

Kol Sholom

The Voice of Peace



January 2019 Tevet - Shevat – 5779

From the Temple Presidents Desk

December was a wonderful month at the Temple. Fifty-two people came to the Hanukkah latke dinner and party! At the Klezmer Shabbat, I attempted to get an accurate number and counted several times. With 4-5 children present, the number ranged from 48-51! It was wonderful to see children in the social hall again. Hopefully, we will have another Klezmer Shabbat later this year! We should all thank Cantor O'Desky for her efforts! We have a lot to be grateful for.

Looking to our future, I believe that there is something to be said about each of us being more concerned about purpose and using our various skills for something beyond job and business success. However, I have also come to the conclusion that there are many parallels between performing our jobs and running a productive business, and making efforts to improve ourselves, our congregation, and the greater community. Commitment and focus are the same in both endeavors, and generosity provides new energy and vitality as we address various frustrations and challenges. Together we can each accomplish more than most can envision.

The story, which follows, exemplifies the reality that each of us can, and must, do more for each other, to include strangers with whom we share only momentary interaction. It is our common humanity.

The Stranger on the Bus By Rabbi Lawrence Kushner

Man becomes truly human only at the time of decision.
Paul Tillich

A light snow was falling and the streets were crowded with people. It was Munich in Nazi Germany. One of my rabbinic students, Shifra Penzias, told me her great-aunt, Sussie, had been riding a city bus home from work when SS storm troopers suddenly stopped the coach and began examining the identification papers of the passengers. Most were annoyed, but a few were terrified. Jews were being told to leave the bus and get into a truck around the corner.

My student's great-aunt watched from her seat in the rear as the soldiers systematically worked their way down the aisle. She began to tremble, tears streaming down her face. When the man next to her noticed that she was crying, he politely asked her why.

I do not have the papers you have. I am a Jew. They're going to take me."

The man exploded with disgust. He began to curse and scream at her. "You stupid bitch," he roared. "I can't stand being near you!" The SS men asked what all the yelling was about.

“Damn her,” the man shouted angrily. “My wife has forgotten her papers again! I am so fed up. She always does this!”

The soldiers laughed and moved on.

My student said that her great-aunt never saw the man again. She never even knew his name.

I offer the above story for your consideration in anticipation of our March 9, special program entitled “Hate and Intolerance in Our Community,” presented by the Temple and the Southern Poverty Law Center. I would appreciate the assistance of volunteers in preparing for and presenting this event. Please call 254-881-2131 to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Jim Shinder
TRS Board President

Cantor’s Corner

Happy New Year to all! I have to admit, January 2nd is one of my favorite days of the year. The crazy driving and angry shoppers are over and the people, and music, are back to normal...whatever normal is. Looking forward to 2019 and participating in three services/month at Rodef Sholom. After lots of discussion and listening to what the congregation has to say, we will try something a little different for services this year.

The first service every month will be a musically accompanied, standard service, but there will NOT be a Torah service. I will always give you a summary of the parashah (portion) for the week, but we will not actually take out the Torah and read from it, so the service will last about an hour. This one we call our “Friends and Family” service and there will be a dinner before the service.

The second service every month will be a standard service and will include the Torah service. Because the Torah service takes a little bit of time, this will be the longest service of the month. I hope to have my b’nei mitzvah students participate in this service as much as possible, and once we start our adult Torah chant class, hope to see them involved also! Following this Shabbat service on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. will be the Torah study. This is a great group and you do not have to be a Torah expert to participate. This study lasts about 2 hours so come share coffee, a nosh, and some great discussion.

The third service in the month will be a creative service. What is creative about it, you ask? I cannot tell you for the whole year because I do not know what I will do with all of these yet. We may do some creative readings, Shabbat and other liturgical poetry, learn some niggunim (wordless melodies), or lively discussion. I will always provide a summary of the parashah! If you have been to a service at any congregation that has been memorable to you, let me know! I am open to ideas! We will be meeting in the library for this one. It is casual. Be comfy!

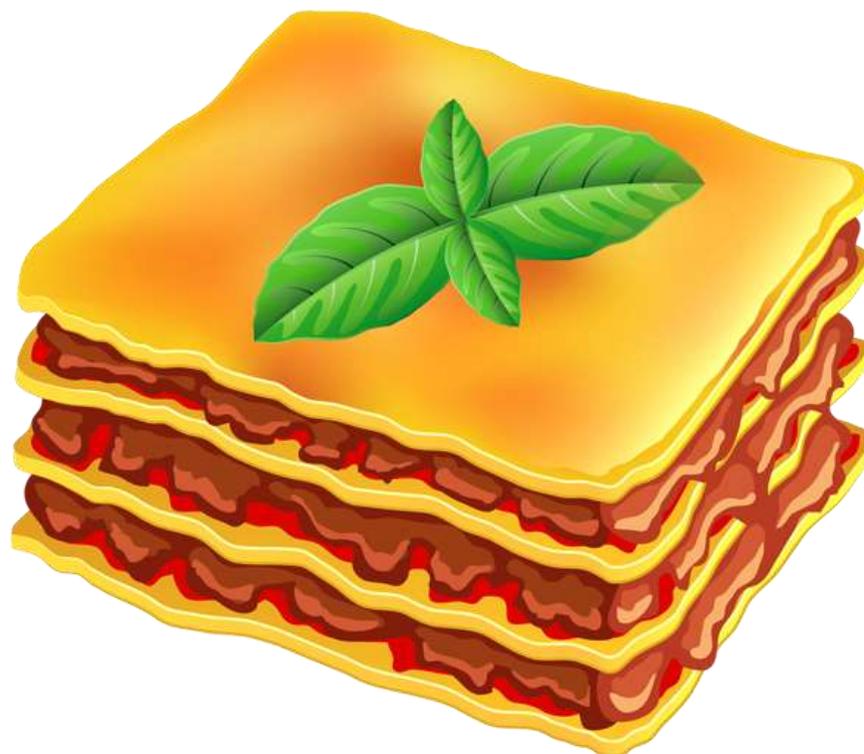
Here is to a good and healthy secular year for all of us!

Cantor Monica O’Desky
cantormj@cantormj.com



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2	3	4 6:00 PM Friends & Family Dinner 7:00 PM Shabbat Services led by Cantor O'Desky.	5
6	7	8	9 7:00 PM Board Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by David Jortner.	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Terkel. Oneg hosted by Gayle Marcuis	19
20	21 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr Day Tu Bishvat	22	23	24	25 7:00 PM Shabbat Service led by Cantor O'Desky. Oneg hosted by Eleanor Levy	26 9:00AM Torah Study
27	28	29	30	31		



FRIENDS AND FAMILY LASAGNA DINNER!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Come in from the cold and have
Lasagna [of course ;-)],
Garlic bread, salad, and dessert!

Children 12 and under are free
A \$5 donation, is requested for others

Please make checks out to the Temple Rodef Sholom Sisterhood

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

Please, please (!!) RSVP
As soon as you see this!!

*[Put a note in your calendar.
The NEXT Friends and Family Dinner will be
Friday, February 8th]*

Tu Bishvat: History



Tu Bishvat is first mentioned in the *Mishnah*, the code of Jewish law that dates back to around 200 C.E. There, in *Rosh Hashanah* 1:1, the text speaks of four new year's, all of which are connected to an ancient cycle of tithes. Each year, the Israelites were expected to bring one-tenth of their fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem, where they were offered to God and also helped sustain the priestly class and the poor. Since fruit from one year could not be used to tithe for another, the Rabbis had to determine when a crop year would begin and end. They chose the month of Sh'vat as the cut-off date, for this is when, in Israel, the sap begins to run and the trees start to awaken from their winter slumber, before beginning to bear fruit.

Like Hanukkah, Tu Bishvat is a post-biblical festival, instituted by the Rabbis. However, the holiday has biblical roots. The tithing system upon which it is based dates back to the Torah and its deep concern with trees, harvests, and the natural world, all of which are at the heart of Tu Bishvat. Beginning with the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden all the way through to Deuteronomy's injunction against destroying fruit trees in times of war, our biblical text is replete with trees, both literal and metaphorical. Indeed, the Torah itself often is referred to as an *etz chayim* (tree of life), based on a passage in the Book of Proverbs.

Although the celebration of Tu Bishvat has a long and varied history, the theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday today is the environment. It is considered a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy, and thankfulness for God's creation in anticipation of the renewal of the natural world. During this festival, Jews recall the sacred obligation to care for God's world, and the responsibility to share the fruits of God's earth with all.

Tu Bishvat falls at the beginning of spring in Israel, when the winter rains subside and the pink and white blossoms of the almond trees begin to bud. It is for this reason that almonds and other fruits and nuts native to the Land of Israel – barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and wheat - are commonly eaten during the Tu Bishvat Seder.

In modern times, Tu Bishvat was nourished by the rise of the Zionist movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which re-emphasized the Jewish people's connections to the land and the natural world. It was the Zionist pioneers who – with strong financial support from Jews throughout the world who donated trees to mark *smichot* (special occasions) – re-forested the land of Israel, largely under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund (*Keren Kayemet l'Yisrael*). As a result of this emphasis on tree planting – on Tu Bishvat and all year long – Israel stands as the only country in the world with an almost constant net *growth* of trees.

Source: *The Jewish Home (Revised Edition)* by Daniel B. Syme



The Hanukkah Latke Dinner brought us together as a warm, loving family, on a cold December night. Here are some of our beautiful religious school children (Corinne McKeown, Mirriam Uttell, and Emelyn Uttell) singing the Dreidel Song and lighting Hanukkah candles (ably assisted by Mirriam and Emelyn's mother Meg Looney, and our religious school director Mendy Hanson).

Yahrzeits

December 28th – Jan 3rd

Arnold Keen	Hattie Brin	Elizabeth Handelman	Isidore Fred
Bernard Lewis	Helena Marx	Carl Cohen	Lape Efron
Ronnie Schneider	Herman Levi	Jerome Lewine	

January 4th – 10th

Carl Feist	Helen Hicks	Edwin Katten, Sr.	Richard Burke
Ben J. Reed	John Landa, Sr.	Harold Goodman	Rachel Pollon
Sybil Sachs	Louis Stern	Bertrand Robinson	

January 11th – January 17th

Theo Goldenberg	Cy Kosberg	Bernard Sachs	Joshua Loewy
Charlotte Sachs			

January 18th – January 24th

Herman Mayer	Harry Unell	Mose Levi	Henry Mayer	Harry Wood, III
Hazel Marks	Tillie Fish	Anna Kroll	David Brickman	
Dorothy Kirstein	Marjorie Rottner	Abe Brickman	Ann Zidell	
Meyer Shinder	Nathan Brickman	Doris Silver	Marsha Sachs	

January 25th – January 31st

Gussye Landman	Ima Gandler	Dr. Alvin Labens	Ida Segal
David Kahn	Molly Wiernik	Dave Knobler	Dr. Lillian Friedman

Simchas

Birthday

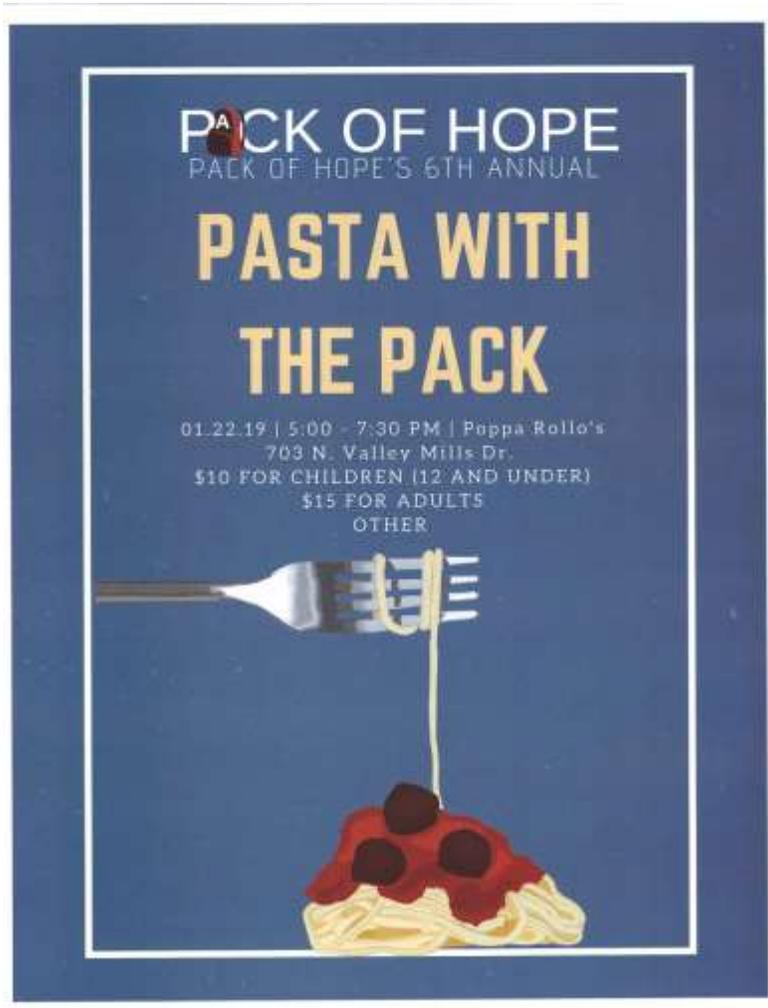
January 6 Mary Levy 1937
January 16 Michael Levine
January 19 Adam Goldenberg
January 27 Leonard Englander

January 14 Suzan Shinder
January 16 Felicity Jortner
January 25 Cory Hirsch
January 29 Stephen Silverstein

January 15 Addison Goldenber
January 17 Alice Todd
January 26 Cindy Wood

Anniversary

January 7 Simone & Jake Bauer



Pack of Hope

Please join the Waco community as it supports the Pack of Hope at its annual fund-raiser at Poppa Rollo's January 22, 5:30-7:30 PM. All proceeds go directly to the Pack of Hope

THE 2019 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!

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 George Cohen.

A donation was made to the general fund in memory of Annie Marie Goldenberg.

A donation was made to the general fund in memory of Ellen Rosenfeld.

A donation was made to the cemetery fund in memory of Jake & Ima Joy Gandler.



1717 N. New Rd. Waco, TX 76707-1619 254.754.3703



Kol Sholom
The Voice of Peace

Established in 1879

1717 North New Road
Waco, Texas 76707-1619

trs@hot.rr.com
www.trswaco.org
254.754.3703

Jim Shinder – *President*

Mendy Hanson – *Sisterhood President*
Religious School Administrator

Paul Dreiseszun – *Temple Administrator*