



CHAI-LITES

News and Notes from Congregation Jewish Community North

Join us for Shabbat:

We celebrate most weeks with 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

NOTE: At the time of this writing, Rabbi Siger is attending the URJ Biennial in Boston MA.

I write this message from the URJ Biennial in Boston, where 5500 Reform Jewish professionals and lay leaders have gathered to study, worship, learn best practices, share ideas, and get inspired. Along with conversations about broadening our reach, enhancing the lives of our congregants, and making the world a better place, there have been many conversations about the President of the United States recent decision to move our Embassy to Jerusalem, as a sign of the recognition that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel.

Jerusalem is, has been, and always shall be the holy city of our people, and has been the capital of the Jewish State since its birth as a modern country in 1948. I was blessed to be present for the 3000th anniversary of King David establishing it as such in 1996. The Jewish connection to Jerusalem has been repeatedly questioned, outrageously, by regional enemies of Israel, as well as UN committees with little or no response. For that reason, I am glad to see this decision made. As far as political concerns go, I am far more concerned with the lack of respect for freedom of worship for non-ultra-orthodox Jews in Israel than how it might make Hamas feel to have the US embassy in Jerusalem. What I know for sure is that at this season of Hanukkah, we can do our best to make Jerusalem wherever we live—by choosing kindness, generosity, patience and hospitality, the ideals that in our religious imagination make Jerusalem, Jerusalem, and CJCN, CJCN!

OUR LEADERSHIP

Rabbi
Jonathan S. Siger

Religious School Director
Kylie Danielson

Rabbi Emeritus
Robert S. Sharff, D. Min., D.D

•
President
Jason Kirbie
President-Elect
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Denise Kutcher
Mike Lorch
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Susan Shaffer
Treasurer
Malcolm Sokol, Ph.D.

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Men's Club President
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Steve Landis



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fellow congregants,

As we approach the Holiday season, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed this year to our Temple's success and making CJCN a destination for Jewish life. I hope to see everyone out at our next two big events. First, our Community wide Hanukkah dinner and Menorah lighting on December 15 starting at 6pm. Sisterhood is again planning a wonderful celebration that you will not want to miss. Don't forget to bring your Menorahs! Then, February 10 we will have the Casino Night Fundraiser and Silent Auction at Gleannloch Pines Golf Club. Tickets have already gone on sale for the event. This will be a great Valentine's Day night out! Please see the weekly announcements for details on both events.

I hope you find these monthly updates informative. If anyone has questions they would like to see addressed please feel free to let me know.

New Members:

No new members this month, but we are always looking for unaffiliated Jews in our area. If you know anyone please pass their information to Leslie Marks at membership@cjcj.org.

Leadership/ Committee Updates:

We are in the process of forming the Nominating committee to interview for Board of Trustees (BOT) and Executive Committee (EC) positions when terms expire at the end of May. If you are interested in getting involved in Temple leadership please contact myself or Rick Preble. **There will be a number of BOT and EC positions available for the next 2-year cycle.**

Continued on page 3

From Our President: (con't)***News and Notes:***

- In light of the recent events and the growing risk to Religious Institutions, the Board has decided to provide Security at every Friday Night Shabbat service through the end of the fiscal year (May 31). Continuing Security past May 31 will be evaluated as we get closer to the end date. Further, the Security committee led by Mike Lorch and Tally Breitstein are working on a long term holistic security plan. More details coming in 2018.
- Just a quick reminder the dues and donations can be paid with stock, bonds or other financial instruments. Reach out to Malcolm Sokol at Treasurer@cjcj.org if you would like to participate
- We are in the process of getting new High Holiday prayer books. Most reform congregations have already moved to these more modern texts. Funding will come from the “Prayer Book” special fund (money specifically donated for this purpose), a large donation from a current member, and income from selling personalized books. More details to come soon. The Rabbi and Ritual Committee are very excited about this change. The Rabbi has sample copies if you would like to review

Shalom,
Jason

CJCJN – Financial Summary Report

In early 2017 a set of special congregational meetings was called to bring attention to CJCJN’s financial challenges and need for action, as we closed FY 2015 with a significant operating deficit. The Board is pleased to report that the hard work of many people has brought us closer to a balanced operating budget. Thank you to everybody who attended the meetings, and has subsequently given time, shared ideas, and opened wallets to help stabilize our congregation’s finances.

CJCJN finished FY16 with positive cash flow in the Operating account. Fundraising efforts led by the Sisterhood and Men’s Club led to \$15k higher donation than in the year prior, \$10k of which was raised at the inaugural Richard Weissman Award Dinner. FY16 also saw a notable increase in cash donations from individuals (\$16k) and collection of membership dues in arrears (\$14k). Membership dues, which account 80% of CJCJN’s annual operating income, increased slightly as well. In addition, \$15k in monies from special funds were transferred to the operating fund to cover appropriate expenses. On the expense side, in FY16 overall expenses were reduced by approximately \$32k, a reduction of nearly 10% of the expense budget. \$11k of the expense reduction is associated with the dismissal of the former Religious School director in December 2016, and \$6k reduction associated with a reduction in our URJ national dues. Lower expenses were also seen spread across other expense categories. Flood Repairs from the Tax Day Flood were fully covered by insurance and grants.

The approved budget for FY17 (June 2017 – May 2018) projects a small cash flow deficit. However, with to a reinvigorated membership base and continued attention to expenses CJCJN is on track to finish in the black for a second straight year. A cash surplus may allow us to tackle some small building improvement projects as well as begin to replenish the reserve account. See you all at Casino Night!

FYI

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

CONTACTS

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announcement
submissions

EditorialBoard@cjcn.org

Publicity, internal & external

Communications@cjcn.org

Email changes

Office@cjcn.org

Sisterhood President

sisterhoodpres@cjcn.org

Men's Club

President

mensclubpres@cjcn.org

SPRIFTY

SPRIFTY@cjcn.org

BY-LAWS

ByLaws@cjcn.org

OFFICE

Office Administrator

281-376-0016

office@cjcn.org



In Memory of Gale Saltzman z"l

The Saltzman Family would like to express our deepest appreciation for all the support, cards and generous contributions that were made in Gale's name.

The list of names is too long to individually name, you all know who you are.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you, during this difficult time in our lives.

I would like to add this as well to my beautiful wife and loving mother to our girls and family.

GOD SAW YOU GETTING TIRED AND A CURE WAS NOT TO BE.
SO HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND YOU, AND WHISPERED "COME TO ME".
WITH TEARFUL EYES WE WATCHED YOU, WE WATCHED YOU FADE AWAY.
ALTHOUGH WE LOVED YOU DEARLY, WE COULD NOT MAKE YOU STAY.
A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING, HARD WORKING HANDS NOW REST.
GOD BROKE OUR HEARTS TO PROVE TO US HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST.

Steve, Taylor, Ashley, Howard, Chris, Sean and Aerynn



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.



GIFT WRAP SHIFT OPENINGS LISTING

**SISTERHOOD NEEDS HELP GIFT WRAPPING
AT WILLOWBROOK MALL!**

**** WE HAVE 58 OPENINGS ****

**TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT GIFTWRAP@CJCN.ORG**



LOCATION: Willowbrook Mall in the courtyard of Macy’s Men’s Store

While doing this Mitzvah you’ll hopefully:

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

NOTE NEW DATE FOR THE GIFT WRAP APPRECIATION SERVICE: FEBRUARY 2, 2018

<u>Thursday, December 14</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 20</u>
10-2 FILLED	9-1:30 FILLED
2-6 FILLED	1:30-6 Need 5 Wrappers *** SOS ***
6-10 Need 1 Wrapper	6-10 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **
<u>Friday, December 15</u>	<u>Thursday, December 21</u>
10-2 FILLED	9-1:30 FILLED
2-6 FILLED	1:30-6 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **
6-10 Need 1 Wrapper	6-10 Need 4 Wrappers ** SOS **
<u>Saturday, December 16</u>	<u>Friday, December 22</u>
9-1:30 Need 1 Wrapper	9-1:30 Need 5 Wrappers *** SOS ***
1:30-6 Need 1 Wrapper	1:30-6 Need 6 Wrappers *** SOS ***
6-10 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **	6-10 Need 5 Wrappers *** SOS ***
<u>Sunday, December 17</u>	<u>Saturday, December 23</u>
10-2:30 FILLED	8-1 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **
2:30-7 FILLED	1-6 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **
	6-10 Need 7 Wrappers *** SOS ***
<u>Monday, December 18</u>	<u>Sunday, December 24</u>
9-1:30 FILLED	9-1:30 FILLED
1:30-6 Need 1 Wrapper	1:30-6 FILLED
6-10 Need 2 Wrappers	
<u>Tuesday, December 19</u>	THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OR MORE SHIFTS!
9-1:30 FILLED	
1:30-6 Need 1 Wrapper	
6-10 Need 3 Wrappers ** SOS **	

Note: This list was accurate as of December 11, 2017.

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?

•

CALENDAR

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

The Lights of Hanukkah



**Congregation Jewish Community North's Sisterhood
Invites you to our Annual Hanukkah Family Dinner**

**Roasted Chicken and Homemade Latkes
Hanukkah Crafts for our youngest members**

**Friday, December 15, 2017 at 6:00 pm
Shabbat Service at 7:15 pm**

PLEASE BRING YOUR HANUKKAH MENORAH AND CANDLES

Last names A – J: Please bring a dessert.

Last names K – Z: Please bring a side dish.

RSVP with payment by Friday, Dec. 8
\$5/Adult, \$3/Children ages 3-13, \$18/Family Rate

RSVP with payment Dec. 9 - 13
\$8/Adult, \$3/Children ages 3-13, \$25/Family Rate

Non-Members
\$10 per Person (if space is available)

No money will be accepted at the door

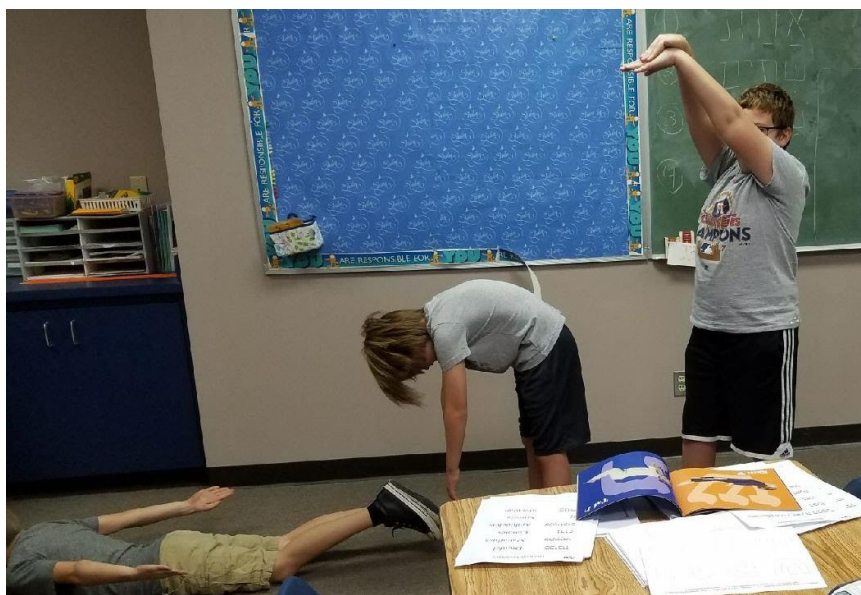
RSVP by mailing or delivering your response with payment to CJCN
5400 Fellowship Lane, Spring, TX 77379
Please mark envelope: "Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner"
Make checks payable to CJCN Sisterhood

Questions? Contact either Micki Karacek, 281-866-9324, mkaracek@yahoo.com
or Sharon Natenberg, 832-633-9964, sharon.natenberg@gmail.com

Name _____ (please print)

of Adults _____ # of Children _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ (cash / check)



CAMP AVIV

Did you know that
the Hebrew word
for Spring is
'Aviv'?



Our campers are busy learning, making, and playing each week! Next time you see a camper, ask what they did last week at camp. You might be surprised!

Religious School Recap

Shalom again from Camp Aviv! Our campers have been participating in a variety of great activities and hands-on Jewish learning. We got to welcome 2 young men into the covenant of Jewish study as Asher and Ezra were consecrated on October 29. We are very proud of them!

Mr. Klein has been helping his students connect with Hebrew by teaching basic conversational phrases and incorporating yoga poses for the Hebrew letters. Mr. Kirk and his 8th and 9th graders have come up with a list of questions and are conducting online interviews with community members about their knowledge of the Holocaust. Our younger students learned about the Havdalah service and made beautiful braided candles and spice bags with the help of our parent volunteer Leigh Checkman. Our 4th - 7th graders have enjoyed cooking projects in the kitchen, learning about food preparation and safety as well as about Jewish cooking tradition. Ms. Rebecca has her younger kids learning Hebrew letters and is teaching Abrahamic studies to the 2nd and 3rd graders. All of us at Camp Aviv wish you a Chag Chanukah Sameach!



What's Happening at CJC N **Men's Club**

Men's club has been very low key the last couple months while we plan the Richard Wiseman Award Banquet. The call for nominations has closed and we're extremely happy with the amount of nominations we received. We will be deciding on a winner soon. We are excited to share with you all our next honoree. Be on the lookout for Men's Club events in January and February.

Sisterhood

A woman's work is never done. Sisterhood is busy preparing for our annual fundraiser: Gift Wrap at Willowbrook Mall. This requires MANY volunteer hours, not only for the wrapping itself, but also behind the scenes. CJCN owes a huge debt of gratitude to Sandy & David Livney for their many years of organizing, negotiating with the mall, schlepping, purchasing, setting up, disassembling, wrapping, restocking, kopf-verdrehen.... Thank you to Denise Kutcher and Judy Kemper (the same people responsible for our great Temple directory) for scheduling the volunteers.

Also in December is CJCN's Hanukkah Dinner/Menorah-Lighting, organized this year by Micki Karacek and Sharon Natenberg. Thanks to Micki, also, for teaching us beading skills. We wear our lovely new necklaces proudly. Kudos to Leigh Checkman for leading the Sisterhood lay service in October. When neither of the co-presidents could be there, Leigh stepped up at the last minute.

Paula Fox, our Program Chair, is working on our first-ever joint program with the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Shalom of The Woodlands. After lunch (January 10th, 11:30), we will tour the National Museum of Funeral History, consistently rated as one of the best small museums in Houston. We wish you all a happy Hanukkah!

SPRIFTY

Sprifty has had a busy fall. We've had teens go to Greene Family Camp for Summerpalooza, we've had teens participate in the Mitzvah Corp event held in Houston to aid in relief for Hurricane Harvey, and we've even had our first "Freshman Kidnap" event in quite some time. In early December, we're having our annual Chicken and Latkes Chanukah Party, but this year, we're adding an ugly Chanukah sweater element to it. In the spring, we've got a lot on our plate as well. We'll be having a fundraiser, leading a Shabbat Service and participating in a few NFTY-TOR events among other things!



The Cool Young Jews enjoyed a great time at The Shack. Watch your emails for the next fun event!



December 9, 2017

Hello Fellow CJC� Members!

I am writing to each member within the congregation to share with you a very important fundraiser for the Temple and to ask for your help.



The Temple is planning a Casino Night on Saturday, February 10th, 2018.

This event has long been held at the Temple but this year we are taking it off property. The event will be held at Gleannloch Pines Golf Club near Champion Forest Drive and Spring Cypress Road. Our hope is to raise money for CJC� as well as provide lots of enjoyment for those who attend. Many people find great deals while supporting the Temple. We have assembled a terrific committee who are hard at work to make this a great success!

One of the reasons we are taking the event off property is to have a larger facility and open it up to more non-members. Please bring your friends and enjoy the night.

How can you help:

We are looking for table sponsorships for the casino games as well as for the food. Please consider sponsoring either food or gaming equipment for the event. Even a partial sponsorship would be great! This is a great way to show your support for CJC� as well as get some visibility for your company, if that applies. You will be recognized with a sponsorship sign on the casino table or buffet as well as in the program.

In addition, we are also looking outside the temple for sponsorships and for people to assist in gathering silent auction items. Asking the companies you work for or know for a donation is easy. We accept goods, services or gift cards. We can even bundle up smaller items to make a package.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact me at casinonight@cjcν.org so I can assist you in requesting donations and provide you all the forms you will need.

Please mark February 10th on your calendar so you and your friends can join us!

Thank you for your continued support!

David Livney
2018 CJC� Casino Night Chair

December 2017

WAYS TO DONATE

Helping your temple is a meaningful way to fulfill the mitzvah of Tzedakah while honoring your family and those you hold dear.

Honor	Minimum Donation
Memorial Plaque	\$360
Leaf on the Tree of Life	\$270
Prayer book dedication	\$36
Library book donation	\$18

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DETAILS

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SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, Jan. 10th

at 11:30 am

**Lunch followed by a visit to
the National Museum of
Funeral History in Spring
(<https://nmfh.org/>)**

**Joint Sisterhood Event with
Congregation Jewish
Community North &
Congregation Beth Shalom
of the Woodlands**

More information coming.....



Raveneaux
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