**

Feed hungry neighbors and discover a deep well of inner compassion!

**2. Attend a beach cleanup event at Tel Ohr Shalom.** Clean the Earth and connect with your *kehillah*!

**3. Be mindful about waste at Shul and Kiddush.** Compost food scraps, recycle paper items, take home leftovers, and commit to reusable cutlery and drinkware!

**4. Donate clothing and toys.** The holidays and the winter season are an excellent time to provide toys for needy children and clothing for cold families!

**5. Participate in weekday Minyan.** The weekday minyan always needs extra folks for a short coda to the workday, and your presence is a mitzvah for those observing *yahrzeit*! Help to continue our ancient **traditions**!

**6. Learn to lead services or chant Torah.** The synagogue is always looking for extra help leading Shabbat services and to read from the Torah or the Haftorah. What a great way to

rediscover our sacred texts and refresh your Hebrew!

**7. Consider adopting a pet.** The San Diego Humane Society is always begging people to adopt from its overwhelmed shelters, especially older pets who just want a calm and quiet place to rest. Fostering options and pet medical needs and insurance can be discussed with the Humane Society. Help out our fellow creatures who inhabit this beautiful, but difficult, planet!

**8. Be kind to one another.** The physical world is full of nastiness and sadness. Bring light into the world by smiling often, offering to help, giving a kind word, going the extra mile, and treating everyone with dignity and respect—after all, we are all created *b’tzelem Hashem*, in the image of God. And Rabbi Akiva famously taught that the most important mitzvah in all of Torah is *ahavta l’rei’acha ka’mocha*, love your neighbor as you would yourself!

Hopefully this list is a helpful start to begin drawing the *Ohr HaGanuz* into the physical world—with all of us acting together, we can transform the hidden light, the *Ohr HaGanuz*, into the *Ohr HaMitgalah*, the revealed light! *Chag Chanukah Sameach!*

## JFS Toy Drive

### Suggested Toys

- Art supplies
- Coloring books
- Paint-by-number
- Board and card games
- Books
- Building blocks
- Gear sets
- Legos
- Magnetic tiles
- Tinkertoy
- Craft kits
- STEM kits
- Infant/baby toys
- Kinetic sand
- Modeling clay
- Play doh
- Puzzles

**Please ensure all donated toys are:**

- New and in original packaging
- Unwrapped
- Age appropriate for infants through sixth grade
- If your donated toy(s) require batteries, please include

**Please note:** We are not able to accept bicycles at this time.



**Questions?** Contact us at [volunteer@jfsd.org](mailto:volunteer@jfsd.org) or (858) 637-3050

**Ohr Shalom is supporting the JFS Toy Drive. Donation bins in the lobby.**



## ADULT EDUCATION

**Evette Weiss**  
Adult Education

### UPCOMING EVENT:

#### HOW TO HELP YOUR LOVED ONES WHO ARE HOSPITALIZED

**Sunday, December 14, 10:00am**

Dr. Julia Gleichman-Miller will be speaking to us about techniques we can use when visiting patients to help them deal with issues such as confusion and agitation while hospitalized. This is not to be missed.



### The Jews of Mexico 2-Part Lecture Series with Elisheva Edelson

**Thursdays, December 4 & 11, 7:00pm**  
[ZOOM ROOM](#) (Passcode: myshul)

- The Mexican Jews or the Jews of Mexico?
- Jewish presence or community?
- Interesting phenomenon: a community of communities!
- A unique model of Jewish Education
- Why did Jews come to America and what kind of society did they find?
- Why did Jews come to Mexico? Not only because America closed the quota for Immigration in 1924. What kind of society did they find?



*Elisheva is the Director of the Ohr Shalom Choir.*

## CLASSES

### [Ohr Shalom Zoom Room](#)

#### **Daf Yomi**

**Wednesdays, 9:30am** This weekly class discusses the pages of Talmud most recently covered.

#### **Psalms**

Will resume on Wednesdays in January 2026

#### **Slow Read Book Club/Readings with the Rabbi**

Will resume in January 2026

### עברית דרך המקורות עם המורה רותי לוי DEEPENING OUR MASTERY OF HEBREW LANGUAGE AND TEXTS

Lomdim BeYachad  
Currently thru March 2026  
\$250

”לומדים ביחד”: קבוצה שלומדת באנגלית על ואת השפה העברית  
בעזרת מקורות: תנ”ך, סידור, משנה ועוד  
מעוניינים להצטרף?

Interested? If you can check at least four items, talk with Ruti  
[ruth77@gmail.com](mailto:ruth77@gmail.com) or call 619-647-6096 about joining the class

- I want to be part of a group that works in Hebrew and English flexing and stretching “mental muscles” every time we meet
- I understand the Hebrew text in Etz Hayim
- I can read Siddur Hebrew and make sense of it
- I understand Hebrew conversation
- I can carry on a conversation in Hebrew
- I am curious about the layers of Hebrew
- I know what שרש means
- I know about the seven בניינים in Hebrew
- I want to understand Hebrew grammar
- I know the number, the names, and the order of the books in TaNaKh
- I want to better understand TaNaKh

נפגשים פעם בשבוע בבית הכנסת

ביום ראשון בבוקר

או ביום שני אחרי המניין

The class meets once a week at Ohr Shalom Synagogue on  
Sunday morning or Monday after minyan

## OHR SHALOM WELLNESS

### Meditation

with Alex van Frank

**Tuesday Evenings, 7:00-7:30pm**

Alex van Frank, C-IAYT, is holding a post-minyan meditation group.



- Lower blood pressure • Less anxiety
- Lower stress levels • Deeper relaxation
- More feelings of well-being



Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82805583843>  
Meeting ID: 828 0558 3843



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Maggy Dujowich**  
Religious School Principal



### The Glowing Lights of Chanukah

As we enter December, our hearts turn toward the glowing lights of **Chanukah**—a time to celebrate miracles, resilience, and the power of bringing light into darkness. Each candle reminds us that even a small flame can brighten an entire room—just like each of our students brings light and joy to our community.



I hope this Festival of Lights fills your homes with warmth, laughter, and latkes that are *crispy on the outside and somehow still soft in the middle* (the true Chanukah miracle, if you ask me!). And remember—calories don't count when they come from oil blessed by eight nights of celebration!

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Chanukah and a safe, relaxing winter break. May the season be full of light, connection, and gratitude for all the blessings we share.

Don't forget to follow our **Instagram page @ohrshalom** to see all the fun moments and shining smiles from our students this month!

With light and gratitude,  
**Maggy Dujowich**



## YOUTH GROUPS

**Michelle Gurr-Barbour**  
USY Youth Director



### Building Community Together

As we continue strengthening our youth and family programming, we're thrilled to announce a brand-new initiative designed to bring parent voices more directly into our planning and visioning. This winter, we are launching our Parent Committee, a space for collaboration, creativity, and community partnership. Our goal is simple: to make sure our programs truly reflect the needs, interests, and hopes of our families—and to have fun while doing it!

We warmly invite all parents to join us for the first **Parent Committee meeting on Sunday, January 11 at 4:00pm**. This meeting will introduce our goals, gather ideas, and begin forming a team of parent partners who will help shape the future of our youth engagement. Whether you can volunteer regularly or simply want to contribute your insight, your presence is valuable. Every parent's voice adds depth and strength to our community.

Alongside this exciting new committee, we're also delighted to share several upcoming events that will keep our youth (and their grown-ups!) connected throughout the rest of the year.

First up, mark your calendars for a cozy and joy-filled **Movie Night on Saturday, February 7**. One of our synagogue families has generously offered to host this fun evening, which will include a Parents' Night Out option. Kids enjoy a movie together in a warm, welcoming home—and parents get a well-deserved evening to recharge. Details on movie selection and logistics will be shared soon.

In March, our 3rd-12th graders will head into the woods—well, almost! We're taking a group trip to see a live performance of **Into the Woods**, put on by **J Company at the JCC, on Sunday, March 15 at 2:00pm**. This beloved musical brings fairytale characters to life in a story filled with humor, heart, and meaning. It's a perfect shared cultural experience for our students, and we can't wait to enjoy the show together.

We'll wrap up the season with a colorful and delicious celebration: **Tie-Dye & Toppings on Sunday, April 19**. Participants will create their own vibrant tie-dye and then enjoy a sweet sundae and toppings bar. It's hands-on, festive, and a wonderful way to welcome spring.



**YETI OR NOT**  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Join our blood drive! Donate, save lives, and receive an exclusive "Yeti" T-Shirt!

**Ohr Shalom Synagogue**  
Sunday, December 7, 9:00am to 2:30pm  
Mobile parked in front



**SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**  
Visit [sandiegobloodbank.org/donate](http://sandiegobloodbank.org/donate), call (619) 400-8251 or scan the QR code.

**WALK-INS WELCOME**  
Photo ID required. Arrive hydrated.



\*Available while sizes and supplies last. Not transferable or redeemable for cash. To donate blood, you must be 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in general good health.



**Program for 4-year-olds at Ohr Shalom**  
**Monthly until April 2026**  
with Jennifer Meltzer



**Sundays**  
**9:30-10:30am:**  
January 25 @ Coastal Roots Farm  
March 15  
April 19

Sessions will include: music, movement, holiday preparation, art, stories, t'fillah and LOTS OF FUN!

This program is geared for the children, it is not a parent participatory program, although parental attendance is optional (**children must be potty-trained**)

**Cost:**  
**\$35:**  
Individual session

Contact office or use QR code to register



Susie Meltzer  
Israel Desk

## A Miracle from Israel: Replenishing Water into the Kinneret

For the first time anywhere in the world, desalinated seawater is being pumped into a natural freshwater lake. Israel's new "Reverse Carrier" project was designed to refill the Sea of Galilee (Kinneret). Instead of taking the water from north to south, the treated water travels from the Mediterranean, reversing the flow north back to the Sea of Galilee. Built in the 1960s, the National Water Carrier once delivered water from the Galilee southward to sustain the Negev through decades of scarcity. Now, a similar network is running in reverse, pushing surplus desalinated water north towards the lake. It represents a striking shift: from a system built to draw from the lake to one built to sustain it.

For decades, the Kinneret served as the only source of water for many Israeli households. It has been a vital source of drinking water and even today it remains a strategic national water reserve. But repeated droughts and overuse left the shoreline retreating and the public alarmed.

Israel's transformation from scarcity to surplus began in 2005 with large-scale desalination along the Mediterranean coast. The new plants freed the country from dependence on rainfall and made it effectively water secure. Israel is now a completely different place in terms of water security compared to 20 years ago.

Their desalination system created a new reality where Israel went from conserving water to what to do with the water surplus. Recent years of drought in the Kinneret's water level pushed experts to propose reversing the National Water Carrier and channeling desalinated water north toward the Kinneret. Construction began in 2018, and the project inaugurated in 2022. It has now reached full-scale operation.

The Reverse Carrier project was conceived with a long-term perspective and driven by deeper strategic, ecological and cultural considerations. Future decline in rainfall across the Middle East is anticipated and it is essential Israel maintains a high-water level in the Kinneret. The goal is to maintain the lake's ecological balance and preserve it as a strategic national resource. Future extensions of the system are already being planned to expand the water supply to the northern region.

Behind the policy headlines and political symbolism, the Reverse Carrier project is a major feat of engineering, an infrastructure system unlike any in the region. At the heart of the system lies a newly built chain of underground pipelines, pumping stations and local reservoirs designed to allow water to flow back into the Kinneret at the push of

a button. Thousands of people and years of work went into putting it together.

Israel's leadership in water technologies has become a central element of its regional diplomacy. For example, in 2021, Israel and Jordan signed a water-for-energy deal where Jordan will build a large solar power plant to export electricity to Israel, while an Israeli desalination facility will supply freshwater to Jordan. Israel currently provides water to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority and to the Gaza Strip.

Today, water not oil produced this miracle.



A view of the Sea of Galilee from the southern Golan Heights



Desalinated water flows into Israel's "reverse" water carrier



# JDAIM February 2026

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

Community Partner Congregation Beth Am



Congregation  
**Beth Am**  
בית עם

## Featured Book and Speaker

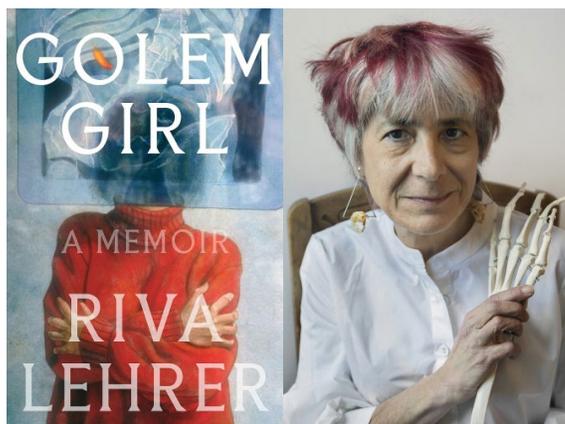
**Sunday, February 15, 11:00am**

# Riva Lehrer

**In conversation with Rabbi Scott Meltzer**

Riva Lehrer is an artist, writer, and curator who focuses on the socially challenged body. She is best known for representations of people whose physical embodiment, sexuality, or gender identity have long been stigmatized. Her work has been seen in venues including the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian, Yale University, the United Nations, the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC. Recently, her work was shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

**Her memoir, *Golem Girl*, won the 2020 Barbellion Prize for Literature and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.**



Ms. Lehrer is on faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is an instructor in the Medical Humanities Departments of Northwestern University.

*Evette and Nathan Weiss Keynote Speaker Underwriters*



Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>Saturday, February 1</b>	7:00pm	<b>Movie Night:</b> Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore 	<b>Ohr Shalom Synagogue</b>
<b>Saturday, February 7</b>	9:30am	<b>Shabbat Morning Services</b> JDAIM Drash	<b>Ohr Shalom Synagogue</b> and <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
	12:30pm	<b>JDAIM Shabbat Lunch &amp; Learn</b>	
<b>Tuesday, February 10</b>	7:30pm	<b>Readings with the Rabbi:</b> <i>Golem Girl</i> By Riva Lehrer	<a href="#">ZOOM</a>
<b>Sunday, February 15</b>	11:00am	<b>JDAIM Keynote Event:</b> Riva Lehrer in Conversation with Rabbi Scott Meltzer ( <i>see above</i> ) <i>Evette and Nathan Weiss Keynote Speaker Underwriters</i>	In Person at <b>Ohr Shalom Synagogue</b> with ASL interpreter and <a href="#">ZOOM</a>
<b>Friday, February 20</b>	6:15pm	<b>Shabbat Kehillatit Service</b> with ASL interpreters followed by Community Dinner	<b>Ohr Shalom Synagogue</b> and <a href="#">ZOOM</a>

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS IN NOVEMBER

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

Allen and Toni-Diane Gruber  
Philip Miller and Julia Gleichman-Miller  
**In memory of Justino Gamino**  
Steven Bernstein

## In memory of Bertha Szmuiłowicz

Janice Zipp Cannizzaro  
George and Susan Kaplan  
Tito and Stella Salzman  
Al Shelden  
Mark and Elaine Smith

## In memory of Gussie Widgerow

**In memory of Yitzchak Reder**  
**In memory of Rachel Steinberg**  
**In memory of Edith Seehoff**  
**In memory of Martin Seehoff**  
Davin Widgerow

## In memory of

### Hyman Benjamin Markin

Eileen Wingard

## In memory of Sidney Feldmar

**In memory of Frances Goldstein**  
Don and Toni Goldstein

## TURKEYS FOR CHRISTIE'S PLACE

Gillian Argoff-Treseder  
Jeane Argoff  
Steven Bernstein  
Gary and Susan Brown  
Andrea Luck  
Barbara Mandel  
Eli and Susie Meltzer  
Rachel Millstone  
Rocky and Debbie Reid  
Raulf and Sharon Polichar  
Melanie Rubin  
Ray and Marcia Sachs  
Tito and Stella Salzman  
Mark and Elaine Smith  
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Davin Widgerow  
Donald Wright and Julie Phillips  
Marvin Yudkovitz and Judy Gaines

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mark and Amy Melden  
Jewish Federation CEO Fund

## In memory of Bertha Szmuiłowicz

Jim Lewis

## JFS SAFE PARKING

Beth Flowers

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Dan and Carol Schwarzblat  
Joel and Sara Warsh

*We apologize for any omissions.*

## Today Rabah to our November Shabbat Service Leaders, Torah and Haftarah Readers, D'rashot, Daily Minyan Minute and Minyan Leaders

LeAnne Adams	Susie Meltzer
Jeanne Argoff	Ivan Mendelsohn
Ilan Awerbuch	Lynn Mendelsohn
Steve Bernstein	Rachel Millstone
Eti Chall	Amy Morris
Elishava Edelson	Rocky Reid
Mendy Fink	Nanette Sable
Lou Green	Al Shelden
Morris Lazard	Jonah Weinberg
Arik Legman	Springsong Cooper
Jessica Lemoine	Weiner
Melody Lewis	Davin Widgerow
Rachel Lipowsky	Margalit Wollner
Nevo Magnezi	Rebecca Wollner
Jennifer Meltzer	Marvin Yudkovitz
Eli Meltzer	Jane Zeer

## Mazal Tov To:

**Josh and Erin Yahalom**  
on the birth of their son.

**Joel and Sara Warsh** on the birth of their son **Rylan Jacob Simmons Warsh!**  
Baby Rylan joins big brothers **Zachary and Elliot.**

**Dan and Carol Schwarzblat** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Mateo.**

## Condolences To:

**Isaac (Anita) Szmuiłowicz, Julio (Jenny) Szmuiłowicz** and **Eva (Enrique) Zagursky** on the passing of their beloved mother **Bertha Szmuiłowicz Z"L**, grandmother and great-grandmother to many.

To the family of **Elena Waisbord Z"L**, beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to many.

**Ne'eman Melech** on the passing of his beloved mother, **Onelia Martinez Cochran Z"L.**

To the family of **Melvin Penner Z"L**, beloved former member of Ohr Shalom.

## Thank You To Our Volunteer Help in November:

Jim Lewis, Debbie Suissa, Ezra Shachar, office volunteering.

## KISLEV/TEVET YAHRZEITS AT OHR SHALOM

*Dorothy Canter	Remembered by Al Shelden.....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
Noemi Finkelberg Pustilnik	Jorge Finkelberg's Sister .....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
*Rabbi Harold Zvi Gottesman	Remembered by Elaine Gottesman .....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
Abraham Hochman	Sara Zands' Father.....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
Luisa Margolis	Mauricio Margolis' Grandmother .....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
Isadore Rosenzweig	Sherry Berlin's Grandfather .....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
*Marcell Evan Scarlett	Yvonne Scarlett's Son .....	1-Dec/11 Kislev
Matilda Bookbinder	Sue Brown's Mother .....	2-Dec/12 Kislev
Mauricio Benforado	Remembered by Dan Schwarzblat.....	3-Dec/13 Kislev
Lea Melden	Mark Melden's Mother .....	3-Dec/13 Kislev
Rafael Najmias	Sara Artenstein's Father .....	3-Dec/13 Kislev
*Luisa Levy	Remembered by Eddy Cohen .....	4-Dec/14 Kislev
Hyman Benjamin Markin	Eileen Wingard's Uncle .....	5-Dec/15 Kislev
Abraham Zyman	Jose Zyman's Father .....	6-Dec/16 Kislev
Isabel Cannizzaro	Remembered by Janice Zipp Cannizzaro .....	7-Dec/17 Kislev
*Malech Kucinski	Robert Kucinski's Father .....	7-Dec/17 Kislev



Rose Zipp	Janice Zipp Cannizzaro and Elaine Smith's Aunt.....	7-Dec/17 Kislev
Celia Gomez Guellar	Maria Gomez Laurens' Mother.....	8-Dec/18 Kislev
*Pauline Cohen	Eddy Cohen's Mother, Remembered by Trudy Cohen.....	9-Dec/19 Kislev
Sydney Pick	Daniel Pick's Grandfather.....	9-Dec/19 Kislev
Shana Rubin	Joe Rubin's Daughter.....	9-Dec/19 Kislev
*Bertha Smith	Mark Smith's Mother.....	9-Dec/19 Kislev
*Marvin Smith	Mark Smith's Brother.....	9-Dec/19 Kislev
Sophie Gorad	Koba's Grandmother.....	10-Dec/20 Kislev
Anson Levitan	Marilyn Levitan's Father.....	10-Dec/20 Kislev
Fannie Zipp	Janice Zipp Cannizzaro and Elaine Smith's Aunt.....	10-Dec/20 Kislev
Moe Menachem	Dean Laurens' Grandfather.....	11-Dec/21 Kislev
Bella Green	Remembered by Elizabeth Green.....	12-Dec/22 Kislev
*Benjamin Kalinka	Brenda Bielas' Father.....	12-Dec/22 Kislev
Nathan Gordon	Denise & Andrew Gordon's Son, Rosa & Alfredo Ratniewski's Grandson.....	13-Dec/23 Kislev
*Minnie Witz	Evelyn Sevel's Mother.....	14-Dec/24 Kislev
Joseph Reitsky	Remembered by Al Shelden.....	15-Dec/25 Kislev
Rebeca Levy	Alberto Levy and Beatriz-Levy Israel's Mother.....	17-Dec/27 Kislev
Haya Abramovic	Faye Levy's Mother.....	18-Dec/28 Kislev
Klara Finkel	Tito Salzman's Grandmother.....	18-Dec/28 Kislev
Jack Hartman	Remembered by Barbarta Hartman.....	18-Dec/28 Kislev
Chris Cannizzaro	Janice Zipp Cannizzaro's Husband.....	19-Dec/29 Kislev
Albert Klein	Remembered by Diana Lipowsky.....	19-Dec/29 Kislev
*Alberto Levy	Beto Cohen's Grandfather, Remembered by Eddy Cohen.....	19-Dec/29 Kislev
Sidney Pozen	Robert Pozen's Father.....	19-Dec/29 Kislev
Elaine Green	Marda Rose's Aunt.....	20-Dec/30 Kislev
Betty Stopnik	Roz Berman's Mother.....	20-Dec/30 Kislev
Sidney Feldmar	Toni Goldstein's Father.....	21-Dec/1 Tevet
Pola Gitler	Sara Fainstein's Aunt.....	21-Dec/1 Tevet
Rabbi Jacob Goldberg	Rosa Ratniewski and Lilian Deicas' Grandfather.....	22-Dec/2 Tevet
Manuel Green	Louis Green's Father.....	22-Dec/2 Tevet
Ruth Himelfarb	Steve Fox's Grandmother.....	22-Dec/2 Tevet
Rose E. Rose	Marda Rose's Grandmother.....	23-Dec/3 Tevet
*Helen Zipp	Janice Zipp Cannizzaro and Elaine Smith's Mother.....	24-Dec/4 Tevet
Clifford Francis	Yvonne Scarlett's Grandfather.....	25-Dec/5 Tevet
Hadassah Speier	Joel Davidson's Mother, Becky Zipp & Melanie Davidson's Grandmother.....	25-Dec/5 Tevet
Esther van Vloten	Alex van Frank's Mother.....	25-Dec/5 Tevet
Efrain Yudovich	Ite Cohen's Father.....	25-Dec/5 Tevet
Lena Forman	Laurie Slade's Grandmother.....	26-Dec/6 Tevet
*George Millstone	Rachel Millstone's Father.....	26-Dec/6 Tevet
Rae Tenen	Remembered by Joe Rubin.....	26-Dec/6 Tevet
Ethel Boner	Steve Boner's Mother.....	27-Dec/7 Tevet
Frances Goldstein	Don Goldstein's Mother.....	27-Dec/7 Tevet
Lenora Levin Wollman	Alice Broudy Cupples' Aunt.....	27-Dec/7 Tevet
Sylvia Reich	Davi Reich's Mother.....	27-Dec/7 Tevet
Hyman Wolpoff	Sheldon Wolpoff's Father.....	27-Dec/7 Tevet
Samuel Alvo Shemaria	Rosie Veinbergs' Brother.....	28-Dec/8 Tevet
Miriam Miliband	Jared Solomon's Grandmother.....	28-Dec/8 Tevet
Daryl Ross Baks	Naomi Ruth Eisman's Son.....	29-Dec/9 Tevet
*Andres Cohen	Enrique Cohen's Father.....	29-Dec/9 Tevet
Michael Lewis	Jim Lewis' Brother.....	29-Dec/9 Tevet
Jack Mandel	David Mandel's Father.....	29-Dec/9 Tevet
*Thomas Weston	Allison Wolpoff's Father.....	29-Dec/9 Tevet
Hella Klipstein	Janet Algazi's Great Aunt.....	30-Dec/10 Tevet
Luis Goldberg	Lina Gorinstein's Brother.....	31-Dec/11 Tevet
Roslyn Kanevsky	Alberto Levy's Aunt.....	31-Dec/11 Tevet
*Bernard (Dov) Saltz	Renee Schor's Grandfather.....	31-Dec/11 Tevet

\* Denotes a memorial plaque was purchased in memory of a loved one. Contact [office@ohrshalom.org](mailto:office@ohrshalom.org) to order a memorial plaque.



**OHR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE**  
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2025–JANUARY 2026 / KISLEV-TEVET 5786**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Ohr Shalom's Annual  <b>CHANUKAH PAJAMAKA PARTY!</b>  <b>Sunday, December 21, 5:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>1 11 Kislev</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>2 12 Kislev</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank</p>	<p><b>3 13 Kislev</b>          9:30am - Daf Yomi          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>4 14 Kislev</b>          4:30pm - Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>5 15 Kislev</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          5:00pm - Wine and Cheese with Israeli Author          6:15pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service "Ask Amos"   4:24pm</p>	<p><b>6 16 Kislev</b>  <b>Parshat Vayishlach</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service   5:24pm</p>
<p><b>7 17 Kislev</b>          9:00am - Blood Drive          9:30am - Religious School          9:30am - Sisterhood Soufganiyot Prep          12:30pm - New Member's Lunch          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>8 18 Kislev</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>9 19 Kislev</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank</p>	<p><b>10 20 Kislev</b>          9:30am - Daf Yomi          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>11 21 Kislev</b>          4:30pm - Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>12 22 Kislev</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          6:15pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Choir   4:25pm</p>	<p><b>13 23 Kislev</b>  <b>Parshat Vayeshev Mevarchim Chodesh</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service   5:26pm</p>
<p><b>14 24 Kislev</b>  <b>Erev Chanukah</b>          9:30am - Religious School          10:00am - Adult Ed. Program          6:15pm - Minyan   5:03pm</p>	<p><b>15 25 Kislev</b>  <b>Chanukah 1</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice   5:04pm</p>	<p><b>16 26 Kislev</b>  <b>Chanukah 2</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank   5:04pm</p>	<p><b>17 27 Kislev</b>  <b>Chanukah 3</b>          9:30am - Daf Yomi          6:15pm - Minyan   5:04pm</p>	<p><b>18 28 Kislev</b>  <b>Chanukah 4</b>          4:30pm - Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Men's Discussion Group   5:05pm</p>	<p><b>19 29 Kislev</b>  <b>Chanukah 5</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          6:15pm - Shabbat Kehillatit Service &amp; Community Dinner    4:27pm</p>	<p><b>20 30 Kislev</b>  <b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet Parshat Miketz Chanukah 6</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service          10:30am - Tot Shabbat    5:28pm</p>
<p><b>21 1 Tevet</b>  <b>Chanukah 7 Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b>          No Religious School          5:30pm - Chanukah Party          6:15pm - Minyan   5:06pm</p>	<p><b>22 2 Tevet</b>  <b>Chanukah 8</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>23 3 Tevet</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank</p>	<p><b>24 4 Tevet</b>          9:30am - Daf Yomi          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>25 5 Tevet</b>          No Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>26 6 Tevet</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          6:15pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service    4:31pm</p>	<p><b>27 7 Tevet</b>  <b>Parshat Vayigash</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service   5:32pm</p>
<p><b>28 8 Tevet</b>          No Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>29 9 Tevet</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>30 10 Tevet</b>  <b>Fast of Tevet</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank</p>	<p><b>31 11 Tevet</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          No Minyan</p>	<p><b>1 12 Tevet</b>  <b>New Year's Day</b>          Office Closed          No Religious School          No Minyan</p>	<p><b>2 13 Tevet</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          6:15pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service "Ask the Rabbi"    4:36pm</p>	<p><b>3 14 Tevet</b>  <b>Parshat Vayechi</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service   5:37pm</p>
<p><b>4 15 Tevet</b>          No Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>5 16 Tevet</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          6:45pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>6 17 Tevet</b>          6:15pm - Minyan          7:00pm - Meditation w/ Alex van Frank</p>	<p><b>7 18 Tevet</b>          9:30am - Daf Yomi          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>8 19 Tevet</b>          4:30pm - Religious School          6:15pm - Minyan</p>	<p><b>9 20 Tevet</b>          2:00pm - Office Closes          6:15pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service    4:42pm</p>	<p><b>10 21 Tevet</b>  <b>Parshat Shemot</b>          9:30am - Shabbat Service          12:30pm - Lunch &amp; Learn   5:43pm</p>