



#### Middletown, Connecticut December 2016/Kislev-Tevet 5777



by Rabbi Haaz

Over the next six months, we have the opportunity to Celebrate Jewish Life with Cantor Isaac Yager.

Because we do not have a full or part-time cantor of our own, this is a unique experience for us to grow musically. Please take advantage of opportunities to learn and sing with Cantor Yager when he is with our community. Please refer to your synagogue calendars to mark the weekends when Cantor Yager will be in Middletown. When Cantor Yager is not in Middletown, please also lend your presence to help make our minyanim complete and your voice to help make our minyanim beautiful. In any synagogue, especially an intimate one like our spiritual home of Adath Israel, every person is important.

We are fortunate to have Cantor Yager for this short period to acquaint and reacquaint us with Jewish music, which has bound and continues to bind us as a cohesive community spanning denominations, continents, and generations. The biblical narrative of our ancestors points us toward the significance of music as a means of expression. At the very moment of the birth of our peoplehood and our collective future, immediately after we cross the sea and perceive our freedom from Egypt, Moses leads

#### MEETING THE CHALLENGE

by Eileen Daling

I hope you, your families and friends had a wonderful High Holy Day season. I believe they went very smoothly here at Adath Israel.



Many volunteered to help in several areas since our custodian has been on medical leave. Feedback on the new machzor, *Lev Shalem* was extremely positive. If you haven't donated yet to the **Book Fund** to help with the cost of these books and others we hope to purchase, you can always do that through the synagogue office. Needless to say a big thank you goes to all who donated already and/or helped make this happen. Everyone who used the new Hearing Assistive System was pleased that this year they could be full participants in all services.

Now for some new challenges that lie ahead for us and the certainty that we are prepared and able to meet those challenges.

Our first one is to assist our cantorial student, Isaac Yager, make a smooth transition while Rabbi Haaz is on sabbatical. We need members who can and are willing to read Torah to step up and volunteer to help during Saturday morning services when he is here and especially when Isaac isn't here. Please contact Bern Padawer, our Ritual Chair, to let



Services led by Cantor Yager

## Friday, December 2nd Pray Eat Sing Services: 5:30pm Dinner: 6:30pm

RSVP to the Synagogue office at 860-346-4709 or info@adathisraelct.org so we can have enough food for all who join us.

#### (President Continued from page 1)

him know you are willing to help. Bern will work with you to insure you have plenty of time to prepare. If you are willing to host Isaac for a Friday or Saturday night dinner, please contact me as I am keeping a schedule and can also assist you with his needs and requirements.

The biggest challenge we face is finding volunteers to step up and serve on committees and especially on our Board. Right now, we have a three year position open on the Board which needs to be filled asap. If you might be willing, please contact me and we can talk about what that position means and the responsibilities that it entails. If you would like to become an active part of one of our committees, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Chairperson. If you have a suggestion on someone I might contact to see if they are willing to serve on a committee or the Board, you can also contact me.

Certainly most vital, it is extremely important that you all think about the position of Vice President. My term is up in June and it will be here before we know it. Jonathan Shapiro moves up to the presidency and will need a strong Vice President to serve with him. The continuity of this process is vital so that Adath Israel can meet all membership needs including spiritual while remaining a positive Jewish force long into the future for us, our children and our community. Keeping in mind my High Holy Day speech, I sincerely hope it sparked memories of your own stories. Please keep those stories in mind when you think of how you can be there for Adath Israel and how doing your part will continue to keep your synagogue successful.

Let me finish with a quote from Helen Keller for you to also keep in mind: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Sending my sincerest wishes to you and yours for a very happy and joyous Hanukkah.

As always, please remember to check out the rest of this Kolot for more events and other exciting happenings in the months to come.



#### ADATH ISRAEL CEMETERY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Adath Israel is fortunate to have a cemetery for members and a multi-faith section to provide for intermarried families.

There are regular, recurring costs for the maintenance of the cemetery including mowing, snow removal, fertilization and weed control as well as occasional costs for maintenance of the gardens and pruning of trees.

The investment and checking accounts of the Chevra Kadisha are, by law, completely separate from the accounts of the Synagogue. None of your annual contributions go to the operation of the cemetery and it is dependent on donations and our onetime perpetual care fees. The basis of the investment account does not generate sufficient investment income to cover the costs of the cemetery. Also, fortunately income from perpetual care fees is infrequent. Therefore, principal from the investment account is eroded.

What I am asking is that you consider the cemetery and Chevra Kadisha when making your yearly donations. Please consider including us when informing people about where donations could be made in memory of loved ones. These donations will be directed right to the Chevra Kadisha accounts which will enable us to maintain the Adath Israel cemetery into the future. Please also think about joining the Chevra Kadisha. If you wish to learn more about it, please contact Lew Goldberg at ego-doc@comcast.net

Eileen K. Daling President Adath Israel <u>edaling21@att.net</u> 860-346-0667

#### **STITCHERY**

The Stitchery Group (Creative Handicrafts) has disbanded due to dwindling attendance.

Liz Whittaker and Lee Zagoren

#### (Rabbi Continued from page 1)

the entire nation of Israel in song. We also read in the Bible that Deborah sings after Israel's victory over the forces of Sisera, Hannah sings after giving birth to her child, David plays music for Saul to restore his spirit, David is described as the "sweet singer of Israel," Elisha calls for a harpist to play so that the prophetic spirit could rest upon him, and the Levites sang in the Temple.

From Moses to Tevye, Jewish music has been an expression of the spirit of our people. Jewish music defies temporal or geographic location and is thus a means of inter-cultural synthesis. In addition to being inter-cultural, Jewish music is cross-cultural because Jews have always incorporated foreign cultural elements into our music. Jewish music is the music of the wanderer, and although we have our permanent spiritual home in Adath Israel, our diverse backgrounds and practices continue in the spirit of wandering and searching and, when brought together, create the harmony of our synagogue community. We are so fortunate to have an expert in Jewish music to be with us over the coming six months to help us connect to our past, express ourselves in the present, and bind our souls in the future. Please take advantage of every opportunity to learn and Celebrate Jewish Life with Cantor Yager and help make Jewish music an even more crucial and beautiful aspect of our Adath Israel community.

#### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

#### By Myra Finkelstein

A successful brunch was held in May honoring 6 of our past presidents: Sandra Beckman, Art Director, Buzzy Levin, Ed Friedman, Stan Sadinsky, and Irwin Zagoren. At the brunch, the two winners of the Maxine Thumim camperships were announced: Julia Meadow and Tovah Caron. This year (2016-17) the committee decided to go in a new direction and honor just one person. The honoree will be announced during the High Holiday services beginning in 2017. Since there will no longer be a brunch, there will have to be a new way to maintain and increase the campership funding.

#### **INTRODUCING CANTOR YAGER**



Cantor Isaac Yager is a graduating senior at the Jewish Theological Seminary H.L. Miller

Cantorial School and William Davidson School for Jewish Education. During his year of study in Israel, Isaac had the privilege to sing in the Jerusalem Great Synagogue choir and study hazzanut with Raymond Goldstein and Hazzan Naftali Herstik. Born in NYC, Isaac has also sung professionally with the Boston Lyric Opera chorus and was a young artist in the Castleton Festival, the late Maestro Lorin Maazel's summer music festival, where he studied voice with artists including Neil Shicoff and Denyce Graves. As a High Holiday hazzan, Isaac has served communities on Long Island and upstate New York. Last year, Isaac served as the cantorial intern at NYC's Ansche Chesed synagogue as well as the Jewish educational intern at Park Avenue Synagogue Congregational School where he has also taught for the past four years. Isaac holds a BA in theater from Bard College and a Masters in Music in vocal performance from Boston University.

Cantor Yager will join us two or three weekends a month while Rabbi Haaz is on sabbatical: leading services, teaching classes, and working with the religious school. <u>In December Cantor Yager will be</u> in town the weekends of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

## Early Risers Minyan

### Wednesday, December 7th 7:00am

Kiddush breakfast following Service



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#### **BOOK CLUB**

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#### by Anna Elfenbaum

#### Religious School Principal

Ŵ What a wonderful fall it has been in the Religious School! Thanks to our superb faculty, eager students and committed parents there are Ĩ special moments of Jewish learning happening every time we meet. Here are some snapshots of ŝ what one might see as they stroll the halls or peek into the classrooms.

- Sitting in a pop-up tent reading the Creation Story and discussing the commentary
- Multi-generational lulav-shaking in the • sukkah
- Sitting on couches in small groups studying Hebrew
- Making Tootsie Roll Torah Scrolls to decorate for Simchat Torah
- Learning about the mitzvah of the month
- Leading Birkat HaMazon during our • **Bagel Break**
- Playing school-wide human bingo to learn more about each other
- Having Jewish conversations about things that at first don't always seem Jewish
- Reciting prayers from our new . Siddurim
- Marching with Mazel Tots during the • weekly Torah parade
- Learning about and commemorating Kristallnacht
- Singing songs we are learning in our new music program

If you'd like to learn more about the program, or volunteer to get involved, please contact Anna Elfenbaum at adathisrael.school@gmail.com

Many thanks to Naomi Kamins for leading the discussion about Rashi's Daughters, Book 1: Joheved: A Novel of Love and the Talmud in Medieval France. It was a very thought provoking discussion about women and knowledge, superstitions, marital relationships, life in France in the 11th century and so much more.

We have decided to do something different in December. On December 13th at 7 pm, we will be showing the Israeli movie Present Continuous which was shown at the Israeli film festival at Wesleyan last year. The movie has English subtitles. Unable to deal with the violence resulting from the political situation in Israel, a mother decides to lock up her teenage daughter, soldier son and husband while they are sleeping in order to protect them. The viewer is left to decide whether this is a crazy act or an act of bravery. Come watch the movie and decide for yourself! Thanks to Jodi Gendrich for providing the movie.



January 24, 2017 - The book selected for January is My Promised Land by Ari Shavit. This is a book about the triumph and tragedy of Israel. Shavit, an Israeli journalist, columnist for Haaretz, and commentator on Israeli television, draws on interviews, historical documents and private diaries as well as his own family's experience, to provide an insightful history of Israel from the idealism of the early Jewish pioneers who founded the early Kibbutzim to the present.

The members of the Adath Israel Book Club have diverse interests; and it is wonderful to be creative and try new things. Thanks for all the wonderful ideas!

#### **ROBERTA & HOLLY**

Roberta Levine Glass, 860-632-1320, rjlevine610@gmail.com Holly Simon, 860-395-8989, hfpsimon@gmail.com

#### ADATH ISRAEL DEDICATED FUNDS

"He who gives lends to the Lord."

#### ADATH ISRAEL BOOK FUND

Marge & Stan Sadinsky

IN MEMORY OF Marilyn Shavelson by Naomi & Richard Kamins

#### ARTHUR & EDYTHE DIRECTOR FAMILY FUND

IN MEMORY OF Marilyn Shavelson by Carol & David Director & Family Gerald Director by Tamara Director Arthur Director by Marge Rosenblatt Eileen & Michael Daling Paulette Gewirtz Nihla Lapidus Ruth Maron Naomi & Richard Kamins Stacey, Amy, Ruth & Mike Sigal Alan Adler Susan & Gary Collins Frances Lepore Sara Paley Jill & Don Levin Dotty & Harold Kaplan Linda & Jack Adler Susan & Doug Miller Moniter Lite Co., Inc. Luanne & Mark Paley Edie & Burt Slossberg The Kahn Family June & Ron Hersh **Edie Betts** 

#### HOWARD FELDMAN BEAUTIFICATION

<u>FUND</u> IN HONOR OF The wedding of Anita Hennessey's son, Michael by Dotty & Harold Kaplan

IN MEMORY OF Marilyn Shavelson by Myra & David Finkelstein Judy Astrachan by Marge & Stan Sadinsky Arthur Director by Louise Feldman Susan & Tim Dickes Hortie Kabel by Dotty & Harold Kaplan

#### HOWARD FELDMAN BEAUTIFICATION FUND (cont.)

Rosalee L. Shapiro by Myra & David Finkelstein Linda & Jack Adler Edie Betts

#### MAXINE THUMIM CAMPERSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF Marilyn Shavelson by Susan & Doug Miller

#### MICHAEL FASSLER FUND

IN MEMORY OF Marilyn Shavelson by Sandra & Paul Beckman

#### NATHAN OLSHIN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE-FUND

IN MEMORY OF Nathan Olshin by the Kahn Family

#### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Robert Poliner

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**Robert Poliner** 

#### SYNAGOGUE FUND

Roberta & Monroe Nair Sarah & Joe Glaz

IN HONOR OF Nihla Lapidus becoming a great grandmother by Edie Betts

IN MEMORY OF Hortie Kabel by Donna & Mark Finkelstein Harriet & Dewey Deeton Naomi & Marvin Hoberman Terri & Michael Klein Gertrude & Alan Steele Marge Rosenblatt Edie Betts Marilyn Shavelson by Edie Betts Anita Hennessey Judy Astrachan by Marge Rosenblatt Gerard Fleischmann by Sara Paley

Funds continued on page 8

*Funds continued from page 7* Arthur Director by

Arthur Director by Donna & Mark Finkelstein Deborah & Ira Feigenbaum Gayle & David Slossberg Marcia & Arthur Meyers Gertrude & Alan Steele Harriet & Dewey Deeton Teresa & Dave Shulman Phyllis & Arthur Waldman Anita Hennessey Rosalee L. Shapiro by Joan Gordon

#### YAHRZEIT FUND

Mary Waldmann by Sheila Greenspan Thomas & Esther Rose by Hinda Niemeyer Rose Grunfeld by Cynthia Kaplan Meta Kahn née Hirsch by Margaret Kahn Jay M. Gould by Nancy L. Schwartz Fannie Terris Siegel by Nancy L. Schwartz Emanuel Waldmann by Sheila Greenspan Irma Gilfix by Steven Weiss Sari Rosenbaum by Howard Rosenbaum Julia Rosenbaum Hagberg & Garry Hagberg Philip Cohn by Linda & Jack Adler Max Finkelstein by Donna & Mark Finkelstein Robert L. Rosenfield by Edythe Rosenfield Henrietta & Harry Soll by Elaine & Myron Bersch Morris Levson by Anita Hennessey & Hazel Kurlansky Florence I. Palmer by Jeffrey Palmer Dr. Lawrence S. Palmer by Jeffrey Palmer Sophie Gross by Arthur Director Rose Dampsky by Sara Paley Lillian Levin by Wendy Peterson Robert Wahnon by Jan Wahnon Rose & Philip Shapiro by Susan Arel Louis Hutensky by Barbara & Bill Hutensky Allan Seldin by Joan & Michael Needle Coleman Weiss by Barbara & Steven Weiss Sidney Mellman by Barbara & Steven Weiss Sara Pincus by Claire & Irv Pincus Ralph "Mickey" Paley by Sara Paley William, Sharon, Michael & Trevor Fleischmann Lori, Philip, Jillian & Nicole McDermott Morris Dampsky by Sara Paley Irving Friedman by Larry Friedman The Goldreich Family by Luise Goldreich Lillian & Rubin Cohn by Marshall Cohn

#### YAHRZEIT FUND (cont.)

Meyer Moskowitz by Leona & Harris Marcus Ada Golensky by Hazel Kurlansky & Anita Hennessey Mollie Silverman by Marion Daling Bertha Marcus by Leona & Harris Marcus Ida Lerner by Bernard Blum Morris Kaplan by Edith Kabatznick Resel Parrilis Ziedman by Penny Apter Lucille Cherniack by Ceile Zanoni Margot Mittelman by Sharon Mittelman Claire Hoffman by Sandy Hoffman Pearl Searle by Jonas Searle Dora Hoberman by Naomi & Marvin Hoberman Bob Maron by Ruth Maron Louis Lerner by Natalie Kirschbaum & Family Gilbert Sammut by Marie-Dominque Boyce Nathan Olshin by Phyllis Silverman

#### **ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN**

We are so very blessed to have members/ friends who give to our synagogue community either financially or physically throughout the year. Their continued support helps to ensure the success of our synagogue, our Jewish community and the education of our children. With their generosity and all who give to our Annual Giving Campaign, Adath Israel continues to be a bee hive of activity.

Our **Twelfth Annual Giving Campaign** has just begun. The Board of Directors would sincerely like to thank the following who have sent in a donation: **Susan & Doug Miller**.

With these tough economic times, we appreciate all the support that our members and friends have given and continue to give the synagogue.

#### 2016-17 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2016-17 Membership Directory is now available. If you are a member of Adath Israel and would like a copy please contact the synagogue office. Be sure to specify if you would prefer a print and/or electronic version.

8

# Shabbat for the whole community

All students and families are invited for a morning of worship and community.

Saturday, December 17th \* 9:30a.m.



#### **IT'S NEWS**

#### TODAH RABAH

**"Where There Is No Bread, There Is No Torah"** Thank you to following people for sponsoring and/or assisting with meals:

#### **Early Risers Minyan**

Teresa & Dave Shulman Marge & Stan Sadinsky



#### Oneg & Kiddush

Carolann Schwartz in honor of her grandson, Joshua Young's bar mitzvah Colleen & Jim Poliner in honor of their son, Ari's bar mitzvah Marie-Dominique Boyce in honor of the yahrtzeit of

#### her father, Gilbert Sammut

#### **Pray-Eat-Sing**

Anita Hennessey Aaron, Marcey, and Harriet Thiela Sharon Slossberg Eliot & Stephanie Meadow Myra & David Finkelstein Lynn Bennett Star Bennett Ruth & Mike Sigal Naomi & Richard Kamins Leah & Stu Epstein

#### **Break the Fast**

Sharon Slossberg Harriet Thiela Aaron Thiela Joanna Schnurman Linda Savitsky Myra & David Finkelstein Sharon Neuwirth

#### OTHER GIFTS & ACTS OF GENEROSITY TODAH RABBAH! Supporting our Chevra Kadisha

Ann Burack Pennfield Robert Poliner

IN MEMORY OF Arthur Director by Barbara & Steven Weiss

#### Sukkah Team Bern Padawer Aaron Thiela Art Doweyko Jonathan Shapiro Beth Shapiro



Art Doweyko Jonathan Shapiro Beth Shapiro Colleen Poliner Ellen Blanker-Cone Eileen & Micahel Daling Stephanie Meadow

#### Hachnasat Orchin (Welcoming Guests)

Hosting or Providing Transportation for Cantor Yager & Meredeth Scott Levy Eileen & Michael Daling Joanna Schnurman

#### BARUCH HABBAH! Welcome to our newest members

Daniel Schwartz Leah & Stu Epstein

#### MAZAL TOV!!!

Joshua Young on becoming a bar mitzvah Ari Poliner on becoming a bar mitzvah Heather & Mark Jacobson on the arrival of a healthy daughter, Kenzi. Mazal tov as well to Levi on becoming a big brother.

#### SPEEDY RECOVERY

Hal Kaplan, Mark Itkin, Bob Soll, Rich Bruno, Harold "Duke" Leitzes, Arthur Lerner, Seth Axelrod, Sandy Haftel

#### MAY GOD GIVE COMFORT TO

Ruth Sigal on the loss of her mother, Marilyn Shavelson Louise Feldman on the loss of her sister, Rosalee L. Shapiro

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Our sincerest condolences are extended to the family of Arthur Director who came to his eternal rest on night of September 25 (23 elul).

#### WISH LIST

S'chach for our 10' X 15' sukkah New small TV cabinet to hold assistive listening devices.

#### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR B'NEI MITZVAH

We are pleased and proud to offer the d'vrei Torah from our newest Jewish adults as they become available. The following d'var Torah was presented September 10, 2016: *Parshat Shoftim.* 

#### Katie Gendrich

What does it mean to me to be a Bat-mitzvah? I know that literally, it means age of Commandments, or age of responsibility. Because I've now reached this point, I will take the initiative to do more jobs around the house, and try to be a better person in general, such as arguing less with my sister (I took that from her speech). As a Jewish adult, I will lead at services more often, because I now know how to lead more prayers, and chant Torah and Haftarah. Being a Batmitzvah will be a step up for me, and I hope that I can embrace my new role in the community.

Every time I come up here to the bimah and read from the Torah, my mom comes over to me after and tells me what a great job I did, a simple act that always means so much to me. For my mom, this day is an event that publicly marks my transition into a fullfledged adult member of the Jewish community. Now I can be an active, participating congregant who helps maintain our community's traditions and meet the needs of its members. It's a very proud moment for her to realize that though I will always learn more, I have learned enough now to join in with the adult community. For my dad, this day highlights the process of studying and learning the values of my religion. It's not just Hebrew and Trope; it's more than that. It's not the day, it's the studying. I worked through the commentary and texts to develop a sense of understanding and appreciation of these values.

Our values go way back to the start of the Torah, which tells us that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. During this time God created people, including one named Abraham, who led the people into Canaan. Later, famine pushed them to leave for Egypt. They became slaves years after, and then God led them from Egypt, to Mount Sinai and into the wilderness. After forty years of wandering, God guided them to the Promised Land, but kept them outside as they received final laws and guidance. It's like when you go to college. Your parents give

you lots of advice to prevent mistakes before they happen, like my mother is doing already. God was teaching the people before he allowed them to enter the Holy Land. So here we are, in Deuteronomy, the last of the five books of the Torah. The Israelites are separated into twelve tribes, one of which is named the Levites. These were the priests, judges, and other officials, who gave us the laws of our Torah.

We obtained many laws, including being commanded to legislate justice, using the death penalty if we must. Though my parsha is centered on the idea of the death penalty, it is a recurring theme throughout the Torah. A summarized quote from Deuteronomy says, "If a person lies in wait and kills another, and runs to hide in a refuge city, you must show no pity and put them to death." Numbers (the fourth book in the Torah) states, "You must not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of a capital crime; they must be put to death." Exodus (the second book) proclaims, "One who strikes another shall be put to death." Short and sweet. But if you think about it, this was a step in the right direction. As my school friends and I learned in history class, in Hammurabi's day it was a life for an eye. Today's parsha is where we read the words "an eye for an eye", and "a life for a life," which, though it doesn't sound it, is more fair.

And finally, a quote from Genesis (the first book of the Torah) reads, "Whoever sheds the blood of another, by another shall their blood be shed." This quote especially did not make sense to me, because it sounds a lot like what mom and dad used to tell me and Elise, "Two wrongs don't make a right." Why would you kill a murderer and thereby double the number of people slain, if the goal is to *not* have people killed?

Before I started learning about my parsha, I thought Judaism was a religion that promotes peace and life, and I didn't realize that in the ancient days there were criminals or harsh punishments just like in the other ancient civilizations. The Israelites had to stick together to fight off their many enemies, because a people must be united on the inside to be united on the outside. Yet the same Torah that teaches us of God who saved Isaac, God who led us out of Egypt, God who gave us one of the Ten Commandments as not to kill, was teaching us of the God who was giving us these rules for punishment, specifically for putting someone to death.

#### Katie continued from pg 11

Although the Bible says to take lives, the Rabbis had something else in mind. They set up a system of rules to help prevent an execution. There must be two witnesses, who aren't related, who watched the crime happen. Both witnesses must warn the criminal that what he or she was doing is wrong, and forewarn that person of the capital punishment that would follow. And finally, both witnesses must go to the court and inform the officials there of what happened. This is not something everyone would do, because in this system, if the court does decide to execute the murderer, the witnesses have to be the first to initiate the punishment. Those rules worked, most of the time, and kept the Sanhedrin, which was the equivalent of our Supreme Court, from becoming a "murderous court".

If <u>one</u> person was executed in seven years the court could be considered "murderous". Different rabbis debate over this. Rabbi Elazar ben Azaria said that if someone was executed once every *seventy* years, the court was murderous. Rabbis Tarfon and Akiva agreed that *no one* would be executed if *they* were on the Sanhedrin. The Rabbis had made it very, very hard for someone to actually be killed, because they had a deep appreciation for the value of life. This appreciation comes from their teachings to do mitzvot in the short time you are alive. God may live forever, but humans don't, so it is very important for us to lead good lives. They also say that since God created life, if we kill someone we are taking something of God's.

Today I would like to leave you with the thought that *nothing* surpasses the value of all life. We are allowed to do whatever it takes, break whatever rules if it means saving a life, for saving a life is saving the world, and taking a life is destroying the world. When I was in fifth grade in Hebrew school, we had a book from which my mother, our teacher, taught our class, called *Ma La'asot*, or "What should I do?". The situations were all about Judaism's ethical response to specific situations, teaching us what was right and what was wrong. It was always right to save a life, if it did not endanger your own. The Rabbis that commented on my parsha have worked toward this goal too, putting in place the rules to try to stop an execution.

But it's not only human life we must care for. In my parsha, the Torah talks about how you are not allowed to cut down a besieged city's fruit trees after you have eaten the fruit and think it has no more pur-

pose alive. We often think human life is more important than tree life, so cutting it down is easy. This idea of preserving the trees is to help preserve the humanity of soldiers who may be asked to kill others during the heat of battle. So always think of how you should value other lives, human *and* non-human. Think of how you value your family's lives, and how they value yours. Please always remember the value of life.

Thank you Mr. Kamins, and thank you Adath Israel, for the beautiful Kiddush cup. Also, a huge thank you to you, Rabbi Haaz. Neither this day, nor this speech, would have been possible without you. Not only that, you also taught me and my class to chant Torah and Haftarah.

Next, thank you Mom and Dad, for doing all the little tasks that added up to making this day possible, from encouraging me to write and practice my Torah, Haftarah and prayers, to shopping, to setting up meetings or phone calls with my tutor.

Thank you Elise for always supporting me, or offering a tune when I needed it.

Thank you, all of my Hebrew school teachers, for preparing me for this special day.

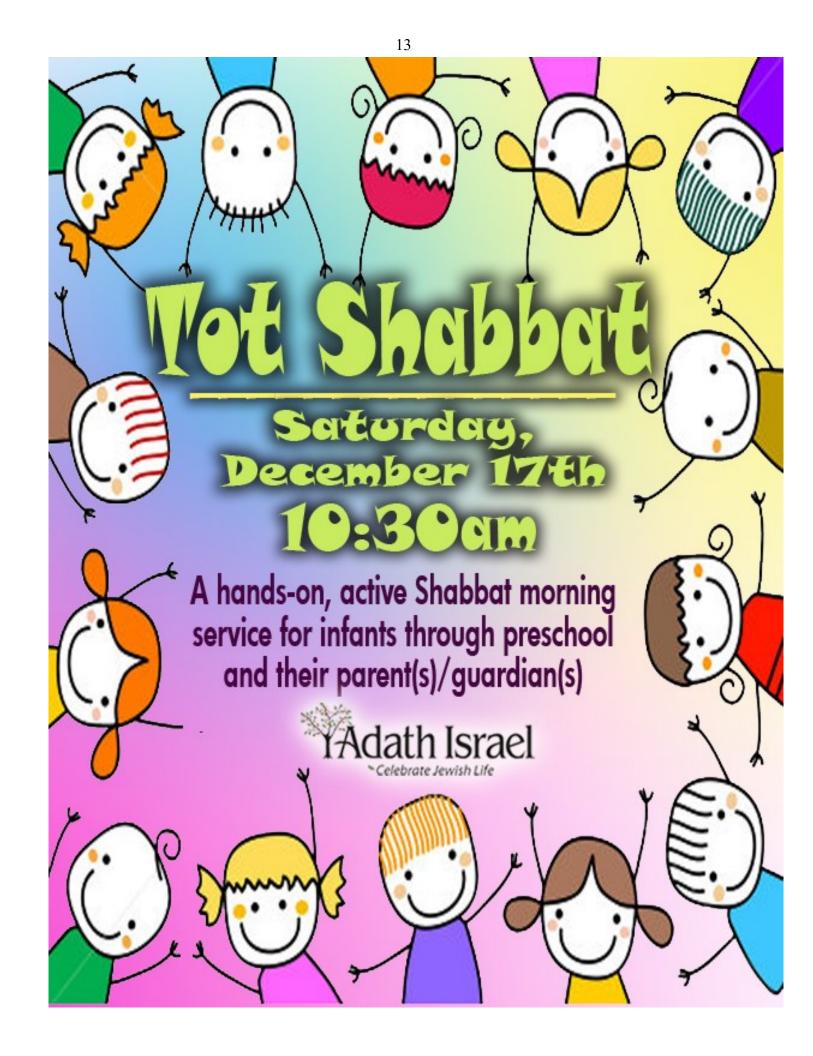
Thank you to all the people who traveled from far and wide to join me today. We have people here from ten different states including Massachusetts, NY, NJ, PA, ME, NC, IL, MI, CA, and WA.

Thank you Mike, for working so hard every day to keep the synagogue clean, always having food set out and the lights on. You stay after every one is gone, and do so many of the hard jobs around here. Thank you.

And finally, thank you so much Mr. Padawer for practicing all the prayers (especially *Shokein Ad*) and Torah and Haftarah with me at endless meetings, or over the phone, to make sure I do the best I can on this special day.

Shabbat Shalom.





#### DANCING WITH THE RABBI

Thursday, Nov.3rd, Dancing with the Rabbi. What an experience to see the Rabbi take off his tallit and put on his dancing shoes. For the few that came it was a fun and enjoyable evening, for the many who did not participate, your loss. The Rabbi showed us steps to dances we would love to do on a given dance floor, but did not know the moves to, Swing, Samba, and others. It was a pleasure to see husbands and wives dancing, or trying, to dance together, and as I was a single, Rabbi was my partner and that made me feel special.

I hope you will try to make an effort to attend future programs that will include Paint Night, and Trivia Night. Watch for upcoming details.

Thank you, Arlene Pressman, Co-chair, Social Activities Committee

793

#### **HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE**

Thank you to all who contributed to our 16th Annual High Holy Day Food Drive.

Feeding the Community Your generosity provided

pounds of food for

families in our community. Please continue to drop off nonperishable food items and full sized toiletries in the bins outside the office or consider buying and donating a scrip card. It will benefit both the at risk of being

hungry and the synagogue.

#### LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PARK?

Have you ever wondered, "Which parking spaces belong to Adath Israel?" Well wonder no more. Over the summer, our parking spaces were repainted in a brilliant yellow and stenciled "Reserved AI". Please use these spaces only. On weekends or major holidays additional parking is available in a lot located on William Street behind the First Baptist Church and there are 35 spaces along the fence (closest to the new housing) at Traverse Square on Church Street.

#### CELEBRATE JEWISH LIFE THROUGH PRAYER

Morning Minyan: Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM Sunday: 9:00 AM Early Risers Minyan: 7:00 AM, 1st Wednesday of the month Shabbat Evening Service: Friday, 7:00 PM



Pray-Eat-Sing Service: 5:30 PM, one Friday night a month; see calendar for details

Shabbat Morning Service: 9:30 AM

All prayer services at Adath Israel are public events, open to the community as a whole. Members, guests, and other religious seekers who desire the warmth of Jewish prayer and the fellowship of being together are always welcome.

#### **"SIMCHA" MENORAH**

#### HONOR THOSE SPECIAL PERSONS IN YOUR LIFE WITH A PLAQUE FOR THE **"SIMCHA"** MENORAH

Whether it celebrates a Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Birth of a Child or Grandchild, Wedding, "Special" Birthday, special event/honor, etc. share your joy with our synagogue community – **FOREVER.** 

SAMPLE



Only \$136.00 - A gift that endures

Contact Joanna @ 860-346-4709 or office@adathisraelct.org.

14



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#### Tikkun Olam/Fundraiser

IT'S A WIN-WIN-WIN! Save time, aggravation, and the planet while providing funds for important causes by donating your cleaned \$.05 returnable bottles and cans.

From April-July the money will be donated to Middletown's Relay for Life.

From August-November the money collected will benefit the Religious School.

#### From December–March the money collected will benefit the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

In October and November your efforts generated \$56.40 for the Religious School.

Please drop your **CLEANED** cans and bottles off in the designated bucket in front of the Synagogue office.

Thank you so much for helping to repair the world (Tikkun Olam) and raise a few dollars as well.

Stephanie Meadow





## december 2016 kislev/tevet

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2 5:30 Pray-Eat-Sing, led by Cantor Yager	3 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services led by Cantor Isaac Yager
				Rosh Chodesh 1 kislev	2 kislev	Toldot <b>3 kislev</b>
4 9 a.m. Religious School 10:30 a.m. Mazel Tots 10:30 a.m. Judaism 101	5	6 11 a.m. Mah Jongg 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	7 7 a.m. Early Risers Minyan 4 p.m. Religious School	8	9 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service led by Cantor Yager	10 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services led by Cantor Yager
4 kislev	5 kislev	6 kislev	7 kislev	8 kislev	9 kislev	Vayetze <b>10 kislev</b>
11 9 a.m. Religious School 10:30 a.m. Mazel Tots 10:30 a.m. Judaism 101	12	13 11 a.m. Mah Jongg 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7 p.m. Book Club 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	14 4 p.m. Religious School	15	16 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service	17 9:30 a.m. Shabbat L'hol Adat Morning Services 10:30 Tot Shabbat
11 kislev	12 kislev	13 kislev	14 kislev	15 kislev	16 kislev	Vayishlach <b>17 kislev</b>
18 No Religious School or Mazel Tots 9:30 a.m. JWV Brunch	19	20 11 a.m. Mah Jongg 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	21 4 p.m. Religious School	22	23 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service	24 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services Erev Hanukkah Light 1 candle after Havdallah Vayeshev
18 kislev	19 kislev	20 kislev	21 kislev	22 kislev	23 kislev	24 kislev
25 No Religious School or Mazel Tots	26 Office Closed	27 11 a.m. Mah Jongg 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	28 No Religious School 6 p.m. Executive Bd Mtg 7 p.m. Evening Minyan 7:15 p.m. Board of	29	30 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service <b>7th night of</b>	31 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 8th night of
2nd night of Hanukkah Light 2 candles <i>25 kislev</i>	3rd night of Hanukkah Light 3 candles <i>26 kislev</i>	4th night of Hanukkah Light 4 candles 27 <i>kislev</i>	5th night of Hanukkah Light 5 candles 28 kislev	6th night of Hanukkah Light 6 candles <i>29 kislev</i>	Hanukkah Light 7 candles before Shabbat candles Rosh Chodesh 1 tevet	Hanukkah Light 8 candles after Havdallah <i>Miketz</i> Hanukkah 2 tevet



## january 2017 tevet/shevat

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1 No Religious School or Mazel Tots New Year's Day	2 Office closed.	<b>3</b> 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	4 7 a.m. Early Risers Minyan 4 pm Religious School	5	6 5:30 p.m. Pray-Eat- Sing Evening Service led by Cantor Yager	7 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services led by Cantor Yager
Last Day of Hanukkah 3 <i>tevet</i>	4 tevet	5 tevet	6 tevet	7 tevet	8 tevet	Vayigash <b>9 tevet</b>
<b>8</b> 9 a.m. Religious School 10:30 a.m. Mazel Tots 10:30 a.m. Judaism 101	9	<b>10</b> 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	11 4 p.m. Religious School	12	13 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service led by Cantor Yager	14 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services led by Cantor Yager
Fast Day <i>10 tevet</i>	11 tevet	12 tevet	13 tevet	14 tevet	15 tevet	Vayechi <b>16 tevet</b>
15 9 a.m. Religious School 10:30 a.m. Mazel Tots 10:30 a.m. Judaism 101 10:30 a.m. Adult Education	16	17 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon Comm. Mtg	18 4 p.m. Religious School	<b>19</b> 7 p.m. Trivia Night	<b>20</b> 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service	21 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services 5 p.m. Shabbat L' <u>h</u> ol Adat Havdallah Ser- vice
17 Shevat	Martin Luther King Day 18 tevet	19 tevet	20 tevet	21 tevet	22 tevet	Shemot <b>23 tevet</b>
<b>22</b> No Religious School or Mazel Tots 9:30 a.m. Jewish War Veteran's Brunch	23	24 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7 p.m. Book Club 7:30 p.m. Al Anon	25 4 p.m. Religious School 6 p.m. Executive Bd Mtg 7 p.m. Evening Minyan 7:15 p.m. Board Mtg	26	27 7 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service led by Cantor Yager	28 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services led by Cantor Yager <i>Va'era</i> Rosh Chodesh
24 Shevat	25 tevet	26 tevet	27 tevet	28 tevet	29 tevet	1 Shevat
<b>29</b> 9 a.m. Religious School 10:30 a.m. Mazel Tots 10:30 a.m. Judaism 101	30	<b>31</b> 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg 7:30 p.m. Al Anon				
2 Shevat	3 Shevat	4 Shevat				