

Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Volume 6, Issue 10

December 2018 Kislev - Tevet 5779

*Congregation Etz Chaim's Mission Statement is:
Passionate and participatory,
our supportive Jewish community engages each individual in a life-long Jewish journey. We embrace diverse experiences that span both traditional and contemporary ideas while learning and pursuing spiritual growth.*

Executive Committee:

Terry Brodof
Russ Rosen
Aaron Schechtman
Stephany Schechtman
Steve Segerman

Staff:

Hank Lerer, Executive Director
Chava Vidal, Program Director

Men's Club:

Aaron Schechtman, President

Sisterhood:

Sandy Baden & Laura Maxwell
Co-Directors

Ritual Co-Chairs:

Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg



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Message from your President – Terry Brodof



Dear fellow congregants,

As most of you know, I write this message about a month in advance. It is early November. I imagine as you read this, you are celebrating or preparing for the start of Chanukah. If you have never come to cook or bake in our kitchen for the holidays, this is your year to volunteer! Be sure to check your e-blast and the bulletin for the dates, times and more information.

A couple of days ago, I received a text from one of my cousins. It said, *I'm sending you a little save the date. My mom is turning 100 years old next April. My brothers and I are planning a birthday luncheon for her. It will be at the Squirrel Hill JCC. We would love it if you could attend.*

I have attended a number of family simchas in the east end of Pittsburgh. Members of my family live there and they have made it their home. The trip to Pittsburgh, always brings fond memories. Without thought, I texted her back "Wonderful! Mazel tov! I put it in my calendar and I am looking forward to being there to celebrate with you".

I put down my phone then picked it up and re-read the note. Never before had I given a thought to the location. The long drive perhaps, but never before the place, the neighborhood, Squirrel Hill.

I had just experienced that moment you feel when you recognize a piece of your innocence has been chipped away. The sadness the name immediately evoked. An event had changed my perception of going to a family event. Thankfully, just for or a fleeting moment.

Most of us have read novels like *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Lord of the Flies* where you see and follow a character's loss of innocence. It is an experience, in the character's world, that leads them to a greater understanding that not all things are as they imagine. Goodness and Beauty are not always the reality. The behavior of people is not always a given.

In these novels, there is some incident that results in a loss of the character's sense of security. A life changing event. The characters then realize that their perception has changed forever and they grieve the loss of security in the world they once believed they had.

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the front page...

Perhaps most importantly, these works also teach us that the characters learn from what they have experienced and with that knowledge, they, and we, as readers, empower ourselves to move forward with a greater understanding.

So where do we start after witnessing and watching the violent events of 2018, or October 27th? The senseless loss of life, and the loss we feel when the reality of today's world hits so close to home.

As Jews, we start with *Henani*. Here I am. I am ready, I am poised and I am now better prepared. As a city, as a community, as a congregation, we are all now more alert and we are now, better prepared.

Safe Cincinnati has helped us to secure and to prepare our buildings. It is now up to us to prepare ourselves. I encourage all of us to remember this one thought. See something...say something! Trust your instincts. At home, at work and within our synagogue.

You will notice that in our synagogue, we have made a few modifications within the building and have changed some protocols during services and meetings. These changes came about after participation in many conference calls with USCJ, Federation and Safe Cincinnati. The changes are designed to keep everything as normal as it has always been for all those who enter the doors of our synagogue.

We have met with our service leaders and greeters, the board of directors and committee chairs. We have made changes to our safety codes and precautionary additions to our safety plans.

Our goal is to allow all of us to walk in to our home proudly saying *Henani!!* Recognizing we are here in our home, participating in services that our families have participated in for centuries, and feeling connected to the community. We will come together in solidarity, experiencing the warmth and joy of sharing Shabbat, or a Chanukah Dinner, or any other activity within these walls, with the members of this family. Never allowing hate and fear a victory over faith, love and courage.

Like the characters in the novels, we have been changed and we have learned from tragedy. From it, we have empowered ourselves with additional tools to move us forward; strengthened by what we have learned. Our community has come together in solidarity. After the violence in Pittsburgh, our neighbors sent us notes of encouragement, Christians and Muslims have stood with our community, holding hands, side by side. Even our contractors have let us know they stand with us in solidarity and support.

I am planning to celebrate Shabbat and an incredible life story, filled with 100 years of joys and sorrows in April, in a tree lined community called Squirrel Hill. Until then, I will continue to walk into our building each Shabbat proudly saying to myself, *Henani*.

Chag Urim Sameach.

B'Shalom,

Terry Brodof



Ritual Matters

Ritual Committee members: Co-Chairs: Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg; Members: Emmy Friedenberg, Lynne Haber, Candy Kwiatek, Hank Lerer, Chava Vidal, Robyn Wolfe

At our last meeting we reviewed our High Holiday (HHD) services and how we can make them even better next year. Realizing that it has now been many weeks since the HHDs, we still want to ask if you have any feedback to share with us? We'd love to hear it. Please contact anyone on the RITCOM to make your comments, criticisms, suggestions known.

Yasher Koach to Hank & Chava for another successful Tater Tot Shabbat. The first one for this year was October 19. This popular Friday night kid-friendly service and meal is a big hit with kids and adults alike. It's a half hour service that covers all the basics for Shabbat and is fun, interactive and educational. We can look forward to having another Tater Tot Shabbat this coming January 18. As we should look forward to every Friday night's Shabbat service – these one-hour services are spiritual, relaxing and just all-around great, as those who attend will attest to.

Last November 10th we offered a Healing Service to congregants and friends alike. Coming so soon after the attack at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life synagogue – a synagogue who shares our Etz Chaim name! – the timing of this healing service couldn't be better. We hope that those who attended received additional solace and comfort from this type of service. Thank you to Lynne Haber for the planning and prep and another service of this kind should be coming sometime in the spring.

The Minyan Committee has developed an effective process for organizing Yarzheit Minyanim. Since its inception in June of this year, it has organized over twenty minyanim for congregants. A reminder to either email your request 10 days prior to cecmynan@gmail.com or call Barry Joffe (513-373-1552) or Barbara Taggart Milberg (513-708-5208) or call the office and they will pass on the message to the Committee. If you'd like to help out fellow congregants make up a minyan when you're available, let Barry or Barbara know and they can add you to the email list that gets notified.

Etz Chaim is celebrating a couple of special Shabbatot in December. December 8th is both Create Your Jewish Legacy (CYJL) Recognition Shabbat and Shabbat Chanukah. December 22 is Men's Club Shabbat.

Are you planning to join fellow congregants at Etz Chaim's retreat weekend February 9-11? If you haven't yet RSVP'd to attend this wonderful winter retreat, what are you waiting for? Our retreats over the last two years have been nothing short of spectacular and this year's will be just as if not better than wonderful. All attendees get a part in the services we offer and if you're a Torah reader, we especially want your participation in reading some Torah for either Shabbat morning or Shabbat afternoon (Mincha) services.

Chanukah is early this year! Chanukah begins on Sunday evening, December 2nd. We're sure to look forward to the services and festivities that this holiday brings.

The RITCOM will next met on December 16th. If you have any ritual matter to address with us, please contact Barry or Barbara and we will be sure to add your topic to our meeting agenda.

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we wish you a Happy Chanukah!
Barbara and Barry





I Have A Little Dreidel

**CEC wants to celebrate
Chanukah with you!**

**Wednesday Night, December 5, 2018
6pm – We'll have delicious homemade
LATKES and a make your own pasta bar!
In honor of the 4th night of Chanukah we will
have four options of everything!!!
Something for everyone!**

**7pm – We've all sung the song...
But have you ever really made a
“dreidel out of clay”?
This is your chance – resident artists
will be on hand as we work to
create our own take home clay dreidels.**

**These dreidels can be made by crafters of all
ages - Followed by Menorah Lighting
& Sufganiyot (JELLY DOUGHNUTS)**

**\$12 – RSVPs are appreciated
BRING YOUR OWN MENORAH
FOR OUR COMMUNITY LIGHTING!!!**



Calling all kitchen mavens, latke lovers, potato peelers, onion dicers and more to help Men's Club prepare our delicious latkes.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 10am to 2pm

Contact Aaron Schechtman 513-677-0446 to let him know you can help!



This year CEC will once again partner with the Sisterhood and Ethel M. Taylor Academy to provide holiday gifts and clothes to those less fortunate than us in the Cincinnati area. "Children" will be given out on Wednesday, December 5th at the Chanukah party. We need gifts returned by Monday, December 17. If you can't attend the party but still want to help with this Mitzvah – please let Stephany Schechtman know by calling 513-677-0446

**Mystery
Maccabee**



Thursday Morning Minyan **Mystery Macabee Gift Exchange - 2018**

Join the Thursday Morning Minyanaires On Thursday, December 6th for a fun filled service, delicious breakfast and then the moment we've been waiting for 365 days.... The Mystery Macabee Gift Exchange. Want to participant? Just attend services and bring a gift valued at \$10 or less. Be sure it's wrapped and be ready to smile at the creativity of these wacky gifts. Contact David Weil the Thursday Morning Minyan Captain for more details



MEN'S CLUB



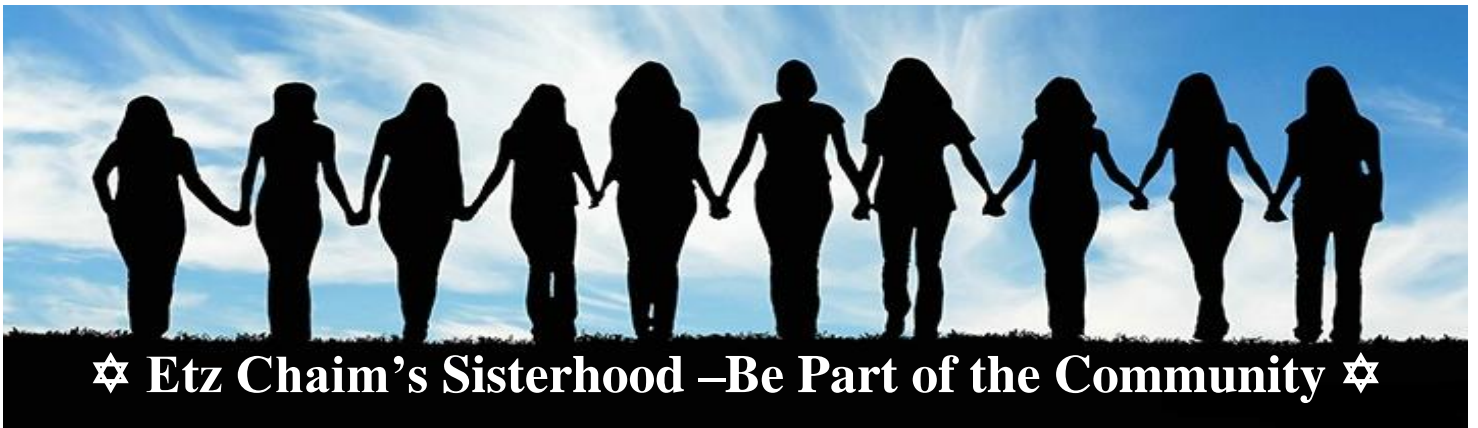
Men's Club membership, gentlemen, it is that time again - renewal time. Like getting your driver's license renewed each year, you must join our fantastic Men's Club. We have been working on a great roster of events for this year. Coming up real soon is Etz Chaim's Chanukah party December 5. Naturally what is Chanukah without Men's Club making their great latkes? The shechianu formula (this once a year special blessed recipe) is a one that consists of potatoes, matza meal, onions, salt and pepper, cooked in our special oil (the miracle oil) at the perfect temperature.

Last year we made 448 latkes. What will be the magic number this year? Our first ten helpers will be given a special apron from our program director Chava. Following the latke party, on December 22 the Men's Club will take the leading roll in conducting the shabbat service. We will also be sponsoring the best kiddush of the year that shabbat. Please become a member of the Men's Club and better yet become an active member

Thank you - Aaron Schechtman

Join the Etz Chaim Men's Club
Saturday, December 22, 2018
as they lead and guide us in a meaningful
Shabbat Morning Service 9:30AM
Special Kiddush Luncheon

Please let Aaron know if you'd like to
participate in this special morning.



Sisterhood has had a busy fall with our paid-up member Installation luncheon in October, and a fun art project in November, making glass “hamsas” at a local craft shop. In December we will be collecting gifts for our annual holiday project where we ask synagogue and Sisterhood members to purchase gifts for local, needy children. Also, in December on Monday, December 17 we are planning a Pampered Chef potluck party at Stephany Schechtman’s house, where attendees will bring a homemade item to share that they’ve made using some Pampered Chef products!

In January we are planning a Dinner and D’var on Jan. 16 at the Fields Ertel Olive Garden taught by our very own Hank and Chava

One more thing—please bring in jars (check for “hechshures”) of fruit preserves and bags of nuts for your annual Hamentashen baking and sale.
Purim will be here before you know it!



It’s time for the 2019 Mah Jongg card!

Our Sisterhood is once again providing you the opportunity to purchase your card through us. It will be sent directly to your home. It will cost the same as if you purchased it from the Mah Jongg League, but our Sisterhood will receive a rebate. The cost is \$8.00 for the standard size and \$9.00 for the large print.

All you need to do is send a check to Sandy Baden, 4135 Fox Hollow Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241, with the following information, or drop your check and info off at the Etz Chaim office. Call with any questions: 513-554-1649 or 513-470-6428.

We need your name, address, choice of card size and check. In late March you will receive your new card directly from the Mah Jongg League.

Please pass this information on to your friends, your Mahj group, and anyone you know who plays the game. **Please note that I need a name and address for each card ordered. I cannot order multiple cards for a group and send them to one address.** The deadline for orders is January 28, so please get your orders in as soon as possible.

Building Bridges, Closing Gaps

By: Brian Wolfe

Chicken soup. Brisket. Roast chicken. Kugel – with and without raisin. Challah. Lasagna. Mashed potatoes and gravy. Comfort food. You know what I am talking about. The food we turn to when we are sick, lonely, need a pick me up or just seeking comfort, and after the shooting last month at the Tree of Life Synagogue, we needed it. We needed friends, family, community. We needed our comfort. So that Friday (the one after the event in Pittsburgh), an impromptu dinner was held after services. Twenty-Six of our congregational family around one table, talking, eating, drinking, telling stories and genuinely enjoying the company of others.

This has become another “gray day” marked on my calendar alongside other recent attacks that are almost impossible to imagine happening anywhere, religious or secular, equally horrendous:

- December 14, 2012 – Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Connecticut
- April 13, 2014 – Jewish Community Center of Overland Park, Kansas
- June 17, 2015 – African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina
- November 15, 2017 – First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas
- June 12, 2016 – Pulse Nightclub, Orlando, Florida
- October 1, 2017 – Route 91 Harvest Music Festival, Las Vegas, Nevada

I was talking to a friend, comparing how our attendance was the shabbat following and ruminating how something could like this could happen. “Poison” my friend said, “something just gets in them”. Not a legal definition. Not a medical definition. Just a sickness. Just a little more innocence lost.

I have no words of wisdom to make this whole thing better. The only word I have is: Thanks.

- Thanks to our Military -- past, present and future -- putting themselves in harms way to protect our nation.
- Thanks to our First Responders – Police, Fire, EMS personnel who protect us in our cities and homes around the country and come running at a moment’s notice. Don’t forget the dispatchers who answer those calls.
- Thanks to the medical professionals and caregivers who attend to the sick and injured.
- and, Thanks to our congregational family for not letting the poison in the world deter us from showing up.



Shabbat to Honor CYJL

(Create Your Jewish Legacy) Donors

Saturday, December 8, 2018

On Saturday, December 8, Congregation Etz Chaim will be hosting a Shabbat to honor all donors who have committed to the future of our synagogue, with a special Shabbat and luncheon.

CYJL, or Create Your Jewish Legacy, is a program hosted by Jewish Federation and funded by both Federation and Jewish Foundation, to ensure that all local Jewish institutions including synagogues, prepare for their future, by encouraging members and friends of such institutions to leave a legacy gift, such as a bequest in your will, in honor of that beneficiary organization.

The CYJL planning for Congregation Etz Chaim is off to a fantastic start, many of you having already committed to leave legacy gifts to assist with the future of our shul. We will honor any person who has planned for the future of Etz Chaim on December 8 with a special Shabbat program and luncheon. Please mark the date on your calendar, so you can join us in this celebration of our donors. We hope to see you there.

If you would like to make a legacy contribution or learn more about this program please contact our CYJL team: Sandy Baden, Russ Rosen, Steve Segerman and Randy Slovin.



What will your legacy be?



Congregation Etz Chaim * Kallah/Retreat * February 8-9-10

Congregation Etz Chaim wants **you!**

Thanks to the Kallah Project & the Grant we received we are pleased to offer this special member rate.

CEC will be subsidizing each adult* member in the amount of \$25.00

Your total cost (after subsidy) is:
\$200. Per adult, double occupancy, meals included.
\$350. Per adult, single occupancy, meals included.

*To show you how much we love our youth and the future of our Synagogue all children under 18 are subsidized entirely – that means free!

**Call the office for more details
& to make your Reservation!**

Interested in helping other congregants come to the retreat? Consider forgoing some or all of your subsidy - Talk to Chava for more information on this and other mitzvah opportunities.



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Children _____

We require a room with special accommodations: _____

Deposit (50%) _____

Make check payable to:
Congregation Etz Chaim

RSVP by: December 23, 2018

Friday, February 8, 2019

- ✧ Arrival/Check-In from 3:00pm
- ✧ Enjoy Coffee and Hot Chocolate bar as you welcome your friends
- ✧ Check out our over-sized hospitality suite (stocked with kosher noshes, of course!)
- ✧ Visit the quaint Shawnee Gift Shop (last chance before Shabbat!) and browse among their treasures.
- ✧ Candle lighting & Kabbalat Shabbat 6pm
- ✧ Shabbat Dinner at 7pm
- ✧ After Dinner: Activity Session
- ✧ Swim Party or Hospitality Suite



Shabbat, February 9, 2019

- ✧ Continental breakfast from 8am to 9:15am starts your day.
- ✧ Shabbat Service at 9:30AM in the beautiful Arrowhead Room (traditional prayers with retreat ruach)
- ✧ Noon luncheon overlooking the Lake
- ✧ Free time from 1:30 to 4:30PM
Indoor Swim, Outdoor Hikes, perhaps you prefer a snooze? The lobby overlooking beautiful Turkey Creek Lake is great place for a bridge game or reading a book!
- ✧ Optional sessions 3:30-4:30 on our theme:
Into the Wilderness – Disconnect to Reconnect
- ✧ Study session 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- ✧ Mincha 5:30pm – 6pm
- ✧ Dinner 6:00pm
- ✧ Maariv & Havdalah 7- 7:30pm
- ✧ Fun and Games 7:30 – 8:30pm
- ✧ Followed by a fire pit at our own bonfire.
(Yes, we'll have kosher marshmallows!) We'll sing songs and tell stories before we tumble into bed!

Event Tri-Chairs:

Sandy Baden
#513-554-1649
Sara Gati
513-489-3261
Stephany Schechtman
513-677-0446

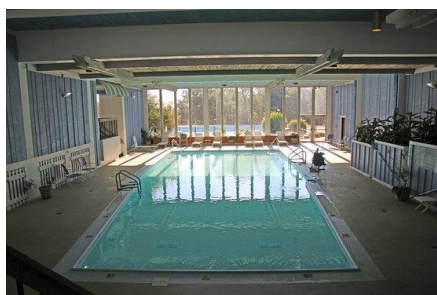
Some Reminders:

- We want **EVERYONE!!!**
Adults, teens, children and grandchildren.
- We will have gourmet dairy/vegetarian meals .
- Dress will be casual...
leave your ties and suit jackets at home.
- Each room has 2 double beds (alternative child-friendly layouts available)
- Each room has a refrigerator, coffee maker, hair dryer and iron.
(Yes there is a TV but consider reconnecting with Shabbat and unplugging for awhile)
- Our committee is hard at work trying to plan every detail for your enjoyment
(Yes, even on the road we are working to perfect every detail of your experience)



Sunday, February 10, 2019

- ✧ Shacharit at 8:00am
- ✧ Leisurely Breakfast Buffet including French Toast with warm fruit topping, scrambled eggs, savory potatoes, fresh sliced fruit, coffee and juices
- ✧ Tikkun Olam Tribes Activity
- ✧ Time to say goodbye, checkout by noon



Last Judge, First Prophet

Why are there two books of Samuel? What other biblical books overlap with Samuel, historically speaking? Why is the last judge and first prophet, and why? Where did the ancient seafaring Philistines originate, and why is that important today? How is Hannah, Samuel's mother, connected to the Amidah prayer? These and other fascinating notes about history, politics, and culture arise from the stories encountered in I Samuel.



But there's more. Hannah lends her firstborn to the service of God. The two sons of Eli, the high priest, are scoundrels...or worse. Israel begs for a king. Saul goes insane, David becomes a Philistine servant. This book is a roller-coaster ride, filled with plot twists, power plays, epic battles, and political intrigue. And it ends on a cliffhanger!

Join us for learning, laughter, and conversation. Each December session we'll explore a selection from I Samuel and also get some insight into the weekly Torah portion in preparation for Shabbat.

No Hebrew is necessary, but please bring a Tanakh – a Bible – to use.

Wisdom Long Distance

Through the wonders of technology the group continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons as Candy teaches from Austin & Orlando through early December. For more information, dates & location, please contact Candy:

KITANDCABOODLE@GMAIL.COM

Wisdom returns to Bronte Bistro

*Inside Joseph Beth Books @ Rookwood 3:00-4:30_{pm}
followed by dinner & conversation*

December 19, 26 only

To receive email updates including change or cancellation notices, contact Candy at

KITANDCABOODLE@GMAIL.COM

Congregants – We Need Your Printer Cartridges



Did you know that we recycle your used printer cartridges and get store credit?

We then use this credit to purchase office supplies and thus keep our office budget low!

Please remember to bring your used cartridges into the office and accomplish two mitzvot!

Help the environment and Etz Chaim!!!

Jewish Storytelling ***From Fables to Folktales to Fiddler and More...***

January 12, 2019

Immediately following the Kiddush luncheon

Because of the Bible, we - “The People of the Book” - have had at our fingertips a wide variety of literary genres for the past 3000 years. Epics, historical narratives, myth, law, poetry, proverbs and more can be found within.

You may also be familiar with midrash, rabbinic storytelling like the tale of



Abraham and the idols, which developed later.

But these are not the only forms of authentic Jewish literature.

Did you know there are more than a dozen medieval Jewish travel journals like that of Marco Polo?

You may know that Superman is a Jewish comicbook hero, but are you aware that Captain

America, The Hulk, Spiderman, and others are as well?

Why are Jewish fairy tales called wonder tales?

Who is Hershele Ostropoler, and what's the purpose of trickster tales?

And where did the amusing tales of wise men in Chelm originate?

Come join in as Candy Kwiatak introduces us to the wondrous realm of Jewish storytelling and shares a few stories along the way.



Our new Tree of Life has
been installed in the lobby.

leaves are available to commemorate simchat,
yahrzeits, honor friends or loved ones
or recognize special milestones.

Leaves are \$ 126 each---
contact the shul office
if you are interested.

“Providing a spiritually meaningful and educationally stimulating environment”

Education Committee – Upcoming Programs

“Providing a spiritually meaningful and educationally stimulating environment”

As we move into winter, the Education Committee has exciting and engaging programs planned for December and January.

On December 1, Dr. David Gilner, Emeritus Director of Libraries at HUC, will present a program on “Wisdom and Lovindkindness (Hesed) in Judaism and Buddhism.” He will examine the commentary on Leviticus 19:17 (So that you shall love your neighbor as yourself...) by Rabbi Akiva and his colleague Ben Azai, and how this can be implemented in the teachings and practices of Rabbi Isaac Luria (ARI z”l) and of non-sectarian Tibetan Buddhism. He may also “toss in a bit of Kabbala” as well. Come join us to learn more about this fascinating topic!

On January 12, Candy Kwiatek will explore Jewish storytelling throughout the ages, from historic narratives and midrash to Captain America, from the stories of Chelm to Jewish fairy tales/“wonder tales.” Come for an informative and entertaining session, as we hear about the stories, and listen to Candy sharing a few stories along the way. See the separate announcement for more details.

We are in the process of planning additional speakers for both the Shabbat Speaker Series, and for non-Shabbat programming.

Thank you to committee members Israela Ginsburg, Penny Manes, Diane Marcus, and Candy Kwiatek. If you have ideas for Shabbat or weekday educational programs, please share them with one of the committee co-chairs. New members to the committee are also welcome.

Lynne Haber and Marianne Nidich, cochairs



We'll see you on Saturday
December 1, 2018
To hear Dr. David Gilner
Don't miss this great speaker!



SING SING SING

After a well-deserved break from our more intensive High Holy Day (HHD) involvement, Ruach Etz Chaim (Ruach) is back in action, most recently singing at Choir Shabbat this past November 17. We sang 'oldies but goodies' from our repertoire of songs, some as part of the Shabbat liturgy and some as favorites we've sung before.

The Pri Yadeiha Women's Choir will get their chance, along with Ruach, to sing at the next Choir Shabbat which we hope will be for Shabbat Shira – the 'Shabbat of Song' -which is on January 19, 2019.

Going back to the HHDs for a moment, our plan for the year – which we intend to start on as of next month - is to sing one or two HHD songs at each rehearsal, so as to be better prepared when we do begin the intense HHD rehearsals come late spring and summer.

We're a small but supportive group of singers and we'd love to have others join us as well. Won't you consider us in your plans, or plan to consider us – however you look at it?

Musically Yours - Barbara and Emmy



** not pictured: Russ Rosen & Barabara Taggart-Milberg*

VOLUNTEER WITH CEC AT THE
OVER-THE-RHINE SOUP KITCHEN
HERE ARE OUR UPCOMING
2019 DATES:

JANUARY 6
FEBRUARY 17
APRIL 7
SEPTEMBER 8
NOVEMBER 10

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED OUT
AT OUR OCTOBER 21, SOUP KITCHEN. WE WISH TO
EXTEND A HEARTY YASHER KOACH TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS WHO HELPED THROUGHOUT 2018.

YAHREZEITS

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.

This December (Kislev- Tevet) we remember:

December 1 – Kislev 23

David Gordon
Lillian Klayman*
Fanny Kuhr*
Rose Levenson*

December 2 – Kislev 24

Allen Nagler*
Debbie Stewart

December 3 – Kislev 25

Ina Fletcher*
Harold Goldstein*
Mark Greenburg
Mildred Lerman
Samuel Pinsky*
Rita Pywen
Hershel Statman

December 4 – Kislev 26

Clara Blatt*
Frieda Ettin*
Esther Evers
Ben Feldman*
Jerome Gabel
Sonia Haber
Harold Holbrook
Lillian Kluber*
Abe Korelitz*
Harry Lerer*
Joseph Okrent*
George Rosen*
Abe Skurow
Bertha Steinberg*
Mary Steinberg*

December 5 – Kislev 27

Diana Gelburd*
Harry Gordon*
Meyer Newmark*
Morris Streicher

December 6 – Kislev 28

Esther Durham
Morris Faust*
Florence Frisch*
Paul Kahler*
Rose Miller
Angel Mordechai Perez
Eli Rohrberger*
Aaron Strikman
Claire Turner

December 7 – Kislev 29

Rose Rosenberg*

December 8 – Kislev 30

Aaron Charkins*
Celia Cohen
Max Meyer

December 9—Tevet 1

Melva Case*
Deann Cohen*
Harry Flax*
Charles Glicklich*
Ann Greenblatt*
John Greenblatt*
Eugene Hammer
Sarah Lutzky
Carl Mass*
Isadore Metz*
Samuel Minster
Morris Sunshein*
Isaac Yanofsky*

December 10—Tevet 2

Ralph Schneider*
Marian Skurow

December 11 – Tevet 3

Terry Barnett
Anna Chaskin*
Louis Fingerhut*
Hyman Goldberg*
Sarah Isralsky*
Minette Mandell
Thelma Mellman*
Revella Meyers*

December 12 – Tevet 4

Sonie Eurove*
Hazel Lakeman
Eda Lederman

December 13 – Tevet 5

David Blumenthal
Esther Freeman*
Augusta Jacobs*
Irvin Singer*

December 14 – Tevet 6

Mordechai Blackman*
Edward Novick*
Evelyn Novikoff
Alter Peerless
Marion Schneider
Belle Skurow*

December 15 – Tevet 7

Pearl Cohen
Reva Dreyer
Dorothy Ginsberg*
Gitel Morovchik*
George Newburger*
Nathan Oxlander*
Philip Stein*

December 16 – Tevet 8

Fannie Bloom*
Mary Etta Felman*

Barry Goldenberg
Albert Gordon*
Ruth Kahn
Herman Katz
Goldie Schechter*
Fred Schulein*
Rose Schmallo
Janice Siegel
Marilyn Spiegel

December 17 – Tevet 9

Louis Feldman*
Dora Franklin*
Samuel Klein
Louis Lewengood*
Florence Rosin*
Solomon Stein*

December 18 – Tevet 10

Rebecca Cyrkin*
Harry Katz*
Ann Kolkey*
Bessie Levine*
Randy Milberg
Bessie Mitman*
Bernard Neuer*
Harry Shapiro

December 19— Tevet 11

Joseph Chandler
Sophie Finer*
Jack (Jacob) Goldenberg
Sara Greenland*
Mary Kraus*
David Milowsky*
Charles Wolfson*

December 20— Tevet 12

David Kadetz*
Joseph Levine*
Sam Plotkin
Isaac Seltz*
Jacob Youngerman*

December 21 – Tevet 14

Charles Baron*
Samuel Baron*
Victoria Perl*
Irwin Sacolick*
Gerald Schiff
Israel Skurow
Isadore Weiser*

December 22 – Tevet 14

Martha Berger
Rudolph Blatt*
Morris Dorfman
Lee Foreman
Louis Knapp*

Yahrzeits

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.

This December (Kislev- Tevet) we remember:

December 22 – Tevet 14

Martin Meyer*
Henry Steinbuch*

December 23 – Tevet 15

Abe Bartel*
Ruth Becker*
Samuel Dunbar*

December 24 – Tevet 16

Frances Berger
Harry Cannon*
Jake Kravitz*

December 25 – Tevet 17

Rose Binik*
Max Brown*
Robert Frankel
Isachar Gershenfish*
Lillian Nedelman
Joan Ruth Polasky
Arnold Skurow*
Sam Stregevsky

December 26 – Tevet 18

Abraham Baverman
Marian Bershadsky*
Anita Gabor*
Fannie Gershenfish*
Sandra Hellman
Joseph Leichtman*
Sol Lipsky*
Sylvia Rubinoff
Isaac Shuman*
Fannie Weitzman*

December 27 – Tevet 19

Grace Gabel
Sarah Katz*
Mary Kauffman*
Rosaline Lisner*
Ben Stein*
Harry Toran*
Nathan Tulch*

December 28 – Tevet 20

Louis Bartel*
Rose Feuer
Sol Goodman*
Ida Sax Rudner
Hyman Young*

December 29 – Tevet 21

Joseph Cohen*
Harry Fox*
Paula Gallop*
Shaine Klotsky*
Robert Kolovson
Sadie Sobelow*
Emilia Zelonaya

December 30 – Tevet 22

Anna Freiden*
Bertha Greenbaum*

December 31 – Tevet 23

Victor Krasnitzky*
Kate Lazier*
Marcus Schreiber*
Larry Selker

** Names are on
the Sanctuary
Yahrzeit Panels*

Of Blessed Memory
זיכרונם אברהם

Congregation Etz Chaim is proud to offer minyanim upon request. If you would like to observe the Yahrzeit of a loved one and it occurs on a date that we do not have services scheduled, please email our Minyan Committee at CECMinyan@gmail.com or call 513-373-1552 and leave a message.

A member of our Minyan Committee will work on arranging your minyan. If you would like to request a minyan please do so ten (10) days in advance of the date you will need the minyan. When a minyan is requested a member of the committee will send out an email to people who have signed up to help us ensure we always have ten people in attendance.

If you would like to sign up to help us ensure minyanim please contact Barbara Taggart Milberg or Barry Joffe and ask to add your name to the list.

We are a community and we are strengthened by each other.
Thank you in advance for helping us
perform and fulfill these good deeds.

Yahrzeit - Begins the evening before the date listed above. Kaddish should be recited the evening before the above listed date, and the following day at both morning and afternoon services.



Thank you to everyone that attended our spaghetti dinner
and participated by purchasing Raffle Tickets!

Congratulations to our winners:

Gale Goldner

David Gilner

Marc & Elaine Skurow

and

Pat Weiner

Thank You to the people who made this event possible:

Russ Rosen, Terry Brodof, Aaron Schechtman, Barb Rosen, Sandy Baden, Melanie Joffe,
Robyn Wolfe, Brian Wolfe, Paul Evers, George Gati, Sara Gati, the members of the
phone tree committee, the setup volunteers, the clean up volunteers,
Hank Lerer and Chava Vidal.

Thank You to the local establishments that generously donated to our raffle prizes:

Mio's, First Watch, Kinneret Grill, Tony's, Brooklyn Pizza, Through the Garden, Smash
Burger, C'est Cheese, Envision Cinema, Olive Garden, Rapid Fire Pizza, Sammy's,
Silver Spring House, Sleepy Bee, Apple Tree Café, and more

Greetings from the South!

Hey, Y'all,

Hope this message finds you doing well. We sincerely miss personally experiencing the special connection that Etz Chaim synagogue has with its congregants. The structure of Etz Chaim offers numerous opportunities to participate and absorb the richness of a conservative Jewish community. Although our synagogue in Jacksonville meets the standards of a conservative congregation, there is a huge difference in the atmosphere here and in Cincinnati. For example, in Jacksonville, all food is prepared by a catering service housed in the synagogue kitchen. NO ONE is allowed to enter that kitchen.

Additionally, there is a paid staff that circulates during the Kiddush lunch to clear the place settings. They are so efficient, that while contemplating whether to indulge in a second brownie, one's plate is whisked away. During these lunches, one feels like a guest as opposed to a member.

We miss the camaraderie of preparing food on Thursday nights in the Etz Chaim kitchen. Without question, volunteering to help prepare the food for Kiddush luncheons and special occasion dinners creates a feeling of pride and ownership. This volunteer opportunity certainly promotes a feeling of belonging to the synagogue community.

Moreover, the Jacksonville synagogue employs two Rabbis and a Cantor. All fulfill their job descriptions. However, there is a different sense when someone is conducting services, chanting, or creating a sermon because that week's reading has a special meaning for him. There is a passion not comparable with a paid professional. We miss the diversity of Etz Chaim services created by each individual's unique contributions. Indeed, the cantor's voice is quite pleasant, but it does not rival the "instantaneous, spontaneous choir".

Surprisingly, throughout the past year, we have not yet met anyone from the membership committee. We assume that there is a ritual committee, but we have no knowledge of their whereabouts. About a month ago, Pam was asked to be on the committee for planning the synagogue's Chanukah party. After a few meetings, it was determined that everything will be done exactly the same as last year. When asked what the committee members need to do prior to, and during the event, the answer was nothing. The staff will arrange the room and clean the room afterwards. The latkes and other food will be prepared and served by the caterers. The main function of the committee members is simply to attend. What a hollow feeling.

In essence, we encourage you to appreciate and embrace everything that Etz Chaim has to offer. Etz Chaim provides numerous avenues to feel connected. Its dynamics allow for members to determine how great a role they want to hold within the synagogue family. We suggest that you step forward and make a commitment to explore one new opportunity to become more deeply involved. You will find your contribution to be a meaningful experience. As we have learned, the concept of including members in all aspects of synagogue programming is not universal.

As we soon will embark on the secular New Year, we wish for you a year filled with special happiness and peace.

Pamela and Simon Newman

Here is a Sweet Mitzvah opportunity for you.... with nuts on top!
We need large quantities of preserves and bottles of honey - YOUR HELP is NEEDED.

The preserves and honey of course must all be kosher and have a hechshure marked on the label.
Smucker's jellies and preserves are usually hechshured as are Meijer brands of preserves and jellies.



We are looking for the following flavors -

Apricot
Seedless Raspberry
Peach
Blackberry preserves
Large Jars of Strawberry preserves
Orange marmalade (18oz)



If you shop at Sam's Club, we are also in need of large bags of Walnuts and Pecans.
Yep – these are the nuts on top!

No quantity is too large or too small so please help out the synagogue.
This is baking season so many of these items will be on sale. There is fun in finding a bargain!
Thank you for helping out in such a sweet way!!!

With Gratitude - Sisterhood

PURIM SHPIEL

You know you've been
thinking about it...

You know you want to be a
part of the action....

Join us at the open
casting call on

Sunday, January 6, 2018

10AM in the Social Hall



December

Synagogue Happenings

We wish Speedy Recoveries to:

Shari Malowitz
Margot Nathan
Phyllis Mellman

We extend condolences to:

Marjorie Zeidman on the loss of her
husband Stanely Zeidman z"l

Welcome to our New Members:

Georgeann & Neil Goldenberg

Bernice Bingman

Mazel Tov to:

Howard and Cara Saal on the
birth of their grandson Sammy

Emmy and Bob Friedenberg
on the birth of their
granddaughter Maddy

Congratulations to:

Terry Brodof who was nominated for
the 2018 USCJ Shoshana S. Cardin
Leadership Award. The committee
ultimately chose Dr. Clifford Nerwen
of the Conservative Synagogue Adath
Israel of Riverdale, New York.
Congregation Etz Chaim is very
appreciative of the leadership that
Terry has brought to our congregation
and shout out Yasher Koach.

ANISH/OKRENT

REMEMBRANCE WALL

The Anish/Okrent Remembrance Wall is
dedicated in memory of:

**Harry & Ethel Anish
and
Joseph & Ida Okrent**

whose bequests provided for the purchase of the
Cornell Road property. Bricks of Remembrance are
available for purchase. Have your significant events
and dedications permanently inscribed and made a
part of ETZ CHAIM Bricks on the Remembrance Wall
are available for \$250 each. Please contact the office if
interested at 489-3399.

Shabbat Kiddush Opportunities

Kiddush Sponsorships are available for any
occasion. Many menu choices are available and
Sisterhood will accommodate special requests.
Our catering kitchen crew is delighted to be
cooking for larger Shabbat kiddush lunches.

The price to sponsor a basic kiddush lunch will
now be \$118. This will consist of 1 salad, a
protein dish, bread & a dessert.

The standard enhanced dairy
Kiddush will be \$225.

To add smoked salmon and the accompaniments
or to add special requests, the additional
enhancements will raise the costs
slightly to \$300.

To sponsor a meat kiddush the cost will be \$450.

Please contact the office to book your
Kiddush and share your simchat
with your synagogue family.

Kitchen Volunteers are always welcome!
Check your eblast for weekly cooking dates.
It's a pretty safe assumption if we have a
sponsored kiddush or Friday Night Dinner
we'll be cooking the Thursday before the
event from 6pm on!

IN THE ETZ CHAIM FAMILY

Special Thank You to:

Karen Barnes for sponsoring kiddush on Saturday, November 3, 2018 in memory of her brother Mitchell's yahrzeit. May his memory continue to be for a blessing.

Michael Taplits for sponsoring Kiddush on Saturday, November 10, 2018 in honor of Bryan's birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!

Marianne and Paul Nidich for sponsoring Kiddush on Saturday, November 17, 2018 in honor of Paul's birthday!
Yom Huledet Sameach!



Happy Anniversary to:

December 27
Richard and Michelle Gabbour

December 29
Neil and Georgeann Goldenberg

Congratulations to all our December Birthdays!

1	O. Daniel Fox	17	Lincoln Saal
2	Judy Beraha	18	George Gati
2	Mary Ganulin	18	Elisa Knudsen
2	Beth Neman	18	Marjorie Zeidman
4	Allan Goldstein	22	Irv Fox
8	Avi Edelstein	27	Linda Berger
10	Harriet Kuhr	29	Rachel Rachovitsky
11	Donna Fox	29	Esther Zwerdling
14	Ellen Fox	30	Brian Kluger
14	Ellen Greenberger	30	Candace Kwiatek
14	Lynne Haber		
15	Sharyn Fox		
15	Sandi Pywen		
15	Audrey Ronis-Tobin		
16	Michelle Gabbour		



We look forward to celebrating
with you at our
December Simcha Shabbat!

Friday Night, December 14, 2018
Kabbalat Shabbat services start at
6pm in the chapel then at 7pm we'll
have cake in honor of all our
December Simchas!
We'll see you there!

** If you have a birthday or
anniversary and it is not listed
above, please call the office so we
can put it in our database.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>December 2018</h1>		<p>We look forward to seeing you at events and services. For more information please feel free to call the office. Remember to check your weekly e-blast which is sent out every Wednesday. If you are not receiving the e-blast please call the office and we'll add you to the list.</p>				1 9:30am Shabbat Services & Shabbat Speaker Kiddush luncheon sponsored by the Ed Committee
2 Choir Rehearsal 10:30am 1 st night of Chanukah	3 The office is closed 2 nd night of Chanukah	4 3 rd night of Chanukah	5 10am Latke Making 6pm Congregation Chanukah Dinner, Dreidel making, & Menorah lighting! 4 th night of chanukah	6 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by Breakfast & Mystery Macabee 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen 5 th night of chanukah	7 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm 6 th night of Chanukah *remember to light the menorah before your Shabbat candles	8 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am CYJL Shabbat with Kiddush luncheon in their honor 7 th night of chanukah
9 8 th night of chanukah	10 The office is closed	11	12 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm	13 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	14 Simcha Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm Followed by celebratory cake!	15 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services with Kiddush lunch sponsored by Rona Peerless
16 8:30am Ritual Committee Meeting Choir Rehearsal 10:30am	17 The office is closed	18	19	20 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	21 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	22 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am Men's Club Shabbat with special Kiddush Luncheon
23	24 The office is closed The office is closed	25	26	27 Minyan 7AM followed by Breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	28 Kabbalat Shabat Services 6pm	29 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services with Kiddush lunch sponsored by The Saal Family
30	31					

COMING SOON



Save these Important January Dates:

January Simcha Shabbat

Friday Night, January 4 – 6PM

Join us for celebratory cake following
our one-hour Friday night service.

Tater Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 18, 2019 – 6:00pm

Choir Shabbat

Saturday, January 19 – 9:30am

Followed by special Kiddush lunch

Week 364 – 7 completed years of consecutive Friday Night Minyanim

Friday, January 25, 2019

Celebrate with us 6pm services
7pm dinner and celebration

Upcoming Events: December

**December 1st – Shabbat Morning
Speaker Series with Dr. David Gilner
9:30am services with Kiddush lunch**



**December 2nd marks
the first night
of Chanukah!**

**We wish you all a
happy and healthy
holiday season!**

**Men's Club Latke Making
Wednesday, December 5 - 10am**

**Congregational Chanukah Dinner
With dreidel making & menorah lighting**

Wednesday Night, Dec. 5 – 6pm

A delicious dinner, great friends
and fun for everyone RSVP today!

CYJL Shabbat

Saturday, December 8 – 9:30am

**Join us as we honor our congregants who
have committed to ensuring
CEC's future – followed by Kiddush!**

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018 – 7:30pm

December Simcha Shabbat

Friday Night, December 14 – 6PM

If you were born in the month of December
have an anniversary or joyful occasion we
want to celebrate with you! Join us for cake
following our one-hour Friday night service

Men's Club Shabbat

Saturday December 22 – 9:30am

**Our talented men will lead services and
treat us to a delicious Kiddush luncheon**

Congregation **ETZ CHAIM**



Etz Chaim isn't just a synagogue... it's a home...



*A new year – a new you! Recommit
yourself and find out not only what
your synagogue can do for you but
what you can do for your shul!*

Contact the office at 513-489-3399