岩BULLETIN ANSHE EMETH が MEMORIAL TEMPLE



RABBI
Bennett F. Miller
ASSISTANT RABBI
Rebecca L. Dubowe
CANTOR
Gershon Silins
ADMINISTRATOR
Gail R. Kroop
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Susan Kushner
PRESIDENT
Kenneth A. Gordon

222 Livingston Avenue • New Brunswick, NJ 08901 • (908)545-6484 • (908)545-3775 TDD • (908)745-7448 FAX

17 KISLEV - 17 TEVET

5754 - 1993

DECEMBER 1 - 31

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 P.M.

VAYESHEV - Gen. 37:1 - 40:23 Rabbi Miller will speak:

"CHALLENGING THE MEANING OF OUR LIVES: THE DANGER OF FAILING TO LIVE WITH SPIRITUALITY"

Babysitting is available during services
Candle Blessing: Dianne Lior

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

11:00 A.M.

BAT MITZVAH OF ATAR LIOR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 P.M.

MIKETZ - Gen. 41:1 - 44:17

FOLK CELEBRATION FOR SHABBAT and CHANUKKAH

Be sure to bring your menorah and candles with you.

Candle Blessing: Renee Deutch

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:00 A.M.

BAR MITZVAH OF ERIC DEUTCH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 P.M.

VAYIGASH - Gen. 18 - 47:27

MARY and SAMUEL HAMELSKY MUSIC SHABBAT A JAZZ SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

conducted by its composer, Jose Bowen

Babysitting is available during services

Candle Blessing: Dinah Einhorn and Deborah Cohen

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 11:00 A.M.

B'NAI MITZVAH OF JEREMY EINHORN and MICHAEL COHEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 P.M.

VAYECHI - Gen. 47:28 - 50:26 Rabbi Dubowe will speak:

"IS THE CHANUKKAH MENORAH A PUBLIC SYMBOL?"

Candle Blessing: Alice Calman

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M.

TORAH STUDY and SHABBAT WORSHIP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 P.M.

SHEMOT - Exod. 1:1 - 6:1 Rabbi Miller will speak:

"THE MEANING OF LIVING IN EXILE"

Candle Blessing: Francine Marcus

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 A.M.

TORAH STUDY and SHABBAT WORSHIP

BETWEEN US ...

Wisdom is God's power in action; for without it, everything is but theory.

- The Mezeritzer Rabbi

There is a lot of debate beginning to take place in our country about education in America. Most of the debate centers on the quality (or lack of it) of education in our public schools. Almost all agree that the quality of the way in which we are educating our children has gone down. But few agree on what to do and even fewer agree on what to teach. The debate is about to increase in intensity as privatization increases, as vouchers are encouraged, and as costs go up.

The real debate about education should first begin with philosophical underpinnings. If you don't know what you want to accomplish it will be very difficult to accomplish it. Maybe that is the problem with our educational system in America. We know that we want quantitative education but we are not so sure about our qualitative goals. We want our math and verbal scores to increase but we have not vet figured out the place for moral scores and ethical behavior. And what makes matters worse is that we expect the schools to accomplish everything for us.

As Jews we ought to know better. No school can do it all. Values and ideals and ethical behavior are not taught; they are shared and then acquired. You get them from mentors, from parents, and from fellow

(continued on the next page)

students. You acquire them as you live and learn in the crucible of life. That's why our tradition tells us that the best way to learn is to get a friend, a partner, a sharer in the journey of life — then go and study. The quantitative material will come afterwards.

If you don't know where to get a study partner join us at the Temple for study. There are many waiting to share. If you are afraid to study, take the risk; you will grow in ways you have never grown before. You may even attain wisdom.

WORSHIP SERVICE - DECEMBER 1993

Friday, December 3 - Challenging the Meaning of Our Lives: The Danger of Failing to Live with Spirituality. There is a spiritual side to living but most of us deny it or don't allow ourselves to feel it. Rabbi Miller will speak about the importance and significance of the spiritual side of life and its meaning for us in today's world.

Friday, December 10 - Join with us as we gather together to celebrate Shabbat and Chanukkah. We invite everyone to bring Chanukkiot to the Temple and join in a special lighting of the chanukkah candles. We will sing Chanukkah songs and rejoice in our Festival of Lights together. Be sure to bring your menorah and candles with you!

Friday, December 17 -Mary and Samuel Hamelsky Music Shabbat

Join us for a Jazz Shabbat Evening Service with the music conducted by its composer, Jose Bowen, featuring Cantor Gershon Silins, the Anshe Emeth Choir and Junior Choir, and a jazz instrumental ensemble. Don't miss this unique event!

Friday, December 24 - Is the Chanukkah Menorah a Public Symbol?

Should the Chanukkah Menorah be displayed on public property? Is the Chanukkah Menorah a secular symbol or a Jewish symbol? Where does one draw the line between religious symbols or public symbols on public property? How do we as Jews feel about Christmas symbols being used as secular symbols on public property? Rabbi Dubowe will discuss and share several incidents about this sensitive issue that is raised at this time of year.

Friday, December 31 - The Meaning of Living in Exile When Jews went into Egypt we began to learn the meaning of living in exile. Some believe that we still live in such exile —distanced from the center of our lives. Rabbi Miller will speak about the meaning of exile and how it affects us as individuals and as a community.

OFFICER'S MESSAGE

The word "study," according to Webster's Dictionary, is the "application of the mental facilities to the acquisition of knowledge ... a careful examination or analysis of a phenomenon, development, or question." From a historical perspective, this word conjures up visions of men, alone in dimly lighted medieval cloisters, hunched over ancient books, struggling to gain insight and meaning from each written word. From a religious perspective, one thinks of patriarchial rabbis surrounded by young men and boys, questioning their statements and arguing with their conclusions.

These images are quite different from our own Shabbat Morning Torah Study group. Every Saturday morning, from September through June, we meet with Rabbi Miller in the conference room. This wonderful, friendly group consists of many individual Temple members with backgrounds and levels of knowledge as diverse as one could imagine. There are the "regulars" who make the class a high priority and those, like me, who come less frequently. However sporadic, we are always made to feel welcome and part of the group.

Weekly, we read and discuss passages from The Torah a Modern Commentary by W. Gunther Plaut. From Genesis Chapter 1 "When God began to create the heaven and the earth ..." (note the word "began") until the last class in the spring, we look at the meaning of these words from our own points of view. We have the literalist who interprets the story to mean precisely what the words convey, and the historian who accepts the words only if actual proof can be found of the events described. We discuss the sections from the conservative, liberal, and feminist view points. And we especially examine the same words from our Rabbi's point of view. Whether we laugh or cry with him, I find this hour and a half to be like an oasis in a desert; a refreshing pause in my weekly schedule, that allows me to step back from the normal requirements of living and look at life, as Rabbi Miller would say, "through different colored glasses."

Perhaps the next time you are at the Temple on a Saturday morning, you will take the time to join Rabbi Miller and the group. It will be a time well spent.

BABYSITTING AVAILABLE!

Verm Hart

During December, babysitting will be provided during Shabbat Services on December 3 and 17. Please call either Ann Thayer-Cohen at 819-0580 or Sara Levine at 297-3864 to let them know you will be bringing your children so that we can be sure to have enough sitters.

Mary and Samuel Hamelsky Music Shabbat

A Jazz Shabbat Evening Service

Friday evening, December 17 at 8 p.m.

On Friday evening, December 17, 1993 at 8:00 p.m., we will present our annual Hamelsky Program. A Jazz Shabbat Evening Service will be conducted by its composer, Jose Bowen, and will feature Cantor Gershon Silins, the Anshe Emeth Choir and Junior Choir, and a jazz instrumental ensemble. This pairing of Jewish liturgy and a genuine jazz idiom will be a unique worship and music experience, not to be missed.

Jose Bowen teaches at Stanford University, where he is a candidate for a Ph.D. in Musicology and Humanities. He was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Music, and his awards include the Hubbell Award from ASCAP, the Koret Israel Prize, and awards from the Jewish Music Commission and the Guild of Temple Musicians. He has performed with Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Liberace, Hubert Laws, and many others.

About this composition, Bowen has written, "Although I write different kinds of music, I eventually decided to write a jazz service because I believe in the emotional power of jazz... which is so full of the joy of life."

Come celebrate Shabbat with us in this unique way!

USHERING SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 1993

The state of the s		LE - DECEMBER 1993
Fri., Dec. 3	Sanctuary Lobby	- Roberta & Jordon Brown - Karen & Brad Finkelstein
	Delavan St.	- Lisa Baum/Lee Jussim
Sat., Dec. 4	Sanctuary	- Renee & Victor Deutch
Fri., Dec. 10	Sanctuary	- Marlie & Mark Wasserman
	Lobby	- Ilene & Ira Lipson
	Delavan St.	- Sheila & Edward Thau
Sat., Dec. 11	Sanctuary	- Dinah & Robert Einhorn Deborah & Richard Cohen
Fri., Dec. 17	Sanctuary	- Gail & Howard Weber
	Lobby	- Vicki & Richard Weinstein
	Delavan St.	- Sandra & Jerry Grundfest
Sat., Dec. 18	Sanctuary	- Rhea & Martin Basroon
Fri., Dec. 24	Sanctuary	- Roberta & Harvey Stone
	Lobby	- Shari & Marc Rothstein
	Delavan St.	- Laurie & Edward Halper
Fri., Dec. 31	Sanctuary	- Claire & Irving Sinai
	Lobby	 Elissa Greenwald/ Alice Greenwald

Please try to obtain a substitute if you are unable to usher when scheduled, and call Fred Greenstein at 249-6456 or Harvey Stone at 613-0830. (When Fred or Harvey are not available, call the Temple office at 545-6484.)

Delavan St. - Barbara & Brad Lawrence

SAVE THE DATES FOR Scholar - in - Residence ELLEN M. UMANSKY January 28 - 29, 1994 Note the date correction. Please join us on December 5, 1993 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at the Temple for:

"Family Healthcare -Impact of Proposed Legislation"

Update on Legislation

with Judith E. Burgis, moderator Harmon R. Katz, D.D.S. Beatrice E. Manning, Ph.D.

 Healthcare from the Human Perspective

> with Bruce M. Topolosky, moderator Teresa M. Schaer, M.D. Elfriede G. Schlesinger, Ph.D.

Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple Adult Education

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Rabbi Dubowe uses a special telephone system which is designed for the hearing impaired. The New Jersey Relay Service is a free, 24-hour, seven day a week service. When you call the toll-free number (in New Jersey only), an operator will type your words so that Rabbi Dubowe can read them. It's easy to use — here's how:

- 1. Call the Relay Service at 1-800-852-7897.
- Give the relay operator Rabbi Dubowe's number. (Office: 908-545-3775; Home: 908-249-4391)
- Request Voice Carry Over (VCO)
 (so Rabbi Dubowe can speak to you directly after she reads your words.)

You can call Rabbi Dubowe using TDD equipment if you have it, and of course you can send her a fax at 908-745-7448 (the Temple's fax number).

Messages can be left through the New Jersey Relay Service, the secretary at Anshe Emeth, or through the TDD if you have one.

Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe's telephone numbers:

NJ Relay Service: 800-

800-852-7897

Office:

908-545-3775 (TDD)

Home:

908-249-4391 (TDD & FAX)

Ear.

908-745-7448

If you are out of state, call "O" for the Relay Service.

Save for future reference

❖ VISIT OUR JUDAICA SHOP ❖ TO PREPARE FOR CHANUKKAH

Our Judaica Shop is here to help you! We have prayerbooks, cookbooks, Chanukkah cards, dreidels, Chanukkah menorahs, Chanukkah candles, challah covers, Tallesim, yarmulkes, gift items, etc. Please note the Judaica Shop now has House Pins for sale, too.

We are open Friday evenings after services, Saturday and Sunday mornings 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. Please stop by or call Rose Dreier at 257-7868 or Judy Rothberg at 828-4845.

Join us on December 6 for a meeting at the Temple at 7:30 p.m. to be involved in planning our *celebration of Jewish life and culture around the world*. Note May 18 - 22 on your calendar. For more information call Paula Masciulli at 609 497-1133.

The Carine him Community Program

We need lots of volunteers in December!

December is the busiest month for the Caring Community. We need lots of volunteers to work a few hours each at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, St. Peter's Hospital, and at the Jewish Home for the Aged.

We also need volunteers to stay overnight when the Homeless Shelter is housed at our Temple, December 20-26 as well as January 17-23, 1994. There are also a few errands to be run for the Shelter each of those weeks.

Please take time right now to look at your calendars. Plan to do something this month for the less fortunate in our community. Surely, we each have a few hours to give. Call Julie Green at 247-2578 or the Temple office at 545-6484 to sign up.

SCRIP



More and more people are participating in our Scrip Program, and we hope you will all join in this fund raising effort.

If you live in Highland Park or are in the Choir, the good news is that Deborah Cherniss has joined our list of scrip captains.

The Temple offers scrip from Mayfair Foodtown, Pathmark/Rickel, Grand Union, and Shop Rite.

You can purchase scrip through the Temple office, the Judaica Shop when open, from Ginny Belowsky (201) 589-9162(days) or (908) 257-6704(evenings), or by calling any of the area captains listed below: CAPTAINS:

Deborah Cherniss (H.P.)		985-9384
Hedy Brown (E.B.)		238-2462
Claire Sinai (E.B.)		249-1708
Francine Shames (K.P.)		821-9484
Sara Levine (No.B.)		297-3864
Gloria Cohn (Cranbury)	(609)	655-8690
Jane Freedman (N.B.)		247-1005
Luann Reed-Siegel (Edison)		494-1757

Entertainment Books are here.

Pick up your copy at the Temple office for \$40.

Forms for advertising in the 134th Year Temple Directory are available at the Temple office.

Religious School News



Jewish Book Month Special

We will have a special program for Jewish Book Month on December 4 for students in grades K-6. Gerald Fierst, a New Jersey storyteller, will be here to share with us from the Jewish tradition of storytelling.

Chanukkah Celebration for Third Graders and Grandparents

We will have our annual Chanukkah Celebration for our third graders and their grandparents on Saturday morning, December 11 at 9:30 in Keller Hall. We hope that all of our students have grandparents who will be able to attend and to help us celebrate, but if there are children whose grandparents *cannot* be here, we will share! We will design wooden dreidels, make Chanukkah decorations for our homes, create Chanukkah cards to send to our friends in local nursing homes, eat delicious potato latkes, and sing Chanukkah songs.

High School Parent Special

Our Temple tzedakah mavens, Deborah Cherniss, Lee Livingston, Julie Green, and Ren Reinish will be here on December 12, from 10:15-12:15, to do a special Tzedakah Program for our high school students and their parents. We will learn about the importance of reaching out to people in need – here at the Temple, in our home communities, in Israel, and around the world. And we will discover how we can do our part to make the world a better place.

Fourth and Fifth Grade Retreat

It is time, once again, for our annual Fourth and Fifth Grade Retreat! The date for this wonderful weekend is January 28-30, 1994—and we would like all of our fourth and fifth grade students to participate! Our retreat weekend is a very special way for us to get to know our students outside of the more formal school setting. It is an enriching Jewish experience for all of us: learning about ecology through Torah study; celebrating Shabbat and Havdalah together; singing and dancing; sledding down Chapel Hill; doing craft activities; and learning to know one another. Please be sure to sign your child up for this wonderful weekend. If you need an application or have any questions, please call the religious school office.

Thank You! Todah Rabah!

- to Sherry Schwartz and her committee for taking care of all of the details for our Shabbat dinners this year
- to Carl and Bea Reiss who count, bundle, and roll our tzedakah money and to all of our children who make a

daily commitment to tzedakah

- to Barbara Sigman for continuing to do such a great job with the bulletin boards in the religious school hallway make sure you stop to admire them!
- to Beth Stuckey, Freda Wolfson, Ellen Pearlman, Carol Horowitz, Rhonda Erdreich, Ilene Pincus, and Gail Buchbinder for their help with our fourth grade Hebrew name t-shirts
- to Vicki Weinstein for her work on the Personal Jewish Library program
- to Nancy and Paul Harris for running our annual Jewish Book Fair – you did a great job!

NEWS FROM THE GAN ...

The children at Gan Yeladeem, David H. Meyer Children's Center are busy preparing for an exciting month. They are learning about the story of Chanukkah, it's customs and traditions. We are also preparing for our Chanukkah Show, which will be performed on Wednesday, December 15, 1993, at 5:30 p.m., in Keller Hall.

The children are learning songs in Hebrew and English to sing to their relatives and friends. This is our special Chanukkah gift to you, so please come and share this special time with us.

Our pre-school children are learning about Judah Maccabee and the miracle of the oil. We are making menorahs and learning the blessings over the Chanukah candles. We are playing the dreidel game and learning to identify the letters, Nun, Gimmel, Hey, and Shin. Some of our new vocabulary words are Chanukiyah, Shamash, Sevivon, and Nes Gadol Hayah Sham.

Our pre-school cooks are using their skills to create the most delicious potato latkes. They are counting, cutting, peeling, grating, and mixing all the ingredients themselves. Of course, after the latkes are fried to perfection, they will get to eat them for snack.

For more information about our Children's Center, please call Elaine at 545-6555.

ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

Please attend a meeting on Wednesday evening, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple to share our ideas about starting a Jewish Kindergarten at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple.

TRIBUTES - DECEMBER 1993 Speedy recovery of Sally Hindes In Memory of: ALTAR FLOWER FUND by Harriet Steinberg Helen Kushel Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: In Memory of: by Charlotte Skalka Eric Deutch Meyer Waldman Mildred Skalka by Renee, Victor, Jason & Josh Deutch by the Angelo Family Blanche Lichtman Jeremy Einhorn **Buonomo Family** by Bev & Joe Gerber by Dinah & Robert Einhorn Carter Family MAX MARDER FUND Atar Lior Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Fink Family by Dianne & Dotan Lior Forgash Family Michael Cohen Benjamin Mitzner Kape Family by Shoshana Parsells by Sandra, Stuart, Lisa & Albert Mitzner Latsko Family Eric Deutch In Honor of: Levine Family by Rhea, Marty, Andy, Jodi & Speedy recovery of Donald Paszamant Seaman Family Eric Basroon by Florence Ornstein Tramontano Family Shoshana Parsells In Memory of: HONORARIUM FUND Stacie Dubin Dr. Joseph Borrus In Honor of: by Rhea, Marty, Andy, Jodi & by Florence Ornstein Rabbi Bennett F. Miller Eric Basroon SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FUND by Eric Deutch Susan, Howard, Brian, Jessica & Hillary Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Roberta & Joel Solomon Freeman Eric Deutch Marriage of Christina & Jim Axelrod Jeremy Einhorn by Renee, Victor, Jason & Josh Deutch by Christina & Jim Axelrod by Shoshana Parsells Jeremy Einhorn Marriage of Dawn Gilson & Matthew Atar Lior by Dinah & Robert Einhorn Topper by Shoshana Parsells Atar Lior by Dawn Gilson & Matthew Topper In Honor of: by Dianne & Dotan Lior Our 1st Wedding Anniversary Shoshana Parsells Benjamin Mitzner by Roberta & Joel Solomon by Eric Deutch by Sandra, Stuart, Lisa & Albert Mitzner In Memory of: Dianne, Dotan & Atar Lior **CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND** Arleen Davis Rose & Stanley Dreier on the marriage of In Honor of: Their son Jeff to Kelli by Mary Fenster Cantor Gershon Silins Helen Kushel by the Golden Family by Eric Deutch by Bree Kushel James Elaine & Stuart Singer on the marriage of Dinah, Bob, Jeremy & Marisa Einhorn Casi Kushel Nagelmann their daughter Linda to Steven Roth Dianne, Dotan & Atar Lior LIBRARY FUND by Bobby & Bob Stone Paula Masciulli Birthday of Lorraine Smith In Honor of: by Leo Masciulli Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe by Bobby & Bob Stone **NER TAMID FUND** Speedy recovery of Stanley Dreier by Joyful Noise Chavurah Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Nancy Lasher & Mark Donaghy on the by Dr. & Mrs. David Freeman & Family Eric Deutch adoption of Shannon the Golden Family by Renee, Victor, Jason & Josh Deutch by Ann, Steve, Noah & Adam Cohen Speedy recovery of Otto Rich Jeremy Einhorn Speedy recovery of Phyllis Gould by Bobby & Bob Stone by Dinah & Robert Einhorn by Frances Strauss Speedy recovery of Lillian Pollock Atar Lior by Joan & Larry Golden In Memory of: by Dianne & Dotan Lior Helen Kushel Bobby & Bob Stone Benjamin Mitzner by Anna Bowman In Memory of: by Sandra, Stuart, Lisa & Albert Mitzner Ida Dessel Herman Leiberman In Honor of: Ann Lichtenstein by Bernice & Fred Swidler Elaine & Stuart Singer on the marriage of Hortense Spritzer YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND their daughter Linda to Steven Roth Rose Weinberg Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: by Harriet Steinberg PRAYERBROOK FUND Benjamin Davis Adele & Jack Borrus on the by Barbara & Tony Kestler & Family Bat Mitzvah of: Birth of their grandson Stacie Dubin Roberta & Joel Solomon by Connie & Sam Landis by Susan, Howard, Brian, Jessica & Stacie Dubin Babynaming of our daughter Hillary Freeman by Maxine & Marty Chodroff

Andrea, Fred, Robyn, Jodi & Scott

Horowitz

Eileen Epstein

by Judy & Jeff Berwick

Rochelle, Bruce, Marissa & Ross

Rhoda & Monty Rosenbusch

Newman

Eileen Epstein

Alexandra Rose

by Valerie & Kenneth Jagiello

Speedy recovery of Stanley Dreier

by Harriet Steinberg

by Sue & Hilly Berlin Evan Erdberg by Rochelle, Bruce, Marissa & Ross Newman Joshua Solomon by Roberta & Joel Solomon In Honor of: Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe by Eric Deutch Dinah, Bob, Jeremy & Marisa Einhorn Dianne, Dotan & Atar Lior Installation of Rabbi Jack Paskoff by Carol Adelman & Ricki 50th Birthday of Dr. Alan Greenfield by Pearl & Morty Greenfield CARING COMMUNITY FUND Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Stacie Dubin by Hedy, Ross & Mitchell Brown Andrea, Fred, Robyn, Jodi & Scott Horowitz Eileen Epstein by Phyllis & Alan Romm Sam Lifshutz by Marilyn Stamberg In Honor of: Rabbi Bennett F. Miller by Barbara & Bruce Sigman Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe by Barbara & Bruce Sigman Rabbi Jack Paskoff by Barbara & Bruce Sigman Cantor Gershon Silins by Barbara & Bruce Sigman Marriage of our son James Axelrod to Christina Jacoby by Joan & Robert Axelrod Joan & Robert Axelrod on the Marriage of their son James to Christina by Marilyn Stamberg Rose & Stanley Dreier on the Marriage of their son Jeffrey by Marilyn Stamberg Joyce & Alvin Glasgold on the Marriage of their daughter Ellen to Trevor Lange by Phyllis & Alan Romm Marilyn Stamberg the Zicklin Family Roz & Marvin Ladov on the Marriage of their son Jonathan by Marilyn Stamberg Elaine & Stuart Singer on the marriage of their daughter Linda to Steven Roth by Carol & Larry Zicklin Marriage of Dawn & Matthew Topper

by Linda & Alan Getz

Joan & Larry Golden on the Engagement of their daughter Lisa by Joan & Robert Axelrod Marilyn Stamberg Elaine & Stuart Singer on the Engagement of their daughter Linda by Joan & Robert Axelrod Marilyn Stamberg Sue & Hillel Berlin on the Birth of their grandson David Aaron by Sally & Bill Flieder Florence & Joe Freedman on the Birth of their granddaughter by Debra Lotz Fran & Ivan Moradoff on the Birth of their grandson Eric Ryan by Marilyn Stamberg Carol & Larry Zicklin on the Birth of their granddaughter Devorah by Marilyn Stamberg 90th Birthday of Gertrude Cohen by Sally & Bill Flieder Birthday of Lorraine Smith by Blossom & Jerry Lowen Paula Masciulli by Leo Masciulli Heather Stone passing the Israeli Bar by Marilyn Stamberg Speedy recovery of Bernie Kislin by Marilyn Stamberg Speedy recovery of Jay Panter by Deborah Lotz Speedy recovery of Lillian Pollock by Debra Lotz Blossom & Jerry Lowen Speedy recovery of Otto Rich by Pearl & Monty Greenfield Laura & Richard Singer In Memory of: Walter Arbeiter by Marilyn Stamberg Herman Deixler by Marilyn Stamberg Helen Kushel by Shirley & Jerry Sherman & Family Herman Lieberman by Barbara Ferguson Marilyn Stamberg RAE SCHLESINGER FUND In Honor of: 90th Birthday of Gertrude Cohen by Carol & Tony Antonio Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Belsky Linda & Bert Busch & Family Jeanette H. Busch

Barbara & Malcolm Busch

Carol & Ronald Busch

Jane Freedman Ellen & John Hoagland Speedy recovery of Serena Stein by Gertrude Cohen In Memory of: Sister of Clara Hoffman by Gertrude Cohen P. T. O. FUND Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Michael Cohen by Susan Kushner Eric Deutch by Susan Kushner Jeremy Einhorn by Susan Kushner Atar Lior by Susan Kushner In Honor of: Susan Kushner by Eric Deutch Barbara Sigman by Ann, Steve, Noah & Adam Cohen Sydney A. Rose RINA B. PAKENHAM FUND In Honor of: Rabbi Bennett F. Miller by Alan Rubinfeld Susan Kushner by Dinah, Bob, Jeremy & Marisa Einhorn Shoshana Parsells by Dinah, Bob, Jeremy & Marisa Einhorn In Memory of: George Kessler by Carol Adelman & Ricki TZEDAKAH FUND Bar/Bat Mitzvah of: Benjamin Davis by Sharon, Arnold, Rob & Matt Lakind Eileen Epstein by Debbie, Joe & Beth Cohn In Honor of: Rabbi Bennett F. Miller by Dianne, Dotan & Atar Lior Susan Kushner by Dianne, Dotan & Atar Lior Rose & Stanley Dreier on the Marriage of their son Jeffrey by Nora & Steve Kandel Marriage of Dina Karmazin by Linda Greenfield & Ira Dunst Lee Livingston receiving PBA Award by Deborah & Cary Cherniss Paula Masciulli by Leo Masciulli

Speedy recovery of Howard Green by Deborah, Cary & Joshua Chemiss In Memory of: Cyril Schwartz by Rita Rothfleisch Mark Weitzen by Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Belsky SPECIAL CHILDRENS EDUCATION & DAY CARE FUND In Honor of: Dr. Richard Snepar by Brian Freeman Speedy recovery of Otto Rich by Ruth & Norman Rosenberg Speedy recovery of Serena Stein by Ruth & Norman Rosenberg In Memory of: Dr. Joseph Borrus

The Temple has received contributions for Mazon from:

Ethel L. Meyer & Allan Meyer

Joan & Robert Axelrod in honor of the Marriage of their son James Axelrod to Christina Jacoby
Elissa Greenwald
Rita Rothfleisch
Anshe Emeth graduation dinner

MAZEL TOV...

by Ethel L. Meyer

by Gladys Borrus

Joseph M. Meyer

LEONARD WEINSTEIN on the birth of his grandson, Benjamin Robert SHARON AND MELVIN KARMAZIN and CAROLE AND JERALD ELKINS on the marriage of their children, Dina and Andrew JOYCE AND ALVIN GLASGOLD on the marriage of their daughter, Ellen ELAINE AND STUART SINGER on the marriage of their daughter, Linda

YOUTH GROUPS AETY -



In October, we had a President's Party hosted by our AETY President, Rob Sherman. The party was a great success. We had over 35 kids and the evening was filled with lots of games and fun. But that is not the end for AETY. On December 19, we will be throwing a "Post Chanukkah" Party! Don't miss the fun event. On that evening, besides food and games, we will reminisceabout and share our fabulous and exciting trip that we took to Washington, D.C. in early December. Do you want to be a part of AETY? Are you missing all the fun? Give us a call for details about future upcoming events. Your advisors: Susan and Stu Kohn: 390-7812 and David Lettvin: 247-3546.

MAETY and JAETY -

The MAETY bowling event in October was a great success. We had 14 kids show up and everyone had a good time. MAETY and JAETY will be having a combined Chanukkah party on December 5th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We will eat latkes, play dreidel, and exchange gifts. MAETY & JAETY will also be visiting the Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged on December 19. We will meet at the Temple at 12:15. This is a great Mitzvah - so come and join us. So far, MAETY & JAETY are off to a great start and we hope to see some new faces at these upcoming events. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call the Temple at 545-6484 or Rachel Berez at (609) 443-4656. We are always open to new ideas. Also, thank you to all the parents who drove to Roller Skating and Sports Park, USA in November. It is much appreciated!

INTERFAITH TRIP TO THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

On Monday, February 21, 1994 (President's Day), we will be cosponsoring a day trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Clergy and congregants from Anshe Emeth, Emanuel Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church of New Brunswick will travel by bus to visit the Museum. Our group will be accompanied by Cantor Silins.

The bus will leave Anshe Emeth at 7:30 a.m., in time for a noon admission to the Museum, and we will return to Anshe Emeth at about 8:30 p.m. The cost will depend upon the number of people attending, but will be \$25 per person. This will include drinks and snacks for the bus; we will bring our own bag lunches (or dinners).

To sign up for the trip, or for more information, please call Deborah Cherniss, 985-9384, or the Temple office, 545-6484.

GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION coming April 9, 1994

To join the committee or for more information, call the Temple office at 545-6484.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A JEWISH HERO?

Be one of the members of the congregation who dresses up like a modern or biblical Jewish hero and talks about the hero's life and times in our Religious School classes. We also need people to help make costumes and props.

If you would like to be a hero, or help with costumes and props, or if you want more information about this, contact Cary Cherniss at 908-985-9384.

IN REMEMBRANCE: YAHRZEITS FOR DECEMBER 1993

The names listed below are taken from the Book of Life and Memorial Plaques in our Sanctuary. These names, which are posted monthly, are read at the Sabbath service immediately following the date of passing. Anyone wishing to have the name of a loved one read on the Sabbath should call the Temple office at 545-6484.

SHABBAT December 3, 1993 **ROSE RIFKIN** MICHAEL ROSENTHAL ISIDOR FRANK IRMA JECK JOSEPH M. MEYER LEO ROSENBERG FRANCES LIVINGSTON SANGER ISHMAEL SKLAREW DR. NATHAN KARSHMER ISRAEL GENDELMAN EDWARD E. DEUTSCH MOSES WALLACH LOUIS ROSENFELD THEODORE COHN JEROME H. ODENHEIMER **EDWARD BREUER** NATHANIEL LEON FRANKEL JOSEPH F. ESPOSITO ISADORE SENOFF PHILIP M. BRENNER NATHAN SCHWARTZ YETTA KIRSCHNER **BURTON EISENMAN** ARTHUR H. ZECKENDORF DR. ABRAHAM LADOV

SHABBAT

December 10, 1993

LILLIAN LEFKOWITS

MOSKOVITZ

ROGER GREEN

OTTO POLLINS

GERTRUDE T. GOODMAN

LEON NEWMAN

EDITH GREIFF

GERTRUDE LEVINE

FRIEDA HAMELSKY

EVELYN R. HAAS **BARRETT COHN** SAM SPILLER SOLOMON J. TRACHTENBERG FREDA NORTH **ALFRED JAMES ESTHER PATT CHARLES PATT JACOB GROSS DAVIS MILLER RUTH L. LALIN** JACK WOLFE HANNAH WEIL COHN ETHEL KUSHAKOW DR. B. BERNARD CHILTON NORMAN WILLNER

SHABBAT December 17, 1993 DR. LAWRENCE HOWARD LIEF SAMUEL BREINDEL **ESTHER LOWEN ROSE BRINSTEIN** JULES J. WEISS MAURICE DOAN SUSIE LEHN ELAINE R. NAAR RACHEL GOLDSMITH LENA FREEDMAN LOUIS MERSON ABRAHAM PANSY LOUIS WALKER SARAH KRONE DREIER PHILIP L. SCHWARTZ ALEX KATCHEN ROSE DUBIN SAUL **EUGENE ARKY** NATHAN KASTELANSKY DOROTHY GETZ SOLOMON KIRSCHNER ISIDOR REHAUT HARRY HAAS

SHABBAT
December 24, 1993
FANNIE BRUSKIN
WILLIAM H. SCHLESINGER
JEAN FEINSTEIN
MARY JECK BECKER
WARREN GLASER
THEODOR WERTHEIMER
DR. LYDIA ADLER DORSEN

SADIE K. STRAUSS
ESTHER RINGEL
BELLE MIDLER
SOPHIE R. MILLER
DAVID H. LEVIN
SOPHIE HIRSH
BERTHA GOTTLIEB
ANNE TOPPER
IRVING HAHN
JAMES WILLIAM HARVIE
SARAH POLLINS
ARLEEN DAVIS
ADELE BRODY

SHABBAT December 31, 1993 HERMAN LEON HANAUER ROSE HIRSH MULHAUSER IRVING C. SPICE JEAN ULIN DAVID S. SHRIBER MORTON WASSERMAN SOL ROSENFELD MAX COHEN DR. JULIUS KAHN DAVE RICH PHILLIP BATES SOL R. LALIN LEAH SHAPIRO SOLOMON BERZ RABBI NATHANIEL M. KELLER MAX MARDER DORA O. ZECKENDORF ROSE S. KUN FLORENCE J. BRYLAWSKI RUTH E. COHN **ROSE LEVIN**

IN MEMORIAM

ADELE GROSS mother of Bess Greenberg

ELINOR LAWRENCE mother of Brad Lawrence

MARY LEVY mother of Beverly Sacharow

GERTRUDE STEVELMAN mother of Susan Block

May their memory abide for blessing

CALENDAR OF TEMPLE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 1993

Wednesday	1	Basic Beginning Hebrew	11:30 a.m.
D.14	2	Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.
Friday	3	Babysitting During Services	8:00 p.m.
Saturday	4	Torah Study / Beginning Hebrew	9:30 a.m.
		Study with Rabbi Dubowe	10:30 a.m.
		Minyan	10:30 a.m.
Sunday	5	Family Healthcare - Impact of Proposed Legislation Provide-A-Meal	9:30 a.m 12:15 a.m.
Monday	6	Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7:00 p.m.
		Jubilation '94 Committee	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	7	Prayerbook Hebrew	11:30 a.m.
		Intermediate Hebrew	12:30 p.m.
		Advanced Hebrew	1:30 p.m.
		AETY Board/JAETY Board	6:00 p.m.
		BOARD OF TRUSTEES	8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	8	Basic Beginning Hebrew	11:30 a.m.
		Just For Women	12:00 p.m.
		Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.
		Chanukkah begins	•
Friday	10	Second Grade Shabbat Dinner	
Saturday	11	Torah Study / Beginning Hebrew	9:30 a.m.
		Study with Rabbi Dubowe	10:30 a.m
		Minyan	10:30 a.m
Sunday	12	Choir Rehearsal	10:30 a.m.
Monday	13	Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	14	Prayerbook Hebrew	11:30 a.m.
	1	Intermediate Hebrew	12:30 p.m.
		Advanced Hebrew	1:30 p.m.
		Anshe Emeth Seniors	12:30 p.m.
Wednesday	15		11:30 a.m.
· · · curiosaa j	15	Gan Yeladeem Chanukkah Show	5:30 p.m.
		Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday	16	Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Friday	17	Babysitting During Services	
Saturday	18	Torah Study / Beginning Hebrew	8:00 p.m.
Sauruay	10	Study with Rabbi Dubowe	9:30 a.m.
		Minyan	10:30 a.m.
Sunday	19	Tzedakah Committee	10:30 a.m.
Sulluay	19	Provide-A-Meal	10:15 a.m.
Monday	20	Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	7-00
Mon Mon. 20 -			7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	21	Prayerbook Hebrew	11:30 a.m.
		Intermediate Hebrew	12:30 p.m
		Advanced Hebrew	1:30 p.m.
	-	OFFICERS MEETING	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	22	Basic Beginning Hebrew	11:30 a.m
		Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.
Friday		Office Closed	
Saturday		Torah Study and Shabbat Worship	10:00 a.m.
		2 Religious School - Closed	
Friday	31	Office Closed	

The Anshe Emeth Guide to



Chanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev – some time between late November and late December – and lasts for eight days and nights of songs, stories, games, and special food. Chanukkah is the time to light the *menorah* – a nine-branched candelabrum, to play with *dreidels* – four-sided tops, and to eat *latkes* – potato pancakes.

Chanukkah commemorates the victory of Judah Maccabee and his followers over the forces of the Syrian-Greek tyrant Antiochus Ephiphanes and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem which the Syrians had profaned. We celebrate more than the end of the unsuccessful attempt by an outside power to destroy Judaism. The threat to Judaism was

both internal and external. The assimilation to Greek culture was so great that many Jews sought to become fully assimilated, to be accepted as Greek citizens and to participate in Greek culture at the expense of their own unique culture. The resistance of the Maccabees and their allies to the advantages of assimilation preserved Judaism. The story of Chanukkah is the age-old struggle of the Jewish people to remain Jewish in a non-Jewish world.

The History of Chanukkah

In the year 168 B.C.E. (before the Common Era), the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes decreed that all people under his rule adopt

Greeek culture in all land under his rule, which included the land which is now the State of Israel. Altars and idols were set up throughout the land for the purpose of worshiping the Greek gods. Antiochus declared that Judaism was to be abolished and outlawed observance of Shabbat, all festivals, and many Jewish rituals. Jews were told to convert or be put to death. Some Jews were attracted to Greek life, its gods, and its emphasis on beauty and a powerful body, and wanted to become assimilated, but others were horrified.

On the twenty-fifth of Kislev the Temple in Jerusalem was renamed for the Greek god Zeus. Pigs were sacrificed in the Temple and the Torah was desecrated. Thousands of Jews chose to die rather than commit idolatry.

One day Syrian soldiers came to the town of Modi'in in Judea and ordered the Jews to sacrifice a pig to Zeus to show obedience to Greek rule. Mattathias, an old Jewish priest, killed a Jew who was about to obey. Mattathias' five sons then turned on the Syrian troops and killed them. His son Judah, called Maccabee ("Hammer") because of his great strength, became the chief military leader of the Jewish forces in the guerilla war against the Syrians.

Antiochus set out to destroy the people of Judea. Though greatly outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters (collectively called Maccabees) miraculously defeated the enemy. Following several hard fought victories, the Maccabees stormed the Temple hill, drove out the Syrians, and tore down the idols. On the twenty-fifth of Kislev in 165, the Temple in Jerusalem was reconsecrated – three years to the day after its original defilement.

Eight Days of Celebration

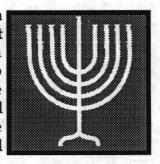
To celebrate their victory and to rededicate the Temple, the Maccabees proclaimed an eight-day festival to be observed every year. According to the Talmudic legend, when the Maccabees recaptured and cleansed the Temple, they were able to find only a single cruse of oil with the seal of the High Priest, enough for one day's lighting of the Menorah. It would take a messenger eight days to bring back more sanctified oil. But, as the story goes, the single cruse of oil continued to burn for eight days.

Some scholars say that originally, the eight-day Feast of Lights was intended to parallel the eight days of Sukkot. The books of the Maccabees, the source of the story of Chanukkah, made no mention of the legend concerning the jar of oil. Several centuries later (500 C.E.) the story of the oil appeared in the Talmud.

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About the Menorah

The central symbol for Chanukkah is light. Menorah [σειξα] is a Hebrew word meaning "candelabrum." In relation to Chanukkah, it refers to the nine-branched ceremonial lamp in which the Chanukkah candles are placed and then blessed. But the menorah is not unique to Chanukkah. It originated as a religious symbol in biblical times. The Torah records how the great artist Bezalel fashioned a seven-branched menorah for the desert tabernacle in fulfillment of a Divine commandment (Exodus 25:31-40; 37:17-24). Such a seven-branched menorah adorned the Temple in Jerusalem.



The nine-branched Chanukkah menorah or "Chanukiah" was a modification of the biblical model and seems to have originated in the first century C.E. It had eight branches, one for each day of the holiday, and a ninth branch for the *shamas* or "servant" light.

In ancient times, oil was used in the menorah. Over time, candles were substituted for oil. Some scholars believe that the use of small candles for the menorah was a deliberate choice, designed to distinguish Chanukkah lights from Christian votive candles.

The menorah can be made from almost any nonflammable material – glazed ceramics, copper, silver, brass, stone, glass, pewter – and can vary in size and shape. It is generally agreed that electric Chanukkah lights should not be used. The actual lighting of the Chanukiah is a beautiful ceremony, and kindling the Chanukkah lights is a Mitzvah.

Lighting the Menorah

The major ritual for Chanukkah is the lighting of the menorah, which takes place soon after nightfall, or as soon as the household is together. [On Friday night, the Chanukkah candles are lit first, followed by the Shabbat candles, as traditionally fire is not created on the Sabbath itself.] The lights should not be used for any practical purpose. They should last for at least half an hour, during which time no work should be done.

The menorah is placed on a windowsill or table facing the street to publicize the two miracles of Chanukkah: the miracle of the vat of oil and the miracle of Jewish survival.

The candles are placed in the menorah from right to left, starting with one on the first night, then two on the second, and so on, until on the eighth night there are eight. The shamas, which on most menorahs is set apart from the other candles, is always lit first, and it is then used to light the other candles. The candles are lit each night starting from the left side, so that we always light the current night's light first.

A Chanukkah Who's Who

Antiochus IV Epiphanes: The Syrian king (175-163 B.C.E.) who plundered the Temple, forbade the Jews to observe their religious practices, and forcefully tried to hellenize Judea, leading to the Maccabean uprising.

Hannah: The mother who, with her seven sons, was slain for refusing to bow before an idol; they are considered the earliest martyrs for religious freedom.

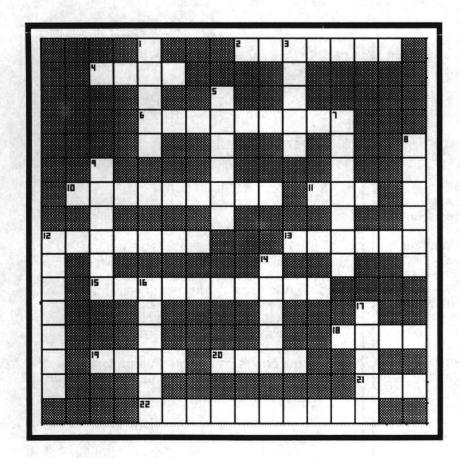
Hasmonean: The family name of the dynasty founded by Mattathias. According to Josephus, Mattathias's great-grandfather was named Hashmon, meaning rich, prince, or noble.

MACCABEE: The surname given to Judah and later to his kinsmen and followers. The name is thought to be derived from the Hebrew word meaning "hammer." The name was given to Judah because of his great strength, following the Greek practice of naming men according to physical characteristics.

Mattathias: Father of the five Hasmonean brothers who initiated and led the revolt against the Syrians. He was succeeded by his third son, Judah.

Chanukkah Crossword

Hint: All the answers to the clues can be found somewhere in this document!



ACROSS:

- 2. Chanukkah toy
- Greek god many Jews were forced to worship
- Syrian-Greek tyrant who tried to destroy the Jews
- 10. Heroes of the Chanukkah story
- 11. Major ingredient in Chanukkah foods
- 12. Ceremonial lamp
- Necessary item for Chanukkah celebration
- Family of Mattathias; rulers of Judea after 165 B.C.E.
- Total number of candles on Chanukkiah
- 19. "The Mitzvah is the and the Law is the light"
- 20. "Rock of ", Chanukkah hymn
- Hebrew letter, means "take half" in Chanukkah game
- 22. Israeli Chanukkah food

DOWN:

- 1. Chanukkah hero
- 3. Number of days of Chanukkah
- 5. Chanukkah begins on its 25th day
- 7. Enemy of the Jews in 167 B.C.E.
- 8. Knickname of Chanukkah hero
- Famous martyr who died with her seven sons rather than worship idols
- Amazing occurrence, as when a few Jews conquered enemy army
- 14. Potato pancake
- 16. "Servant" candle used to light others
- 17.Main symbol of Chanukkah

CHANUKKAH FOODS

The single constant in Chanukkah cuisine around the world is fried food. It is traditional to eat foods fried in oil in remembrance of the miracle in which one day's supply of oil lasted for eight days. Further evidence of the appropriateness of using oil derives from the fact that the Hebrew words for Hasmoneans (*Hashmonaim*) and for eight (*shemoneh*), the number of days of the festival, contain the Hebrew letters for oil (*shemen*)!

Among Ashkenazic Jews, *latkes* (potato pancakes) are the traditional Chanukkah food. [The word latke means pancake in Yiddish.] According to at least one source, the symbolism behind pancakes is threefold. Made initially of flour and water, they remind us of the food hurriedly prepared for the Maccabees as they went to battle. The oil in which they are fried symbolizes the cleansing and rededication of the Temple after it was defiled by the Assyrians. The third meaning, added in medieval times, was that latkes symbolize the cheesecakes the widow Judith served the Assyrian general Holofernes before she cut off his head, thus delivering the Jews from the Assyrians – in another assault against the Jewish people during the Hasmonean era.

The use of potatoes in the pancakes is relatively recent, since potatoes were first brought to Europe from South America in the sixteenth century and eventually became a staple in the diet of Eastern European Jews.

Among Sephardic Jews, fried sweets are more common. In Israel, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), are traditional on Chanukkah. They are similar to doughnuts made throughout Germany and Austria, but they are also reminiscent of a sweet, spongy cookie popular throughout the Mediterranean area since the time of the Maccabees. The Hebrew word sufganiyot comes from the Greek sufgan, meaning "puffed and fried."



Latkes

10 medium potatoes
2 medium onions
1/4 c. matzah meal
3 eggs, beaten
salt and pepper to taste
oil for frying

Care should be taken to have all the ingredients ready for immediate use before grating the potatoes. (Grated potatoes that are left standing turn brown.)

Grate the potatoes and onions using either a hand grater or a food processor, and squeeze out as much water as possible. Mix the grated potatoes, matzah meal, eggs, salt, and pepper. Heat the oil; when it is hot, drop the potato mixture by tablespoonfuls into the oil. Fry on both sides until brown. Remove from the oil and drain on paper toweling.

The pancakes can be fried in advance and reheated or frozen. Before serving, lay the pancakes in one layer on a foil-lined cookie sheet and reheat in a 375 degree oven until heated through.

Serve with sour cream or applesauce.

Sufganiyot

2 packages dried yeast
4 tbsp. sugar plus sugar for rolling
3/4 c. warm milk (105-115 degrees)
2 1/2 c. flour, sifted
2 egg yolks
1 tsp. cinnamon
pinch salt
1 1/2 Tbsp. softened butter
apricot, strawberry, or raspberry preserves
oil for frying

Dissolve the yeast and 2 tablespoons sugar in milk and let sit 10 minutes. Sift flour. Place it on a board and make a well in the center. Add yeast mixture, egg yolks, salt, cinnamon, and the remaining sugar. Knead well. Work in butter and knead until dough is elastic. Cover and let rise overnight in the refrigerator.

Roll out dough on a floured board to 1/8" thickness. Cut out with glass into rounds 2" in diameter. Cover and let rise 15 minutes or more.

With your hand form a a ball. Insert a teaspoon of jam and enclose completely.

Fry in hot oil (375°), 4-5 at a time, turning when brown. Drain on paper towels. Roll in sugar and serve immediately.

The Dreidel

taken out.

The most popular of all Chanukkah activities has always been the dreidel. As the name from the German "dreihen," to spin, implies, this is a spinning top (in Hebrew, "sevivon"). This top was popular in medieval Germany; its letters in Latin characters stood for the directions of the game: N-nisht (nothing); G-ganz (all); H-halb (half) and S-shtel (put), referring to coins or tokens put into the kitty or

These letters were then translated into the Hebrew letters nun (1), gimmel(1), heh(π), and shin (σ), and interpreted as an acronym for the phrase "Nes gadol hayah sham," "A great miracle happened there." In Israel the shin is usually changed to a peh; the peh, stands for po (here): "A great miracle happened here."

To justify the gambling, many interpreted the game as a disguised form of studying. When the Jews were not allowed to engage in the study of the Law, they would assemble to play the game and at the same time discuss the Law orally.

It has been observed that the four letters (358 in numerical value) are equivalent to "nahash," the serpent or evil spirit. The dreidel is spun to topple evil and to bring forth the messianic era establishing God's kingdom.

Symbolically, the top recalls the "turnover" of events when Judah Maccabee's meager forces vanquished the much larger Syrian army. The natural sequence of events was overturned: the strong were spun into the hands of the weak, as enunciated in the "Al Ha-nissim" prayer of Chanukkah. Through Jewish history it has been stressed that the world is like a dreidel. Everything is set forth in cycles: things change and spin but all emanate from one Root. The dreidel reflects the game of chance in life as an on-going event.

Chanukkah versus Christmas

Chanukkah and Christmas are celebrated around the same time. Other than the fact that they both add light to the winter darkness, there are no similarities. At Chanukkah we Jews bring out our menorahs, our dreidels, our frying pans for latkes. There is no such symbol as a Chanukkah bush or stocking, although certain commercial elements would encourage us to take on these Christian customs. Perhaps Chanukkah has been given a popularity boost because of its proximity to Christmas. Chanukkah, Yom Kippur, and Pesach are the most widely observed Jewish holidays in the United States, but Chanukkah remains the minor holiday of the three within the Jewish holiday cycle.



This Chanukkah insert to the Anshe Emeth Bulletin was prepared by Joyce Nussbaum. Sources include the following: Karen Fox and Phyllis Miller, Seasons for Celebration; Philip Goodman, The Hanukkah Anthology; Daniel Syme, The Jewish Home: A Guide for Jewish Living; Arthur Waskow, Seasons of our Joy; Joan Nathan, The Jewish Holiday Kitchen, and Rabbi Bennett F. Miller, The Anshe Emeth Chanukkah Supplement.

A Family Candle Lighting Ceremony

The candle lighting ceremony begins with the reading for the Shamus and the special paragraph for the day (see below). This is followed by the blessings, after which the candles are lighted and everyone joins in the singing of Chanukkah songs.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יָיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אַשֶּׁר קִדִּשֵׁנוּ בִּמְצִוֹתִיו וְצָוָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֵׁל חַנְכַּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mits-vo-tav ve-tsi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who hallows us with mitzvot, and Who commands us to kindle the lights of Chanukkah.

*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם, בַּוְּמַן הַוָּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, she-a-sa ni-sim la-a-vo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-ze-man ha-zeh.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who performed miracles for our ancesters in days of old, at this season.

On the first night only:

בָּרוּךָ אַתָּה, יָיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךָ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֲיַנוּ וִקִּימָנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לַזִּמַן הַזָּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu ve-ki-ye-ma-nu ve-hi-gi-a-nu la-ze-man ha-zeh. Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

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THE SHAMUS (each day): As one candle may kindle many others, yet lose none of its own light, so Judaism has kindled the light of truth from many religions in many lands and still shines brightly through the ages.

DAY 1: The first light tells of God, whose first command was "Let there be light." The darkness of idol worship was scattered when Israel brought radiant knowledge of one God. "I am the first, and I am the last," says the Lord.

DAY 2: The second light is the light of the Torah. Israel's book of law has brought learning and truth to all of the western world. "The Mitzvah is a lamp and the Law is the light."

DAY 3: The third light is the light of justice. No nation can endure which is unjust to the weak. "Justice, always justice shalt thou pursue" was the grandest commandment of Moses, our teacher.

DAY 4: The fourth light is the light of mercy. Cruelty hardens the heart and destroys friendships. "Do justice and love mercy" was the teaching of Micah, the Prophet.

DAY 5: The fifth light is the light of holiness. Purity of thought, ability of action, make all life sacred. From the Prophet Isaiah, these words have been taken into Israel's prayerbook: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts."

DAY 6: The sixth light is the light of love. When the love which our parents gives us makes all our life beautiful, we learn to understand the Biblical words, "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart and soul and might."

DAY 7: The seventh light is the calm light of patience. Nothing can be achieved in haste. The spreading tree and the soul of man grows slowly to perfection, thus says King David, "Trust in the Lord, wait patiently for Him."

DAY 8: The eighth light is the light of courage. Let truth and justice be your armor and fear not. Live by the words Moses spoke to Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage."