

# A Festive Time of Year

BY RABBI MICHAEL WEYGANT

This is a festive time of the year for many in our society, especially messianic believers. Why? Because Hanukkah and its themes of dedication and rededication, light conquering darkness, servanthood, and the unique foods associated with Hanukkah make this a colorful and delectable season of the year.

This edition of HaShofar includes articles from several members of Rosh Pinah congregation that connect well with the themes of Hanukkah. There is a Hanukkah connected 'Yeladim Corner' and a recipe that is sure to be a hit in our households. In this edition of HaShofar we express appreciation to those who serve the LORD doing important behind-the-scenes activities in the community. We consider what the word DEDICATION means to a believer in Yeshua, and we tackle the question, "What is your favorite Jewish holiday?" in the 'Ask the Rabbi' section of the newsletter. These features and more are found in this edition of HaShofar.

Again, thank you for the many expressions of care, prayer and ongoing generosity offered on behalf of Rosh Pinah community at this challenging time for the Jewish people. With many uncertainties in our world today, we are thankful for you and for your love of the LORD and your faithful support of His work at Rosh Pinah congregation. May His shalom and blessings be yours in Yeshua's name.



**Rabbi Michael Weygant**



*Then Yeshua spoke to them again: "I am the Light of the world; whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light which gives life."*

*John 8:12 CBJ*



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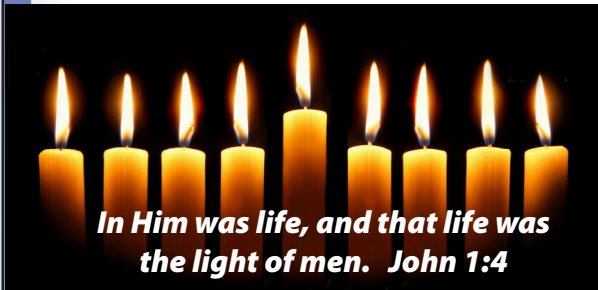
# HaShofar

A Publication of  
ROSH PINAH  
Messianic Jewish  
Congregation  
Oklahoma City, OK

# Hanukkah – Festival of Dedication

There are many things we can dedicate to the LORD. For instance: baby dedication, ministry, buildings, marriages, event in honor of a person, place or thing, our family and even our work. These dedications can be very important. Yet, there's One who is most important. During this Hanukkah, reflect on the One we are always to be dedicated to – Yeshua. Yeshua is calling each one of us to serve Him. Do we hear Him calling? He calls us in several ways:

**A call to be dedicated or to rededicate oneself to belong to GOD.** This is where we devote our whole heart and soul to the Lord by seeking Him so that He may abide in us and we in Him (John 15). We are His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16) and must be solemnly committed to do His purpose and will.



**A call to love and reverence GOD.** We must express our love and dedication by reflecting the love He has shown and given to us by giving it back to Him and others. GOD is dedicated in showing His love to us in which we know there is no greater love than His love. When we receive His great love, He offers and gives us the power to express that same kind of love.

**A call to consecrate and dedicate our minds and our will to Him.** We are to be single minded, loyal, and fervent in serving Him. When we are sincere in our faith, we will renew our mind or make new, by cleansing our thoughts. Rom 12: 2-13 explains ways of serving in different areas of the community.

## **How do we celebrate this Festival of Light (Yeshua)?**

1. We must first recognize and acknowledge that He is our “Hero”, our Savior and Redeemer.
2. Secondly, He is the Living Temple and He has replaced the physical building. (Haggai 2:7-9)
3. Thirdly, He is the Light of the World. (John 8:12, Isaiah 9:2, and 1 Peter 2:9)

Yeshua demonstrated that He has fulfilled all three as the sacrificial Lamb, the Living Temple, and the Light of the world. We celebrate with great rejoicing, thanksgiving, and praise for our salvation, deliverance, eternal life, and restoration back to GOD.

Kevin Hawthorne, Ph. D., stated: “[Yeshua] Jesus, devoted redeemer of all nations has shone forth, let the whole family of the faithful celebrate.” Yeshua is the Lighthouse of our lives. He is the reason for celebrating the Festival of Lights and we are to go out into the community and be that light! ✨

**Linda Branch**

# Priorities

Priorities are always changing and not always properly ordered. When getting a gauge on an individual and a group, it generally starts by looking at their priorities. Even businesses have mission statements that list their priorities to reassure customers and investors. A lot of people have issues in this field and those issues typically stem from not putting them in the right order. But most things have an appropriate time for them. The Bible states this plainly several times. Some examples are Proverbs 24:27 and Mathew 6:25-34. The Lord knows that we at times will have priorities pertaining to work, social situations, and other things; but we need to be orderly in how we prioritize them.

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”*  
(Eccl. 3:1-8, ESV)

As a people set apart for GOD our Father and the Lord Yeshua, we must seek what GOD wants our priorities to be. The Holy Spirit is needed to guide us in these. When it comes to importance, though, Yeshua states plainly the two greatest commandments (Mathew 22:36-40) are to love the Lord our GOD with all of our hearts, and just as interesting, Yeshua states that “the second is like it, to love our neighbor as our self”. A parallel passage to this one is written in 1 John 4:20-21. This shows us that how we love our neighbor is a good gauge on our level of love for GOD our Father.

*“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”* (1 John 4:20-21 ESV)

If we make loving the Lord our number one priority in our lifetime it is of great spiritual gain. Haggai may be a short read, but this book is packed with information about dedication towards the Lord and why it is for our benefit. It starts off with a rebuke about setting our priorities on things of the world, while neglecting GOD, and how fruitless it truly is. Storing up treasures on earth instead of heaven, can only bring you false peace and often results in selfishness (Luke 12:16-21).

Serving others and the Lord is of great benefit, when done with clean hands. Trying to follow the commandments of Yeshua is necessary (Matthew 7:23), in fact when the Lord described how we are to love him, another way love is shown us by commitment to His commandments (John 14:15-31). Our sin towards others, ourselves, and GOD separates us from the Lord. To finish strong takes commitment, and is a lifelong journey. In 1 Corinthians 9:25-27, Paul likens it to an athlete training for a crown an event in which the winner receives a crown. Remember that our Lord is gracious, long suffering, and loving. He forgives us of our imperfection through the blood that Yeshua shed for our sins. Yeshua is the perfect Lamb without blemish. We should keep pressing forward and rededicate our lives, as we seek to strengthen each other in the Lord (1 Thes 5:1-11).

*“for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.”* (Proverbs 24:16 ESV)

 Taylor Reed

# Yeladim Corner

Find the words in the puzzle. Words can be found horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

## Hanukkah Word Search

Y	E	S	H	U	A	W	J	K	L	M	E	Z	C	P	R	J
S	A	H	C	V	B	N	M	Z	X	C	S	D	H	Q	Y	E
D	F	A	G	H	J	K	L	R	I	O	P	U	A	Y	W	R
E	O	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	P	Q	W	E	N	R	T	U
Q	W	A	E	R	T	Y	U	D	I	O	P	O	U	L	K	S
Z	X	S	S	C	S	D	D	E	D	F	G	H	K	H	J	A
N	F	H	S	L	W	Q	W	D	E	R	T	U	K	I	O	L
W	Q	B	I	G	G	X	C	I	V	B	N	M	I	I	P	E
E	R	O	T	V	B	Y	K	C	L	U	E	D	A	G	Z	M
A	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	A	Z	X	C	V	H	B	N	M
T	E	M	P	L	E	F	H	T	K	L	O	P	I	U	Y	T
R	T	O	P	I	H	J	N	E	B	V	X	Q	Z	W	E	R
J	D	R	F	G	M	E	W	K	M	A	C	C	A	B	E	E
D	M	A	X	H	S	T	D	D	K	S	W	R	C	N	L	N
F	E	A	S	T	O	F	D	E	D	I	C	A	T	I	O	N

Yeshua  
Light  
Miracle  
Feast of Dedication  
Temple  
Jerusalem  
Hanukkiah  
Shamash  
Oil  
Maccabee  
Cleanse  
Rededicate

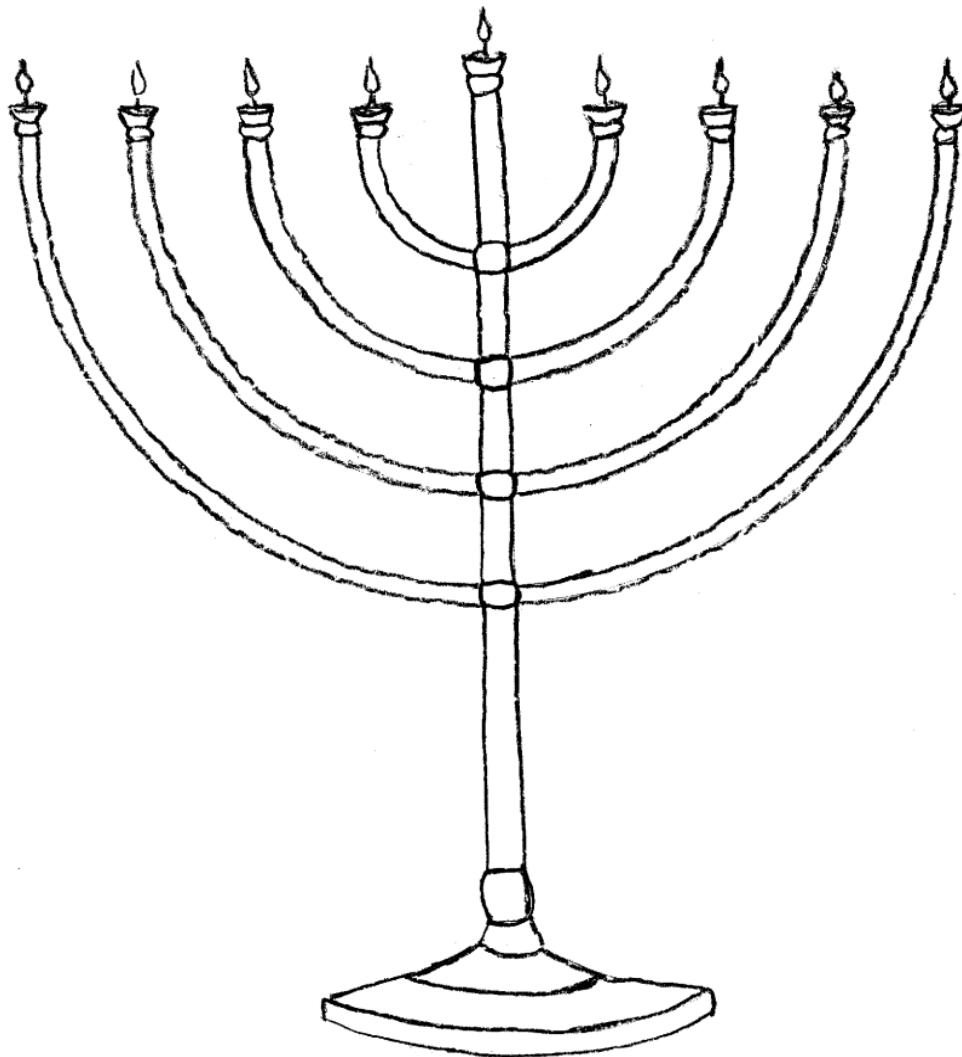
### Color the picture

**The Shamash Candle is in the center.**

Shamash is a Hebrew word for servant. The servant candle lights the other eight on the hanukkiah. Yeshua is a servant. He is the greatest servant of all because He did everything His Father in Heaven wanted Him to do including dying in our place to atone for our sin. If we believe in Yeshua we can be free from sin and have everlasting life.

Yeshua said in John 12:26 (CJB) ***If someone is serving me, let him follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. My Father will honor anyone who serves me.***

\*\*\*Will you choose to **believe** and **serve** Yeshua?\*\*\*





# Yeladim Corner

Did you know that a dreidel is a four sided spinning top with the Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, hay, and shin? Those Hebrew letters represent the first letters in the Hebrew phrase, "Nes gadol haya sham" - a great miracle happened there. This miracle is in reference to the rededication of the holy temple in Jerusalem, Israel. We play the dreidel game during Hanukkah. Each Hebrew letter on the dreidel has meaning.

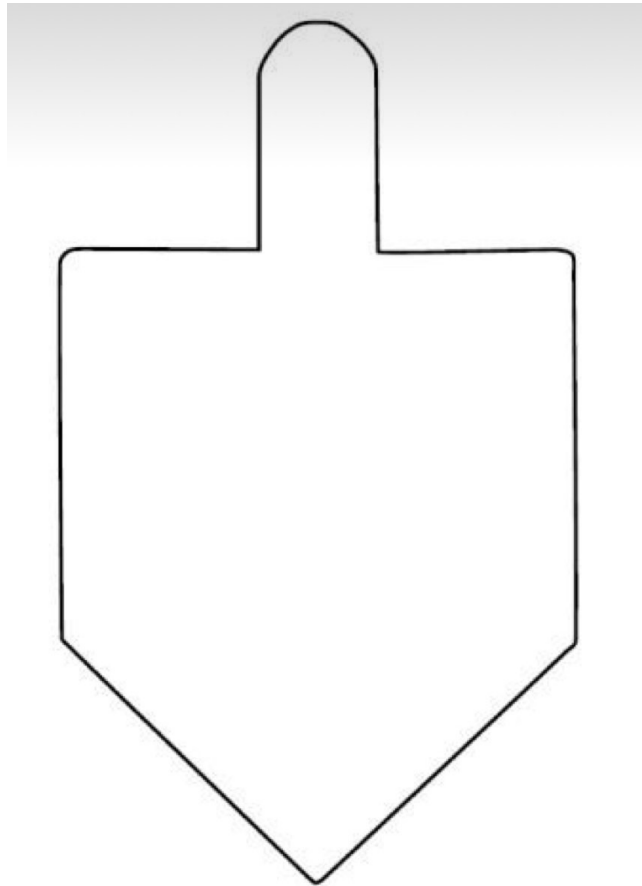
Draw a shin on the dreidel and color the picture.

נ - nun

ג - gimel

ה - hay

ש - shin



Decode and translate the hidden message.

שם

היה

גדול

נס

*sham  
there*

*haya  
happened*

*gadol  
great*

*nes  
miracle*

Write the letter that is before the one given under the line.

CODE: B

hsfbu

njsbdfm

ibqqfmfe

uifsf!

# Dedication

BY MICHAEL ALLEN

What is 'dedication'? We tend to use this word to describe a person with singular focus on accomplishing a task. We use a form of this word, 'dedicated', to refer to the character of a person whether alive or in memoriam. We speak of dedicating a work to the memory of a significant person who has passed from this life. These uses always carry the connotation of being special, standing apart from what is common.

The Bible tells us that the descendants of Levi were dedicated to the service of GOD. Moses and the people of GOD dedicated the Tabernacle at Mt. Sinai when it was completed, and GOD established its dedication with His own presence. The Prophet Samuel was a child of promise, dedicated to the service of GOD as a condition of his conception. King Solomon dedicated the first Temple, along with the people, when it was completed, as did the LORD again with His Presence. Nehemiah and Ezra dedicated the walls of Jerusalem, the foundation of the new Temple and then the second Temple itself in a similar fashion. Yochanan the Immerser came preaching repentance and an immersion of re-dedication of persons to the kingdom of GOD. What greater thing can there be than to dedicate – to be dedicated to – the service of our Creator, the LORD GOD of heaven and earth?

We dedicate people and places which have special significance. We also describe this characteristic as 'holy', or having 'holiness', meaning 'set apart'. GOD also establishes the holiness of people and places, and agrees and establishes with His presence what we dedicate according to His instructions.

We are approaching the time of the year where Am Israel celebrates the Festival of Dedication, which Yochanan refers to in his Gospel (Ch. 10:22), and is associated with a restoration of Temple service in the time of the Maccabees approximately one hundred and fifty years before the time of Yeshua.



Let us remember that GOD Himself has established the path of the completion of dedication - of holiness – for people and places. It is GOD Himself who provides the oil. It is GOD Himself who gives us the fish and loaves of bread. It is GOD Himself who makes the immersion of repentance to have meaning and purpose, to produce holiness. Let us dedicate ourselves once again to follow this path to approach and dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father in peace, through the Lordship of our Messiah, King, Redeemer of Israel and Savior of the Gentiles, Yeshua.

✡ Michael Allen

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***The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?  
(Psalm 27:1 NKJV)***

# What Does Dedication Look Like?

BY RABBI KARL GRABIN



## Top to bottom:

- Volunteers helping to assemble the annual Sukkah for Sukkot;
- Some of the many volunteers who help clean every week;
- One of our many excellent teachers, ministering to our children;
- Tuesday night clean up after prayer and Bible study fellowship

These photos are a snapshot of the many people who are dedicated servants at Rosh Pinah Messianic Jewish Congregation. At Rosh Pinah, there is always an assignment needing to be done, a project in the works, and a task at hand. Thanks be to GOD there are dedicated individuals who faithfully volunteer their time and skills to the community. Their efforts toward seeing these tasks through until completion, ensures our community is functioning properly. These tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Kitchen Ministry
- Nursery Ministry
- Finance
- Cleaning Ministry
- Secretarial
- Liturgy
- Maintenance Ministry
- Library
- Judaica Shop
- Music Ministry
- Food pantry
- Set up and/or Clean-up for events
- Education
- Anointed Exchange
- Newsletter
- Children's Ministry
- Clothing Closet

What types of people would be fitting for these various ministries? Could that person be you? If you are not currently serving, and are able to, please consider volunteering.

Projects at Rosh Pinah, or anywhere for that matter, require the following ingredients:

- **Servant Attitude** – Coming to serve, not to be served, and maintaining a humble, godly attitude
- **Dedicated** – Committed to seeing the task completed rather than quitting before its done
- **Unity** – Willing to work together (team player) with other servants (leading and/or following) unto the LORD

When these ingredients are combined, then the outcome is success. Yeshua is our perfect example in all areas of life, including serving. He is the highest level of authority in the universe – the King of kings and LORD of lords. Listen to these great words from our great Rabbi Yeshua:

*"So if I, your **Master and Teacher**, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example—you should do for each other what I have done for you. "Amen, amen I tell you, a **servant** isn't greater than his master, and the one who is sent isn't greater than the one who sent him. **If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them!**" (John 13:14-17 TLV)*

If being a servant wasn't too low for Yeshua it shouldn't be too low for us. Yeshua had every right to tell His talmidim (students) to wash His feet. He's their master, their teacher, and their King. Additionally, Yeshua was about to suffer betrayal, torture, and crucifixion. He could have decided he was too important and too stressed to serve...but He didn't. Yeshua chose to serve, and we should too.

During this season of Hanukkah, let's extend the love and mercy our great King Yeshua has offered to us to our family, our community, and beyond. In fact, why stop there? Let's make being a dedicated servant a regular habit and lifestyle every day of our lives. Remember Yeshua told us: "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

HASHOFAR / HANUKKAH 5784 / DEC 2023



# "Many Questions, One Answer"

## Just posing questions...

How often do you dwell in the kingdom of light? Is the radiance of His light on your life? Do you shun the very presence of evil? Do you take every thought captive for HIS glory to be revealed? Do you walk the straight and narrow (Mathew 7:14 ESV)? Do you lift up HIS WORD in your life? Is it the meditation of your heart? Have you ever prayed one day without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)? Have you ever won anyone to the LORD? Have you been outspoken for truth, righteousness, or holiness? Are your lips bridled by HIS HOLY SPIRIT? Are you grounded in faith? Do you know without a shadow of doubt that YESHUA/JESUS is LORD and HIS WORD is rock solid truth?

The kingdom of light is about HIS kingdom, HIS will, HIS way. It's about loving HIM with all your heart, mind, body, soul, strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:33). It's about caring for the widow and orphan (James 1:27). It's about helping the

poor, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, visiting the prisoner, bearing one another's burden. (Isaiah 58:7) It's about loving your enemy and praying for those who persecute you (Luke 6:27). It's about going the extra mile when someone asks you to only go a block (Mathew 5:41). It's about putting HIM first in everything you do or say. It's not letting little foxes spoil the vine that you abide in which is YESHUA/JESUS (Song of Solomon 2:15).

**Choose this day whom you are going to serve**, where your heart will dwell, and which kingdom you are going to abide in forever – will it be the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of light? If we had to give an account of the hours of the last week of our lives how much time would be revealed that we spent in the halls of darkness and the halls of light?

Just posing questions...

 **Barbara Tomes**

## Recipe for Hanukkah



### SWEET POTATO LATKES *By: Isabelle Blasi*

#### Ingredients:

4 tablespoons cooking oil (divided)  
 1 ½ lb sweet potatoes (about 2 medium)  
 ½ cup almond flour  
 6 green onions (whites and green parts chopped separately)  
 2 large eggs  
 1 large clove garlic (finely minced)  
 1 teaspoon EACH: paprika, sea salt,  
 ½ tsp pepper  
 ½ cup grated cheddar cheese  
 Applesauce or plain yogurt (to serve)

#### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Drizzle each baking sheet with 1 tablespoon of oil.

Peel and grate the sweet potatoes using the large holes on your grater.

Place the grated sweet potatoes into a large bowl and add the almond flour, the white parts of the green onions, the eggs, garlic, paprika, salt, and pepper and mix together well.

Use a large cookie scoop or ¼ cup measuring cup and make 18 latkes, dividing them between the 2 baking sheets. Press them down so that they are about ¼ inch thick. Drizzle the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil over the tops of the latkes.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until the tops start to brown and crisp. Sprinkle a little cheese on top of each latke then put them back in the oven for 5 minutes.

Serve the latkes hot out of the oven with some applesauce or plain yogurt and the green onions on top.

 **Isabelle Blasi**



# Ask the Rabbi

## Q- What is your favorite Jewish holiday and why?

*I was told this question was submitted by a young person at Rosh Pinah and what a great question it is! Thank you. I've been asked this question often over the years, yet my answer has remained consistent. My favorite Jewish holiday is the holiday we are currently celebrating. At Passover time, my favorite holiday is Passover. At Sukkot (Tabernacles), my favorite holiday is Sukkot. And at this time of the year, my favorite holiday is Hanukkah. Choosing one particular favorite Jewish holiday over another means that one holiday is better in my estimation than the others. They each have great value and meaning and are worthwhile celebrations for messianic believers. After all, the Jewish holidays are really the LORD's holy days; they are His idea, His appointed times. He wisely placed Yeshua as central to all the Jewish holidays. Each holiday points to Him in one way or another. As a result, I appreciate each Jewish holiday as each one arrives during the calendar year since each one points to our Risen Messiah. I am thankful the LORD chose to share His holy days with us, and their fulfillment is found uniquely in Yeshua the Messiah.*



**Rabbi Michael Weygant**

### Messianic Holiday Blessing:

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam,  
Asher kidshanu b'damo shel Yeshua HaMashiach  
v'tzivahnu l'hiyot or l'goyim,  
v'natan lanu Yeshua Meshikaynu HaOr L'Olam.*

**Blessed are You, O LORD our GOD, King of the Universe,  
who sanctified us by the blood of Messiah Yeshua,  
and enables us to be a light to the nations  
and gave us Yeshua our Messiah, the Light of the World.**

## Shabbat

- 10:00 am – Bagels & Coffee Time & Pre-Worship
- 10:40 am – Shabbat Service  
Shabbat School & Childcare
- 1:45 - 3:00 pm – S.E.T. Classes:  
Adult Shabbaton  
Children's Shabbaton  
Messianic Dance Class  
Hebrew Class

## Tuesday

- 5:00 - 7:15 pm – Judaica Shop OPEN
- 6:15 pm – Prayer / with childcare
- 7:30 pm – Bible Study / with childcare

## Rosh Pinah

**OFFICE HOURS:** 405-842-1967

Noon - 4:00 pm – Monday - Thursday

**Judaica Shop** | HUGE SALE - 50% OFF MOST ITEMS

Tues Eve: 5:00 - 7:15 pm

or by appointment - Call Donna Bridenstine  
@ 405-612-0985

## HaShofar Editor Rabbi Karl Grabin

**Writers** - Michael Allen, Isabelle Blasi, Linda Branch, Rebbitzin Jacqueline "Jackie" Grabin, Rabbi Karl Grabin, Taylor Reed, Barbara Tomes, Rabbi Michael Weygant

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**Folding** - Mishpocha Volunteers

*The opinions expressed in the HaShofar are those of the authors.*



## Contribution Envelopes

**ROSH PINAH is funded entirely by people like you!**  
Thank you for being generous. Your financial gifts are tax deductible.

A return envelope has been included in this newsletter.  
Your contribution will also help to offset the costs of copying and mailing the HaShofar.

Please designate on the memo line how you want your gift used.

## ROSH PINAH TITHES & FREEWILL OFFERINGS

Rosh Pinah's beautiful large facility continually requires upkeep and some of that is expensive. Please consider giving a generous gift to Rosh Pinah either by check or via **PayPal** on our website ([www.roshpinah.org](http://www.roshpinah.org)) to help us move forward — **KADIMA** — with HIS vision for our community and the world. We truly appreciate your generous help. Thank you!

**PayPal On-line:** [www.roshpinah.org](http://www.roshpinah.org)

Mail checks to: ROSH PINAH  
2600 NW 55th Place  
Oklahoma City, OK / 73112

# Upcoming Events

— Subject to Needful Change —

**DEC 2 | SATURDAY | BRIAN & SUE SAMUEL**

Ministering @ Rosh Pinah | 6:30pm | Oneg Lunch | No Shabbaton

**MEN'S MEETING | Beginning with BREAKFAST**

**DEC 3 | SUNDAY 9:30 - 11:00 am | Meeting in the West Wing Auditorium**

LED BY: RICKY DAVIS, our head shamash (deacon)

**BRIAN SAMUEL | Ministering to the Men**



**LADIES MEETING | Starting with BRUNCH**

**DEC 3 | SUNDAY 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

LED BY: MIRIAM WEYGANT, OUR REBBITZIN (rabbi's wife)

**SUE SAMUEL | Ministering to the Ladies**

**DEC 5 Tues NAIL CLINIC | 4:00 - 6:00pm (Also: Jan 9th)**

**DEC 9 Saturday | SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE | 10:40am**

We will have **ONEG LUNCH** | Ancient Scrolls viewing in the GYM @ 1:30pm

**CONGREGATIONAL HANUKKAH CELEBRATION | 6:30pm**

**DEC 9 SAT | ANCIENT HEBREW SCROLLS PROJECT | In the GYM**

**2:00 / 3:30 Special Presentation about the scrolls | Open 1:30 - 5:00**

**DEC 10 SUN | ANCIENT HEBREW SCROLLS PROJECT | In the GYM**

**11:30 / 2:00 Special Presentation about the scrolls | Open 11:00 - 3:00**

These Ancient Hebrew Scrolls make up the only complete set of the TANAKH (Hebrew Scriptures, or what some refer to as the Old Testament) in the world that you can see. [www.ancienthebrewscrollproject.org](http://www.ancienthebrewscrollproject.org)

**Dec 17 Sunday | LADIES HANUKKAH GIFT EXCHANGE | 11:30am**

The Elders of Rosh Pinah are excited to announce

**Rosh Pinah's New Clothing Ministry!**

**"Anointed Exchange" חליפה משיחית (Halifah Meshichit)**

DOUBLE MEANING: (1) Messianic suit, (2) Anointed Exchange

Please contact Rabbi Karl or Jackie Grabin at [k.grabin@gmail.com](mailto:k.grabin@gmail.com).

**HUGE SALE**  
Most items 50% off

**Messianic JUDAICA SHOP**

**405-842-1967**

Judaica Shop profits go toward the Rosh Pinah Facility Projects.

**COME SHOP:**  
5:00-7:15pm on Tuesdays

or by appointment - Call Donna Bridenstine @ 405-612-0985

**SHABBAT**

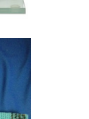


**MENORAHS**

**MEZUZAHs**



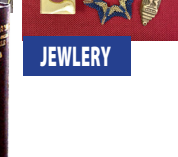
**CHILDREN'S CORNER**



**T-SHIRTS**



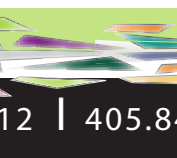
**JEWELRY**



**KIPOT**



**TALLITS**



...Messianic Sidurs, bibles, Hebrew/English complete bibles, commentaries, Scripture T-shirts and books

