

THE FOCAL POINT

Vol. 56, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2020

KISLEV-TEVET 5781

From Your Rabbi... From Your Secretary...



This week I find myself mourning the loss of the man who was my single favorite rabbinic leader in the world - Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, former chief rabbi of the United Kingdom. He passed away at the all too young age of 72 from cancer.

I'm not alone in my admiration for Rabbi Sacks. He was probably the most prominent and beloved rabbi in the world. In an age of such stark denominational divide, it's astonishing the degree to which Rabbi Sacks was respected and admired across denominations.

Rabbi Sacks himself was the living embodiment of the sub-movement to which I myself identify - Modern Orthodoxy. My alma mater of Yeshiva University is dedicated to the prospect that one can be fully Orthodox in thought and in practice, while also being fully modern in the sense of worldliness and embrace of the best of Western culture. It sounds good in theory - but all too few rabbinic greats actually live up to that paradigm in practice! It's hard to balance tradition and modernity, without one side of that equation becoming inevitably diluted in the process.

Rabbi Sacks was able to straddle that balance better than anyone. He was the foremost spokesman for Judaism in the world. As a public representative of the Jewish religion, he is sadly just irreplaceable. I'll share with you a secret - in general, when I and my rabbinic colleagues are at a loss for sermon material, the go-to source for ideas is Rabbi Sacks! I'd encourage everyone to discover his thought, if you haven't done so already, by simply googling his name and finding his teachings, especially on the weekly Torah portion.

I'll conclude by quoting something that Rabbi Sacks said about the greatest philosophical conundrum that there is. This is from an article from Israel National News:

In the video recording of a Zoom Q&A session, a young lady mentions that her mother once asked Rabbi Jonathan Sacks the "ultimate" philosophical question - why do bad things happen to good people, and Rabbi Sacks answered, "I still don't have an answer to that."

"I was wondering if you had any more insight," she asks.

"Yes I do, actually," Rabbi Sacks answers and then pauses. "G-d does not want us to understand why bad things happen to good people." Rabbi Sacks then continues and answers, "Because if we understood, we would be forced to accept that bad things happen to good people. And G-d does not want us to accept those bad things."

"He wants us not to understand," Rabbi Sacks explains, "so that we will fight against the bad and the injustices of this world. And

continued on page 4



My family history with Kehilath Israel dates back many years, actually before Kehilath Israel was organized from four previous *shuls*. My grandparents on both sides arrived in Kansas City prior to World War I, with my maternal great-grandparents (Eisen) settling on a farm in Richmond, MO and the other grandparents (Madlof & Fishman) living in Kansas City. My father remembers being

woken up on Saturday mornings to help form a *minyan* at Teferes Israel, where he celebrated his *bar mitzvah*, and Rabbi Solomon marrying my parents in the 1950's at the Bellerive Hotel. My uncle's *bar mitzvah* was held on a record-heat day - for December 25th - and there was also a record crowd at the Rockhill location. My parents decided that children in the 1960s should understand the prayers, so chose to send my brother and me to a neighboring synagogue, where I remained a member for over 40 years. Although I still enjoyed the services, the congregation didn't feel very warm, and I rarely saw any graduates from my confirmation class of 60. In the meantime, I was attending K.I. on Saturday mornings with my great-aunt and uncle (Blonsky). I was immediately welcomed to the synagogue and began attending more programs at K.I. than at my synagogue and finally made the switch around 2005.

I have really enjoyed meeting and working with members on a variety of programs and projects and was honored to be asked to serve as secretary of the congregation. In my role I had been responsible for preparing *Kiddush* lunch for Saturday morning services, but that has been curtailed by COVID-19; and for the past several months I have focused on connecting with members, particularly those in assisted living communities or seniors who are limited in their activities.

My fulltime profession keeps me really busy - I am a social studies teacher at Shawnee Mission East, and also sponsor the Student Council and International Club. Over the years I have sold tickets for football, basketball, soccer, wrestling, and been the announcer for gymnastics - I guess I like to be totally involved!

At home I am "mom" to Abby and Dolly, the sweetest little Llasa/Bichons and aunt to my brother's adult kids and their children.

I don't know what the future will bring, but hopefully more members and a long life for Kehilath Israel Synagogue.

Brenda Fishman

WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Shabbat Schedule..... | 2 |
| Anniversaries, Birthdays..... | 4 |
| Memorial Tablets..... | 6 |
| Donations..... | 7 |
| December Calendar..... | 9 |

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Candlelighting*.....4:38 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:45 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

VAYISHLACH

Genesis 32:4-36:43

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

Morning Services.....9:30 AM
Mincha, Parsha Class, Maariv4:30 PM
Havdalah.....5:32 PM



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Candlelighting*.....4:39 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:45 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

SHABBAT CHANUKAH

BLESSING OF THE

NEW MONTH TEVET

VAYEISHEV

Genesis 37:1-40:23

Maftir: Numbers 7:18-23

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Morning Services.....9:30 AM
Mincha, Parsha Class, Maariv4:35 PM
Havdalah.....5:34 PM



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Candlelighting*.....4:41 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:50 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIKEITZ

Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah: I Kings 3:15-4:1

Morning Services.....9:30 AM
Mincha, Parsha Class, Maariv4:35 PM
Havdalah.....5:36 PM



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Candlelighting*.....4:44 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....4:55 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

VAYIGASH

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Morning Services.....9:30 AM
Mincha, Parsha Class, Maariv4:40 PM
Havdalah.....5:40 PM

*NO LATER THAN THESE TIMES

FAST OF TEVET

Friday, December 25

Commemorates the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. and led to the destruction of the Temple. The fast begins at 6:09 am and ends at 5:32 pm.

PRAYERWORKS RETURNS TO K.I. SYNAGOGUE - VIRTUALLY

In these unprecedented times of COVID-19, stress, isolation, and pressure, Kehilath Israel Synagogue is excited to announce the resumption of our healing PrayerWorks program. Rather than meeting in person, as it has in the past, it will gather virtually. K.I. member **Sharon Friedman** will facilitate each session.

All members of the Jewish community are invited to join. **PrayerWorks will meet at 11:00 am on the second Sunday of each month, beginning December 13th. Email info@kisyn.org to request the secure link.**

What exactly is PrayerWorks? Sharon says, "PrayerWorks brings people together to find healing for themselves and for others. At the monthly, hour-long session, we discuss something about healing, health and wellness, then have a small healing prayer service and say *misheberachs* (prayer for healing) for those who need healing. We end with a short healing meditation. The group is open to anyone in need of healing--whether it be from a physical illness or emotional--and those who would like to pray for themselves and others."

Sharon is passionate about the power of communal prayer. She cites these thoughts, written by Rabbi Naomi Levy: "Praying with a community alters us. Often when life hurts we pray by ourselves and assume that we are alone in our pain. When we enter a community to pray, our eyes open up. We see that we are not alone in our pain—there are others who suffer too. And we also realize that we are not alone in the world; there are dozens of people praying for us, extending their arms to help. Suddenly the nature of our prayers begins to change. We stop drowning in self-pity. We stop praying for ourselves alone. Before long we begin adding others to our prayers. We begin praying for our world. We begin to see our own troubles in a new light. Perhaps things aren't as bad as they seemed after all." (Rabbi Levy is the author of two best-selling books: *Talking to God: Personal Prayers for Times of Joy, Sadness, Struggle, and Celebration* and *To Begin Again: The Journey toward Comfort, Strength, and Faith in Difficult Times*.)

About Sharon Friedman, PrayerWorks facilitator:

Sharon has always been a seeker of spirituality.

In 1999, Sharon's father passed away after a long illness. She spent months working with her father and her family to help them transition to peace-of-mind and acceptance. After her father's passing, Sharon joined Rickie Haith's Prayerworks group, and later they decided Sharon should begin a second group. That was 13 years ago!

When she became a yoga teacher, Sharon sought ways to connect yoga philosophy to Judaism. In doing so, she studied with two giants in the field, Diane Bloomfield and Rabbi Myriam Klotz. From them she learned to merge yoga with her Judaism, thus creating a yoga practice that she could share with like-minded others.

Sharon is also a facilitator for *Mussar*, the Jewish practice of self-study and self-improvement. Additionally, she has co-facilitated a course in "Wise Aging," a program which helps adults 55 and over to engage and create meaningful lives.

Sharon is currently in the process of becoming a Yoga Therapist, a certification that includes mind, body and spiritual practices.



**The deadline for The January *Focal Point* is December 11.
You can email your information to ashanberg@kisyn.org.**

LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF CHANUKAH

On the first night of *Chanukah*, Thursday, December 10, three blessings below are recited immediately PRIOR to the lighting of the candles (not while lighting them). On all other nights, we recite only the first two blessings.

Chanukah candles are placed from right to left side until finally on the eighth night, the *chanukiah* is full. We light the newest candle first; therefore, we always begin by kindling the candle at the left and proceed toward the right.

Shabbat always takes precedence over other holidays; therefore, on December 11, the Friday night of *Chanukah*, we should light the *Chanukah* candles first and then the *Shabbat* candles. Both need to be done by **4:39 pm**, and since the *Chanukah* candles need to burn at least one half hour after dark, it is traditional to use larger candles such as *Shabbat* candles or tall tapers for the *chanukiah*. On Saturday night, December 12, one should recite *Havdalah* first, after **5:34 pm**, and then light the *Chanukah* candles.

For *Chanukah*, one might light either an oil or a candle *menorah*, the only requirement being that whichever type of light is used, it should be clear and bright. There has been a great deal of discussion as to the use of an electric *chanukiah*. Since it is not definite as to whether or not an electric *menorah* fulfills the obligation of the lighting of *Chanukah* lights, it is

best to avoid the use of such a *chanukiah*, except for purely decorative purposes.

In general, on a weekday night other than *Sabbath* night, the *Chanukah* candles are to be lit approximately at dark. If, however, one is not at home or this time is inconvenient, they can be lit at any time during the entire night. If one has to leave home prior to dark and may not return for the rest of the evening, the *Chanukah* candles may be lit about an hour before dark, provided that *Chanukah* lights will burn for a short period of time after dark.

The *Chanukah* candles are to be lit simply for religious reasons and are not to be used for any secular purposes such as lighting other objects, reading lights, etc. The rabbis of old determined that the required burning time of a *Chanukah* candle is one half hour, and after that time, they may be used for any other purpose or even extinguished.

It is customary to place the *chanukiah* in the window of one's home, on the main table around which the family gathers, near the door, or any place where lighting of the candles will become a public event.

BLESSINGS FOR LIGHTING THE CHANUKAH MENORAH

(רק ליל ראשון)

(3) בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שְׁהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגַּעְנוּ לְזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

(first night only)

*Baruch Attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha-olam,
sheh-heh-cheh-yanu v'key-y'manu v'hee-gee-yanu
la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Hashem our G-d, Ruler of the universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and has brought us to this season.



(1) בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֵׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

*Baruch Attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha-olam,
asher ke-d'shanu b'mitz-vo-tav, v'tzee-vanu
l'had-leek nair shell Chanukah.*

Praised are You, Hashem our G-d, Ruler of the universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

(2) בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, בְּיָמִים הָהֵם
בְּזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

*Baruch Attah Hashem, Elokainu Melech ha-olam
sheh-ah-sah nee-sim la-ah-vo-tanu, bah-yamim
hah-haim baz-man hah-zeh.*

Praised are You, Hashem our G-d, King of the universe, Who has performed miracles for our forefathers, in those days at this season.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 Debby & Joe Pfefer (8)
- 3 Lisa & Seth Gortenburg (15)
- 7 Shirley & Todd Stettner (45)
- 9 Sonia & Max Singer (42)
- 10 Robyn Jacobs & Daniel Rosenbloom (15)
- 16 Lori & Mitchell Gold (25)
- 17 Stella & Robert Hoffman (70)
Sharon Kohn & Richard Simon (31)
- 18 Karen & Michael Gortenburg (37)
- 19 Joyce & Stan Zeldin (55)
- 20 Rachel & Scott Macek (11)
- 21 Leslee & Marc Price (6)
- 27 Susan & Steven Osman (51)
- 28 Lois & Emanuel Winston (68)
- 29 Megan & Sam Pener (7)

CONGREGANTS' DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to all of the following congregants who are celebrating birthdays:

Liz Friedman, Dmitry Kapustin, Emily Minoofar, Blake Sallis, Linda Silver, Brynn Shaffer, William Anderson, Brenda McKinnon, Eugene Strauss, Jonathan Kaplan, Lynn Kuluva, Anna Levina, Harold Shorr, Robyn Jacobs, Matthew von Ende, Bonnie Siegel, Rachel Lubowicz, Harold Magariel, Sandra Romer, Scott White, Janet Eisman, Clint Gillom, Marcie Kaplan, Sheila Rosmarine, Robert Glueck, Joel Zitron, Austin Ruben, Arnold Caviar, Debra Ann Entine, Sarah Caplan, Hal Novicoff, Beryl Silberg.



DECEMBER YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

Nathan Khalemsky, Avi Hammer, Illiana Hammer, Ephraim Mandl, Jackson Jacobson, Kayla Fink, and Abigail Clark.

Rabbi's message continued from page 1...

that is why there is no answer to that question. Because G-d has arranged that we shall never have an answer to that question."

May the memory of Rabbi Sacks and his teachings continue to be a blessing for us all.

Rabbi Moshe Grussgott

IN MEMORIAM

May the G-d of Mercy sustain and comfort those who have suffered the loss of dear ones. The Kehilath Israel Family extends deepest sympathy to the bereaved families of:

ALLAN BELL

*(Husband of Ruth Bell,
Brother of Beverly Alport)*

CONNIE SIMON

(Mother of Richard Simon)

DOROTHY MONDSCHN

LOUISE HIRSEKORN

(Mother of Susan Hirsekorn)

LARRY HAITH

*(Husband of Randi Haith,
Father of Zac Haith)*

THE FOCAL POINT OF KEHILATH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

913.642.1880 FAX: 913.642.7332

RABBI MOSHE GRUSSGOTT
Senior Rabbi

RABBI HERBERT J. MANDL, PH.D.
Rabbi Emeritus

ELIZABETH PEDEN
Executive Director

RACHEL MACEK
Director, K.I. Fred Devinki Religious School

ALLEGRA SHANBERG, Editor

MARTY GORIN, President

SAM DEVINKI,
Honorary President for Life

The Focal Point (U.S.P.S. 292-040) is published monthly except the June/July issue by The Kehilath Israel Synagogue, 10501 Conser St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66212-2643. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, MO
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Focal Point, c/o Kehilath Israel Synagogue, 10501 Conser St., S.M. KS 66212-2643

K.I. FRED DEVINKI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS



Macek. They also began the year with a brief review of the fall Jewish holidays. The class continued learning about *tikkun middot* (improving character) that they started last spring. The students started this year with the *middah of Derech Eretz*. *Kitah Gimel* also receives work on the *parsha* to do each week on their own. Above picture is a jam board that we use to put the pre-K through 1st grade kids *mitzvot* on.

Rachel Macek



Community Family Religious School Chanukah Celebration

A unique virtual interactive and engaging community *Chanukah* educational experience is planned for all Religious School families on **Sunday, December 6, 10:00-10:50 a.m.** in place of regular religious school morning sessions. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun and grandparents are welcome to participate!

This special program will feature the Bible Players, a Torah comedy team based in New York City. The group teaches Jewish values using theater and improvisation to infuse comedy and laughs into tales from the Torah and beyond. Since founding The Bible Players in 2011, they have toured America from New York to Texas to California, bringing their unique show to thousands of people of all backgrounds and ages, from Kindergarten through adults. They've performed in 30 states and do over 100 programs a year. Their *Chanukah* presentation retells the Festival of Lights - the story of Milton the *Menorah*, an insecure *menorah* who finds the spirit (*ruach*) and light to shine.

Please register by Thursday, December 3rd at: <https://forms.gle/jXKE7TcA21geD7FKA>

A Zoom link will be sent all of those registered a couple of days prior to the program.

For questions, please contact your Religious School Director or Annette Fish, Administrator/Program Director, Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, afprogram@aol.com or 913.327.4622.

This program is being offered in partnership with Congregation Religious Schools, Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City and generously funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

WOKIs (WOMEN OF K.I.) RETURNS WITH 8 CRAZY NIGHTS DURING CHANUKAH

Join the WOKI's for our Second Annual Eight Crazy Nights starting Thursday night, December 10: COVID-19 Edition.

Activities will be interactive ZOOM games, *mitzvah* moments, and tasty treats. Each individual that signs up will receive a package of supplies in advance to participate in the nightly activities. Bags will be delivered to your home before the first candle is lit.

Join for one night or join them all.

RSVP no later than December 1. We look forward to "connecting" with all of you for this *Chanukah* celebration with compassion, creativity and competitive spirits.

Call or text **Debbie Adamous** at 913.961.2500 or email home4848@sbcglobal.net to sign up for the fun.



רפואה שלמה

The congregation expresses sincere wishes for a speedy recovery to **Norma Schwartz, Gene Soloff, Adeline Trempey**, and to all other members of the congregation and community who have been ill or hospitalized.

תודה רבה

..to our office volunteer, **Jacob Schulzinger**, who assists in many ways. We greatly appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

ESRIG-GOULD MEMORIAL ALCOVE

With Reverence We Record the Following Yahrzeits

MEMORIAL TABLETS

15 KISLEV-DEC 1

ETA ESTRIN
MORRIS FEDER
ANNA HARRIS
JOSEPH LEVEY
LIBBIE MALLIN
ELAINE MILLS
IRENE ROSENBERG
RUBEN SLOBOSKY
BENJAMIN SMUCKLER
TERRY VILINSKY

16 KISLEV-DEC 2

MORRIS FEINBERG
CLARA GERSHON
MORRIS HAITH
JACK LERNER
ABE RABIN
ETTA ROBINSON
ETHEL ROSENFIELD
SARAH TRILINSKY
MANIA WEINDLING

17 KISLEV-DEC 3

MARIA DEVINKI
DORA FOX
SADIE KATZ
SYLVIA LEVINE
ESTHER SILBERG
MEYER SOLTZ
DOROTHY STEINZEIG
FANNY TAGER
LOUIS THOMAS
SOSHA ZUROVSKY

18 KISLEV-DEC 4

FEIGA BETTINGER
BEN CLAYMAN
JACQUELINE FRIEDMAN
NORBERT KELLMER
IRVING KLINOCK
ROSE LERNER
REBECCA LIPKIN
JACOB LIPSKY
FANNIE PRICE
REBECCA SANELL
SARAH SPORN
BEN WEINBERG

19 KISLEV-DEC 5

BEN EISMAN
LEAH ESRIG
LILLIAN FISHMAN
JULIUS GOLAD
ANNIE GRANT
MOONIE KRAMSKY
JOSEPH LAPIDES
YOSEF LICHTOR
JULIUS ROSEN
JENNIE ROSENBERG

20 KISLEV-DEC 6

BETTY ADLER
ALBERT BAMBERGER
MAURICE BLONSKY
HENRY GOTTLIEB
SARAH MNOOKIN
ETTA STRAUS
NETTIE WEINER
NATHAN YEDDIS

21 KISLEV-DEC 7

SARAH BEITCHMAN
SARAH CARR
ANNA EPSTEIN

SAM KAHN
LOUIS KLEBAN
SAMUEL KODISH
ROSE KUSNETZKY
MORRIS LEVITCH
ANNA LOEFFLER
LEAH LUKIN
BESS POIZNER
ESTHER RAYMOR
JEANETTE STUDNA

22 KISLEV-DEC 8

REGINA BRAUN
MORRIS CORTEZ
HELEN EPSTEIN
FANNIE JACOBSON
RAYMOND PELTZMAN

23 KISLEV-DEC 9

ESTHER BOROWIK
ISRAEL BOROWIK
SHERMAN DREISESZUN
SHRAGA GOLDMAN
EVA GOODMAN
HARRY KRUG
ABRAHAM MILLER
JOHANNA PRICE
DORA SHULTZ

24 KISLEV-DEC 10

ROSE GLASSMAN
LILLIAN GREENBERG
LOUIS KAPLAN
ALEX RUBIN
ROBERT SHAW
MARTHA SHER
HARRY TAYLOR

25 KISLEV-DEC 11

SARAH GERSH
MARY GOLDBERG
MAURICE JERWICK
ALBERT KALIKOW
MICHOEL LEVIN
JOSEPH MILLER
RUTH ROSE
JANET SIEGEL
JOSEPH STOFFSKY
ISRAEL WEINDLING

26 KISLEV-DEC 12

MINNIE BAUM
ALBERT BEISER
JOHN BELL
MAX COHEN
DAVID GOLDSTEIN
BLUMA HOROWITZ
JEROME NARON
MIERL STEPONSKY
DORA YOMAN

27 KISLEV-DEC 13

DONALD COHN
FRANCES MANDELBAUM
NATHAN MARGOLIN
NOAH MEDLOV

28 KISLEV-DEC 14

HERBERT FISHMAN
SAMUEL GREEN
DAVID HOUSE
FAMILY KUSHNER

BENJAMIN LICHTOR
SAM PLATTNER
ISRAEL RAIZEN

29 KISLEV-DEC 15

SARAH ASHER
LAWRENCE BLONSKY
EPHRAIM DENNIS
BERNARD GLICKSTEIN
PEARL HALPERN
DORA HERSCHMAN
MIRIAM INDIN
DORA LEVY
AARON PFEFER
SAMUEL SPECTOR
ANNA SWARTZ
SAM TANKEL
DAVID WEINBERG

1 TEVET-DEC 16

FANNIE CLAYMAN
REVA DENNIS
ANNA DUBINSKY
ROSE FABES
DAVID GINSBERG
DAVID GOLAD
SARAH LERNER
EMMA LEVINE
RICHARD SHER
VICTOR SIEGEL
MINNIE SIMON

2 TEVET-DEC 17

ROSE BELOVE
SARAH BRITZ
WILLIAM GALLAS
EUGENE GOLDSTEIN
SARAH GREEN
CONNIE KAPLAN
MAX KRAFT
ABE RABINOWITZ
BERL SHERR
MARY SPORN

3 TEVET-DEC 18

ALEXANDER BULAVSKY
EDWARD CUMONOW
RITA FRIEDMAN
ISADORE GREEN
ISIDOR HOUSE
LOUIS LEBOFF
ISADORE RAINEN
MAX SHER
LUCY SHRINER

4 TEVET-DEC 19

ISADORE BROWN
MICHLE FISHMAN
MARTHA GOODMAN
MORRIS GOODMAN
RICHARD KATZ
MARCUS LEVITCH
MOLLY MONDSCHNEIN
MORRIS RASKIN
SHAY STEIN
LOUIS WALTER

5 TEVET-DEC 20

HELEN COHEN
REBECCA COHEN
ROSE GREENBERG
JACK KANDLIS

JOE LEVINE
JOE TKATCH
PETER TRANIN
RUTH ZITRON

6 TEVET-DEC 21

IDA BAMBERGER
RACHEL BROOKS
HENE GAUM
FRED LEBRECHT
RACHEL MOSSERI
BARBARA STEINBERG

7 TEVET-DEC 22

KATHERINE BODKER
SOLOMON BORTNICK
ANNA BUCKSNER
BEN COHN
GENE DELEVE
MORRIS FRIEDMAN
MORRIS GOLDBERG
FLORA HARRIS
J LOUIS LESKY
DAVID SHANE
SAMUEL SHURIN
BEN TRILLIN
SARAH WEINBERG

8 TEVET-DEC 23

CARL BERNSTEIN
IDA DUNN
SARAH FISHMAN
BESS LADERMAN
ANNE SCHAEFFER
ROSE TRANIN

9 TEVET-DEC 24

MARY ABEND
LENA ALPORT
REBECCA BLENDER
ETHEL KESSLER
IDA LERNER
SARAH LEVINSON

10 TEVET-DEC 25

ETHEL BERGER
LEAH BERGER
ZALMON BERGER
ZLATA BERGER
ZVI BERGER
SARAH BOIGEN
CHARNA COHEN
MORDECAI COHEN
DAVID CUKIER
HARRY FILSON
CHARNA GERSHKOWITZ
ALVIN GLADSTONE
HERSHEL GOLDBERG
MARIE HACKER
DORA HAITH
IDA JABEN
LEON KLOPPER
ADA LEVEY
ISIDOR LIPSCHUETZ
MORITZ MANDL
SHEVA MILLER
YESHAIHAH MILLER
FEIGA POLLMAN
LIBBY SLADOWITZ
VELVEL STEPONSKY
SARAH STERN
MARY WAGNER

WEINER BROTHERS
ISAAC WINER
JACOB WINER
BRACHA YEDDIS
FEIGA YODLER
WOLF YODLER

11 TEVET-DEC 26

ELIYA DWORKIN
HAROLD GERSH
LOUIS GLASS
MINNIE GUROVITZ
ABE KELNE
ZE'EV LISSER
SARA LITMAN
SIMON MALLIN
MINNIE MILLER

12 TEVET-DEC 27

REBECCA BIALSKY
ANNA BRATMAN
MINNIE KUSHNER
ISADORE MARGOLIS
MINNIE OSADCHY
RUBIN RESNICK
SIMHA TARABOULOS

13 TEVET-DEC 28

RUTH ADELMAN
BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN
MILTON KESSLER

14 TEVET-DEC 29

REBECCA GINSBERG
SARA GOLDBERG
ROSE HOROWITZ
LEONARD OSMAN
ANNA STUDNA
SULE SWEET
MIRIAM WAJCMAN

15 TEVET-DEC 30

HILDA ADLER
NORMAN CAPLAN
SOPHIE DOLGINOFF
ALICE DUBIN
NATHAN FOX
SARAH GLASS
HARRY KOTILOV
SARAH LESKY
REVA PESMEN
MORDECAI SCHULTZ
ISRAEL SHANERMAN
MINNIE WEINSAFT
HARRY WEXLER
SAM ZEFF

16 TEVET-DEC 31

ROSE BARSKY
BLUMA FRUMHOFF
LILLIAN HAITH
EDWARD KANTER
ELSA LEVIN
IRVING LEVITAN
HARRIS SHERR



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions...

K.I. BUS FUND MEMORY

ALLAN BELL
Barry & Brenda Sherman

K.I. GENERAL FUND DONATION

Ishan Moroy
MEMORY
ALLAN BELL
Steve & Susan Osman
Carol Lissauer
Ward & Donna Katz
FLORENCE COHEN
Bruce & Marcie Kaplan
LARRY HAITH
Michael & Karen Gortenburg

YAHREZEIT

IDA KRUG
Dr. Bill & Jodi Rosenthal
MORRIS MALLIN
Mel Mallin
JOHN LERNER
Steve & Nancy Cline
FANNIE ROSENFELD MANDEL
Jerry & Barbara Cosner
FLOYD FRANK
Shirley Beiser
ROBERT KOHN
Maury Kohn
SHIRLEY CAPLAN
Craig Caplan
DORA ADELMAN
Bruce Adelman
FRANCES HOLLAND
BELLA ALPORT
Neva Bennett
JULIUS WAXMAN
Drs. Lisa & Sander Glatt
HARRY SCHULZINGER
Jake Schulzinger
FLOREINE WORSTELL
Reuben Stern
ROSE MASLAN
Alex & Teri Becker
Michele Thompson
MARVIN GALE
Steve & Nancy Cline

HERMAN & DOROTHY SCHIFMAN HUNGER FUND YAHREZEIT

MARY GOODBINDER
Phil & Barbara Goodbinder
GOLDENE RYDELL
MILTON RYDELL
Carol Rydell
HERMAN SCHIFMAN
Ronald Schifman & Sheila Stolon
Carol Schifman

K.I. SCHOLARSHIP FUND MEMORY

ALLAN BELL
Abe & Diane Rozenberg
YAHREZEIT
LYNN PEPPER
Scott & Sharon Jerwick
MATTHEW DEVOE
Carolyn Cohen
ROSE MASLAN
Lynne Drebin

ALEX & SADIE WACKNOV SCHOLARSHIP FUND

YAHREZEIT
SAM ZAVEL
BETTY PRICE
Donna Zavelo

GLASS SCHOLARSHIP FUND MEMORY

LARRY HAITH
Richard & Barbie Glass

K.I. RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND YAHREZEIT

SHURA TROSMAN
Faya & Yury Portnoy
JENNIE KELLER
LENA KELLER
Sharon Noorollah

FRED & MARIA DEVINKI FLOWER FUND MEMORY

ALLAN BELL
Steve & Karen Pack

HARRY G. & ESTHER MALLIN CHOIR FUND

YAHREZEIT
BERNARD BELZER
Judy Weitzman

JEAN & MORRIS ODESNIK RITUAL ITEMS FUND

YAHREZEIT
MORRIS ODESNIK
Isabelle Gallas

SHIVA-CHESED FUND YAHREZEIT

HARRY WINER
Irene Blend
SAM JABEN
Selwyn & Helen Luben

KRINSKY FAMILY FUND YAHREZEIT

THELMA MAGARIEL
Les & Linda Cohn

SENIOR RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATION

Jason & Andrea Krakow
MEMORY
SEYMOUR KRINSKY
Phil & Barbara Goodbinder
YAHREZEIT
MOLLY COHEN
Edith Shaw
FRANCES WAXMAN
Dr. Steve & Betsy Waxman
HYMAN SHULTZ
Adeline Trempey
FRITZ JACOBY
Margarete Jacoby
MERRELL SHAPIRO
Jerry Shapiro

RABBI MANDL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND MEMORY

SONIA COTTON
Phil & Barbara Goodbinder
YAHREZEIT
WILLIAM LEVINE
Mike Levine & Adelle Matzdorff

JOSEPH KANTER
David & Fran Kanter
ESTHER SHAPIRO
Jerry Shapiro

K.I. BLUE RIDGE CEMETERY FUND YAHREZEIT

ROSE PFEFFER
Betty Lesky
BERL WOLOWSKI
Gene Wolowski
SANDY RUBIN
Charlene Rubin
PEARL BREWER
Abe & Diane Rozenberg
THOMAS MAGARIEL
Ellen Magariel
LENA BURK
Dr. Norman Burk
SAM BERNSTEIN
ESTHER BERNSTEIN GOLDFINGER
Phyllis Kohn
ELEANOR MARGOLIN
Frances Margolin
ESTHER KLASSEN
Irwin & Barbara Rein
DAVID LIBER
Barry Skaler
BERTHA WAX
Steve Eisman
WILLIAM SEBERT
Gene & Felis Gladstone
HARRY KATZ
Gary Katz

ALLAN GREENBERG YOUTH LOUNGE FUND

MEMORY
LARRY HAITH
Alan & Jackye Goldberg

LOUIS & DORA FOX KIDDUSH FUND YAHREZEIT

DVOSHA LEVINA
Anna Levina

K.I. BENEVOLENT FUND MEMORY

ALLAN BELL
Max & Charlene Mueller

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JFS, KC LIBRARY TEAM UP FOR WEEKLY HAPPINESS HABITS

The Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition, based at Jewish Family Services, and the Kansas City Library are offering a free program to make your days better. Happiness Habits is a half-hour program held at 3 p.m. on Mondays via Zoom. The focus is how to manage the uncertainty of our daily lives with simple habits fostering happiness regardless of our circumstances. Each half-hour interactive program has a theme. The program is open to anyone, but registration is required through the library's web site: <https://kclibrary.org/library-locations/adults-event/happiness-habits-5?delta=0>. Sessions will continue through December.

CHANUKAH HOLIDAY PROJECT NEEDS YOU

JFS has a hybrid-approach for the annual Chanukah Holiday project to ensure everyone can participate at their own comfort level (Chanukah begins at sundown Dec. 10). This year, JFS will deliver Chanukah gifts to 300 individuals facing difficult economic times. Select a gift from the JFS online registries including items from Target and Amazon; the registries are available www.jfskc.org. Gift card donations in \$25 increments are needed - Target - Walmart - Amazon - Hy-Vee - Price Chopper or Hen House. You may also donate online at www.jfskc.org/donate-holiday/. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver gifts to homebound clients Dec. 8. To volunteer, please email volunteer@jfskc.org or call 913.730.1445.

JFS JEWISH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES

The Grief and Loss Support Group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month—these are now virtual sessions. The next session is **December 3**. The group provides the opportunity to address issues of loss and grief within a Jewish spiritual context. Anyone is welcome to join. JFS and The Rabbinical Association of Greater KC co-sponsor the group which is the only Jewish-based grief support group in the area. It is co-facilitated by Rabbi Mark Levin and JFS Therapist Lauren Glass, LCSW.

There is no charge to attend the support group; however, those wishing to participate (or who would like additional information) should contact Molly McGurk, JFS Director of Mental Health Services at mmcgurk@jfskc.org or 913.327.8298.

PRE-CHANUKAH SERVICE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SET TO DEBUT DECEMBER 3

While the COVID-19 pandemic limits us from gathering together in person in a safe manner, the Communitywide Service of Spiritual Renewal for *Chanukah* will take place virtually.

This expressive and supportive online gathering will premiere Thursday evening, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. This online format will allow everyone to join in this meaningful service from the comfort of their own homes. Jewish Community Chaplain Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick will lead the service along with Lezlie Zucker, music coordinator for Congregation Beth Torah; local Jewish musician Coleen Dieker will facilitate this gathering.

A recording of the service will be available afterwards on the JFS website: www.jfskc.org.

For more information, please contact the Chaplaincy program by email at chaplaincy@jfskc.org or call 913.327.8250.

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM IS HERE TO SERVE

The Jewish Community Chaplaincy Program, based at JFS, provides spiritual care and connectivity during difficult times — illness, aging issues and loss of life. The chaplaincy program works closely with area rabbis making sure they are aware of congregants who may be hospitalized or in older adult care facilities and need a visit. The program makes direct contact with those in the community who are unaffiliated. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the chaplaincy program is still

connecting with those in need through technology. Community Chaplain Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick and his team of spiritual care volunteers are reaching out to those needing spiritual connection. If you know of someone, please email chaplaincy@jfskc.org.

KOSHER SHABBAT CURBSIDE MEALS TO GO NOW AVAILABLE

Kosher *Shabbat* curbside “Meals-to-Go” will be available for purchase on Fridays, December 18 and January 15. Meals will be prepared on a rotating basis by kosher caterers Kim Matsil-Kim's Kreations, Cathy Levin of Kosher Connection, and Steve Ellenberg, Ellenberg Experience Catering under supervision of the Vaad Hakashrut of Kansas City.

Meals can be ordered in quantities to serve one or more individuals or a family of four. All food items will be packaged in containers suitable for warming in the oven or transfer microwaveable items to a microwave safe container before heating. Simple and clear heating instructions will be included. Order your curbside Shabbat meal and pay online with a few quick clicks at <https://rabbiskc.regfox.com/shabbat-meals-to-go-monthly>

Payment is accepted online and by credit card only, and orders must be received by Tuesdays at 11:00 p.m. of the week ordering. A list of menus and pricing can be found on the order page. Convenient curbside meal pick up takes place Fridays of the week you are ordering between Noon-1:00 at the Jewish Community Campus theater circle drive.

For questions or to **inquire about confidential financial assistance**, contact Annette Fish, Administrator/Program Director, Rabbinical Association by email, afprogram@aol.com or call 913.327.4622. Visit kcrabbi.org for additional information.

This project is sponsored by the Rabbinical Association of Greater KC in partnership with the J Heritage Center, JFS, Vaad HaKashruth of Kansas City and Jewish Federation.

COURSE IN BIBLICAL HEBREW LAUNCHING ONLINE DECEMBER 1 FOR PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS

A new beginner level course that enables people of all faiths to study the central sacred text of all Abrahamic faiths in its original language will be offered in December. The course will be taught online through December 22, with subsequent courses at increasingly advancing levels planned for either virtual or in-person learning with a remote option in 2021, as the pandemic situation unfolds.

The course will launch on December 1 and continue for four weeks, meeting twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The cost for the course is \$155 per person, plus \$25 for the book. Ability to recognize Hebrew letters is a prerequisite, however, a short mini course to learn to read the Hebrew letters is available online, designed to feed seamlessly into the Beginner Course.

December 2020

15 Kislev 5781 - 16 Teves 5781

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 6 Weekly Kiddush 'Check in' on ZOOM - 11:00 am | 7 Rabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm | 8 | 9 | 10 Women of KI - Eight Crazy Nights of Chanukah on ZOOM - Starting tonight | 11 Chanukah - Day 1 4:39 | 12 Chanukah - Day 2 Vayeshev Zechariah 2:14-4:7 Shabbos Ends: 5:34 Rabbi Grussgott's Weekly Parsha Class - 4:35 pm |
| 13 Chanukah - Day 3 Weekly Kiddush 'Check in' on ZOOM - 11:00 am | 14 Chanukah - Day 4 Rabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm | 15 Chanukah - Day 5 | 16 Chanukah - Day 6 Rosh Chodesh Teves | 17 Chanukah - Day 7 | 18 Chanukah - Day 8 4:41 | 19 Mikeitz Kings 3:15-4:1 Shabbos Ends: 5:36 Rabbi Grussgott's Weekly Parsha Class - 4:35 pm |
| 20 Weekly Kiddush 'Check in' on ZOOM - 11:00 am | 21 Rabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm | 22 | 23 | 24 Office closes - 3:00 pm | 25 Fast of the Tenth of Teves Christmas Day 4:44 OFFICE CLOSED | 26 Vayigash Ezekiel 37:15-28 Shabbos Ends: 5:40 Rabbi Grussgott's Weekly Parsha Class - 4:40 pm |
| 27 Weekly Kiddush 'Check in' on ZOOM - 11:00 am | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Office closes - 3:00 pm | | |



The Focal Point of
Kehilath Israel Synagogue
10501 Conser
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.642.1880
FAX 913.642.7332
kisyn.org

Periodical Postage Paid at Kansas City, MO

**WEEKLY SERVICES
ROSE MORGAN CHAPEL**

Sunday *Shacharit* 9:00 A.M.
Monday-Friday *Shacharit* 7:00 A.M.

Sunday ONLY (*Mincha and Maariv*)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Dec. 6 | 4:45 PM |
| Dec. 13 | 4:45 PM |
| Dec. 20 | 4:50 PM |
| Dec. 27 | 4:55 PM |

Monday-Thursday (*MAARIV ONLY*) - 6:00 PM

December 7 - 10
December 14 - 17
December 21 - 24
December 28 - 31

ROSH CHODESH TEVET

Wednesday, December 16

Friday, December 25 - *Shacharit* 9:00 am
Friday, January 1 - *Shacharit* 9:00 am



Save the Date!!!

**Saturday
January 23
8 pm on Zoom
\$5/person**

Emcee: Corey Rittmaster

- Core Faculty at Second City Training Center
- Creator of Quizzia - pub-less pub trivia
- Former Kansas Citian

**Start thinking about your teams!
You will be in your own homes
but go to breakout rooms on Zoom to confer on answers.**