

# MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE NEWSLETTER



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## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Next Shabbat Services

January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

We hold in-person and online services on the third Saturday of each month.

ZOOM LINK FOR ALL SERVICES IS <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87289809710>



**Yosi Knight**  
**Our Spiritual Leader**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOEL EDELSON

Shalom, Y'all!

I didn't think this would be a political topic, but I was wrong. Public opinion is hard to change, but it is possible to do so. From the US being solidly behind Israel so far, isn't it amazing how quickly the tides can turn? Well, it's a new (secular) year, and we are still reeling with the news and heartaches from Israel, the stories and fates of the remaining hostages, and the horrible Hamas Gaza War. I've seen, as I'm sure many of you have observed, many social media articles, comments, clips, TikTok, Facebook posts, and so forth from people from around the world demanding that Israel call a cease-fire to protect Palestinian civilians.

Some of you may have also seen the interview/interrogation of a captured Palestinian Interior Minister who says that the leader of Hamas is crazed with hate and that he and just a few of his leaders & followers have caused the near destruction of the entire Palestinian cause and has set them back over 200 years. He hopes and prays that the leader will be caught quickly and that the war can be ended.

I have friends who have children enlisted in the IDF and are fighting for Israel, as probably many of you as well. We have one of our own members who is planning to return to help in any way that he can toward the goal of eliminating a declared enemy of Israel. That enemy only wants Israel not to exist. That is what they want to free the hostages. These proclamations stay the same.

Large groups of people, as a whole, even entire populations and countries, can be indoctrinated into believing astounding things if they are told the "things the party/government in control" wants them to believe. We have learned this from Germany in the world wars, from Communist China and Korea to Russia, and now from Hamas. We also must be aware that no one is immune to this method of changing public opinion. A lie is only a lie until you tell it long enough that people start believing it.

Let's all be on alert to what we hear in the coming days and months and be strong enough not to be easily swayed by the changes of the wind. This coming year, as elections approach in the United States, we must be diligent and knowledgeable when we cast our ballots, as we hear "things" again and again.

Maybe public opinion can be easily swayed.

B'Shalom,

Joel

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel Edelson, President  
Harvey Morse, Vice-President  
Norma Schulman, Corresponding Secretary  
Shayna Sinrich, Recording Secretary  
Bobbi Serra, Treasurer  
Donna Sinrich, Membership  
David Goldstein (New Member)  
Michael Serra  
Marcia Goldstein  
Liz Hinckley (New Member)

## NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**IF YOU HAVE SOME NEWS OR A SPECIAL EVENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE SHARED IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, EMAIL OUR EDITOR, HARVEY MORSE, AT [harvey@probate.com](mailto:harvey@probate.com)**

## MEMBERS' MONTHLY SOCIAL GATHERING

We hope you will join us!

RSVP is required by January 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Contact George Berman at [jrbgib1994@frontier.com](mailto:jrbgib1994@frontier.com) or call (828) 524-9463

**JAXSON DOWNTOWN**  
381 Depot Street, Franklin  
5:00 pm

# OUR 2023 CHANUKAH PARTY!!



## MI SHEBEIRACH

(PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL)

ANN FERMAN  
WENDY NEWMAN  
JIM FIERBERG  
RICHIE AARON  
ALAN ESCOVITZ  
BENJAMIN NEWMAN, MD  
CONNIE CHESSER  
SHAYNA SINRICH  
SHARON SPIVEY  
CAROL FELDMAN  
MICHAEL SERRA

## YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

(Received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month)

Gary Sinrich for his father, Leon Sinrich  
Marcia Goldstein for her father, Jacob Lewis Goldstein  
Norma Schulman for her brother, Leonard Yospin  
Vickie Sanders for her father, Sydney Leibo, and a friend, George Rothkopf

## GENERAL DONATIONS

Ronald Shnider and Janie Rose

## MEMBERS' CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

### BIRTHDAYS

Laurie Edelson  
Barry Meltzer  
Doug Mower  
Susan Hananel

## SAFETY TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

We are continually seeking additional members to join our synagogue Safety Team. Approved members will receive appropriate training and will be covered by our insurance policy. If you are interested in serving, please get in touch with our Safety Director, Harvey Morse  
(828) 631-0000 [harvey@probate.com](mailto:harvey@probate.com)

## TREE OF LIFE



### **Our Tree of Life**

Leaves are now available at \$54 each (three times Chai), and large stones (only 10 available) that will be mounted at the base are \$500 each, engraving included. Contact us for details:

[ms.treasurer79@gmail.com](mailto:ms.treasurer79@gmail.com)

No purchases this month

### **MEMORIAL PLAQUE PURCHASES THIS MONTH**

(Memorial plaques, which are located on the wall in our Social Hall, are \$50 per name for an engraved, permanent remembrance).

None this month

## NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US

None this month

## ANNUAL MEETING

We had our 2023 Annual Meeting, which was held in person and on Zoom, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, after our Shabbat services. Great membership turnout! Thanks to everyone who participated and to Norma Schulman for organizing the “Pot Luck” lunch, which we enjoyed after the business meeting.

All motions were unanimously voted upon for approval, including the annual budget and a slight increase in dues to cover our increased expenses. Two new board members, David Goldstein and Liz Hinckley, were elected, and our current officers were re-elected for a successive two-year term. As a reminder, our fiscal year was changed earlier this year, and it is now January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Reports of all committees were given, and discussions ensued, primarily regarding explanations of how the security and safety Federal Grant we were awarded would be handled as it is being implemented.

Thank you to all who participated.