



Shabbat Bulletin for the Temple Shalom Community

24 November 2023 ~ 11 Kislev 5784
Erev Shabbat Vayetze

Shalom, chaverim - hello,
friends -

I hope that everyone enjoyed a nice Thanksgiving. God knows that even with all that is difficult and discouraging around us - there is what to be thankful for! Our Jewish tradition conditions us to stop, no fewer than three times/day in our daily prayers, to collectively give thanks: "Modim anachnu lach, we are thankful to you!" To learn more, give [this a quick read](#) but be intentional on the take-in.



A friend of mine wrote me yesterday and said, "If only we would take time every day to give thanks!" Yes, indeed. If only ...

Judaism gives us the platforms to be thankful and humble, to accept what we can change and what we are unable to change, to operate with strength and understand vulnerability and weakness.

The "attitude of gratitude" is embedded in our tradition - after all, it is where the name Jew comes from. Jew is from Judah (Yehudah - יהודה) whose name means: Thanksgiving. Judah is born in this week's Torah portion and is given that name because his mother, Leah, offered thanks upon bearing her fourth child.

The text reads, "This time I will give thanks to God. Therefore she named him Judah (thanksgiving)..." (Genesis 29:35) Note: Judah is her fourth child. Was she not grateful with the first three boys? Leah "had a lot going on" as we would say in our day. Unloved by her husband, the first born daughter and forced into marriage with Jacob knowing that Jacob wanted to be with Rachel ... It wasn't an easy start for the family. Alas, with the birth of Judah, there is an acceptance and understanding and thus she is able to give thanks.

The attitude of gratitude is not always "available" for us - and yet, when we can cultivate and nurture it, our perspective can change helping us to move forward and find some peace. Maybe that is why the prayer for gratitude is followed by the prayer for peace in our liturgy. And maybe that is why the spiritual expression of our people (Judaism ~ Yahadut ~ יהדות) is named for the attribute of thanksgiving as well.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Mark Cohn

[MiSheberakh - A prayer for the Soldiers of the Israeli Defense Forces.](#) For the words, look on page 5 of the following booklet: **[Psalms and Prayers for this Time of Crisis in Israel.](#)**

Recommended Resources from the Rabbi's Desk(top) for the weekend ...



Shabbat Services & Study

Kabbalat Shabbat on

Constant and important updates, podcasts, blogs, and articles from [Times of Israel](#), [Tablet Magazine](#), and [Sapir Journal](#).

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS: [Fear No Evil: A study and solidarity mission to Israel](#)

Travel with Shalem College of Jerusalem from Dec. 25 - Jan. 4!

ATTENTION EDUCATORS: Check out [Unpacked: For Educators!](#) which has wonderful resources about Israel, Palestine, Judaism and more!!

ATTENTION THOSE SEARCHING FOR MORE RESOURCES: [American Jewish Committee](#) has a host of materials about the war and history.



Hanukkah is coming!!

We are going to celebrate with the JCC in Sherman on Sunday, December 10th at 1pm!!

**Friday
Evenings at
6:30PM**

**VIA ZOOM -
TONIGHT!**

**Nov. 24
ZOOM LINK**

**IN PERSON
Dec. 1 & 15**

**Shabbat
Morning
Torah Study -
9:30am**

**IN PERSON
with CJ Kelly**

**"Lunch &
Learn" with
Rabbi Mark
Cohn during
November**

12pm - 1pm in
the Temple
Library

**Tuesday,
Nov. 28**

So, what
happens to the
Jewish Left,
now?

Make sure to SAVE THE DATE and get ready
for some latkes!

To learn more about the outstanding programs
at the JCC, check out [the JCC in Sherman
website](#).

Coming on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:00pm,
the JCC in Sherman presents a FREE afternoon
showing of "A Life Apart: Hasidism in America"
with special guest Oren Rudavsky, Producer.

Our hour will
take one topic
to focus on
what is
happening in
Israel.
Invariably,
because events
are shifting
quickly, topics
might be
slightly (or
significantly)
altered.

Bring a friend!
Bring lunch
(dairy only - no
meat) if you
want!

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