



# The Scroll

## Congregation Shaara Tfile

84 Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Phone: 518-584-2370 Fax: 518-584-5226

### Calendar of Events

#### November

5-Congregation Breakfast/Movie.....9:30am  
 7-Sisterhood Meeting.....5:30pm  
 11-Nathan M. Bar Mitzvah.....9:30am  
 28-Havurah Vatik.....11:00am

#### December

5-Sisterhood Meeting.....5:30pm  
 10-Chanukah Party.....11:00am  
 19-Havurah Vatik.....11:00am  
 25-Shul Get-Together.....4:00pm  
 29-Services (Pre-Bat Mitzvah).....7:00pm  
 30-Havah D. Bat Mitzvah.....9:30am

#### Regular Services

Mondays & Thursdays.....7:30am  
 Saturdays.....9:30am

#### Office Hours\*\*

Monday-Friday.....9:00am-1:00pm

#### Adult Ed

Monday.....4:00pm

#### Hebrew School\*\*\*

Monday and Wednesday.....5:30pm

\*\* The office will be closed November 22, 23 and 24, and December 25.

\*\*\*No Hebrew School on November 22 and December 25, 27.

**Please call the office if you have any questions about any of our programs - 518-584-2370**



..for 7:30am  
 Monday/Thursday  
 minyons 1, 2 or  
 more times a month  
 so that kaddish can  
 be said. Bagels &  
 lox follow at about  
 8:30am.

### *From the Desk of the Rabbi*



Normally, I look ahead to the time period covered by the upcoming Scroll for something to write about. On this occasion, I must address the events of the recent past, and unfolding at present. But words fail.

It's not because there is nothing to say about the terror that emanates from Gaza, or the response that is to come. (For reference, as I write, there have been reports of raids inside Gaza, but as yet no major ground assault.) Rather, there are more issues on the table than I could ever hope to address in one bulletin article.

One issue that we should all keep watch over as the war shifts to Israeli offensive maneuvers is the incredible double standard to which Israel is held both by international organizations such as the UN and the Red Cross, as well as by the media. With regard to the two organizations mentioned, it is worth remembering they each have an explicit history of antisemitism, exemplified by the UN's infamous "Zionism is racism" resolution and by the Red Cross's decades-long refusal to admit Israel's corresponding Magen David Adom rescue organization, ostensibly for refusing to serve under the sign of the cross. More importantly, the current state of the world gives a clear opportunity to compare how these international bodies and NGOs attempt to regulate Israel's military action as compared with that of other nations at war. Having one set of rules governing the world, and a second, essentially impossible set of expectations for Jewish soldiers and the Jewish state is, in a word, antisemitism.

The media is a somewhat more complicated picture. There are certainly organizations and individuals within the media who openly side with Hamas, or against the State of Israel. More challenging, there are many in the media who think themselves unbiased, but who have developed a habitual pattern of thought which in fact is quite biased. As an example, quite early in the war, I heard a CNN anchor (on radio) respond to the prospect of Israeli ground operations, saying, "so the worst is yet to come." No! I absolutely reject that. The worst happened on October 7th, when Hamas overran Israeli communities in an orgy of brutality.

Continued on Page 9

**PLEASE NOTE:** Messages, including rsvp's for weekend events, left on the synagogue answering machine are not checked after 1:00 pm on Fridays until the next non-holiday business day. Walk-ins for weekend events will not be accepted.

**The Board of Congregation Shaara Tfile**

**Rabbi**.....Rabbi Boaz Marmon

**Board of Directors**

Judith Ehrenshaft.....President  
 Pamela Polacsek.....Vice President  
 Ted Orosz.....Treasurer  
 Deborah Sabin.....Secretary

**Board Members**

Eileen Woodcock.....Youth Education  
 Allen Kasin.....Cemetery  
 Allen Kasin.....Gabbi Liaison  
 Robert Katzman.....Legal Advisor  
 Sharon Dunn.....Board Position  
 Larry Paltrowitz.....Board Position  
 Samuel Gottesman.....Board Position  
 Linda Bertrand.....Past President

**Committee Chairs**

Religious.....Allan Polacsek  
 Membership Co-Chair.....Seth Rosner  
 Membership Co-Chair.....Linda Bertrand  
 Fundraising.....Open  
 Budget.....Ted Orosz  
 Strategic Planning.....Pamela Polacsek  
 Sisterhood Liaison.....Judith Ehrenshaft  
 Men's Club Liaison.....Allan Polacsek  
 House and Grounds.....Skip Woodcock  
 Pull Tab Liaison.....Carole Polacsek  
 Endowment Fund.....Robert Katzman  
 Scroll.....Michael Fischer  
 Facebook Liaison.....Deborah Sabin

**Rabbi Marmon's office hours:**

To reach the Rabbi, you may either call the office or call the Rabbi directly at his number listed in the synagogue directory.

**Office Hours:** Office hours are

9:00am-1:00pm during the week. The office will be closed November 22, 23 and 24, and December 25. Please call 518-584-2370 before coming over.

**Carole's Request:** Email communications to

the office and for Scroll submittals are requested to be sent to the synagogue email address at [saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com) . The deadline for Scroll submittals of text is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next Scroll (i.e. December 10<sup>th</sup> for the January/February Scroll).

*Communications*

- E-mail- We are trying to communicate more with our members and friends by email. We have been sending out weekly if not more often, email messages. If you have not been receiving weekly messages, please send your email address to the office ([saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com)) so we can add it to our contacts.
- We have a phone tree that sends out messages from the synagogue. If you are not receiving the messages, please call the office and provide Carole with your phone number.

*When You Need Something*

- If you know of a congregant who would like a home or hospital visit, call Carole in the office. Cynthia Flax and Roberta Gottesman have generously started a sunshine outreach to our friends in the synagogue.
- Call the office at 518-584-2370 if you have any questions about any of our programs.

*Memorial Candles & Birthday Greetings*

- The Congregation sends out a reminder letter with a memorial candle when you have a yahrzeit for a loved one. We also send annual birthday greetings. Let the office know if you would prefer to not receive candles, or are not receiving reminder letters/ birthday greetings.

*Remembrance/Dedications*

- If you would like to honor your loved ones who have departed, we offer Memorial Plaques in the Sanctuary. They are a permanent remembrance for those who are no longer with us. The cost is \$500 per plaque. In addition, one can dedicate a Prayer book to honor a special occasion (\$36) or a gold leaf for the vestibule's Tree of Life (\$200). For more information, please call Carole in the office.
- As our Mi Sheberach list grows, we are not sure if some of our congregants and friends still need to be on the list. Please call Carole so that we can update our list and keep it current.

*Cemetery*

- The Cemetery Rules and Fees document of Congregation Shaara Tfile spells out eligibility, rights, and fees. It also sets guidelines for use of the building and sanctuary during funerals. Call the office at 518-584-2370 if you wish to receive an electronic copy of the document.
- Our Cemetery is open year round. We ask that you be careful when visiting. The walkway can be slippery.

*Services*

- If you will be attending services in-house, we ask that you bring your own Tallis and Yarmulka.
- We especially need you for attendance at one, two or more 7:30am Minyan services on Monday and Thursday.

*Yahrzeit List for November/December*

<b>NOVEMBER 2023 (Cheshvan 17 – Kislev 17, 5784)</b>						
NOV	DAY	HEB DATE	MEMBER'S NAME	DECEASED (ENGLISH)	DECEASED (HEBREW)	REL
1	W	Cheshvan 17	Avram Freedberg	Rashe Altman Padell	Rashe bat Yosef	GGM
1	W	17	Marcia Snyder	Marvin Snyder		H
3	F	19	Judy Zassenhaus	Shirley Lavine		Cousin
6	M	22	Robert Messing	Abe Messing	Avraham	F
6	M	22	Miriam Messinger	Isadore Messinger	Asher ben Avraham	F/L
9	Th	25	Barbie Kahn	Stanley J. Chojnacki		F
10	F	26	Carole Polacsek	Beatrice Kaspin	Bayle bat Ephraim	M
12	Sun	28	Lester Rosenberg	Seymour Rosenberg		F
12	Sun	28	Dorothy Sanders	Bernard Smith	Binyomin ben Alter	F
12	Sun	28	Harvey Zirotsky	Jack Zirotsky		F
14	T	Kislev 1	Avram Freedberg	Sam Freedberg	Shabbtai ben Avraham Bear	GF
14	T	1	Irving Metzger	Marcia Metzger		W
14	T	1	Allan Polacsek	Marcia Metzger		S
16	Th	3	Deborah Sabin	Margaret O. Sabin		M
16	Th	3	Rabbi Josef Solomon	Rebbetzin Esther Solomon		M
17	F	4	Carol Anne Chait	Helen Pies		M
18	Sat	5	Dede Hirsch	Landon Michael Steormann		GGG
18	Sat	5	Miriam Messinger	Minerva Steuer	Mincha bat Shmuel	M
20	M	7	Milli Macy	Anna Marks	Anna bat Yaakov	M
21	T	8	Lary Opitz	Charles Opitz		F
23	Th	10	Linda Ike Bertrand	Florence Ike		M
25	Sat	12	Judith Ehrenshaft	Roman Chudy	Groinam ben Isak v' Lea	F
25	Sat	12	Wilma Koss	Louis Weinstein	Laybl Yitzhak ben Velvel	F
25	Sat	12	Lester Rosenberg	Helene Cohen nee Rosenberg		S
27	M	14	Ken Ritzenberg	Albert Ritzenberg		F
28	T	15	Andy Kahn	Jane K Kahn		M
28	T	15	Dorothy Sanders	Simon Sanders	Shimon ben Dovid	F/L
30	Th	17	Deborah Sabin	Gregory Hallow	Gershon ben Benyamin	F/L
<b>DECEMBER 2023 (Kislev 18 – Tevet 19, 5784)</b>						
DEC	DAY	HEB DATE	MEMBER'S NAME	DECEASED (ENGLISH)	DECEASED (HEBREW)	REL
4	M	21	Susan Edwards	Evalyn Selig	Chava bat Hayim	M
6	W	23	Howard Stark	Aaron Stark		F
7	Th	24	Judy Zassenhaus	Joe Berkowitz	Yosef ben Yaakov	GF
10	Sun	27	Harold Weinstein	Rose Weinstein	Rachel bat Shlomo	GM
15	F	3	Stuart Mintzer	Walter Levy	Velvel ben Shalom Leyb	U
15	F	3	Eileen Woodcock	Walter Levy	Velvel ben Shalom Leyb	U
17	Sun	5	Linda Ike Bertrand	Irving Laike		U
17	Sun	5	Marilyn Kasin	Jacob Weisman		F
17	Sun	5	Milli Macy	Renee Potoker		S
18	M	6	Richard Reisman	Kenneth Reisman		B
19	T	7	Jerry Grodin	George Grodin		F
20	W	8	Marcia Snyder	Rose Snyder	Ruchel	M/L
23	Sat	11	Norman Mann	Roberta Mann	Rivka bat Gershon Gedalia	W
23	Sat	11	Norman Mann	Yetta Mann	Yetta bat Yitzhak	Step M
23	Sat	11	Leonard Mintzer	Abraham Schechter	Avram ben Yaakov	GGF
23	Sat	11	Roberta Mintzer	Abraham Schechter	Avram ben Yaakov	GF
23	Sat	11	Ted Orosz	Eugene Orosz		F
24	Sun	12	Linda Ike Bertrand	Phyllis Laike		A
25	M	13	Leonard Mintzer	Jennie Sherman	Shandl bat Shmuel	GGM
25	M	13	Roberta Mintzer	Jennie Sherman	Shandl bat Shmuel	GM
26	T	14	Felice Karlitz	Nathan Karlitz	Nussan ben Moshe	F
28	Th	16	Norman Mann	Harry Mann	Tzvi ben Nachum Shlomo	F
29	F	17	Avram Freedberg	Melvin Freedberg	Moshe ben Shabbtai	U
29	F	17	Carole Leakakos	Ernest Shapiro	Avram Yitzhak ben Mordechai	F
29	F	17	Marilyn Shapiro	Ernest Shapiro	Avram Yitzhak ben Mordechai	F
29	F	17	Harold Weinstein	Isadore Leiberson	Yitzhak ben Avraham	GF
30	Sat	18	S. Sidney Gordon	Naomi Gordon	Naomi bat Nata	M
30	Sat	18	David Koss	Max Koss	Mordechai Leib ben Aaron	F

**General Contributions**

Anonymous  
 Barbara Gillis  
 Sisterhood to Hebrew School  
 Ruth and Charlie Weintraub  
 Rita and Michael Fischer sending good wishes to Helen and Sid Gordon  
 Rita and Michael Fischer sending good wishes to Sue Littell  
 Pamela, Carole and Allan Polacsek wishing Bunny Kasin good health  
 Pamela, Carole and Allan Polacsek sending Susan Weissman special thoughts and wishes  
 Eileen and Skip Woodcock Mazel Tov to Marilyn Shapiro and Howard Stark on the birth of their granddaughter Maisie  
 Eileen and Skip Woodcock Mazel Tov to Audra Stark and Allin Hedge on the birth of their daughter Maisie  
 Eileen and Skip Woodcock sending get well soon wishes to Susan Weissman  
 Eileen and Skip Woodcock sending special thoughts and wishes to Rita Fischer  
 Michele Herman a Hebrew School Contribution

**Memorial Candles**

Terry and Harold Weinstein in memory of Albert Weinstein  
 Deborah Sabin in memory of Mitchell Hallow  
 Deborah Sabin in memory of Lloyd Sabin  
 Judith Ehrenshaft in memory of Marjorie Ehrenshaft  
 David Kieserman in memory of Judith Craven  
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Francine Polacsek  
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Sylvia Silverberg  
 Richard Reisman in memory of Lillian Reisman  
 Marcia Snyder in memory of Abe Tabachnick  
 Rhoda and Avram Freedberg in memory of George Freedberg  
 Michele Herman in memory of Hyman Herman  
 Adena Wirkerman and Jack Mintzer in memory of Yetta Levy  
 Adena Wirkerman and Jack Mintzer in memory of Abraham Levy  
 Judith Ehrenshaft in memory of Lewis Ehrenshaft  
 Dianna and Eugene Nachamkin in memory of Eleanor Rosenblum  
 Denise and Joel Gershowitz in memory of Irving Goldsmith  
 Marilyn Phillips in memory of Celia Nonkin

Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Gertrude Polacsek  
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Lena Polacsek  
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Philip Kaspin  
 Sharon Dunn and Harvey Zirofsky in memory of Clara Zirofsky  
 Patricia Carson and Brian Lee in memory of Donald Lee  
 Anita Figelman Zatz in memory of Morris Figelman  
 Anita Figelman Zatz in memory of Solomon Figelman  
 Patricia Bruder in memory of William Sedutto  
 Judith Zassenhaus in memory of Charles Zelikofsky  
 Judith Zassenhaus in memory of Selma Berkowitz  
 Judith Zassenhaus in memory of Jack Berkowitz

**Cemetery Upkeep**

Michael and Frank Engelberg

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Anonymous  
 Michele Herman

**Mitzvah Club 2023-2024**

Anonymous  
 Patricia Bruder  
 Carol and Steven Chudy/The Chudy Family Trust  
 Judith Ehrenshaft and Seth Rosner  
 Rita and Michael Fischer  
 Roberta and Samuel Gottesman  
 Lorraine and Steven Hammer  
 Judith and Martin Kaplan  
 Bunny and Allen Kasin  
 Marsha and Robert Katzman  
 Diane White and Ted Orosz  
 Loretta and Arthur Ostrov  
 Bobi Baruch and Jerry Ostrov  
 J. Lawrence Paltrowitz/PAL's ALLIANCE, LTD.  
 Ronni and Lester Rosenberg  
 Bernard Singer  
 Kim and Matt Stein

***November Birthdays & Anniversaries***

08 Harvey Kalish  
 09 Nathan McCullen Jr.  
 12 Skip Woodcock  
 13 Diane White  
 16 Emily Dweck  
 26 Stuart Ginsburg  
 26 Andrew & Barbie Kahn  
 30 Lester & Ronni Rosenberg

05 Dede Hirsch  
 13 Sondra Silverhart  
 21 Barbara Opitz  
 22 Havah Doyle  
 24 David & Wilma Koss  
 26 Vivian Greenberg  
 27 Jay Goldman  
 27 Louise Goldstein  
 27 Marilyn Phillips  
 27 Rick Singer

***December Birthdays & Anniversaries***

01 Marsha Katzman

**We are currently working on a new synagogue directory. Please contact the office if you have any changes from the blue covered directory dated 2021.**

## 5784 Yom Kippur Appeal has already raised over \$29,000

We would like to thank and acknowledge all of our Members and Friends who have supported Congregation Shaara Tfillle by their generous contributions. This helps us keep a strong Conservative Jewish presence in the Saratoga Springs area.

May you be blessed with a healthy and happy New Year.

The following Families have made a generous contribution to our  
2023 – 2024 (a.k.a. 5784) Yom Kippur Appeal.

Please add your name to our list by calling the office. We update new names by highlighting them in bold print.

Jeffrey and Naomi Allen  
Anonymous  
Rachel Baum  
Linda Bertrand  
Richard and Jill Boehler  
Steven and Carol Chudy/  
THE CHUDY FAMILY TRUST  
Staci Covkin  
Wayne and Adriana Cutler  
Mark and Ali Doyle  
Robert and Susan Edwards  
Judith Ehrenshaft  
Adam Feldman  
Michael and Rita Fischer  
Mitchell and Susan Frost  
Stuart Ginsburg  
Steven Goldberg  
Samuel and Roberta Gottesman  
Edward Greenberg

Mort and Vivian Greenberg  
Jerold Grodin and Felice Karlitz  
Leah Hallow  
Steven and Lorraine Hammer  
Michele Herman  
Dede Hirsch  
Mel Ikler  
Andrew and Barbie Kahn  
Martin and Judith Kaplan  
Allen and Bunny Kasin  
Robert and Marsha Katzman  
David and Wilma Koss  
William and Carole Leakakos  
Allan and Sue Littell  
Piper Lutbak  
Milli Macy  
Gloria May  
Nathan and Jessica McCullen  
Lary and Barbara Opitz

Martin Oppenheim  
Ted Orosz and Diane White  
Arthur and Loretta Ostrov  
Jerry Ostrov and Bobi Baruch  
J. Lawrence Paltrowitz/  
PAL'S ALLIANCE, LTD  
Allan and Carole Polacsek  
Pamela Polacsek  
Barry Potoker  
Ken and Susi Ritzenberg  
Marc and Francine Robin  
Lester and Ronni Rosenberg  
Seth Rosner  
Sondra Silverhart  
Bernard Singer  
Rabbi Solomon and Judith Thomas  
Matt and Kim Stein  
Judiann Stern  
Marc and Randy Treiber

Thank you to Linda Bertrand for all that she gave to Congregation Shaara Tfillle. Next time you are in the lobby of our Synagogue, please take a look at our newest leaf on our Tree of Recognition. It is in honor of Linda, and the four years of her dedicated presidency.

Congregation Shaara Tfillle sends a special thank you to Ronnie and Lester Rosenberg for the beautiful Havdalah set that they generously donated to our synagogue

Thank you to one of our synagogue families for anonymously underwriting the cost of flowers for the High Holidays. They looked beautiful!

Thank you to one of our synagogue families for anonymously underwriting the cost of our Yom Kippur break-fast. This was enjoyed by over 20 people.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Rabbi Marmon for leading us through the Holy Days, with meaningful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. A hearty yasher koach to the Haftorets for their beautiful chanting of the Yom Kippur Haftorah and to the Sisterhood team, led by Linda Bertrand for preparing the Yom Kippur break-fast.

Congregation Shaara Tfillle would like to welcome new member  
Judiann Stern

Congregation Shaara Tfillle would like to welcome new member  
Robert Gruberger

### Sisterhood preparing the 9/25 'Break-the-Fast' Congregation meal



#### From the Desk of Sid

Jewish cemeteries have been a way since the beginning of time. As time goes by rules change to the times we live in. Cemeteries are a big part of Jewish life. Members and non-members should be very proud on how nice our cemetery looks, thanks to your donations. You will get a feeling of pride on how nice the entire area is, as that is what I am told by many people who visit our cemetery. We are working on a few big improvements like water outlets in four areas plus other land and fence improvements. The work is on going thanks to our cemetery committee and your donations. It is a big mitzvah to help when you can. Those that are at rest in our cemetery can't do it so we do it for then and for us

Have a good and safe winter. May this year be a better year for all of us. Thanks again for all that you do.

Fanny Neuda - a few lines from the "New Moon" prayer, written more than 150 years ago by a wise woman, reflecting on the Psalms and signs — like the moon...

" To the unfortunate, the moon says:  
Poor heart, do not dwell on your suffering.  
Do not bemoan the gloom and fogginess of your path  
Or how your life has become as dark as night.  
Look at me! Your fortunes can't be gloomier  
Or more difficult than my own waning light was  
But a few short days ago — and look now!  
Already you can see me shining above you.  
So, too, your fortune will shift.  
Grief is not permanent... Soon the Eternal One will let you shine once more  
In the brilliance of divine mercy.  
Soon the Eternal One will guide you  
Out of darkness and into the light."



Chanukah is a holiday that commemorates the time when a small group of Jews called the Maccabees rose up against Greek-Syrian rulers to rededicate the Temple of Jerusalem and light its menorah for worship, which – as the story goes – had enough oil to last only a single night. The light miraculously burned for eight nights out of darkness and into the light.

**Chag Chanukah Sameach! - Judith Ehrenshaft, President**

**November 11th Bar Mitzvah - Nathan McCullen**

Jessica and Nathan McCullen, Eileen and Skip Woodcock would like to invite the congregation to our son/ grandson Nathan's Bar Mitzvah on November 11, 2023. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30am. A kiddush luncheon will follow.

**December 30th Bat Mitzvah - Havah Doyle**

Ali and Mark Doyle cordially invite you to the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Havah, on Saturday December 30, 2023. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 am. A kiddush luncheon will follow.

**Sunday, November 5th - Congregation Breakfast**

Please join us on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 9:30 am for our monthly breakfast. The Men's Club members will be doing the preparing. Following the breakfast, at 10:00 am, we will be showing "i-Mordechai" followed by a speaker at approximately 11:45 am. The cost will be \$10 per person.



Our **Chanukah Gift Shop** will be open for business beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please consider supporting our Sisterhood for your Chanukah shopping needs this year.

**Havurah Vatik**

November 28@11:00am - Program TBA - luncheon to follow.  
December 19@11:00am - Program TBA - luncheon to follow.

Reservations are requested by email at [havurahvatic@gmail.com](mailto:havurahvatic@gmail.com) by the prior Thursday, so that appropriate food preparations can be made. Cancellations are also requested, since the caterer charges based upon the number of people attending the luncheon.



**HAPPY CHANUKAH**



### Chanukah Celebration

Join us on Sunday, December 10th as we celebrate Chanukah.



Our luncheon will begin at 11:00 am with a dairy meal with latkes. The cost for this luncheon is \$10.00 for everyone 13 years and older. Those 12 and under are free. We ask that you rsvp to Carole by **December 4th**, so that we can prepare accordingly.

Please join us on Sunday, December 10, 2023 for our annual Chanukah party. The fun starts at 11:00 am with the lighting of the candles and a luncheon. We will be showing the movie "An American Tale". Please rsvp to 518-584-2370 by December 4th, if you will be joining us. There is no cost for children 12 and younger. 13 and older are \$10.00 per person.

## **A New Jewish Non-Holiday Yearly Event!**

Please join us on Monday, December 25, 2023 at 4:00pm for an afternoon of Bingo, dinner and a movie. The cost is \$10 per person for those older than 13. Please rsvp by Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Please note, walk-ins will not be accepted.



## **Tikkun Olam**

**Oct 16-** This afternoon we made and delivered a meal to the Saratoga Homeless Shelter for 50 people. The dessert was donated by the JWV Post #36.





### Rabbi's Message (continued)

Let us stipulate that it is equally tragic when a Palestinian or an Israeli die in a fall or a car accident or a drowning. Each is an irreplaceable human life lost. But if on one side of the scale we put a mother and child killed in the crossfire of combat, and on the other side a mother who watched her baby beheaded before she herself was raped and murdered, these are both tragic, but not morally equivalent. The first is the reason why every Amidah recited by a Jew culminates in a prayer for peace – because war is necessarily inhumane – but the second is not merely inhumane but a complete abdication of humanity, a willfully feral atrocity that obliterates the Divine spark in both victim and perpetrator. But for one CNN anchor, like many of her media colleagues, the “worst” must be the death of Palestinians – not, I think, because she is intentionally antisemitic or even anti-Israel, but because the current generation of journalists have been trained to reflexively respond to the murder of Israelis as the natural state of affairs, but the deaths of Palestinians as avoidable tragedy.

As I write, an equally disturbing case is playing out across the various news wires. Yesterday, a hospital in Gaza was struck by an explosive projectile. The Hamas “health ministry” immediately announced that 500 civilians had been killed by an Israeli airstrike on the hospital. For nearly 24 hours, most of the western press dutifully and gullibly repeated these claims, or at best described Israel and Hamas as “trading accusations” over the blast. As actual evidence begins to accrue, including the assessments briefed to President Biden, every indication is that the explosion was in fact caused by a terror rocket fired by Palestinian Islamic Jihad (a “junior partner” of Hamas), that the blast occurred in the parking lot and did minimal structural damage to the hospital itself, that most of the damage was in fact caused by a fireball of burning rocket fuel rather than the explosive warhead (itself an indicator that this was not an Israeli munition), that Palestinian authorities were aware the blast was caused by their own ordnance, and that the reported casualty figures are likely fabricated.

The fact that western press cannot distinguish, or cannot admit it knows the difference, between the integrity of the Israeli armed forces and that of a terror organization with a long history of fabricating civilian casualty figures (compare, for example, the supposed “Jenin Massacre” of 2002, when Palestinian sources claimed civilian casualties ten times the actual numbers), is telling. I suspect that, at the core, the press knows what will come out, but finds a story of Israelis as vengeful killers, or of a whodunit mystery, more compelling than another story of Palestinian terrorists doing what they do, causing carnage to civilians on both sides.

One of the most important ways we, as American Jews, can support Israel in this moment is to notice and call out when Israel is treated unfairly, whether by international organizations, media, or figures within our own government. There is no doubt civilians have been killed in Israeli airstrikes, and no doubt civilians will be killed when Israeli soldiers fight Hamas in the streets of Gaza and the tunnels underneath. That’s not a war crime; that is war. Israel must not and does not willfully target civilians. Neither can Israel submit to the rape, kidnapping, and butchering of Israeli civilians for the sake of sparing Gazans any suffering. History is replete with examples of how nations defend themselves when attacked, not least the American response to 9/11 and the Ukrainian defense against Russia still underway. It seems everyone understands the right of self-defense – except when the selves being defended are Jews.

עם ישראל חי!

The Jewish People lives! The promise of Israel is not, regrettably, that no one can hurt us. It is that we can defend ourselves and respond as every other nation would. And that is exactly what Israel must do, even if some think that is “the worst” that could happen. May God protect our soldiers from harm as they ensure the Jewish People lives for another generation. May God return the hostages to the embrace of their families. May God see that Justice is visited on the butchers and their masters.





# November, 2023

			WED Nov 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
			17th of Cheshvan First Day of American India ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	18th of Cheshvan ● 7:30am Services	19th of Cheshvan	20th of Cheshvan ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
5 21st of Cheshvan Daylight Saving Time ends ● 9:30am Breakfast, etc.	6 22nd of Cheshvan ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	7 23rd of Cheshvan Election Day ● 5:30pm Sisterhood	8 24th of Cheshvan ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	9 25th of Cheshvan ● 7:30am Services	10 26th of Cheshvan Veterans Day (substitute)	11 27th of Cheshvan Veterans Day Shabbat Mevarchim Chode ● 9:30am Nathan's Bar Mitz ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
12 28th of Cheshvan	13 29th of Cheshvan Sigd ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	14 1st of Kislev, 5784 Rosh Chodesh Kislev ● 5:30pm Board Meeting	15 2nd of Kislev ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	16 3rd of Kislev ● 7:30am Services	17 4th of Kislev	18 5th of Kislev ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
19 6th of Kislev	20 7th of Kislev ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	21 8th of Kislev	22 Office Closed 9th of Kislev	23 Office Closed 10th of Kislev Thanksgiving Day ● 7:30am Services	24 Office Closed 11th of Kislev Native American Heritage I	25 12th of Kislev ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
26 13th of Kislev	27 14th of Kislev ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	28 15th of Kislev ● 11am Havurah Vatik	29 16th of Kislev ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	30 17th of Kislev ● 7:30am Services		

# December, 2023



FRI Dec 1	SAT 2
18th of Kislev	19th of Kislev ● 9:30am Shabbat Services

3 20th of Kislev	4 21st of Kislev ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	5 22nd of Kislev ● 5:30pm Sisterhood	6 23rd of Kislev ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	7 24th of Kislev 🕯️ 1 Chanukah: 1 Candle ● 7:30am Services	8 25th of Kislev 🕯️ 2 Chanukah: 2 Candles	9 26th of Kislev Shabbat Mevarchim Chode 🕯️ 3 Chanukah: 3 Candles ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
10 27th of Kislev 🕯️ 4 Chanukah: 4 Candles ● 11am Chanukah Party	11 28th of Kislev 🕯️ 5 Chanukah: 5 Candles ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	12 29th of Kislev 🕯️ 6 Chanukah: 6 Candles ● 5:30pm Board Meeting	13 1st of Tevet, 5784 ⚙️ Chag HaBanot 🌑 Rosh Chodesh Tevet 🕯️ 6 Chanukah: 7 Candles ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	14 2nd of Tevet 🕯️ 8 Chanukah: 8 Candles ● 7:30am Services	15 3rd of Tevet 🕯️ Chanukah: 8th Day	16 4th of Tevet ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
17 5th of Tevet	18 6th of Tevet ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	19 7th of Tevet ● 11am Havurah Vatik	20 8th of Tevet ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	21 9th of Tevet ● 7:30am Services	22 10th of Tevet 🌟 Asara B'Tevet	23 11th of Tevet ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
24 12th of Tevet Christmas Eve	25 13th of Tevet Christmas Day ● 7:30am Services ● 3pm Shul Get-Together	26 14th of Tevet	27 15th of Tevet	28 16th of Tevet ● 7:30am Services	29 17th of Tevet ● 7pm Service	30 18th of Tevet ● 9:30am Havah Bat Mitzva ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
31 19th of Tevet New Year's Eve						



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