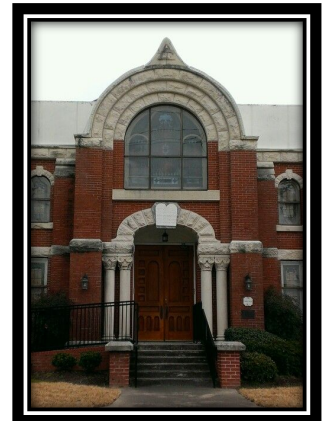


Temple Sinai

713 Hodges St. Lake Charles, LA 70601
<http://templesinai.info> / T: 337-439-2866

January, 2020
February, 2020

Tevet/Sh'vat 5780
Sh'vat/Adar I 5780



JANUARY 2020 TEVET / SH'VAT 5780

Friday, January 3, 2020

6 PM

TORAH: Vayigash: Gen. 44:18-47:27
HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Friday, January 10, 2020

6 PM (Pre-service Oneg at 5:30)

TORAH: Va-y'chi: Gen. 47:28-50:26
HAFTARAH: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday, January 17, 2020

6 PM

TORAH: Sh'mot: Ex. 1:1-6:1
HAFTARAH: Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Friday, January 24, 2020

6 PM (Pre-service Oneg at 5:30)

TORAH: Va-eira: Ex. 6:2-9:35
HAFTARAH: Eze. 28:25-29:21

Friday, January 31, 2020

6 PM

TORAH: Bo: Ex. 10:1-13:16
HAFTARAH: Jer. 46:13-28

FEBRUARY 2020 SH'VAT / ADAR 5780

Friday, February 7, 2020

6 PM Table Service (Rabbi)

TU BISH'VAT SEDER

TORAH: B'shalach: Ex. 13:17-17:16
HAFTARAH: Jud. 4:4-5:31

Friday, February 14, 2020

6 PM

TORAH: Yitro: Ex. 18:1-20:23
HAFTARAH: Isa. 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

Friday, February 21, 2020

NO SERVICES due to parade

TORAH: Mishpatim: Ex. 21:1-24:18
HAFTARAH: II Kings 12:5-18

Friday, February 28, 2020

6 PM (Pre-service Oneg at 5:30)

TORAH: T'rumah: Ex. 25:1-27:19
HAFTARAH: I Kings 5:26-6:13

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE LEADERS

January 3 – George Bodin
January 10 – Rabbi Weinstein
January 17 – Sandy Desadier
January 24 – Rabbi Weinstein
January 31 – George Bodin

February 7 – Rabbi Weinstein
February 14 – Diane McCarthy
February 21 – No Service
February 28 – Rabbi Weinstein

Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020
7:00PM
Temple Social Hall

Mi' she' bei' rach

Wishing a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy recovery, to:

Tony DiBartolo
Reve Greenberg
Jill Greenberg

Sam Schoolsky
Brenda Bachrack

If there is anyone who needs to be added to the mi'she'bei'rach list for prayers for continued health improvements, please let Sandy know.
sdesadier@gmail.com



Temple Sinai
Lake Charles, LA

January Anniversaries

3 Barbara & Tony DiBartolo
19 Carol & Charlie St. Dizier

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Anna Silverstein's daughter **Madison Wyn Silverstein** on receiving her PhD from Auburn University. Madison is now teaching at Loyola University in New Orleans and working at a mental health office as a therapist.

Mazel Tov to **Benjamin Gall** on his receiving a diploma in Welding Technology from Southwest Community College.

Kroger Reward Program

If you have not already renewed your Kroger rewards card, please go to www.kroger.com/account/update log in, and renew your card with:

Organization Name:

Temple Sinai

Organization Number:

IE298

as the recipient of your Kroger rewards.

Message from the Rabbi:



UNION *for*
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Chanukah Cheer!

Chanukah! I love Chanukah for many reasons.

Here are my 8 reasons I believe Chanukah is among my very favorite Jewish Holidays:

- 1) Chanukah is a truly joyful holiday!
- 2) Chanukah is just like my cell phone when it has only 10% battery left, but it continues to work for hours and hours!
- 3) Chanukah Gelt is Amazing! The little gold wrapped Candy fills my appetite!
- 4) Chanukah candles and their amazing bright colors shower us all with happy brightness!
- 5) Chanukah Blessings bring loving melodies!
- 6) Chanukah Dreidels in Linda's collection are the source of endless joy!
- 7) Chanukah songs are so cheerful, but the best in my view remains Adam Sandler's "Chanukah!"
- 8) Chanukah lights up all our lives AND reminds us that the loving lights of Temple Sinai will bring us love, light, laughter, and long life for our Temple and for us ALWAYS!!!

HAPPY CHANUKAH!!!

Rabbi Barry

RABBI BARRY'S WORD OF THE MONTH: LETTERS ON THE DREIDEL!

I hope that this Chanukah you will take time to spin the DREIDEL!!

Dreidel is Yiddish for "spinning top." A dreidel is a pointed, four-sided top which can be made to spin on its pointed base. Dreidels are normally made of plastic or wood, though there are silver or glass "designer dreidels" available on the market, usually intended for display purposes. It is customary to play dreidel games on the holiday of Chanukah.

Rabbi Weinstein's Schedule:

January 10, 2020

January 24, 2020

February 7, 2020

February 28, 2020

What Is Written on the Dreidel: There is a Hebrew letter embossed or printed on each of the dreidel's four sides. These four letters form the acronym of the phrase: Nes gadol hayah sham, "a great miracle happened there," a reference to the Chanukah miracle that transpired in the Land of Israel.

Why We Play Dreidel: It is told that the dreidel, known in Hebrew as a sevivon, dates back to the time of the Greek Syrian rule over the Holy Land—which set off the Maccabean revolt that culminated in the Chanukah miracle. Learning Torah was outlawed by the enemy, a "crime" punishable by death. The Jewish children resorted to hiding in caves in order to study. If a Greek patrol would approach, the children would pull out their tops and pretend to be playing a game. Read the Chanukah story [here](#).

By playing dreidel during Chanukah we are reminded of the courage of those brave children.



How to Play Dreidel: Players take turns spinning the dreidel. Having the dreidel fall on each Hebrew letter results in a different action.

- Land on "nun" (נ) and nothing happens.
- Land on "gimmel" (ג) and you get to take the whole pot.
- Land on "hay" (ה) and you take half of the pot.
- Land on "shin" (ש) and you must give a predetermined amount back into the kitty.

Whenever the kitty is emptied, every player must contribute a set amount. Any player that cannot contribute after landing on a "shin" or after a fellow player lands on a "gimmel" loses.

Chabad.org

Temple Birthdays:

January Birthdays

3	Joel Dondis
4	Elba Rivera
6	Sandy Desadier
9	Benjamin Gall
16	Robert Levy
17	Matthew Sturgis
21	David Holtzman
25	Hayes Michel
25	Jeff Hankin
27	Barbara DiBartolo
28	Calvin Billings
31	Ellen Steirman

February Birthdays

8	Bruce Katz
12	Jennifer Goldman Pollack
18	Shirley Riff Billings
22	Ron Desadier
22	Julissa Rivera
25	Mark Holtzman
26	Sarah Hodnett
27	Sallie Dondis

Our blessings and good wishes go out to Tim & Charlene Blevins as they recover and rebuild from tornado that took their home in December. This picture was taken when Rabbi and several temple congregants visited them in DeRidder following the devastation.



UNITY SERVICE

November 8, 2019



PRE-ONEGS

The "Pre-Oneg" at Temple Sinai has been well received. So, we're going to keep it going! It's a borrowed name for an informal social gathering in the Social Hall that happens one-half hour BEFORE services begin. We schedule them on Friday nights when Rabbi is in and when there isn't already an Oneg or a family dinner night planned. Food and drink are generally kept very simple--one or two things that would allow thirty people or so to nibble on while they visit with each other. It also provides an opportunity for tzedakah--participating in temple life which keeps the congregation alive and active.

Pre-Oneg Hosts are Responsible for:

- Provide and bring the food & drink to be served during the pre-Oneg.
- Plate food and set it out on the main table and/or sideboard before 5:30PM.
- Make sure there are plenty of napkins, forks, glasses, etc.
- Provide ice, if needed.
- Wash all serving pieces, dishes, platters, etc. from the pantry before and after use.
- Pick up all food and drinks after the social is over.
- Take leftovers home with you, unless they would be suitable for Torah Study the next morning, in which case they can be wrapped up and left. There is usually enough space in the refrigerator to accommodate cold items.
- Leave the social hall and kitchen clean.

Sisterhood will reimburse the host \$50 to \$75 depending on the size of the Oneg. Turn in your receipts to Ellen Raley.

Would you like to host a Pre-Oneg? You can sign up online by visiting this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OnegForm> or

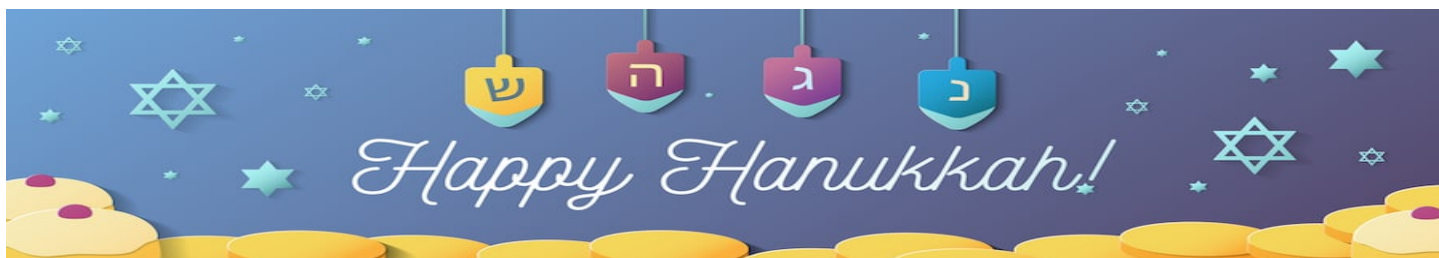
or Scan this code using the camera on your phone or tablet:

Take a look at the calendar to find a date that is open that you'd like to host. Click on the box for that date and enter your information as outlined. It is a live document, so it will update automatically.

As people sign up, you can see who is hosting each Friday night by visiting the link at any time. If you'd like to help someone who is already signed up to host, contact them directly to offer your help.

An updated sign up form will be printed each Friday night and placed on the table in the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to sign up in person. The electronic form will then be updated with the information for anyone who signs up in person.





The Kabbalah of the Dreidel

Yisrael Rice

Do you know the rules of Dreidel? You spin a top with four Hebrew letters on it. A *Gimmel* wins the whole kitty, a *Hei* gets you half, *Nun* gets nothing and for a *Shin* you must pay in. Aside from the inherent Kabbalistic meaning behind this method, there is the practical Yiddishe origin. *Gimmel* stands for *Gantz*, meaning the whole thing. *Hei* is for *Halb*, meaning half. *Nun* stands for *Nisht* or nothing. And *Shin* is for *Shtell arein* or put in.

These are four basic modes of being, depending upon the person, his or her period in life, or the particular day. We all have our *Gimmel* days. This is when we feel that everything is going great and turning out in a sensational way. (It's been a while, eh?) We have our *Hei* days, when things are going quite well. The *Nun* and *Shin* need no explanation.

But each of these letters represents only one face of the Dreidel — only a single angle or perspective of the whole. What do the letters spell out? What is the "whole" of the Dreidel? *Ness Gadol Hayah Sham*, "a great miracle happened there." This refers to the great miracle of Chanukah that occurred in the Holy Land. The situation there seemed dire and beyond hope. They were definitely having a *Shin* day. The commitment of a few people turned the situation around (like a Dreidel) and brought out the miracle and G-d's salvation.

The Macabees did not dwell on the fact that they were being oppressed and persecuted. They focused on the *Gimmel* that was on the other side of the *Shin*. And then they acted to create a vehicle for a Divine miracle.

It is vital to remember that whatever letter we seem to be getting at a particular point in life, it's all part of one Dreidel. And that Dreidel is telling us that miracles happen. We can transform the dark situations of life into the bright light of the Chanukah Menorah. This depends upon our faith in G-d's plan, and our commitment to create a vehicle for the miracle.



The Dreidel in the Bible?

Based on this theme we find a phenomenal "coincidence" with these four letters of the Dreidel. The first place where these letters occur as a word in the Torah is in the Parshah (Torah Reading) of *Vayigash* (Genesis 44-47, always in proximity to Chanukah), where they spell the word *Goshnah*, meaning "to Goshen."

The Patriarch Jacob was sending his son, Judah, to the Egyptian city of Goshen to set up a house of study, in advance of Jacob's, and his entire family's, relocation to that land. Our patriarch was aware that this was a dreadful descent into exile. But he looked at all of the letters of the Dreidel and realized that hidden in the exile are the seeds of redemption. Study must continue, especially in exile. As long as we are able to retain the vital Divine information, the exile cannot hold sway over us. And our study and performance become the vehicle for the ultimate redemption.

This is similar to the origin of the Dreidel. According to tradition, during the times of Greek oppression Torah study was forbidden. When the children were studying, they would keep a Dreidel nearby to pull out and play in case they were discovered. (A bit opposite from our Hebrew school experience, perhaps.) At the time, the students may have thought that the game was a distraction from their true purpose in life. But in truth, G-d conceals His countenance to draw out our commitment and connection to Him. It's all about revealing the Divine in the least likely places. That's what a miracle is.

The Dreidel was the formula to elicit the underlying truth of the Jewish soul.

The Dreidel and Moshiach

And one more idea. If you add up the *Gimatria* (the Hebrew numerical value) of the letters of the Dreidel, you get 358 (*Nun* (50) + *Gimmel* (3) + *Hei* (5) + *Shin* (300) = 358). This is the same value as *Moshiach* (*Mem* (40) + *Shin* (300) + *Yud* (10) + *Chet* (8) = 358), the Messiah. When the Moshiach comes, he will teach each individual how to see the Divine purpose in every facet of life. Even the time of exile and darkness will be illuminated.

We may have been focusing on one particular letter. [Moshiach](#) will teach us to see that all of life is a tapestry of Divine wonder.

Chabad.org

Temple Jahrzeits:

(Week Ending)

January 3, 2020

Minnie Pearl Levy (1)
Roy Prater (1)
Jacob Winner (1)
Isaac Reinauer (2)
Vergie Comeaux (3)
Kenneth Hartman (3)

January 10, 2020

Rebecca Reinauer (4)
Esther Goldman (5)
Sarah Rebecca Wolf Klaus (5)
Bertha Greenwood Runte (6)
Dora Thibodeaux (7)
Irving Bachrack (8)
Marlene Levite (9)
Adele H. Greenberg (10)

January 17, 2020

Theo Frank (13)
Sonya (Toni) Harris (14)
Robert Levite (14)
Florence Eisen Rosenthal (14)
Ruth Buncher (15)
Ray C. Fredrick (15)
Beck Rikess (16)
Robert Stopnik (16)

January 24, 2020

G. B. Walker (18)
Ethyl Landau Jacobs (19)
Louis Reinauer (19)
Marie Gold (20)
Bernard Loftin (20)
Irma Hoffman Smith (20)
Deborah Levy (21)
Henry Packman (21)
Eugene Earl Toerner (21)
Sidney Hoffman (22)
Fannie Sorkow (22)
Blanche Michel (23)
Julia Gross (24)
Nanette Hess (24)

Temple Contributions

Funds:

Sisterhood:

Decorating Fund
General Fund
Meal of Consolation

Send Checks to:

Ellen Raley
4270 Indigo Place
Lake Charles, LA 70605

Temple:

Adult Education Fund
Youth Fund
Cemetery Fund
Courtyard Fund
General Fund
Music Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Tree of Life Fund

Temple Sinai
713 Hodges St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Contributors

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

(Please print, clip and submit this form with your contribution to
avoid any confusion during the acknowledging process.)



Temple Yahrzeits:

(Week Ending)

January 31, 2020

Marjorie Hebert (25)
Joey Stoner (25)
Lena Messer (26)
Leon Gordon (27)
Robert F. Michel (27)
Sanford Gold (28)
Jack Labovitch (28)
Lucy Manoff (29)
Leha Bohn Gordon (30)
Michael Helman (30)
Samuel Milstein (30)
Marx Weill (30)
Fannie Hart (31)
Freda Marcus (31)
Isidora Reinauer (31)

February 7, 2020

Rose Margulis (2)
Irving S. Stein (2)
Coleman Greenwood (4)
Hinda Stopnik (4)
Harry Bressler (5)
Irving Sorkow (5)
Ann Luce (6)
Mrs. Julius Goldsmith (7)
Clara Spector (7)

February 14, 2020

Robert Kennelly (8)
Jacob Gorin (10)
Arthur Weiss (11)
Florence "Titter" Wise (11)
Sid Atlas (12)
Joseph Fry (12)
Alfred William Mayer (12)
David Reims (13)
Cecile Mandelbaum (14)
Murray Seidenberg (14)

We are grateful for these contributions:

General Fund:

From: Helen Self

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

Bulding Fund:

From: William & Norma Levy

In Memory of: Lynne Holtzman

From: Dr. Lee Schwalben

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Maurice & Anita Fields Gold

Courtyard Fund & Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

From: Ann & Scott Michel

In Honor of: Blanche & Bobby Michel on the birth of their
great-granddaughter, Rory Lynn Michel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

From: Barbara Maxey

In Honor of: Rabbi, for initiating the PreNeg

Tree of Life Fund:

From: Maurice & Anita Fields Gold

Music Fund:

From: Tony & Barbara DiBartolo

In Honor of: Michael Schwartzberg, whose shofar blowing awakens & inspires us

Temple Yahrzeits:

(Week Ending)

February 21, 2019

Mary Gilbert (15)

Francine Messer (15)

Julius Goldsmith (16)

Angus Jennings (16)

Gay Gold (17)

Louis Kushner (17)

Mary Altman (18)

Harry Goldman (18)

Jennie Helman (18)

Ethel Love (18)

Jacob Sukiennik (19)

Muriel Fuerst (20)

Alorene Greenwood (20)

February 28, 2020

Stuart Greenberg (22)

Elias Berwin (23)

William Wilson McGhee (23)

Rose G. Greenberg (24)

Francis Austin (26)

Marguerite Whiting (27)

Thank You...

Thank you, Joel and Jan Davidson, for providing housing in their very comfortable and cozy "apartment" for Rabbi and Linda when they are in town.