

Letter from Rabbi Zarchi

Cheshvan/Kislev 5770



CONGREGATION CHEVRA THILIM

Chevra Chadashot

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recalls the victory—more than 2100 years ago—of a militarily weak but spiritually strong Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness.

The miraculous victory—culminating with the dedication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and the rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated and extinguished by the enemy—has been celebrated annually ever since during these eight days of Chanukah, especially by lighting the Chanukah Menorah, also as a symbol and message of the triumph

of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness.

It is a timely and reassuring message, for the forces of darkness are ever present. Moreover, the danger does not come exclusively from outside; it often lurks close to home, in the form of insidious erosion of time-honored values and principles that are at the foundation of any decent human society. Needless to say, darkness is not chased away by brooms and sticks, but by illumination. Our sages said, “A little light expels a lot of darkness.”

The Chanukah Lights remind us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one’s family, by increasing and inten-

sifying the light of Torah and Mitzvos in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah Lights are kindled in growing numbers from day to day. But though it begins at home, it does not stop there. Such is the nature of light that when one kindles the Chanukah Lights are expressly meant to illuminate the “outside,” symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness.

Let us pray that the message of the Chanukah Lights will illuminate the everyday life of everyone personally, and of the society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually.

Happy Chanukah!

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Minyan Schedule

Sunday 8:30am

Monday - Friday 8:00am

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30pm

Shabbat Morning 9:30am

Bet Midrash Study Opportunities

WEDNESDAY

evenings from 7:00pm -
8:30pm

Torah Study with Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi

Delve into the weekly Torah portion and explore its mystical and kabbalistic interpretation and relevance to our lives

**TUESDAY evenings from
7:00pm-8:30pm**



Hebrew Reading with Rabbi Hendel

Learn to read Hebrew and navigate your way through the Siddur

Chavruta with Rabbi Sholom Chaim

One on one study, subject of your choice RSVP to rabbis-holom@sfshul.org

Women's Evening

When Love Gets Tough

Tuesday, December 1st at 7pm

Understanding Netzach (Endurance)

We expect love to be a natural, flowing sensation that we experience constantly. Is this a reasonable expectation? The answer depends on how we

define love. Learn how to deal with obstacles to love in our relationships. Turn potential bumps in the road into opportunities for growth and a deeper, richer bond with loved ones.

Self-analyze your personality type and explore your psyche through quizzes and games. You'll be surprised and humored with what you

learn.

Taste some delicious salads

RSVP to chani@sfshul.org

\$5 suggested donation

*Tuesday, December
1st at 7pm
When Love Gets Tough*

Chanukah Cooking Class

Learn about the holiday of Chanukah and bake (and taste) a variety of latkas and toppings. Spice up the same old latka with some new tricks.

This class is open to men and women.

**Tuesday, December 8 at
7pm**

\$10 donation

RSVP to chani@sfshul.org



Upcoming Lectures

New Lecture Series "The True Story of Defiance"

January 31st, Tzvi Bielski, son
of Partisan Hero Zus Bielski



"An Insider's Briefing on Israel"

April 20th Gill Hoffman—



Chief Diplomatic Correspondent to The Jerusalem Post
Each Lecture \$15, Series Tickets \$30, Sponsors \$360 Couple
Private Reception for Sponsors with the guest lecturer

Challah Baking and Story Time

CHALLAH BAKING CLASS
FOR KIDS!

Save the Date
NOVEMBER 19th
DECEMBER 24th

4:00 - 5:00pm

*Don't miss this
fun, hands on
experience!*

LOCATION:
Congregation
Chevra Thilim



Take home the most
delicious smelling
and tasting challah
made by the hands of
your child!
Enjoy a Jewish Storytime and Singing circle time as well!

Religious School at Chevra Thilim

HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

SUNDAYS

10:00am – 11:30am



AGES 5 and up
Special Group for boys ages 5-11 who are in Jewish day school.

Call for more info

Bat Mitzvah Mikayla Kimel

My name is Mikayla Kimel.

I was born in Scottsdale Arizona and moved to the bay area with my parents when I was almost two. I have always grown up in a traditional Jewish home and always knew the day would come when I would transition into a young Jewish adult, now taking on more responsibilities and being accountable for my own actions. My brothers and I attend Brandeis Hillel Day School where I enjoy playing on the school's Jr Varsity volleyball team, playing soccer and other team sports with my Brandeis school-mates and friends. I also enjoy trying new things, foods, dances, music and shopping to name a few. I love hanging out with family and friends, and did I mention shopping and watching TV too. Becoming a

Bat Mitzvah is important to me because I get the opportunity to continue the traditions of our Jewish heritage. Taking what I have learned from all my grandparents, aunts and uncles what it is to be Jewish woman in a secular liberal world and the importance behind this enormous responsibility. I have learned that it is important to participate in your community whenever possible and in any positive capacity; for example, unselfish acts of loving kindness, and offering charity and community service – beyond just giving charity and the responsibilities of family and community. Now that I am a Bat Mitzvah I am realizing the importance of learning and that there is always something to learn. In my life preparation of celebrating becom-

ing a Bat Mitzvah, I have learned many prayers, not just the words and how to read them correctly, but the meanings and where they come from as well, most of all how to be thankful for what you have and how to help those who are less fortunate than you. This is only the first step in becoming a Bat Mitzvah not the last. I look forward to continuing my family's Jewish traditions and continuing to grow in the Jewish Community. I realize this is just a new beginning. Besides two loving parents, David and Jodi Kimel, I have two younger brothers Jordan and Maxwell, 3 sets of grandparents 5 Aunts and 5 Uncles, 10 first cousins, and so much more family and friends to be thankful for - way too many to mention, but all who love and support me always. Mikayla

Thank You To Our Kiddush Sponsors July/ August/September/October

Be a Kiddush Sponsor today!

www.sfshul.org/kiddush

- Olga & Ed Shapiro in honor of Daniel's 10th birthday
- Jodi & David Kimel in honor of Jordan's 10th birthday
- Chani and Shlomo Zarchi in honor of Bassie's 5th birthday
- Portnoy in honor of the birth of her granddaughter
- Phillip Gordon & Philippa Newfield in honor of their anniversary
- Mira Krisak & Liza Avrutin in memory of their loved ones
- Maureen & Michael Samson for grandparents yahrtzeit
- Rona & Yehuda Ben Israel to welcome home David

Mazal Tov for these Lifecycle Events



Mazal Tov to the following members the of Chevra family on their recent or upcoming Simchas

Marina & Igor Kopman on the birth of their daughter, Abigail

Maureen and Michael Samson for the wedding of their son Ted to Yehudith

Jodi & David Kimel on the occasion of Mikayla's Bat Mitzvah

Chani & Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi on the upshernish of their twin sons, Mendel & Zalman

Donation July/August/September

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Please print and fax this form to 752.2019 or mail to the office. Thank you.



Israel Trip

March 8 - March 15

**CONGREGATION
CHEVRA THILIM**
751–25th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

Phone: 415.752.2866

Fax: 415.752.2019

E-mail: rabbizarchi@sfs hul.org

Building for the next generation

WWW.SFSHUL.ORG

Join us for an exciting mission to the holy land, The Land and the Spirit. The mission will visit some of the most spectacular sites in Israel. You will tour the picturesque Galilee, the magnificent fortress of Masada, and the Cave of the Patriarchs. You can jeep in the Golan or walk along the ancient ramparts of Acre.

The mission also includes an uplifting Shabbat in Jerusalem, highlighted by a visit to the Western Wall.

The Land and The Spirit Mission to Israel is sure to move and exhilarate. You will have the opportunity to attend optional lectures, as well as to meet new people and forge new friendships. And you will find new meaning in the way you think about Israel.

Call Rabbi Zarchi at 415.752.2866 for more information.

Chanukah at Chevra Thilim Saturday, December 12

Chanukah

Community Celebration

Havdalah Ceremony with
Rabbi Zarchi on Guitar

Menorah Lighting,

Mad Science

Fire and Ice Presentation

Buffet Dinner, Latka Bar

Olive Press—

Make Olive Oil

Saturday
night

December
12th

6 :30pm
\$25 Adults
\$15 Kids



RSVP to kendra@sfs hul.org
by December 2

Co-Sponsored with the Russian
Jewish Community