

tbz Bulletin

VOLUME 100

DECEMBER 2018/5779

NUMBER 4



Come Spin with Us And Experience MAGIC!

TBZ Family Chanukah Party!
Sunday, December 2
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
TBZ Broder Center,
700 Sweet Home Road

See all the amazing details on page 5.

Sponsored by TBZ Sisterhood

Kabbalah Paint Night

with Kabbalah Artist David Friedman

Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m.

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road



Friedman will present "What Makes Hebrew a Holy Language," followed by an interactive workshop where participants will be able to create their own works of art.

See details on page 10.

Space is limited and reservations are required no later than Wednesday, December 5.

Program co-sponsored by The Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Zion.

Temple Beth Zion Community Forum

Sunday, December 16, at 9:30 a.m.
Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Please join Julie Dressler Weinberg and members of the Board of Trustees for a congregational meeting.

Come share your thoughts and ideas with the Board and staff leadership.

Refreshments will be served.
RSVP by calling the Temple office
at (716) 836-6565.



While we light the candles to both celebrate the season and mourn the tragedy in Pittsburgh, Amélica & Peter Weinmann thank you for your contributions to this year's Kol Nidre Campaign.

If you have not yet followed through on your pledge, now is the time. If that pledge card is still on your desk, please reply with generosity, while the candles are still burning brightly!

TEMPLE BETH ZION



tbz Letter from the President

Last February we were invited to participate in a Congregational Benchmarking and Assessment Project by the Union of Reform Judaism. To quote the URJ, "In order to be strong, congregations must be reflective." The idea was to give us a way to examine ourselves that is consistent with other congregations, provide a basis for comparison with congregations of similar demographics, and enable us to act upon the data with the URJ as our partner.

Lenore Mass, URJ (volunteer) board member was assigned to us to present the data to the Board. Lenore is a past president of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago. She was trained by the URJ to mentor congregations that participated in the benchmarking and assessment program.

As a clinical social worker, I think all information is good. Because when you have information you can make better decisions about the health of an individual, a family, or an organization. I want to share a few of the issues that particularly resonated for me.

Many of us have felt that we need to do more work on making our TBZ community feel more welcoming, and the data bore that out. Sixty-six percent of our congregants would recommend our synagogue to a friend, 47 percent believe that TBZ has helped them to grow spiritually, and 53 percent believe that TBZ has helped them develop a deeper sense of belonging to a community bigger than oneself.

This sobering data bore out what many of us have been intuitively feeling. Even before the information was shared with us, your Board had begun working to move things in a new direction. One of our Board members, Jody Goldstein, agreed to chair our Engagement Committee. She and her committee have already begun the work to make our Congregation the welcoming place it should be for all of us.

Another interesting finding was how significant legacy membership is here at Temple Beth Zion. Forty percent of respondents from TBZ stated that their primary reason for maintaining membership at TBZ is that it is a family tradition; by comparison, only an average of 16 percent of respondents from the other congregations surveyed cited this as the main reason for their affiliation. The fact that so many of our members have been devoted to TBZ for generations is truly inspiring. We are very, very fortunate to have this group of members. We must ensure that their dedication to our synagogue is deserved and that non-legacy members feel included and valued.

Your Board will take the gift of this data and use it to continue to strive to be the very best we can be.

Julie Dressler Weinberg

tbz General Information

AARON AND BERTHA BRODER CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
700 SWEET HOME ROAD BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14226
TEL 716.836.6565 FAX 716.831.1126
WEB www.tbz.org

SANCTUARY, CHAPEL, COFELD JUDAIC MUSEUM
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Phone Extension & Email Directory

For Emergency	x 4	
Current Events	x 6	
Julie Dressler Weinberg (President)	x131	president@tbz.org
Rabbi Jonathan Freirich	x 138	rabbifreirich@tbz.org
Cantor Penny Myers	x 130	cantor@tbz.org
Amy Schaefer (Temple Administrator)	x 135	amyschaefer@tbz.org
Judy Henn (Clergy Associate)	x 137	judyhenn@tbz.org
Melissa Milch (PALS-Kadimah Director)	x 139	pals@tbz.org
Beth Shapiro & Tammy VanWey (TBaZY Advisors)		youth@tbz.org
Kara Kane (Religious School Director)	x 112	kara@tbz.org
Susan Goldberg (Curriculum Specialist)		education@tbz.org
Edwin Feldman (Accounting)	x 133	tbzaccounting@tbz.org
Julie Feldman (Executive Assistant)	x 134	julie@tbz.org
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Becky Schiefer (Admin. Assistant)	x110	becky@tbz.org
Darcie Beattie (Clergy Assistant)	x132	darcie@tbz.org
Sisterhood Judaica Shop	x 149	

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Member Union for Reform Judaism

All Shabbat services, except as noted,
are held at 805 Delaware Avenue.
Torah study is held every Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

Friday, November 30	
Classical Service	7 p.m.
Saturday, December 1	
Shabbat Morning Service	10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 7 - Chanukah	
Tot Shabbat Evening Service	5:45 p.m.
Potluck dinner	6 p.m.
Shabbat Alive Service	7 p.m.
Welcoming new members	
Birthday and Anniversary Blessings	
Saturday, December 8	
Shabbat Morning Service	10:30 a.m.
Bat Mitzvah of Alexia Glaser	
Service at Canterbury Woods	11 a.m.
Friday, December 14	
Kulan Winter Service	7 p.m.
Saturday, December 15	
Shabbat Morning Service	10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 21	
Shabbat Evening Service at Broder	7 p.m.
Saturday, December 22	
Shabbat Morning Service	10:30 a.m.
Service at Canterbury Woods	11 a.m.
Friday, December 28	
Classical Shabbat Evening Service	7 p.m.
Saturday, December 29	
Shabbat Morning Service	10:30 a.m.



Kindness in an Unkind World

We are so lucky these days, wouldn't you agree? We have access to libraries and tomes of information readily available at our fingertips, and yet we have become ignorant in our values and ethics. We can order a car service, takeout, movies, clothes, groceries - just about anything we could want, when we want it, and yet we still find ourselves unsatisfied, impatient and often unfulfilled.

While our technology allows us greater and immediate accessibility to connect with each other via different media, I find the paradox that comes with such advancement. With the evolution of technology, we have simultaneously lost the beautiful art of communicating face-to-face, in person.

How is it that the human race can make so many advances while simultaneously delaying our patience and slowing down our kindness reflex.

This reminds me of a story one of my Chassidic friends shared with me. (Some details of this teaching have been changed and edited for content.) Two elderly Jewish people were seated next to each other on a flight to Israel. Each person had a grandchild in the row seated behind. One of the grandchildren kept checking on his grandparent, assisting him with his food, books, seatbelt, etc. The other grandchild ignored her grandparent and laughed at her when she needed help with the touchscreen. Somewhat distraught, the one grandparent said to the other, "How is it that your grandchild is so respectful and mine is so rude?"

"Very simple," replied the respected grandparent. "You see, your grandchild's idea of evolution is strictly believed and adhered to, the notion that when things evolve they automatically get better...so, your grandchild thinks she is a lot better and smarter than you. She looks upon you as a "has been." We believe in honoring what came before us, and that's how we evolve in our personal growth. That growth is what you're questioning."

Let us learn from this teaching that technological evolution and growth isn't always what is best. As human beings we have the opportunity to express patience, sympathy, empathy and kindness.

Let us continue to work for a kinder world together.

Cantor Penny S. Myers

Many Thanks

To Laurie Criden for her years as Ritual Committee Chair. Among other initiatives, Laurie oversaw the efforts to bring the new and very popular Mishkan Hanefesh prayer books into use for High Holy Day services at TBZ.

Talmud Talk

Wednesday, December 12

Noon – 1 p.m.

Milos, 5877 Main St., Williamsville

All our Judaism, especially Reform Judaism, starts in the Talmud. Everyone welcome – we are all beginners in the ocean of Jewish learning.


Materials provided. No host lunch.

I and Thou and Lunch

Friday, December 21

Noon – 1 p.m.

Temple Beth Zion library, 805 Delaware Avenue

The fundamentals of relational Judaism start with the thinking of Martin Buber in his beautiful 

Learn this profound text in conversation – no preparation required.

Pizza and drinks provided. Please RSVP by contacting Rabbi Freirich at (716) 836-6565 or rabbifreirich@tbz.org.

Torah Study

Saturday mornings

9:15 – 10:15

Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave.

TBZ's clergy delve into the week's reading from Torah, the Five Books of Moses. Learned and open-ended, join this group and discuss how our ancient texts still bring meaning to our twenty-first century lives.

Coffee and cookies provided.

Looking for something that's not here? Let us know by emailing Rabbi Jonathan (rabbifreirich@tbz.org).

Women of the Book

Wednesday, December 19

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Call Darcie at 836-6565 for location information and materials.

Cantor Penny Myers invites women of all ages to attend. Materials provided. No host beverages.

Temple Beth Zion

Our Mission Statement

Temple Beth Zion is a Reform congregation that enriches Jewish lives, promotes Jewish values, strengthens Jewish bonds and fosters lifelong learning. Our congregation celebrates the rich diversity of our Jewish community, preserves sacred traditions while encouraging innovation, and affirms our Judaism through words and deeds.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TEMPLE BETH ZION

Meeting Notes

The October Meeting was on the 17th. We welcomed the newest member, Michael Komm. In addition, Tammy VanWey, the co-advisor to TBaZY, was in attendance to provide an update of the TBZ youth group activities and to share that TBaZY will be hosting the NFTY-NEL Spring Board Elections on March 1-3, 2019.

Jody Goldstein, Membership Engagement Chair, provided an update on the committee, which has been newly formed. Among other initiatives, she said the committee planning a service to welcome new members and is speaking to new and existing members to identify their areas of interest and ways to connect to TBZ.

Cantor Myers and Toby Laping provided a brief update on the Ritual Committee and announced that Laurie Criden will be stepping down as Chair. Anna Marie Richmond will be the new Chair of the Ritual Committee.

Treasurer Dave Goldberg and Amy Schaefer provided updates on refinancing TBZ's outstanding loan obligations with the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies from past Delaware and Broder construction initiatives. The Board passed resolutions to proceed with refinancing a portion of the debt (\$200,000) through a commercial mortgage secured by the Broder Center. The board also approved resolutions to pay the remaining debt (\$130,000) from the funds available through a bequest left by member Theo Kahn. The remaining funds from the bequest will be invested into TBZ's reserve fund.

Additional motions were passed to authorize needed repairs to the Broder Center roof using TBZ reserve funds and to ratify a new Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy so that TBZ meets state employment laws.

Security Task Force

The safety and security of our facilities and, more importantly, the people within those facilities, has been and will continue to be a priority for Temple Beth Zion. Our policies and procedures are "living documents" that are reviewed and revised on a regular basis consistent with the needs of the day and events in our buildings.

In an effort to make sure we have planned and prepared as fully as possible, I am establishing a Security Task Force. I invite all members - particularly those with law enforcement or security experience - to participate on the Task Force. If you are unable to serve but would like to share with me your insights, I welcome that as well.

Please contact me at president@tbz.org if you can participate or to send your thoughts or insights on anything related to TBZ.

Julie Dressler Weinberg



Celebrate with TBZ!

Come Spin with Us!!

And Experience MAGIC!

You're Invited to the

TBZ Family Chanukah Party!

Sunday, December 2, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TBZ Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road

Food, Crafts, Magic Show and More!!

Special magic performance begins at 12:15

\$5 per person/maximum \$20 per family

You'll Have a Whole LATKE Fun!



Sponsored by TBZ Sisterhood

Chanukah Bazaar

The Sisterhood of TBZ is proud to be able provide our children, parents, families and the community with items for their Chanukah shopping needs. We have something for anyone and everyone on your Chanukah list!

Religious School students will have the opportunity to shop during Religious School hours on November 18 and December 2. Please provide your child with money if you would like them to be able to purchase gifts.

Prayers for Lighting Candles

Blessed is Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

(FIRST NIGHT ONLY)

Blessed is Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this season.

Chanukah Service and Welcome New Members

Friday, December 7

5:45 p.m. Tot Shabbat

6 p.m. Potluck Dinner

7 p.m. Shabbat Alive Service

805 Delaware Avenue

Come to TBZ for a lively evening of Chanukah celebrations. For families with younger children, start the evening with Tot Shabbat. Following Tot Shabbat is a community dairy potluck dinner. Shabbat Alive begins after the potluck, and the TBZ band and choir will participate in the service. Our 3rd grade Religious School students will be there to light the Shabbat candles. We encourage you to bring your menorah for a group lighting of the candles.

Additionally, during the service we will welcome our newest members to the TBZ family. Please join us in extending the warmth of Chanukah in welcome.

Join us for all or part of the evening. If you plan to come for dinner, please bring a salad or dairy dish to share with approximately 10-15 people. RSVP for dinner by contacting Kara at kara@tbz.org or (716) 836-6565.



Achim to Feature Jr. Choir

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth Zion is pleased to announce that the December Achim program will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, December 9, at the Meadows Lounge, located on the second floor at the Weinberg Campus, 2650 North Forest Road, Getzville, across from the rear entrance to the Jewish Community Center.

This will be our annual Chanukah program and will feature the Temple Beth Zion Jr. Choir, under the direction of Cantor Penny Myers. The choir appears annually and sings many of the traditional Chanukah melodies we all have enjoyed for years. This program is a favorite of the residents and guests and is always well attended. Join us!

On behalf of Brotherhood, I would like to wish all our members, Temple members and the Jewish community a very happy Chanukah and healthy and happy New Year.

Please feel free to contact the Brotherhood at TBZBrotherhood@aol.com with any suggestions you may have in regard to programming, fundraising, further information on Brotherhood or any other Brotherhood issue.

Philip Chazen



Religious School Happenings

In November, we continued our tradition of more than a quarter of a century, by helping North Presbyterian Church with the Turkey Basket Project. This mitzvah has helped more than 500 families within the last year. Each grade participated. Thank you to all the families who made monetary and food donations.

On December 16, please have your child(ren) bring a new toy to wrap for Toys for Tots. We will make cards and wrap gifts for our Mitzvah of the Month project. If you would like to come and participate, please let us know – parent involvement is always welcome.

Please come for the Chanukah Service on December 7. Details are on page 5.

Sue Goldberg and I both would like to wish you and your family a Chanukah filled with Peace, Love and Light. May the time you spend with family and friends be blessed with happiness.

Kara Kane



- Dec 2 Sunday TOTS and First Candle for Chanukah
- Dec 2 Chanukah Party sponsored by Sisterhood
- Dec 2-9 Chanukah Baazar
- Dec 7 Potluck Dinner and Shabbat Alive Service
3rd graders lighting Shabbat Candles
805 Delaware, details on page 5
- Dec 16 Tzedakah of the Month Mitzvah Day
- Dec 18 No Religious School at Delaware
- Dec 23-31 No Religious School – Winter Break
(Classes resume January 6)



TBaZY News

Shalom and Happy Chanukah!

TBaZY has been busy. We have traveled to Camp George in Seguin, Ontario, with NFTY-NEL (see photos below) and had a fun gathering at Lasertron.

We are now gearing up for a 6th-12th grade program on December 8, location to be determined, for a Havdalah/ Evening Program. We are also planning to travel to Cleveland for Winter Kallah December 14-16 with our 7th-12th graders. Should anyone be interested in either, please feel free to reach out to us.

Looking forward to March, TBaZY has the special opportunity to host a NFTY-NEL (National Federation of Temple Youth - North East Lakes) event March 1-3. We will be in need of adults to open up their homes to assist with housing (you do not need to have a teen to host for the weekend) along with help in setting up and serving food for our variety of meals throughout the weekend. Should you have a teen in grades 9-12, this is a great way for them to experience NEL and TBaZY in their hometown and see what it is all about. Please reach out to us if you can help in any way or if you have a teen who wants to participate, and we will share all the details with you.

We are always available to provide information about all of our youth engagement opportunities and are happy to chat anytime. Please call or text us at 867-8541 or email us at bshapiro44@gmail.com or tamarvanwey@gmail.com

Beth and Tammy



Back by Popular Demand 50



Buffalo's own BBC Band, known across the Queen City for their tributes to the Beatles and '60s music, will join us again at TBZ for a fundraising concert. Last year, more than 250 people filled the Rabbi Fink Auditorium for an evening of great music, dancing and socializing. Plan to join the fun on April 27, 2019. 50

We would love to have your input and help in planning this great event. If you would like to join this active and interesting committee or help out on the day of the event, please contact Warren Clark at wec@wareclark.com or Amy Schaefer at 836-6565 or amyschaefer@tbz.org. 50

This event is open to the entire community. Concert proceeds will go to directly TBZ.



Away for the Winter?

If you are heading South for a month or more, let us know where you will be staying so we can do our best to make sure you continue to receive your mail in a timely manner.

If we don't have your winter address, contact Julie in the Temple office at 836-6565 or julie@tbz.org to send the address via email.

Mitzvah Volunteers Needed

Volunteers for Friends of Night People are needed for December 11 from 4 to 7:15 p.m. In addition, this month we plan to serve on December 25 so volunteers who celebrate Christmas can be with their families.

Join us as we serve a warm meal to those who would otherwise go hungry. Please contact Ann Marie, (716) 836-6565, Ext. 111, or Annmarie@tbz.org, to put your name on the list of volunteers for December 11 or December 25. Come once or more often - whatever you can do is greatly appreciated.



Alexis Glaser
Saturday, December 8
Daughter of: Chad and Debbie Glaser

Mazel Tov

To Carol Newman Caserta on being inducted into the Bennett High School Sports Hall of Fame. She was recognized during the 2018 Induction Ceremony on October 13. Carol was selected by the Sports Hall of Fame Committee to receive the Earle Y. Hannel Award.

To Louis and Pauline Rogers on celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

To 50



New Members

Constance Lesold
Lisa Laudato

Darcie Beattie Joins TBZ Staff



I am excited to welcome Darcie Beattie, who joined the TBZ staff team on November 1 as our Clergy Assistant, replacing Jennelle Torrey, who left in early October to take another position.

Darcie hit the ground running, jumping immediately into the flurry of B'nei Mitzvah, scheduling appointments, preparing orientation binders and greeting families. She has had a long career in supporting members and customers through her recent position at Key Bank and in prior administrative support roles.

In her free time, she likes to read, watch a good movie, listen to music and cuddle with her 5-pound dog, Princess Buttercup. Darcie, originally from Arizona, now lives in North Tonawanda with her husband of 21 years, her mother and two teenage daughters. Darcie says she looks forward to getting to know the TBZ family.

Amy Schaefer

From the Presidents

Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year to the Temple family.

We have many exciting activities and programs in the coming months. In addition to events described on these pages, be sure to save these dates in 2019:

April 7 - annual Women's Seder

May 10 - Sisterhood Sabbath, installation, and Woman of the Year Service

June 2 - Donor's Luncheon

For more information about Sisterhood, call your Co-Presidents, Susan Bruckheimer (716) 982-2099 or Marilyn Schillroth (716) 832-4757.

Second Annual Demo & Dine Luncheon

Webster's Kitchen

110 Webster Street, North Tonawanda

Sunday, January 27, at 11:30 a.m.



Enjoy a cooking demonstration presented by Chef Gabrielle Thomas followed by a three-course lunch. Luncheon is open to women and men.

First course - Soup
Creamy Squash Bisque



Second course - Entrée
Vegetable crepe and chicken crepe



Third course - Dessert
Chocolate Ganache Cake
Coffee, tea and water included.
(Wine or beer is available for an extra charge.)

Cost: \$35 per person inclusive.
Seating is limited. Reservations are due by January 11.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

- Yes, I am interested in carpooling from the Broder Center.
Mail reservation with your check made out to TBZ Sisterhood to: Sandra Wolchok, 6872 Forestview Drive, Lockport, NY 14094.
Questions? Call Halli at (716) 553-8883.

Ruth Fernandez Sisterhood Judaica Shop Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst

We are proud to be able provide our children and their parents, families and the community with items for their Chanukah shopping needs.



We have something for anyone and everyone on your Chanukah list!



Chanukah Bazaar Hours:

Sundays Dec 2 and 9 from 9 a.m. to noon
Thursdays Nov 29 and Dec 6 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Weekdays to Dec 11:

Monday to Wednesday - 1 to 3 p.m.

Fridays by appointment

For information or more hours, contact Susan at (716) 982-2099 or susan_b@roadrunner.com or Dee (240) 446-1211.

Religious School students will be given the opportunity to shop during class hours on December 2. Please provide your child with money to be able to purchase gifts for their family.



Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble

Join us Monday, December 24, at Barnes & Noble on Niagara Falls Boulevard anytime between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. and help wrap presents or get your presents wrapped. This is a fun "fundraiser" for Sisterhood.



Everyone enjoys having their purchases wrapped, and we enjoy providing that service to the Barnes & Noble customers. It should be a really busy and fun day. We raise funds when customers provide us with "tips."



To find out more or to sign up to help, call Jo Schweitzer at (716) 949-9015.

Kabbalah Paint Night

with Kabbalah Artist David Friedman

Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m.

Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road



Find out what makes Hebrew a holy language. Amiel BaKehila, an exciting initiative under the auspices of Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, returns to Buffalo with David Friedman, Artist and Jewish Spiritualist from Zefat in the Galilee.

Friedman developed his own original system of translating kabbalistic concepts into graphic shapes and colors based mostly on Sefer Yetzira (the Book of Creation) but also inspired from other texts. Friedman will present a talk titled "What Makes Hebrew a Holy Language," followed by an interactive workshop where participants will be able to create their own works of art.

Painting supplies will be provided. Cost is \$10 per person. Space is limited. To reserve your spot, please contact Becky at (716) 836-6565 or becky@tbz.org no later than Wednesday, December 5.

Co-sponsored by The Buffalo Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Zion.

Bereavement Support Group

The TBZ Bereavement Support Group is lay-led by members of the group in an informal and warm setting. The group offers companionship and understanding from others who have experienced a similar loss and are experiencing the similar challenges of living with grief. Meetings usually take place at the Broder Center, 700 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

If you have questions or would like to get information on the meeting dates and locations, contact Carol at (716) 873-2836. All members of the community are welcome.

Office Schedule

The Temple Beth Zion offices will be closed December 24 and 25. If you have an emergency and need to reach a member of our staff, call 836-6565 and follow the instructions.



October 26 was a special Shabbat Service in honor of Michael Burke. Michael, as he has for over three decades, provided beautiful music for the service on the organ and piano.



Many members of the Buffalo Jewish community traveled together to Israel on the Buffalo Israel Experience 2018 planned by The Buffalo Jewish Federation. Above, Howard Rosenhoch and Rabbi Jonathan Freirich are in Tzvat.

The photo below is of The Wall of the Old City in Jerusalem on Sunday, October 28



We Are Grateful

November was a special month for our PALS-Kadimah students. We talked about all we are thankful for. Tops on our lists are our parents, grandparents, teachers and friends. Our students are grateful for all those they love and care about and all those who love and care for them.



Karen Goodman
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Chanukah for Everyone!

Turn to page 5 of this Bulletin for all the
Chanukah Happenings this month.

Tot Shabbat

Potluck dinner and Chanukah Shabbat Alive Service

Welcome New Members

3rd graders lighting the Shabbat Candles

Chanukah Bazaar

Chanukah Family Party

Complete with a Magician!

Blessings for the lighting of the Chanukah candles.



Kulanu Winter Service – Inclusion and Understanding

Friday, December 14, at 7 p.m.

805 Delaware Avenue

More than ever we need to extend warmth,
welcome, inclusion and understanding to each other.

We gather to celebrate each of our unique and
miraculous natures and honor the sacred place of
communication between us all.

Through words and images and a special reflection
on the spirit of reconciliation between Joseph and
Judah in the Torah reading, we will celebrate individuality
and honor sacred bridge-building between us all.

We will have a special Oneg, which will give us all
a chance to shmooze after sharing worship together.