

The Season of Lights by cj dame

When I began working at Temple Israel almost 11 years ago, I, like most non-Jewish people, thought that Chanukah was the most important Jewish holiday, just as I suspect many Jewish people believe that Christmas is the most important Christian holiday.

That misconception is just one of the things these two holidays have in common. Celebrated for very different reasons, both are times of spiritual dedication, song, family, and lights. Both lend joy and hope during the darkest and coldest time of the year. The candles placed by Jews on the Menorah and the lights strung on trees and houses by Christians are reminders the importance of religious community and fellowship.

This year, TI members will be joining Rabbi Marc in bringing light to both Jewish and non-Jewish nursing home residents.

On December 8 we will be visiting the Courville Community on 44 W. Webster Street at 11:30am, and Villa Crest at 1276 Hanover Street at 1:30pm. We will light a Menorah at each site and sing songs.

We hope you can join us for one of both of these powerful Mitzvah. Contact Aida Koocher at akoocher@comcast.net to volunteer.

We thank our many volunteers & donors



- *Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies*
- *Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues*
- *Carol Pressman, Carol Sternberg, Jeff Klein & John Weber for coordinating the new freezer purchase*
- *Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans*
- *Ken Cohn, Jeff Klein, and Josh Nathan for help with the yahrzeit boards*
- *John Weber and Leigh Musicof for their work on our security grant*
- *Michael Sydney for overseeing our cemetery*
- *Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Gift Shop*
- *Kiddush Krew –Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, Monique Shaffer, Carol Pressman, and Carol Sternberg*
- *Ruth Chevion for her stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America*
- *Temple Israel Book Club Leaders - Ken Cohn, Aida Koocher and Benay Birch*
- *Rick Notkin for his safety & security initiative*

Tzedaka

Mark Baer in memory of Dena and Ralph Baer
Renee Brenner in memory of Jennie Sidman
Ken Cohn in memory of Sylvia Cohn
Phyllis Levine in memory of Solomon Cavall
Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of Isidor and Rosalind Sternberg
Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of Rosalind Sternberg

Other

Renee Brenner in honor of David Winthrop
Elizabeth & Alan Gaby for Family Shabbat Dinner
Marcia Herson in memory of Shelley Herson
Evelyn & Michael Miller for Family Shabbat Dinner
Pastors Kaylin & Phil Tuttle
The Temple Israel Morning Minyan Group

Kibbutz Azza

Donna R. Bond
Kim & Leigh Musicof
Niza & Rami Preis
Alan Scribner
Dina & John Weber

Kol Nidre

Aida Koocher
Noah Bedowitz & Sherri Keizman
Michael Fedder
Robert Singer
Lea & Neil Thema

Special Mentions

Barbara & Michael Platt for the Braverman Chanukah Party
The Rotary Club of Manchester for the Hebrew School
Sheila Sydney & Family to the Hebrew Cemetery
in honor of Joy & Michael Sydney
Harry Shepler/Shepler Financial for Chanukah at the Palace

Quick Thinking by Ruth Chevion

I have never heard of a hiding situation so livable as my mother's.

For example, my father's mother and sister hid in a closet together and paid money for the privilege. Our friends Anka and Lili were hidden by two men in exchange for sex. My Uncle Isaac hid in the woods under bushes and leaves for so long that he didn't find out the war was over until several months after the end. My Aunt Irene and her sister were hidden for months by a farmer in a dugout in the side of a well so small that they could not stand or straighten out their legs. Hiding from the Nazis was harrowing.

My mother by contrast, had a whole apartment to move around in, and she paid nothing, not one cent. All she had to do was be silent, walk barefoot, and not go near a window. Plus, there was a servant's entrance that could be used for quick escape.

I do know there was a leaky faucet in the room where she slept. Even years later in America, if anyone ever left a faucet dripping at home, she would transform on the spot. She would rush headlong, as if through a wormhole she could get back to 1943 to try one more time to tighten that leaky tap. The sound set her off.

But even with the good conditions, hiding was not an easy time for Mom. She was heartbroken over the loss of her beloved mother Susha and her dear brother Ossie. It's hard to fit such things into our heads nowadays even if we know all about the Holocaust. Your loved ones "taken." As my mother remembered it, she spent her first six months in hiding crying.

She had one book: The Forsyte Saga in Polish translation. When she finished it, she would turn back to page one and start again.

Eventually boredom set in. One day, out the pantry window, Mom spotted a couple making love in an apartment across the alleyway one floor down. She became fascinated. She took a step closer to the window. Suddenly she realized someone was staring at her from an apartment across the alley.

Thinking quickly, she put a kerchief on her head and grabbed a rag. She opened the window, stuck her head way out, and beat the rag on the side of the building. This was the standard way of cleaning in Poland before the advent of vacuums. (I still do it.) Cleaning this way is so much part of Polish culture that there is a dedicated word for it in the Polish language. *Trzepać* (**cheh**'-potch) in Polish, says in one word what it takes eight words to say in English: "to beat the dust out of a

rag." Mom was passing for Polish and hiding at the same time. Whether that observer really believed she was just the cleaning lady or not, we don't know, but the charade seems to have worked as the danger passed without further incident.

About a year later, there was another incident of quick thinking. One night, Ala was going out to listen to the BBC at a friend's house. It was the Spring of 1944. There was tremendous anticipation at that time as to when the Allies (Americans, Brits, Soviets, Aussies, Canadians, Free French) would come in and liberate Europe from the Nazi grip. Everyone was glued to the radio. So, when Ala invited my mother to come along that night to hear the BBC, Mom accepted. It was the only time Mom went outside in those two years.

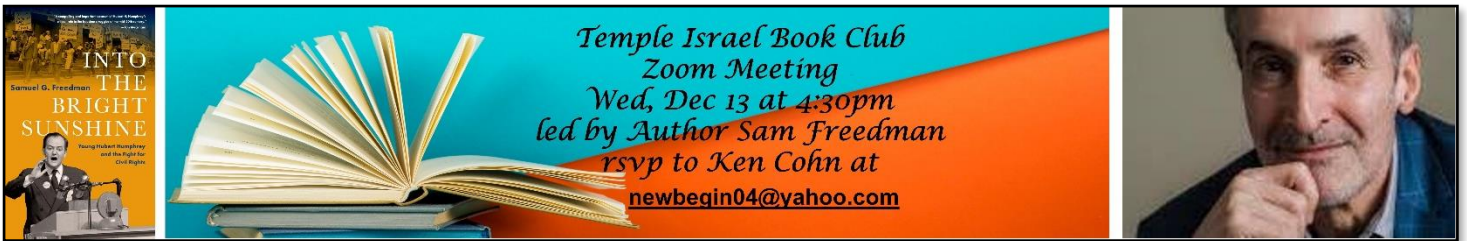
Of course, it was risky, and they were careful not to be seen. They walked to Ala's friend's house and arrived safely. But on the way back they were late. They missed curfew. I tend to think they were drinking. How else could they have allowed this to happen?

At the stroke of eight p.m., the hour of curfew, Ala and my mother found themselves almost directly in front of the Gestapo headquarters building, just in time to see the uniforms start pouring out of the building in a disciplined trot to catch anyone on the street. Ala slouched and whispered, "*Oh Yesus ranny*," in Polish, under her breath, meaning "Oh wounded Jesus."

My mother whispered to Ala to hush. Then Mom started belting out *Ach du Lieber Augustin*, the popular German drinking song, at the top of her lungs, slurring a bit, while at the same time giving Ala a hearty shove so that Ala staggered and almost fell. Seeing just a couple of inebriated German girls, the Gestapo men looked the other way.

In the photo below from Google Earth, you can see the house in Krakow where my mother was hidden. It is the white building with the black door. Ala's apartment was on the top floor.





Please JOIN US on Zoom for Temple Israel's Manchester Book Club on Wednesday December 13th 4:30pm.

In trying times like we are experiencing as Jews in America & Worldwide, this is a story of a sometimes forgotten American trailblazer for "Human Rights."

Please email Ken Cohn several days prior to December 13th at Newbegin04@yahoo.com so that you can receive a Zoom link.

Author, Samuel G. Freedman, will be joining our book club session to personally engage in conversation with us about his book.

Samuel G. Freedman is an award-winning author, columnist, and professor. A former columnist for *The New York Times* and a professor at Columbia University, he is the author of ten acclaimed books, most recently ***Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights.***)

Into the Bright Sunshine is a book that celebrates one of the overlooked landmarks of civil rights history and illuminates the early life and enduring legacy of Hubert Humphrey who helped bring it about.

On the Democratic Party Convention's final day in July 1948, Hubert Humphrey, just 37 and the relatively obscure mayor of the midsized city of Minneapolis, ascended the podium. Defying Truman's own desire to occupy the middle ground, Humphrey urged the delegates to **"get out of the shadow of state's rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights."** Humphrey's speech put everything on the line, rhetorically and politically, to move the party, and the country, forward.

The outcome of that week in July 1948-which marks its 75th anniversary as this book is published-shapes American politics to this day. And it was in turn shaped by Humphrey.

The book club committee, Ken, Aida, and Benay look forward to having you join us and share in our good time.

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Chanukah Gift Shop Sales
Sun, Dec 3 - 10:00-noon
Sun, Dec 10 - 10:00-noon

Challah boards, knives and covers

Chanukah gift wrap, candles & Menorahs
Tallit clips, kiddush cups, Shabbat candlesticks,
Mezuzah's - and more!!

Hevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire

Our Hevra Kaddisha is ready to help you in your hour of need to perform the ritual preparation of a deceased for burial in accordance with Jewish tradition. Do not hesitate to call us when needed. We are here for you!

Please call 603.746.5218 to initiate the process or for more information.

December – Kislev 18 to Tevet 19

Happy Birthday!

Dec 1 - Morgan Hallock

Dec 15 - Phyllis Turtle

Dec 21 - Anna Gaby

Dec 23 - Sheryl Hammond

Dec 31 - Margaux Oxman

Dec 7 - Catherine Davidow

Dec 19 - Rabbi Gary Atkins

Dec 21 - Julia Preis

Dec 26 - Daniel Cohen

Dec 10 - Nicole Rosenthal Klein

Dec 20 - Lexi Guttman

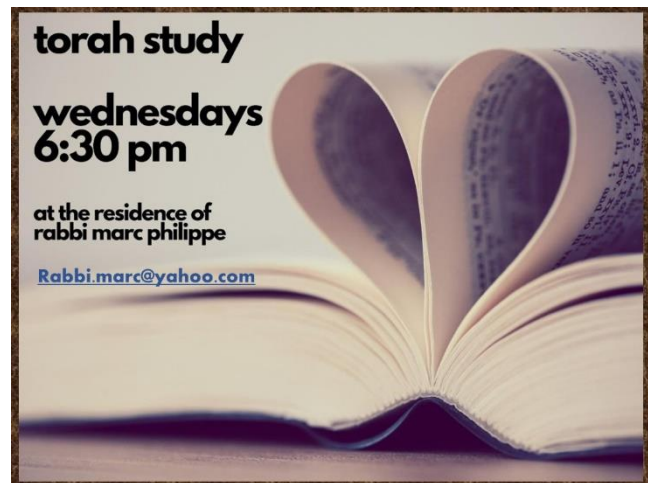
Dec 21 - Jeffrey Singer

Dec 27 - Hannah Verbun

Happy Anniversary!

Dec 16 - Lea & Neil Themea - 6 years

Dec 19 - Alan & Beth Gaby - 24 years



December Calendar at a Glance

Dec 3 - 10:00am - Kibbitz & Cooking at Temple Israel - contact akoocher@comcast.net to RSVP

Dec 3- 10:00am-12:00pm - Gift Shop Sale

Dec 8 - 11:30am - Chanukah visit to Courville Community - contact akoocher@comcast.net to volunteer

Dec 8 - 1:30am - Chanukah visit to Villa Crest - contact akoocher@comcast.net to volunteer

Dec 9 - 9:45am - Shabbat Service

Dec 10 - 10:00-12:00 - Gift Shop Sale

Dec 10 - 11:00am - Sunday Funday

Dec 10 - 12:30pm - Chanukah Party. RSVP required.

Dec 10 - 3:00pm - Temple Menorah Lighting

Dec 12 - Chanukah at the Palace - 6:00pm - contact shterniekrinsky@gmail.com for your voucher

Dec 13 - 4:30pm - TI Book Club on ZOOM - contact newbegin04@yahoo.com to rsvp

Dec 15 - 6:00pm - Shabbat Service

Dec 23 - 9:45am - Shabbat Service

Dec 25 - office closed