



# CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM

## December 2019 Newsletter

3 Kislev - 3 Tevet 5780



Torah & Haftorah Readings and Page Numbers				
	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
<b>Torah Reading</b>	Vayetze	Vayishalach	Vayeshev	Miketz (Rosh Chodesh, Chanukah)
	Genesis 28:10-32:3	Genesis 32:4-36:43	Genesis 37:1-40:23	Genesis 41:1-44:17 Numbers 28:9-15, 7:42-47
<b>Pages</b>	106-117	122-134	141-151	155-166 695, 599
<b>Haftorah</b>	Hosea 12:13-14:10	Obadiah 1:1-1:21	Amos 2:6-3:8	Zechariah 2:14-4:7
<b>Pages</b>	118-121	137-140	152-154	987-989

Minyan Times are in the monthly calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, [www.ahavathachim.org](http://www.ahavathachim.org)

### Rabbi Peretz Robinson's Torah Message

Dear Friends,

Immediately following the holiday of Sukkot, bakeries in Israel begin churning out the ever popular sufganiyot, jelly filled donuts. Together with the potato latke, these two foods have come to define the Jewish cuisine on the holiday of Hanukkah.

But is it a mitzvah to eat jelly donuts and latkes on Hanukkah? By way of example, we know that to eat matzah at the Pesach Seder is a fulfillment of the Biblical commandment to eat matzah on Pesach. Are we fulfilling any type of religious mandate by eating donuts or latkes on Hanukkah? The answer, of course, is that as tasty as these foods may be, and however much they have come to be associated with Hanukkah, nevertheless there is no mitzvah to eat donuts or latkes on Hanukkah. In fact, somewhat surprisingly, in contrast to Shabbat and Yom Tov- and even Purim- there is no mitzvah to eat a festive holiday meal on Hanukkah whatsoever.

The reason for this omission is that the sages at the time of the miracle instituted Hanukkah not as a holiday of "mishteh v'simchah", feasting and joy, but rather as a holiday of "hallel v'hodaah", praising the Almighty and giving thanks to Him for the awesome miracles and kindness that He performed for His people. Rashi comments that the primary fulfillment of this requirement on Hanukkah is through reciting Hallel and through saying the "Al HaNissim" addition to the Shemoneh Esrei prayer and the Grace after Meals.

While there may not be a mitzvah to eat a special holiday meal on Hanukkah, the later halachic authorities tell us that by saying praises to the Almighty and singing songs of praise at our Hanukkah meals, the meal is in turn transformed into a mitzvah meal.

We are fortunate this year in that we will be having a communal Hanukkah luncheon together on Shabbat, Saturday December 28th. The luncheon will surely be a wonderful social gathering for all the members of our community, in addition to what I'm sure will be an uplifting spiritual experience. Please RSVP to Arnell in the shul office if you are planning on attending.

Hanukkah this year begins on Sunday, December 22nd in the evening, and ends on Monday, December 30th in the evening.

All the Best,  
Rabbi Peretz Robinson

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## Community Event

### JHSFC Program - Yiddish@JCC

"A Bissel Yiddish."

Come hear Judy Altman present and discuss classic sections of The Forward's "Bintel Brief" (advice column)

Suggested Donation: \$5 for the pushke. If you have any questions, call 203-321-1373 x150 (leave message) or email [info@jhsfc-ct.org](mailto:info@jhsfc-ct.org).

When - Fri Dec 6, 2019 10am - 12pm

Where - Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT 06905,

Golden Book Greeting cards are a great way to honor or remember someone. To personalize your message, call or email Sara Klein. She can include any personal greeting you would like to have included.

**Refuah Sheleimah to** David Gordon, Arlene Moidel, and Diane Shinbaum. May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

## Yahrtzeits for December 2019

Saturday, November 30 - <b>Sarah Gordon</b> ( Mother to David Gordon)	Monday, December 16 - <b>Della Stein</b> ( Grandmother to Peggy Sue Schwarzmer )
Saturday, November 30 - <b>Harry Kaplan</b> ( Father to Barbara Tuckel)	Friday, December 20 - <b>Elizabeth Deutsch</b> (Mother to Andrew Deutsch )
Sunday, December 1 - <b>Jacob Apfelbaum</b> (Father to Goldie Librach)	Saturday, December 21- <b>Julia Magid</b> ( Aunt to Mark Fishman)
Tuesday, December 3 - <b>David Zimmer</b> (Father to Pamela Zimmer)	Sunday, December 22- <b>Hersh Augenbraun</b> (Grandfather to Terry Augenbraun)
Thursday, December 5 - <b>Barbara Seedman</b> ( Mother to Tammy Loeser)	Wednesday, December 25- <b>Chayim Allen</b> (Grandfather to Joel Allen)
Saturday, December 7 - <b>Ben Gordon</b> ( Father to David Gordon)	Thursday, December 26- <b>Catherine Mandel</b> (Mother to Lisa Rappoport)
Sunday, December 8 - <b>Gussie Schwartz</b> ( Relative to Sheila Rothman)	Saturday, December 28- <b>Harold Goldman</b> (Uncle to William Wolper)
Wednesday, December 11- <b>Esther Barnum</b> (Mother to Max Barnum)	Sunday, December 29- <b>Helen Katz</b> (Aunt to Terry Augenbraun)
Friday, December 13 - <b>Benjamin Egri</b> ( Father to Betty Deutsch)	Monday, December 30- <b>Andrew Klein</b> ( Husband to Sara Klein, Father to Gwenn Kirschner, Susan Klein, and Alan Klein)
Sunday, December 15 - <b>Isadore Moidel</b> (Husband to Rose Moidel & Father to Arlene Moidel )	Monday, December 30- <b>Julia Macy</b> (Mother to Toby Schaffer, & Barbara Friedman)