



THE JEWISH CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2020 • ISSUE 81

D'VAR HA'RAV: A WORD FROM RABBI MARK

A Time to Refuel

The true Hanukkah gift which no gelt can buy is simply a healthy presence—of body, mind, and spirit. Those stories about the miracle of the oil in the ancient Temple lasting for eight days when there was only enough for one. Of the few over the many, fighting for religious freedom. They're all a part of our heritage. When our own energy, patience, stamina, resilience, or spirit is diminished, either because of the darkness or because of living in the reality of 2020, Hanukkah can be a time to refuel. If our spiritual lights are burning low or have dimmed, Hanukkah can be a time to rekindle them. This holiday is an invitation to let the lights of hope brighten up our lives and refuel our souls. Like the Maccabees, we are to stand for the causes and values that are important to us. It all starts with carving out a brief moment in time at the end of the day for eight nights to say a blessing, light the candles, and bask in their glow.

Beyond the common customs of blessing and lighting, singing, spinning dreidel, eating latkes, and giving presents, there's one that is not as well known—that of rededicating the place where we spend most of our time these days. That's right, our very homes. Known as “*hanukkat ha'bayit*,” we are invited to “rededicate our homes.” It's commonly done with the hanging of a mezuzah on our front doors or on other doors in our home that might not yet have a mezuzah. As you'll remember in the story, Hanukkah is a time of rededication. Rededicating our homes parallels the story of the rededication of the one and only ancient Temple after it had been defiled by the ancient Greeks with the decrees of Antiochus IV (167-164 BCE).

I think there's also a connection to Hanukkah in the way a mezuzah is hung. That is, we need a hammer. You may recall that Judah the Maccabee's nickname was—wait for it—“the hammer,” apparently because of his military prowess. The position in which we hang the mezuzah on our doorposts (slanted between horizontal and vertical) is also important. It's hung at an angle in order to remind us of the importance of compromise and to affect our very way of being in the world. Beyond the mezuzah and hammer, you may have other creative and innovative ideas to rededicate your home this Hanukkah—say, a new welcome mat or fresh flowers, a sage smudge, or even a project that's just been waiting for you. The blanket of winter darkness is upon us. *One way we can defy the darkness is by lighting our candles and asking ourselves and those in our households: “What values, actions, habits, or new patterns do we want to create or reestablish in order to rededicate our home this year?”*

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Celebrating a Cozy Hanukkah at Home (pg 4)

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GATHER TOGETHER

The UVJC is currently using Zoom for virtual gatherings (audio/video). If you'd like help learning how to Zoom, please contact Chris at 603-646-0460. There are no silly questions and patient and kind technical assistance is available to help you via the telephone.

Please check our website for calendar updates and events:
www.uvjc.org

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מורה שניא COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The long dark days of winter are here (again) but don't despair, I have lots of good news! First, I am pleased to share that Kol Ha'Emek has renewed Rabbi Mark's contract through June 2024. Many deep thanks to all of the donors to the Sustainability Campaign whose generous pledges and donations have made this possible. The Sustainability Campaign is the UVJC's fund to close the financial gap as we transition to a full-time rabbi. If you are new to the UVJC or were unable to participate before, but would like to become involved now, please be in touch!

More good news? There is lots of creative synagogue programming to keep us engaged. Due to increased Covid restrictions it will all be on Zoom. Highlights include: Lighting our menorahs together as part of our Shabbat Friday evening service on December 11. On December 13, a guest lecture by Steven Katz in the morning and menorah lighting and song "Shining Our Light in the Darkness" in the evening. On the last night of Hanukah, December 17, we will share our bright menorahs with a community candle lighting and a final night of Hanukah song. PLEASE join me for at least one Hanukah celebration to help brighten Hanukah.

On Christmas Eve we'll gather to share jokes, funny stories, and favorite viewing suggestions. With the short days, we need to work a little harder to keep our spirits up.

In January our programming will coincide with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Just thinking that it's spring in another part of the world always buoys my spirits during our northern New England winter. Will you join me in planting your Pesach parsley?

Still more good news. Hebrew School has increased to 53 students! These students and their families are the future of our congregation and we are thrilled to have them as part of our community—especially during this challenging time with virtual learning. The youngest of our Hebrew Schoolers, for whom it is especially hard to sit still, have the option to brave the winter with outdoor activities to capture their minds and energy.

My final good news is an expression of deep thanks to the many volunteers who are always giving of themselves to strengthen our synagogue. It's a long winter and we are fortunate to have each other and our Jewish community.

Happy Hanukkah and please stay safe and healthy.

Debbe

LEARNING SESSION WITH RABBI MARK (VIA ZOOM)

"Hanukkah for Adults"

December 3, 2020 @ 7:30PM

We didn't learn *that* in Hebrew School—exploring essential origins, rituals, and customs of Hanukkah.

[Please RSVP to Rabbi Mark]

בית ספר HEBREW SCHOOL AND YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Well, it's pretty lonely in the lower level of the Roth Center. The artwork from last year's Purim festival still decorates the walls. I miss seeing the hallways buzzing with conversations between parents, children, friends, and newcomers. But the recent news about vaccine development makes me hopeful that we might be back in person in time for Shavuot.

Most of our classes are online this year: Kitah Gimel through Zayin (3-7th grade) meet on Zoom twice a week and Kitah Aleph and Bet (K-2nd) meet in one of three ways: in the back yard of the Roth Center for New Hampshire students, at Huntley Meadow for the Vermont students, and on Zoom for the students who prefer that option. We have increased our proportion of local teachers with three new high school juniors joining the faculty this year: Abigail Pauls, Alex Rockmore, and Ben Katz. We also have two new madrichim: Twyla Weinstein and Oliver Yukica.

Here are a few positive things about learning online:

- Sunday school in pajamas!
- No schlepping, no cars, better for the environment!
- Dartmouth students can teach consistently every term, even from Norway or Michigan.
- It turns out that learning Hebrew 1:1 is very effective, particularly in 10-15 minute bursts.

Here are a few positive things about learning outdoors:

- We are discovering how nature is part of many Torah stories.
- We incorporate active learning techniques such as scavenger hunts and Jewish music dance parties.
- Students get to see each other and interact relatively normally.
- The teachers get exercise moving the tables and chairs in and out of the Roth Center.
- New families get to meet each other and make connections.

Stay healthy! Keep wearing your masks and enjoy an intimate Hanukkah,

Melissa



Outdoor Hebrew School classes and activities (all photos on this page).



ביתנו פתוחים לכולם! WE JOYOUSLY WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

LEILA AGHA & JOSHUA ARONSON ◦ ELDA & MORIS ANER

ERIC ARNOLD ◦ ROZ CAPLAN ◦ REBEKAH COBLE & CRAIG MANNING

MELISSA HECSEH ◦ RACHEL & BOB MAKOFKY

CARL MAUTNER & AINLEY MORSE ◦ DENA ROMERO

DANIEL SOLOMON ◦ MARILYN & SKIP STURMAN

EMILY ZEITLER & CHRISTIAN DELAUNE

TALK OF THE SEASON: CELEBRATING A COZY HANUKKAH AT HOME

SOMETHING TO WATCH

As you bask in the light of your Hanukkah candles, curl under a blanket and enjoy one of these festive movies:

- All I Want Is Christmas *
- An American Tail *
- Call Me By Your Name
- Crossing Delancey *
- Eight Crazy Nights
- Fiddler on the Roof *
- Full Court Miracle *
- The Hebrew Hammer
- Hitched for the Holidays *
- The Holiday
- Holiday Date *
- Little Fockers
- Mistletoe & Menorahs *
- The Night Before
- A Serious Man

* *kid-friendly (G or PG rating)*

SOMETHING TO LEARN

Do you know the *real* story of Hanukkah? Spoiler: it's not actually all about the miraculous oil supply.

The real story is one that begins with a revolt over gross inequality and religious coercion and ends with the slaughter (by the story's heroes) of Hellenized (i.e. secularized) Jews. Intrigued? Read more: <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/the-astonishing-real-story-of-hanukkah-1.5296084>

Email office@ujc.org for print-outs of this article and related materials.

SOMETHING TO SIP

No cozy evening is complete without a warm beverage to savor! Use your leftover gelt in this indulgent **Hanukkah Gelt Hot Chocolate** recipe:

Ingredients:

- 2 C milk, divided
- 1/2 C water
- 1/2 - 1 C leftover Hanukkah gelt (or other chocolate candy), at room temperature
- pinches of ground cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and cayenne
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

Directions:

In a small saucepan, heat 1/2 cup of the milk until just steaming. Remove from heat and add chocolate. Stir with a fork or wire whisk until chocolate is completely melted. If the chocolate isn't dissolving, return the saucepan to the stove and stir constantly over very low heat, or heat in a double boiler. Continue until completely blended and smooth.

Using the fork or whisk, gradually incorporate the rest of the milk and the water. Add the spices and vanilla extract. When the mixture is blended, heat over a medium burner until hot. To achieve a traditional South American scorched flavor, allow the milk to boil for a few seconds before allowing to cool slightly and serving.

Ladle into big mugs, and sip as you enjoy a special evening. Happy Hanukkah!

Courtesy My Jewish Learning (myjewishlearning.com)



Mezuzah with menorah top, crafted by Kinneret Melamut in metal works.

[D'VAR HA'RAV continued from pg 1]

May our kindling of the lights brighten our lives and create a sacred, warm glow in the small sanctuaries we call our homes. From the Maccabees to today, it's never been easy. It's often been a struggle between the minority and majority, secular and religious, and light and dark. And, sometimes, it's even been miraculous. As we brace for our very first Hanukkah during a time of pandemic, we could use all the help and light we can get. We acknowledge and offer gratitude for this unique moment in time with words of blessing. "Blessed are You, Holy One, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season."

Hag Urim sameach, Happy Hanukkah and Festival of Lights,

Rabbi Mark

DONATIONS (THRU 11/12/20) RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE:

GENERAL FUND

Richard Abel and Roberta Berner in honor and thanks to Sarah Friedman

Barbara Brown in honor of Rusty Sachs and his honey

Sherri Burchman

Debbe and Carey Callaghan

Jeri and Craig Cohen in honor of the marriage of their son Brendan Cohen to Jessica Berenyi

Sue and Paul Etkind in honor of UVJC High Holiday Zoom Services

Jerold Goldstein

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in appreciation of Shabbat Services

Betty Lauer in support of the Upper Valley Haven Bagel Fundraiser

Talia and Jeremy Manning in honor of Monte Blaustein and the Soup Group

Amy Nachman in honor of Nancie and Mark Severs' new grandchild, William

Edward Ordman

Judith Rocchio

Muriel and Robert Steinberg in thanks to Rabbi Mark for his uplifting sermons

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Steven Bachner in honor of Rabbi Mark for his contribution and dedication to the community

Jill and Martin Butler

Joan Cooke

Ann Mortimore

UVJC ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Mark and Nancie Severs in honor of the birth of Emma Rose Dworshak, daughter of Annleah Oxman Dworshak

and Scott Dworshak; mazel tov to grandparents Tom and Judy Oxman

Mark and Nancie Severs in honor of Ellis and Ginny Rolett, on the milestone of Ellis' 90th birthday

Mark and Nancie Severs in honor of their grandson William Mattathias Severs, son of Aaron and Megan Severs and brother of Wesley

Mark and Nancie Severs in honor of the marriage of Brendan Cohen and Jessica Berenyi; mazel tov to Craig and Jeri Cohen

UVJC CEMETERY FUND

Michal Aizenman

Jane Lipson in memory of Calvin "Kelly" Gotlieb, her father

UVJC ENDOWMENT FUND

Joshua Neirman in honor of his parents Yoni and Stephen Neirman and the light they bring into the world

YAHRZEIT CONTRIBUTIONS

Marjorie Aptakin in memory of Peter Aptakin, her husband

Steven Bachner in memory of Henry Bachner, his father

Barbara Brown in memory of Sarah Halpern, her mother

Aila Conarck in memory of Ann Yanover, her mother

Aila Conarck in memory of Sy Conarck, her husband

Rosina Carpentier in memory of Irene Krivit, her sister

Jeffrey Cohen and Renee Vebell in memory of Abe Cohen, Jeffrey's father

Vivian and Kenneth Dolkart in memory of Grace Dolkart, Kenneth's mother

Vivian and Kenneth Dolkart in memory of Morris Dolkart, Kenneth's father

Bayle and Richard Drubel in memory of Leon Weiner, Bayle's father

Sue and Paul Etkind in memory of Herbert Etkind, Paul's father

Sue and Paul Etkind in memory of Mae Etkind, Paul's mother

Harriet and Rick Fingeroth in memory of Grace Fingeroth, Rick's mother

Jane and Harvey Greenberg in memory of Edward Greenberg, Harvey's father

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Lawrence Stec, Deborah's father

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Eugene Kaplan, Aaron's father

Joanne and Roger Lenke in memory of Sidney and Helen Lenke, Roger's parents

Joanne and Roger Lenke in memory of Eleanor and Walter Nemes, Joanne's parents

Daniel Levin in memory of Israel Fond, his grandfather

Daniel Levin in memory of Ida Levin, his grandmother

Bruce Pacht in memory of Edward Levin, his friend

Sharon and Robert Racusin in memory of Shirley Racusin, Robert's mother

Virginia and Ellis Rolett in memory of Mary Rolett, Ellis' mother

Marlene and Rusty Sachs in memory of Christopher Sachs, Rusty's brother

Sharon and Jerome Smith in memory of Isadore Greenberg, Sharon's father

Sharon and Jerome Smith in memory of David Howard Smith, their son

THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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Rob Greene

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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Committees are open to all community members; we encourage you to get involved to help shape our community!

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The Kol Ha'Emek Finance Committee is a busy group working behind the scenes to keep the UVJC in good financial shape and to anticipate upcoming financial challenges.

The Finance Committee has developed a five-plus year model to forecast the operating deficit and the use of the Sustainability Fund to offset the deficit. This model is most helpful in understanding the financial impacts and sensitivity of membership growth, dues increases, expenses and revenue growth, and is used by the committee in making recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Recently the Finance Committee has formalized the UVJC's Endowment Fund, segregated these funds, and written an Investment Policy Statement for these funds. As these funds grow and generate income, this income can be used for synagogue operations.

The Finance Committee also develops the annual budget, tracks income and expenses, and manages the bottom line throughout the year. The budget process begins in February with the budget first presented to the Board of Trustees in April and then finalized in May—in time to be sent to the UVJC membership for final approval at the June Annual Meeting. Lastly, the Finance Committee recommends policy to the Board of Trustees for sound and prudent fiscal management.

GET CRAFTY: ACORN DREIDELS!

Courtesy Red Ted Art (redtedart.com)

You will need:

- Acorn shells (smaller is better)
- Modeling clay in various colors (available wherever craft supplies are sold)
- Matches (with square sticks)

Instructions:

Break a small piece of the modeling clay and shape it into an elongated ball. Stuff the clay into the acorn shell; give it a little shape at the top. Place a match in the center of the modeling clay (match head down, inside the clay). Then: spin, spin, spin!



HIGH HOLIDAY 5781 APPEAL DONATIONS RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE:

Richard Abel and Roberta Berner
 Patty and Melvin Alperin
 Gary Apfel
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 Susan and James Berg
 Iris Berezin
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 Melinda and Richard Stucker
 Steven Tofel
 Linda Wertheim
 Phyllis Whitney
 Mort Wise
 Jeanne Zucker
 Mary and Samuel Zucker

TOT GROUP CARD-MAKING MITZVAH PROJECT

Calling all young creatives! Gather your crayons, paints, ribbons, stickers, tissue paper, dried pasta, glue sticks, nature items scavenged from your yard, scissors, cameras, magazine clippings, or whatever other art supplies you can think of...



The UVJC Tot Group is collecting home-made art, which will be digitized and turned into greeting cards for use by UVJC staff and leadership when sending hand-written correspondence. Have some fun as a family, and help us create beautiful and meaningful stationery!

Please submit all artwork to the Roth Center by Friday, December 18, using the drop-off box stationed outside the front door, or by mail to: UVJC, 5 Occom Ridge, Hanover, NH 03755

[Remember to include a label on the back (or with an inserted note) so we know the name and age of the artist!]

TOT GROUP PARENTS 2021 L'CHAYIM & SCHMOOZE

Parents of young children, please join us for a connective Zoom get-together!

Tuck your kiddos into bed; grab your favorite beverage and/or dessert; don your PJs or cocktail attire (whichever speaks "kid-free evening" to you); and come chat and laugh as we celebrate the close of a challenging year and a fresh start.

**Saturday, January 2, 2021
 8:30PM**



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CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

Visit our website for the latest news, cool resources, event updates, and fun opportunities.

WWW.UVJC.ORG



DID YOU KNOW? You can enroll your child(ren) in PJ Library to receive free books each month, free music, and more! Learn how by visiting: <https://pjlibrary.org/>

GIFT DESIGNATIONS

Gifts may be directed to the General Fund or one of the following:

Adult Ed (guest speakers and other special adult programs)

Cemetery (landscaping and maintenance of our cemetery)

Endowment (to support the future of the community)

High Holiday Appeal (sustaining ongoing Jewish life in our community)

Library (for purchase of books or other library materials)

Rabbi's Discretionary (charitable purposes determined by the Rabbi)

School Programming (special programs outside of the curriculum)

Teen Programming (support for young adults in our community to participate in Jewish programs)

UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The UVJC owns and maintains our own cemetery for your comfort and service in times of need. We encourage our members to think about their future needs in advance. For more information, please call the office at 603-646-0460.

תודה רבה

Heartfelt thanks to the many essential workers who continue to put themselves at risk to care for us. We are most grateful and appreciative of your service and caring for our community.