



December 2018 *Kislev-Tevet* 5779 Volume 14, Number 4

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat Services are held on the first Friday of the month, 7:30 PM, at the Federated Church, Main Street, Orleans, followed by an *Oneg Shabbat*. Please bring refreshments, such as baked goods and fruit, for the *Oneg Shabbat* which will follow the service. Wine, *challah*, and beverages are supplied by *Am HaYam*. Services are led by members of the *Havurah* and each service is different depending on the leader's orientation. If you wish to lead *Shabbat* services, please contact Judy Keller at jkelle47@verizon.net.

Friday, December 7:
Service leader: Tova Soyt

This month we will have a Hanukkah Potluck Supper at 5:30 PM followed by a *Shabbat* Service at 7:30 PM. Please see attached flyer for details. Potluck requires an RSVP.



If you see someone enter the service that you do not recognize, please introduce yourself and welcome him/her to services and to *Am HaYam*.

The Federated Church is fully handicap accessible with plenty of parking, with both regular and handicap spaces.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jews love stories. For thousands of years Jews have been telling stories, listening to stories and writing stories. For thousands of years, Jews have been studying, exploring, explicating, and debating the meaning of stories. Jews love stories so much that they often write numerous versions of the same event. Sometimes, the interpreters of sacred stories created versions of stories that were extremely different from the available texts; created versions that had other meanings and other fundamental points of view. In doing so, they critically changed the original emphasis and meaning. The *Hanukkah* story that we know today is a most important example.

We know, by heart, the tale of the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees and of the miraculous story of the oil that burned for eight days. But what do the historical and or religious texts have to say about that long-ago event?

In 2 Maccabees chapter 10:

1 When Judas and his companions, under the Lord's leadership, had recovered the temple and the city, 2 they destroyed the altars erected by the foreigners in the marketplace and the sacred shrines. 3 After purifying the temple, they made another altar. Then, with fire struck from flint, they offered sacrifice for the first time in two years, burned incense, and lighted lamps. They also set out the showbread.

4 When they had done this, they prostrated themselves and begged the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes, and that if they should sin at any

time, he might chastise them with moderation and not hand them over to blasphemous and barbarous Gentiles. 5 On the anniversary of the day on which the foreigners had profaned the temple, that is, the twenty-fifth of the same month *Kislev*, the purification of the temple took place. 6 **The Jews celebrated joyfully for eight days** as on the feast of Booths, remembering how, a little while before, they had spent the feast of Booths living like wild animals in the mountains and in caves. 7 Carrying rods entwined with leaves, beautiful branches and palms, they sang hymns of grateful praise to him who had successfully brought about the purification of his own place. 8 **By public decree and vote they prescribed that the whole Jewish nation should celebrate these days every year.**

The Babylonian Talmud, Book 1: Tract Sabbath, 21b What is 'Hanukah? The rabbis taught: "On the twenty-fifth day of *Kislev* 'Hanukah commences and lasts eight days, on which lamenting (in commemoration of the dead) and fasting are prohibited. When the Hellenists entered the sanctuary, they defiled all the oil that was found there. When the government of the House of Asmoneans prevailed and conquered them, oil was sought (to feed the holy lamp in the sanctuary) and only one vial was found with the seal of the high priest intact. **The vial contained sufficient oil for one day only, but a miracle occurred, and it fed the holy lamp eight days in succession. These eight days were the following year established as days of good cheer, on which psalms of praise and acknowledgment (of G-d's wonders) were to be recited.**

So what does one make of the above referenced sources? How does one resolve the different emphasis of the sources, sources that differ profoundly in focus? How does one make sense of the sources that credit the Maccabees for the rededication of the Temple and the pronouncement of a decree that all Jews celebrate that event for eight days with the Talmud tractate that advances the idea of a G-d created miracle for the same event and downplays the vital role of the Maccabees?

Well, as we know, we Jews combine both stories and sing songs about the brave Judas Maccabee and retell the story of the Miracle of the Eight Days of Oil. To reconcile the differences between the two accounts, the elements of the two stories were merged to create a unified story. We tell a story that omits difference and presents an integrated understanding that honors the bravery of the Maccabees and credits G-d with the miracle of the eight days of oil.

INTERFAITH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Interfaith Justice Committee of the Federated Church of Orleans and *Am HaYam* is in need of additional members to address issues of local, national and international importance to us all.

The Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at The Federated Church from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. If interested and available, please contact Renate Wasserman at renate-was@gmail.com or Marcia Goffin at mgoffin10@gmail.com.

*Renate Wasserman
Facilitator*

So we continue to tell stories, write stories, listen to stories and debate stories. So we continue studying, exploring, explicating, explaining and debating the meaning of stories.

This *Hanukkah* 2018 let us make a commitment to liberty and justice for all, a *Hanukkah* of peace for all the peoples of the Earth. Let us devote ourselves to the betterment of the world as we gather together to light the candles of *Hanukkah*. Let us bless those who came before us who did great deeds that seemed like "miracles." May we do such good deeds at this season and at every season. Let us bless the goodness that we have found in the world that has kept us alive and sustained us, and brought us to this moment.

Happy *Hanukkah*.

Ira Wolfson

The following message comes from the Justice Committee:

MAKE A PUBLIC COMMENT BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

PROPOSED RULE: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds

BACKGROUND:

USCIS has filed a proposal to change a long-standing rule regarding eligibility for a green card. Currently, immigrants applying for a green card are penalized if they're determined to be a "public charge" i.e. primarily dependent on government support by receiving cash benefits (welfare, SSI or long-term care).

If the changes are adopted as proposed, the modified rule would:

- Penalize use of certain non-cash benefits (nutrition assistance, housing subsidies or Medicare Part D subsidies)

- Penalize other factors such as low wages, disability or a medical condition not privately insured

- Minimize the benefit of having a family member sign as sponsor

- Prioritize applicants with high income or assets

The proposal will make it harder for lawfully-present immigrants to get a green card through family petition.

These changes have been published for public comment on the Federal Register. By law, the rule cannot be finalized or implemented until all comments are reviewed. All comments are welcome: personal, professional and academic; however, detailed and unique comments are most meaningful. To add yours, go to: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCIS-2010-0012-0001>.



Deadline: Monday, December 10

Yes, your comments do count! Through this rulemaking process, proposals have been delayed, modified and even scrapped.

ZAMAREI HAYAM - Singers of the Sea

Am HaYam is a “fellowship” – self run with no full-time resident rabbi or cantor. We have to rely on one another. In November, once at the beginning and once at the end, *Zamarei*, The Singers of the Sea, were called upon to sing at a service. The first, a happy occasion at the *Shabbat* Service on November 2 celebrating the one-year anniversary of the *B’not Mitzvah* of five women. The second, a funeral service on November 18 for long time member, Stephen Roth. Yet all I had to do was email the members of *Zamarei HaYam* and almost instantly there were enough singers to enhance each service – happy and sad. That is what a fellowship is all about and that is what makes my “job” as facilitator so satisfying. My sincere thanks to all those singers who were able to participate in these two services.

*Mim Selig
Facilitator*

HEBREW CLASS

Here is your chance to join our Hebrew class where our focus is Biblical Hebrew.

In December we’ll be dedicated to polishing our reading skills.

We do still have space for a few new students. But don’t put it off; please do call 508-255-5419 to enroll and learn details.

Sandy Chernick

STUDY TORAH ON YOUR OWN

Interested in more Torah Study? The following links to the Conservative and Reform Movements will take you to weekly Torah commentary and more:

<http://conservativejudaism.org/articlenav.php?id=7>

<https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/va-ychi>

MISHKAN HANEFESH FOR PURCHASE

Some members have inquired about purchasing copies of the new *machzor* for their personal use. The easiest way to do that is to order on Amazon. It is the same price as ordering from the Reform movement’s publishing division. The price is \$42.00 for regular size hard cover (two volumes), \$100 for large print paperback (three volumes*) and \$9.99 per volume for the kindle editions (total 19.98 for both volumes). *The Yom Kippur service is divided into two volumes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, December 18, 7 PM (note permanent change from Mondays to Tuesdays)
Federated Church
All are welcome.

SUNDAY TORAH STUDY WITH RABBI DEANNA DOUGLAS

This year in Sunday Torah Study, we will try to understand, as best we can, the *Book of Ecclesiastes*, called *Kohelet* in Hebrew. Please bring your *TaNakh* (not just the Torah, but the whole Bible (or as one might say in Yiddish, the *gantze megilla*).

Also, if you have never studied Torah (which actually means the entire Jewish canon), give it a try. All you need to do is to be able to read English and have an inquiring mind.

Rabbi Deanna Douglas

All sessions meet at the Brewster Ladies Library, 10:30 AM - 12 Noon

December 2

January - no session

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

RITUAL COMMITTEE - HELP WANTED

Am HaYam needs you! The Ritual Committee is looking for more members to lead *Shabbat* Services. Members of the committee will assist you with planning. We have guidelines for *Shabbat* services and ideas for alternative creative services to share with you. Services can be led by individuals or by groups. We have services in 2018 in need of leaders. Please email Judy Keller at jkelle47@verizon.net and reserve your date!!!

DONATIONS

Many of our *Shabbat* prayer books are still available for dedicatory bookplates, and virtually your entire donation supports the wonderful programs and services provided by *Am HaYam*. Please don't overlook this opportunity for performing a true *mitzvah*.

To mark celebratory events, honor or remember loved ones or friends with bookplates in our prayer books, please send a check for \$18 (per bookplate) payable to Am HaYam to: AHY, Box 1235, Brewster, MA 02631.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 2	Torah Study w/Rabbi Douglas	10:30 AM
	First Night of <i>Hanukkah</i>	
Monday, December 3	Play Reading Group	12:30 PM
Tuesday, December 4	<i>Hanukkah</i> at Pleasant Bay	2:30 PM
Friday, December 7	<i>Hanukkah</i> Potluck Dinner	5:30 PM
	<i>Shabbat</i> Service	7:30 PM
Monday, December 10	Ritual Committee	10:00 AM
Tuesday, December 11	"Tis the Season" Luncheon	11:45 AM
Friday, December 14	<i>Shabbat</i> in P-Town	6:30 PM
Tuesday, December 18*	Women's Torah Study	2:00 PM
	Board of Directors	7:00 PM
Thursday, December 20	<i>Rosh Chodesh</i> Women	7:30 PM
Tuesday, December 25	LEGAL HOLIDAY	
Friday, December 28	<i>Shabbat</i> in P-Town	6:30 PM
Monday, December 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE	

Hanukkah: Sunday, December 2 – Monday, December 10

WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

The Women's Torah Study group meets monthly year-round on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 2-4 PM, at members' homes. We are now studying the Book of Leviticus (*Vayikra*). Our goal is to study with more depth, using additional sources from various commentaries to podcasts and internet research. Our main source is *The Jewish Study Bible*, but any Jewish Bible in English may be used. Many of our members also bring commentaries of one sort or another.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18*, 2-4 PM, at the home of Shira Sands, Wellfleet. If you wish to be added to the WTS email list, contact me at rebecabholmes@comcast.net.

Rebecca B. Holmes, Facilitator

*Note change of date from fourth to third Tuesday due to Legal Holiday on December 25.

THE PLAY READING GROUP

Our next meeting of The Play Reading Group will be on Monday, December 3rd at the home of Sandy Chernick and Sandi Herschel, 33 West Road, #6C, Orleans. We will meet at 12:30 PM to *Nosh* and *Schmooze*. The official start of the reading of the play will begin at 1:00 and will run until 3:00, (winter hours).

We will read *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by August Wilson. It is a Two Act play which first opened in April, 1986 at the Yale Repertory Theater in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1988, it played at the Ethel Barrymore Theater on Broadway, in New York City.

Set in a boarding house in Pittsburgh in 1911, this drama by the author of *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars* and *Fences* is an installment in the author's series chronicling black life in each decade of the 20th century. Each resident of the boarding house has a different relationship to a past of slavery, as well as to the urban present. They include the proprietors, an eccentric clairvoyant with a penchant for old country voodoo, a young homeboy up from the South, and a mysterious stranger who is searching for his wife. This is a very moving and compelling play. A discussion will follow the reading of the play.

ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE WELCOME! NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Please check with Clams Library System for the availability of the play or you can purchase the play inexpensively at amazon.com, abebooks.com or powell.com.

RSVP to Sandy Chernick or Sandi Herschel at: 508-255-5419. Please carpool if possible. Thank you.

Bernice Simon-Wolfson, Chair

PLAY READING SCHEDULE 2018-2019

DATE	PLAY	PLAYWRIGHT	HOST
December 3	<i>Joe Turner's Come and Gone</i>	August Wilson	Sandy Chernick & Sandi Herschel
January 7	<i>I Never Sang for My Father</i>	Robert Anderson	Elaine Skoler
February 4	<i>A Small Family Business</i>	Alan Auckbourn	Judi Sitkin
March 4	<i>The Women</i>	Claire Booth Luce	Arline Lowenthal
April 1	<i>Three Tall Women</i>	Edward Albee	Deborah Cline
May 6	<i>Major Barbara</i>	George Bernard Shaw	Betsy Smith
June 3	<i>Plaza Suite</i>	Neil Simon	Elaine Karp

ROSH CHODESH WOMEN

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 20th at the home of Arline Lowenthal, 40 Deb's Hill Road, Yarmouth Port. The meeting will begin at 7:30 with Arline Lowenthal facilitating. The theme is "Game Night." RSVP to Arline at 508-760-6640 or alowenthal@aol.com. Please carpool if possible.

As children, games were part of life. We sometimes forget how important they were in making friends and learning to play by the rules. As adults, games play a role in taking us away from the daily routine of our lives, if just for a little while. Do you remember a game that was important to you as a child? Do you want to share a memory that you have about a particular game? Did you make up a game that only you and your best friend played? Bring those to Rosh Chodesh. We will be talking about these memories and also playing games that you bring with you. It should be an evening of fun and nostalgia. We will have some games available, but bring your own as well. Looking forward to seeing you!

ROSH CHODESH SCHEDULE 2018-2019

DATE	TOPIC	HOST	FACILITATOR
DECEMBER 20	Game Night	Arline Lowenthal	Arline Lowenthal
JANUARY 17	End of Life Decision Making	Bernice Simon-Wolfson	Rebecca Holmes
FEBRUARY 21 2 - 4 PM	Jewish Origami: A Hands-on Experience	Federated Church	Judy Keller
MARCH 21	Here and Now: What's on your mind - an open discussion	Deb Cline	Deborah Jacobs
APRIL 25 *	From Aging to Wisdom	Ruth Shapiro	Ruth Shapiro & Jessica Dill
MAY 16	Secular Jewish Women and Activism	Sharon Leder	Sharon Leder
JUNE 20	<i>The Book of Separation</i> by Tova Mirvis	Bernice Simon-Wolfson	Bernice Simon-Wolfson

*Note: 4th Thursday

The book that was chosen for this new season is *The Book of Separation* by Tova Mirvis. It's a memoir about the author's life as an Orthodox Jew and then separating from Orthodoxy. At age 40 Tova decided to leave her husband and her faith. She strikes out on her own to discover what believes and who she really is. This will entail forging a new way of life, not just for herself, but for her children, who are struggling with what the divorce and her new status as "Not Orthodox" mean for them. This program will be on June 20. Thank you.

Bernice Simon-Wolfson, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

A member is anyone who participates in *Am HaYam* religious services, programs, and events or who wishes to be on the email mailing list. There are no membership dues. *Am HaYam* is solely dependent on the generous donations of those who attend our events or who make donations to mark special occasions or to remember loved ones. Mail donations to: Am HaYam, Box 1235, Brewster, MA 02631. If you wish to have a card sent announcing your donation, please include the name and address of the person for whom you are making the donation.

AM HAYAM DIRECTORY

The *Am HaYam* Directory has been updated for 2018. If you are NOT in the Directory or need to update any of your information (name(s), address, telephone, email), please send the new information to Jessica Dill, jrdill1@comcast.net. The new Directories were emailed in early January. If you did not receive one, contact Jessica at the email above. The *Am HaYam* Directory is a convenience for members to locate people in your area and contact each other. It is not to be used for mass mailing or solicitations or any other commercial purposes.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY:

- New Year's Day, January 1
- *Shabbat* Morning Service, January 5
- Play Reading Group, January 7
- *Shabbat* in P-Town, January 11
- Board of Directors, January 15
- *Rosh Chodesh* Women, January 17
- *Tu Bishvat*, January 21
- Martin L. King, Jr. Day, January 21
- Women's Torah Study, January 22
- *Shabbat* in P-Town, January 25



HINENI OUTREACH GROUP

The meaning of *Hineni* is "Here I Am." The members of our group are here to help during times of sickness and bereavement. We want to reach out when someone needs help and wants help. If you are in need of assistance, please "reach in" for our help. If you know someone in you might benefit from our help, let us know and will ask them if they would like some assistance.

Ruth Shapiro is coordinating the *Hineni* efforts. Please don't hesitate to call Ruth at 508-896-3573 if you have any questions, wish to be a *Hineni* volunteer, or need help. We are here...*HINENI!*

Often people are reluctant to ask for assistance. If you know of someone who may be in need, please call Ruth. We want to help.

LOCAL (Lower Cape Lunch)

Am HaYam, as a member of the Nauset Interfaith Association, participates in LOCAL, which provides one free lunch and one free dinner weekly to neighbors in need of sustenance and social interaction. *AHY* provides volunteers on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of the month, and we could use more help. Please consider volunteering or serving as backup for one of these shifts, just 1 1/2 to 2 hours a month.

No special cooking ability or heavy lifting is required. You work as part of a team with a coordinator on site. *Am HaYam* is the only Jewish organization in the Nauset Interfaith Association, and we are committed to participating fully. It's a *mitzvah* and each volunteer leaves with a good feeling for having given back to our wonderful community. Here are the options:

Second Tuesday Lunch

Cooking and Prep 9:30-11:30; Serving and Clean-up 11:30-1:00

Fourth Thursday Dinner

Cooking and Prep 3:30-5:30; Serving and Clean-up 5:30-7:00

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Jessica Dill at or 508-255-7771 or jrdill1@comcast.net.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

Am HaYam is excited to present the possibility of a 10-day Journey into Israel's Culture and Cuisine led by Orleans' own Erez Pinhas, owner of Abba restaurant. An Israeli native, Erez has offered to customize this trip to Israel for *Am HaYam* should there be sufficient interest.

Highlights would include:

- Airport pickup/dropoff
- 10 nights hotel including breakfast
- Luxury air-conditioned van or bus throughout itinerary
- Druze cooking workshop with meal in the Galilee
- All entrance fees to museums and national parks
- Three winery tastings with artisanal cheeses
- Halvah tasting
- Kibbutz bio-tour
- Visits to Caesarea, Golan Heights, Dead Sea, tour of Old City Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, Jaffa



Dates have not been locked in. Under consideration are January, February, March, late October/early November 2020 and January 2021. We estimate the cost to be about \$2800 per person with a minimum of 10 people and would be reduced to \$2500 for 20 or more. Airfare is not included.

If you have any interest in pursuing this opportunity, please email Jessica Dill, jrdill1@comcast.net by January 31 including a date preference if you have one. Your expression of interest does not obligate you any further. If enough people respond, we will be holding an information session with Erez Pinhas to provide more details.

To see additional information about Erez's regular tours, go to abbagotravel.com. 2020 in Jerusalem? We'll see.

Jessica Dill

MILESTONES

Mazel tov to

Marilyn and Paul Schlansky on their 50th wedding anniversary

Condolences to

Carol Roth on the loss of her beloved husband, Stephen, and to his children, Daniel & Cindy Roth, and Jessica Roth; and to his grandchildren, Zachary Roth and Rebekah Roth; and to his brother, Martin Roth

Sara Henken on the loss of her beloved husband, Milton

Refuah Shleimah to

Judy Underberg

Bruce Wolf

Bob DuBeau

Bob Jacobson

Susan Rosenberg

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In appreciation of Am HaYam

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In appreciation of Am HaYam

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In memory of

Stephen Roth

Rebecca B. Holmes

Bernice & Ira Wolfson

Milly Beer

Renate Wasserman

Marge & Connie McCarty

Elaine Karp

Ruth Gail & Steve Cohen

Judi & Marc Sitkin

Sandi & Mark Vandercar

Judy Keller

Suzan & Wayne Ushman

Stephen Roth, for all the effort he put into the *Am HaYam* Food Drive doing God's work

Anita & David Kraft

Pittsburgh Victims

Carolyn Phillips & Stephen Burwick

“YELLOW PAGES” OF AM HAYAM

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