# THE FOCAL POINT

Vol. 60, Issue 1 January 2024 Tevet-Shevat 5784

# From Your Rabbi...



We as Jews are living through surreal times. I felt like I had to pinch myself while watching the shameful testimony of three Ivy League University presidents, to see if it was truly real. A congresswoman asked all three of them – presidents of Harvard, MIT, and University of Pennsylvania – if calling for the genocide of Jews constitutes a violation

of their institution's code of conduct. All three gave equivocal answers, saying that it would depend on the context. It's hard to imagine that calling for the genocide of any other minority group would be met with such prevarication. It seems that the world's oldest hatred still plagues us all too much.

Over *Chanukah*, I was reading Bibi Netanyahu's excellent book about Israel called, "A Place Among the Nations." In it, he quotes a passage from the "Book of Maccabees," about which he jokes, could have been plucked from recent headlines. Judah Maccabee had died in battle and his brother Simon was appointed High Priest and ruler of Judea. Greek King Antiochus wrote Simon the Hasmonean an angry message accusing him of occupying foreign land! (Sound familiar?):

#### 1 Maccabees 15: 28 – 31:

"You are occupying Joppa (modern day Tel Aviv-Yafo) and Gazara and the citadel of Jerusalem; these are cities of my kingdom. You have laid waste their territories, done great harm to the land, and taken possession of many districts in my kingdom. Now, therefore, give up the cities you have seized and the tribute money of the districts you control outside the territory of Judea; or instead, pay me five hundred talents of silver for the devastation you have caused and five hundred talents more for the tribute money of the cities. If you do not do this, we will come and make war on you." Simon's response resonates through the ages – (verses 33-34): Simon said to him in reply: "It is not foreign land that we have taken nor have we seized the property of others, but only our ancestral heritage which for a time had been unjustly held by our enemies. Now that we have the opportunity, we are holding on to the heritage of our ancestors."

We are now beginning to read the Book of Exodus. Rashi comments on the first chapter of Exodus, that just as Pharaoh feared that the Jewish People would increase, G-d responded to him, "Ken yirbu," so too, they will increase!

Our modern-day Maccabees in the IDF are ensuring that life in the modern State of Israel will only flourish and endure in the face of the evil that tried to stymie it. Let us continue to pray to G-d to grant them success in achieving this result.

Rabbi Moshe Grussgott

# From The President...



As we approach the end of year 2023, our thoughts are still with people of Israel in the aftermath of October 7 tragedy. The world was shaken by the *Simchat Torah* massacre, the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. This occurred on the day on which we Jews, celebrate the gift of *Torah*, which is supposed to be a path to peace, according to King

Solomon.

As this article is being composed, we are celebrating *Chanukah*, the festival of lights, and I have faith that as a small group of Jews, led by Maccabees, won the war against the cruelty of Antiochus' army, the IDF, the Israel Defense Force, will win the war that cruel Hamas started. This war has caused a severe case of anti-Israel and anti-Semitism. Antisemitism is both a hatred and a conspiracy theory. It is the same ancient hate that has chased us around the globe for millennia. Antisemitism has specially increased by many folds in American university campuses where Jewish students are not only intimidated, but at times frightened and attacked.

Changing the subject to happier occasions, on Sunday, December 3, the Men's Club, sponsored a breakfast, followed by a lecture from guest speaker Joel Goldberg, announcer of Royal's baseball team. He is a trove of baseball history, and who is who in baseball.

Last *Shabbat*, December 9, after the services, a delicious lunch was served in memory of my deceased wife, Debbie Adamous. The lunch was sponsored by the members of K.I. Board of Directors, and also a group of ladies who identify themselves as Debbie's bat mitzvah sisters: **Laura Daniels**, Sherry Davidson, **Carolyn Goldwasser**, **Cheryl Intrater**, **Marian Kaplan**, **Maureen Minoofar**, Adriana Rosales and **Joyce Zeldin**. My daughter and I are very grateful for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Although I am biased, I do agree that Debbie was very dedicated to our synagogue and its causes.

I am looking forward to our now annual *Chanukah* party to which every family brings their own menorah (*chanukiah*) and candles to the synagogue and light the proper number of candles simultaneously together followed by a family style dinner. This year we are having the ladies choir and the children's choir perform under the direction of **Cantor Hayoun** during the celebration.

We at Kehilath Synagogue are requesting members while at *shul*, be vigilant and "if you see something, say something and report it to either our security officer or the staff."

Finally, on behalf of the K.I. Board of Directors and myself, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Joseph Adamous

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE FOCAL POINT IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION! THANK YOU

#### SHABBAT SERVICES

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FRIDAY, JANUAF	(Y 5
Candlelighting*	4:52 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat	5:00 PM
SATURDAY, JANUA BLESSING OF THE NEW	AKYO VMONTH
BLESSING OF THE NEV SHEVAT	V MONTH
Morning Service	0:00 AM
KI KIDZ	10.00 AM
Rabbi's Parsha Class	
Mincha	5:43 PM
Havdalah	4.30 FWL 5.47 DM
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FRIDAY, JANUAR	Y 12
Candlelighting*	4·59 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat	5:10 PM
SATURDAY, JANUA	RY 13
Morning Service	9:00 AM
Women's Circle	10:00 AM
Nin-Jews	
Rabbi's Parsha Class	3·55 PM
Mincha	4:40 PM
Havdalah	5:54 PM
\$	
FRIDAY, JANUAR	Y 19
Candlelighting*	5:07 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat	5:15 PM
SATURDAY, JANUA CHAI ANNIVERSARY K	.RY 20
CHAI ANNIVERSARY K	IDDUSH
Morning Service	
M & M	10:00 AM
Rabbi's Parsha Class	
Mincha	4:45 PM
Havdalah	6:01 PM
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FRIDAY, JANUAR	Y 26
Candlelighting*	5.25 PM
SATURDAY, JANUA	3:23 PM
KIDDUSH SPONSOR	KY 2/ FD DV
ELLEN & DR. JAY POR	ED D I TNOV IN
HONOR OF ELLEN'S B	IRTHDAY
AND LARA & ZAK'S	VISIT
Morning Service	
Nin-Jews	
Rabbi's Parsha Class	
Mincha	
Havdalah	

#### \*NO LATER THAN THESE TIMES



#### K.I FRED DEVINKI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS:

As we feel the cold weather setting in, we also say goodbye to the Jewish month of *Kislev* and the excitement of *Chanukah*. A **LOUD** shout out to all our K.I. families that participated in the P.J. Library Glow Celebration at The J. It was heartwarming and exciting to see so many K.I. kids and families all day long having a blast dancing and creating!

Special shout out to our very own **Bridey Stangler** for her hard work and amazing creativity!

I am also so proud and amazed that our students, even the youngest, are learning the morning blessings. Their Hebrew is absolutely unbelievable. These prayers begin our day welcoming G-d and acknowledging G-d's presence. We share about things that we are thankful for and talk about *mitzvot* that we have done or received. There has been a great deal of money in our *Tzedakah* Dragon *Morah* Amy has created, and the students decided to send our money to help the soldiers in Israel. Our amazing teachers are so creative sharing *parasha* stories and the lessons we learn from these stories. The Littles, the Middles and the Bigs all embrace Judaism through Hebrew, *Torah* and *Mitzvot* every week.

After the month of *Tevet*, we welcome the next big holiday of *Tu B'shvat*. The students will learn about ecology and taking care of our world for the future generations.

For example, the *Midrash* in *Kohelet Rabbah* teaches:

"When G-d created the first man he took him and showed him all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him, 'See my works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. And everything that I created, I created it for you. Be careful not to spoil or destroy my world–for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it."

This *Midrash* singles out the trees of the Garden of Eden–rather than the Garden of Eden itself–to represent the natural world, the work of the Creator.

I would also like to ask if any of you have some important items that would really help for the school. We would love some new *kepot* for the boys that have their name. It would be wonderful to also have sponsors for snacks or paper goods. Everything must be OU or have a proper kosher *hechsher*.

As the weather gets colder and there may be a need for cancellation, I will send an email as soon as we decide. Please feel free to text me at srissien@ku.edu or call me at 913.709.5023.

Morah Shelley

## \*\*\*\*\*\*

#### GUARDIAN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

FIRST TIME CAMPERS INCENTIVE GRANTS – The Guardian Society provides "incentive grants" to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time on a first-come first-served basis. These grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, to children the first time they attend Jewish overnight camp for three weeks or longer and have not previously received a first-time camper grant. In order to qualify for the incentive grant, children must live in the Greater Kansas City area and attend an approved Jewish camp program.

Families who need assistance sending children to camp for fewer than three weeks are encouraged to apply for financial assistance from their congregations and from The Guardian Society. Applications are also available at https://www.jewishkansascity.org/org/get-involved/young-adults/scholarships-incentives/jewish-camp-grants. To request a K.I. Scholarship application, email info@kisyn.org or leave a message at 913.642.1880, ext. 202.

The Guardian Society also has other grant opportunities available for Jewish Overnight Camp and Long Term (three months or longer) Israel Programs.

# **CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT K.I.**



Children's choir



Womens' choir



Dr. Michael Farber and sons



Kass family



Sandy Levine and granddaughter

#### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**



- 16 Jodi & Dr. Bill Rosenthal (41)
- 17 Gena & Todd Agron (15)
- 22 Carolyn & Joseph Goldwasser (13)
- 26 Enid & Peter Levi (55)
- 29 Karen & Steven Pack (48)

### תודה רבה

- ...to our office volunteers who assist in so many ways: Jake Schulzinger, Eunice Snitz and Amy Soltz.
- ...to **Max Jevinsky** for taking the *Focal Point* to the main KC, MO post office each month, so that you can receive a print version.
- ....to our kiddush helpers: Maureen Minoofar, Cristi Gillom, Janet Stone, Brenda Fishman, Amy Stoltz, Pete Cabell, Arlene Abrams, Linda Goldstein, Lisa Lanfranca and Rachel Lubowicz..

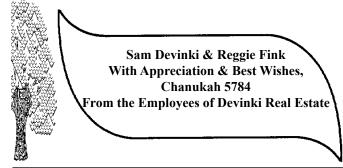
# מזל טוב

- ...to **Susan** and **Steve Osman** on the recent *Bat Mitzvah* of their granddaughter, Honora Osman, daughter of Dan and Lindsey Osman.
- ...to **Natalie** and **Dr. Donald Cohen** on the recent *Bar Mitzvah* of their grandson, Matthew Romanoff, son of Halley and Dan Romanoff.

# רפואה שלמה

The congregation expresses sincere wishes for a speedy recovery to **Charles Goodbinder**, **Kent Shanberg**, **Amy Stoltz**, **Doug Zolotor**, and to all other members of the congregation and community who have been ill or hospitalized.

#### SIMCHA TREE LEAF DEDICATION



#### CONGREGANTS' JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to all of the following congregants who are celebrating birthdays:

Anton Krutz, Renee Kuluva, Carol Caviar, Jerry Rosmarine, Felicia Weiner, Sonia Singer, Matthew Greenberg, Benjamin Mandl, Rabbi Herbert Mandl, Liz Chopp, Elliot Kaplan, Debbie Mandl, Jordyn Stone, Marian Kaplan, Arlyn Kuluva, William Nowack, Susan Osman, Etta Brenner, Michael Jerwick, Marsha Krinsky, Kitty Novicoff, Edith Lea Ommerman, Jeffery Rudd, Toby Levine, Anatoly Khalemsky, Roberta Rosmarine, Brenda Fishman, Addison Brand, Seth Gortenburg, Michael Gortenburg, Gail Gottlieb, Henri Gaeddert, Ellen Portnoy, Idie Parmet, Jacob Schulzinger, Stan Zeldin, Jaden Jacobson, Sandra Jabenis, Harriet Langley, Samuel Mandl, Alex Schifman, David Lesky, Beverly Burk, Ronald Kogan, Doris Chopp, Nancy Kohn, Joan Cabell, Sheldon Singer, Nancy Cline, Abraham Rozenberg, Jerry Stolov.



#### JANUARY YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

Noah Schifman, Shoshana Gortenburg, Louis Pener, Miriam Hjelmaas, Renton Smartt, Jonah Margolies, Layla Singer, Zoe Pader, Macie Kaplan, Yakira Hammerman.

# THE FOCAL POINT OF KEHILATH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

913.642.1880 FAX: 913.642.7332

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CANTOR ARON HAYOUN Hazzan

RABBI HERBERT J. MANDL, PH.D. Rabbi Emeritus

ELIZABETH PEDEN Executive Director

SHELLEY RISSIEN
Director, K.I. Fred Devinki Religious School

REBECCA SPEIER Family Program Director

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SAM DEVINKI, Honorary President for Life

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# ESRIG-GOULD MEMORIAL ALCOVE With Reverence We Record the Following Yahrzeits MEMORIAL TABLETS

20 TEVET-JAN 1

RUTH GALLAS ABRAHAM SIEGEL HINDA WINER

#### 21 TEVET-JAN 2

DAVID ALPORT IRVING ARLAN MAREK BENGIS GORDON BEREY MEYER FABES MORRIS GINSBERG MORRIS KROSS MARY SCHWARTZ LIBA VISCOFSKY

#### 22 TEVET-JAN 3

JOSE ADLER
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MYER DOLGINOFF
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SARA KRAMSKY
HYMAN LIEBERMAN
CELIA MAX
ELLA ODESNIK
MEYER STEIN
FREDA TIGERMAN
ANN WANE

#### 23 TEVET-JAN 4

LEIBISH BIRENBOIM ISAAC BULAVSKY CAROL COHEN ISADORE DOLGINOFF MORRIS DUNN SAMMY PILTZ

#### 24 TEVET-JAN 5

ISADORE AGRON YEHOSHUA CHERNICOFF GUSSIE FOX CONSTANCE GLASBERG DEWEY KOSLOSKY STUART LEVINE

#### 25 TEVET-JAN 6

ANNA CARR LOUIS COHN CARL GERSHON MARIA GREENBAUM MANUEL LEVINE ALLEN WEINER

#### 26 TEVET-JAN 7

JOSEPH BOLD LOUIS BURSTEN HYMAN FALLEK LOIS MYERS ESTHER ORLOVICK GEORGE ROCHELD LIEBERMAN SCHUMAN BROCHA SPACK

#### 27 TEVET-JAN 8

RUTH FEINGOLD HAROLD GOLDBERG THOMAS GOLDENBERG FRANCES KARGER

#### 28 TEVET-JAN 9

HARRY COHEN MARVIN DEVOE CLARA KRAFT JACOB KRAFT ALBERT KRASHIN HAROLD LERNER FANNIE MAGADY MARTIN MANN HYMAN PACK ABE PRESS

#### **29 TEVET-JAN 10**

RICHARD DREISESZUN ROSALYN JACOBSON GERTRUDE KRUTE ISRAEL LEVIN DAVID LUKE LOUIS OSADCHY JACK ROCHELD ISAAC SALWINSKY SADIE TAYLOR ANNA WOLBERG

#### 1 SHEVAT-JAN 11

HARRIS DAITCH MARY DAITCH ABRAHAM LENIOWER MELVIN LEVINE RUDOLPH ZELL

#### 2 SHEVAT-JAN 12

MARCIA COLVIN JEANETTTE FRIEDMAN HELEN LIEBERMAN ESTHER SCHWARTZ LINDMAN SHROB SOLOMON WILENSKY

#### 3 SHEVAT-JAN 13

JENNIE ABEND
JOSEPH BARABAN
GERALD COHEN
BEN COSNER
BEILA DORFMAN
SAMUEL DORFMAN
HELEN GOLDIN
EDYTHE HAIMER
JOSEPHINE KORT
BEN ROBINSON
STANLEY ROSE

#### 4 SHEVAT-JAN 14

LEO CHOOS
ALICE ESRIG
SANFORD GREENBERG
LEONARD LAPIDES
SADIE MILLER
BEN RUBEN
WILLIAM SPITCAUFSKY
SHERRY WALDMANN
HERSHEL ZENITSKY

#### 5 SHEVAT-JAN 15

MORRIS BELL GRANUM CHERNOFF STEVE GERSHON LEAH GLADSTONE SYLVIA GOLDSTEIN MORRIS HAITH DONNA LEVINE ABRAHAM SOLTZ

#### 6 SHEVAT-JAN 16

SHLOMO BRAUN
ISAAC DUBINSKY
MILTON FISHMAN
NATHAN HOROWITZ
ROSE KATZ
HELEN KRASHIN
SARAH KRINSKY
IDA LANSKY
ABRAHAM LERNER
DONALD TELLER

#### 7 SHEVAT-JAN 17

JOHN GOLDBERG
ISADORE GOODMAN
GELLA POLLMAN
ROSE ROSS
BERNICE SCHIFMAN
MARILYN SCHULZINGER
DAVID SIMON
CHANA TEITELBAUM

#### 8 SHEVAT-JAN 18

DORA BAKER
DOROTHY BELL
BESSIE DEVOE
ROSE HOUSE
ISADORE KAUFMAN
NOMA KELNE
JOSEPH MANN
HENRY TARABOULOS

#### 9 SHEVAT-JAN 19

SIDNEY COHEN
DOROTHY CUMONOW
ESTHER DWORK
MINNIE LAPIDES
JOSEPH MILLER
BARNEY NASH
OLGA RODRIGUEZ-JIMENEZ
MAX ROMER

#### 10 SHEVAT-JAN 20

JOSEPH AMAR
ABE BERNSTEIN
BERTHA DREISESZUN
ABE JACOBSON
ROLAND KAHN
GITTEL LEVIN
JACK LOUIS
ALICE SCHILD
MOSHE SOLOMON

#### 11 SHEVAT-JAN 21

JOSEPH AMPEL BERTHA BROWN

#### 12 SHEVAT-JAN 22

ELKA FRANKLIN
ALLAN GREENBERG
ESTHER HIPSH
MENDEL HOROWITZ
ROSE LEVINE
MYRA LITMAN
BESS MALLIN
SALLY SILVERMAN

#### 13 SHEVAT-JAN 23

SAMUEL BEISER BEVERLY FISHMAN GERTRUDE KAPLAN LOUIS KATZ DENA LEVINE ADA SHAPIRO BERTHA ZUROVSKY

#### 14 SHEVAT-JAN 24

BINA BELZYCKI
CHAIM BELZYCKI
MELVIN GORTENBURG
DOROTHY HYKEN
FLORENCE LEVIN
ROSE MILINKOWSKY
ABRAHAM OSADCHY
DAVID RABINOWITZ
JULIUS SANDER
KARL SCHICK
ABE UNTRIF

#### 15 SHEVAT-JAN 25

SHLOMO BRATMAN JAKE LEVINE AZRIEL ROTHSTEIN JOSEPH SCHWARTZ JOE SIMON MARY SPACK GAYLE WEIL

#### 16 SHEVAT-JAN 26

LOUIS FOX STEPHEN FRIEDMAN MORRIS LEVINE SOL MOLOTSKY JEAN ODESNIK SAM PORTNOFF BELLE TITENSKY

#### 17 SHEVAT-JAN 27

JOSEPH BROWN
LEO BROWN
CHARLES COHEN
ESTHER COSNER
JOSEPH DEVOE
HARRY FEINGOLD
CLARA GLADSTONE
JOSEPH KULUVA
GERTRUDE POLSKY
DALLES RASKIN
REBECCA YEDDIS
SAM ZITRON

#### 18 SHEVAT-JAN 28

HARRY COHN
HAROLD LOEFFLER
BEN PASLOVE
YETTA PRICE
MARIAN SHEAR
JOEL SILBERG
ALBERT WEINER
ROSE ZEMELMAN

#### 19 SHEVAT-JAN 29

FREDA AGRON
GOLDA GERECHT
SAMUEL MARKOWITZ
HAROLD ROSMARINE
ABRAHAM SLADOWITZ
BESSIE STEMPLEMAN
SHRAGA TEITELBAUM
ROBERT TIGERMAN

#### 20 SHEVAT-JAN 30

DORA FINKELSTON HYMAN ODESNIK JENNIE RITZ LEO WEINBERG JACOB WICENTOWSKY HYMAN WINEGAR ABRAHAM YODLER ZELDA ZALCMAN

#### 21 SHEVAT-JAN 31

ISRAEL ADELMAN ED ARONSON WILLIAM COHEN MELVIN COSNER ANNA GERSHON MAX GLASS JACOB HOROWITZ DOROTHY KANDLIS JACOB KLUTZ HARRY LEVA LOUIS MARKUS EDA MYER IDELLA PUCKER SYLVESTER SHER NATHAN TEMPOSKY SOPHIA WALDMANN



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January 2024 20 Teves 5784 - 21 Shevat 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Monday 1 20 TEVES	Tuesday 21 TEVES	Wednesday <sup>22 TEVES</sup>	4 23 TEVES	5 24 TEVES	6 25 TEVE
	New Year's Day OFFICE	_	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL		₹4:52	Shemos Usaiah 27:6-28:13,
	CLOSED Shacharit Service-9:00 am		School			29:22-23 Shabbos Ends: 5:42 KI KIDZ-10:00
	Service-5:00 am					am ₱Rabbi Grussgott's Class-3:45 pm
7 26 TEVES	8 27 TEVES	9 28 TEVES	10 <sup>29 TEVES</sup>	1 1 1 SHEVAT	12 2 SHEVAT	13 3 SHEVA
Religious School - 9:15-11:30 am			Religious School - 4:30-5:45 pm ₩women's Study Class-7:00 pm	Rosh Chodesh Shevat	4:59	☐Va'cira ☐Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 11Shabbos Ends: 5:54 ♠NinJews -10:00 am ♠Women's Circle-10:00 am ♠Rabbi Grussgott' Class-3:55 pm
14 4 SHEVAT	15 5 SHEVAT	16 6 SHEVAT	17 7 SHEVAT	18 8 SHEVAT	19 9 SHEVAT	20 10 SHEVA
Religious School - 9:15-11:30 am	■Martin Luther King Day □ Rabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm		Religious School - 4:30-5:45 pm		\$ \$ 5:07	Bo Useremiah 46:13-28 Useremiah 46:13-28 Ushabbos Ends: 6:0 M and M-10:00 am Chai Anniversary Kiddush Rabbi Grussgott's Class-4:00 pm
21 11 SHEVAT	22 12 SHEVAT	23 13 SHEVAT	24 14 SHEVAT	25 15 SHEVAT	26 16 SHEVAT	27 17 SHEVA
Religious School - 9:15-11:30 am	₩Rabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm		Religious School - 4:30-5:45 pm *Women's Study Class-7:00 pm		<u>₹</u> 5:15	Beshalach Uudges 4:4-5:31 IShabbos Ends: 6:09 NinJews -10:00 am Kiddush sponsored by Portnoys in honor of Ellen's birthday and Lara and Zak's visit Rabbi Grussgott's Class-4:05 pm
28 Religious School - 9:15-11:30 am	29 PRabbi Mandl's Talmud Class - 7:00 pm	30 <sup>20 SHEVAT</sup>	21 SHEVAT  Religious School - 4:30-5:45 pm			



The Focal Point of Kehilath Israel Synagogue 10501 Conser Overland Park, KS 66212 913.642.1880 FAX 913.642.7332 kisyn.org

# WEEKLY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Sunday Shacharit 9:00 AM Monday-Friday Shacharit 7:00 AM

Sunday-Thursday Mincha and Maariv

Week of December 31-January 4 4:55 PM
Week of January 7 5:00 PM
Week of January 14 5:10 PM
Week of January 21 5:15 PM
Week of January 28 5:25 PM

Monday, January 1 - Shacharit service - 9:00 am

Thursday, January 11 - Rosh Chodesh Shevat





### WOMEN OF K.I. (WoKI) MAHJ & MARGS RECENT EVENT IN NOVEMBER







