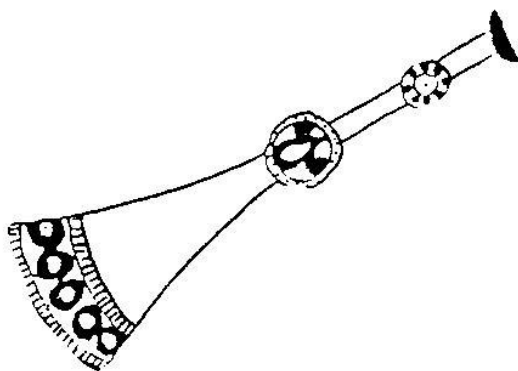
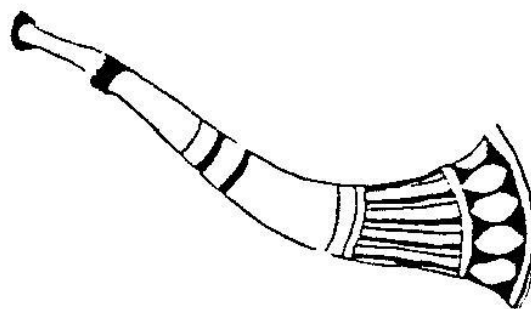


Shofar  
Shalom



*The Official Newsletter of Ne've Shalom, the Hull Reform Synagogue*



## *CHAIR'S REPORT*

Kislev/Tevet 5780  
December 2019/January 2020

Shalom.

I would like to wish all our members and friends of Ne've Shalom, Chag Chanukah S'meach.

Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. The Hebrew word Chanukah means "dedication," and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple.

In the second century BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs, instead of mitzvah observance and belief in God. In 164BCE, against all odds, a small band of faithful, but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, 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 God.

When they sought to light the Temple's Menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum), they found only a single jar of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks. Miraculously, they lit the menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be obtained and prepared under conditions of ritual purity.

This year we are holding our Chanukah Service and special Kiddush on Friday evening 27 December 2019 starting at 6.15pm. As this is the sixth night of Chanukah, we will be lighting our giant Chanukiah. Although we have postponed this year's social event, which was following the Service, please make every effort to attend.

Following our outstanding first Service of Remembrance last month at Ne've Shalom. Veronika took some truly amazing photos from the service. These are now on display in the hallway notice board at the Shul. Thank you again Veronika.

Due to a significant donation, our new memorial board has now made and shipped from America. We will be arranging to have it installed in the Shul shortly and asking Lesley to unveil it in loving memory of Geoff Annis.

Just a reminder about our Open Friday Night Service, which is taking place on Friday 21 February 2020 at 7.00pm. After the Service, and following the Brachot over the wine and bread, there will be the Kiddush with a wide range of "Jewish-style" foods. Please feel free to invite guests, both Jewish and non-Jewish to this interesting event

Finally, please don't forget to come to our Friday Night services at 7.00pm and Shabbat Morning Services at 10.30am.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

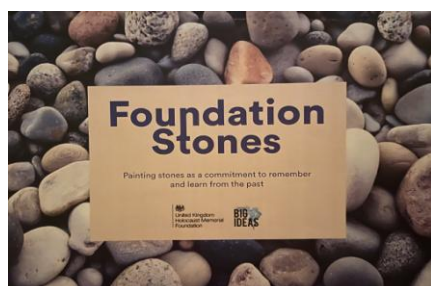
### CHANUKAH SERVICE AND KIDDUSH



This year, we are holding our Chanukah Service and a very special Chanukah Kiddush, on **Friday evening, 27 December 2019** starting at **6.15pm**. As this is also the sixth night of Chanukah, we will be lighting our giant Chanukiah.

Following the Service and in keeping with tradition, there is the opportunity to sample Chanukah-style food, such as fried fish balls, latkes and donuts.

Unfortunately the planned social event has been postponed until further notice.



### FOUNDATION STONES

You are invited to paint a stone in remembrance of the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of Nazi persecution. You can also choose to dedicate your stone to those murdered in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

This event is taking place on **Sunday 26 January 2020 at 1.00pm** at Deliciously Crafty Cafe, 272 Hull Road, Anlaby Common, HU4 7RR. It costs just £6.00 a ticket and is open to all. To book a space, please email Laura Rhodes on [laura\\_kathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laura_kathy@hotmail.co.uk)

Painted stones from across the United Kingdom will be laid within the foundations of the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. This is a unique opportunity to make a concrete contribution to the new Memorial. Each Foundation Stone is a personal commitment to remember and learn from the past.



### CITY OF HULL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2020

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme for this year is "Stand Together". Genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups. Now more than ever, we need to stand together with others in our communities in order to stop division and the spread of hatred in our society.

There will be a civic commemoration at the Hull Guildhall on **Monday 27 January 2020 at 7.00pm**. In addition to a talk on the Holocaust, there will also be music and poems by members of the local community. Doors open at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

## *HOW DO YOU SPELL IT? CHANUKKAH, HANUKA, CHANUKA...?*

*The following article by Allen S. Maller first appeared in the December 2009 edition of the Jewish magazine.*

The five boys and girls sitting at the table waited eagerly for the last question. This was the final round of the citywide spelling contest. These five boys and girls had spelled their way through almost an hour of increasingly difficult words. In the previous round they had all successfully spelled *antidisestablishmentarianism*. They couldn't imagine any harder words than the ones they already had successfully spelled.



The five of them were the best spellers in the city. They knew all the spelling rules, and all of them read a great many books. What word could the judges ask that would be so hard to spell, that only one of the five would come up as the winner?

One of the four judges stood up, looked at each one of the children very carefully, and said, "How do you spell the name of the Jewish holiday that celebrates the victory of the Maccabees in their fight for religious freedom and Jewish independence?"

Each one of the children wrote a different spelling: Chanukah, Channukah, Hanukah, Hannukkah and Hanuka.

The judges looked puzzled. First, they began to whisper to one another. Then they began to argue. After a few minutes they started shouting at one another. Finally, one of them stood up and said, "If we can't agree among ourselves, we will have to call an expert. The best person to get would be a rabbi. Which rabbi shall we ask?"

One of the five boys called out, "I'll get my rabbi." The girl next to him jumped up and said, "Oh, no, I'll get my rabbi. I'm sure he will come."

Two of the other children who were also Jewish ran off to call their rabbis, and the remaining boy, who was Catholic, decided to go and call his priest.

An hour later, four rabbis and a priest had gathered together with the judges. "Why are there so many different ways to spell Chanukah?" asked one of the judges.

The first rabbi replied, "The Jewish religion does not have a list of specific things that every Jew has to believe about God. Jews believe that there are several different ways of thinking about God. If we have more than one way to think about God, who is very important, why should we have only one way to spell Hanukkah, which is much less important than God? However, in my opinion, the best spelling would be one that has eight letters in it, since there are eight days to Hannukah."

The judges looked very puzzled. "Can a Jew do anything he wants to do?" asked one of the judges. "Doesn't Judaism stand for anything?"

The second rabbi answered, “Of course Judaism has principles and standards. We believe in freedom, but that doesn’t mean that everybody can do anything they want. Every Jew should pay attention to the teachings of the Torah and our tradition; to the teachings of your rabbi; and to what the majority of the people in your community are doing. But within the teachings of Torah and tradition, there are many honest differences and opinions. For example, 2,000 years ago there was a debate between two learned rabbis. Hillel said that you should light the Hanukah candles starting with one candle on the first day, and adding an additional candle each day until all eight candles are lit.

Shamai, however, taught that you should light eight candles on the first night of Channuka, and then one candle less each night until there was only one left on the eighth night. Shamai believed that just as the oil diminished from day to day, so too should the light of the candles become smaller each day.



Hillel, on the other hand, felt that the Jewish struggle to survive, in spite of the many attempts of our enemies to destroy us, was in itself the miracle, and that the longer we survive, the greater the miracle becomes. Therefore, the light should increase each day, as the miracle of Jewish survival becomes greater.”

Place right to left; *Kindle* left to right

At this point the third rabbi spoke up, “Actually, there are many different ways of doing things, and many different reasons for what we do. Sometimes the differences are due to a different way of thinking about things, as in the case of Hillel and Shamai. Sometimes the differences are due to local custom. For example, in the United States, Jews eat bagels and lox, while in Israel Jews eat falafel in pita bread. Jews from Europe do not eat rice during Passover, but Jews from North Africa and the Middle East do eat rice. So how you spell Hanuka is just a matter of custom. I think all the spellings are correct, and the contest is a tie.”

Suddenly the priest spoke up, “The story of the Maccabees is not found in the Jewish Bible because their fight for freedom occurred after the Jewish Bible was written. The Book of Maccabees can be found in the Catholic Bible. So, although I am not a scholar of Hebrew, I think I’m entitled to an opinion on the spelling of Chanukkah.”

“If the story of Hanukah is found in the Catholic Bible,” asked the head judge, “why don’t you celebrate Hanuka in your church? After all, if the Maccabees had not won their fight for freedom against those who wanted to force the Jews to copy everybody else and stop being different, the Jews would all have disappeared. If the Jews had disappeared, then Christianity’s leader would not have been born as a Jew. And without him, there wouldn’t be any Christian religion at all. In fact, without Hanukah, no matter how you spell it, there wouldn’t be any Christmas!”

“That’s true,” said the priest. “There wouldn’t be any Christmas if there wasn’t any Chanukah, but we can’t celebrate Channukkah because it’s not a Christian Holiday. Indeed, we don’t even celebrate Shabbat, and that’s one of the Ten Commandments. Ours is a different religion, with its own holidays and beliefs.”

“All this is very interesting,” said the head judge. “I have learned that Jews have more than one way of thinking about God, that Jews have different interpretations and customs, and that the Book of Maccabees is to be found in the Catholic Bible. What I haven’t learned is HOW DO YOU SPELL CHANUKKAH? Isn’t there any answer that is correct?”

“Yes there is,” said the fourth rabbi. “There is one correct spelling, and that is חנוכה. The only correct spelling is the Hebrew way.

All attempts to translate, or transliterate Hebrew words into English letters lose something in the transition. It is sort of like kissing a girl through a handkerchief. You can do it, but it doesn’t feel the same.”

“OK,” said the judges, “we will give first prize to whichever of the boys and girls can spell Hannukkah in Hebrew.”

As it turned out only one boy and one girl could spell חנוכה in Hebrew and so they were declared the winners. But, everyone, including the judges, learned a little bit about why there are so many different ways to spell Hanukkah, and why Hebrew is the best way.

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**All contributions are accepted on the understanding that the authors are responsible for the opinions expressed which do not necessarily reflect the views of Ne’ve Shalom, the Hull Reform Synagogue.**

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## ASK THE RABBI

*All answers are taken from asktherabbi.org*



### Is it customary to give presents on Chanukah?

There is a widespread custom to give children presents of money on Chanukah. This is called “Chanukah gelt”. This custom has its roots in the Talmud.

The Talmud states that even a very poor person must light Chanukah candles even if he can't afford it. A person with no money is required to go "knocking on doors" until he collects enough to buy at least one candle for each night of Chanukah. The Torah concept of charity requires us to help the recipient in the most dignified manner possible. Therefore, the custom arose to give gifts of money so that someone who needs money for Chanukah candles can receive it in the form of "Chanukah gelt."



There is another idea that the origin of “Chanukah gelt” dates back to the triumphant coinage of silver minted by the Maccabees. The Maccabees were so overjoyed at their victory that they minted their own coins and gave them out on Chanukah. Since Talmudic times the custom to give money has blossomed to become one to give presents as well. My family custom is to give presents to the younger children and “Chanukah gelt” to the older ones. It seems to work very well! Nowadays there is a custom to give chocolate “money” to the younger children, as a means to giving them a gift that they can savour immediately and yet retain the spirit of the custom of “Chanukah gelt”.

## *DREIDEL RULES: HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL*

The dreidel game was originally a 19th century German gambling game, which was adopted by the Jews.

### **The Setup**

All players sit around the playing area. The "ante" or tokens (these can be any small objects, such as chocolate gelt, pennies, dried beans, or raisins) are divided equally among all players. Players take turns spinning the dreidel;



Everyone puts one unit of the ante (penny, nut, etc.) into the pot. Play moves clockwise.

### **To Play**

Each player begins with an equal number of game pieces (usually 10–15). At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the centre "pot". Every player puts one in the pot after every turn.

Each player spins the dreidel once during their turn. The letters on each side of the dreidel refer to the rules of the game, as follows:

- shin (shtel ayn, put in)
- nun (nicht, not, i.e., do nothing)
- gimel (ganz, whole/everything) and
- hey (halb, half).

As the game became associated with Chanukah, the letters became the first letters of the phrase "*nes gadol haya sham*" (a great miracle happened there). Interestingly, when the game is played in Israel, the Shin is replaced by the Pey (פ), so the phrase in Hebrew is "*nes gadol haya poh*" (a great miracle happened here).

The game ends as soon as one of the following occurs, the sun comes up, all the latkes are gone, or the players decide they have had enough. Have fun.

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## *ANNUAL OPEN FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE*

Following the huge success of previous Open Friday Night Services, the next one will take place on **Friday 21 February 2020** starting at **7.00pm**. What makes this Service different from the normal Friday Night service is the running commentary from those leading the Service explaining the nature of the prayers being recited, their background, origin and the traditional rituals being observed. After the Service, and following the Brachot over the wine and bread, there will be the Kiddush with a wide range of "Jewish-style" foods.



There also will be opportunity to look around the Synagogue, talk to those members present and examine the Ark, Scrolls and other artefacts.

## *ENGLISH YAHRZEIT DATES WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE HEBREW DATES FOR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF NEVE SHALOM - THE HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE*

Sarah Bush	27 Dec. 2019	Otto Hirschfeld	8 Jan. 2020
Joan Sadofsky	27 Dec. 2019	Sarah Viner	9 Jan. 2020
Janette Dubb	28 Dec. 2019	Dora Jacowich	9 Jan. 2020
Sylvia Maniloff	29 Dec. 2019	Sydney Bush	10 Jan. 2020
Dolly Annis	1 Jan. 2020	Leah Levy	11 Jan. 2020
Percy Goldstone	3 Jan. 2020	Shirley Michaelson	12 Jan. 2020
Harry Westerman	3 Jan. 2020	Kath Levy	13 Jan. 2020
Ann Maniloff	4 Jan. 2020	Pauline Harris	14 Jan. 2020
Alice Goldstone	6 Jan. 2020	Harry Furman	17 Jan. 2020
Meyer Sugarman	6 Jan. 2020	David Bermitz	18 Jan. 2020

Traditionally, Jewish Yahrzeits are remembered on the Hebrew date, which means that there might be some variation in the English date each year.

**If the Hebrew date is observed, it must be remembered that the Yahrzeit starts the evening before.**

Memorial prayers for the deceased will be recited during the Friday Night Service for those Yahrzeits which fall during the coming week. If a Yahrzeit falls on a Friday Night, please remember that the prayers will usually be recited during the Friday Night Service the week before.



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## *FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Refreshment Rota</b>
<b>Friday 27 December (Chanukah Service and Kiddush)</b>	<b>6.15pm</b>	Ian Sugarman (KH)	Aimi Sugarman Elaine Winetroube
Friday 3 January	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson (KH)	Deborah Wrapson Di Nichols
<b>Shabbat 4 January</b>	10.30am	Ian Sugarman (KH) Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 10 January	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman (KH)	Andy Harbert Ian Sugarman
Sunday 12 January <b>(Hebrew Reading Class)</b>	10.30am	Deborah Wrapson	N/A
Sunday 12 January <b>(Conversion Class)</b>	11.30am	Ian Sugarman	N/A
Tuesday 14 January <b>(Council Meeting)</b>	6.30pm	Andy Harbett	N/A
Friday 17 January	7.00pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	Deborah Wrapson (KH) Jackie Lukes
Friday 24 January	7.00pm	Ian Sugarman (KH)	Rebecca Verlander Gill Drummond
<b>Monday 27 January (Holocaust Memorial Day)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	N/A	N/A
Friday 31 January	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg (KH)	Deborah Wrapson Sarah James
<b>Shabbat 1 February</b>	10.30am	Ian Sugarman (KH) Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 7 February	7.00pm	Mark Huntington	Deborah Wrapson (KH) Jackie Lukes
<b>Sunday 9 February (Tu B'Shevat Seder)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ian Sugarman (KH)	Aimi Sugarman Sarah James
Friday 14 February	7.00pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	Tim Harris (KH) Di Nicholas
<b>Friday 21 February (Friday Night Open Service)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ian Sugarman (KH) Aimi Sugarman	Audrey Sugarman Lesley Annis Helen Jackman
Friday 28 February	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson (KH)	Aimi Sugarman Elaine Winetroube
<b>Shabbat 1 March</b>	10.30am	Ian Sugarman (KH) Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Audrey Sugarman
Friday 7 March	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg (KH)	Rebecca Verlander Audrey Sugarman

(KH) = Key Holder – they will be responsible for opening and closing the building

If you are unable to take your turn on the **service rota**, please arrange for someone else to take your place.

**If you are unable to take your turn on the refreshment rota**, please **arrange for someone else to take your place** and **inform Audrey Sugarman on (01482) 563835** to ensure that sufficient refreshments are available.

## *MEMORIAL BOARD*

The Synagogue Council would again like to inform members that there is still space available on the Memorial Board for members to purchase a plaque in memory of their loved one(s).

For further details, please contact Henry Goldstone on (01482) 667258.

## *KIDDUSH SPONSORING*

During the year, you might want to mark that special occasion in a unique, yet innovative manner. In order to help you solve your dilemma, the Synagogue Council has agreed to allow the sponsoring of Kiddushim.

If you would like further details, or wish to reserve a particular date, please contact Audrey Sugarman on (01482 563835)



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## *POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS*



If any members of the Synagogue are aware of, or are contacted by, potential new members, hoping to join our Synagogue, please advise them to contact our Secretary

**Joanne Kearsley** on 01724 340506  
or at [joannekearsley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joannekearsley@yahoo.co.uk)

who will provide them with further information and the necessary application forms.