



Hanukkah Shabbat Celebration Friday, December 7

- 6:00 p.m. Hanukkah activities for kids (young and old)
 7:00 p.m. Shabbat service with Rabbi Yael, Hillel Rubin (song leader) and Gesher 4th–7th graders
 8:00 p.m. Latke-tasting oneg

Come at 6:00 or 7:00 and bring:

- Your *hanukkiah* (Hanukkah menorah) and seven (7) candles
- Latkes (any style) already warm, ready to serve and bring copies of the recipe to share
- Something else to share at the oneg (fruit, cookies...)
- Creative (or traditional) latke toppings for the condiment bar (whipped cream, chocolate, sour cream, applesauce, anything...)
- Warm clothing and blankets for Father Joe's Villages mitzvah project. We need your donations!

Questions? [Email Betsy](#).

Shabbat on the Boardwalk aka Jews in Walking Shoes

Saturday, Dec. 8, meet at 8:45 a.m.;
walk starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp!

Walk, talk, breathe.
Start your Shabbat morning with an unplugged hour! Walk a loop along the ocean and bay side boardwalk.

Meet at Mission Beach Jetty municipal parking lot (NOT Belmont Park lot). Drive Southbound to the very end of Mission Blvd. and turn right (west) onto N. Jetty Road.

Patti and Mark Nussbaum will be your leaders.

For more information,
[contact Patti via email](#).



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GESHER SCHOOL NEWS

BETSY SCHNEIDER, EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Often these days, I am reminded of the fact that the landscape of modern Jewish life looks very different than it did even just ten years ago. And it certainly looks much different than it did when I was growing up. I remember sitting in the back seat of our family car on Friday nights all bundled up in my winter coat as my family drove to Temple Beth Zion in downtown Buffalo, New York. Once we arrived, my sister Julie and I would sit in the velvet seats in the huge sanctuary as Rabbi Bob Alper (who had become a close family friend) led the service. It was on those Friday nights that I learned that being Jewish was a big part of my family, and that singing Shabbat songs was fun. I remember playing in the coat room with Julie when our mom was in the bathroom which was adjacent to the coat room. We felt comfortable at TBZ, and it was a place of ritual, fun and connection. Back in the 70s, belonging to a synagogue was just what Jewish families did. Or at least from my perspective it was. We went to services on Friday nights and of course to Sunday School each week. We celebrated Jewish holidays together in Buffalo and then in South Florida after we moved there in 1978. We belonged to a synagogue in Miami, too, and it was at Bet Breira that I became a bat mitzvah, where my mom performed in musical theater shows, and where my dad volunteered his time in his final years.

In the busy lives of today's Jews, joining a synagogue is not as much a priority as it once was. Membership is competing time-wise and financially with other activities, travel, and the mere fact that we have busy lives in 2018! Synagogues and other Jewish organizations are at a real crossroads, which gives Dor Hadash an enormous opportunity (and perhaps burden) to reflect on our current offerings, to make adaptations, and to reach out into the community to understand our role in present and future Jewish identity, ritual and education.

Behind the scenes at Dor Hadash, our staff and lay leaders are having these conversations daily. As a Reconstructionist community for the past 35 years in San Diego, we have been a warm and welcoming community of people, we've offered experiences that are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and we've remained open to keeping our offerings boldly relevant for you.

Now we want to know what would bring Jewish ritual, joy and connection to *your* life! Shabbat at the beach, at the park or on the trail? Coffee shop conversations? Parenting classes? Cooking and baking events? Debates, conversations, or lectures? More ritual opportunities? Friendship groups (*havurot*)? Knitting sessions, card games, or game nights?

We want to know what you (and other Jewish people and families in San Diego) want to experience with us.

As you know, our Gesher program was greatly revised this year because we wanted to shake things up for our students and their families. We are receiving positive feedback so far, and this is just the beginning.

Please...reach out. Let us know your ideas, your wishes, and your feedback on what you've seen so far this year.

This is the time for change at Dor Hadash and in the larger Jewish world. Let's work together to make our Jewish future rewarding and fun. Let's help our children experience that feeling of joyous ritual and deep connection that many of us felt as kids.



PARENT CONNECTION UPDATE

Nikka Alicandri and Jackie Dietz, Co-chairs

Embrace a Family

Todah rabah (thank you very much) to everyone who brought in items for our Embrace-a-Family families. Thanks also to Jeff Rabin for taking the donated items to JFS! We embraced two families for Hanukkah and one family for Christmas, and we received well over \$1,000 worth of gift cards and gifts.

Socktober Donations

Thanks also to everyone who donated socks at our October social gathering (or who brought them into Geshher school). Dave Alicandri brought the socks donation to the Alpha Project in downtown San Diego. The socks will be handed out to homeless people who need them.

Book Exchange

So many of you brought in used books from PJ Library, and we still have many left! If you would like to pick up a book with Jewish content for your family to read, please stop by the table during the next *Kehila* Gathering and pick some up to take home!

Ideas for 1/27 Social Sunday

What should we do for our next Social Sunday on January 27? YOU get to decide! Some suggestions were for ice or roller skating, but the choice is up to you! If you have an idea and/or would like to coordinate the event, please email Nikka at nikka.alicandri@gmail.com

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM CONVENTION

Seven hundred (700) people, including one hundred forty (140) rabbis, gathered November 15–18 in Philadelphia for the Reconstructing Judaism National Convention.

Each day included a rich array of workshops, talks and events.

A highlight for me was the "Soulful/Mindful/Musical Shakharit" service on Saturday morning led by Rabbi Shawn Zevit and two colleagues.

It was especially moving to be in the same room celebrating Shabbat with Lior Liebling, son of Rabbi Mordechai Liebling. I had learned from the film "Praying with Lior" that this young man with Downs Syndrome loves to *daven* (pray) more than just about anything.

Other highlights were the panel discussions "Interfaith Welcoming in the Jewish Community" and "Critically Radically Inclusive Jewish Communities."

Mark, Rabbi Yael and Betsy Schneider were also there and we all left wishing we could have bottled the joy, enthusiasm and learning and bring it all home.

—Patti Nussbaum




Happy Hanukkah

D'var Torah—Toldot
by Rosa Brooks-Kamper
November 10, 2018



Shabbat Shalom. The Torah portion this week is called *Toldot*, which is the Hebrew word for “generations” or “descendants.” On the surface level, this story is about Jacob and Esau and the traditions of birthright and the blessing for the eldest child. Esau and Jacob were the children of Rebekah and Isaac. Esau was known for being very hairy and a great hunter, while Jacob stayed close to home and spent time with his mother. Rebekah was known to favor Jacob, and Isaac was known to favor Esau. Most of us know that the story turns out with Jacob’s making a deal with Esau to trade a bowl of lentils for access to the birthright and blessing meant for Esau.

Now, I could write a whole *d’var torah* about why younger siblings like Jacob are in fact better than older siblings like Esau, and I could certainly compare this to the fact that I, too, am a younger sibling, and am better than Ella, the first born. But the story goes somewhere else that caught my attention, so you’ll just have to hear that other talk another time.

The text talks about Isaac’s going on a trip with Rebekah to Gerar. Isaac said to Rebekah that he fears for his life because she is so beautiful the king might kill him and take Rebekah for his own. So Isaac asked Rebekah to pretend they are siblings so Abimelech, the king of the Philistines, can have her for the night, and they can continue on their journey from there. Rebekah did not say anything to Isaac in response.

The Torah imagines that: “Abimelech sent for Isaac and said, ‘So she is your wife! Why then did you say: ‘She is my sister’? Isaac said to him, ‘Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.’”

Abimelech said, ‘What have you done to us! One of the people might have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us.’

Abimelech then charged all the people, saying, ‘Anyone who molests this man or his wife shall be put to death.’”

Then the text returns to the Esau and Jacob narrative.

Years after the incident with Abimelech, when Isaac was dying and is blind, Rebekah helps Jacob deceive Isaac and take the birthright and blessing from Esau. And that’s the most important part of the story. For most people.

But what if this story is really about Rebekah?

The first time I was reading through the story with Rabbi Yael, it made me think. I thought this seems like a tangent. Why did they put these specifics in about Rebekah’s pretending to be a sister and the King of the Philistines in Gerar being with her for one night. So I asked Rabbi Yael, “What if the reason Rebekah went against Isaac and told Jacob to dress up as Esau is because she wanted revenge because he made her pretend to be his sister? That put her in the position to have to spend the night with a stranger, which she didn’t want to do.”

Most commentators understand that Isaac did that because he was afraid. He thought he and his family were in danger. Was that his only option? What should you do in danger?

- A. Protect yourself.
- B. Protect yourself and people you care about.
- C. Protect yourself at the expense of someone you care about.
- D. Protect no one and run around in circles

The Torah teaches us about (B) to protect yourself and the people you care about is really the only option. But it teaches us through the stories of people who failed to do so. There are plenty of stories in the Torah about people who protected themselves at the expense of others—like Cain and Abel, and Joseph’s brothers who sold Joseph into slavery.

This story specifically is about the betrayal of a woman by a man. There are also a lot of stories about this kind of betrayal in the Torah. Adam ate the fruit but blamed Eve, who in turn blamed the snake. They were all punished for doing so. It’s like two kids fighting--it doesn’t matter who started it; if you threw a punch, you’re guilty too. Isaac used Rebekah to protect himself, even if we might understand the greater interpretation, that he was protecting his whole family.

Therefore, we may think that Rebekah is an unimportant character but she’s not. She changes history because of the way Isaac treated her and how she eventually responded. Out of revenge, she deceived Isaac. And because of her, Jacob got the blessing instead of Esau. And this changed the course of history.

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I can remember a time where I had been underestimated. For example, I have been doing musical theatre since I was nine. Because of this, I was asked to join a musical at my sister's high school, even though I was still in seventh grade. Some of the older high schoolers in the show babied me. They acted as if I didn't know where I was supposed to stand or when I was supposed to sing, even though it was stated clearly by the director or on the sheet music. Don't get me wrong; I am very cute but, I was as experienced and professional, if not more, than most of the high schoolers in that show. This made me angry, but I didn't take it out on anyone. Instead I realized that people are going to underestimate me in life and all I can do is prove them wrong.

I take three lessons from my portion:

1. Don't underestimate the seemingly unimportant people and events in history.
2. And don't think you have to be perfect to make history. Rebekah made history not by being perfect but by being herself. She got angry that her husband took advantage of her, and she took revenge. This is significant because the Torah is full of stories about flawed people. By studying their stories we know that not being amazing isn't going to send us to hell. Not being amazing is part of being human. And sometimes we learn our most powerful lessons from messing up.
3. We all have to stand up for ourselves and our loved ones in our own way. Isaac did not stand up for Rebekah, but Rebekah stood up for herself and Jacob, even if she betrayed Esau. If everyone was the same, we wouldn't get the Torah, we wouldn't get all these lessons when a or b happens. Everyone screws up in their own way, and that's what makes the Torah so meaningful. And everyone's story matters.

As I become an adult in the Jewish community and a bat mitzvah, a daughter of the commandments, this story teaches me that I need to look out for the people I care about and never seek to protect myself at the expense of others. It also teaches me that it is okay to stand up for myself and to be flawed. It is okay to do it in my own way, no matter what others think. All of this makes history, and people underestimated by others can change the course of history.—Shabbat Shalom

D'var Torah—Lech Lecha **by Lily Chen** **October 20, 2018**



My Torah portion is called *Lech Lecha*. *Lech Lecha* means “go forth” in Hebrew. *Lech Lecha* first introduces Avram and Sarai. God tells Abraham to go to a land “I will show you” called Canaan. God commands Abraham to *Lech Lecha*—to go away from his native land that he has lived on for his whole life and to venture into the unknown.

From the beginning of my study, I was really interested in the journeys that Abraham and Hagar make in this text. Avraham was nervous for their journey ahead, but he also knew there was a possibility of a blessing. When Abraham was told to leave his native land he had never left his land, so the idea of leaving must have been nerve wracking. But God told him that he would be a blessing, before Abraham knew about his reward. Another time that this had happened to Abraham was when he told his nephew Lot to choose where to go. Once they decided to avoid further conflict Lot decided that the plains of the Jordan river looked beautiful and grassy, and so he chose for himself that region. Abraham stayed in Canaan and was told later in a vision that he would have children and his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.

This portion also teaches us about Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant of Sarah. Sarah was unable to bear children at first, so she proposed that Abraham sleep with Hagar and bear a child that way. So, Abraham slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant; this made Sarah jealous, even though it had been her idea. Sarah treated Hagar harshly, and Hagar then ran away. An angel of God found Hagar in the wilderness and asked Hagar where she was going. Hagar did not know. The angel told Hagar to go back to her mistress, Sarah. He told Hagar that she was pregnant. That if she went back he would increase her offspring, and that she would bear a son. Hagar knew there would be sacrifice, but she also knew that she had been blessed.

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Hagar's example demonstrates that with sacrifice, there can be a blessing. So Hagar sacrifices—she suffers mistreatment from Sarah—but she receives a blessing, a son of great importance. What I love is that Hagar's experience shows that God doesn't just appeal to great prophets like Abraham; God speaks and means something to everyone. Hagar is just a maidservant, not even a Jew. However, God still helped her in making a big decision.

Everyone comes at crossroads at some point in their life. Not just Abraham. If it's moving towns, countries, continents. If it's moving schools, and leaving all your friends behind. Even coming to an emotional or mental crossroads.

This year I faced such a crossroad. After attending Del Mar Heights elementary for seven years with the same friends, I had to leave, to begin middle school. I was in my own little elementary school bubble that I stayed in for over half my life. But instead of joining all my friends at the same school, I made the choice to go to a different middle school, Pacific Trails, because I was interested in something new that would bring new friends and experiences. I have new teachers and new harder expectations. I went in on the first day knowing four people at the school, while everyone met up in large groups of friends from other schools. For me it felt like a real sacrifice, and important decision, to leaving everyone, everything I knew. But also it was a blessing for me, because I have met so many new people, and made lots of friends. I have fantastic teachers, I can't imagine going to school without them now. I'm one of the leaders of a new club at my school dedicated to helping animals and animal charities such as the Zoo, Helen Woodward and others. So for me this is a real example of how I have moved forward towards a blessing.

As I become a bat mitzvah, I am excited that I am the first in my class to celebrate and I'm really looking forward to all the new opportunities that I have as a *madriha* (counselor) helping younger kids in Gesher School.

Overall I've experienced a lot of change this year even if it's not as grand as Abraham's or Hagar's call to go forth. Studying this text has given me confidence in my going forth, my transition to middle school, and I think the lessons of how to move forward towards a blessing will be with me throughout my life—and I hope it will be with you, too. — Shabbat Shalom.

October 6 Shabbat Hike



Gesher Shabbat



FROM THE SOUL AND BRAIN OF A JEWISH EDUCATOR

My name is Barbara Carr. Many of you know me, but for those who don't, a quick introduction.

Over twenty years ago my husband and I joined Dor Hadash. We are an interfaith couple; my husband is an ordained Methodist minister and I am a Jew. My husband spent most of his professional life in social services. He was CEO of one of San Diego's largest social service agencies which became his ministry both literally and figuratively.

We joined Dor Hadash primarily because of Geshet School which required parents to attend classes with their children and thus learn together. As time went on I became editor of Ha Keshet, a Board member, a teacher at the 4th, 5th and 6th grade levels, and ultimately the Education Director. I was also honored as a Master Educator of the Reconstructionist movement.

Because of illness I had to retire, but I never stopped teaching. I wrote a letter twice a month to over 150 people on issues of religion, ethics, politics, holidays and many other Judaism-related issues. It was a joy for me, but again illness called time out. So Ha Keshet editor Susan Levine gave me the o.k. to write a piece for Ha Keshet on a topic that might mean something to the community and perhaps start us thinking about what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century.

It's a good time to get this started, since the complexity of Hanukkah is practically upon us. American Jews have protected their children from the overdone Christmas displays and music by buying into the non-religious side of the season—toys, parties, pretending there's actually a word "Chanukkah" and ignoring the tremendous difference between the two holidays. I understand the urge since Christmas seems to be a lot more fun than Hanukkah. Our story, even without the miracle of the oil, is about something far more important than a child's experience. Our story has a different kind of weight despite the myths that have grown up around it.

First, the biggest myth of the holiday is the miracle of the oil. There was no miraculous oil

that burned for eight days and eight nights. However, it gave our ancestors the opportunity to believe God was taking care of them. Second, the family of Mattathias, whose son, Judah Maccabee, was honored in innumerable children's books as our Hanukkah hero, became the founders of the Hasmonean dynasty—a corrupt and violent leadership that did not serve us well. Finally, Hanukkah's initial meaning was simply a Veteran's Day for the Hasmonean soldiers.

In reality, the story has much better truths to talk about. The idea that the Syrian-Greeks defiled the Temple and demanded the Jews to bow down before the idols they had placed inside was a breaking point for Mattathias and his sons. We each have a line in the sand that is impossible to cross, but we often don't know what it is until it is right in front of us. For me, as an adult, the bravery of saying no to accepting idol worship is the core meaning of Hanukkah. Yes, it is a festival of lights—one of many holidays that fight the darkness. No, it is not a gift-giving holiday, since the celebration of integrity and courage are reasons for pride...not acquisitiveness.

But I'm a mother as well as a teacher, and the idea that my American children not being able to participate in the overwhelming gifting of this time of year was not in my plans. What was in my plans was to make sure that they knew the gift giving had no religious meaning, but we didn't want to make them feel we didn't care. We just told them the truth. That's a real gift. The Reconstructionist movement supports a wonderful website called Ritualwell. The following two Hanukkah poems are just a part of the many ways we can learn from the site. Take a look on the next page.

May your darkness be illuminated by your choices.

Still dreaming of peace,

Barbara

I'm Over the Maccabees: A Hanukkah Prayer

By Trisha Arlin

*Barukh atah Adonai,
Brukhah at Shekhinah,
Ruakh Ha-Olam:*

I'm over the Maccabees.
I'm done with fanatics.
I'm done with extremists who demand purity.
I'm done with fundamentalists who shut women up.
I'm done with religions that kill.

I'm over the Seleucids.
I'm done with invaders.
I'm done with outsiders telling anyone how to live in
their own country.
I'm done with people telling me how to worship my
God.
I'm done with liars and rapists and powerful men.

I'm over the Hellenists.
I'm done with accommodation.
I'm done with rich suck-ups.
I'm done with living in comfy bubbles.
I'm done with pretending we're one of them.

I'm over Hanukkah.
I'm done with Hanukkah bushes.
I'm done with eight days of socks.
I'm done with parties at the White House
I'm done with cheap chocolate *gelt*.

I'm okay with light in the darkness.
And potato latkes.
Oh, and donuts.
Let's start there.

Amen



For our interfaith families:

This is a candle of hope. This is a light of
convergence.

At this darkest time of the year,
as two great lights converge,
we light this Candle of Hope.

Let us say a prayer of hope for our world;
Hope for more light in a world where there is too
much darkness;
Hope for understanding between all people of the
world;
Hope for unity in a world of divisiveness;
Hope for comfort and healing in a world with too
much pain and suffering;
Hope for warmth in a world that is becoming ever
colder;
Hope for peace —peace in our hearts, peace in our
world.
Let us illuminate the dark places, filling them with light
— candle by candle.



Warm Clothing Drive Drop off items before December 7

Please help CDH gather colder weather items such as blankets, hats, gloves, sweaters and jackets. There will be donation boxes in the office hallway. Next time you are in the building, please drop off your items.



Shabbat on the Boardwalk/Jews in Walking Shoes
Mission Beach Jetty municipal parking lot
Saturday, December 8 at 8:45

Start your Shabbat morning with an unplugged hour walk on the boardwalk led by Patti and Mark Nussbaum. For more info contact [Patti](#) 858-349-9043



Planning Teams for the holidays!

If you would like to help plan MLK Day or Purim this year, please let [Betsy Schneider](#) know. The celebrations will be on January 20 (Sunday) and March 20 (Wednesday evening) respectively. All planning sessions will take place on Sunday mornings.



SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT

Host an *oneg* in honor of a special person or occasion, or to remember a loved one's *yahrzeit*.

For an \$18 donation, Dor Hadash will provide the *challah*, wine and juice, candles, paper goods and utensils which can all be found on the red cart in our storage room. **The sponsor is responsible for setting up, including filling cups with wine and juice for kiddush, and cleaning up. You are welcome to bring additional food and beverage items for the oneg table.**

How do you sign up? There is a link on the Dor Hadash website (look under the tab "Our Community — Forms and Onegs) or just use this [link](http://tinyurl.com/cdhonegsignup) <<http://tinyurl.com/cdhonegsignup>> to sign up. For more detailed information on hosting, please check out the [instructions](http://tinyurl.com/oneginstructions) <<http://tinyurl.com/oneginstructions>>.

So hurry and sign up before the date you want is taken by someone else. And remember, you are encouraged to sign up for as many *onegs* as you want to honor birthdays, anniversaries, new job, retiring...what a great way to celebrate that special occasion!



Yom Huledet Sameah

Happy Birthday — December

Ellen Berman	Dec 1	
Heather Eudy	Dec 3	
Lee Lichter	Dec 6	
Erik Nnambi	Dec 7	21st
Giza Braun	Dec 8	
Delilah Shulman	Dec 12	11th
Amber Sapin	Dec 13	
Duncan Gerlt	Dec 15	15th
Jessalyn Baljon	Dec 16	
Don Maescher	Dec 16	
Michael Brower	Dec 17	11th
Lawrence Cahn	Dec 17	
Marilyn Scheininger	Dec 18	
Alexis Pearce	Dec 21	
Jamie Stahl	Dec 21	
Bill Propp	Dec 26	
Jerry Chancy	Dec 27	
Jayden Schaffer	Dec 27	13th
Deborah Kremsdorf	Dec 28	
Steve Forney	Dec 30	



Yom Nissuin Sameah

Happy Anniversary — December

Holly Baumann and Lee Goldberg	Dec 26	19th
Ellen Beck and Max Pancer	Dec 30	34th

Mi Shebeirah

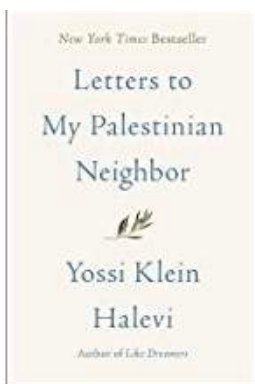
Grace Carr	Serena Nnambi
Lisa Deckelbaum	Bob Nugent
Jen Hop	Ed Nugent
Sybil Ingber	Stella Nugent
Melissa Jacobs	John Pehrson
Beth Even	Jack Pehrson
Char Katz	David Pincus
Sheila Jurist	Alex Rach
Marjorie Levine	Barbara Rose
Erik Nnambi	James Sisteck

Yahrzeits — December 2018

In remembrance of	Remembered by	Relationship	Date	Date
Leah Tuchin	Marlene Zagon and Mort Tuchin	Mort's mother	12/6	Kislev 28
Richard Louis Eastman	Char Katz and Barbara Rose	Barbara's grandson	12/10	Tevet 2
Sharon Tuchin	Marlene Zagon and Mort Tuchin	Mort's sister	12/10	Tevet 2
Faigey Moss	Richard Warburton and Beema Moss	Bleema's mother	12/11	Tevet 3
Walther Baumuel	Helene Goodman	Helene's father	12/12	Tevet 4
Jack Nugent	Lois and Jonathan Ingber	Lois's father	12/21	Tevet 13
Henry Natker	Leon Natker	Leon's father	12/22	Tevet 14
Jack Rittner	Beth Even	Beth's grandfather	12/22	Tevet 14
Anna Ament	Marlene Bellamy and Don Maescher	Marlene's grandmother	12/24	Tevet 16
Nathan Florman	Dijana and Steven Florman	Steven's grandfather	12/25	Tevet 17
Lawrence Shapiro	Michael and Beth Shapiro	Michael's father	12/26	Tevet 18
Sarah Hausner	Ilene Durst and Charlotte Durst	Ilene's aunt; Charlotte's great-aunt	12/28	Tevet 20
Jeannette Scheininger	Marilyn Scheininger	Marilyn's mother	12/28	Tevet 20
Morris Bernbaum	Holly Baumann and Lee Goldberg	Lee's uncle	12/29	Tevet 21
Helen Cahn	Ellen Margolis and Larry Cahn	Larry's mother	12/29	Tevet 21
Mildred Rose	Char Katz and Barbara Rose	Barbara's mother	12/31	Tevet 23

"With our tears, with our sorrow, we remember. May the memory of good people bless our days."

ONE BOOK, ONE CONGREGATION



On January 25, OBOC invites the community to join Rabbi Yael at *Kabbalat Shabbat* to discuss *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*, by Yossi Klein Halevi. Click [here](#) to go to Amazon to purchase. From the back cover:

“Given our circumstances, ‘neighbor’ may be too casual a word to describe our relationship. We are intruders into each other’s dreams, violators of each other’s sense of home. We are living incarnations of each other’s worst historical nightmares. Neighbors?”

“Lyrical and evocative, *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* is one Israeli’s powerful attempt to reach beyond the wall that separates Israelis and Palestinians. In a series of letters, Yossi Klein Halevi explains what motivated him to leave his native New York in his twenties and move to Israel to participate in the drama of the renewal of a Jewish homeland and help ensure that it succeeds as a morally responsible, democratic state in the Middle East.

“...Halevi endeavors to untangle the ideological and emotional knot that has defined the conflict for nearly a century....”

“Halevi’s letters speak not only to his anonymous Palestinian neighbor, but to all concerned global citizens, helping us understand the painful choices confronting Israelis and Palestinians that will ultimately help determine the fate of the region.”

Copies of this book may be available in the public library or you may purchase them at Amazon. Please go online to Amazon through the **Dor Hadash website** to buy the book; you will be taken to the CDH support page. Look for the ad banner for the book. Click on the banner and you will be taken to the ordering page. Dor Hadash’s code is

RESCHEDULED: The November discussion on *The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari was rescheduled for Sunday, December 30, at Richard and Bleema’s at 1:00 p.m.



Dor Hadash has many opportunities for you to put your money where your heart is. Your donations supplement items in the annual budget. Donating is easy. Donate online, send in your check or call the office to make other arrangements. Congregation Dor Hadash gratefully acknowledges your generous donations.

General Fund

Judy Hante and Steve Forney, in memory of Sarah Julius Mann, Judy and Naomi’s grandmother
Susan Levine and Rick King in honor of Char’s birthday

Adult Education

Shannon Matteson, in memory of George Matteson

Rabbi’s Discretionary

John and Romi Neustadt

Hesed Fund

Barbara Rose and Char Katz in honor of John and Shari Ciancio for all their help

Oneg Fund

Susan Levine in memory of Susan’s father,
Howard J Levine (oneg 11/2)
John and Shari Ciancio (oneg 10/26)
Sheldon and Lisa Deckelbaum, in memory of
Faiga Elvove

Templin Fund

Betsy and David Schneider, in memory of
Maurce Abowitz and Harold Schneider,
David’s maternal and paternal grandfathers

INTERESTING ONLINE JEWISH RESOURCES

CDH member and Board secretary, Betsy Chessler, has a blog—Betsy's *Limud Torah*. Check it out! <http://betsyslimudtorah.blogspot.com/>

Reconstructing Judaism (prev known as Jewish Reconstructionist Communities — www.reconstructingjudaism.org)

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation's Report on Convention: <https://bit.ly/2R7LZQk>

Reconstructing Judaism and Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association's Joint Statement on Immigration: <https://bit.ly/2yX7PBx>

Women Rabbis Respond to #MeToo — <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/news/women-rabbis-respond-metoo>

Ritualwell: Tradition and Innovation — ritualwell.org

Jewniverse — thejewniverse.com

UPDATED Nov 26, 2018: Interesting articles from Jewniverse, My Jewish Learning and other Jewish sources:

Bohemian Rhapsody Hanukkah Parody: <https://bit.ly/2TZnPJz>

Why Jews Eat Latkes on Hanukkah: <https://bit.ly/2DKx8aJ>

What You Need to Know about Hanukkah: <https://bit.ly/2DKgx6F>

How Are Hanukkah and Christmas Different? <https://bit.ly/2PXoe0M>

Female Rabbi Featured on Cover of Time Magazine: <https://bit.ly/2QkApnE>

Die Hard The Ultimate Hanukkah Movie (Dec 2016): <https://bit.ly/2TNQvVY>

Why Non-Jewish Nurses Studied Yiddish in 1930s Detroit: <https://bit.ly/2Bx6kcc>

Judaism on Campus: AC Online recently published a great guide to help Jewish students find college resources and scholarships. It details how to find Jewish communities on campus, lists scholarships for Jewish students, and offers advice for dealing with anti-Semitism on campus. Click [here](#) for more information.

SAN DIEGO JEWISH COMMUNITY

There's a lot going on in the coming months in the local San Diego Jewish Community.

Find out more at <http://jewishinsandiego.org>

Jewish Family Service www.jfssd.org

San Diego Jewish World www.sdjewishworld.com



JEWISH ROCK RADIO

jewishrockradio.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (NON-CDH)

Jewish Family Service of San Diego

Do you have a little bit of free time to drive a senior to an appointment, visit someone who is homebound to brighten their day, do some minor home repairs for someone, or lend a hand in delivering a meal to someone? Visit the JFS volunteer page for more information or ask Betsy Schneider!

Speak Up for a Foster Child!

Voices for Children is a local San Diego nonprofit which provides foster children with the caring support of a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). In San Diego County, more than 5,000 children live in foster care each year. These children have been abused, abandoned, and neglected, and many of them feel very much alone until they meet their CASA volunteer. Our CASA volunteers are often the only consistent adult presence in a foster child's life. You can learn more [here](#) or call Jackie at 858-598-2230.

The Hunger Project at St. Vincent De Paul—father Joe's Village, Sundays 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Beth Israel's San Diego Hunger Project relies on volunteers to help feed adults and children in the San Diego Community. To sign up, click [here](#).

First Saturdays, 1st Saturday of every month

Help feed the homeless. Click [here](#) for more information.



Madrihim (and chaperones) preparing and serving lunch at Father Joe's in October

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

There are two programs at Amazon to earn \$\$\$ for Dor Hadash. One is the Affiliate program and the other is [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and one offers more reward than the other.

The payback Dor Hadash receives through the [Amazon Associates](https://www.amazon.com/associates) program is much greater than through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Qualifying purchases made through the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) links on our website can result in a payback range of 4%–8.5% on total monthly purchases through our link. In contrast, shopping through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and selecting Dor Hadash as your qualifying charity, only 0.5% of qualifying purchases help to support Dor Hadash. That's a big difference!

Bottom line—shopping [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) through the links on our [website](https://www.dorhadash.org), a greater portion of your purchases help to support Dor Hadash—at no additional cost to you!.



Please sign up for iGive.com. It is totally free. Sign up online and select Congregation Dor Hadash as your favorite charity.

Congregation Dor Hadash earns up to 26% of the cost of your purchase at each store. Many of these contributions may even be considered tax-deductible. CDH also earns a penny per search even if you don't buy anything.

iGive.com has the largest online network of shoppers, 1,000+ online stores, and **free** membership. You get access to free shipping deals, coupons, and great deals through the entire network of stores. There are over 1800 stores participating in iGive including Pottery Barn, REI, Staples, Petco, Expedia, Best Buy, Apple, QVC and many more. Try iGive.com and enjoy free, easy fundraising. [http://www.iGive.com/CongregationDorHadash](https://www.iGive.com/CongregationDorHadash)

Current iGive promotion: <https://www.iGive.com/UUoU5b>. Sign up and Congregation receives \$3/person. Offer expires 9/15. You do not have to buy; you just have to keep the shortcut in your browser for 90 days.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

MightyNest for Schools is an internet shopping fundraiser. Shop at your convenience for healthy everyday items and 15% of your purchase price will go to Gesher School.

<http://schools.mightynest.com/faqs>
type in 92130 and Gesher Schoo



DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 TAPESTRY at JCC
2 9a Geshher 10a Torah Study Hanukkah/First Night, 1st Candle	3 Hanukkah 2nd Candle	4 4:30p Geshher (6th & 7th grades) Hanukkah 3rd Candle	5 Hanukkah 4th Candle	6 Hanukkah 5th Candle	7 6pm Hanukkah and Kabbalat Shabbat Hanukkah 6th Candle	8 8:45a Jews in Walking Shoes Hanukkah 7th Candle
9 9a Geshher 10a Rabbi's Cafe  Hanukkah Last Night/8th Candle	10	11 4:30p Geshher (6th & 7th grades) 6:30 Ritual Committee	12	13	14 7p Lev Hadash/ Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg sponsored by Judy Hante	15 9a Geshher Shabbat
16 No Geshher today	17	18 4:30p Geshher (6th & 7th grades) 6:30 Board Meeting	19	20	21 7p Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg sponsored by Beth Even	22
23 No Geshher today	24 Christmas Eve	25 No Geshher today Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27	28 Shabbat at Home	29
30 No Geshher today	31 	Happy New Year! Wishing you health and happiness in the coming year.				

Coming in January



MLK Jr Day of Service for all CDH members and friends

Sunday January 20
Programming begins at 9 a.m.
Torah Study at 10 a.m.
Mitzvah activities



Details coming in January HaKeshet and weekly shmeers



LET'S KVELL

Patti and Mark Nussbaum are happy to announce the engagement of their middle son, Peter, to Perveen Singh. An early 2020 wedding is in the works.

SHABBAT AT HOME

Our lives are busy, which means we need *Shabbat* more than ever—to slow down, connect with people, eat slowly, and laugh loudly. Enjoy a delicious *Shabbat* meal, build closer relationships, and help strengthen the Dor Hadash community all at the same time!

Dor Hadash members started to host *Shabbat* in their homes two years ago. This was a great opportunity to relax on a Friday evening and meet other members of Dor Hadash. This year we would like to have several hosts on the same Friday in different San Diego neighborhoods so more people can participate.

In November, we enjoyed Shabbat at Naomi Jensen's and Eliza Slavet's homes. Check the shmeer and your email for opportunities to RSVP. December and January are busy months, so we are not planning another formal Shabbat at Home until February 15 (President's weekend). If you would like to host in February, March or beyond, check out and sign up on one of the available dates at this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZyVX6w3aWHEjnVBQQfKyX_1rXhZ6KIMcTpDRKHZbc/edit.

If you have any questions about Shabbat at Home, please contact me at eaeven@gmail.com.

— Beth Even

The mission of Dor Hadash is to create a caring Jewish community in accordance with the values of Reconstructionist Judaism

Congregation Dor Hadash is affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism
reconstructingjudaism.org

HaKeshet (The Communication)

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HaKeshet, Congregation Dor Hadash's newsletter, is published bi-monthly by the Board of Trustees. Although the newsletter is supported through membership dues, contributions towards its publication are appreciated. All submissions are accepted at the discretion of the Officers and Board of Trustees of Congregation Dor Hadash and the editor. Due to space limitations, submissions may be used in future issues and are subject to editing. Submissions for consideration should be factual and concise. Contact names and addresses as well as the author's name and address should be included. Submissions in electronic form are preferred. Email submissions to hakesher1@dorhadash.org

Deadline: All submissions including advertisements, reports, and updates should be dropped off, emailed, or faxed by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

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