

B'nai Butte Buzz

East River Valley Jewish Community
December 2019 Newsletter
Kislev 5780

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Spiritual Leaders: Rabbi Hillel Katzir & Nina Rubin
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Upcoming Events

Hanukkah:

Sunday December 22, 2019: 6:00pm at the Brick Oven Pizzeria. Come celebrate the first candle of Hanukkah with B'nai Butte. We will light the big Hanukiah and enjoy pizza and soft drinks compliments of B'nai Butte.

Nightly lighting of the Hanukiah 12/22-12/29 in front of the Brick Oven Pizzeria at 6:00pm.

If you are interested in leading the Hanukiah lighting one night during the week please email bnaiatbutte@gmail.com with you preference.

Friday December 27, 2019: 6:30pm Shabbat potluck and Hanukkah celebration at the Hogue's (16 Morning Glory Way). Bring your Hanukiyot so we can all light them together.

Saturday December 28, 2019: 10:30am Torah study, location tbd.

Saturday December 28, 2019: 7:30pm Havdalah dessert potluck at the Elfenbein's (149 Zeligman).

Sunday December 29, 2019: B'nai Butte Ski day! Meet in front of Red Lady at 10am. Apres 3:30-5:00pm in the Treasury building; hot chocolate & cookies will be served. Contact Lacy Kaufmann (847-922-0047) with any questions.

Hebrew School: Every Friday after school. Contact Ofra at ofrarey@gmail.com.

Adopt a Family: We have decided to Adopt a Family for the holidays this year. The adopted family is a local family who lost everything recently to a home fire. Click on the google sheet for a list of wants/needs. Please notate in the document in the appropriate column if you purchase an item.

If anyone is interested in helping with rent please contact Lacy Kaufmann (847-922-0047) and she will help facilitate. We will accept monetary donations that will be used towards gift cards/rent.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UsrM-E1XrkWzfGDQx0xODL8uL7J2z7HHoRGt3TxQli4/edit?usp=sharing>

Please drop or mail wrapped or unwrapped items to the Kaufmann's (236 Goren St/PO BOX 505) or Pinnacle Orthopedics by **Friday December 20th**. Please make a note of what the wrapped item is. We will be delivering the items to the family on Saturday December 21st if anyone is interested in joining.

We also have a couple local congregants that could use some assistance this holiday season. Please email lacykauf@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

If you are in need of assistance this holiday season please contact Lacy Kaufmann lacykauf@gmail.com or 847-922-0047.

A Few Words From Rabbi Hillel Katzir & Nina

It's December, so Chanukah is upon us! Lights, chocolate gelt, gifts... Did we mention the chocolate gelt?

It is sometimes said that this really isn't a "major" holiday on the Jewish calendar. This may be in part to contrast to what many of our neighbors are celebrating; Christmas is clearly one of the two biggest religious holidays for Christians! It seems that Chanukah grew in popularity among Jews when we immigrated to America; celebrating our holiday, even if it is not on the same level of importance as their holiday, has given us a way to hold fast to our own tradition, in the midst of the ubiquitous music and decorations for Christmas that appear every year at this time – starting even before Halloween in some stores!

It may also be in part because it is the one holiday that is widely celebrated by Jews that is not based in the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible)! There is no mention of this holiday in *Tanakh*. Unlike the three festivals of Passover, *Shavuot* and *Sukkot*, which are commanded in detail in more than one place in the Torah, we get the story of Chanukah – the revolt of the Maccabees, the rededication of the Temple – from the First Book of Maccabees, which is part of the Apocrypha, group of books that didn't make it into the biblical canon.

And the story of the miracle of the oil – that isn't even in the Book of Maccabees! That is *midrash* (a rabbinic teaching story) from the Talmud.

So Chanukah may not be one of our 'major' holidays, but it has its own importance: it's fun; it always comes at the darkest time of the year, at the winter solstice, when we need the additional light of the Chanukah candles; and it's a time to rededicate ourselves to our beautiful and meaningful Jewish tradition! And there's gelt!

We are looking forward to celebrating Chanukah with you over the weekend of December 27-29. We will light candles together, sing songs, play some dreidel, and celebrate the holiday and the community, both of which warm the cold December evenings!

Chag Urim Same'ach (Happy Festival of Lights),
Nina and Rabbi Hillel



Announcements

Mazal Tov to Scott and Donna Fishman on the birth of their first grandchild;
Calder Phillip Ehrhardt 10/28/19

Contributions

B'nai Butte gratefully acknowledges the following generous contributions from:

Barbara Baccari in Memory of Minnie Roth
Michael and Mary Shannon Baim
Monica and Nathan Bilow
Ken and Marla Drucker
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Jerry and Sharon Tinianow
Ellen and Douglas Weitman
Laura and Michael Werner
Shelley and Victor Wisner
Claire and James Woodcock
Ben and Beth Wegbreit

*If you would like to join them the website has been updated and you can now donate straight on the website
<http://www.bnaibutte.org> or you can send donations in the mail to PO Box 2537.*

Thank yous

Dana Zobs for housing Rabbi Katzir and Nina during Rosh Hashanah.

Stephan Quetzal for housing Rabbi Katzir and Nina during Yom Kippur.

The Rolfes for the flowers on Rosh Hashanah.

To everyone who helped set up/clean up for the High Holidays.