

Havurat Tikvah Sparkles in December

Reconstructionists embrace traditional forms of ritual including liberal use of Hebrew in our services, liturgical melodies and songs, while we are open to creative approaches to prayer and ritual practice that make tradition come alive in a contemporary

idiom. Havurat Tikvah has included adult education and cross generational activities in our service weekends when we have the assistance of our student rabbi.

December is full of lights for our congregation:

* **Saturday, December 8**, our

community service will be at 10 AM – we will celebrate Hanukkah Shabbat. This will be a warm wonderful event to which everyone is invited.

* **Sunday, December 9**, at 5 PM we will fete our new members (we now have 49 member households) and all prospective members and friends who are interested in our Havurat Tikvah Reconstructionist congregation, with a latke dinner and jelly doughnuts – we look forward to this pot luck. We will light the candles in our Chanukiot – bring your favorite menorah - and enjoy an interactive program to share “How does your Family Celebrate Hanukkah?” Bring any special items that help illustrate your heritage or have a special story in your Hanukkah history.



* **Sunday, December 9** – the Social Action committee will meet at Samaritan House to help get these good folks recovering from surgery, or other hospital stays back on their feet with food and friendship. Please contact us for details.

* **Sunday, December 16**, (time TBA) Happy Hour – Jewish Book Month – share your library with others who enjoy the diversity of our Jewish literary heritage. Contact us for more details.

* **December 24 and 31** – we need Friendship Tray volunteers for both packing and delivery. This requires a couple of hours during the day each of these two days.

Contact us if you are interested in helping out.

* **Sunday, January 6**, we will be shopping and having lunch together at Gliberman's Kosher Mart – join us for this great fun and meet new people. We do this about every other month, everyone is welcome to join in.




Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Please join us: our services are warm and friendly, a family atmosphere in which all Jews can feel comfortable, and guests are always welcome. We also welcome and encourage participation in our services including leading sections of the service and reading the Torah. Prospective new members welcome.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation and we celebrate all services and many events in the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 2201 Springdale Ave. (at Magnolia) in the Dilworth neighborhood of Charlotte.

For an updated calendar and information for Havurat Tikvah, visit the HT website at www.HavuratTikvah.org or call 704-545-0894. ☆



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Temple Israel Welcomes JTS Chancellor Rabbi Arnold Eisen on January 8

Proclaiming that “we have important work to do,” Chancellor Arnold M. Eisen set forth a vision for the future of The Jewish Theological Seminary following his investiture as the seventh chancellor of JTS in early September. Although new to JTS, he is not a stranger to the work ahead.

One of the world's foremost experts on American Judaism, Professor Eisen has worked closely for the past 20 years with synagogue and federation leadership around the country to analyze and



Rabbi Arnold Eisen

address the issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition, and the redefinition of the American Jewish community. It is his appointment as chancellor that will enable him to turn study into action.

In his inaugural address in September, Chancellor Eisen called JTS “a truly fine institution” with the teaching of Torah at the center of its mission, even as it has historically wrestled with the tension between faith and scholarship. This tension, he believes, must guide JTS and Conservative Judaism in actively observing and preserving the tradition even as it applies the tradition to the “complex and changing demands of the day.” The duty to do so “is our glory and our birthright.”

Calling it his “great privilege to build upon and carry forward” the work of the past JTS chancellors, including his immediate predecessor, Dr. Ismar Schorsch, and such luminary scholars as Abraham Joshua Heschel, Mordecai Kaplan, and Solomon Schechter, Chancellor Eisen said in the coming year JTS will:

1. Contribute directly to the Conservative Movement. Referencing his year-long “listening tour,” during which he heard the aspirations and criticisms Conservative Jews have for JTS and the Conservative Movement, JTS will assist in the articulation of a clear message about what the

Conservative Movement is and what it stands for. Chancellor Eisen will also help facilitate conversation among Movement representatives about improving on its structure.

2. Contribute directly to the Jewish people. Chancellor Eisen has long made it known he is committed to increasing the attachment between American Jewry and Israel. He announced that JTS will host a number of programs dedicated to brainstorming ways to bring the two communities together as well as to celebrate Israel's upcoming sixtieth anniversary.

3. Contribute directly to the United States and Canada by demonstrating visibly and forcefully that faith can be an instrument of cooperation. Plans include laying the groundwork for cooperative arrangements with other religious institutions of higher learning and active religious engagement with Muslims.

A product of the Conservative Movement, Chancellor Eisen has been a frequent scholar-in-residence at synagogues across America, sharing his vision for reimagining the American Jewish community. He has regularly served as a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Program, the Wexner Fellowship, and the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and has long been well known as a passionate advocate of strengthening the connection between American Jews and Israel.

Chancellor Eisen, will discuss “Commandment, Community, and the Future of American Judaism” on January 8, 2008, at Temple Israel 4901 Providence Road, Charlotte. For more information about the lecture, please contact the synagogue office at 704-362-2796. For more information about JTS, visit the website at www.jtsa.edu. ☆



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