Temple Israel Newsletter

 December 2016

Message from the congregation President and the Board of Trustees:

Fall is now here and the High Holy Days are behind us once again. Rabbi Julie Schwartz led our services for us this year. She brought joy, dedication and optimism. Joy for the New Year and all we can bring to the year and our lives and community, dedication to the Jewish faith and teachings, and optimism for continued commitment to a better world for all of us.

Chanukah is the next Holiday that we will celebrate here at Temple Israel. Chanukah –the eight day festival of light begins on the eve of the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, this year the 24th of December. Chanukah celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over adulteration, of spirituality over materiality. More than twenty-one centuries ago, the Land of Israel was ruled by the Syrian- Greeks ,at that time the Seleucids. These people sought to forcefully subvert the faith of the people of Israel and make them reject G-d and the Torah. Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of G-d. When they sought to light the Temple’s menorah they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks; miraculously the one day supply burned for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity.

To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on until the eighth night of Chanukah when all eight lights are kindled.

Chanukah customs include eating foods fried in oil—latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiot(doughnuts);playing with the dreidel , the spinning top which have the inscribed Hebrew letters, NUN, GIMMEL, HEI, and SHIN, an acronym for Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, “ a great miracle happened there”. There is also the giving of Chanukah gelt, gifts of money to children. (This information about Chanukah was adapted from the Chabad website.)

Upcoming events:

Shabbat Services:

December 9th: 7:00pm led by Rabbi Samuel Kaye with oneg to follow, hosted by Fran Johnson

December 10th: Torah Study/Adult Education: 10:00 am, light brunch and start at 10:30am

The next visit by Rabbi Kaye has been changed to January 13th at 7:00pm.

Religious School News:

The Temple Israel Sisterhood is having a Chanukah party for the Sunday School children, their parents and members of the Congregations: December 18th at 11:30am. Skit by the children and then lunch for all furnished by the Sisterhood. Please call Joyce Sims, Sisterhood president at 501-468-5570 to let her know if you will be there. We want to have enough holiday foods.

 The web site is still in process, if you have any pictures that you would like us to consider for the web site please get them to me, Laurie Ballew at cookieb1267@gmail.com and I will send them to David Newton.

Member News:

Get well wishes to Gale Weaver and best to Caroline Yaffe

Recent Donations to the Temple: Jill Faughn in memory of Elsie Ballew

On a personal note my family and I thank everyone for all the support and love that we have received from our friends and fellow congregants with the recent death of my mother Elsie W. Ballew. She was a stalwart member of this congregation and we will all miss her and her “positivity”.

If you have any information that you would like to share with the Temple Israel community please contact Dr. Laurie Ballew at cookieb1267@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 502-468-5571,

Reminders will be sent out prior to each visit by student Rabbi Samuel Kaye. These will be sent out by email, so if you have an email address that we don’t have, please send it to us or leave it on my phone.

A reminder, please bring canned goods and canned meals such as Stews, Soups, Chicken and Dumplings, etc for our PCM box. The Sunday School children deliver this food for us when we have enough to make a “good” delivery.

Congratulations to Joyce Sims for being the unofficial Temple Israel contractor working with Reliable Glass to get the new Front Doors installed.

All gift items in the Sisterhood gift case are 20% off during December; Call Joyce at 502-468-5570. She will arrange to meet you if you want to look at the items. We also have some boxes of Chanukah candles for $2.00 a box if anyone needs any.

See you at the Temple!! Laurie Ballew, your congregation president.