

December ❄️ January

GATHERINGS AT JCOGS

- * **Monday, Nov. 26 through Monday, Dec. 10 | JCOGS's fabulous Hanukkah Boutique** will be available, including extended shopping hours during Olam Chesed on Wednesdays, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- * **Saturday, Dec. 1 | 10 a.m. | Shacharit morning services + Claudia Woodward's bat mitzvah**
Our terrific Mitzvah! class will take a leading part in the service as Claudia celebrates in community her emerging adult Jewish commitments, responsibilities, and joy. Expect plenty of music and singing.
- * **Sunday, Dec. 2 | 3-6 p.m. | A Family Hanukkah Gathering in the Mad River Valley**
JCOGS and the Mad River Valley Jewish Community team up for this big celebration. Held at the Waitsfield Church on Rte 100. See page 8 in the Bulletin for details.
- * **Wednesday, Dec. 5 | 5:45 p.m. | Olam Chesed Family Candle-Lighting and inaugural lighting of the Indian Hanukkiah**
- * **Friday, Dec. 7 | 6 p.m. | Hanukkah Shabbat Friday night services + oneg**
We will light candles, sing contemporary and old Hanukkah songs, and enjoy latkes with our oneg.
- * **Saturday, Dec. 8 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Kinderlach & Gesher Saturday Morning Shabbat program**
- * **Saturday, Dec. 8 | 5:30 p.m. | Share the Light: Hanukkah Party & Benefit concert at ZenBarn**
Back by popular demand, JCOGS is a lead sponsor in this Vermont-wide Hanukkah party at ZenBarn in Waterbury. See page 8 in the Bulletin for details.
- * **Sunday, Dec. 9 | 3-6 p.m. | JCOGS Community Hanukkah Happening**
Special events hosted by our Ateed teen group and latke-making with our very own home-grown spuds! See page 8 in the Bulletin for details.
- * **Friday, Dec. 14 | 6 p.m. | Shabbes in the Shtetl Friday night services with Janie Respitz + Potluck dinner**
Shabbes was the only day of the week when Eastern European Jews could forget their hardships. Join musical and talented Montreal guest Janie Respitz as she recreates the joyous atmosphere of the Holy Sabbath through stories, folktales, and song. After services, bring your favorite vegetarian Eastern European potluck dinner dish and stay for a musical, interactive lecture/concert by Janie about Yiddish music. See page 7 in the Bulletin for details.
- * **Friday, Dec. 21 | 6 p.m. | Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat + Solstice services + oneg**
In the heart of darkest winter, come celebrate the light of Shabbat.
- * **Saturday, Dec. 22 | 10 a.m. | Torah study**
Come participate in this lively, meaningful discussion as we look deeply into the age-old source of our tradition's wisdom.
- * **Tuesday, Dec. 25 | 12-4 p.m. | First Annual Non-Competitive Board Game Competition**
Whether you're coming off the slopes or rolling out of bed, join us for Scrabble, chess, Clue, and our JCOGS president's favorite—A Ticket to Ride. If we're lucky, we may even have a multigenerational D&D game going. Bring your board games, a vegetarian dish or nosh to share, and your out-of-town guests.

* **Thursday, Dec. 27 | 2-7 p.m. | Red Cross Blood Drive at JCOGS**

Practice the mitzvah of saving a life. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. To schedule an appointment to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

* **Friday, Dec. 28 | 6 p.m. | Musical Shabbat with Rabbi David + oneg with childminding**

All out-of-town visitors, friends, and locals: Join us on Shabbat for your winter break. At our Musical Shabbats, we come together in prayer, chant, and meditation, tapping into ancient words and new and old melodies. We come to find out what happens when prayer has the potential to move us toward joy and transformation. Childminding provided for young children.

* **Friday, Jan. 4 | 6 p.m. | Deepening Prayer Shabbat Service + oneg**

Do you sometimes feel lost during services? Do you have questions about the meaning and experience of prayer? At each of these services, we look in depth at one prayer in our Friday night tradition and have a meaningful conversation on its themes. We also explore some of the historical background and linguistic meaning of our liturgy in the entire service, as well as a focus on the meaning of prayer itself.

* **Saturday, Jan. 5 | 4:30-6 p.m. | Havdalah in PJs—midwinter mindfulness for all ages**

Cozy up and join us for a sweet Shabbat afternoon of yoga and the precious ritual of saying goodbye to Shabbat, hello to the week.

* **Friday, Jan. 11 | 6 p.m. | Conservative-style Shabbat services + oneg**

If you love Hebrew and traditional prayers, this service is for you. And if you're not sure, come stretch your comfort zone.

* **Saturday, Jan. 12 | 9:30-11 a.m. | Kinderlach & Gesher Saturday Morning Shabbat program for young families**

* **Sunday, Jan. 13 | 4-6:30 p.m. | Ateed, JCOGS's forward-thinking teen program**

* **Friday, Jan. 18 | 6 p.m. | Reform-style Musical Shabbat services honoring the life and legacy of Debbie Friedman z"l + enhanced oneg**

Each week at JCOGS, we sing Debbie's touching melody for Mi Sheberach. This Shabbat Shirah, the Shabbat of Song, there will be lots of music and instruments for this Reform-friendly, English-laden, Debbie-inspired service. Childminding provided for young children.

* **Saturday, Jan. 19 | 10 a.m. | Torah study with Rabbi David**

Come participate in this lively, meaningful discussion as we look deeply into the age-old source of our tradition's wisdom.

* **Wednesday, Jan. 23 | 3:45-7 p.m. | Tu b'Shvat Seder during school hours for all Olam Chesed families**

* **Friday, Jan. 25 | 6 p.m. | Shabbat services + oneg**

* **Saturday, Jan. 26 | 10 a.m. | Solomon's bar mitzvah**

Join Solomon and his family as they celebrate his bar mitzvah at JCOGS. *See page 7 in the Bulletin for details.*

Something for everyone at JCOGS services

Pluralism sometimes means embracing our differences, rather than attempting to find a common denominator. At these two services, we will highlight two different forms of prayer. On January 11, Rabbi David will lead a spirited Conservative-style service, traditional-egalitarian in orientation with plenty of Hebrew. On January 18, join Rabbi David and JCOGS musicians for a Musical Shabbat in Reform-style prayer, with lots of singing, English, and joy. We will honor the music of Debbie Friedman z"l, the songstress of Reform. Whether gathering for one or both services, come try out something new, or find your comfort zone in prayer.