

Temple Beth Sholom News

Vol. 3, No. 15 | December 2025



Rabbi Joshua Grossman

President Patrick Guiney

Rabbi Emeritus David Grossman

From the Rabbi's Office

Greetings friends,

Over the past few years, our Shul has hosted warm and wonderful Chanukah parties bringing light and fun to the start of long, dark, and cold winters.

I am so excited that **December 12th**, the Shabbat just prior to Chanukah, will be another special Friday night service. Our friend and master musician/pianist Mark Elsner will be joining us to welcome Shabbat and prepare for Chanukah! We have been rehearsing and crafting a special evening of welcoming our weekly Shabbat AND a number of Chanukah melodies with Mark, and we invite everyone to come and participate in familiar songs and fun.

Then on **December 20th** we will be celebrating together at another Chanukah party! Of course, there will be great food, traditional songs and a time to gather and socialize, but as always there will be something more. My own favorite segment of the evening is when we adjourn to the meeting room, and light our Chanukiot. We encircle the tables and ceremoniously bless and light what will be 7 candles in all types and styles of Chanukah. I love seeing the craftsmanship and the innovation of some of the more creative new Chanukiot, as well as the traditional.


With all that goes on and all the celebration of the evening, where do we find the time to recall the history or tradition of the holiday, or even the reason behind it? Simple answer: right here....

Chanukah commemorates a pivotal moment in our Jewish history. A mere 2,189 years ago our freedom fighters stood up to tyranny and hatred and reclaimed our holy Temple in Jerusalem from the Syrian-Greek oppressors. We successfully battled and took back our right to pray, and our freedom of faith from one people in a long line who have sought to destroy us. We cleansed our Temple, we rededicated it and inside it, we lit the sacred Menorah as we were commanded in Torah. We'll recreate this tradition together as we do each night of the festival.

We might consider how lighting only one extra candle each night seems a small increase. However, after only 8 nights we can see what a formidable source of light and warmth has been built with each night's small addition. Perhaps from this concept we can understand how important each and every one of us are to our families, our friends, our Temple, and our community. We are meant to recognize how even a small candle casts a large circle of light, when there is otherwise only darkness.

Our sages tell us that we are meant to proudly display our Chanukiot in our windows. We are responsible for telling of the miracles of Chanukah, and spreading goodness, tolerance and love. In this, I am always reminded of the words of Martin Luther King: "**Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.**"

May we all enjoy an upcoming month of joy and peace. I hope to see you all soon.
B'shalom, Rabbi Joshua

Candle		Lighting
12/5 3:53 pm		12/19 3:55 pm
12/12 3:53 pm		12/26 3:59 pm

From the President

Time. I recently re-watched the movie Peggy Sue Got Married. The director is Francis Ford Coppola, and it is based on a story written by the husband & wife team, and Jewish couple, of Jerry Leichtling and Arlene Sarnar. The movie was released in 1986, and one year after the first Back to the Future (BtTF) installment. While BtTF is a fun romp, Peggy Sue is a very interesting (potential) time travel tale. (I say "potential" because it is not entirely clear if Peggy time-traveled or if she was just dreaming after passing out). It is wonderful watching Peggy reconnect with relatives that have passed or realizing she has lost time with her sister (a young Sofia Coppola) due to an unmentioned issue, all while reliving the period when she was graduating high school and dealing with her love issues with Charlie. It is fun watching her make cracks about red M&M's, her father's brand-new Edsel, and how her first invention with Richard Norvick was going to be the "panty hose". (I can't remember the last time I saw a L'eggs display since the 1980's. Times and fashion change).

Time is also a many-layered concept in Judaism. It is linear, but also cyclical. The daily, monthly, and yearly cycles allow one the ongoing opportunity to better oneself and connect with Hashem. Our 5000+ year timeline also allows for many opportunities to deep dive. While our secular year is drawing to a close, the Jewish year is still rather young. We get to enjoy Hanukkah this month and can enjoy the trifecta of Rosh Chodesh, Shabbat and Hanukkah all coming together on Saturday December 20. Come to service that day! We have also been studying the rise of David this fall, during our Wednesday Jewish Conversations sessions, and we will shortly read about him becoming King. This is all great stuff. Come enjoy TIME here at Temple Beth Sholom!

Patrick Guiney, President



For a **complete** list of on-line programs or to register, click this [LINK](#)

Series - Four Jewish Revolutionaries

December 4 at 3:30 pm: Adolph Fischhof

December 9 at 3:30 pm: Leon Trotsky

December 18 at 3:30: Rosa Luxemburg

December 25 at 3:30 pm: Bela Kun

- Contact Karen at tbshullprogramming@gmail.com to register for the Members Only Programs through OCCSP.



Todah Rabbah – Donations

Thank you to all who have made donations in honor or in memory of loved ones and in doing so support our community.

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR ONLINE REQUEST FORM](#)

In Memory Of

Wilma Cooper	Susan Perry
Lexi Halvorson	Harriet & Patrick Guiney
	Mary & Scott Belgard
Hester Kool	Susan Perry

Mazal Tov

Hillery & Dan Bauman on your new granddaughter	Mary & Scott Belgard
Hallene & Michael Fish on your new granddaughter	Mary & Scott Belgard
	Marcia & Paul Rymaszewski

On the Occasion Of

Harriet & Patrick Guiney's Anniversary	Jean Connolly
Karen Augenstern on your Birthday	Elaine & Paul Greenblatt
Patrick Guiney's 60th Birthday	Mary & Scott Belgard
	Alan Colman
	Jean Connolly
Linda Pitler on your Birthday	Elaine & Paul Greenblatt