

Kol Sholom

The Voice of Peace



November 2018 Heshvan-Kislev – 5779

From the Temple Presidents Desk

Dear Congregants;

For each of us, for our families, friends, and community, the words “church shooting, hate crimes, synagogue shooting, hate speech, and/ or mosque shooting,” have become increasingly more common. Whether Pittsburgh, Sutherland Springs, Charleston, Quebec, Overlook Park, Milwaukee, or Knoxville, it hardly matters where this takes place anymore. We feel isolated from each other, and we feel frustration, anxiety, pain, and anger. We lose some degree of trust each time, and to varying degrees, each of us are changed.

But more importantly, we ask ourselves, “What do we do now?” There are new challenges to being who we are, and to our faith. At times, we are confident and, at other times, we experience fear. It may be difficult to see a path forward, and there are many distractions.

A prior incident in Montana may provide us with some insight. In the fall of 1992, in Billings, Montana (a town of more than 80,000), hate fliers were slipped into newspapers, mail boxes, and left on windshields. Skinheads showed up at the Billings African Methodist Episcopal Church. In response, small groups of white Christians made appearances. In October, a targeted person’s home was vandalized with Nazi graffiti, but 3 days later, volunteers from a local painters’ union repaired the damage. Then came slurs and harassment of Jews, American Indians, Hispanic and African Americans, and gays. Fliers declared Montana and the western states a “white homeland.”

That December, problems escalated in Billings. Hate became violence, and a piece of a broken cinderblock was thrown through a child’s bedroom window where the 5-year-old had taped a menorah onto the glass. Neither of the children in the home, a 5-year-old boy and his younger sister, were injured. Neither of the children’s parents were home, and their babysitter called the police almost immediately. When the parents came home, they quickly realized that their worst fears had come true. At a later meeting, Temple officers chose not to speak out. It was noted, “They seemed to feel that to acknowledge a problem or identify ourselves as being different would make us stand apart.” The part-time director of the Montana Association of Churches, Margaret McDonald, encountered much resistance in her efforts to address this expression of hate. However, she ultimately obtained the support of more than 100 organizations in

Montana, which empowered her to do so. She repeatedly emphasized, “This isn’t a Jewish issue, it is a human rights issue.” At the same time, hate activity escalated to include cemetery desecration, and a bomb threat, shortly before the start of a children’s service at the Temple. Again, temple leadership did not speak out.

Somewhat later, the mother (of the 2 children who were home when the broken cinder block was thrown through her son’s bedroom window), was interviewed by the local newspaper. Margaret McDonald read that interview. She then, almost immediately, asked her pastor to consider having the children (in their Sunday school) color mimeographed menorahs and put them in their windows. Her pastor immediately agreed. He also spent the rest of the day on the phone, enlisting help from other churches. This was a painful decision for all involved, and one which presented considerable risk; but, hundreds of menorahs were quickly placed in windows. On December 7th, the Billings Gazette published a full-page picture of a menorah to be cut out and taped to windows. Local businesses also distributed pictures of menorahs. The glass panes on the doors of a local church (which had menorahs posted) were smashed, shots were fired into a Catholic school, and 6 cars with menorahs in their window had all of their windows broken. Every act of hate resulted in more menorahs being posted. It was estimated that between 6,000 and 10,000 homes ultimately had menorahs in their windows. It was easy to attack a few Jewish homes and a few churches; but, once an entire community responds, the situation is very different. There remains much to be learned from this situation.

Many years ago, a famous Jewish theologian described our situation in a speech, noting that “Faced with despair, the Jew has three options. He could choose resignation, total resignation, and some of us did so one or two generations ago. Remember all those processions, all those nocturnal processions of men and women and children going silently to mass graves. Or we could seek refuge in self-delusion; and some Jews tried it in some places. Assimilation was meant to be an option in some quarters. Or conversion. Yes, there were Jews who concluded that, since Jewishness was forever linked to suffering, they had to give it up to protect their children and even themselves.

But then there exists a third option. The most enriching and exciting of the three. To face the situation and do one’s utmost to surmount it — as a Jew.”

I conclude by noting that each of us decides what to do, and who we are. We have many reasons not to despair as we emerge stronger and wiser.

Cantor's Corner

First of all, I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome you gave receiving me into your community. I know there were many expectations and apprehensions on all sides: musically, rabbinically, personality. You have made me feel welcome from the start and I'm sure we will be comfortable with each other in no time. I want to reach out to all of you to share more about yourselves. Who you are, what you do, and what you feel you need from me as a Cantor, clergy in general, and in your Temple. Since this is my introductory article, I'll use this space to introduce myself a little.

I took a rather circuitous path to becoming a cantor. My college studies were in dietetics as I was planning on medical school. I decided that wasn't my path-to-be and obtained a Masters in Technical Writing specializing in business and science writing. Then I fell in love...with computers. Those were the early days of computing when it was still cool and geeky people like me were suddenly...special. I worked as a systems engineer for some time, eventually obtaining a Masters in Software Engineering from TCU. My love of singing and Judaism led me in the direction of being a cantorial soloist at Beth El Congregation in Fort Worth and finally I decided to pursue the full cantorate before I got too old to do it! I wrapped the rabbinical Masters in Jewish Studies around the cantorial Masters in Jewish Education and graduated with both along with ordination. My preference was always to work with smaller congregations and in addition to my new found home at Rodef Sholom, I work with Temple Mizpah in Abilene and Beth El in Longview. I still dabble in software engineering, but it is slowly moving over as my life as a Cantor takes up more of my mind and my heart.

I look forward to meeting those of you I have not met. Please, contact me to share at cantormj@cantormj.com and I hope to see you at services, Torah study, and other events.

Cantor Monica O'Desky

From the Sisterhood

Please don't forget to pay your Sisterhood dues. Make your check out to Temple Rodef Sholom Sisterhood, and send it to Suzan's attention at the Temple. We all can't do everything; but, we all can do something.

Thank-you!



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by David Jortner. Oneg hosted by Jennifer Sternberg	3
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends	5	6	7	8	9 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by Cantor O'Desky. Oneg hosted by Betty Bauer	10
11 Veteran's Day	12	13 GWIC Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	14	15	16 6:00 PM Friends & Family Dinner 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by Cantor O'Desky. Oneg hosted by Abby Sobel	17 10:00 AM Torah Study
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Office Closed	23 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by??. Oneg hosted by Alice Todd	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by David Jortner. Oneg hosted by Alla Aksel	

Simchas

Birthday

November 1 Benjy Bauer
November 10 Lynne Lipsitz
November 17 Bernard Marcuis
November 27 Abby Garrett
November 2 Madelyn Martinez
November 11 Brady Bauer
November 19 Sara Jo Englander
November 9 Gloria Brickman
November 12 Kathleen Sternberg
November 22 Jack Haber

Anniversary

November 24 Jane and Daniel Bounds
November 29 Ellan and Terry Burke

Yahrzeits

November 1st – 8th

Harry Julius Greenberg	Lena Ravis Levine	Ben Handelman	Jean Goldstein
Jack Morris Nussbaum	Esther M. Levy	Dr. Harris Wiernik	Agnes Burke Zender
Dorothy Gordon	Violette M. Sanger	Joe Harry Lewis	Avery Theodore Segal

November 9th – 15th

Hinda Cinnamon	Bruce Adams Kleiman	Louis Lipsitz	Frances Simmons
Louis Shinder			

November 16th – 22nd

Leon R. Collins	Stephen Arnold Goldstein	Harry Sachs	Harry Daum
Louise Kestner Schwartz	Leonard L. Gorin, Jr.	Bertha Ettelson	Abe Cinnamon
Phillip Jack Sanger	Arthur Schwartz	Fannie N. Naman	
Samuel Quicksilver	Rosa Genecov Ellis	Monte E. Lawrence	

November 23rd – 29th

Sylvan S. Florsheim	Mertie Evans	Julius Kuttner	George Cohen
Maurice Harris	Henry S. Long	Jack M. Silver	Jacob Sobel
Denie Segal	Louie Yale Feinstein		

November 30th

Philip Arnold Sanger	Charles L. Sanger	Rabbi Mordecai Podet
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GET **YOUR** RID OF STUFF

THE SISTERHOOD RUMMAGE SALE IS FINALLY HERE! THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AND 9TH!! 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Do you remember all of those things you were saving for the rummage sale? Bring them now, before it's too late!!

Call Suzan at 881-2131, if you have any questions, or to volunteer to help at the sale. We will need help setting up on the Tuesday and Wednesday before the sale, and we need sales-people (and clean-up people) on Thursday and Friday. This is the Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser. Please help!

As importantly, **COME TO THE SALE, AND PICK UP A BARGAIN! BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!** How often can you say shopping is not only fun, but is a mitzvah!! **WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE TEMPLE SISTERHOOD RUMMAGE SALE! YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT TWO YEARS FOR THE NEXT ONE! DON'T MISS OUT!!**



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

7:00 PM

**Tuesday, November 13th
Richfield Christian Church
4201 Cobbs Drive
Waco, TX 76710**

Join us for readings and prayers from the various Interfaith Religious traditions in the Greater Waco Interfaith Conference on this special occasion of Thanksgiving.

A dessert reception will follow the service.



The GWIC is a proud sponsor of Pack of Hope

McLennan County Pack of Hope exists to erase child hunger in McLennan County by supplying participating school districts and their eligible students with backpacks filled with nutritious food to prevent hunger from Friday through Sunday while they are not in school. Please bring a cash donation or food donation for Pack of Hope. Visit www.pack-of-hope.com

Sponsored by the Greater Waco Interfaith Conference
wacointerfaith.org; Facebook: Greater Waco Interfaith Conference

FEAST

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DINNER!

Please come

NOVEMBER 16th at 6:00 PM

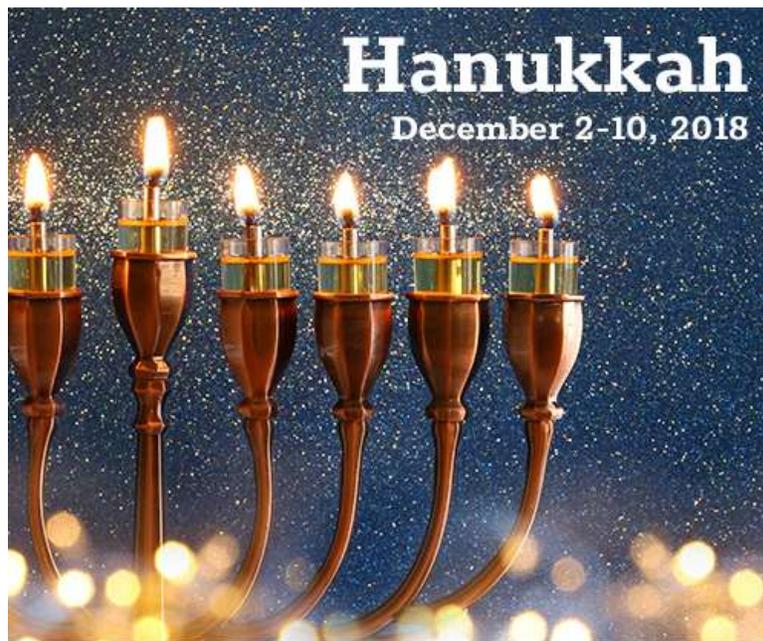
**IT'S COURTESY OF DAVID AND MARTHA BAUER
SO YOU KNOW IT WILL BE DELICIOUS!**

Children 12 and under are free

A \$5 donation is requested for others

Please make checks out to the Temple Rodef Sholom Sisterhood

And, we are happy to say that Services with Cantor O'Desky will follow at 7:00 PM!



ReformJudaism.org
Jewish Life in Your Life

Stay tuned for exciting Hanukkah information.

THE 2018-19 ONEG LIST

Kabbalat Shabbat is a space in time for holiness, rest, and joy. The women who create our Oneg's help create that space for us. Our Oneg list for 2018-19 is our first step to that joy. There are almost 40 Shabbats on the list, so some may be asked more than once. If you are on a date that won't work for you, please call another woman on the list, and trade with her! If you don't cook, something from the local grocer is a great solution! Remember, it's not about eating, it's about JOY! If you are not on the list and you are willing to help, or if you have a question, please call Suzan at 254.881.2131. You are not alone. If someone calls you to trade, please say "yes!" Make it work! We all have to say "yes" for this to work! Say "yes" to joy!

11-2-18 Jennifer Sternberg
11-9-18 Betty Bauer
11-16-18 Abby Sobel
11-23-18 Alice Todd
11-30-18 Dr. Alla Aksel
12-7-18 Cindy Wood
12-14-18 **Looking for a volunteer for this date!**
12-21-18 Debbie Schwartz
12-28-18 Shauna Bauer
1-4-19 Janis Unell Mayfield
1-11-19 Rachel Martinez
1-18-19 Gayle Marcuis
1-25-19 Eleanor Levy
2-1-19 Martha Bauer
2-8-19 Patty Knighten

2-15-19 Barbara Kirstein
2-22-19 Dr. Maura Jortner
3-1-19 Dr. Karen Humphrey
3-8-19 Nora Householder
3-15-19 Tracie Hermann
3-22-19 Meredith Harmon
3-29-19 Nan Haber
4-5-19 Sue Hanson
4-12-19 Mendy Hanson (Passover begins)
4-26-19 Abby Garrett
5-3-19 Cheri Gardner
5-10-19 Ricki Florsheim
5-17-19 Sara Jo Englander
5-24-19 Elysse Englander
5-31-19 Ellan Burke

Please consider making a donation to the Temple

It is a wonderful way to:

- Mark a *simchah* (happy occasion)
- Honor someone's memory
- Wish someone a speedy recovery
- Express Gratitude

Donations

A donation was made to the General Fund in memory of Forest Wayne Crigler



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Established in 1879

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