

# Cantorial Message

December 2021

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and beginning of Chanukkah. It's so special to be with family and friends during the holidays. We love those we are with and remember and miss those that aren't with us. They are always in our hearts.

Growing up and sharing Chanukkah with my parents and my brother always has special memories. My mom made the most delicious latkes that were hand grated. Ouch! I prefer to use the food processor. It's easier on my fingers. When I had kids of my own, I loved playing dreidel with them for Starburst candies. They usually beat me. Now, they play dreidel with their kids. Chanukkah is when I chose to have Rabbi Marc and Rabbi Rosenberg bless my newly purchased home and hang up mezuzot on my front and back doors. I loved having family and friends there to help me celebrate this very meaningful time in my life. I'm sure all of you have warm memories attached to the beautiful lights of the chanukiah in the window, that amazing smell of freshly fried latkes, and being with loved ones. Definitely blessings in our lives to cherish.

**Friday, December 3, will be our Share Shabbat/Chanukkah** service. Our Religious School students will be participating in the service through prayer and song. We will be lighting our chanukkiyot around the sanctuary like we have done in the past and singing to the music of the TE Band. I hope you will join us and don't forget your chanukiah.

**On Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m.**, here at Temple Emanu-El, we will be hosting the community celebration for the last night of Chanukkah outside in our parking lot. We will have members from the TE Band playing and members of the TE choir helping us sing Chanukkah songs. There will be donuts to eat and hot cider and hot chocolate to keep you warm. We are also going to pull the winning ticket for the TE Raffle and lighting our bronze chanukiah. So, dress warm, come see friends, sing, and enjoy the last night of Chanukkah with us.

**Havdalah** In January and February, we will bring back our Havdallah programing. Keep an eye open for more information.

**Choir** If our Covid numbers stay low, the choir will sing for our January 14, 2022, in person.

**Cabaret** is February 5, 2022. I hope you're thinking of what you are going to do! Sing, dance, tell jokes, play an instrument, or read poetry you've written. The evening is always fun and we need some fun!

Thank you to our band members for playing at services on Dec. 3, and for the last day of Chanukkah on Dec. 5. It is always so nice that you are there making this extra special.

Thank you to our choir members who were able to come out and sing for the last day of Chanukkah. Lighting up the night with your voices.

B'shir,

*Sherry*