



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

*The Traditional Synagogue of
Rockland County and Northern New Jersey*

VOL. LVV, NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2018

CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5779

While surfing the Internet for songs about Hanukkah for last year's celebration, I came across a song by a band named TeamMate called *I Won't Be Home For Hanukkah This Year*. The singer bemoans his absence from the celebrations because he forgot to check his calendar to see what date the Festival of Lights falls out that particular year.

We are probably all familiar with the havoc wreaked upon our schedules by the ever changing dates of Jewish holidays. Life would certainly be easier if Rosh Hashanah was always on September 15, Hanukkah on December 15, and Passover sometime after tax season. This coming year is one of the particularly challenging ones to keep track of, as I will explain shortly, but just in case you don't have your calendar from Hellman's or wherever else you get it from, the first night of Hanukkah will be Sunday, December 2nd and the first Seder will be Friday night, April 19th.

This year is a Jewish leap year, which makes keeping track of things a bit more challenging as the high holidays and Hanukkah are early and Passover is late. In a Jewish leap year an extra month is added in to the Jewish year before Purim. We need this extra month because our calendar balances the solar year and the lunar year. The lunar year is 11 days shorter than the solar year, so without periodic correction (seven added months over the course of 19 years) the holidays would slide out of their season. Remember that just a few years ago we celebrated Hanukkah on Thanksgiving, resulting in deep-fried turkeys;

without a leap year we would eventually end up celebrating Hannukah on Labor Day. By comparison Islam also has a lunar calendar but does not add a month in to keep holidays in their season; the month of all-day fasting known as Ramadan can therefore fall out during the winter (short fasts) or in the summer (long fasts). Judaism cannot allow for such a dislocation of the

holidays as per the Torah both Passover and Sukkoth must be celebrated in the spring and fall respectively (although a late start to Succoth - next year beginning on Sunday night, October 13 - may leave some Sukkah-dwellers feeling as though it's winter).

I suppose that one clear advantage of this arrangement is that it removes us from our routinized view of time and calendar. Holidays you can set your watch by are convenient but feel a bit routinized, a bit too dependable. Especially in today's world where technology constantly puts time and calendars in front of us, we do well to unlock ourselves from our precise routines. Judaism understands that time and routine can lull us into an aspiritual perspective; this is perhaps the greatest blessing of Shabbat, when we achieve greater holiness as we drop our routines and leave behind time of day as our driving concern so we might relax and refresh our spirituality. Please make every effort to join us for Shabbat services and to enjoy the spiritual uplift that comes from being together with a community and G-d, and we look forward to seeing you for holiday services-- just be sure to check your calendar!

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

Fall Back, Leap Forward



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel's
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Published 10 times a year

Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach
Rabbi Emeritus David H. Chanofsky
Cantor Menachem Bazian
Jonathan Meister, President

Congregation Shaarey Israel
18 Montebello Road
Montebello, New York 10901
845-369-0300
www.congshaareyisrael.org

Roberta Lieman, Editor
973-706-5176

E-mail: roberta@theliemans.com

Submissions to **The Scroll** are welcome and must be received by the 10th of the previous month for publication.

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CANDLELIGHTING FOR... NOVEMBER

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
2	5:33	6:38
9	4:25	5:33
16	4:18	5:23
23	4:14	5:19
30	4:11	5:16



From the Editor's Desk...

as I write this article, I had to stop to put on a sweater. The

hot, humid weather we were experiencing in early October (too humid for me) was suddenly replaced by unseasonably cold, blustery weather (too wintry for mid-October). I, for one, am not happy with this sudden reversal. Many people enjoy living in the northeast because they like the seasonal changes...where are they? Have environmental changes taken over?

A good thing about the cooler weather is that we are headed toward Thanksgiving and Chanukah. These are two "happy" holidays that I eagerly look forward to sharing with family.

Enjoy the cooler, or should I say colder weather and to those who are fortunate to spend some time in more temperate climes, enjoy and have a healthy winter!

Happy Thanksgiving!



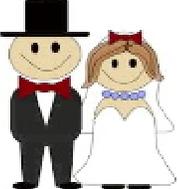
SHALOM



Roberta



Submissions for the December issue are due by November 10th. Please **promptly** send in any articles or flyers, via e-mail, to be included in the issue.--ED.

<p><u>Minyons</u></p> <p>Weekday evenings Sunday-Thursday: 8 pm</p> <p>Weekday mornings Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am Sunday mornings: 9 am</p> <p>Friday evenings: 6:00 pm</p>	AT A GLANCE		 <p><u>Shabbat Kiddush Fund</u> Send donations, payable to CSI, indicate in memo "Kiddush Fund." Planning a Kiddush?</p>
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<p><u>Update your aliyah card info</u></p> <p>Contact the office with up-dates</p>	<p><u>Going Green</u></p> <p>In an effort to reduce costs and save the environment, CSI will be reducing the number of mailings. If you have e-mail, please notify the office to receive flyers on line. Only those without e-mail will receive "regular" mail.</p> 		 <p>CSI office 845-369-0300 <u>CSI website:</u> shaareyisraelrockland.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Scroll...3</p>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan Meister

In Tel Aviv you play and in Jerusalem you pray.
While I don't know the origin of this quote my father used to repeat this mantra and so do I. In fact I have just experienced these words as I write this article with Shabbat approaching here in Tel Aviv. Nine glorious days in the land of Israel is never enough but it is enough to remind me about who I am and restore my connection to the Jewish people, my heritage and of course Hashem. It also allows me to reflect on so many personal levels and think about what I see here and how it relates back home.

Several days ago I had the opportunity to attend a wedding "in the forest" at a place called En Hemed which is a part of the National Park System in Israel. The occasion was the marriage of one of Beth's cousins of whom there are probably 50 or more living in Israel. The strange part about it was that the grandparents of the groom (cousins) live in Monsey yet we never see them. Even odder, the mother of the groom and I attended ASHAR together until the fourth grade and we reconnected when I married into Beth's family. It is a small world.

The wedding was beautiful, the food, the dancing, the music the setting all something special. What I will also take away was the fact that there were Jews from all walks of life, in all manners of dress, including those in jeans, those in long skirts, those in shot skirts, those in knit yarmulkes and those in black velvet yarmulkes. Many of course like me related in marriage but truthfully what we all had in common was that we are all one people and at this wedding there was absolutely no tension, no one looking at another "type" of Jew and offering a dirty look, a negative comment, even a different opinion. All stood silently to watch the chupa (of course an occasional cell phone – this is Israel) but we all stood together and celebrated, men standing with women, super orthodox, modern orthodox, no yarmulkes, big yarmulkes, small yarmulkes, sheitls, long blonde real hair and no one cared. The glass was crushed, we all went into the open dining hall and everyone sat at mixed tables. Yes it began with separate dancing but maybe thirty minutes later, the mechitza was gone and men and women, even those who are

strictly orthodox danced together. No one sneered, no one made a comment, it was just about being together in celebration. Would this happen in Monsey? I doubt it but at least for a night in Israel all of the intra-religious tension that we see in our part of the world was gone.

Two days later we went down to Ashkelon and sat at a sea side marina with the mother of the groom, Beth's cousin with whom I went to school with years ago and someone I never would have thought about seeing again but is actually back in my life. The day was magnificent and we all sat together, ate together and just enjoyed another beautiful day in the land of Israel. Religious people and those who are more religious and less religious. No hangups, no sneers about how one dresses or acts, just the joy of being together. Again, not something we always see in our neck of the woods.

This is not to say that Israel doesn't have its religious tensions, it does and the differences are intense. As I write this article I am in Tel Aviv which from a religious point of view and a political point of view is a different world from Jerusalem. Some say there is a State of Tel Aviv and a State of Israel. Yet as I finish up writing the sun is setting here over the Mediterranean, the traffic is certainly quieting down and I am about to go to shul where there will be around 400 people for Kabbalat Shabbat, most under the age of 40, yes in Tel Aviv on a Shabbat.

All of the tensions of the week will go away (believe me driving here is no picnic and I've done more than 1000 kilometers in five days of driving) and Shabbat will arrive in Tel Aviv just as it will arrive in Jerusalem. I won't be in my red seat on the bimah this Shabbat but the peacefulness that prevails at 18 Montebello Road for me on Friday night and Saturday is on my mind. For just like that wedding in the forest, we too tend to come together as one when we join for services or programs and as I prayed at the Kotel just a few days ago, this should continue for a long time to come.



COMING ATTRACTIONS AT CSI

November 9th –
Fall Shabbat Dinner

December 7th –
Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

December 24th –
Chinese & A Movie

December 31st –
What are you doing?

New Years Eve?

Call Paulette--if there's interest
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Things are always happening at CSI.

Paulette Frankel - 845-641-1298



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SWEEPSTAKES IS COMING...**

**THE CALENDAR
SWEEPSTAKES IS COMING...**

**THE CALENDAR
SWEEPSTAKES IS COMING...**

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Weekday mornings: Monday & Thursday:
7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm



The Scroll...5

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian Reality

People still surprise me. I have made it my business, in both my weekday and clerical career to study human behavior. After more than 30 years, I sometimes think that I have seen it all. Then someone or something comes along and I am reminded that that I will never know it all, especially when it comes to the infinite variety of human behavior.

A few weeks ago, I was in the break room at work. Two of my employees were also there getting coffee. We began discussing some issues and I was asked about some dumbwaiters we had in the district that are in need of repair. I informed them that we were phasing out the dumbwaiters in the schools because it was a safety hazard. One of the gentlemen nodded and agreed. "Yeah, a kid could get in there." His friend replied, "Yeah, could you imagine the newspaper article if that happened?"

I was honestly dumbfounded. I looked at the second gentleman and said, "That was interesting. I was thinking about a student getting caught in the dumbwaiter getting hurt, and you're worried about an article?" I explained that we had to worry about what something *is* before we worry about what it looks like. If we take care of what is, the "what it looks like" will most likely take care of itself.

I was trained as a CPA. One of the primary concepts in accounting is to judge a transaction based on what it is as opposed to what it looks like. This is known as "substance over form."

My career as a programmer and business consultant operates on the same principle. When I look at how a business operates, I focus on what they are trying to accomplish as opposed to what they are doing. In this way, I am able to redesign the process for optimum efficiency because I was able to focus on what the whole point of the effort involved was.

We live in a world, however, that does not focus on what is. In fact, distractions abound all around us. Advertising, for example, focuses on appearances. I remember hearing

of a World War II era advertising campaign for Lucky Strike cigarettes. The slogan was, "Lucky Strike Goes to War" and gave the impression that smoking Lucky Strike cigarettes was somehow patriotic. Lucky Strike sales went up by 40%.

Politics operates on the same principle. A politician will typically tell you whatever they think you want to hear to give the impression that they are the right person, by right of better policies, morality or what have you, for your vote. What they say is intended to supplant and distract from what might be real.

The Internet and social media are the kings of appearances vs reality. The anonymity of the Internet allows an individual to adopt any persona and interact on that basis. Facebook allows one to share images and written opinions that can be very different from the person behind the account. In addition, people claim thousands of "friends" on Facebook but are they really friendships? Do they know each other? Do they get together IRL (in real life) and interact? For many the answer is no.

Now, don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong in trying to look good. Using makeup may hide some blemishes and a well cut suit can hide those extra pounds. Nor is there anything wrong with things like Facebook. But, when we are more concerned with what something looks like versus what it is, that's dangerous.

The Talmud, in Tractate Taanit, page 15a, discusses this very issue. In ancient times, when the land of Israel was an agrarian economy, a drought meant famine was a major calamity and was seen as a sign of G-d's displeasure. As a result, a general call for repentance would go out and the people would fast and pray for G-d to send the desperately needed rain.

As the Talmud says: "The eldest member



DER CHAZZAN'S
CH' MAREH

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

of the community says to the congregation statements of reproof, for example: Our brothers, it is not stated with regard to the people of Nineveh: *And G-d saw their sackcloth and their fasting*. Rather, the verse says: "And G-d saw their deeds, that they had turned from their evil way" (Jonah 3:10). And in the Prophets it says: "And rend your hearts and not your garments, and return to the Lord your G-d" (Joel 2:13). This teaches that prayer and fasting are insufficient, as one must also repent and amend his ways in practice."

It seems to me that too many people, especially in our younger generations, spend too much on time on appearances without concentrating on what really matters. How many people do we know that concentrate on their appearance but neglect their health? How many parents shower their children with gifts rather than love? How many people are focused on wealth rather than family? In the grand scheme of things, what really matters?

I once was discussing a statement in Tanya, which was written by the first Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, in which he quotes the statement from Ethics of The Fathers, "Do not view yourself as wicked." He goes on to explain that if you view yourself as wicked, you will believe yourself to be beyond hope of salvation and will cease to try to improve yourself. He continues and says that whether we are righteous or wicked can be a moment to moment thing. If one is performing a *Mitzvah*, that person is, at that moment, righteous regardless of anything they have done. If one is performing an Aveira (transgression), even the greatest *Tzaddik* would be considered wicked in that moment. At the end of our days on this physical plain, G-d weighs and makes the final determination.

I was asked by someone, what happens when we are neither performing a *Mitzvah* or committing a transgression? When I asked for an example, he responded, "When you're eating or working." So, I asked, "Why are you eating or

working?" I explained that if one is working to amass wealth, perhaps that would not be a *Mitzvah*. But if one was working to support a family, to live well but also to be charitable, provide a proper Jewish education to their children, to celebrate the *Yomim Tovim* (holidays) in a nicer fashion, then there is a *Mitzvah* involved.

Why do people focus on appearances rather than reality? I think it's because they think it is easier to just plaster over cracks in the walls than to fix the foundation. And I find this very scary and sad.

I believe that, at the end of the day, the ultimate point of life is all about our relationships: Our relationships with ourselves, our family and friends, and with G-d. That, to me, is what ultimately is. The rest is window dressing.

As King Solomon put it in Ecclesiastes, everything else is "futility."

Note: *The opinions expressed in this article are mine and mine alone. Have a comment? Disagree with me? Please let me know. You can email me at:*

njChazzan@gmail.com. © Menachem Bazian, 2018



Dear Shaarey Israel Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your love and support during a difficult time in my life. The outpouring of cards, contributions made in her memory and wishes of condolences and love meant the world to me. My mother, of blessed memory, loved coming to Shaarey Israel. She spent time with us over the High Holidays and Passover and was always welcomed and accepted by the Congregation as a member of the family. She found everyone filled with warm hearts and love and she treasured the times she was here.

May Hashem reward you with joy, health and prosperity for your kind acts of chesed.

Love,
Chana Bazian

SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

President Audrey Meister

November is a time for reflection. The major Jewish Holidays and Festivals are over until the Spring. We celebrated Sukkot which is referred to as "the time of our joy" (z'man sim chateinu). The assumption is we all have been sealed in the Book of Life. Remember our joy at our Friday night Shabbat Dinner, in our beautiful Succah.

November is our **Sisterhood's Paid-up Membership Dinner on Wednesday, November 7**. Even if you missed this wonderful event you can still pay your dues for this year (\$36). It is a small price to pay for enjoying what Sisterhood offers throughout the year. Keep an eye out for our flyers and announcements!

November is a time for Thanksgiving. Although Thanksgiving is essentially an American Holiday, it is also a universal holiday. We are thankful for all the blessings we have been given throughout the year.

P.S. We returned from our annual trip to Israel in the middle of October. What an amazing place it is! Our people are still surrounded by enemies, physically and globally. The BDS movement (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) is the foundation of the newest rise of anti-semitism in the United States, and The European Union. We had a wonderful program in the Spring, arranged by Helene Shames-Edelman and presented by representatives from the ZOA (Zionist Organization of America), that showed us the rise of the BDS movement on our college campuses. We must stay alert as proponents of

BDS are gearing up for another campaign to delegitimize and isolate Israel.

If you have access to a computer, I encourage you to watch this UTUBE video. It was presented in honor of Israel's 70th Birthday celebration. Koolulam arranged for 600 strangers to meet at a venue in Tel Aviv and to sing together the Naomi Shemer song *Al Kol Eleh (Over All of These)*. Here is a translation (from lyrictranslate.com of one of the stanzas and the chorus:

Save the house that we live in
The small fences and the wall
From the sudden war-like thunder
May you save them all
Guard what little I've been given
Guard the hill my child might climb
Let the fruit that's yet to ripen
Not be plucked before its time
(CHORUS)

As the wind makes rustling night sounds
And a star falls in its arc
All my dreams and my desires
Form crystal shapes out of the dark
Guard for me oh Lord these treasures
All my friends keep safe and strong
Guard the stillness, guard the weeping
And above all guard this song

Israel's version of BDS: BEAUTY, DIVERSITY, SCIENCE-- Amen



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CSI attention Lois Price
Paid-Up Membership Dinner
Wednesday, November 7**



CHAI LIGHTS

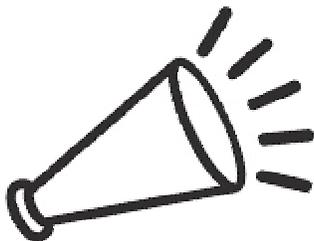
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jessie Bezborodko
Joshua Kwilecki
Harry Meister
Samuel Nifco

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Ben & Helen Simon
19 Jack & Crystal Katz
20 Harry & Sonia Kaner
22 Stanley & Tobi Weisel
23 Pablo & Carolina Choclin
27 Dr. Myron & Barbara Bloch

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The Scroll...9

Congregant of the Month
Me, Myself and I
by Julie Feldman

Every once and awhile, things go awry. I had planned a really interesting interview for this month's **Scroll**, but my subject and I just haven't been able to nail down a time to speak that works for both of us. Not to fear! You'll have that interview in next month's edition and to make up for it, I thought I'd interview someone who I find to be witty, intelligent, (very) well educated, admirably adorable, and of course, humble: Me!

JF: Where did you grow up?

Me: I was born in Astoria, in Queens. We lived there until I was 13. I loved Astoria because even though it was mostly apartment houses by that time, everyone seemed to know each other. The acclaimed actor, Christopher Walken was from Astoria, and his mother owned Walken's Bakery a few blocks away. Whenever I went in with my mother, I loved to stare at the pictures of celebrities on the walls and savor Mrs. Walken's butter cookies. Later, we moved to the Rego Park/Forest Hills area, which I did not like at all. It seemed very psychedelic to me (this was 1968) and the kids in my new school were seemingly very sophisticated, unlike me and my old friends from Astoria.

JF: You're an Audiologist. What made you go into that field?

Me: At the time I started Queens College, I was supposed to become a teacher, like all the other women of my generation in my family. Because I had a difficult time learning to read in the 1st grade, I was interested in specializing in that. The Ed. Department at Queens told me right away that: 1) I would need a Master's Degree for that specialty, and 2) there was a glut of primary school teachers at that time. They suggested that I think about becoming a Teacher of the Deaf. To start off I took one education class (and hated it) and Introduction to the Anatomy & Physiology of the Auditory System. Not only did I find it fascinating, but since I had had a hearing impaired grandfather, it all seemed to be pre-ordained. Little did I know that on the way to becoming an Audiologist I would get not one, not two, but three Master's Degrees and a Doctorate to boot. And when I got out of school after gaining my first Master's, there was a glut of Audiologists. It took a while to get everything to line up, but it did, and I haven't looked back.

JF: If you didn't go into that field what would you have done?

Me: Although urban archeology was not yet a real field, I would have been one of the first in it. I think the early history of New York City and the region is fascinating.

JF: If you could pick any time period to live in, what would it be and why?

Me: I feel very drawn to the Belle Epoque period in the US. It was a time of tremendous change, especially for women. I have a sense that I lived a previous life during that time and up to early World War II.

JF: What is your favorite book, movie, song, piece of music, piece of art, etc., and why?

Me: I love music. Just about anything Pink has written is something I love because there is depth to them, yet she doesn't take herself too seriously.

JF: Please sum up your philosophy of life in one sentence.

Me: I can't do it in one sentence, but I'll be brief. My key to life is in three parts: First, have a goal. Second, double check to make sure it's a reasonable goal. Three, plan how you are going to reach your goal, then go and do it.

JF: What last thoughts do you want to end this interview with?

Me: First of all, thank you for interviewing me. It was amazing! I want to express my love and gratitude to all the congregants, clergy and staff of CSI. We've laughed and cried together, we've been there for each other and when I have needed help and support, this is where I've always found it. I have only been able to return a small measure of that love, but I will keep trying.



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Weekday evenings: Sunday-Thursday: 8 pm
Weekday mornings: Monday & Thursday:
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Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am
Sunday mornings: 9 am
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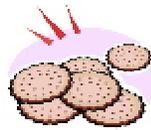


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The Scroll...12

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Jewish nature come participate.

If you are interested please RSVP to:
Bobbie Goldstein 201-746-0723 or
Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298



Date	Event	Location	Time	Person Responsible
1	Sisterhood Board	Multipurpose Room	7:30 pm	Audrey Meister
2	Services & Ann'y Shabbot	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
3	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
3	Bar Mitzvah Of Benjamin Gustin			
3	Kiddush Sponsored by Dr. Gabriel & Esther Gustin in honor of Benjamin			
4	Men's Club Breakfast	Multipurpose Room	10:00 am	Mark Pfeffer
5	Men's Club Board	Room 2	7:00 pm	Mark Pfeffer
6	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
6	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Room	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
7	Forever Young Seniors	Multipurpose Room	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
7	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
7	Sisterhood Mem. Dinner	Multipurpose Room	7:30 pm	Evie Maher
8	Kristalnacht			
9	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
9	Fall Shabbot Dinner	Multipurpose Room	7:00pm	Paulette Frankel
10	Services	Sanctuary	8:45am	Rabbi Weinbach
13	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
13	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Room	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
14	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
15	Private Room Rental	Multipurpose Room	6:00 pm	Klein
15	Board Of Trustees	Room 2	7:30 pm	Jack Perel
16	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
17	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
20	Book Club Meeting	Daily Sanctuary	11:00 am	Paulette Frankel
20	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
21	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
22	Thanksgiving			
23	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
24	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
25	Private Room Rental	Multipurpose Room	4:00 pm	Silver
27	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
27	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Room	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
28	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
30	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

