



CHAI-LITES

News and Notes from Congregation Jewish Community North

Join us for Shabbat:

Join us for Friday Night services in the Kant Family Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. A fellowship hour "Oneg" follows in our beautiful foyer.

Contact Us:

**5400 Fellowship Lane
Spring, TX 77379
(281) 376-0016 (tel & fax)
office@cjcn.org
www.cjcn.org
OFFICE HOURS: W-F
10:30-2:30**

Did You Know?

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 us!

rabbi@cjcn.org
832-387-4437
office@cjcn.org



FROM OUR RABBI

Here we are at the time of year when people seek togetherness, express gratitude, and pray for a world at peace. At the same time, partisan, reactionary politics and the fallout from a divisive and brutal campaign continues to affect this congregation, as it does every Jewish community across this nation and around the world. I speak, of course, of the campaign of the Maccabees against the Greeks.

You may have noticed that there is no mention of the Maccabees in the Hebrew Bible. While there were books written about them, they were not included in the official collection of literature that became the Tanakh (Torah, Prophets, and Writings). There are several good reasons for this, including the fact that they were written in, ironically enough, Greek. There is also the consideration that the rabbis did not like the violence or the corruption that the Maccabee leaders brought to the nation after they took power.

These were not problems to the early church, however, and the Catholics preserved the Books of Maccabees along with many other Jewish texts as part of the "apocrypha". These are extra-canonical books and additions. I like to compare them to the 'deleted scenes' or 'alternate endings' sometimes included on DVDs of movies.

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Sharon Natenberg

Rabbi Emeritus

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Jared Bleiler

Immediate Past President

Steve Landis



FROM OUR RABBI

Within the Jewish tradition, Hanukkah is mentioned in the Talmud, where the miracle of the oil is emphasized over the military victory of the Maccabees. We teach that true victory is spiritual, not political or military. We recognize the bravery of the rebels, but more importantly the lesson that a little light can push away a great deal of darkness. We light candles and tell stories of bravery, and eat, drink and make merry. We give gifts and play games and focus on family and joy and hope.

We seek ways to make the world better in every situation. In every generation we take from the Maccabees what we can and leave what we must. We rise against tyranny with education and a stalwart refusal to compromise our values or our mission to be a bearer of light and truth. We reject extremism and blindness, fear and intimidation. We few always against the many, always persevering, always enduring. And how fortunate we are to have work to do.

Remember the lesson of the flame: one can kindle many others and never lose it's own brightness!

Am Yisrael Chai!

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (SPRIFTY)

9TH, 10TH, 11TH & 12TH GRADERS

FOOD, FUN, & FRIENDS!

SPRIFTY continues to be active this year with:

The Annual Food Drive for NAM

Shabbat Dinners & Services

Decorating the Sukkah and Delivering Sukkot-Grams

NFTY-TOR events at Greene Family Camp

Hosting the NFTY-TOR Fallish Conclave at CJCJN

Pool and Chanukah parties

Sprifty was even written up in an article in the Jewish Herald Voice!



Upcoming Events:

Dec 28: SPRIFTY Hanukkah Party

Jan 8: SPRIFTY Meeting (plan Dinner-Fundraiser)

Jan 22: SPRIFTY Deliver Items to Jane Cizik Garden Place

Jan 27: Jan 29: NFTY-TOR Winter Conclave in Ft. Worth, TX

Feb 5: SPRIFTY Family Fun Day & Health Fair in Houston, TX

Feb 17: SPRIFTY Dinner-Fundraiser

Mar 5: SPRIFTY Car Wash Fundraiser

To join or if you have questions or want to help with anything
please email SPRIFTY@cjcjcn.org

DID YOU KNOW?

CREDIT CARDS

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

All financial information is
handled in the strictest of
confidence.

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BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Trustees meetings
are open to the
congregation's members
(unless in closed session)
Why not join us and observe
the governance of your
Temple at work? Consult the
calendar on our website for
dates and times of meetings.

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CALENDAR

Check the calendar on our
website at www.CJCN.org
for the most up to date
information.

Oct 09 - Nov 09, 2016

DONATIONS

Building/Sanctuary Fund

Care Committee

Endowment Fund

The Blumenthal Family - in Memory of Sid Berman

General Operation Fund

Howard & Rita Weisoly - in Memory of Nathan Diamond

Barry & Terry Katz - in Memory of - Gladys Kormendy

The Lessick Family - in Memory of Jeni Sara Lessick

The Kant Family - in Memory of Larry David Kant

Steve & Sharon Natenberg - in Memory of Sharon Eaton

Raymond & Jane Kimmel - in Memory of Harry Kimmel

High Holiday Appeal Fund

Library Fund

The Jortner Family - in Memory of Ida Fine & Louis Strashnick

The Jortner Family - in Honor of the Marriage of

Andrew & Julie Gamson

Stan & Judy Rosen - in Memory of Leo Beresh

Meltzer Scholarship Fund

Operation Legacy Campaign

Prayer Book Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jack Hill - in Memory of Allan Bobys

Dr. & Mrs. Neal & Sandy Bernstein - in Memory of Dr. Louis
Cooper

The Waller Family - in Memory of Samuel Weisman

David Abramowitz - in Memory of Leonard Abramowitz

The Weksler Family - in Memory of Berl Weksler

Religious School Fund

Special Event Donations

WE WANT TO HELP

From our By Laws:
"No individual shall be denied membership in the Congregation solely for reasons of financial inability"

Please contact our Finance Committee at Finance@CJCN.org if you are facing financial challenges and need to adjust your commitment. We value and protect everyone's confidentiality.

IN GRATITUDE

Nov 09 - Dec 09, 2016

DONATIONS

Building/Sanctuary Fund

Albert and Sallie Panzer - in Memory of Joseph L. Panzer, Rose Panzer & Jonnie R. Warren

Leslie Marks - in Memory of Roberta Marks

Lawrence & Betty Ginsberg - in Memory of Adolph A. Bieber

Care Committee

Endowment Fund

The Blumenthal Family - in Memory of Ralph Blumenthal

General Operation Fund

Sandra & David Livney - in Memory of Harry Friedman

Howard Leff - in Memory of Lily Hamburger

Barry & Terry Katz - in Memory of Jamie Karz

The Shaffer & Fox Families - in Memory of Linda G. Fox

Stan & Judy Rosen - in Memory of Irving Rosen

Andrea & Bernie Falk - in Memory of Paul Oberlander

High Holiday Appeal Fund

Laurie & Pat Kilburn - in Memory of Benjamin Klibanoff

Library Fund

Meltzer Scholarship Fund

Operation Legacy Campaign

Prayer Book Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Steve & Jo Anne Rubin - in Memory of Maurice "Poppa" Greene

Stan & Lynn Schoen - in Memory of Rose Schoen

Murray Marks - in Memory of Roberta Marks

Sharon & Barry Kaufman - in Memory of Martin Kaufman

Glenn Bord

Mike & Karen Golden - in Memory of Lloyd M. Cooke

Religious School Fund

The Jortner Family - in Memory of Judith Fine

Special Event Donations

FYI

If you would like to place someone on the Mi Sheberach list, please contact the office at office@cjcj.org. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from the list

CONTACTS

Rabbi Jonathan Siger

Rabbi@cjcj.org

Jason Kirbie, President

President@cjcj.org

Sharon Natenberg, Principal

Principal@cjcj.org

Malcolm Sokol, Ph.D., Treasurer

Treasurer@cjcj.org

Tali Breistein, Security

Security@cjcj.org

Calendar committee

Calendar@cjcj.org

Newsletter, website,

announcement

submissions

EditorialBoard@cjcj.org

Publicity, internal & external

Communications@cjcj.org

Email changes

Office@cjcj.org

Sisterhood President

sisterhoodpres@cjcj.org

Men's Club

President

mensclubpres@cjcj.org

SPRIFTY

SPRIFTY@cjcj.org

JYG

JYG@cjcj.org

GESHER

gesher@cjcj.org

ONEG

Oneg@cjcj.org

BY-LAWS

Michael Davis

ByLaws@cjcj.org

OFFICE

Office Administrator

281-376-0016

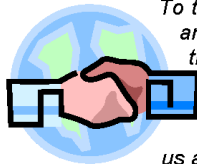
office@cjcj.org

Mens Club

The Men's club provided breakfast for the NFTY-TOR Fallish Conclave. We enjoyed seeing such a well run event, and want to say Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped plan the event especially Denise Kutcher. We are beginning to plan the Richard Wiseman award banquet scheduled for April 22nd at 7:00 pm. Be on the lookout for more information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In an effort to provide greater security and safety for our Congregants, we overhauled our Security procedures. We received input and guidance from Homeland Security, Anti-Defamation League and the URJ. We are trying to be responsive and flexible with the needs of our Congregants while providing a safe and secure environment.



To that end, unchaperoned access to the building is limited. We don't want anyone in the building alone, especially without knowing that they are in the building for safety as well as security reasons. Also, if you come to the building, please let someone know that you are there. Our hopes are that you will help us with these measures and be cooperative. If you have any suggestions, we would certainly welcome them. Email us at Security@cjcn.org.

If you need access to the Temple at any time for any reason, please try to do whatever business you have during our regular temple hours. Below are the office hours. Please remember that our Office Administrator, Isabel, leaves at those times, so you must be prepared to leave at that time as well or make other arrangements. Please call ahead to confirm that she will be in the building when you plan on coming. She could be out on Temple business.

Monday - CLOSED Tues - CLOSED

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9:30 am - 2:30 pm



If you cannot get to the temple at these times, and need access, please contact Tali Breitstein, our Security Coordinator, directly so she may make access arrangements for you. Please do not give out your key if you have one.

Please email Security@cjcn.org if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.



Several members from CJC/N presented blankets to Houston NW Medical Center's NeoNatal Clinic to cover the incubators of prematurely born babies.

This was a CJC/N Sisterhood mitzvah project done by 16 women with a lot of love in their hearts.

These blankets will fill a real need and were graciously received by the NICU staff and director, David Weisoly.



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is what community is all about.



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Howard Namkin

Jocelyn Nelson

Heather York

Each month we will try to introduce one of our board members or one of our congregants to you. This month is Howard Namkin.

GET TO KNOW OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

Howard Namkin

My wife Sallie, of blessed memory, and I joined JCN (that was the name back then) in 1982. Louetta was only a couple of lanes, Kroger was in 24 hour fitness, Randall's was in Goodwill, and Strack Farms was about the only place to grab dinner before services. I'll always remember our first Shabbat; it was Purim and we were meeting across the street in the church; our building was under construction. I was sure the custodians must have thought we were all nuts! So we were not a founding family, but we didn't miss it by much.

My family grew in the subsequent years as Jeff and then Rachel came on to the scene and attended the school through Confirmation. He lives on the other side of town now but you can still see Rachel from time to time..... She's the other violin in the Bayit Band. At the temple we added the social hall followed by the school and finally the sanctuary. Sallie was active in Sisterhood I served on the Board and the Executive Committee a few times during those years.

I started playing the violin as a kid and was classically trained through college when you might say I fell off that wagon, first into bluegrass and then into rock and jazz (once they figured out how to electrify violins). I currently play in bars and restaurants around the area with a few different groups. I've been the fiddler on your roof playing Kol Nidre since a couple years before the sanctuary, so that must be about 30 years. Talk about a steady gig! CJC� has been part of my family for 35 years, and I am looking forward to many more.

**THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
HELPED WITH THE 2016
GIFT WRAP
FUNDRAISER**





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