



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate
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LIGHTS! CHANUKAH! CHOCOLATE!

November ##, 2007, New York NY – What could be more festive than a holiday? A holiday with CHOCOLATE! The sweetness of chocolate pervades the air at three special Shabbat programs, to be held at **The Village Temple**, in the heart of Greenwich Village. This is the third in a series of Synaplex™ Shabbat experiences.

The evening begins **Friday, December 7**, at 6:00 p.m., with Kol Ram, a meditative, musical warm-up. It is followed by a 6:30 p.m. Shabbat worship service led by Rabbi Chava Koster and Cantorial Soloist Daniel Leanse, with spirited Chanukah songs performed by the Children's Choir.

A special Junior Congregation worship service for children ages 8-12 will be held, also at 6:30.

A light dinner of *latkes*, with traditional sour cream and applesauce, will follow the worship service, as will a chocolate fountain with treats for dipping.

“Chanukah traditionally is a time when children and adults light the menorah in representation of the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. Here, we will capture the joy of the holiday in yet another alternative Shabbat experience with a truly delicious theme that all can enjoy. Synaplex at The Village Temple is designed to speak to a broad range of those who live in downtown Manhattan, many of whom have no formal contact with the organized Jewish community at this point in their lives. We will celebrate the sweetness of the holiday and Shabbat at our little Temple on East 12th Street and all are welcome to learn and celebrate with us,” said Donald Kent, Co-president of The Village Temple.

The program continues at 6:00 pm on **Saturday, December 8**, join the fun of *Menorahs and Chocolate*, and transform the prosaic pretzel in to a chocolate covered *Magen David*.

We bid farewell to Shabbat at the traditional Havdallah service at 7:00 pm.

At 7:30 pm, arrive at a new level of sensations with *A Matter of Taste: The Joys of Chocolate and Wine Pairing*. Led by Alexandra Leaf, an award-winning cookbook author, culinary historian and founder of Chocolate Tours of New York City, Inc., this festive tasting will offer the ABCs of fine chocolate, while exploring the complementary pairings with selected dessert wines. Tickets are \$25 per person. Space is limited and advance reservations are required by Monday, December 3rd.

All programs are FREE and open to children and adults, all ages, excluding the chocolate and wine tasting event which is \$25 and for adults only.

Synaplex is an initiative of STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal). Synaplex is made possible by grants from UJA-Federation and the STAR Foundation.

For more information, please call 212-674-2340 or visit www.villagetemple.org.

About The Village Temple

The Village Temple, led by Rabbi Chava Koster and Cantorial soloist Daniel Leanse, has served the Reform Jewish community in Greenwich Village and Lower Manhattan for almost 60 years. It blends the beauty of tradition with the creative expression of modern Judaism, providing community and worship experiences that are both participatory and joyful. The Congregation is inclusive, progressive and diverse, reflecting the community it serves. The Village Temple is committed to social justice, supporting many community outreach activities. It has operated a Soup Kitchen for almost 20 years that continues to serve hot meals to over 150 people each week. The Temple sponsors a vibrant religious school for students in grades Pre-K through high school, exciting adult education programs, and many enjoyable social events. For further information on this event or other Village Temple programs, please contact Marina Gorbunova, 212-674-2340, or visit the Village Temple website, www.villagetemple.org.

EVENT SUMMARY

Event Type: **Worship Services, Dinner, Chocolate craft, Chocolate and Wine tasting**

Subject: **Lights! Chanukah! Chocolate!**

Date and Time: **Friday, December 7 at 6:00 pm and Saturday, December 8 at 6:00 pm**

Location: **The Village Temple, 33 East 12 Street, New York NY 10003 (Between University & Broadway)**

Cost: **FREE and \$25 for chocolate and wine tasting**

Contact: **Marina Gorbunova**

Village Temple email: **villagetemple@villagetemple.org**

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