

Shabbat services begin at 7:15 pm unless otherwise noted. PreNeps start at 6:45 pm unless there is a special event. Oneg to follow.

Do you want to honor someone or sponsor an Oneg? Contact Carolyn at [MunchBunch@cjcn.org](mailto:MunchBunch@cjcn.org)

## CONGREGATION JEWISH COMMUNITY NORTH

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Rabbi Siger – 832-318-3988  
[Rabbi@cjcn.org](mailto:Rabbi@cjcn.org)

### REMINDER:

The Temple office is closed on Monday and Tuesdays

### PRIVACY NOTE:

Hospitals no longer inform the temple office when a patient is admitted. If either you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please let us know. If you, or someone you know is in need, we'd like to help. If you don't tell us, we can't help. Please contact:

[WeCare@cjcn.org](mailto:WeCare@cjcn.org),  
[office@cjcn.org](mailto:office@cjcn.org) or call the office at 281-376-0016

Don't forget to inform Rabbi Siger at [Rabbi@cjcn.org](mailto:Rabbi@cjcn.org) or 832-318-3988



Congregation Jewish Community North

# Chai Lites

WINTER ISSUE NOVEMBER 2015

כס"ב KISLEV 5776

## Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Jonathan Siger



By popular demand, please enjoy Rabbi's Message from Kol Nidre

*Death is the end only if you assume the story is about you. —@NightValeRadio*

*I am certain that very few, if any, Kol Nidre messages are centered upon 'tweets'.*

*Fewer still on content drawn from a cult-followed podcast called "Welcome To Night Vale." If you are unfamiliar, Welcome to Night Vale is a series that takes the form of a broadcast from a community radio station. The series is introduced to the listener this way:*

*"Night Vale: A friendly desert community where the sun is hot, the moon is beautiful and mysterious lights pass overhead while we all pretend to sleep. Welcome to Night Vale."*

*It's funny, bizarre, amusing and nightmarish all at once. This is a place where the people that run for mayor include Hiram McDaniels, who is, literally, a five-headed dragon. Yes, it's strange, but also beautiful, and sometimes even profound. The world of Night Vale is, like our real world, pretty complicated and difficult to explain.*

*So let's keep it simple.*

*First, Yom Kippur is about stripping away those things that distract us from simple truths. We try to forget all the human drives that compete for our attention and effort.*

*Judaism is filled with simple truths and complicated and deep ways of empowering those truths in the messy work of life.*

*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

*Do not do that which seems hateful to you to another.*

*To this I would add a 'proverb' from Night Vale.*

*Death is the end only if you assume the story is about you.*

*In each encounter, two worlds collide. Everything that is in, or about one person, one consciousness, encounter another 'everything'. Each person is an entire world filled with people and experiences and hopes and regrets and emotional baggage, and triggers, and habits and personality traits. And each of us is completely and understandably wrapped up in our own world. When you see a stranger, they are just a passing character in your story. An 'extra'.*

*A counselor I know once told me of a client he had, who came into his office one day and said, "I was in the supermarket, and I realized that all those people each had, like, their own thoughts, and a whole life, just like I do. They were other People." We laughed at that level of narcissism, but it was a good point about being in your own head. It's something I struggle with, as I think some of you may. We're so wrapped up in our own story that we miss opportunities to help repair the cracks in the world we are called to repair.*

*There is fear and anxiety when we consider what it means to die, or rather what what happens to us. That basic insecurity is largely used this day as motivation to consider our actions and attitudes over the past year. Whether or not we believe in the specific theology or images of our liturgy, the fact remains, some Kol Nidre we won't be here.*

<div> <b>LEADERSHIP</b> </div> <div> <b>Rabbi</b>  .....Jonathan S. Siger </div> <div> <b>Principal</b>  .....Alana Shepetofsky </div> <div> <b>OFFICERS</b> </div> <div> <b>President</b>  .....Steve Landis </div> <div> <b>President Elect</b>.....Jason Kirbie </div> <div> <b>Vice President</b>  .....Steffanie Johnson  .....Richard Preble  .....Carolyn Weiner </div> <div> <b>Secretary</b>  .....Julianne Mahler </div> <div> <b>Acting Treasurer</b>  .....Marc Graye </div> <div> <b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>  .....Diane Fasbinder  .....David Gold  .....Susan Graye  .....Toby Greenberg  .....Craig Klein  .....Michael Lorch  .....Howard Namkin  .....Adolph D. Roth  .....Susan Shaffer  .....Heather York </div> <div> <b>Sisterhood Co Presidents</b>  .....Terry Katz &amp; Cheryl Tompkins </div> <div> <b>Men's Club President</b>  .....David Pfeffer </div> <div> <b>Immediate Past President</b>  .....Gale J. Saltzman </div> <div> <b>Rabbi Emeritus</b>  Robert S. Sharff, D. Min., D.D. </div>	<p><i>But many of our friends and family, we pray will. When our own story ends, and it will, maybe by fire, maybe by water, maybe by food poisoning, we will cease to be the main character of a story. And we will continue on as a figure in other people's stories. That is the legacy we can be concerned with and rightly should be concerned with.</i></p> <p><i>The gift of living is not merely the opportunity to experience the joy and suffering of life, and there is good measure of both, but also the chance to be part of how many other stories both individual and group.</i></p> <p><i>Who are we in other people's stories. What role do you play and what is your part in the ongoing stories that you have been a part of. How do we enter and exit the lives of those we love? How and why do we exit and reappear in each other's lives? And when we ask or demand or want something from another person to further our agenda in our own lives and our own situations, do we ever, let alone always, stop to consider the story from the other person's point of view?</i></p> <p><i>Now, I'm not suggesting that this is reasonable when checking out from Kroger. Believe me, it's perfectly fine to play the part of random customer 9,245. But there are other opportunities, no less random where you can play a significant part. Usually by simply stepping out of your own story and into someone else's.</i></p> <p><i>It's really hard to do, especially when to do so is to look at yourself and say, "hey, look, in my story, I'm just trying to do my job, and manage my responsibilities and have some fun myself and focused on that, but in this person's story I'm cranky and put upon and making them feel bad for wanting my attention."</i></p> <p><i>Think of people who have impacted your life. Your best teachers, coaches, rabbis, friends, colleagues, students. Your families. Chances are, their finest moments came when they were consciously or unconsciously supporting your story, not their own. The obligation, I would suggest, is to pay it forward. Catch yourself in a situation and consciously decide what you are going to be in another person's story, and how you would want to be remembered. If you are ever in doubt, may I suggest kindness. Even when you are annoyed.</i></p> <p><i>This isn't a new idea by any stretch. Hillel taught "Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place". It's a similar approach to this concept.</i></p> <p><i>At this point, I may need to remind us that we need to be concerned with our own story and we have the right and responsibility to be concerned with our own happiness, but does anyone here really have a problem with not being selfish enough?</i></p> <p><i>In that case, remember if you don't take care of yourself to the best of your ability, you won't be much use as a character in anyone else's story either. That's why we believe in supporting and loving and helping and forgiving each other our failings. We are ultimately part of a larger story. We are responsible to and for one another so that all our stories contribute and support larger stories.</i></p> <p><i>The story of CJCN, our congregation. How do you relate to this place and community. How are we part of each other's stories as individuals and as a community?</i></p> <p><i>The story of the Jewish People as Americans. How will this community evolve or vanish as part of the larger narrative of this amazing chapter in our 4000 year history. We need to confront our history and our future and decide; if we will not make the necessary contributions to ensure the future of this congregation, now, then when?</i></p> <p><i>The story of God. What part do we play if humanity is, as I believe, the pinnacle of creation on Earth and a way in which the universe can experience itself. What small part we play! Yet how great an impact an individual can have on the greater story for good or ill!</i></p> <p><i>This relationship between our small stories and the larger stories that will include our stories is, I believe, the underpinnings of Jewish life. The worldview, ethics, practices and disciplines that Judaism teaches helps us keep our stories in concert with the largest story; history. One word. And more so, His story, two words.</i></p>
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Please let us know if you would  
like to be removed from the list

I know I have failed you and therefore God in ways known to me and ways unknown. I have let my own insecurities, impulses and childish impatience motivate me. I have been tripped by envy, blinded by ego and mistaken my story for history. Or His story. Or yours. So, I ask your forgiveness as we stand on the eve of the day that will renew us all and reunite us with our highest selves. Have an easy fast. Remember that death is the end only if you assume the story is about you. And hey, Hatima Tovah.

*Do you need to consult with Rabbi Siger? If you do, please contact him at [Rabbi@cjcj.org](mailto:Rabbi@cjcj.org) or call 832-318-3988 to set up an appointment. Rabbi wants to make sure that he gives you his full attention and by prearranging your appointment, he can make sure that happens to the best of his ability. Thank you*

Please make sure to scroll through the entire issue. It is jammed pack with information on new programs for ALL ages and so much more.

Do you have news you'd like to share with your congregation? Please email [EditorialBoard@cjcj.org](mailto:EditorialBoard@cjcj.org) with your suggestions.

### President's Message by Steve Landis



*I hope everyone's New Year is off to a good start. I have had several requests to publish the appeal I gave on Kol Nidre. But I could not just reprint it without doubling down a little bit. It is not too late to make a pledge and send it in. As I mentioned in a recent email to the congregation, we have an offer from a congregant to match the funds collected by November 30<sup>th</sup>, and we should take full advantage of that. So if you heard my appeal on Kol Nidre, I apologize for the redundancy. If you were not there I hope it will motivate you to give something to the future of CJCJ.*

Some of you know that I have had a couple of different health issues over the past few months. Nothing truly life threatening, but not exactly minor either and I was worried, worried enough to come very, very close to resigning as president. I felt I had a lot on my plate. I was worried about being able to continue to work. I was worried about my family and I was worried about being able to fulfill my duties at CJCJ. I was worried about having too much to worry about. But then I realized, Jews are worriers; it's what we do and we're damn good at it. It's not written on any tablets but we accept it as if it was a commandment delivered at Sinai: Thou shalt worry. Consequently, Jews are not shy about our worrying – we worry out loud, in public and make sure our worries are known all the way to the top. Therefore, in the interest of becoming a better Jew, I have decided to embrace my worrying; to be the very best worrier I can be. I want to be an ambassador of worry and spread the word, especially to you here tonight. And the one thing we all have in common to worry about is CJCJ.

You've heard it before: We need to worry about the long-term viability of our congregation. You have heard in all appeals for the last 7 years about our budget deficit. For some of you it is an abstract thing; I'm telling you it's real. It's simple math: if we spend more than we bring in, we will eventually go out of business. But I don't want to talk much about the deficit tonight. I want to talk about pride of ownership. Last week on Rosh Hashanah, the Rabbi gave an appeal much more eloquently than I can ever hope to do. But after thinking about his words, I have to take exception to one of the points he made. He said "this is not your Temple, it is G-d's house." I disagree. The two are not mutually exclusive. This is in fact G-d's house, G-d has a lot of houses, but it is your temple, it is your spiritual home. If it weren't, you wouldn't be here tonight. And just like your other home, you should want it to look good, for everything to work properly, for it to be a safe and secure place for your family. I'm not so sure we can say all that about CJCJ right now. There are so many things we need to make it right, and are unable to do so because we have that pesky old budget deficit.

Would you stand for your driveway and garage flooding every time we had a rainstorm? I don't think



### **November & December**

*November 1*

*Benjamin Ferber*

*Betty Gershkovitz*

*Virginia Emily Koblenz*

*Rose Schoen*

*November 3*

*John Miller*

*Irving Rosen*

*November 5*

*Maurice Poppa Greene*

*Lily Hamburger*

*Nathan Mire*

*November 6*

*Isadore Hoffman*

*November 7*

*Ida Weiser*

*November 8*

*Winifred Graye*

*Sally Kemper*

*Benjamin Klibanoff*

*November 9*

*Sylvia Braff*

*Myrna Golman*

*Synagogue Tauberrettersheim*

*November 10*

*Reuben Leass*

*Neil Weiserbs*

*November 11*

*Richard Kirsner*

*November 13*

*Gerald M. Fox*

*November 14*

*Harry Friedman*

*Johnnie Revel Warren*

*Emil Zykorie*

*November 17*

*Hellen Nedra Brooks*

*Joseph L. Panzer*

*November 18*

*Fanny Cohen Behar*

*Harry Edelman*

*November 20*

*Fannie Greenberg*

*Sidney Maddis*

*Lena Ruffkess*

so. For those of you here last week for Rosh Hashanah, you saw Lake CJC cover half the parking lot. This has been an ongoing problem at least since I've been a member of CJC, for 10 years. It will cost about \$5,000 to fix it the right way and not do the stop gaps we normally do. Would you accept your air conditioning going out several times every summer? No you wouldn't. Our a/c system is held together by duct tape and chewing gum. It is so bad that every Friday night I say a Misheberach for it. We could use new carpeting in the sanctuary and the religious school, new classroom furniture and new office furniture for our admin *and* the rabbi. The cushions on the pews need to be replaced. We desperately need a new audio system here in the sanctuary. The walls could use some paint, and the outside façade needs to be pressured washed. We need to enhance our security; I'd like to see a fence like most of the synagogues in town have. At the very least we should have a security monitor and remote open for the front door. We have donated playground equipment sitting out back that we need to pay to have professionally installed for insurance purposes. Our kitchen needs a new freezer, new ice maker, new dishwasher, and new stove among other things. And if we are to compete and be viable, we should have a real marketing budget so we can advertise and attract new members, because the bottom line is, to erase the deficit for good, we need to grow our membership. But, because of the deficit, none of these things we need, and others, are part of our budget. However, that can change. You can change it. You can make a difference in our future.

This synagogue is a world in itself -- our extended Jewish family, our community of friends. It is a world small enough to allow each one of us to exercise a measure of influence, unlike the outside world, which sometimes seems to be spinning out of control. By supporting our synagogue, you can literally be the change you wish to see in the world. So I am asking you, nay, shamelessly begging you to donate to our high holiday appeal. If you want to make a targeted donation to pay for one or more of the needs I mentioned, that can be arranged. For the right pledge, I will come to your house and clean your gutters while wearing a clown suit; I will cook you a gourmet meal dressed like Julia Child; I will even give your cat a bath if the price is right.

What I'm trying to say is that I am willing to do whatever is necessary to keep CJC up and running for a very long time. And what I'm asking is, are you? Are you willing to give more than you have in the past? Are you willing to buy a day, for \$900, like the Rabbi suggested last week? In fact, you can buy a specific day and we'll put it on the website calendar as your day. Just imagine "Sharon & Steve Natenberg Day." Buy a birthday or an anniversary or another day near and dear to you. And with PayPal on our website now, we have made it so easy for you to give, there should be no excuse.

I heard someone say last week that they did not need a pledge card because they've already "given too much to this place." And I was really saddened by that. I pray that not too many of you feel that way. When it comes to charity, there is no such thing as too much. You give until it hurts. There used to be a bar in New York City called the Lone Star Café that had a sign over the front door that said "Too Much Ain't Enough." I would love to be able to put that same sign up over our door, (now, the board of trustees might have a problem with that, but you never know). You can't give too much. So, please, take a pledge card from an usher on the way out, fill it in and send back to us. If you make a pledge and want to be billed for it, just make that note on the card. If you already have a card, send it in. Try the PayPal link on our website if you want. But do something. Do what is right for our future, and the here and now. Thank you. Shana Tova and may you have an easy fast.

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT AND ACCURATE INFORMATION**

### **Men's Club News** by David Pfeffer, President



"Calling all men of CJC! Calling all men of CJC! If you've not already done so, now's the time to join the Men's Club. We're in the process of planning our year's activities. We've already got some great outings planned. We've finished the "what are we going to do" and now we're all about the "when are we going to do it?" Some things on tap (pun intended) include a St. Arnold's or Karbach Brewery tour (maybe both!), a night at the horse track, a guest speaker event or two, and a beer/pizza/poker night after one of our meetings. If you have not yet joined, get in touch! [mensclubpres@cjc.org](mailto:mensclubpres@cjc.org)."

Our officers are David Pfeffer (President), Steve Saltzman (Vice President), Malcolm Sokol (Secretary), and Murray Marks (Treasurer). If you have any questions, or even better, ideas, please send an e-mail to [mensclubpres@cjc.org](mailto:mensclubpres@cjc.org).



November 21  
Morris Gertson  
Henrietta Newman Goldstein  
Mae Porter

November 22  
Leo Clevner  
Rose Panzer  
Rose Paull

November 23  
Allie Babendure

November 24  
Mary Snider  
Lester Weisman

November 25  
Gertrude Hartman  
Joseph W. Kutchin

November 26  
Richard Bleiler  
Ralph Abraham Blumenthal  
R. T. Miller  
Renee Wayne

November 27  
Ed Kaplan

November 28  
Martin Kaufman  
Herman Schenker

November 29  
Mary Kathryn Bord

Linda G. Fox  
Paul Oberlander

December 1  
Edith Henenberg  
Charlotte Kimmel  
Minna Kirschner  
Solkind L. Levenson  
Jacob Schultz

December 3  
Jack Panzer  
William I. Ruffkess

December 4  
Lena Wallach

December 5  
Abraham Greenstein  
Fredric Ray VanDeGraaff

December 6  
Eleanor Mahler

December 7  
Charles Bleiler  
Sara Mamie Greene

December 8  
Myrna Axel

December 9

## Sisterhood Scoop by Terry Katz, Co-President



Sisterhood came off the starting blocks quickly with the 2nd day Rosh Hashanah luncheon which was enjoyed by more than fifty congregants. Cheryl Tompkins and Leslie Marks were the coordinators of this sweet start to the New Year with financial assistance from the Men's Club. Our next event was the Break Fast,



organized by Joanmarie Marks and Sandra English who fed over 150 hungry people in the blink of an eye! Sisterhood also enjoyed working with the Religious School and provided our students with their fun "Ice Cream in the Sukkah. Jocelyn Nelson helped the kids with the "fixings" and it was a wonderful day to be out in the Sukkah!

Have you browsed at the gift shop lately? Sisterhood has enlisted Toby Greenberg and Rita Weisoly to scout out for Judaica items that interest YOU. If you don't see what you need, please ask! The shop is open on Sunday mornings, but if you call the office we can schedule a more convenient time for you. There are two tax free shopping days coming in November- Nov 15 and 22. Look for the ad in this newsletter.

As I am writing this, preparations are being finalized for our next program- the Fall Membership Luncheon. Co-chairs, Laurie Kilbride and Mindy Holm patiently mailed out membership information to all the ladies of CJCN in August. (If we missed you, please let us know.)

They putting together a luncheon. During lunch we will enjoy a Chico Fashion Show, starring our own members as models! I'm sure it will be fun!

On Sunday, November 8th, Sisterhood and Men's Club are co-sponsoring a special event. Leslie Marks has invited Rose Rosenthal, a Holocaust Survivor, to speak about her life experiences. Sisterhood will provide a light lunch after Religious School for those who wish to hear her story. Time 12:15-2:00pm.

As you can see, Sisterhood has been very active this fall. If you are not a Sisterhood member, it is never too late to join! If you are too busy to attend programs, you can still show your support by becoming a member!

Next event on our horizon is the Chanukah Family Dinner -the holiday is very early this year, so be on the lookout for a flyer or announcement soon!

A special thank you to all of our Sisterhood volunteers for their hard work and support! We wish you and your families a healthy and safe Thanksgiving!

Terry and Cheryl

I am sure you have noticed that on your calendar it says that **Mitzvah day is November 22nd.**

This is our first community Mitzvah Day. As an entire school community, we are going to complete 4 different mitzvah projects at different stations, at CJCN. Later, our completed projects will be brought to the organizations that we are giving them to.

This will be a wonderful learning and service experience for your children. We invite and strongly encourage parents, and community members to join us. We will be completing the projects from **10:00am - 12:00pm on Sunday November 22nd.**

**MitzvahDay**  
make your mark 

Ben Golden  
December 10  
Bruce Bobys  
Graciela Diamant Paink  
Ida Rumack  
Barbara Tarlton  
Jennie Weiss  
Sarab Wolf

December 11  
Willeen Belinda Bord  
Larry Greenberg  
Else Schalscha

December 12  
Martin Pfeffer  
Lena Solomon

December 13  
Helen Burlak  
William Gundlack

December 14  
Louis Kosloff  
Rachel Pollack

December 15  
Magda Bruck  
Morris Watsky

December 16  
Barnett Bregner  
Doris Rosenbaum

December 18  
Adolph H. Bieber  
Ida Kaminsky  
Ann Swetlow

December 19  
Eva Derby  
Leona Rossel  
December 21  
Norman Davis  
Samuel Salzinger  
Julia Doddy

December 24  
Nelda Lewis  
Irene Pomerantz  
Samuel Sherman

December 26  
Sidney Saksenberg  
Sally Steiner  
Irvin Weinstein

December 27  
Betty Evelyn Cohen  
Jacob Ludwig

December 28  
Adriana Katz  
Nathan Langsam  
Henry G. Morrison

December 29  
Eric Kant  
Rose Korn

### New Defibrillator System at CJC

On September 20, a defibrillator was installed in the Temple in the event of an unexpected cardiac situation. The cost of the device was generously donated by a Temple member. The unit is located on the wall between the downstairs restrooms.



It is very exciting to have this unit on premise in the event of an emergency. Using a defibrillator greatly increases the chances of survival if these cardiac events occur. Also, the unit is very user friendly and walks you through the exact steps to follow.

The following individuals have been trained on using the unit: Steve Landis, Jason Kirbie, Gale Saltzman, Steve Saltzman, Isabel Weatherly (Office Admin), Julie Mahler, Toby Greenberg and Heather York. Going forward, we will use the "train the trainer" model to bring other Temple members up to speed on using the device.

Please let any of the above individuals know if you would like to be trained or contact the office at [Office@cjc.org](mailto:Office@cjc.org) and leave a message for Jason Kirbie at [PresElect@cjc.org](mailto:PresElect@cjc.org).

**Keep scrolling. We have a lot more great and interesting information!**

## The SPRING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE COUNCIL

invites you to an interfaith Thanksgiving Service the Thursday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Baetul Samee Mosque, 1333 Spears Rd., Houston 77067. Our theme is THANKS FOR DIVERSITY, leaders of 6 faith communities will offer brief reflections from their scriptures. Please join us in celebrating the beauty of each of us. Refreshments will be served following the service with an opportunity to meet your Spring neighbors. Scarfs are not required but shoes will be removed before entering their holy space. An offering will be taken for NAM and Humanity First, checks may be made out to cash.

### CJC JUDAICA GIFT SHOP PRESENTS

### TAX FREE SHOPPING IN TIME FOR CHANUKAH

BROWSE ANYTIME...PURCHASE ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 AND 22 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXTRA SAVINGS. WE HAVE A WIDE SELECTION OF MENORAHS, CANDLES, TOYS, MEZZUAHS, JEWELRY AND OTHER GIFTWARE.

Remember, Chanukah is early this year,  
beginning Sunday evening, December 6, 2015



Keep in touch with what's going on in our Temple. Check out our website at [www.CJC.org](http://www.CJC.org)

Adolf Wolf

December 30  
Ann Levinson  
Anna Orocofsky  
Goldie Schultz

December 31  
Scott Jackson  
Bess Silverman  
Ethel Sparks  
Selma Marie Gold Waghalter

*May their memories be a  
blessing to us all*

**Happy Birthday!**

**November & December**



November 1  
Richard Preble

November 7  
Daniel Checkman  
Bobbi Hoyt  
Charlene Snider

November 8  
Mary Kay Fendel

November 9  
Lynn Schoen  
David Sobin

November 12  
Stanley Arouty

November 13  
Mark Friedman  
Joyce Roth

November 14  
Lawrence Pomerantz  
Linda Sharff

November 18  
Allison Lemel  
Adolph Roth

November 23  
Mike Lorch  
Ulrike Rebone

November 24  
Aileen Ryan



**Congregation Jewish Community North's Sisterhood**

*Invites you to join us for our  
**CJCN Annual Hanukkah Dinner, Musical Shabbat &  
Community Menorah Lighting Service**  
led by Rabbi Siger (open to the public – invite your friends and neighbors!)*

**Friday, December 11, 2015**



*Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm  
Candle Lighting Service will begin at 7:30 pm  
Musical Shabbat Chanukah service at 7:45 pm*

*Please bring your Hanukkah Menorah & candles to be part of our  
CJCN Family Menorah lighting*

*Please bring a dessert if your last name begins with A – J  
Please bring a side dish if your last name begins with K – Z*

**RSVP by Dec 4<sup>th</sup>: \$5 per person, up to \$18 per family, no charge for children 6 or younger  
RSVP after Dec 8 or at the door: \$10 per person or \$36 per family**

**RSVP by mailing or delivering your response WITH your payment by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to:  
CJCN 5400 Fellowship Lane, Spring, TX 77379. Please mark the envelope  
SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH DINNER" Please make checks payable to CJCN Sisterhood**

**Please contact Leslie Marks at [lmarks10@comcast.net](mailto:lmarks10@comcast.net) to RSVP or ask any questions**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_



*If you need access to the building, please contact  
**[Security@cjcn.org](mailto:Security@cjcn.org) or 713-724-6261. Please give as much  
notice as possible. Thank you***

November 28  
Betty Ginsberg  
Michelle Kirbie

November 29  
Rochelle Dorfman

December 3  
Esther Berens  
Kelly Wright  
December 5  
Howard Namkin

December 8  
Sheila Katz

December 10  
Howard Leff

December 11  
Leigh Checkman

December 13  
Leo Doron

December 16  
Anais Watsky

December 17  
Lee Malowitz

December 23  
Melanie Small

December 25  
Marc Graye

December 26  
Dawn Baumel  
Susan Shaffer

December 27  
Sheila Jortner  
Michael Nalick

December 31  
Helene  
Blakesberg

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Please Join Us as Our Daughter  
*Jacqueline Ann*

Is Called to the Torah as a

*Bat Mitzvah*

Saturday the Twenty-First of November  
Two Thousand Fifteen  
At Ten O'clock in the Morning

Congregation Jewish Community North  
5400 Fellowship Lane  
Spring, Texas

Kiddush Luncheon Following  
Saturday Services

Jason and Michelle Kirbie

**THE IDEAL  
CANDIDATE**

The Nominating Committee will be gearing up for our May 2016 Elections!  
PLEASE CONTACT [NOMINATING@CJCN.ORG](mailto:NOMINATING@CJCN.ORG), IN CONFIDENCE, WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

**DON'T BE AFRAID TO SUGGEST YOURSELF!**

We may have openings for VPs, Treasurer and Trustees. We are also starting our search for the next President Elect. Please contact us for more information or to suggest a candidate!

*We try our best, but sometimes we make mistakes. We apologize if there are any errors or omissions. Please let us know at [EditorialBoard@cjcn.org](mailto:EditorialBoard@cjcn.org).*

*The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Please send your information ONLY to [EditorialBoard@cjcn.org](mailto:EditorialBoard@cjcn.org),  
completed, as you would like to see it.*

*Thank you so much for your cooperation.*

*If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please submit that also!*



## ANNIVERSARIES

### November & December



November 3

Howard & Barbara Leff

November 4

Jason & Michelle Kirbie

November 5

Erica & Daniel Chaikin

November 10

Patrick & Laurie Kilbride

November 15

Joel & Naomie Abrahams  
David & Sandra Livney

November 22

Jay & Teresa Sternberg

November 24

Joel & Susan Gottlieb

December 3

Roger & Betty Bensman

December 10

Leonard & Dee Koblenz

December 15

Tony & Yvonne Schalscha

December 17

Leo & Melissa Doron

December 23

Floyd & Mindy Holm

December 25

Ellen Stack & Leonard Sobel

December 30

Robert & Joyce Levine

December 31

Victor & Shelly Zacharias

**Mazel Tov!**

**GIFT WRAP IS BACK & WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO HELP SISTERHOOD  
WITH ITS MAIN FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

**PLACE:** Willowbrook Mall

**LOCATION:** Courtyard area of Macy's Men's Store

**DATES:** Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**DON'T KNOW HOW TO WRAP?**  
**WE CAN TEACH YOU OR YOU CAN HELP IN OTHER WAYS!**

**While doing this Mitvah you'll:**

- Have FUN
- Schmooze and make new friends
- Become an expert in wrapping
- Get lots of great gift ideas
- Did we mention have FUN???

To volunteer,  
please e-mail  
Judy Kemper and  
Denise Kutcher  
at [GiftWrap@cjcn.org](mailto:GiftWrap@cjcn.org)



## Credit Cards at CJCN

**We accept Credit Cards for dues, donations and purchases.**

**If you'd like to pay your dues by credit card, please just write in your credit card number, name (exactly as printed on card) and expiration date, along with the amount you'd like to pay, on the return portion of the slip.**

**Or, you can email the information and the amount you'd like to pay to**

**[Treasurer@cjcn.org](mailto:Treasurer@cjcn.org) or to [Finance@cjcn.org](mailto:Finance@cjcn.org)**

**It's that simple!**

**ALL FINANCIAL INFORMATION WILL BE HANDLED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE**

## What's Jewish about Thanksgiving?

BY RABBI JESSICA LOCKETZ ,  
11/21/2014



*Happy Thanksgiving, hooray,  
hooray, hooray! Aren't you glad  
you're not a turkey on this  
Thanksgiving Day.*

These words by Jewish musician Debbie Friedman start to stick in my head this time of year. It's a silly child's song, but it leads me to wonder: Is Thanksgiving a Jewish holiday?

My first inclination is to say no, it's an American holiday (though Thanksgiving is also celebrated in Canada, on the second Monday of October). Nearly everyone celebrates it. Many of us have fond memories of time spent with family indulging in a glorious feast - turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, and whatever else has earned a place on the traditional family menu.

But is it a *Jewish* holiday?

Yes, it can be. Setting aside the feasting and football, we discover that there is a way to bring our Judaism into our observance of this sacred American holiday. We can even use it as a means of teaching our children one of our most important values: thankfulness. The idea of giving thanks is a familiar theme in our tradition. Judaism views every day as a day of thanksgiving; every day is a chance to say "thank you" to God for the many blessings we have.

From the words we say upon arising - "*Modeh ani l'fanecha*," "I give thanks to You (for compassionately restoring my soul)" - to the daily multitude of blessings and prayers in our worship services, our tradition teaches us that showing gratitude is part of our way of life. Every day brings ample opportunities for acts of mindfulness and thanksgiving that can transform our lives and repair the world. Why then does the idea of a holiday of thanksgiving not *feel* Jewish?

Maybe it's because of its origins. In elementary school, I was always told that the holiday came about because of the pilgrims who had arrived on the Mayflower. After reaching America and finding a

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Business Card..... \$120/year  
¼ page..... \$220/year  
½ page..... \$330/year  
Full Page ..... \$550/year

Please contact: [Communications@cjcñ.org](mailto:Communications@cjcñ.org) for more information

## YOU AND YOUR MAH JONGG PLAYING FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CJC� Mah Jongg Tournament

**Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:30 - 3:30**

Congregation Jewish Community North  
5400 Fellowship Lane, Spring, TX 77379



### \$36 Registration Fee

#### Includes:

- ♦ Continental Breakfast
- ♦ Lunch
- ♦ Four (4) rounds of Mah Jongg
- ♦ Raffles
- ♦ Vendors
- ♦ One (1) door prize ticket

♦ **FABULOUS PRIZES AND LOTS OF FUN!**

**YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT YOUR PRIZE**



**OY! SUCH A DEAL!!**

**Four (4) people send in their registrations together in one envelope & each person gets TWO (YES! I SAID TWO!!) Door Prize tickets!**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE is February 2, 2016**

**DON'T WAIT!!! SPACE IS LIMITED!!!**

NAME _____	EMAIL ADDRESS _____	CHECK # _____
ADDRESS _____	CITY, STATE, ZIP _____	PHONE # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I will bring my Mah Jongg Set		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES, I would like to help sponsor this event. Please call me!		

Please send all registrations to Judy Kemper with your check made payable to:  
Congregation Jewish Community North (CJC�) 5400 Fellowship Lane, SPRING, TX 77379

Questions? Contact Donna at [MahJongg@cjcñ.org](mailto:MahJongg@cjcñ.org)

You will receive confirmation of your registration by email along with our tournament rules

place to settle, they celebrated their good fortune with their native neighbors. They too, thanked God for all with which they had been blessed. The original Thanksgiving dinner, then, was also a religious one!

This is difficult to understand since our own Thanksgiving tables are often void of religious ritual. There is none that is required. But we can give our meals a Jewish angle if we stop to remember how rich our lives are. If we only take the time to say a few words of thanksgiving to God - whether for bringing the family together or for giving us the food on our plates-we can make Thanksgiving have Jewish meaning.

The following ritual is a suggestion for doing just that:

Read before the meal begins:

Sovereign of the universe, creative Source of all being, from You come our blessings from day to day and from year to year. How great are Your love and kindness, O God! The towering mountains and the shaded forests, the abundant streams and the fruitful earth tell of Your endless bounty.

For this land so richly blessed, we raise our voice in joyous thanks. To these shores Your children have come from many lands to seek liberty and new hope. All have been pilgrims to this western world. Though they did not always practice the justice they sought, here they found renewed purpose, increased strength, and the opportunity to outgrow old fears and superstitions. For our country, for its freedom promised and attained, the richness of its natural blessing, and the growing harmony of its citizens, we give humble thanks.

God of justice and right, inspire all who dwell in our beloved land with loyalty to the ideals of its founders. Give us wisdom and strength to labor for its well-being, on the firm foundation of justice and truth. Fill us with the spirit of kindness, generosity, and peace, that this land may be a beacon-light to many peoples.

Ask each person sitting at the table to share the things for which she or he is thankful. Join together in reciting the words of [HaMotzi](#), the blessing before a meal: *Baruch Atah*

## LAS VEGAS comes to Spring, TX

**Saturday, February 27, 2016  
Casino Night Fundraiser**

**7:00—11:00 pm**

**Congregation Jewish Community**

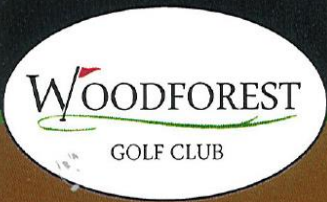
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Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam,  
 Hamotzi lechem min haaretz. Our  
 praise to You, Eternal our God,  
 Sovereign of the universe, who brings  
 forth bread from the earth.  
 Hugs and kisses all around - not  
 required but usually appreciated  
 gestures!  
 So is Thanksgiving a Jewish  
 holiday? It is up to us to make it so.  
*Reprinted from urj.org*

## The Miracle of the Expanding Oil

BY: AUDREY MERWIN



How do you experience  
 the lights of Hanukkah?  
 Do you gaze upon them  
 with wonder? Do you  
 draw inspiration from  
 them? Do they ignite a  
 sense of spirituality

within you?

One of the most delightful aspects of  
 celebrating Hanukkah is observing its  
 central mitzvah (commandment or  
 sacred obligation): lighting Hanukkah  
 candles and saying the [accompanying  
 blessings](#). We do this to commemorate  
 the miracle that took place *bayamim  
 haheim, baz'man hazeh*, "in those days,  
 at this time of year."

The commandment was sparked by an  
 event that took place long ago, in the  
 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.E.

### The Miracle of the Oil in the Hanukkah Story

In *Jewish Living: A Guide to  
 Contemporary Reform Practice* by  
 Rabbi Mark Washofsky, we read:

"The Hasmoneans...searched and  
 found only one small cruise of oil,  
 hidden away under the seal of the High  
 Priest. It contained but enough oil to  
 light [the menorah] for one day. Yet a  
 miracle occurred: the menorah was  
 kindled from this oil for eight days.  
 From then on, these days were set  
 aside as a festive occasion for  
 rendering praise [*Hallel*] and  
 thanksgiving." (Babylonian

Talmud, *Shabbat* 21b)

Lighting the Hanukkah lights connects  
 us to the miracle that enabled the  
 Hasmoneans (commonly known as the  
 Maccabees) to purify and rededicate  
 sacred space. Cleansing the Temple  
 gave the people the opportunity to  
 practice their religion through ritual  
 sacrifice, a right previously denied them  
 by the occupying Selucid forces. With  
 that right – and the Temple – restored,  
 the Maccabees decided to celebrate  
 the Festival of [Sukkot](#) (which they had  
 been unable to do in early autumn, its  
 proper time of year). By some miracle,  
 the single vial of sacred oil – enough for  
 one day – lasted for eight days. In this  
 instance, the oil symbolized not only  
 purification, but also a moral and  
 political victory of self determination in  
 the face of oppression: the restored  
 right of people to choose the way they

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# CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

BAT MITZVAH ✦ BAR MITZVAH ✦ WEDDINGS

REHEARSAL DINNERS ✦ BRIDAL /BABYSHOWERS



wanted to worship. [Read more about the history of Hanukkah.](#)

#### More Stories of Expanding Oil

The Hanukkah story is not the only tale of expanding oil in our tradition. Not long before Hanukkah, we read another such story in II Kings 4:1-37, the [haftarah](#) that accompanies [parashat Vayeira](#). This story, thought to have occurred in the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. (before the Hasmoneans' time) tells of Elijah's disciple, the prophet Elisha, to whom many miracles are ascribed. We read about the indigent widow of a prophet who approaches Elisha in search of financial help. He inquires: "Tell me what you have in the house." [She replies,] "Your maidservant has nothing at home but a small oil jar." [He says,] "Go outside to your neighbors...and borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then...pour oil into all these jars...."

She follows Elisha's instructions and from one small jar is able to fill all the borrowed jars with oil. In this way, she is able to pay her debts and live off what is left.

Here, the household oil stretches for a different holy purpose, *pikuach nefesh*, "saving a life." The indigent widow faces a devastating dilemma: If she cannot raise funds, she cannot feed her family and must sell her sons into slavery. The expanding oil prevents a great injustice from occurring, protecting the poor widow and her children. We also can infer another message from this story: just when we think we have nothing left, we may discover that with the help of our community, we have untapped reservoirs of energy and strength that were not evident before.

Whether they enable us to sanctify sacred space (or time) or they inspire us to plumb the depths of our potential to help others, the lights of Hanukkah invite us to be present and connect with the Divine as we understand and experience it.

For another tale of expanding oil, read about the prophet Elijah in I Kings 17:7-16

**Audrey Merwin** is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism's communications team. She edits *Reform Voices of Torah*, the Monday edition of *Ten Minutes of Torah*.

Reprinted from URJ.ORG

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1. Freedom from risk or danger; safety.
2. Freedom from doubt, anxiety, or fear; confidence.



**The goal of security is to keep our congregants and our Temple safe.  
Please read the following information.**

In structuring our security protocols, we received extensive input and guidance from Homeland Security, Anti-Defamation League, the URJ and several other congregations. **We need your cooperation to make this happen.**

We are trying to be responsive and flexible regarding the needs of our Congregants while providing a safe and secure environment. Please make sure to give advance notice and several dates when arranging for access.

- 1) No one is allowed in the building alone, unless authorized (This is for their protection as well as ours)
- 2) All building opening requests go to [Security@cjcn.org](mailto:Security@cjcn.org) or call 713-724-6261
- 3) Non-members are not to be on premises without appropriate personnel
- 4) Constables (paid) are required when any one of the following 3 take place:
  - a) Event with 50 or more people
  - b) Event with alcohol
  - c) Event that is open to public and non-members are welcomed ( This does not apply if you are a member and are bringing a guest)



IE: The Maj Jongg tournament needed a constable, but a Bar/Bat does not. Why? The tournament was publicly and opened to the public. Bar/Bat attendees are invited and there is a contract making the party" responsible for the people and the premises. On Friday evenings, we have at least 1 of our Security committee on "duty".



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"renting  
own

5) The fewer keys the better. Upon recommendation from the ADL, the Federation, the local our security company and our insurance company, we have limited amounts of people with keys.

constables,



**IF YOU NEED ACCESS, PLEASE CONTACT [SECURITY@CJCN.ORG](mailto:SECURITY@CJCN.ORG) OR 713-724-6261 ONLY. NO ONE ELSE IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A KEY. IF YOU DO HAVE A KEY, PLEASE DO NOT GIVE IT OUT TO SOMEONE ELSE WITHOUT GETTING PROPER AUTHORIZATION FROM THE SECURITY COORDINATOR AND/OR PRESIDENT. YOU COULD POSSIBLY JEOPARDIZE OUR INSURANCE POLICY.**

The original CJCN Security Team was professionally trained by trained by Assaf Catrain, formerly Security Executive with Homeland Security. The team went through an extensive weekend of training. This was originally done when we were awarded the Homeland Security Grant. This training continues to be passed on.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday and Tuesday: **CLOSED**  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Open from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm.  
**PLEASE CALL FIRST IN CASE OUR ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT IN THE BUILDING**

# NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Daylight Savings Ends <b>9:30a</b> Religious School <b>12:15p</b> Sprifty Board Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> .....  URJ Biennial .....	<b>5</b> <b>10a</b> Mah Jongg	<b>6</b> <b>6:45p</b> Pre-Oneg <b>7:15p</b> Shabbat Services	<b>7</b> <b>10a</b> Shabbat Torah Service & Study
<b>8</b> URJ Biennial <b>9:30a</b> Religious School <b>10a</b> Communication Meeting <b>11a</b> Oliver Lapin Day <b>12:30p</b> Holocaust Speaker	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>7p</b> Chai Mitzvah	<b>11</b> <b>6p</b> Hebrew School <b>7p</b> Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> <b>10a</b> Mah Jongg	<b>13</b> GFC Camp Retreat 2nd-5th Grade <b>6p</b> SPRIFTY Thanksgiving Dinner <b>6:45p</b> Pre-Oneg <b>7:15p</b> Musical Shabbat Services	<b>14</b> GFC March on Austin <b>10a</b> Shabbat Torah Service & Study
<b>15</b> GFC Camp Retreat 2nd-5th Grade GFC March on Austin <b>9:30a</b> Religious School <b>10:30a</b> Chalon L' Atid	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7p</b> EC Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>6p</b> Hebrew School <b>7p</b> Education Meeting <b>7p</b> Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> <b>10a</b> Mah Jongg <b>7p</b> Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	<b>20</b> <b>7:15p</b> Family Shabbat Services <b>7:15p</b> Jackie Kirbie's Bat Mitzvah	<b>21</b> <b>10a</b> Jackie Kirbie's Bat Mitzvah
<b>22</b> <b>9:30a</b> 4th Grade Food Bank <b>9:30a</b> RS Mitzvah Day <b>12:30p</b> CJCN Book Club	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7p</b> BOT Meeting	<b>25</b> .....  Klein	<b>26</b> IDS Thanksgiving Holiday .....	<b>27</b> <b>10a</b> Mah Jongg <b>6:45p</b> Pre-Oneg <b>7:15p</b> Shabbat Services	<b>28</b> <b>10a</b> Shabbat Torah Service & Study
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>6p</b> Hebrew School <b>7p</b> Education Meeting <b>7p</b> Confirmation Class	<b>3</b> <b>10a</b> Mah Jongg	<b>4</b> NFTY-TOR Na'aseh V'Nishmah <b>7:15p</b> Shabbat Service <b>7:15p</b> Bar Mitzvah of Eli York	<b>5</b> <b>1st Night</b> Chanukah <b>8a</b> Private Function

# DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
			6p Hebrew School 7p Education Meeting 7p Confirmation Class 7p Sisterhood Board Chanukah Party/Meeting 7p Men's Club Monthly Meeting	10a Mah Jongg	NFTY-TOR Na'aseh V'Nishmah 7:15p Shabbat Service 7:15p Bar Mitzvah of Eli York	1st Night Chanukah 8a Private Function 10a Bar Mitzvah of Eli York
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
NFTY-TOR Na'aseh V'Nishmah 1st Night Chanukah 9:30a Kitchen for Religious School 9:30a Religious School	2nd Night Chanukah	3rd Night Chanukah	4th Night Chanukah	5th Night Chanukah	6th Night Chanukah	Holiday Gift Wrap Fundraiser 7th Night Chanukah 10a Shabbat Torah Service & Study 7p SPRIFTY Chanukah Party 7p Rebbesoul Concert
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8th Night Chanukah			6p Hebrew School 7p Confirmation Class	10a Mah Jongg	7:15p Shabbat Services 7:15p Bar Mitzvah of Noah Checkman	10a Bar Mitzvah of Noah Checkman
9:30a Religious School						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					6:45p Pre-Oneg	10a Shabbat Torah Service & Study
12:30p CJC Book Club		7p EC Meeting		10a Mah Jongg	7:15p Shabbat Services	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						10a Shabbat Torah Service & Study
		7p BOT Meeting		10a Mah Jongg	6:45p Pre-Oneg	
				New Years Eve Casino Night	7:15p Shabbat Services	