

# BEIT CHAVERIM

## Jewish Community of Greater Zion

December 2023

### Change for December - IN PERSON SHABBAT SERVICE

**DEC. 8,  
CHANUKAH  
SHABBAT SERVICE  
7:00 PM THE  
ESCAPE AT BRIO  
230 WEST BRIO  
CLUBHOUSE DR.**

**NOTE: AS USUAL,  
ZOOM SHABBAT  
SERVICES ALL OTHER  
FRIDAYS @7:00PM.  
LINK WILL BE SENT A  
FEW DAYS BEFORE EACH  
SERVICE.**



## SAVE THE DATE



**Friday, Dec. 8, 7:00 pm** – In person Shabbat service followed by Chanukah latke & dessert celebration. Bring menorahs and candles and latkes to share if you wish. Enter our Chanukah cookie contest for a special prize. This service is being held at The Escape at Brio. [RSVP arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com).

**Monday, Dec. 11, 10:00 am** – Breakfast With The Rabbi. George's Corner. [RSVP arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com).

**Monday, Jan. 8, 10:00 am** – Breakfast With The Rabbi. George's Corner. [RSVP arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com).

**Friday, Jan. 12, 7:00 pm** – In person Shabbat service. Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, educational bldg.. rear.

## MAZEL TOV

—  
We would love to share with the congregation any happy news you may have regarding special simchas (Jewish celebrations) or occasions. It would be wonderful to share these happy events that occur in our lives with the congregation so that we can all share in your joy. To this end, you will see the addition of a Mazel Tov "post it" on the Bulletin Board at the end of the newsletter. Please email me with news of births of children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren in addition to family milestones like Bnei Mitzvahs and weddings. I would also like to extend a Mazel Tov for new jobs or special honors. Please email me at [ewmargles@gmail.com](mailto:ewmargles@gmail.com) so that we may all wish you a Mazel Tov!

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### SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to “Spotlight” one of our more recent new members, Leslie and Russ Robinson. Read about their background and be sure to say “hello” when you see them at Beit Chaverim.



Leslie and Russ Robinson are native Houstonians. Russ graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1979. He has been an entrepreneur in the Zinc Industry for over 45 years and is still actively working. Russ has had an equally long career involving the Jewish community. He is a past board member of Hillel International and Moishe House International and is currently on the board of Birthright Israel. In addition, Russ is a long time Board member of The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and a two-time former Campaign Chair.

Leslie graduated as an undergrad from The University of Texas and received her master’s degree in social work from the University of Houston. In her mid-forties, Leslie started a new career as an interior designer. Later, she began designing jackets, headbands and hats.

Leslie and Russ are very active in Jewish life. They support The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Seven Acres Senior Adult Center and The Holocaust Museum in Houston. Globally, Leslie and Russ also support AIPAC and Birthright. Together with their family, they funded the Jerome Robinson Family Young Adult Division at The Jewish Federation in Houston in memory of Russ’ father.

The Robinsons visit Israel frequently. In November 2022, they chaired The Jewish Federation of Houston’s Mission to Israel with 100 people strong! Leslie is proudly a Lion of Judah and has endowed her gift. While Leslie and Russ travel extensively, they spend most of their time in Houston, St. George and Aspen, Colorado. They share a passion for art and have an eclectic collection in their homes in Houston and St. George.

Leslie and Russ have been coming to SG for 30 plus years, finally buying a home in Entrada in Aug. 2022. “We fell in love with the red mountains and blue skies.” They enjoy playing golf, hiking and biking. Leslie can frequently be found on a pickleball court. They have two children, Alex and Michael.

Their daughter Alex lives in Denver and is also fond of Israel and her Jewish heritage. She was a part of the Israeli artist, Gilad Ratman’s Venice Biennale’s performance art. She is also involved in non-profits and giving back to her community. Their son Michael and his three children live in Aspen. Michael Wein is an artist whose works have been shown in numerous cities. Michael’s family brought Shabbat back to Leslie and Russ’ busy lives with Facetime calls that they cherish every Friday evening!

**Beit Chaverim Jewish Community of Greater Zion welcomes Leslie and Russ to our Beit Chaverim family.**





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### PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS



Welcome to the inaugural column of “Penny For Your Thoughts”. This column is written by Penny Lindenbaum, our former Beit Chaverim Board President of many years. Although Penny left us for the lights of Las Vegas, she has remained an active member, Zooming for Shabbat services and returning for Rosh Hashanah. In writing her column, Penny hopes to provide “food for thought” regarding issues that affect us as Jews.

It’s no coincidence that Hamas attacked on Shabbat. Shabbat is the very soul of the Jewish people and reflects the meaning of what it means to be a Jew —living a committed Jewish lifestyle in accordance with the instructions of the Torah’s timeless directives. The horrors of Oct. 7 can prompt us to take steps to embrace our treasure: Our devotion to our G-d, His guidelines and His laws. And it can also prompt us to embrace each other. Jewish unity in this time of crisis can flow from the acceptance of every Jew simply as a brother and sister, not as “Jews with labels.” Labels are helpful for clothing, but not for members of one’s family.

May it be G-d’s will that in the merit of our courageous Israeli brethren on the front lines in this existential battle for Israel’s survival, in the merit of our devotion to G-d and His instructions for living, and in the merit of our devotion to each other that He grant us success in battle, return of the captives, healing of the wounded, and a life of peace, tranquility and sustained Jewish unity.”

“May the flames of Chanukah candles illuminate the torch of peace. Happy Chanukah.”

As this is the first of Penny’s columns, I invite feedback from you to let me how you feel regarding this first one and if you would like to see more. Please email me, Ellen Margles, at [ewmargles@gmail.com](mailto:ewmargles@gmail.com). with your comments. The frequency of this column is yet to be determined.



# BEIT CHAVERIM

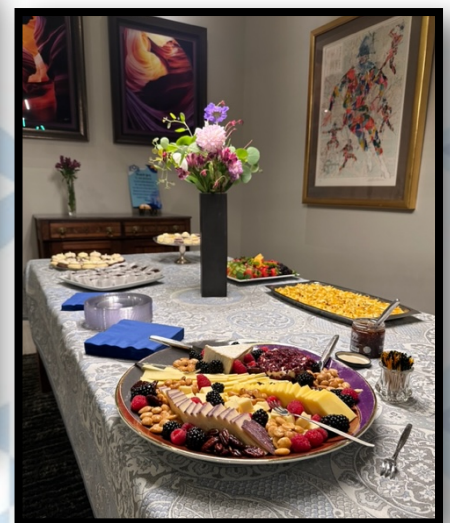
## Jewish Community of Greater Zion

### A Musical Shabbat

On Friday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful home of Marilyn & Michael Kanas, an enthusiastically uplifting Shabbat service was enjoyed by more than 30 Beit Chaverim congregants. Thanks to the sponsorship of Lisa Bernath, Cantor Sam Cohen of Salt Lake City came to St. George to provide us with a special Shabbat service filled with the songs and prayers of Shabbat. We all were brought to life singing and clapping together with Cantor Cohen as he led this musical Shabbat service. Everyone present agreed, this was a most memorable Shabbat.

Cantor Cohen grew up in the Chassidic world and comes from a family with a long line of traditional Chazzonim. His prior cantorial positions include his having served as Chief Cantor of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation in South Africa. While Cantor Cohen has retired from a permanent pulpit, he brings his special love for Judaism through his voice to other congregations such as ours. Cantor Cohen uses his beautiful voice to bridge the gap among the various Jewish denominations. As Beit Chaverim welcomes all denominations of Judaism, we felt bonded together as one through his musical leadership. We hope to be able to experience more of Cantor Cohen's uplifting cantorial presence in the future.

An elegant and delicious Oneg followed the service and was made possible by the sponsorships of Dr. Gary MacDonald, Lee Miller & Roland Luthi, the Kanases, the Margles, the Schwarzes and Carol Stahl. Thank you again to Lisa for bringing Cantor Cohen to Beit Chaverim. Enjoy a few of the pictures from this special Shabbat.



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## CHANUKAH, OH CHANUKAH COME LIGHT THE MENORAH

Remember, Chanukah is just around the corner. We all know the story of Chanukah; Judah Maccabee and his successful rebellion against the Syrian rulers. The lighting of the candles, one each night of the eight days of Chanukah celebrates the miracle of the oil used in the reconsecration of the defiled Temple in Jerusalem. While there was only enough oil to last for one night, it lasted for eight. To celebrate Chanukah as a congregation, each year Beit Chaverim invites our members to bring their hanukkiah (menorah) together and celebrate.

This year we will hold our Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the second candle lighting and celebration will Please bring your menorahs, candles Chanukah candles you can purchase for \$5/box. This serves as a small fundraiser for the Temple. Email Ellen Nathan, [arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com) to order your box.



so that we may light the candles

congregational Chanukah celebration on night of Chanukah. The Shabbat service, be held at The Escape at Brio at 7:00 pm. and matches. Beit Chaverim has

### Chanukah Cookie Baking Contest

Directly following the candle lighting we will all enjoy some latkes and desserts. We have some wonderful latke makers here, as evidenced by last year's latke contest. We hope those of you that make latkes will bring some to share. Beit Chaverim will provide applesauce, sour cream and beverages. While the traditional Chanukah dessert is sufganiyot, Israeli donuts, traditionally jelly filled, most of us grew up with Chanukah cookies. Feel free to enter either. There will again be judging and prizes for the winners.

RSVP your attendance for Chanukah to Ellen Nathan [arneen@infowest.com](mailto:arneen@infowest.com).

**We look forward to seeing many of you for what is always a happy holiday!**

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### Be On the Lookout

Be on the watch this month for your Beit Chaverim dues notification. Lisa Bernath, our membership dues chairperson will be sending out the information regarding your dues for 2024. Dues are payable by 1/31/24. You can pay by check or via our website [beitchaverimutah.org](http://beitchaverimutah.org). There will be new information regarding our dues structure including our new Sponsorship categories. Please read all the information over carefully.

Beit Chaverim very much appreciates your support, both financially and as individuals. We are committed to growing our congregation and providing more and better services and events. We hope you have recognized our progress over the recent years. Those of you who have belonged to other synagogues in the past, recognize our low fee structure. Rising costs in all aspects of running Beit Chaverim together with the desire to give you, our congregants, more of what you would like from your temple is a challenge. To this end, we find the need to become creative. Our new Sponsorship Dues categories will help us to bring you more of what you have told us you want, like the recent Musical Shabbat, more upscale holiday meals and, of course, our ability to provide a musical Kol Nidrei.

This year we hope to develop more programming and social events. We are currently using Siddurs (Shabbat prayer books) from 1975 which we have purchased, used, from various sources over the years. They are very much out of date and not all the same. We are currently looking to replace them with more up to date Siddurs, like what we did two years ago with the new Machzors (holiday prayer books). We are in need of an ark for our Torahs, new Torah covers, as well as a nice kiddish cup and, of course, we are looking towards being able to get into a home of our own some day.

Now, more than ever, it is time for Jews to be together, support each other and our organizations. There is strength in numbers. The Board hopes that those of you that are members will rejoin and those of you that are not will consider joining. Even if you are not a “big temple goer”, you can still provide support through your dues and/or donations.

We look forward to seeing you at Beit Chaverim events next year.

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### From the Desk of Rabbi Helene

Hanukkah marks the Jewish military victory over the Syrian-Greek Empire in Judea. Under the rule of the Seleucids, Jewish practices were banned. A Hasmonean family's leader, Judah Maccabi, led the fight for religious freedom and to not become Hellenized by the Greeks. The revolt years were 160-163 B.C.E. with the conflict continuing until 134 B.C.E. when the Maccabees attained independence. Many of the Jewish people that refused to abandon Judaism were tortured, persecuted and killed. Thus, Jewish teachers and leaders would have their students play a gambling game when the Greeks made their inspections to show that they were not teaching Judaism. Thus, was created the dreidel game which we continue to play every year at Hanukkah. Together, the letters on the dreidel have meaning. The pneumonic stands for "Nes (nun) Gadol (gimel) Hayah (hei) Sham (shin)", "A great miracle happened there". In Israel they replace the letter shin with a letter pe to represent the phrase "a great miracle happened here".

Judah the Maccabee (meaning the Hammerer) was killed in battle. However, one of his brothers, Jonathan survived and became the leader of the Jewish people. This war was about our spirituality and the survival of Judaism. The Jewish people cleaned and rededicated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem which had been desecrated by the Syrians & Greeks. Inside the Temple a small flask of oil was found, enough for one day, to rekindle the menorah. A Midrash story based on Torah was that the oil was from Noah's olives. The other miracle was that the oil lasted for eight days!

As a new nation, the Jewish people minted their own coins. Today we use chocolate gelt to symbolize the coins. There is a traditional custom of giving gelt to children as well as donations to the synagogue. In the second blessing recited over the Hanukkah candles we say, "Blessed are You...who wrought miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time."

Today we watch the war in Israel and pro-Palestinian rallies. We continue to pray for the release of hostages and peace throughout Israel and the world. The Jewish people in ancient times took action and the Lord was with them. Today our people are taking actions against an enemy that wants to destroy Israel and its people. The Lord will be with all of us. Today may the lights from our Hanukkiyot bring more brightness through the darkness. Today may all the candles' brightness spread hope to end the war and spread peace throughout Israel and the world.

Hanukkah begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev, the eve of December 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Beit Chaverim Hanukkah latke party will follow the Shabbat service on Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, which is the second night. If you are lighting candles at home, remember to light the Hanukkah candles first, then kindle the Sabbath candles. I have been lighting an extra candle for Israel each Shabbat since 12/7. Place the candles right to left on the hanukkiah (menorah) and light the newest candle on the left first. On the following Sabbath, Havdalah is kindled and recited first, followed by the lighting of the Hanukkah candles.

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### MR. FOODIE'S TOP TWELVE: 2023

These are in no particular order; not necessarily the fanciest or most expensive. Your opinion may be completely different from mine, but then, of course, you'd be wrong! (LOL)

#### **Andy Margles**

**HAWAIIAN POKE BOWL (SG):** World class poke in SG, Utah! Owned & run by local family of Hawaiian fishermen. Poke is flown in fresh daily from the Big Island and hand-cut by owner; reasonably priced & healthful. Try ahi tuna with any of the marinades. Décor drab, but you can't eat the atmosphere. Hours: 11am till they run out of fish. Incredible quality/freshness/taste.

**PIG'S EAR BISTRO (Hurricane):** Worth the drive, just for the meaty, tender, juicy baby back ribs. High quality proteins, sourced from name brand farm. Excellent burgers, salmon, steaks and more. The Cajun shrimp appetizer is so good, they should bottle & sell the sauce. Full bar.

**WOOD-ASH-RYE (SG):** Advenire Hotel restaurant, featuring mostly small plates for adventurous eaters. Frequent menu changes. Cool bar and "modern pioneer" décor. Service is professional but leisurely due to the variable preparations on the diverse menu. Covered patio.

**PAINTED PONY (SG):** Most consistent, well-run, fine dining restaurant in town. Smooth, knowledgeable service. Traditional/modern American menu both approachable and complex: Open daily for L & D. Full bar with nice wine list.

**RYLU'S (SANTA CLARA):** Husband and wife chef/owners with farm-to-table cooking. Frequent menu changes. Wholesome, well prepared, delicious food beautifully presented. Great service from knowledgeable staff. Small place with limited menu; make reservations. Nice wine list.

**VIVA CHICKEN, A PERUVIAN ROTISSERIE JOINT (SG):** One of only seven in the country and only Utah location. Features Peruvian spiced rotisserie chicken with authentic side dishes, including fried plantains. Choice of three delicious Peruvian drinks. Reasonable, healthful and really tasty. Fast casual service. Open daily 11-9.

**SAKURA (SG):** Good quality sushi combined with Japanese steakhouse, plus traditional Asian menu. I love the special combo rolls. Kids love steakhouse "chef show". New building is nice upgrade over prior digs. Full bar. Best sushi in town.

**RUSTY CRAB DADDY (SG):** Features New Orleans crab boils which can include lobster, shrimp, crab legs and crawfish plus corn on the cob, sausage, potatoes and hard-boiled egg! Various signature sauces are zesty and scrumptious, especially the "Special Crab Daddy". Beer served.





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### MR. FOODIE'S TOP TWELVE: 2023

**CASA TEQUILANA (LEEDS) & Los TAPATIOS (SG):** Like two brothers from another mother, both feature great family recipes from Jalesco region of Mexico. Specials at CT usually wonderful. Restaurants are not affiliated but have similar types of food and quality. Great flavors, large portions. Both have delicious, yet different moles. Table service & full bar at both. LT open Sun.

**BENJA'S THAI (SG, 2 LOCATIONS):** Standard Thai menu, but very well-made and tasty. Tom Kha Kai soup and Khau Soi special are standouts. Curries are luscious. Wine available.

**RED FORT (SG):** Large Indian restaurant with good service and nice décor. Extensive, well-prepared, traditional Indian menu. Wine & beer service. Open L & D, including Sundays.

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### NEW AND NOTEWORTHY IN 2023

**SOUL RAMEN:** Try the black garlic-tonkatsu version!

**PICA RICA:** Texas BBQ. Brisket is king.

**KAISEKI SUSHI:** Asian & sushi; has black cod and sablefish

**LOS TAPATIOS:** Mexican, see above review in Top 12

**JAY BIRD'S:** Nashville Hot Fried Chicken

**MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA:** Hurricane; toppings galore

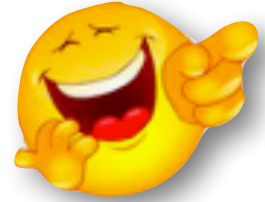
Crack Shack closed due to corporate change.

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### JEWISH SHTICKS



Lee Miller, our favorite jokester, sent me this humorous tale.

A homeless man walked into a very elite, exclusive shul in New York and announced to the Rabbi that he wanted to join that shul. Realizing that this poor man could not meet the fiscal requirements of the shul, the Rabbi said, "My friend, why don't you visit other shuls and see if they are not more appropriate for you. Then come back in a few days to tell me what you have found?"

The homeless man agreed and left the shul. The next day, the homeless man was back at the elite shul, and told the Rabbi he did not want to join.

"But you couldn't possibly have visited all the other shuls in New York! What made you decide to go elsewhere?"

Last night I had a dream and G-d spoke to me!"

"And what did He say?" asked the Rabbi.

"He said that I should forget about joining this shul cuz He's been trying to get into this place for years!"

# BEIT CHAVERIM

Jewish Community of

## Temple Bulletin Board

### Mazel Tov

Roger Talman on birth  
of grandson Monty

Linda Creason on birth  
of grandson



### Birthdays

Larry Grabarnick  
Sheree Marcus  
Evan Sanders



### Donations

#### **Book Fund:**

Linda & Barry Reinherz in memory of Michael Davis

#### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Linda Creason in honor of grandchild's baby  
naming

#### **Building Fund:**

Michael Davis estate

