

A Message from Rabbi Marc

When asking anyone who knows the story of creation in the Torah, "What is G!d's first creation?", the answer will be, "Light!". Of course, we all know the famous verse: "Let there be light!". But in the verses preceding this one, we read: "...with darkness upon the surface of the deep, and the Divine Presence hovered upon the surface of the waters". So... it obviously means that light was not the first creation. There was already darkness and water.

We must understand that prior to all of this, the only reality that existed was G!d. Nothing else could exist. So, G!d had to make space in order for the world to be created and to exist at all. Kabbalah teaches that G!d had to constrict so to speak, creating a vacuum. We call this "Tzimtzum". We may deduce that space in this vacuum didn't have light.

Now, how about the waters? In Judaism, water is always a symbol for Torah. It is also a symbol for life. We see that the entire life potential was already present in the waters, symbolizing Torah. Only after do we have the famous "Let there be light". Did G!d turn the lights on? This light surely did not come from the sun, it wasn't created yet, this will come on the fourth day. So again, what was this light? It was G!d's spiritual light, perhaps the strongest creation of all. It is taught that this light was so powerful that G!d decided to keep it hidden for the use of tzaddikim, righteous people, in the world to come. It is called "Or Haganuz", "Hidden Light".

Ultimately, in our world, it is possible to get a glimpse of this spiritual light through tzaddikim. The problem is that if we wish to have this glimpse, we must have the ability to recognize a tzaddik... which is very difficult.

The good news is that for eight days, we have the opportunity to have more than a glimpse. We can see this light each night, expanding day after day. This hidden light of creation is present in your Menorah. This alone is reason enough to celebrate because through these flames, we are connected to the most powerful creation of all: the Primordial Light. We only need to be aware of this fact in order to be connected, and with this connection comes the potential of the miraculous in life.

Something else extremely important also happens. We humans, created in the image of G!d, are an "Olam Katan", a "miniature Universe". As such, contained in each of us, is this Primordial Light. It might be hidden, but it is definitely present.

When someone plays a string of a violin, the same string of another violin next to it will vibrate. This is called sympathetic vibration. The sound waves of the first violin cause the second one to vibrate. This is a beautiful phenomenon. The same concept applies to our own hidden Primordial Light. When in the presence of revealed Primordial Light in the Chanukah flames, our own inner flame is activated and has the need to shine outwards. This is when we must also activate the tzaddik

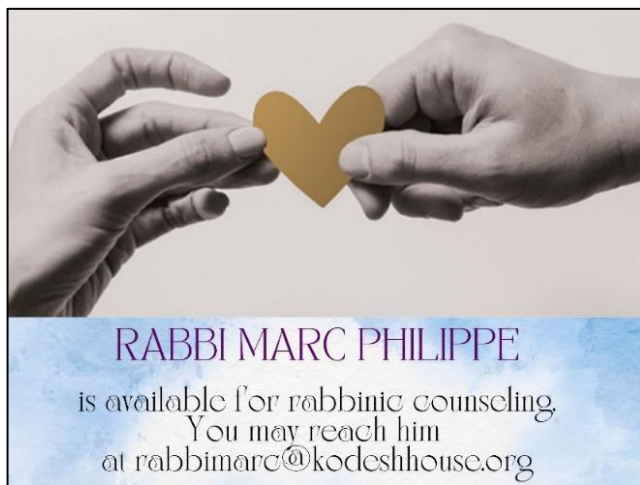
in us and make sure we share this light through righteous acts. By doing so, we are truly partners in creation with G!d, revealing some of the Primordial Light in our world.

Many people have brought darkness, and many others keep on bringing it. We are Children of Light. We can't underestimate the power of our own light. The increasing light of Chanukah is calling upon us:

- to increase iacts of righteousness (loving kindness)
- to lovingly and mindfully increase mitzvot performance
- to increase mindful prayer
- to increase light...

This Chanukah, while you light your candles, take a moment to focus on the outstanding miracles that come from this simple act. Take a moment to stare at the flames, in awe of the privilege of the gift of Chanukah. May your joyful observance of this holiday be a source of revealed miracles in your life, with health, happiness and love.

With blessings, Happy Chanukah! *Rabbi Marc Philippe*



thank you
todah raba
thank you
todah raba
thank you
todah raba

- *Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies*
- *Stephen Singer & Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans*
- *Ken Cohn, Jeff Klein, Josh Nathan and David Wintthrop for yahrzeit board maintenance*
- *John Weber for working on our security grant, fencing and exterior lighting*
- *Mitchell Weinberg for overseeing our cemetery*
- *Carol Sternberg, Chairperson of the Gift Shop & Kiddush Krew*
- *Kiddush Krew - Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, Debbie Manning, Roberta Pavoll, Carol Pressman, Linda Kropp Sinkow & Carol Sternberg*
- *Ruth Chevion for her stories of her family's escape from the Holocaust*
- *Steve Saulten & Leigh Musicof for taking care of our security services*

Tzedaka

Louise & Ron Allard in memory of Joseph Wainer
Ken Cohn & Maureen Deleasa in memory of Sylvia Cohn
Caroline & Richard Ekman in memory of:
Nathan, Judith, Sheldon, Arline, and Rosalind
Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of
Isidore & Rosalind Sternberg

Carolyn Corliss in memory of Goldie Wilinsky
Marcia Herson in memory of Shelley Herson
Sandra Hoexter in memory of Gerda Hoexter
Ruth Katz in memory of Ben Perlman & Rose Finn
Sylvia Swartz in memory of Edyss & Fred Hoffman

Gwen Kay in memory of Goldie Wilinsky
Phyllis Levine in memory of Solomon Cavall
Cathi & Neal Lippman in memory of Arnold Cohen
Elaine Silberberg in memory of Joel Silberberg
Robert Thaler in memory of Morton Thaler

Kol Nidre Received

Louise & Ron Allard
Alan & Beth Gaby
Sedra Michaelson
Rebecca & Niza Preis
Linda Kropp Sinkow & Lee Sinkow
Joy & Michael Sydney

Michael Fedder
Lindsay & Ami Kilchevsky
Molly & Rick Notkin
Al Shamash in memory of Isaac & Rebecca Shamash
Carol & Bob Sternberg
Ruth & Jay Zax

Anita & Mort Fleischner
Aida Koocher
Michelle Rosenthal & Jeff Klein
Barbara & Harry Shepler
David & Rebecca Sky

*****There is still time to donate to the Kol Nidre Appeal - Support us today!*****

Cemetery Fence Restoration Project

Baer Family Charitable Account
Lee & Jeffrey Forgosh
Harry & Barbara Shepler
Robert Singer

Blanche A. Bruce
Bernie Gasser
The Silberberg Family Trust
Joy & Michael Sydney

Liz & Larry Eckman
Merrimack Street Volvo
Jessica & Michael Singer
The Wolff Family Charitable Trust

*A special thank you to Michael Sydney for spearheading the Manchester
Hebrew Cemetery fence restoration project!*

Other

Helen Arnold in honor of her granddaughter Cleo's bat Mitzvah
Rikki & Michael Bornstein
Sheryl & Denis Hammond for the Annual Fundraiser
Barbara & Michael Platt for our Chanukah Party
Penny Oranburg in honor of Zeeva Oranburg
Michelle Rosenthal & Jeff Klein
Roberta Silberberg in memory of Alan Scribner
Sheila Sydney & Family
Frances Winneg

WELCOME
to our community!

Please join us in welcoming



**The Fain Family
&
The Rosenblum Family**



**We are so glad that you have
found your spiritual home here
at Temple Israel**

Times were Changing by Ruth Chevion

Sitting in a Russian jail, my father Pelek age 17, and his brother Alex age 15, had a conversation. You might call it a heated conversation. Alex was angry.

"Fifty of us are sitting in jail because of you," Alex said. "You and your violence. It's all your fault. Look what you've done. Why couldn't you?...Why didn't you?...Why can't you...?"

Pelek replied: *"I won't accept...Why should we?...I will fight back...He called us dirty Jews. Why should we take that?"*

They had left Tarnów in a bus at the outset of the Nazi invasion of Poland. Miriam and Elchanan, the boys' parents, had made the same decision that thousands of other families all over Poland made — that the men must escape before it is too late. A mass exodus of Polish men occurred in the first weeks of September 1939, including some 300,000 Jewish men. Apparently, it was known that wherever the Germans occupied, they immediately executed the leaders, and then hunted down men for slave labor in their mines and factories.

How dismayed Elchanan must have felt after the sacrifice he and Miriam had made, especially the pain of their separation. At the first landing of the bus inside Russia, not only was the bus confiscated, but then his own son Pelek did something that landed all fifty men from the bus in jail.

Zooming in on how this came about...After the men lost the bus, they were walking in the street. A man demanded to see their papers. This man was actually a plainclothes policeman, but he appeared to be a regular civilian, so my dad refused. The officer pulled a revolver and started in with insults like "dirty Jew, runaway scum," etc. My dad suddenly pushed the man's arm up from below in a wide arc so that the gun fell to the ground. A wrestling match for control of the gun ensued. Before long, police backup came. All fifty men were arrested, not just my dad. (Vicarious punishment being a favorite of authoritarian regimes.)

The surprise upshot was that the men were charged not with brawling, but with spying for Germany. The undercover cop attested that he had seen them signaling to a plane, that he saw them using a light and a mirror.

You and I know, dear reader, that Alex and Pelek and the others will be released after the Chief of Police from Tarnów shows up and vouches for them. But the two brothers do not know this. They are tense. They have been charged with a capital offense. They face being hanged as spies, along with their father. In this dire situation they speak bitterly, and also honestly about being Jews, about antisemitism, about ethics. They are serious young men.

Decades later around 1990, Alex and I are in his living room in New Jersey recording his experiences in the war. He tells me about this incident of being in jail with my dad and how they argued.

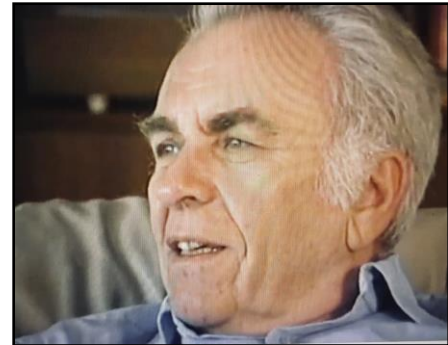
Here is some of what Alex said about it, in his own words:

"We were taught from the earliest age never to use our hands. Never to fight. Only to run away if we were threatened. We were taught to count to ten, even with each other. Never to say harsh words or loud words. This was the Jewish way in

Poland for hundreds of years. It was drummed into us constantly. I remember I wasn't even allowed to carry a stick. Sometimes, you know, a boy likes to carry a stick, but this was forbidden. As to guns, or rifles, never. It was considered low. Only the lowest characters, people we looked down on, would use a gun.

"But times were changing. There were young people like Pelek, who refused to accept this way of life...Even among the adults, there was a group called Revisionists, who believed that the land of Israel must be won by force. Most people still thought we should buy the land from the Arabs. But we had a cousin who was a Revisionist. Times were changing. We were changing."

For my part, dear reader, I barely recognize my father in this story. Yes, he was strong physically, and he was courageous, but I never heard him talk about wanting to hit someone. Yes, he hated anti-Semitism, but foremost, he loved being Jewish. He taught me the *Shema*. He taught me to read Hebrew. I remember how he loved to do *havdalah* after shabbat. I would say his concerns for social justice showed most in the decent way he treated the people who worked for him. In that sense, I do recognize my dad in this story.



This photo of Alex was taken by my son Paul while Alex was telling this story. Alex fought in the war for Israel Independence in 1948. Ironically, perhaps, he served in an engineering unit that designed and improvised weapons for the new Israeli army.



My father Pelek's photo on his US citizenship papers.

Keys to our Fence Gate by Jeff Klein

As you may have seen, our beautiful backyard fence is installed. In order to keep our backyard safe, the two gates on each side of the yard must remain locked. However, if we need to evacuate the building in an emergency, the gates must be accessible. We have a solution that I would like to share.

At the top of each staircase, you will find a weatherproof box secured to the Temple wall. They are approximately four feet from the gate and far enough away that someone will not be able to reach from the outside. Inside the box is a key on a retractable lanyard. It can be pulled far enough to unlock the gate and cannot walk off with the key holder. Once the key is used to unlock the gate, it must be used to lock the gate.

Please do not use the gate for convenience without someone else inside the gate to lock it back up. An unlocked gate is no better than having no fence. Thank you for your help keeping the Temple and our congregation safe.



We are saddened by the loss of Ruth Chevion's husband, Alan F. Scribner, 87, who passed unexpectedly on November 13 due to a stroke.

Erudite, loquacious, and kind, Alan avoided commercialism of any kind. He had no TV and no iPhone. He enjoyed conversation on topics from philosophy to sports, to politics, and he loved to tell a joke. Jewish by birth, he shunned all religion except classical stoicism, but he was a staunch supporter of Israel's right to fight to have true peace from terrorism within its borders.



Alan practiced law in New York City as Asst. D.A under Frank Hogan, followed by a private criminal defense practice. He moved to NH with Ruth Chevion and their son Paul Scribner in 1977. Upon retirement Alan became a successful writer of mystery novels set in ancient Rome, with a lead investigator by the name of Judge Marcus Flavius Severus, all self-published, as he preferred to avoid commercial publishing.

Alan loved his wife/significant other Ruth Chevion, and their son Paul Scribner, as well as his Leibowitz birth family, and his many lifelong friends.

He loved to read, play chess, and listen to classical music; he also liked to cook and collected many works of art. He loved cats. He was a member of the Planetary Society, the US Chess Federation, and the Hopkinton Library.

Alan graduated from Bronx High School of Science, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale Law School. He attended his 70th high school reunion in NYC in September 2024. Donations may be made to Friends of Hopkinton Library, Contoocook NH, 03229.

Community Simchat!



Mazel Tov, Cleo!

On November 16th Temple Israel celebrated the amazing Cleo Warner on becoming a Bat Mitzvah! A huge Mazel Tov to her and her parents! We are so proud of her!



Simchat Torah Celebration at Temple Israel: We Danced Again!

By: Linda Kropp Sinkow

On the evening of October 24th, Temple Israel hosted a joyous and lively Simchat Torah celebration, bringing together thirty-five members of our congregation to mark the end of the annual Torah reading cycle and the beginning of a new one. This year's Simchat Torah was particularly meaningful, representing hope and light during one of the most challenging times in our people's history.

The evening was filled with music, dancing, and joy, with spirits highlighted by the performance of a local klezmer band. Their upbeat, lively tunes set the perfect tone for the festivities, and soon the sanctuary was filled with congregants dancing joyfully with Torah scrolls in hand.

It was a beautiful sight to see members of all ages come together in celebration, moving in lively circles to the rhythm of the music. The energy was contagious and incredible!

In addition to the dancing, guests enjoyed a selection of delicious appetizers and beverages, providing a relaxed setting for conversation and community building. The informal atmosphere allowed attendees to mingle, reconnect, and share in the happiness of the evening.

We thank all who participated and made the evening so special. A big thank you to Aida Koocher, The Warner Family, The Shepler Family, and The Nathan Family for their generous donations that made this evening possible. We look forward to more opportunities to gather as a community in the year ahead!



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The Jewish Learning Experience

Students at the Jewish Learning Experience (JLE) at Temple Israel have learned and discussed all of the Torah portions since Bereshit. What they learn is always reinforced by playing Jewperdy!

While the younger ones practice letter recognition through games and learn about holidays, Torah portion and Jewish values, the two older groups have begun exploring “Koach Hadibbur”, “the power of speech”. This important Jewish value is about being aware that what we say has power. We must be mindful of what we say to people and how we say it.

The older students are doing an outstanding job at learning their blessings before and after the Haftarah as well as the Amida while the intermediate group keeps on learning their Hebrew letters. In Judaics, students have been learning about Sephardic traditions.

At each session, JLE is fortunate to have a specialist engaging everyone in experiencing something different. This past month, they discovered how a Torah scroll is written, they baked honey cake and challah, and they did improvisation on Jewish themes. Always so much fun!

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Chanukah Shabbat!

SERVICES AND DINNER WITH LATKES!
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 ~ 6 PM






December Jahrzeits

Dec 1	Perlman, Benjamin Soref, Esther y, Miriam	Dec 11	Saulten, Abraham Woolf, Myer	Dec 21	Gruber, Benjamin Saber, Charles
Dec 2	Richmond, Leslie Thaler, Morton	Dec 12	Brogadir, William Holtzman, David		Sternberg, Isidore Sternberg, Rosalind
Dec 3	Grevior, Archie Kaplan, Louis Sanel, Ida Zeive, Sadye		Liverman, Louis Novels, Dorothy Rubin, Sharon	Dec 22	Charron, Harry Cohen, Sylvia Gasser, Sonia Isenberg, Louis Rosenberg, Sarah Sidman, Jennie Stemple, Irving
Dec 4	Brestin, Allan	Dec 13	Chitister, Selma Eckman, Harold Heifetz, Alexander Swartz, Morris		
Dec 5	Bluestone, Naomi Grodman, Arnold Sandler, Steve	Dec 14	Kurtz, Aaron Schill, Herman Allan Silberberg, Joel	Dec 23	Gilmartin, James Herson, Shelley Peterman, Blanche
Dec 6	Ekman, Nathan Kaufman, Samuel Regensburger, Joseph Rubin, Harvey David	Dec 15	Eskowitz, Irving Hardoon, Rosita Kurtz, Beatrice Mandelbaum, Jeanette Musicof, Bronia Sachs, Esther Spierer, Mary Weinstock, Joseph	Dec 24	Eluto, Steve Hoffman, Ben Perlstein, Alice
Dec 7	Hammond, Ruth Katz, Cillia (Sima) Perlman, Harry Perlman, Hyman L. Weiner, Paul			Dec 25	Katz, Samuel Rovner, Vera Solomon, Arnold Wilinsky, Goldie
Dec 8	Eluto, Sonora Fieldman, Anna Kandler, Rebecca Laibson, Janet Lyons, Florence Resnick, Ida	Dec 16	Baer, Ralph Grevior, Edward Novak, Leonard	Dec 26	Fedder, Helen Fleischman, Jennie Lefcofsky, Solomon
Dec 9	Cohen, Maurice Litvinchook, Jessie Siegel, Sidney J.	Dec 18	Rosen, Israel Al Swartz, Gertrude	Dec 27	Diamond, Anita
Dec 10	Cramer, Rebecca Diamond, Henry Grodzinsky, Israel	Dec 19	Koocher, Ida Litvin, Samuel	Dec 29	Braverman, Abraham Eskowitz, Jeanette Kniager, Bertha Rocklin-Weare, Arnold Sanel, Tillie Siegel, Edward
Dec 11	Hybsch, Colombe	Dec 20	Novoselsky, Steven J. Rice, Harry Stoloff, Julius Tevelov, Theresa	Dec 30	Straton, Pearl
		Dec 21	Eluto, Sarah Elfond Gasser, Sam	Dec 31	Levine, Harvey Margolis, Morris



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

DECEMBER

Chesvan 30 to Kislev 30

Happy Anniversary!

Dec 16 ~ Lea & Neil Themea ~ 7 years
Dec 19 ~ Elizabeth & Alan Gaby - 25 years

Dec 1 ~ Morgan Hallock
Dec 15 ~ Phyllis Turtle
Dec 19 ~ Rabbi Gary Atkins
Dec 20 ~ Lexi Guttman



Dec 21 ~ Julia Preis
Dec 21 ~ Jeffrey Singer
Dec 26 ~ Daniel Cohen
Dec 31 ~ Margaux Oxman

Weekly

Minyans - every Wednesday - 7:00 AM

Torah Study - every Wednesday
6:30pm via ZOOM.



Shabbat Candles & Portions

Dec 6 - 3:52pm - Vayetzei
Dec 13 - 3:53pm - Vayishlach
Dec 20 - 3:55pm - Vayeshev
Dec 27 - 4:00pm - Miketz

DECEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sat, Dec 7	9:45am	Shabbat Service with Kiddush sponsored by Ruth Chevion
Sat, Dec 21	9:45am	Shabbat Service with Kiddush sponsored by Ken Cohn and Rebecca & David Sky
Sun, Dec 22	Noon	Complimentary pre-Chanukah party for Hebrew School Kids. No RSVP needed.
Weds, Dec 25	Sunset	Chanukah begins, light 1 candle after dark. Office closed
Thu - Dec 26		Light 2 candles after dark.
Fri - Dec 27	6:00pm	Kabbalat Shabbat and Complimentary Dinner. RSVP by Dec 17. https://forms.gle/3RhV1nhRonBzTApB6 . Light 3 candles after dark.
Sat - Dec 28		Light 4 candles after dark.
Sun - Dec 29	5:00pm	Menorah Lighting and Complimentary Chanukah Cocktail Party. RSVP by Dec 19. https://forms.gle/roXhwBztJTdkVj68 . Light 5 candles after dark.
Mon - Dec 30		Light 6 candles after dark.
Tue - Dec 31		Light 7 candles after dark.

USEFUL LINKS

Our Rabbi: rabbi.marc@yahoo.com

Our President: president@templeisraelmht.org or call 248.321.4949

Our Vice President & Membership Director: lindasinkow@gmail.com

Our Office: office@templeisraelmht.org or 603.622.6171

Our Website: <https://templeisraelmht.org>

Our Service & Events Page: <https://templeisraelmht.org/services-and-events>

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