



The Shofar

December, 2019

Congregation House of Israel

3 Kislev - 3 Tevet, 5780



Happy Hanukkah

December 22 - 30, 2019

Hanukkah Party information on Page 3

Reb Shelly's Desk

Hanukkah and Judith: Two Accounts of Heroism

by Daniela Szuster



Interesting article, that I thought you'd all enjoy for this Hanukkah. Daniela Szuster is rabbi of Temple Beth El in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. SK

The book of Judith is included in the apocryphal books of the Jewish tradition—that is to say, it is not included in the canon of the Hebrew

Bible. While the story of Judith bears similarities to other books of the Bible, it is distinct in that the protagonist is a woman.

This book tells of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Assyria, beginning his battle against King Arphaxsad and asking the citizens of various localities to support him in this fight. The majority refuse and Nebuchadnezzar vows his revenge. He proceeds to send his General Holofernes to sack and destroy rebellious cities and their temples. When the Israelites in Judea discovered this situation they feared greatly for their city and its great Temple. This is why they decided to take up arms and defend themselves. The Assyrians besieged the city of Betulia and once the city's water reserves were depleted, they contemplated surrendering to Assyrians.

It was in this context that Judith appears. She is a widow described by the text as “beautiful and god-fearing” and whose very name means “a Jewish woman”. Upon discovering what was happening, Judith decided to ditch her widow's apparel and dress instead in her finest clothes and jewelry and go to the camp for a rendezvous with Holofernes. Feigning a desire to abet the Assyrians, they received her warmly. After spending a few days in the camp, Judith seized the opportunity when Holofernes was in a drunken sleep, entering his quarters, taking a dagger and decapitating the general. Delivering the head of the enemy to the people of Israel, she won both a victory and their liberation.

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Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

This story is generally associated with Hanukkah because it also tells of minority fighting against a majority, Jews versus Greeks, the weak against the mighty and it celebrates a victory of the Jews.

In the book of Judith, a widow, the classic symbol of weakness, fragility and vulnerability in Western culture is the one that saves her people from Assyrian oppression. Judith not only prays to G-d for her people, but also arms herself with courage, goes out of her physical comfort zone which is doubly dangerous for a woman and in doing so, wins salvation for her people.

In a world where women were generally relegated to the private realm, prevented from holding a place in society, silenced and their capacities, creativity and thoughts rendered invisible, Judith is the example of a woman who could rise victorious, not only over Holofernes but also rise above the obstacles that society placed in the way of women. Since the days of Judith much has changed, but there is still a long way to go.

G-d willing the heroism of the Maccabees and of Judith will inspire us and provide courage for our own lives. May the lights of the Hanukkah menorah guide us, strengthen us and give us hope for a better and more just world.

Sukkot 5780

Shaking the Lulov



Hannukah Party

December 22, 2019



Begin Hanukkah this year by joining our congregational family for the first night Sunday December 22, 5 PM in Burgauer Hall. Bring your personal Hanukkah menorah and we will light the first candle together to welcome in Hanukkah this year.

Sisterhood will again be providing Latkes, Chicken, Salad and dessert for the low price of \$5.00 per person for congregation members, \$10.00 per person for non congregation members. As always we welcome our under 18 year old children as our guests. We do need reservations so we can be sure to have enough food for everyone. And because we are a religion of tradition the Reagler family will again provide us with entertainment.

Your check made out to Sisterhood and mailed to

Ruth Sedler
152 Blue Heron Drive
Hot Springs AR 71913

is your reservation. Please have your checks to Ruth by Monday December 16.

This is an all fun all of the time get together, so plan on joining us.

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Spa Running Festival



1,800 runners raced the streets of Hot Springs on Saturday, November 15, in three different races.

5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles) and the Half Marathon (13.1 miles).

Four members of the CHI congregation participated:

- Mark Fleischner in the 5K
- Westley Kleinman in the 5K
- Jerry Rephan in the 10K
- Patti Fleischner in the Half Marathon.

A healthy good time was enjoyed by all.



December Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited December 6

Barbara Schlesinger

Alyce Brand

Sister of Carol Kleinman

Kaddish Recited December 13

Sharona Grenman

Wife of Oded Grenman

Sherrill Bernstein

Father of Nathan (Nate) Bernstein

Bernice Waxler

Mother of Michael Waxler

Naomi Tanenbaum

Mother of Jerry Tanenbaum

Kaddish Recited December 20

Lynn Raines Kirsch

Wife of Steven Kirsch

Nellie Sheets

Mother of Mary Klompus

Kaddish Recited December 27

Hyman Robins

Grandfather of Betty Feir

Dora Taxer

Mother of Sheldon (Shep) Taxer



Thank you to the following for sponsoring an Oneg during the month of December:

Dec 6	Karen and David Reagler Barbara Morgan
Dec 13	Carol and Shelly Kleinman Ruth and Ross Sedler
Dec 20	Glenda and David Kirsch Sharon and Mike Waxler
Dec 27	Betty Forshberg Anita and Dennis Williams

Reminder: If you are scheduled for an upcoming Oneg and need to change dates, please find someone to switch with and then let Carol Kleinman know so the information printed in the bulletin will be correct.

Refuah Sheleimah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

- Robert Burns
- Jerry Tanenbaum
- Ken Baim
- Annette Baim

Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.

If you are aware of anyone needing spiritual or any sort of assistance, please let Carol Kleinman know.

Our Caring Committee is here to help all of our members in any way we possibly can.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries

Brad and Elaine Wolken Dec 26

December Birthdays

Sophie Fleischner Dec 7
Sherrill Nicolosi Dec 20
Kim Baron Dec 22
Frances Iverson Dec 30

Weekly Parshah

December

Vayetzei

December 7, 2019

Jacob leaves his hometown Be'er Sheva and journeys to Charan. On the way, he encounters "the place" and sleeps there, dreaming of a ladder connecting heaven and earth, with angels climbing and descending on it; G-d appears and promises that the land upon which he lies will be given to his descendents. In the morning, Jacob raises the stone on which he laid his head as an altar and monument, pledging that it will be made the house of G-d.

In Charan, Jacob stays with and works for his uncle Laban, tending Laban's sheep. Laban agrees to give him his younger daughter Rachel -- whom Jacob loves -- in marriage, in return for seven years' labor. But on the wedding night, Laban gives him his elder daughter, Leah, instead -- a deception Jacob discovers only in the morning. Jacob marries Rachel, too, a week later, after agreeing to work another seven years for Laban.

Vayishlach

December 14, 2019

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends emissaries to Esau in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of sheep and cattle) to appease him.

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Yabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until day-break. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means "He who prevails over the Divine."

Vayeishev

December 21, 2019

Jacob settles in Hebron with his twelve sons. His favorite is 17-year-old Joseph, whose brothers are jealous of the preferential treatment he receives from his father, such as a precious many-colored coat that Jacob makes for Joseph. Joseph relates to his brothers two dreams he has which foretell that he is destined to rule over them, increasing their envy and hatred towards him.

Shimon and Levi plot to kill him, but Reuben suggests that they throw him into a pit instead, intending to come back later and save him. While Joseph is in the pit, Judah has him sold to a band of

passing Ishmaelites. The brothers dip Joseph's special coat in the blood of a goat and show it to their father, leading him to believe that his most beloved son was devoured by a wild beast.

Mikeitz

December 27, 2019

Joseph's imprisonment finally ends when Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows that are swallowed up by seven lean cows, and of seven fat ears of grain swallowed by seven lean ears. Joseph interprets the dreams to mean that seven years of plenty will

be followed by seven years of hunger, and advises Pharaoh to store grain during the plentiful years. Pharaoh appoints Joseph governor of Egypt. Joseph marries Asenath, daughter of Potiphar, and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

Famine spreads throughout the region, and food can be obtained only in Egypt. Ten of Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to purchase grain; the youngest, Benjamin, stays home, for Jacob fears for his safety. Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him; he accuses them of being spies, insists that they bring Benjamin to prove that they are who they say they are, and imprisons Simeon as a hostage. Later, they discover that the money they paid for their provisions has been mysteriously returned to them.

