

Over the years, you might have seen Chabad's giant-sized *chanukiot* (Chanukah menorahs) in various public places. It's not just a Rochester-area phenomenon; one will find them wherever Chabad operates.



So, why is it only on Chanukah that Jewish ritual takes to the public square? Why do we not see public shofar-a-thons? Gigantic sheets of matzah in Brighton's Twelve Corners? Perhaps a super-sized facsimile of the Ten Commandments hanging out at a high traffic intersection in Pittsford on Shavuot? Is it in order to compete with – or to provide a Jewish answer to – all the Christmas trees one sees at this time of year? No. The answer is: *Pirsum haNess*.

*Pirsum haNess* means "publicizing the miracle" and it is one of the central commandments of Chanukah. The Babylonian Talmud (Tractate Shabbat 21b) teaches that the very purpose of lighting Chanukah candles is in order to publicize the miracle of the festival, which explains why we are instructed to place the *chanukiah* on a windowsill in the home that faces the street, so that passersby can see the candles burning. Therefore, Chabad, in their enthusiasm, has long brought the candles to where people are in order to publicize the miracle.

On the other hand, you might also have heard reports or seen the 1990s documentary about Chanukah in Billings, Montana, when a brick was thrown through the window of the Schnitzer family's home while their Chanukah candles twinkled in the window. Believe it or not, our sages anticipated it would not always be safe for Jews to be public about their observance. Immediately after teaching us to place the *chanukiah* in a place which will be visible to all,

the Talmud continues: "And in a time of danger, when Jews are prohibited from kindling (Chanukah) lights, one places the *chanukiah* on the table and that is sufficient to fulfill one's obligation."

In other words: publicize the miracle unless you live in an environment which is hostile to

Jews, in which case, keep it to yourself.

The irony of the atrocious Montana episode is that instead of feeling compelled to retreat to a life of undercover Jewish practice, word of the Schnitzer family's terrifying incident got out and raised the ire of many of their neighbors. MANY of them. Although "the local Jewish population numbered only about 150, (it was estimated that up to) 10,000 *chanukiot* soon decorated homes and other buildings in Billings" (Dr. Yvette Alt Miller, *Aish HaTorah*), in places where they were publicly visible. Talk about a Chanukah miracle!

The messages here are deep:

Despite an isolated instance of violent anti-semitism, the holiness of the festival triumphed over hate and was taken to heart by thousands of people who might otherwise have never even heard of Chanukah.

Hate prevailed for a short time – for as long as it took the perpetrator to hatch the plan and execute it – but it was dramatically outlived by the power of love.

In America, Jews have the right to be Jewish and to celebrate their traditions, whether privately around their tables, semi-publicly at their windows looking out onto the street, or in full view in the public square.

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As the ADL is quick to remind us, our current times are among the darkest in American history in terms of the incidence and ubiquity of antisemitism. Nevertheless, we need to allow Chanukah this year to remind us about our obligation as Jews to create light and to do what is necessary to banish darkness, even when darkness is a force of nature. The audacity of the Macabees, a fringe force who journeyed from their homes in Modi'in up to Jerusalem in order to overthrow a foreign occupier, and their SUCCESS, inspires us to fully embrace this opportunity to be as Jewish as we want and need to be, with the assurance that love and light will triumph.

*Chag Urim Sameach* – a very happy Festival of Lights,

Michael

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Received October 16 - November 15, 2022

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# All in the Family

## December Birthdays

Lori Davis	December 2
Adele Gan	December 4
Stanley Schaffer	December 4
Phil Katzman	December 11
Sharon Alva	December 12
Fay Neuberg	December 20
Sue Drexler	December 27
Neil Hyman	December 27
Scott Davis	December 29
Merrie Franklin	December 31
Daniel Shapiro	December 31

## Kiddush News

What food or foods do you associate with each week's parashah? Contact Alison Helms, kiddush coordinator, at [alison.helms@gmail.com](mailto:alison.helms@gmail.com), and she will try to include those foods in the kiddush/take home treats for that Shabbat. Please consider sponsoring a treat at \$18 or cholent at \$36 in honor of a good news event!



The next **Temple Beth David Board of Trustee Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, **December 13 at 7:00 pm** via Zoom. All temple members are invited to attend or you may submit your questions or concerns in advance of the meeting for consideration by the board of trustees. Board member names are listed on the last page of this bulletin. For more information on how to attend the meeting, please contact the temple office at 585-266-3223.



**Shabbat Service will be held in the Temple Beth El Chapel on Saturday, December 17 at 9:30 am**

## Take Home Treats

If you would like to help with take home treats distributed after Shabbat service each week or wish to sponsor "Take Home Treats" in honor of a good news event, please contact the temple office or speak with Alison Helms (her contact information is listed in the temple directory).

## Riverside Cemetery Plots

are available to purchase from

### Temple Beth David

at reduced temple member rates for Jewish burials in adherence to Temple Beth David ritual requirements. For questions regarding purchase, contact the temple office. For questions pertaining to Jewish burial ritual requirements, contact Rabbi Silbert.





Dear Congregants,

What a (nearly) six months it has been. It's been an honor to serve as President since June and I know that our leadership for the coming years will provide great stewardship for our beloved congregation. Congratulations to our incoming officers and board members. And thank you to all of our Board of Trustees for their dedication and work.

Our annual meeting was well attended both in-person and on Zoom. We completed some very important business including:

- Thank you to VP, Administration Lewis Rothberg and to VP, Ritual Ron Brandwein for their reports.
- Approval of our budget. Thank you to current VP, Finance Phil Katzman who prepared the budget.
- Election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees. Thank you to Ron Brandwein and Scott Davis who developed the slate of nominees.
- Our bylaws update is progressing. Thank you to all who submitted comments. Not every comment or edit will be included though ALL have been considered. In early 2023 you will receive more information about finalizing this process.
- We presented a motion seeking approval for a move, as tenants, to Temple Beth El. We have had several discussions with key people at TBE and all understand our hopes and our concerns. Please keep in mind that this move is as tenants as we currently are.

During my previous terms as president, I often said "We will honor and respect our history, but we cannot be handcuffed by it." We must look forward.

I know that change is difficult, and I also know it's inevitable. I look at change as an opportunity for positive outcomes. Why? Because we would not be likely to consider change if there wasn't a problem to solve. A key factor is accessibility. And future opportunities for collaboration can be considered.

Here's to a vibrant future and wishing you a Happy Chanukah and amazing 2023.

*Helen*



# DECEMBER 2022 JEWISH MOVIE CLUB LINE-UP



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

## WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT

(Tubi, 1 hr 59 min)

Wednesdays @  
8:00pm on Zoom!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022

## RED COW

(Tubi, 1 hr 32 min)



*present*

## CHANUKAH - A MINOR HOLIDAY THAT SHINES A LOT OF LIGHT

Join Rabbi Michael Silbert, the rabbi at Temple Beth David,  
for a two part series on Chanukah.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesdays, December 13 and 20, from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LOCATION: JCC of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618

REGISTRATION: <https://tinyurl.com/registerforchanukah>



Join us for our annual Temple Beth David

# Chanukah Party

Thursday, December 22 at 5:00 PM

in our Social Hall

Latkes, desserts, singing and more!

Please bring a non-perishable food item  
for the Brighton Food Cupboard

*RSVP to the temple office by December 15*

*585-266-3223 or office@tbdrochester.org*

## December Yahrzeits

### December 1

Annette Applebaum  
Abraham Fishman\*

### December 2

Pauline Markowitz

### December 4

Belle Fogelman  
Myrna Lutzky

### December 5

Bany Cohen  
Lee Rosenthal

### December 6

Mildred Levy

### December 7

Eli Rothstein  
Shirley T. Schnidman\*

### December 10

Ruth Lederer

### December 12

Max Roth

### December 13

Marie Goldwasser  
Max Rosenthal

### December 15

Sara Gorelick

### December 16

Ira Kinel

### December 17

Leonard Cohen

### December 19

Rosalie Bloom  
Laurence Skopitz\*

### December 20

Nathan Goldwasser

### December 22

Dora Lutzky

### December 23

Wilma Meyers

### December 24

Sheldon Harris\*

### December 26

Ben Drexler  
Fajwel Kinel\*  
Harry Vine

### December 28

Robert N. Herman

### December 29

Lillian Mountain

### December 31

Mac Gan  
Elsie Perlman

*\*Memorial plaque on display in the Temple Beth David sanctuary.*

*The yahrzeit date that appears above is the date of observance using the secular calendar.*

*These dates match those of the Hebrew calendar for the actual date of death.*

## SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

**Checks payable to: Temple Beth David, 2131 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 204, Rochester, NY 14618**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum donation \$10, or two for \$18

**Donor:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Message:**

- ☐ Get Well Wishes \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Happy Birthday \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Congratulations on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In Appreciation of \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund:** If no fund is specified, your donation will be made to the David Solomon Operating Fund. Thank you.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregant Services                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitzvah Kiddush Donation |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Repair Fund        |

**Temple Beth David will no longer be collecting donations for the Jewish Soldiers Project.  
Please contact Keith Freedman at [jewishsoldiersproject@gmail.com](mailto:jewishsoldiersproject@gmail.com) for details about donating.**



It's so easy to make donations and dues payments online! Visit our donation page at [www.tbdrochester.org/donate](http://www.tbdrochester.org/donate). The minimum online donation is \$10.



**Do you receive our Weekly News email?**

You may be missing the latest news about Temple Beth David services and events, as well as other important community information. Call or email the Temple Office to add your name to the mailing list!

Please call the office if you or a family member is scheduled for surgery or is admitted to the hospital. We want to offer comfort to congregants who are ill but regulations do not permit the hospital to contact us with your news. We will only know if you let us know.



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