



December 2020
Kislev-Tevet 5781

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

THE SATELL CENTER
FOR JEWISH LIFE ON
THE EASTERN SHORE

7199 Tristan Drive
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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Services will be streamed on the TBI
Facebook page until further notice**

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.
Torah Portion: Vayishlach
Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12

Friday, December 11, 6:00 p.m.
Torah Portion: Vayeishev
Genesis 37:1-40:23
Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

Saturday, December 19, 10:00 a.m.
Torah Portion: Mikeitz
Genesis 41:1-44:17
Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

Friday, December 25, 6:00 p.m.
Torah Portion: Vayigash
Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Let me begin this month's message by again thanking everyone involved in the wonderful, engaging, and edifying Challah Baking Program that we experienced last month. We want to especially thank Roscoe Malone for sharing his knowledge and baking skills and experience with us. The "Challah Class" he presented is worthy of a television presentation. For those of you who were not able to attend and participate in the class, we have taped the program and it is available on the Temple website.

We first encounter challah in the Book of Numbers. As the forty years of wandering through the wilderness comes to an end and the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land, the Land of Canaan, God commands them to show gratitude by setting aside a portion, or "challah," from all the dough they will prepare and the bread they will bake once they enter the Land. In Numbers 15:18-19 we read: "God spoke to Moses saying, 'When you enter the land to which I am taking you and you eat the bread of the land, you shall set some aside as a gift to Adonai: a loaf as a gift...'"

In a very interesting and edifying New York Times article about the history and evolution of challah, Times Food staff reporter and Pulitzer Prize winning author Julia Moskin writes:

The bond among Jews, God, and bread goes back to the ...Torah: As the Israelites are about to end their exile, God commands them to show gratitude by setting aside a portion, or "challah," of all the bread they make after entering the Holy Land.

But nowhere in Jewish scripture is it written that challah is a braided, sweet, yellow, deliciously squishy bread of the kind familiar to most American Jews, which comes from the rich tradition of Eastern European baking.

There is another world of challah that evolved from the Middle East and North Africa, where the Sabbath breads were sometimes plain (the better to eat with the region's tangy, fiery and salty dishes) and sometimes sweet and spicy, with honey, dried fruit, caraway, sesame and — especially significant for Hanukkah — olive oil.

Sephardic challah is round, golden coil, eggless and unsweetened, but crunchy with sesame, caraway and cumin seeds.

In most of the modern Jewish world..., "challah" now refers to a soft yeasted bread with an even airy crumb...Sephardic challah is eggless and unsweetened but crunchy with sesame, caraway and cumin seeds.

Traditionally, challah is defined as any bread that is made for use in Jewish ritual. During the first few thousand years of Jewish life, challah included everything from rich layered breads baked overnight in Yemen, pita pockets in Syria and *lepeszka* flatbreads in the Caucasus. Later on, as challah

traveled with the Jews, the bread took on a Hungarian costume of poppy seeds, soaked up orange blossom water in Libya, and mixed with pumpkin in Spain.

In the Ashkenazi world...challah evolved into the fluffy, egg-enriched, sugar-laced ... that we recognize.

Among the Sephardic Jews of North Africa and the Middle East...challah evolved in different directions. Eggs and sugar were relatively scarce, but spices, honey and oils from olives, nuts and seeds were plentiful ... special regional challahs evolved: doughs liberally sprinkled with sesame or poppy seeds, scented with aniseed or cardamom or coriander, and enriched with almond or olive oil. Spices like saffron and za'atar, orange flower and rose water all found their way into these elaborate challahs, as did candied fruit and nuts. Unlike smooth Ashkenazi challahs, these loaves are often studded with whole nuts, streaked with sweet fillings, or bumpy with whole spices ... Mizrahi Jews ... also have a distinct challah style.

Most Mizrahi challahs are plain and simple, with only a touch of sugar and no fat. In some bakeries, the lean loaf is referred to as "water challah." Some are spiced but not sweetened, making them better for swiping up the huge spreads of dips and mezes that are served as the Sabbath meal in the Mizrahi tradition.

Water challah is the style on Djerba, an island off the east coast of Tunisia that is home to one of the few remaining Jewish communities in North Africa...

In bakeries in the United States and Israel, all three traditions are being synthesized into new variations. The typical Israeli challah is leaner than Ashkenazi challah, richer than Mizrahi and often seeded like a Sephardic.

As you know, challah is braided. According to tradition, the braiding of challah represents the intertwining of love, truth, peace, creation, freedom, family unity and justice. Traditionally, a braided challah will have twelve "bumps" or knots, the twelve knots representing the twelve Tribes of Israel. Also, it is customary to have two loaves of challah on your Shabbat evening table. One loaf represents the phrase " *Z'chor et HaShabbat*," (Exodus 20:8) the second loaf representing the phrase, " *Sh'more et Shabbat*." (Deuteronomy 5:12).

Irrespective of the type and style one uses to produce a loaf, the richness of challah transcends the recipe. Challah provides us a tangible and delicious way to make real our obligation to *Oneg Shabbat* - to joyfully celebrate Shabbat.

Thanks again to Roscoe Malone for providing us the opportunity to increase our Shabbat joy.

Shalom, Rabbi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Friends,

In last week's letter I listed things to be thankful for. I included the ability to help others. Here is a full list of the suggestions that I have made for places to donate to in order to help those less fortunate. The end of the tax year, before Christmas or any time when people need our help is appropriate.

Neighborhood Service Center (<https://www.nsctalbotmd.org>), 126 Port St., Easton, MD 21601 (Attn: Marilyn Neal, Executive Director)

Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) (<https://talbotinterfaithshelter.org/>), PO Box 2004, Easton, MD 21601

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (<https://chesmrc.org>) 331 E. Dover St., Easton, MD 21601

For All Seasons, Main Office: 300 Talbot St., Easton, MD 21601 (<https://forallseasonsinc.org/>). Provides outpatient mental health, psychiatric, education, and rape crisis services to English and Spanish speaking communities.

Hopeful 2020 (www.dockstreetfoundation.org) 205 Goldsborough Street, Easton, MD, 21601 A collaboration between the Dock Street Foundation and the Mid-Shore Community Foundation. Hopeful2020 supports local nonprofits surrounding hunger, homelessness, and mental health.

Talbot (or whatever county you reside in) Senior Center

Someone suggested that we make the donations a Chanukah present from a Temple member.

Please be safe, and stay healthy.

Shalom, Elaine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Temple B'nai Israel Members,

As our days may well be filled with more darkness than light, Hanukkah is a holiday that brightens our homes—and hopefully our spirits—as winter approaches. When planning this year's annual Community Menorah Lighting, we were challenged to find a COVID-safe way to share this special holiday with members and friends. Other congregations are conducting "drive-in" Menorah Lightings, and Elaine suggested that we might explore this idea for Temple B'nai Israel. It was a terrific idea! We look forward to welcoming you all back to Temple (well, back to the parking lot anyway) for a fun evening that will include traditional Hanukkah music, dreidels, gelt, and, of course, the lighting of the Menorah. All of this from the comfort and safety of your car, or at home via live streaming.

You may have noticed that we have initiated more virtual programming opportunities for our members to join in and enjoy. The Jewish Kitchen, hosted by Rabbi Hyman, premiered last month and will feature a cooking class on a food that is typically associated with the Jewish holiday of that month. Thursday afternoon matinees have started again, via Zoom. This month, we have selected two family movies to watch with your children or grandchildren, during the school winter holiday. They will start at 2:00 p.m. to be respectful of interfaith homes and early dinner times (12/24 & 12/31).

At Temple, we are "battening down the hatches" for winter. Our landscaping has been cut back, irrigation turned off, HVAC filters changed, and plans reviewed for snow—we are ready for whatever this winter may bring.

As we look toward the New Year, my hope is that we all remain safe and healthy, and continue to join together in support of each other. Please let me know if you have any ideas that we may put into action to help us in this endeavor.

In gratitude for you all,

Lori Ramsey

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Drive-in Menorah Lighting

Wednesday, December 16th, 5:00 p.m.

Registration Required



Load up the car with your family, coats, and a sense of adventure and join us for our first ever Temple B'nai Israel Drive-in Menorah Lighting!

Dreidel? Check!

Gelt? Check!

Jelly Donut Holes? Check!

(We'll give you a gift card for Dunkin and you can drive-thru!)

What are you waiting for? Get out of the house and join us for our

SOCIALLY DISTANCED Menorah lighting!

Guests will be directed to park, with one parking space in between each vehicle. Guests are asked to remain in their vehicle at all times. Rabbi Hyman will lead the Hanukkah service in the parking lot and it will be live streamed on Facebook.

Rain date is Thursday, December 17th 5:00 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please register by clicking below

[DRIVE-IN MENORAH LIGHTING SIGN UP](#)

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The Callahan family of Temple B'nai Israel is featured in Shore Magazine's (November/December) *Making Holiday Memories* section. Emily is quoted as saying "My family and I love the fun side of Hanukkah, like playing the dreidel game and listening to and singing the Hanukkah songs. We also like to light our giant menorah that is three-feet tall. We also have a lot of fun with the Jewish answer to 'Elf on a Shelf', called 'Mensch on a Bench'. I love that Hanukkah has become just as widely celebrated as Christmas. It's so much fun to buy decorations and Hanukkah outfits for the kids. Even Target and Michaels carry activity books and Hanukkah crafts for the children. Throughout history, Jews have been discouraged from celebrating their holidays openly, but now, since Hanukkah has become more mainstream, it's joyous to celebrate Hanukkah because the holiday itself commemorates our survival and religious freedom"

The Dreidel - Did You Know?

- The custom of playing dreidel on Hanukkah is based on a legend that, during the time of the Maccabees, when Jewish children were forbidden from studying Torah, they would defy the decree and study anyway. When a Greek official would come close they would put away their books and take out spinning tops, claiming they were just playing games.

We've been told that our whole lives, but it's also a myth, created long after the days of the Maccabees.

In fact, the dreidel is a variation on an Irish or English top that spread over all of Europe during the late

Roman Empire. Known as a **teetotum**, each of these four-sided tops was inscribed with letters that denoted the result of a given spin. The German version of the game used N (Nichts, or nothing), G (Ganz, or all), H (Halb, or half), and S (Stell ein, or put in). Jews adapted the top's lettering for Yiddish speakers, replacing German letters with Hebrew ones: Nun (Nit, or nothing), Gimel (Gants, or everything), He (Halb, or half), and Shin (Shtel arayn, or put in). The most popular story, probably because it's the only one that explains why the dreidel game is primarily played in the month of Kislev, posited that the letters stood for the phrase "Nes gadol haya sham," or "A great miracle happened there." That's the Hanukkah miracle, of course, and the accompanying myth about the clever ruse of brave little Torah scholars caught on, too.



- Israeli author/politician Avram Burg is said to have the largest dreidel collection in the world, numbering more than 3,500.
- In 1993, Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman spun a dreidel – it spun for an hour – and also 'lit' a menorah aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour . The event was broadcasted live via satellite to millions around the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChabadOnCampus/videos/312768589561962>

- The most valuable dreidel is valued at \$70,000 and was created by Estate Diamond Jewelry in New York City in 2019. The dreidel is 18k yellow gold and 18k white gold and features a 4.20-carat round brilliant cut diamond at the tip.



- A Guinness World Record for the most dreidels spinning at one time was set at the Boy Scouts of America's 2017 National Jamboree. Some 820 dreidels spun simultaneously for 10 seconds Sunday at the Summit Bechtel Family Scout Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia. By the way, Rabbi Hyman attended the Jamboree, as he has many times as the Jamboree National Jewish Chaplain over the years.



Six13 Takes On Queen In 'Bohemian Chanukah'



It wouldn't be a holiday without Six13 dropping their annual Chanukah parody. The Jewish a cappella group captures the spirit of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* with *Bohemian Chanukah*.

Click here to view it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P30ckBf1wk>

Tired of using the same Menorah year after year? Try one of these.



Christmas Songs Written By Jews

While some believe that Christmas has a big impact on Jewish culture, most people are not aware how much Jews have influenced Christmas music!

Winter Wonderland – **Felix Bernard** , Richard B. Smith

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas – **Ralph Blane** , Hugh Martin

Santa Clause Is Coming To Town – **Fred Coots** , Haven Gillespie

Let It Snow – **Sammy Cahn** , **Jule Styne**

It's The Most Wonderful time Of The Year – **Edward Pola** , George Wyle

Do You Know it's Christmas? – Midge Ure, **Bob Geldof**

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer – **Johnny Marks**

Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson, **Mitchell Parish**

White Christmas – **Irving Berlin**

The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) - **Robert Wells, Mel Tormé**



Tidbits of Jewish History

Wilt Chamberlain and His Jewish Connections

We all know that Wilt Chamberlain was one of the greatest basketball players ever. Did you know that he has **two** "Jewish connections"?

Connection #1:



In 1954, before his senior year of Overbrook High School in Philadelphia, Wilt Chamberlain took a summer job that would change his life. He worked as a bellhop at Kutsher's Country Club, one of the great "Borscht Belt" resorts in the Catskill Mountains. By day he was making 2 dollars an hour and getting great tips from the awestruck guests as he lifted their luggage through a second floor window while standing outside on the ground.

At night, he played on the Kutsher's basketball team, composed of bellhops and busboys, and was coached by the resort's athletic director - Arnold Jacob "Red" Auerbach - the son of a Russian-Jewish immigrant and soon-to-be legendary and long-time coach of the Boston Celtics.

In the 1950s, owner Milton Kutsher founded the Maurice Stokes benefit basketball game, named for the talented forward of the old Rochester Royals who was struck down by encephalitis. The game later became a National Basketball Association institution, with benefits going to down-and-out athletes. In later years, Kutsher's hosted the annual American Heart Association Heart-A-Thon.

Connection #2:

During his senior year at the University of Kansas, Chamberlain hoped to leave early and go professional, but at that time the NBA did not accept players until after graduation. He was prohibited from joining the NBA for a year, so in 1958 he decided to play a year for the Harlem Globetrotters.

The Globetrotters are known for gravity-defying slam dunks, trick shots and improbable long shots. What's less known is that the razzle-dazzle comedic showmanship was the idea of British-born Jewish businessman Abe Saperstein (1902-1966).

Saperstein was a leading figure in black basketball and baseball from the 20's to the 50's, before those sports were racially integrated. In the Trotters' early days he was their owner, coach, trainer, booking agent, PR director, chauffeur, and occasional substitute player. At the height of the Great Depression, he drove the team's five players around the Midwest in his Ford Model T to play in small farm towns.

Saperstein worked tirelessly, taking off only one day per year: Yom Kippur. The Globetrotters became a sensation under his leadership. Their success helped pave the way for basketball's integration.

Ex-Globetrotters were among the first black players to sign contracts with the NBA. Saperstein died in 1966 and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979. At 5 feet 3 inches, he is its shortest male member.





Torah Classes – Wednesdays Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Remember when you always thought you would like to study Torah, but you just didn't have the time? Well, now is that time! Join Temple friends and community members as Rabbi Hyman leads us through the study of Torah each Wednesday, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Classes will be held via Zoom and require a one-time registration. Click here to register. <https://bit.ly/2J5UnAt>

Let's Play Canasta & Mahjong! MEMBERS ONLY

In response to requests for virtual Canasta and Mahjong play, we are gathering a list of Temple members who would be interested in joining a group that would meet regularly to play. We're hoping to test a new Canasta software program, sponsored by the Canasta League of America. We welcome beginning and Mahjong Masters' recommendations regarding online play. Click on this sign-up genius link to let us know your interest. <https://bit.ly/35HYVvm>

BOOK CLUB IS RESTARTING - VIA ZOOM! MEMBERS ONLY

The pandemic has slowed our lives down a bit, which is music to the ears of book lovers! The cold weather is coming and provides another good reason to cuddle up with a good book and cup of tea or coffee! Join your Temple friends for a monthly Virtual Book Club via Zoom. Interested Temple members can contact Elaine Friedman for details at ejf1027@gmail.com

THURSDAY MATINEE WATCH PARTIES MEMBERS ONLY

Since the pandemic, many families, friends and organizations are having movie watch parties via Zoom. Since we used to gather at Temple for Thursday Movie Matinees, we decided to restart this program, virtually. We will show a different movie each **Thursday at 4:00 p.m.** Here's the December schedule with a link to the movie trailer. Check the Weekly Announcements for details of the movie of the week.

12/3 Jewtopia

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0878814/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

12/10 Oy Vey My Son is Gay

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1223082/?ref=nv_sr_srsq_0

12/17 Shalom Bollywood!

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7558522/>

12/24 All I Want Is Christmas (2012)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1847615/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

12/31 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (FAMILY AT 2PM)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0175790/?ref=nv_sr_srsq_0

Temple members: grab some popcorn, watch a movie & talk about it afterwards with your Temple friends! Just click on the Zoom link below at 4:00 p.m. each Thursday. The link will also be placed in the Weekly Announcements. The movie will be streamed directly into the Zoom meeting. Click here each Thursday at 4:00 PM: <https://bit.ly/35CWaEH>

New Feature Added to the Temple Website TBI Tutorials

Go to **Media/TBI Tutorials** and you'll see a link to a video tutorial. The initial entry is Roscoe Malone's Challah cooking class. The next one will be Anne Rosen's *Lotsa Latkes* class.



The Jewish Kitchen Features "Lotsa Latkes" Sunday, December 6th, 4:30 p.m.

Join us for the second in our series of The Jewish Kitchen, hosted by Rabbi Hyman. Our first class was a resounding success, with over 30 registrants and a wonderful presentation by Roscoe Malone on the preparation of the perfect Challah!



Save the date for our second cooking class on how to make "*Lotsa Latkes*," as Programming Chair Anne Rosen shares recipes to add some variety to the traditional latke served for Hannukah. "*Lotsa Latkes*" will take place on **Sunday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m.** Ingredient list and recipes will be emailed to you. Register now by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/3mdbU89>

Creations by congregants and family who zoomed Roscoe Malone's Challah Cooking Class



Chef Anne Rosen



Chefs Stefanie Small & Rosie
(Lois & Henry Small's daughter
and granddaughter)



Chef Mara Abrams



We warmly welcome the newest member of our Temple Family

David Landsberger, from Chincoteague Virginia



To Mia Walker on her Bat Mitzvah!

Is there a Simcha you would like to share? (an anniversary, new baby, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ...)
Send your submission to the Temple office or email the editors at srsand@atlanticbb.net.



GOT SIMCHAS?

This space is reserved for YOU

Raise Funds for TBI When You Shop at Amazon.com!



Amazon.com has a special program that gives its customers the opportunity to link their personal Amazon account with a non-profit to earn funds for that organization. There is no charge to you! All you have to do is link your personal account by clicking on the link below. Then, when you shop at Amazon, 0.05% of your purchases are donated to Temple B'nai Israel. It's that simple! Please click this link today and start earning funds for the Temple at zero cost to you! Please note that if you've already set up another organization to receive funds, clicking the link will automatically overwrite it with TBI. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1164017>

December 2020

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Communication Meeting 10:00 am via Zoom	4 4:24 pm candle lighting	5 Shabbat Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
6 Religious school via Zoom 10:30 am -12 pm "Lotsa Latkes" The Jewish Kitchen, with Anne Rosen Members only 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	7	8	9	10 Erev Chanukah 1st Candle	11 4:24 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	12
13 Religious school via Zoom 10:30 am -12 pm	14	15 Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom 10:00-11:00 am	16 Outdoor Community Menorah Lighting 5:00-6:00 pm	17 Outdoor Community Menorah Lighting 5:00-6:00 pm Rain Date	18 4:26 pm candle lighting	19 Shabbat Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
20 Religious school via Zoom 10:30 am -12 pm Board Meeting 10:00 am Via ZOOM	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day Office closed 4:30 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	26
27 Religious school via Zoom 10:30 am -12 pm	28	29	30	31		

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