



*December 2022
Kislev/ Tevet 5783*

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THE SCHRIER

**THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF WEST PASCO
Home of Congregation Beth Tefillah**

Hanukkah Happenings at the JCC

A group of JCC members and friends will visit Mary and others at Atria Windsor Woods and sing Hanukkah songs and symbolically light the menorah on Sunday December 18. We will then visit two other facilities to celebrate the holiday with those members and friends. We will gather at the JCC parking lot at 1:00 pm to carpool to these facilities.

Our captain, Jeff Hochstadt, will once again pilot his boat in the New Port Richey Holiday Boat Parade on Saturday, December 3rd at 6 pm. We will meet at Ron's home on the Cotee River, have a community Havdalah service and cheer on Captain Jeff as he passes by accompanied by The Mensch on the Bench. Come early as parking can be difficult.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR EXCITING NEWS ABOUT OUR HANUKKAH PARTY



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- * Saturday, 12/3 Cotee River Boat Parade
- * Monday, 12/12 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Sunday, 12/18 First Candle of Hanukkah and Hanukkah Party
- * Wednesday, 12/21 First day of winter
- * Saturday/Sunday, 12/24 & 12/25 Rosh Chodesh
- * Friday, 12/31 New Year's Eve

Shabbat Services

Conducted by Ron Becker and Elliot Shapiro

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM

Alan Goldberg, Rabbi Emeritus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-by Eileen Hochstadt

The following article is from Rabbi Evan Moffic, the spiritual leader of Congregation Solel in Highland Park, Illinois. He is the author of the "The Happiness Prayer: Ancient Jewish Wisdom for the Best Way to Live Today."

Should we pray for happiness? On the face it, of course we should. Who doesn't want to be happy?

But something about word "happiness" strikes Jews in the wrong way. There's the old joke about the Jewish telegram: "Start worrying...details to follow." Our default is often guilt rather than happiness. It is as if we have been programmed to see anxiety around every corner, to be more comfortable in the familiar "oy" over the risky "joy."

Happiness is also an odd English word. It comes from the Middle English hap, as in happenstance and haphazard. This origin suggests that a happy life is a result of randomness and luck. Prayer has nothing to do with it.

In our consumerist culture, happiness is also frequently confused with pleasure, and praying for pleasure can feel self-indulgent. But happiness and pleasure are different. Pleasure is short-term, like getting a massage or eating a sumptuous meal. Happiness is long-lasting. It is flourishing, which is a word preferred by the founder of the scientific study of happiness, Professor Martin Seligman. According to Seligman, flourishing contains five key components: positive emotion, engagement, relationship, meaning, and accomplishment. An easy way to remember them is the acronym PERMA.

The Jewish happiness prayer, as we will see below, promotes flourishing. It is the happiness experienced through a life of meaning and purpose.

What is the happiness prayer? It is a series of verses from the Mishnah we recite as part of the morning worship service. It is found in many prayer books as part of the traditional series of morning blessings.

The prayer begins with the words Eilu Devarim ("These are the Words"). The Hebrew word *devarim* also means actions or deeds. So the happiness prayer is a series of words describing actions that promote happiness.

The Prayer contains ten actions in total, which is translated as follows:

These are the deeds with infinite benefits.

A person enjoys their fruit in this world, and in the world to come. Guide me in embracing these sacred practices:

Honor those who gave me life
Practice kindness
Learn Constantly
Invite others into my home
Be there when others need me

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A Message From Ron Becker

Dear friends, after taking a fall “holiday breather”, enjoying our Thanksgiving Day traditions, and as the weather cools and we welcome back our “snowbirds”, we anticipate the excitement of the celebration of Hanukkah. We begin this most joyous time of year by acknowledging that there are still many in our community who suffer from poverty and hunger. To help alleviate this sad situation, we continue to volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries. We began with our participation in the interdenominational tent service where we gathered with community members, volunteers, donors, and staff on November 17th to “share hope and shine light” for all to safely enjoy the holiday season. Then our JCC volunteers helped staff the Thanksgiving Holiday Tent and will continue our efforts through the month of December. We thank all those in our congregation who are donating their time and effort to this extremely worthy cause to make certain that hunger takes a holiday this winter! Even, if you are unable to volunteer, please consider making a monetary gift or if unable to make donations of food, toys, clothing, and incidentals to Metropolitan Ministries to make our theme of sharing hope and shining light a reality. <https://www.metromin.org/our-work/pasco/>

We have much to look forward to during the month of December and beyond. We begin the month by welcoming Debbie and Mitch Cohen, daughter and son-in-law of Helen Steger who will be visiting us on Shabbat December 2nd/3rd and together with Helen sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush/ luncheon after services on Saturday morning. Despite living over a thousand miles away in Long Island, New York, Debbie and Mitch have been participating in nearly every Shabbat and Festival service virtually via Zoom for years and have often made our minyan so that we can read the Torah and recite the Kaddish. And during the summer season, Helen is also a fixture on Zoom from her home in Wurtsboro, NY. Let’s recognize the important contributions of the Steger/Cohen family to our spiritual life as we get to daven with them in-person and enjoy our luncheon together to kick off the month of December!

Our celebration of the joyous Hanukkah season begins on the night of Saturday, December 3rd with the annual Cotee River Holiday Boat Parade. We will gather at the banks of the Cotee River on Grand Boulevard in New Port Richey at 6 pm and begin the evening's festivities with a Havdalah service and plenty of latkes, sufganyot, hot chocolate and other Hanukkah goodies. Then we will watch the highly decorated and brightly lit boats float by and cheer on the JCC of West Pasco's Hanukkah boat captained once again by Jeff Hochstadt and his crew and as always, the Mensch on the Bench who will occupy his usual place.

The celebration continues on erev Hanukkah, Sunday, December 18th as congregants gather at several assisted living facilities in west central Pasco County to share Hanukkah festival with music, song, food, and prayers with residents as we welcome the holiday with the first candle. We will meet in the JCC's parking lot at 1 pm to arrange our carpool and begin the afternoon's activities.

After the assisted living visitations, we will reconvene at the synagogue for a gala Hanukkah dinner and party which begins at 4 pm. Please join us for all these events! Then on Saturday morning, December 24th, we will have a rare opportunity to celebrate Shabbat, Hanukkah, and Rosh Chodesh all at the same time, an event that happens only once in several years. So, in addition to chanting Hallel (psalms of praise) we will read from not one, not two, but three Sefer Torahs! We will read our weekly portion of Miketz (Chapter 41 in the Book of Bereshit-Genesis) from the first Torah; the portion of the sedrah of Pinchas (Chapter 28, verses 9-15 in the Book of Bamidbar-Numbers) for Rosh Chodesh from the second Torah; and final the portion of the sedrah Naso (chapter 7, verses 42-47 in the Book of Bamidbar-Numbers) for the 7th day of Hanukkah.

There is so much to look forward to in December and beyond as we continue to gather in friendship and prayer and serve our community. Stay tuned for future activities as we anticipate the beginning of 2023 and carefully open up our facility for monthly Shabbat dinners and other in-person gatherings. Happy Hanukkah!

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/2	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/19	2nd Hanukkah candle
12/3	Religious Services 9:30 am	12/20	3rd Hanukkah candle
	Bingo 5 pm	12/21	4th Hanukkah candle
	Cotee River boat parade	12/22	5th Hanukkah candle
12/5	Monday madness Bingo	12/23	6th Hanukkah candle
	11 am	12/23	Religious Services 7:30pm
12/9	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/24	Religious Services 9:30am
12/10	Religious Services 9:30am		Rosh Chodesh
	Bingo 5 pm		7th Hanukkah candle
12/12	Bingo 11 am	12/25	Rosh Chodesh
12/12	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm		8th Hanukkah candle
12/16	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/26	Bingo 11 am
12/17	Religious Services 9:30am	12/30	Religious Services 7:30pm
	Bingo 5pm	12/31	Religious Services 9:30am
12/18	Hanukkah visitation 1 pm		Bingo 5pm
	Hanukkah party 4 pm	12/31	New Year’s Eve
	1st Hanukkah candle		
12/19	Bingo 11 am		

Candle Lighting Times



December 2	5:16 p.m.
December 9	5:17 p.m.
December 16	5:19 p.m.
December 23	5:22 p.m.
December 30	5:27 p.m.

Shabbat Dinners

Beginning on January 6, 2023 (the first Friday of the month) we will initiate Shabbat Dinners!

We will have a short Shabbat service at 6:30 pm followed by dinner and a program.

Our first program will feature Maxine Kaufman from Jewish Federation.

The cost for this spiritual and informative and delicious evening is only \$15.00 per person.

Please have your RSVP and money Into the office by 12/15/2022.

HANUKKAH PARTY!!!

Please join us on Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 pm for the JCC HANUKKAH PARTY.

We will have a catered dinner including:

Latkes (of course)

Challah

Kugel

(and any other carb we can find!)

Jelly donuts (sufganiyot)

Salads

Tsimmis

and too much more to list here!

All this for the low price of only \$20.00 per person.

Please have your RSVP and money into the office by 11/30/2022.

Time is short, make your reservations SOON!



Hanukkah

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayaise</i> Bingo 5 pm Cotee River Boat Parade
4	5 Monday Madness Bingo 11 am	6	7	8	9 Religious Services 7:30 pm	10 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayishlah</i> Bingo 5 pm
11	12 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	13	14	15	16 Religious Services 7:30 pm	17 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayeshev</i> Bingo 5 pm
18 Hanukkah visits 1pm Hanukkah Party 4 pm 1st Hanukkah Candle	19 Bingo 11 am 2nd Hanukkah Candle	20 3rd Hanukkah Candle	21  First day of Winter 4th Hanukkah Candle	22 5th Hanukkah Candle	23 Religious Services 7:30 pm 6th Hanukkah Candle	24 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Mikkets</i> 7th Hanukkah Candle
25 8th Hanukkah Candle	26 Bingo 11 am	27	28	29	30 Religious Services 7:30 pm	31 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vahiggash</i> Bingo 5 pm New Year's Eve 