



# The Poile Zedek Bulletin

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Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff \* President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

November/December 2004

Kislev/Tevet5765

**For a Mitzvah  
is symbolized by a lamp,  
the Torah by light.**



**כִּי נֵר מְצוּהָ  
וְתוֹרָה אֹר**

## THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

The holiday of Chanukah, like that of Purim, was established by our sages during the period following the destruction of the First Temple through the era of the Second Temple. They were among a series of holidays which were established to give thanks to the Almighty for saving his people from an impending danger. These holidays were recorded in a book entitled "Megilas Taanis." On these dates, because they were holidays, fasting was forbidden and eulogies were not to be delivered.

When the Second Temple was destroyed, in the year 70 CE, our sages nullified these series of holidays because we were in a state of national mourning. However, they retained these two holidays, Chanukah and Purim, for these were prototypes of all the others.

The prayer of "Al Hanissim" records how Purim represents the physical rescue of the Jewish nation from the threat of annihilation, while Chanukah represents the spiritual saving of the Jewish nation from the threat of assimilation. Because of the physical nature of Purim, part of the mitzvot associated with Purim is sending of gifts of food and partaking of a festive meal. Chanukah, which represents the spiritual rescue, is celebrated primarily by the spiritual mitzvot of lighting the candles, prayers of Hallel and thanks to the Almighty for His saving grace by saying "Al Hanissim."

Chanukah parties by themselves are not recognized as religious observances. However, by infusing them with Torah thoughts and songs of Praise to Hashem, they can be transformed and elevated into a Seudat Mitzvah, a religious celebration.

With the light of the Chanukah Menorah may we rededicate ourselves to the principles of Judaism and be inspired by the light of the Torah.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all our friends and members who helped make this year's Yom Kippur appeal successful. Your generosity and interest are critical to the smooth operation of the synagogue and its activities. A special thanks to Sara-Ann Goldman and Miriam Goldman for their help preparing and mailing the letters for our Yom Kippur appeal. Their assistance is much appreciated.

Chanukah represents G-d's intervention as we prevailed against the Syrians who tried to assimilate the Jewish nation into the Syrian-Greek culture. But, as we thank Hashem in Al Hanissim: "... *You, in Your great mercy stood up for them in the time of their distress... You delivered the strong into the hands of the week, the many into the hands of the few...*"

The light of the Chanukah Menorah, therefore, has become a beacon, calling to us and reminding us that, despite all odds, G-d is with us in our struggles and we will endure. The miracle of Chanukah was not just for the Jews of that period, it is for all Jews, in all times.

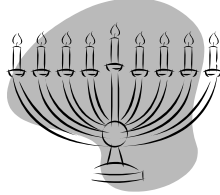
For over 100 years, from the Polish and Russian immigrants who founded the synagogue to our current members and congregants (including many Russian immigrants), Poile Zedek has always been a religious beacon for the Jewish community.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I invite you to join us for our annual Chanukah party, December 12, 3:30pm. As those of you who have attended in prior years know, the Festival of Lights takes on even greater significance when celebrated with family and friends.

Chag Sameach. Happy Chanukah to all.  
Danny

# CHANUKAH LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Starting Tuesday evening, December 7, the 25th day of Kislev, through Wednesday, December 15, we will celebrate the eight-day holiday of Chanukah.



## The Menorah

As a symbol and a reminder of the miracle of the oil, we light and display a menorah each night of the holiday. It is customary to place it in the window facing the street to publicize the miracle. Using either candles or oil lamps, we begin with one light and add another light each night, bringing it to a total of eight lights on the eighth night of Chanukah. Since the lights of the menorah are not to be used for any other purpose, the menorah is lit by a special lighting candle called a "Shamash". It is placed a little higher in the menorah to show that it is not part of the Chanukah candles. The candle on the extreme right is put in on the first night. Each night a new candle is added from right to left. However, when lighting we light the candles from left to right; the newest candle added is lit first, followed by the second newest and so on.

The Menorah should be lit in the evening after the Ma'ariv service. The candles must burn for at least half an hour after nightfall. When lighting the menorah, it is preferable that the entire family should be present to fulfill the Mitzvah. It is customary for each household member to light his/her own Menorah, except for the wife who fulfills her obligation with her husband's lighting.

On Friday evening, the Chanukah menorah must be lit before the Shabbat candles (make sure to use longer candles or extra oil so that they burn for at least half an hour after nightfall). On Saturday night the Havdalah is recited to officially end the Sabbath and then the menorah is lit.

Throughout the eight days, we say *Hallel* and *Al Hanisim* in our daily prayers and in the Grace After Meals. A portion of the Torah is read daily in the Synagogue during morning prayers, describing the dedication of the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

## Lighting the Menorah

On the first night of Chanukah, three blessings are recited before lighting the candles. The first blessing, thanks G-d for commanding us to fulfill the Mitzvah. The second thanks G-d for the miracle. The third, the "*Shebecheyonu*," thanks G-d for enabling us to reach this holiday season in health and happiness. After the first night, only the first two blessings are recited.

The blessings are as follows:

1. *Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam A-sher Ki-de-sba-nu Be-mitz-vo-tav Ve-tzi-va-nu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

2. *Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-a-sa Ni-sim La-avo-te-nu Ba-ya-mim Ha-bem Bi-z'man Ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

3. *Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-beche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-ma-nu Ve-bigi-a-nu Li-z'man Ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

After kindling the lights, the Hanerot Halalu prayer and Maoz Tzur are recited.

Using the Shamash, light the candles as follows:



December 7	after 5:16 PM	1
December 8	after 5:16 PM	2
December 9	after 5:16 PM	3
December 10	before candlelighting 4:13 pm	4
December 11	after havdala 5:16 PM	5
December 12	after 5:16 PM	6
December 13	after 5:17 PM	7
December 14	after 5:17 PM	8



It is customary to eat delicacies fried in oil, such as potato latkes and donuts, in remembrance of the miracle of the oil. It is customary to eat delicacies of cheese in remembrance of Yehudit, the daughter of Yochanan, the High Priest, who played a very important role in the victory of the Macabbees. Yehudit, the daughter of Yochanan, the High Priest, played a very important role in the victory of the Maccabees. She plied the Syrian-Greek general Holofermus with wine and cheese, making him drunk and tired. When he fell asleep she killed him, thereby saving the Jews of Bethulia, whom he was about to attack.

Because of their proactive role women have an equal obligation to light the Menorah. Some women have the custom of not doing work while the lights burn.

### Chanuka in the Torah

Although Chanukah is not explicitly mentioned in the Torah, there are allusions to it:

- ♦ The 25th word in Bereshit (Genesis) is "ohr", meaning light. Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on the 25th of Kislev.
- ♦ The 25th place of encampment of the children of Israel in the wilderness was Hasmonah. The Macabee family who successfully defeated the Greek army were from the Hasmonaen family.
- ♦ Following the section in the Torah where the festivals of the year are enumerated - Shabbat, Pesach, Succot, and Shavuot - is the commandment to maintain an eternal light in the Sanctuary - hinting to the kindling of the lights which would become a yearly Festival.

### Did You Know?

- ♦ Chanukah, which begins on the 25th day of Kislev, is really comprised of two words: 'Chanu KaH' which mean: 'They rested on the 25th,' alluding to the 25th day of Kislev. (The Hebrew letters 'Kaf' and 'Hei' add up to the numerical value of 25.) It was on the 25th day of Kislev that the Jewish nation vanquished their enemies, the Syrian-Greek overlords who had imposed severe religious persecutions on the Jewish nation. Under the threat of death, they prohibited many fundamental practices of Judaism, including circumcision, the observance of the Sabbath, and the study of Torah. On the 25th day of Kislev, the Jewish nation regained their religious freedom.

- ♦ The word "Chanukah" can also be identified with the Hebrew word meaning "dedication". It was on this day, the 25th of the month of Kislev, in the year 168 B.C.E., that the Beis HaMikdash, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, was desecrated by the Syrian-Greeks, who placed an idol in the Temple. Three years later, on that very day, the 25th day of Kislev in the year 165 B.C.E., the Temple was purified and rededicated to the service of the Almighty. Thus, "Chanukah" is the holiday of dedication.
- ♦ The root of the name "Chanukah" can also be identified with the word "chinuch" – Torah education. During the period of the Syrian-Greek domination, the Greek culture had infiltrated and permeated the Jewish nation. Many Jews forsook their religion for "Hellenism" and the Greek culture. The celebration of Chanukah commemorates the spiritual victory of the Hasmoneans or Maccabee forces and the rededication of the Jewish nation to Torah education. The revolution and reestablishment of Torah Judaism is symbolized by the lights of the Menorah, which we light on this festival, as it states in the Book of Proverbs (6:23), "for a Mitzvah is symbolized by a lamp, the Torah by light." The Torah illuminates the path we should take to achieve true fulfillment in our lives.
- ♦ Chanah and her seven sons are also remembered on Chanukah. When ordered by the Syrian king, Antiochus, to bow to an idol and reject the religion of Moses or be killed, each of her sons refused and was tortured and killed before her eyes. They died sanctifying G-d's name. She died shortly after them.
- ♦ The custom of playing dreidel on Chanukah came about because of the Syrians edict against learning Torah. The Jews would sit and learn Torah. When the Syrians came by they pretended to play with the dreidels. In this way, the Jews were able to circumvent this edict.
- ♦ On the Dreidel, the letters Nun, Gimel, Hay and Shin are inscribed. These letters are an abbreviation for the words "Nes Gadol, Haya Sham", "A great miracle happened there". In Israel however the fourth letter is a Peh rather than a Shin - this letter stands for great miracle here!"



## Good & Welfare

**Mazel Tov** to the following individuals upon their respective Simchas:

### Engagements

David Pincus to Michelle Klein.  
Ari Corman to Bracha Fraiser .

### Marriages

Itay & Helen Moshenberg on their recent marriage and to the parents David & Orley Moshenberg.

Moishe & Susan Wiesel on the marriage of their son, Eli to Chana Finkelstein.

May each couple build a *"Bayis Ne'eman B'Yisrael."*

### Births

Golda Pearlman on birth of a granddaughter born to daughter Debbie.

Michael & Judi Seidemann on the birth of a great-grandson, Eliyahu Dov Ettinger, in Israel.

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Wasserman on the birth of a granddaughter.

Rabbi & Mrs. Abraham Mykoff on the birth of a grandson to son David, in Israel.

### Bar Mitzvahs

Hy and Anat Appelbaum and family on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Elie.

Steven and Barbie Bier on the Bar Mitzvahs of their twin sons. Solomon and Kenneth.

### New U.S. Citizens

Vera Yarmulnik and Dora Sherebevckay have recently received United States Citizenship.

## Congratulations

To Rabbi & Mrs. Abraham Mykoff upon being awarded the "Rabbinical Community Service Award" at the recent Melava Malka benefiting Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem/Yeshiva of Staten Island.

## Condolences

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to:

Hy Appelbaum on the loss of his father, Herman Appelbaum, ל"ה, of blessed memory.

The Kafel family on the loss of their mother, Regina, ל"ה, of blessed memory.

Leon Shklar on loss of his mother, Chasia, ל"ה, of blessed memory.

"May the Almighty console the families among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

## Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

Luiza Ashurova, Mrs. Benchetrit., Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Freda Gordon, Yehudit Mitchell, Richard Ornstein, Sam Saal, Edith Schwartz, & Sima Svirsky.

## Yahrzeits

**Kislev 5765 - Nov./Dec. 2004**

### **Kislev 4 - November 17**

Bernard Israel .....cousin ,Tamara

### **Kislev 6 - November 19**

Joan Israel.....grandmother, Hindel  
Bobbi Schick.....Grandmother Schick  
Harry Schick.....Grandmother Schick

### **Kislev 11 - November 24**

Elizabeth Friedman ...mother  
Joan Sassenoff .....mother

### **Kislev 13 - November 26**

Esther Marder.....mother, Mollie Berkow

### **Kislev 17 - November 30**

Ivan Saiff .....brother Seymour  
Jeanette Saiff .....husband  
Robert Speis .....grandfather, Jacob Grossman

### **Kislev 18 - December 1**

Mark Morrison .....grandfather, Frank

### **Kislev 21 - December 4**

Esther Marder.....sister, Serena Joyce Berkow

### **Kislev 22 - December 5**

Nathan Buckner .....mother

### **Kislev 23 - December 6**

Beatrice Einstein .....brother, George  
Freda Gordon.....brother, George  
Marvin Marantz .....sister, Ceil  
Edith Schwart .....sister, Ceil

### **Kislev 26 - December 9**

Bernard Israel .....grandfather, Benjamin

**Tevet 5765 - Dec.2004/Jan. 2005**

### **Tevet 3 - December 15**

Bernard Israel .....great grandmother, Tamara

### **Tevet 4 - December 16**

Ruth Grossman .....mother  
Bernard Israel .....uncle, Julius  
Esther Marder.....husband, Max

### **Tevet 9 - December 21**

Freda Gordon.....father  
Beatrice Einstein .....father

### **Tevet 11 - December 23**

Bernard Israel .....grandfather, Morris

### **Tevet 12 - December 24**

Seymour Kamp.....mother  
Mildred Tanzman.....father, Morris Siegel

### **Tevet 16 - December 28**

Sylvia Margolis .....brother-in-law

### **Tevet 20 - January 1**

Mark Morrison .....grandfather, Zelig

### **Tevet 21 - January 2**

Steve Salit .....Harry Bolotin

### **Tevet 23 - January 4**

Herb Gross .....father

### **Tevet 24 - January 5**

Mark Morrison .....grandmother, Sarah

### **Tevet 27 - January 8**

Lawrence Brody .....father, Leo

## Asarah B'Tevet

This year, Asarah B'Tevet, the fast of the Tenth of Tevet, falls on Wednesday, December 22. The fast begins 5:30 am and ends at 5:20pm.

This fast commemorates the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia which ultimately led to the destruction of the First Temple and the 70-year Babylonian Exile. On the very day of the siege, the 10 of Tevet, Prophet Yechezkel (Ezekiel) who was already in Babylonia, 1000 miles away, had a prophecy in which he's instructed by G-d to record this date of the 10th of Tevet for on this very day the city of Jerusalem was being sieged.

### Eruv Information

To utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is up or down for that Shabbat). To be notified by weekly e-mail of the status, please call the Hillel Foundation: (732) 545-2407 and request to be placed on the Eruv e-mail list or call the Eruv hotline: (732) 247-ERUV for weekly information.

### E-Mail Notification

If you would like to receive the Poile Zedek bulleting by email and/or regular mail or be notified by e-mail of important announcements (sometimes there is not enough time to mail a notice) please send your e-mail address to the synagogue — [congpoilezedek@juno.com](mailto:congpoilezedek@juno.com).

### Memorial Plaques

Memorialize your loved ones by having their names listed on our bronze Memorial Boards in the sanctuary. A light will be illuminated on their yahrzeit dates and Kaddish will be said for them as well. Each plaque is \$150. Please call the synagogue office for more information or to order a plaque.

## WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



**Millionaire's Club**— Lunch & Torah study  
 Tuesday 12:00 P.M.— 1:30 P.M.  
 Thursday 12:00 P.M.— 1:30 P.M.

**Partners in Torah**—Study with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments and *Ma'ariv* following.  
 Wednesday—8:10 P.M.

**English as a Second Language**— Mon-7 P.M with Linda Greenberg.

**Beginners Hebrew** — Monday 7:30 P.M. with Renee Silverstein.

For further information, please call the synagogue.

## Celebrate at Poile Zedek

Do you have a wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah coming up?

The magnificent sanctuary in our landmark synagogue is available for your simcha.

We also have a room for kiddushim, luncheons and parties (anniversary, birthday, bris or upsherin). Or you can hold your service in the sanctuary and your reception next door at the Hyatt. Either way, it will be an affair to be remembered.

Please call the synagogue at 732-545-6123 for more information.

## Yahrzeit Notices

To be notified of upcoming family yahrzeits, please fill out the information below and send this form to the synagogue and we will include your name on our notification list.

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_ Please add the following names to the Yahrzeit list:

English Name	Hebrew Name	Relationship	Hebrew Date of Death	English Date of Death
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



Bring your friends and family  
to our annual

**CHANUKAH DINNER  
& MENORAH LIGHTING**

LIVE MUSIC ☆ GAMES ☆ PRIZES

Sunday, December 12 — 3:30 pm

**FREE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Cong. Poile Zedek  
145 Neilson Street, New Brunswick

**(732) 545-6123**

Free parking in the Wolfson Deck across the street.