

Happy Hanukkah



Temple Adath
Israel Bulletin

December 2023/mid-January 2024

Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5784

A Hanukkah *Hallel* amid war

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David
Wirschafter

The ongoing war in Israel and Gaza fills us with heartbreak and loss. Like the first year of losing a loved one, the war has taken on a timetable of its own. The first Shabbat during the war, the first life-cycle events during the war, the first Veterans Day during

the war, the first Thanksgiving during the war, and now the first Hanukkah during the war.

The story of Hanukkah is rooted in war. Yet we turn to Hanukkah for light and faith at a time of darkness and despair. Hanukkah invites us to look beyond grim realities

and renew our hope in miracles. The holiday urges us to believe that deliverance is possible, and redemption is achievable. The rabbis assigned us with the recitation of *Hallel* (Psalms of Praise) for Hanukkah just as they did for the festivals of Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot. An interesting decision for a holiday that does not appear in the Torah or require a cessation from work. Rabbi Yair Kahn explains that the rationale for this comes from the Talmud. We recite *Hallel*, throughout Hanukkah "because of the miracle."

We need a few modern miracles now. So let us offer *Hallel* that the remaining hostages, held in captivity since Oct. 7, be released. Let us offer *Hallel* that God may grant the miracle of ending more than seven decades of violent

See RABBI, Page 5

HANUKKAH EVENTS

Dec. 3: Hanukkah Market (see Page 3)

Dec. 7: First night of Hanukkah

Dec. 10: Hanukkah Carnival at TAI (see page 2)

Dec. 13: TAI lights menorah at Triangle Park
(details to come)

Dec. 14: Final night of Hanukkah



Sunday, Dec. 10
Noon-1:30 p.m.

HANUKKAH CARNIVAL

**Games, prizes,
latkes, pizza, baked goods**

**Tickets at the door;
food sold separately**



Mersack & Stern Social Hall

**Proceeds benefit
Social Action Committee projects**



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

LEXINGTON'S HANUKKAH MARKET

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Rock House Brewing
2:00 - 5:00pm

**Join us for Lexington's first ever
Hanukkah Market!**

**We'll have more than 15 vendors
selling an array of items for your
holiday gift-giving needs. Buy a special
beer from Rock House Brewing created
just for us. Plus, special treats will be
available for purchase too!**

**Contact Joy Fisher for more details at
Joy@jewishlexington.org**

Presented by:



News From



Hanukkah Menorah Lightings

Thursday, Dec. 7-Thursday, Dec. 14. Community organizations will light the menorah at Triangle each night. Most lightings are at 6 p.m., but that is up to each organization. Due to security concerns, JFB is not publishing the schedule of activities at the menorah. For a schedule, contact Mindy Haas at mindy@jewishlexington.org.

jewishlexington.org.

MLK Freedom March

1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15 at Central Bank Center (note time change from previous years). More details to come.

One Book, One Lexington

1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, at the Lexington Public Library, Tate Creek Branch. In partnership with Hadassah.

Additional details to come; contact Joy Fisher at joy@jewishlexington.com

Assistance requests

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping or other situations, contact Paula Mertens, Jewish Family Services director, at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewishlexington.org.

Stepping into another role: volunteer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



**Rich
Ornstein**

TAI President Rich Ornstein is turning over this edition's column to Kristen Hoffman, the temple's new board secretary. Kristen succeeds Debbie Masters, who stepped down after years of service in multiple board positions when her husband, Nick Fain, became TAI's new executive director.

Thank you to Rich Ornstein for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself to new TAI members

and to say hello again to all the people who have been an important part of my life for almost a decade. My name is Kristen Hoffman and I have joined the Temple Adath Israel Board of Directors as secretary. I am so honored to have this position and look forward to helping the board with its priorities.

The holiday season always makes me reflect on years past and the memories that have come to be the cornerstone of my family's life in Lexington. I am originally from Sterling Heights, Mich., and met my husband, Mark, who grew up in Lexington, at the University of Michigan in 1997 — otherwise known as the year Michigan won its last national football championship. Coming to an unfamiliar place with three young kids 11 years ago was challenging for me in many ways. Growing up Catholic and now part of an interfaith family, I wasn't sure where our family might find a spiritual home. After looking around much like a character in a P.D. Eastman book, we found our home at Temple Adath Israel. While I still might not be used to having cornbread at

Thanksgiving or familiar with the many Southern colloquialisms that leave us Northerners scratching our heads, I have found a place of comfort and shared values here.

From 2016 to 2021, my involvement at TAI included being the Religious School director and co-director, then working as TAI's marketing and development director. While those roles were unique in their job descriptions, they were alike in that I learned very quickly how much TAI means to so many families. I witnessed the love of generations passing on traditions while creating their own. I witnessed the compassion of a rabbi who approaches every situation with care and consideration. I witnessed leaders and staff who devote countless hours to temple activities. And I saw teachers, scholars and students who impressed me endlessly. I still don't think I've heard a better speech than at my first confirmation service at TAI. I remember sitting in awe at the future leaders our temple would be sending into the world. This Hanukkah, 11 years after feeling so many nerves while walking into TAI, I am excited to light my candles, to buy my son more Hanukkah socks than he can handle, and to continue to learn from a religion that has taught me so much. This time in history is not an easy one for any Jewish community. My heart is with TAI, and people with Jewish backgrounds all over the world, in hope that peace will come and the message of *tikkun olam* will be heard near and far.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and new year. I look forward to my transition from staff member to volunteer, and hope to see you soon!



Kristen Hoffman

MLK Shabbat includes speaker, social action

Dr. Vanessa M. Holden will be the guest speaker for TAI's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. She is an associate professor of history and director of African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky, and serves as director of the Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative.

The evening will include an oneg and a social action component: making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be distributed to the food insecure.

Holden is the author of "Surviving Southampton: African American

Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community," winner of the 2021 James H. Broussard First Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. The book also was

shortlisted for the MAAH Stone Book



Vanessa Holden

Award. Her work has been published in *Slavery and Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies*, *Perspectives on History*, *Process: A Blog for American History*, and *The Rumpus*.

As director of the Central Kentucky Slave Initiative, Holden leads efforts that include the Digital Access Project, aimed at digitizing and making accessible Fayette County's deed books in partnership with a team of UK scholars, local government, the Blue Grass Community Foundation, and descendant community members.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Elissa Weinstein,
Director**

Shalom! Religious School is doing well. Consecration was a highlight of our first few weeks of this year. Our oldest class was able to escort our consecrants down the aisle of the sanctuary and into a new chapter of their Jewish educations. Rabbi Wirtschafter and Gabe Robitaille led the children in prayer and song. It was wonderful that we were able to celebrate the children and enjoy our time together as a Religious School. *Mazel tov* to Henry Hurst, Elijah Hurst, Polly Schwartz, Charlotte Voglesong, Rama Akolkar, Reena Akolkar, Remy Moore and Leo Mannerings!

The first Sunday in November was a special one. We joined our friends at Ohavay Zion Synagogue for the Global Day of Jewish Learning. It's such a treat getting together for learning, fun and food. The older students did some trivia and simulations, while the younger ones read stories about different Jewish values and made crafts.

Our Family Shabbat services are back. In November, our 7th/8th-grade class took its turn hosting and leading us in prayer. Mark Schachman and Amanda Palley are the teachers for our 7th/8th-grade class. These middle schoolers are busy on Sunday mornings learning Hebrew, working on mastering parts of Shabbat services and discussing current events. *Kol Hakavod* to our 7th/8th graders! The next Family Shabbat, on Dec. 14, will feature the 5th/6th-grade class. Tot Shabbat is at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 and services at 7.

We're excited to celebrate Hanukkah with some tasty treats coming out of our cooking enrichment and other fun surprises in December. Once we return from winter break on Jan. 8, we will be heading into themed programming for Martin Luther King Jr. Day as well as celebrating Tu Bishvat.

RABBI

Continued from Page 1

conflict. Let us offer *Hallel* that God may grant the miracle of a viable future, where all people of the region can live in dignity and security. Let us offer *Hallel* that God may grant the miracle of love triumphing over hate. Let us offer *Hallel* that God may grant the miracle of reconciliation overcoming revenge. Let us offer *Hallel* that God may grant us the capacity to grieve with one another

rather than watching more loved ones going to their graves. Let us offer *Hallel* that God will grant us the miracle of affirming one another's humanity rather than dehumanizing each other through word and deed.

God who granted miracles to generations past, we offer Psalms of Praise that you might grant our generation a miracle in this time of danger and distress. For the sake of all Your children, may You hear our Hanukkah prayers for peace and bring us the miracle of a more

merciful world. May this first Hanukkah since this war began soon become known for being the time when things started changing for the better, when the fighting abated, when the dead could be buried, when the wounded could be treated, when captives were returned home, and when people renewed their faith in the notion that, despite the brutal reality of war, we may realize the beautiful miracle of peace.

Happy Hanukkah!

CONTRIBUTIONS

FLOWER FUND

Stacy Bloomfield in memory of Yetta Hagedorn, **Odette Kaplan** in memory of Martin Kaplan, **Dan Liebman** in memory of Ruth Kerber

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Susan Sloss in honor of Dr. Lorne Dechtenberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jan and Jerry Cerel wishing a speedy recovery to Rabbi Wirtschafter's mother, Carol Wirtschafter

Diana Clewett

Paul Joseph

Odette Kaplan in memory of Clara and Samuel Kaplan



BAR MITZVAH

Brad and Jamie Fine invite you to share
in their great happiness as their son

MASON STRAUSS FINE

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024
at Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Ave.

There will be a kiddush luncheon
immediately after the morning service.

Mason also will participate in the Shabbat
evening service at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19.



FROM SISTERHOOD

**Elissa Weinstein,
President**

Shalom Sisters! Sisterhood is off and running. Membership information was sent out in October. Whether you can attend a couple of events or all of them, we love getting together with our Sisters. We had lots of fun going out for dinner in September and enjoyed wine while we took a painting class in October.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, Sisterhood will participate in the first Hanukkah Market, which will be at Rock House Brewing (see details on Page 3). We're excited to join other vendors from around Lexington for a fun way to kick off the Hanukkah season. On Sunday, Dec. 10, we're meeting in the afternoon for a Sweet Swap. Bring two dozen of your favorite treats to share and taste. Sisterhood will provide the containers; you bring the goodies. In January we're going out to dinner again and holding our annual Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Wirtschafter.

If you are interested in becoming involved with Sisterhood, don't hesitate to contact me at taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com. Wishing everyone a holiday season filled with light, love and peace.



**Kelli Newman and
Christopher Crutcher**
were married Oct. 21 in
Lexington



**Melissa Cadel and Nicklas
Lindeman** were married
Oct. 21 in Lexington.

Directory updates

New members

Nikki Brown
443 E. Fifth St., 40508
Niki.brown@uky.edu,
(607) 229-3369

Julia Bursten
4509 Callaway Ct., 40515
burstenj@gmail.com,
(614) 571-4216

Andrea and Adam Moore
4801 Trillium Place, 40514
Andrea email, phone:
grunbergera@gmail.com,
(313) 971-2964

Adam email, phone:
moore.adam@gmail.com,
(502) 330-4028

Kelli Newman and
Christopher Crutcher
253 Ellis Park, 40516
Kelli email, phone:
knewmanfss@gmail.com,
(859) 492-1079
Christopher email, phone:
raidercrutch@yahoo.com,
(859) 536-8287

Corrections

Email:
Jerry Suhl
jerrysuhl@gmail.com

Phone

Elayne Crystal
(859) 227-1071

Dan and Lisa Taulbee
Dan: (859) 940-9300
Lisa: (859) 421-8718

Phone and email

David and Peggy Leep
Landline no longer
in service
Peggy email, phone:
mgleep@gmail.com,
(859) 698-9486

A chance to dance

World Quilt Dancing of Lexington meets weekly at TAI from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the Mersack & Stern Social Hall. The recreational organization preserves and promotes world culture through ethnic dancing, with an emphasis on dances from Eastern Europe and Mediterranean areas.

On Dec. 5 and 12, the group's focus will be Israeli dances, and TAI members are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Meg Crellin at (859) 410-5113 or email worldquilt dancing.



WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

Dec. 1

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Dec. 2

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Vayishlach — Genesis 32:4-36:43

Dec. 8

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Dec. 9

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Vayeshev — Genesis 37:1-40:23

Dec. 15

Family Shabbat 7 p.m.

Dec. 16

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Miketz — Genesis 41:1-44:17

Dec. 22

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Dec. 23

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Vayigash — Genesis 47:28-50:26

Dec. 29

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Dec. 30

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Vayechi — Genesis 47:28-50:26

Jan. 5

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Jan. 6

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Shemot — Exodus 1:1-6:1

Jan. 12

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Jan. 13

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Vaera — Exodus 6:2-9:35

Jan. 19

Family Shabbat 7 p.m.

Jan. 20

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
No Torah Study
Mason Fine Bar Mitzvah 10:30 a.m.

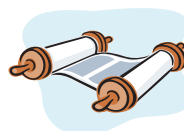
KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 as we take a look at the Torah portion for the week. Sessions are not held when there is a bar or bat mitzvah service.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Committee

Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.

TAI MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: *AVODAH* (Worship); *TALMUD TORAH* (Torah Study); *TZEDEK* (Social Justice); and *KEHILAH* (Community).

Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.



YAHREZEIT ... *These we remember ...*



Dec. 1

Harry Abraham
Ruth Barrett
Hilda Abraham Baum
Sylvia Wurmser Blanc
Franklyn Donald Cerel
Mae Chertkoff
Faith Miller Cole
Michael Mayer
Elkouby
Sam Engel
David Forman
L. K. Frankel
Hilda Franks
Samuel A. Kaplan
Sarah Levine
Irvin G Levy
Alicia Rose Lom
Helen Sopkin
Lowenthal
Sarah Jacobs
Lowenthal
Ben H. Miller
Harry Paskowitz
Mordecai Podet
Judge Samuel M.
Rosenstein
Vera Schiffer
Lillian Shain
Irene Spickard
Dorothy Teicher
Norman A. Wides
A. Barnett Winters
Rose Rita Wurmser
Nat Yesowitch

Dec. 8

Maury Bederman
Bert T. Combs
Kenneth Dachner
Abe Goldenberg
Israel Gorman
Ruth Gorman
Joe Grobstein
David Kahn
Saul Kaufman
Ben Krinsky
Julie Lauderback
Greg LaZur
Judith Dean Liebman
Marci Mainus
George R. McVey

Edna Miller
Harry M. Miller
Irving Jerome Miner
Jean Mizell
Bessie Mulinsky
Samuel Rabiner
Agatha Reed
Hyman Shraberg
Bertha Spence
Mrs. Ben Steinberg
Sarah Stuart
Lester Waldman
James Wenneker
Sally Zwicker

Dec. 15

Susan Adams
Clive M. Beck
Rabbi Maurice Davis
Helen Glixon
Dr. Ernst Jokl
Leonard Kozman
Elizabeth Kuhn
Rubin Kuperstein
Jennie G. Loevenhart
Harry Moss
Norma Yonover Podet
Morris Rozen
Estelle Steinberg
Arthur Stevens
Byrd Taulbee
Glendell Garber
Vicendese
Gertrude Yanoff

Dec. 22

Theresa R. Abraham
Frances Bailey
Smokey Lynne Bare
Trevor Brown
Sue Deehne
Lillian Lowenthal
Epstein
Rose Garden
Edythe Gewirtzman
Jeannette Graham
Solomon Kahn
Sara Kaufmann
Phyllis Liebman
Norma E. Mayer
Gus H. Milner
Miriam Rattner

Betty Rosenthal
Edward Schulzinger
Anna Schwartz
Deborah Genensky
Snyder
Carl Starr
Edward Sulkin
Alice Yarus

Dec. 29

Adolph Abraham
Richard Balmer
Adrienne Mazo Cohen
Sonia Cohen
Mark Sandor Darlow
Helene S. Fogel
Dr. Irving Gail
Elaine Gellin
Rose Goldberg
Mary Goldschmidt
Louise Bruetsch Heiss
Joe Hirsh
Evelyn Baker Hymson
Ellen Liebman
Shirley Miller
Dorothy Plavin
Dora G. Pollack
Patrick Rodden
Herman A. Sampliner
Joseph Sampliner
Alice Scheeline
Sol Victor
Jonas Weil
Sello Wollstein

Jan. 5

Dr. William Bloom
Dana Bloomfield
Jack Cherin
Jacob Concors
Hannah Doctrow
Ruth Edelman
Howard Eichner
Harriet Marcus Fields
Allan Forman
Don Forman
Edith Frankel
Harold D. Frankel
Kaye G. Frankel
Harry Gantz
David Gerson
Benjamin Goldfarb

Norman S. Goldman
Davita Hamburg
Thomas Hamburg
Paula Leichtman
Joseph Lowenthal
Edward Robert
Markhoff
Karyn Martin
Kathaleen McDonald
Franklin Moosnick
Bertha Olshan
Julia Petsonk
Rose Pressman
Rosita Rosenzweig
Rabbi Malcolm H.
Stern
Albert Sugarman
Harold Dueker
Swanson
Rosalind Weisenberg
Robert Young

Jan. 12

Usha Prakash Akolkar
Ignatius (Nash)
Arellano
Tom Creamer
Harold Fine
Dr. Joseph M. Fine
Bernard Kaplan
Louis Kossay
Lydia Lang
Rene N. Levy
Luther Pushell
Steven Richard Rozen
Rose Sachs
Marie Salmon
Carolyn Siegel
Mrs. Al Smitha
Moses Eleazar Snyder

Dan Sondergard
Bertha Lauer Speyer
Herschel Weil
Brett Steven
Weinstock
Ruben Weisenberg

Jan. 19

Ada Mae Ely Anderson
Harriet Baker
Jeffrey Ballon
Sidney Ross Bazell
J. Frank Belin
Samson Biederman
Leon Block
Saul Burg
Elizabeth "Betty" Cloud
Marcus Engelberg
Norman S. Gordon
Charlotte Kant
James Levenson Sr.
Maurice B. Loevenhart
Nancy Shraberg Marx
Rose Markovitz
Frederick A. Meyer
Leo Michaels
I. Jay Miller Jr.
Morgan Frumberg
Miller
Joe Nisman
Richard Glen Reiss
Robert M. Rosenstein
Peter Schogol
Jack Shapero
David Shraberg
Isabel Siegel
Nanette Wile Strauss
Lowell Sugarman
Sam Weliky
Philipp Wurmser

In Memoriam ...

Ray Strohl, father of Mandy Schramm

Lucy Booker, mother of Bill (Debra) Booker
and Katherine Henry, grandmother of
Isabelle and Benjamin Booker

Martha Mullins, spouse of Julie Mickler

May their memories be for a blessing

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David Wirtschafter
 Rabbi
 rabbiw@lextai.org

Rich Ornstein
 President

Mark Schachman
 Vice President

Mary Engel
 Treasurer

Kristen Hoffman
 Secretary

Pat Shraberg
 Immediate Past President

Nick Fain
 Executive Director
 nick@lextai.org

Laura Creamer
 Administrator, laura@lextai.org

Elissa Weinstein
 Youth Education Director

Nick Fain
 Brotherhood President

Elissa Weinstein
 Sisterhood President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED/APPOINTED

Anne Banks
 Bob Belin
 Debra Booker
 Carly Conatser
 Scott Diamond
 Irene Kleiman
 Maggie Levine-Schuele
 Rhonda Miller
 Smith Schwartz

EX OFFICIO

Vacant (Brotherhood)
 Stacey Myers-Wilson (Endowment)
 Judi Gewirtzman (Sisterhood)

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