

Temple Shabbat Shalom

Volume 8 Issue 3

Chanukah

5768/2007

The "Global Village" Congregation

A Season of Sanctification by Separation

We all love Thanksgiving, the meal, and the private family rituals that make the day special. Chanukah is a home centered and private practice which is why it is, along with the home based Passover Seder, the most observed Jewish celebration. We are taught by our Rabbis of blessed memory that the essence of Chanukah is to display a Menorah in the windows of our homes to make public the miracle. This does not mean competing with Christian symbols in the marketplace or town squares of our democracy. Sanctification by separation becomes essential when we move from the private to the public domain. For good reason the separation of church and state is a tenet of our American religion.

We support the institutions of public religion. Our best houses of worship are a home away from home, a place to sing and celebrate and study, in public, with community. I support all religious institutions that work toward the good of the various faith groups and the common welfare.

Private religion, like intimacy, takes place in the home. Cynthia Ozick suggests we be puritans in public and sensual in private and I second that emotion. Intimacy itself is worship, with God's help, a prayer service.

Private religion is certainly scriptural. To love the Lord our God with heart and soul and mind is the first and greatest commandment. The second is to love our neighbors as our self.

How do we write the greatest commandment on the doorposts of our homes? Live in your home as a private sanctuary and you begin to fulfill the great teaching of love. Teach children and disciples diligently by speaking Torah at the evening meal and morning meal and at lunch.

Private religion in the home takes place at the table. The traditional Jew follows a code of law and custom called the *Schulchan Aruch* by Rabbi Yosef Caro. The code literally means "The Ordered Table". The table is the holy of holies in the private domestic sanctuary.

Your Table is a place for special, holy conversation. More observant people start with a discussion of the weekly or daily scriptural reading and of course a prayer. Others rely upon a once a week visit to a community house of worship to learn about faith and hope, but love is learned in the home.

Begin with questions:

Is love an obligation?

We are called to love God. Does God love us?

(Spinoza taught that to love God means no expectation of reciprocity.)

How do we teach and learn a religion that is a system of kindness, one that inspires social justice?

Are religions becoming political and politics religion?

Does separation of church and state work?

Are we a “Christian” Nation? Should this be our goal?

We have defined our hierarchy: The innermost circles are the Temples of mind and heart. We are commanded to fill them with the teachings that inspire love. The next circle is the home which we are commanded to dedicate as a sanctuary. The third circle is the neighbor we are to love and the buildings we build to facilitate that love. The fourth circle is our village or town or city and the fifth the state. Our nation is the sixth and all the nations the seventh. A concrete model of these circles forms a fountain of ever widening circles spilling over from the inner to the outer. The circles also may spill from outer to inner. For example, a public house of worship that insists that religion be practiced in the home reinforces the greatest commandment. Parents in the home teaching the love of God and humanity to children raise children who also learn to love and respect themselves. (Leviticus 19:18)

This focus is a reminder that we must save our own lives before we save the world. A return to private religion means, simply, that we not lose our souls in our quest for salvation. The greatest commandment is directed to you as an individual. Religion in the private domain begins with a minding of the heart and personal faith. This faith gives us hope as we open the Book that has instructions for living. We start our journey in the footsteps of our parents and teachers and then learn to serve from love when we expect no reward for our efforts. One who does the right thing for its own sake is ready to enter into the public domains of religion and politics. Separation of church and state promises that politics will not be our religion nor religion our politics, and this is an essential sanctification to achieve the American dream.

If you are interested in accessing any of the Holiday Seders (including Thanksgiving and Chanukah) go to our website (Rabbiweddings.com) and click on Temple Shabbat Shalom. Your login code is membersorder.

We are looking forward to your response.

Happy Holidays,

Rabbi Aryeh and Karen

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Chanukah begins at sundown Tuesday night December 4th

Simcha's- Mazel Tov and Prayers

A Special Thank-you for generous donations and continuing membership

A very special Thank you to Bill and Julia Reagan for the donation of our Torah and their continual support.

Mark and Mary Glazer
Janice and Larry Rothenberg in honor of their daughters' first anniversary
Lindsay and Michael Sheehy
Rick and Judy Singer
Dennis and Christine Morreale
Marc and Kate Haber in honor of their beautiful children
Naomi and Jeffrey Allen
Bob and Anne Marcovich
Matt and Rebecca Sanborn in honor of the birth of their daughter Dorothy Alice
Roger and Laura Thompson

Mazel tov to Kenny and Liz Salzberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Louis
Mazel tov to Louis Salzberg- you did a wonderful job becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Mazel Tov to Robyn and Jason on their move to California

Please send special *Mishaberach* prayers for good health

Janice Rothenberg

Mazel Tov to our Newest Newlyweds

Alex and Brenda- Indiana
Gabriel and Jessica- Philadelphia
Brandon and Jessica- Annapolis
Andrew and Amanda- Florida
Gleb and Denise- Chicago
Jeffrey and Ryann-The Poconos
Tony and Celia- Saranac Lake
Michael and Nicole- New Hampshire
Jason and Rachel- The Berkshires
Michael and Anne- New York
Joshua and Marni- California
Jason and Sylvia- Seattle
Adam and Elizabeth- Pennsylvania

Mazel Tov to our Newest Bundles of Joy

Kim and Joshua on the birth of their daughter Hanna July 3
David and Shari on the birth of their daughter Michelle August 9

Newest Congregants

Jason Goldstein and Martha O'Brien
Jason Wodicka and Sylvia Luxenburg
Michael Sobel and Elizabeth Milbank
Karl Kaplan and Rae Lynn Feulner
Michael Garris and Anne Warren
Matt Bloom and Alicia Marini
Rebecca Banks and Mark Ledesma
Jason Rosenberg and Teressa DaGama

Happy Anniversary

Kevin & Jen August 3- CA	Mike & Burke-September 4-CT	Dave & Julie-October 9-NYC	Stu & Connie-Nov.16-Ottawa
Ari & Liz August 3- DC	Holly & Eric-September 4-CA	Sally & Anton-October 12-NY	Scott & Diana-Nov 19-NYC
Marc & Kate August 9- MA	Reg & Gail-September 5-Ottawa	Andrew & Carrie-October 12-DC	Linda & Mike-Nov 24-CO.
Melissa & Dan-September 6-VA	Melissa & Dan-September 6-VA	Michelle& Howard-October 12-Minn	Marty & Maura-Nov 29-MA
Hal & Galia- August 9- Canada	Alex & Suzanne-September 9-MA	Evan & Jen-October 14-DC	Michelle& John-Dec. 20-Minn
Glenn & Marissa-August 10-TX	Adam & Jackie-September 9-NYC	Jill & Dan- October 16-St Louis	Doug & Karen-Dec. 22-NY
Dave & Dana- August 12-NYC	Nate & Megan-September 10-DC	Evan & Jen-October 14-DC	Ken & Cindy-Dec 25-NY
Amanda & James- August 12-NY	Kenny & Jenny -September 13-NYC	Matt & Lesley-October 18-NYC	Michelle& Michael-Dec 30-NY
Matt & Sarah- August 14-MA	Dave & Jen-September 16-NYC	Heather & Scott-October 18-CT	Jody & Dallas-Dec 31- NYC
Josh & Katherine-August 19-NY	Josh & Lyra-September 17-NYC	Todd & Angela-October 16-NY	
Julie & Dan- August 20-NYC	Josh & Alexi-September 17-MA	Alissa & James-October 21-NYC	
Priscilla & Fabrice-August 21- France		Jake & Frances-October 25-Utah	
Mike & Sarah- August 21-Mich.	Neil & Carrie-September 20-CA	Nate & Jen-October 27-Chicago	
Kimberly & Dan- August 24-SC	Margot & Michael-September 24-MA	Amy & Tom-October 28-NY	
Jonathan & Kelly-August 26-NY	Isabelle & Matt-September 28-NJ	Robyn & Jason-November 5-CA	
Felicia & Joel-August 28-NYC	Erica & Kirk-October 4-CA	Butch & Barrie-November 6-NY	
Ronna & Bill-August 29-DC	Julie & Britt-October 6-CT	Raina & George-November15-NYC	
Mike & Ellen-August 31-NYC	Marilyn & Don-October 8-NH	Adam & Jennifer-November 15-NY	

TEMPLE SHABBAT SHALOM

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZipCode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Kindly mail your checks to or if you prefer you may make a donation by credit card on our website
Rabbiweddings.com

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Thank you for your most generous support