

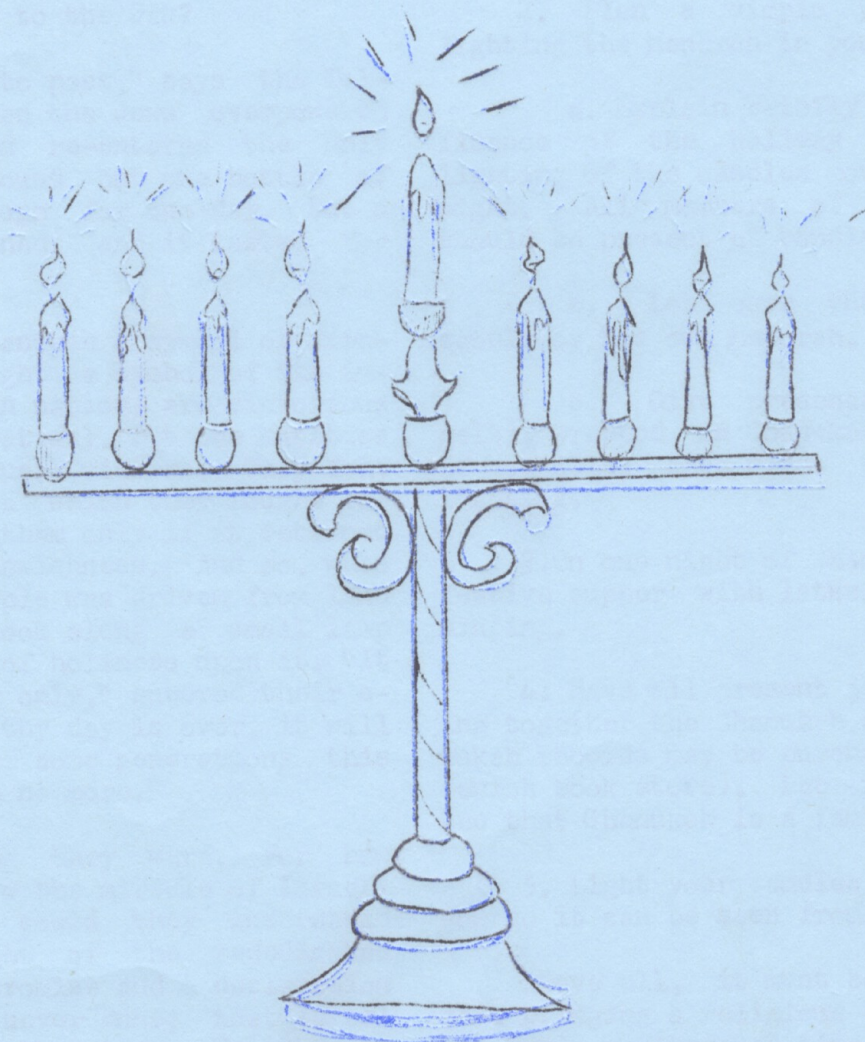
THE SERPENT

Dec. 17, 1957

Congregation Tifereth Israel

24 Kislev 5718

Chanukah - Dec. 18 to Dec. 25



CHANUKAH ISSUE

CHANUKAH SUGGESTIONS

Vol. 1, No. 4

Dec. 17, 1957

Bulletin of Cong. Tifereth Israel
New Castle, Pennsylvania

Synagogue Officials

Israel Poleyeff. Rabbi
Edward Haims President
Joseph Mirow Pres., Men's Club
Mrs. Martin Waldman Pres., Sisterhood

* * *

Chanukah message

WHAT IS CHANUKAH?

What is Chanukah? What is the deepest sense of this festival, its eternal message to the Jew?

"It came to pass," says the Talmud, "that when the Jews overpowered the Greeks and re-entered the Holy Temple, they found but one bottle of pure oil, enough for one day. But a miracle happened, and it lasted for eight days."

Is not Chanukah a symbol of Israel, and its light a symbol of its immortality? When nations are victorious they grow ungrateful. But the Macabees were not ordinary victors. They felt that the spirit which they fought for could sustain them only if it retained its pristine Jewishness. And so, when the Jewish people was driven from land to land, it took along a small lamp with the seal of holiness upon it. "It is for one day only," sneered their enemies. "When thy day is over, it will be gone; after some generations this nation will be no more."

How wrong they were. For how could they know the miracle of Israel's history? How could they understand that the light of the rededicated Temple was a promise and a declaration that Chanukah never ends; that Israel never dies; that true Jewishness, burning as a Ner Tamid in the hearts of however few, is brighter than all artificial glittering enthusiasm; that though the storms may do their worst, they cannot quench this fire.

Since the holiday of Chanukah occurs at the same time as X-mas, there must be a strong Chanukah influence to counteract the tremendous publicity of the non-Jewish festival. Every effort must be made to celebrate Chanukah in as meaningful a manner as possible, so that our children will learn to see the beauty and know the positive meaning that lies within our festivals. The following suggestions are therefore offered:

1. Decorate your home with Chanukah motifs, i.e. Menorah and Dreidle cutouts on the walls and/or windows. Have the children help you in this.

2. Plan a simple program for lighting the Menorah in your home.

a. Explain briefly the significance of the holiday before the lighting of the candles on the first night. All members of the family should be present at candle lighting.

b. Let each child light a candle or his own Menorah.

c. Give presents (Chanukah gelt), wrapped in Chanukah wrappings, if possible, each night after candle lighting.

3. On one night of Chanukah plan a festive supper with latkes, games and singing.

4. Have all present join in singing together the Chanukah songs. (Chanukah records may be purchased at any Jewish book store). Let the children see that Chanukah is a family affair.

5. Light your candles in the window so it can be seen from the street.

Above all, it must be emphasized that bringing a religious spirit into the home at Chanukah time only will not necessarily bring the desired results. A constant year-round religious atmosphere in the home is imperative, and will make ALL religious ceremonies more meaningful and memorable.

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

(To be recited before kindling the lights. Third blessing on first night only.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Boruch ato hashem* elohenu melech haolom, asher kidshonu bemitzvosov vetsivonu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah. | Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by thy commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah. |
| 2. Boruch ato hashem* Eloheni melech haolom, she-oso nisim laavosenu bayomim hohaim bazeman hazeh. | Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in the days of old at this season. |
| 3. Boruch ato hashem* Eloheni melech haolom, shehechiyonu vekiyemonu vehigionu lazeman hazeh. | Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us in life, and has preserved us and enabled us to reach this season. |

*God's correct name should replace "hashem" in reciting the blessings.

(to be recited after the candles are lit)

Haneros halolu anachnu, madlikin ol hanisim v'al hatshuos v'al haniflo-os she-osiso laavoseinu ol yeday kohanecha hakedoshim. Vechol shmonas yamay Chanukah haneros halolu kodesh haim v'ain lonu reshus lehishtamesh bohem elo lirosom bilvad, keday lehodos leshimcho ol nisecho ve-ol yeshuosecho ve-ol nifleosecho.

We kindle these lights to commemorate the miraculous deliverance and the wonders which Thou didst perform for our fathers by means of Thy holy priests. During all the eight days of Chanukah these lights are sacred, neither is it permitted to make any profane use of them; we are only to behold them, so that we may give thanks unto thy name for Thy miracles, Thy deliverances, and Thy wonders.

Note: These blessings and prayers may be found in most prayer books.

MAOZ TZUR

Maoz tzur yeshuosi
Lecho no-eh leshabay-ach,
Tikon bais tefilos
Veshom todo nezabe-ach.
Le-es tachin matbay-ach
Mitzor hamnabay-ach,
Oz egmor beshir mizmor
Chanukas hamizbay-ach.

Rock of ages, let our song
Praise thy saving power.
Thou amidst the raging foes,
Wast our sheltring tower.
Furious they assailed us,
But thine arm availed us,
And thy word, broke their sword
When our own strength failed us.

Yevonim nikbetsu olai
Azai bimei chashmenim,
Ufortsu chomos nigdolai
Vetimu kol hashmonim.
Uminosor kankanim
Na-aseh nes lashoshanim,
Benei vino yamay shmono
Kovu shir urnonim.

Children of the martyr race,
Whether free or fettered.
Wake the echoes of the songs,
Where ye may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering,
That the time is nearing,
Which will see, all men free
Tyrants disappearing.

CHANUKAH CUSTOMS AND CEREMONIES

1. There should be sufficient oil in the Chanukah Menorah, or candles large enough, to burn at least half an hour. The tapers should be placed in a straight line, since no day of Chanuka is superior to another. Only the Shammash may stand on a different level.

2. The lights should be kindled any time from early evening until, at the latest, the bedtime of members of the household.

3. One light is kindled the first evening, and an additional one each succeeding evening for eight evenings. The Shammash does not count as a candle. It is used only for lighting the other candles. The individual candles are put in place starting with the right-hand side of the Menorah. The candles are lit from left to right, i.e. the last one placed in the Menorah is the first to be lit. The blessings are recited BEFORE lighting the candles. "Haneros Halolu" and Mazel Zur follow the kindling of the lights. *The prayers may be found in any Siddur.*

4. On Shabbos eve, the Chanukah candles are kindled BEFORE the Sabbath candles. At the conclusion of Shabbos, the Chanukah candles are kindled after the Havdolah service.

5. The dreidle, some medieval commentaries have stated, was invented at the time when the Greek king Antiochus forbade the study of the Torah. Courageous and defiant little groups of Jews used to hide in caves and attics and study this lifelong heritage nonetheless. When Greek soldiers were reported near, the group would produce dreidles and thus give the impression they had gathered to engage in some gambling among themselves.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN
IN NEW BUILDING ON JAN. 5

Sunday School classes will move into the new building on Sunday, Jan. 5. An opening ceremony and a short assembly will mark the start of sessions in the Moody Ave. building that date.

The opening of the building and the much-expanded facilities will mean that the younger grades (Kindergarten to third grade) will now have the opportunity to begin their classes. They will also start on Jan. 5.

With Dec. 22 scheduled for the Chanukah play, and the 29th as the mid winter vacation, Dec. 15 was the last day for Sunday School sessions in the Old Shul.

CHANUKAH PLAY DEC. 22

The annual Sunday School Chanukah play and dinner will be held on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 22, at 4 o'clock. Everyone is invited to this affair which will be held in the NEW Shul.

The play, entitled "Judgement Day for Judah Maccabee", will be directed by Mrs. Ethel Slovonsky, who has ably directed Sunday School plays for many years. This will be followed by the dinner featured by the latkes.

LOU KOHN APPOINTED TREASURER

Mr. Lou Kohn was appointed treasurer of the Congregation at a recent meeting of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. Mr. Kohn fills the post left open by the passing of Mr. Sam Schwartz, who was elected to that position by the membership.

At the New Shul

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE
Tuesday evening, Dec. 31, 1957

SISTERHOOD DONOR DINNER
Sunday evening, Jan. 12, 1958

DR. BELKIN, YESHIVA, HONORED

"America Illustrated", The U.S. Information Agency Russian-language magazine published monthly in the Soviet Union, carries an article on "What is Education", which quotes six college presidents, including Dr. Belkin of Yeshiva.

The six presidents - Pusey of Harvard, Taylor of Sarah Lawrence, Smith of Swarthmore, Hesburgh of Notre Dame, Belkin of Yeshiva, and Knight of Lawrence - were selected because they are "outstanding among the group of remarkable young men, who in recent years were called to head American schools." Their answer, the magazine continued, constituted a stirring declaration that man's chief concern cannot be with knowledge alone, but with its moral and humane use.

This was quite an honor for Dr. Belkin, Yeshiva U., and the entire Jewish community.

* * *

MAZEL TOV

We extend our heartiest Mazel Tov to the following of our members for the occasions noted:

To Mr. and Mrs. Pierson Caplan on the engagement of their daughter, Lynne, to Mr. Earl Cohen of Ambridge, Pa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haims on the birth of their first son, their second child, on Dec. 4; and to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Haims, the happy grandparents.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Greenberg on the birth of their first child, a son, on Dec. 10; and to the happy grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Greenberg.

* * *

MEN'S CLUB AND SISTERHOOD NEWS

At the Men's Club meeting Dec. 4, a full report was made by the chairman of the dance committee, Mr. Henry Ginsburg... Preparations include CONTINUOUS music and entertainment from 10 to 2 a.m. A fine orchestra has been obtained for your dancing pleasure.... Food will also be served continuously throughout the evening under the auspices of the Sisterhood, whose culinary exploits are well-known... What more could you ask for: splendid music and entertainment, excellent food, and above all, the pleasure of celebrating the NEW YEAR in the NEW SHUL!

Also announced at the meeting was the Chanukah party which the Men's Club chefs, under the guidance of Shelley Cohen, will conduct for the Sunday School on Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

The Sisterhood meeting of Dec. 10 was featured by a demonstration of the modern new kitchen equipment in the new building by Fuzzy Raffel... The date for the Donor Dinner was officially announced for Sun., Jan. 12. Cooperation was asked to make this annual affair a great success... Cooperation was also asked as regards the sweater raffle in February.

* * *

REFUAH SHELEMAH: Our sincerest wishes for a speedy recovery is extended to Mr. Benj. Polakov, now in the hospital. We hope he will return to good health rapidly and be blessed with many active years with his family and friends.

CONDOLENCES: Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to Mrs. Israel Solomon and Mrs. Florence Slavonsky on the passing of their mother and sister, Mrs. William Markowitz, a member of our Shul, on Dec. 10. May the Almighty spare them further sorrow for many years to come.

* * *

KINDLE THE SABBATH LIGHTS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Friday, Dec. 20 | Sabbath Parshas Miketz (Chanukah) | 4:36 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 27 | Sabbath Parshas Vayigash | 4:40 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 3 | Sabbath Parshas Vayechi | 4:45 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 10 | Sabbath Parshas Shmos | 4:50 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 17 | Sabbath Parshas Voero | 4:57 p.m. |