



# Congregation Tiferet Yehudah v'Yisrael

## The Kerhonkson Synagogue Newsletter

December 2009

Rabbi Suri Krieger

Kislev 5770

### ☆ Schedule of Events ☆

#### Havdalah Service and Hanukkah Party

Saturday, December 12 at 5 PM

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 30 at 10:00 AM

Shabbat service & Brunch\*

#### Purim Megilah & Party

Saturday, February 27 at 6 PM

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 AM

Shabbat service & Brunch\*

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 AM

Shabbat service & Brunch\*

#### Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 8 at 10:00 AM

Shabbat service & Brunch\*

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*Please go to our website*

[www.kerhonksonsynagogue.org](http://www.kerhonksonsynagogue.org)

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\*Bring a dish, dairy or parve only.

Business meetings are generally held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

This is a friendly reminder.  
Have you paid your dues?

### Rabbi Suri Krieger Enlightening Rededication

True, that little jar of oil story is a midrash from the Talmud. It is rabbinic tale that became the hallmark of the Chanuka story...far different from the battle bloody details of military encounters found in the Book of Macabees. But as stories go, it bears a powerful message. Light and fire have always been of the most vibrant symbols in the Jewish tradition, from the earliest books of the Torah through the latest rabbinic commentaries.

*And God said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1)*

*And an angel appeared to Moses out of a burning bush. (Exodus 3)*

*A fiery chariot appeared with fiery horses, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. (2 Kings 2)*

*Hanukkah lights are to be lit in order to publicize and meditate upon the great miracle*

*(Tractate Shabbat 21b-23a) {referring to the miraculous jar of oil and to the miraculous military*

Whether we consider that miracle to be the myth of a little jar of oil outlasting any anticipated odds, or the defeat of the all powerful Assyrian Greek army by the militant band of Macabees against all odds, a victory restoring religious freedom to the Jewish people, the message of the miracle is it burns brightly through fire and light imagery. We are a people whose spark refuses to extinguish, even in the darkest moments of our history. We are the flame whose light, when passed on, ignites and instills but is not consumed.

Light is often connected with the preeminent Source of Divinity. In Jewish Mysticism there is the kabbalistic notion of a primordial divine light so potent that it shattered the vessels which contained it. It's sparks scattered everywhere, hidden within, beneath and above. It is for us to reclaim the sparks, to bring them out of the darkness and reclaim their light.

I like to think of the flame of a single candle as an indicator not only of divinity, but as a hub of love. One might think that by passing it on to ignite another wick, the original flame might be diminished, or go out. But lo and behold, it fuels and

*Continued on second page*

## Some Words from Our Past President

So this is my farewell address.

Altogether not really a farewell. I will be sticking around for a while but no longer as President. I have always had a connection to this place and this Synagogue. So if I am not up at the front making announcements I will be in the audience listening. I will see you all at the Hanukkah Party on Saturday evening, the 12th of December. See you then. Let's all see this little Shul grow!

Goldie Goldberg, Past President

## Chanukah Greetings

Wishing all our friends and neighbors a healthy and happy Chanukah. Esther and Dave DeGrote.

Happy Holidays from the Paley family, Matt, Deana, Jackson, & Hudson

Sadie Friedman, Sue & Michael Jordan & Family, Celia Sondak

Happy Chanukah from Mel & Elaine Tapper

Chanukah Greetings from the Barash Family - Janine, Barry, Josh, & Dana

Happy Chanukah from the Goldbergs

Chanukah Greetings from the Peplows

Chanukah Greetings from Jeff, Lynda, & Tobias

Chanukah Greetings from the Philly Devors

Chanukah Greetings from Glenn, Eddie and Roxy Pomerantz

Happy Chanuka! With love from the Lawrence Family - Lois, Jim, Alex & Emily!

Wishing a joyous Chanukah to all our family and friends Steve, Lisa, Adam, Marc, & Jason Feinberg

## Synagogue Officers & Board of Trustees

**President** Mark Peplow

**Vice-Presidents** Joyce Greenough  
& David Winograd

**Treasurer** Steve Feinberg

**Corresponding Secretary** Lynda Devor

**Rec. Secretary** Janine Barash

**Trustees:** Sadie Friedman; Goldie Goldberg;  
Glenn Pomerantz; Celia Sondak

**Cemetery Committee:** Bob Pomerantz

**House Committee:** Glenn Pomerantz

**Newsletter Editor:** Joyce Greenough

## Some Words from Our President

As the days grow shorter and winter approaches, we come to one of the most family and children centered holidays of our calendar. We light candles and come together for food, games and songs but Hanukkah, while conjuring images of latkes, dreidels and the miracle of the oil, really commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.

My main focus as president is to increase our membership and increase our presence in the community, nation and world and, in the short time I have been involved, I have been amazed at the energy, enthusiasm and knowledge of our Board in pursuing those goals. We are working on a variety of ideas and projects to move the synagogue forward. Combine this with the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Suri and I envision a great year ahead.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Havdalah service/Hanukkah party on Saturday the 12th. Come for latkes, games and fun. I encourage everyone to bring a new person to feel the ruach of our "family".

I hope you will join me in rededicating a commitment to the prosperity and growth of our synagogue and join us on the 12th.

Mark Peplow

"In a period of eight days, Hanukkah offers us a glimpse of the Divine, an opportunity to dedicate ourselves to all that is holy in the world, in our family, and in ourselves. We hope that the lights of Hanukkah illumine your path in the world, and through your life's journey."

*Rabbi Kerry Olitzky*

## From the Rabbi

*Continued from page 1*

refuels and keeps burning strong. So it is with love... in touching upon one it grows ever stronger in the original. So it is with the spiritual fervor of the Jewish people. In outreach to others who have been in the shadows of our Jewish heritage, we strengthen our own identity and connection with Judaism.

May we rededicate ourselves, in the darkest months of the year, to seeking out those sparks yearning to burn brightly... the sparks of divinity and the sparks of love.

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Albert Schweitzer

## A Tradition of Caring - A Commitment to Service

Jewish Family Services of Ulster County is the only agency in the county which sends mental health professionals into the homes of seniors many of which are homebound. The social worker assess the needs of the client and caregivers and gives supportive therapy. When assessing the needs, other agencies may need to be connected to the client. We also have support groups for Caregivers in three areas, support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and a mentoring group called Project Hope. Project Hope pairs experienced women with those who are looking for a better life for themselves and their families. We are in the process of training new volunteers and always looking for more. Volunteers for our clients and anyone who calls needing rides to appointments, grocery shopping and compassionate visits and calls. As our materials say we have a "tradition of caring -a commitment to service and our volunteers are necessary to our mission Pat Wootan is our volunteer coordinator and she can be reached at 338-2980.

Sharon Murray-Cohen-LCSW-R  
Executive Director  
Jewish Family Services of Ulster County

## Senior News

With our President away for the winter, Vice-President Dave has been presiding over our group. Our Treasurer Celia has organized the summer play schedule: "Sugar" on June 23 and "Rent" on Sept. 15. Please call Celia at 647-0185 for ticket/info. Our membership is open to all. Every Tuesday we meet at noon in our Community Center. Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea are on us. It's only \$18- to become a member for the year. We go out to eat once a month and the club reimburses you \$5- each time. Our members share local news, Senior information, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, jokes, guest speakers and enjoy new friendships.

Lynda

## Chanukah Party



Saturday 12/12

latkes, dreidles,  
& candle lighting

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