

WHERE WILL YOU BE THIS SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17, 2006 at 3:45 PM?

WHY NOT  
BE OUR GUESTS FOR A  
CHANUKAH PARTY?

- ☆ FESTIVE MEAL
- ☆ MENORAH LIGHTING
- ☆ LIVE MUSIC ☆ GAMES
- ☆ PRIZES



**FREE**  
to the Community  
Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson St. New Brunswick  
(down the block from the Hyatt)  
For reservations please call

**(732) 545-6123**



**PLEASE NOTE**

Free parking in the Lower Church St. deck on Patterson St. Reduced parking across the street in the Wolfson parking deck with this ad.



# The Poile Zedek Bulletin

145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 • (732) 545-6123

www.poilezedek.org • admin@poilezedek.org

Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff • President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

December 2006/January 2007

Kislev/Tevet 5767

WE KINDLE THESE LIGHTS  
FOR THE MIRACLES  
AND THE WONDERS...



הנרות הללו אנחנו מדליקים  
על הנסים ועל הנפלאות...

## THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Historically, Chanukah is the youngest holiday on the Jewish Calendar and the laws of Chanukah have a unique format. Instead of starting with the fundamental laws as all other holidays do, the laws of Chanukah begin with an historical synopsis of the events leading up to Chanukah. The source for the laws of Chanukah can be found in the second chapter of the Tractate Shabbos (21A) (במה מדליקין) which we read every Friday evening. The Talmud discusses the laws regarding the lighting of the Sabbath candles and then makes the transition to the subject of lighting Chanukah candles.

The Gemara asks an odd question - מאי הנוכה?, "What is Chanukah"? A seemingly elementary question that any kindergarten or even nursery student could answer. The great commentator Rashi clarifies the question to mean על איזה נס קבעוה - Based on which miracle did our sages establish the holiday of Chanukah? Was it merely to commemorate the miracle of the physical victories the Almighty wrought, giving the large and powerful Syrian-Greek forces into the hands of the few, weak, and untrained forces of the Jews? Or, rather, was the holiday of Chanukah primarily established to commemorate the miracle of the cruse of oil which symbolized the spiritual triumph and reestablishment of Torah

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## 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.

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 Hanisim*: "... You, in Your great mercy stood up for them in the time of their distress... You delivered the strong into the hands of the weak, 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 17, 3:45pm. 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



## LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Starting Friday evening, December 15, the 25th day of Kislev, through Saturday, December 23, 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, lighting 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 be present to fulfill the Mitzvah. In some homes 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 of Chanukah, we include the complete *Hallel* prayer in the morning service and *Al Hanisim* in all three daily services 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 giving us the privilege to fulfill the Mitzvah. The second *bracha* thanks G-d for the miracle. The third, "*Shebecheyonu*," thanks G-d for enabling us to reach this holiday season and celebrate Chanukah in health and happiness. After the first night, only the first two blessings are recited.

The blessings are as follows:

1. *Baruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-be-nu Me-lech Ha-alam A-sher Ki-de-sba-nu Be-mitz-vo-tav V'e-tzi-va-nu Le-had-lik Ner Shel Cha-nu-ka-b.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

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

(Rabbi's Message continued from page 1)

Judaism, which had been dangerously threatened by Greek culture of their overlords?

The commentator Ba"ch justifies the question as to "What is Chanukah?" and the subsequent historical introduction to the laws, based on the fact that all other holidays have their authoritative sources in the Torah. Even Purim which, like Chanukah, is a Rabbinical holiday, has its authoritative source in Megilat Esther, which is part of the holy writings (תנ"ך).

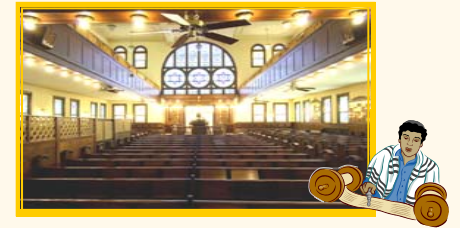
Interestingly, Miamonides (Rambam) groups the laws of Chanukah and Purim under one heading. Instead of a separate volume entitled "The Laws of Chanukah" and a separate volume entitled "The Laws of Purim," he merges the two holidays together under one heading: "The Laws of Purim and Chanukah." Chapters I & II deal with Purim and Chapters III & IV deal with Chanukah. In addition, he also makes references to many laws which are common to both. A further linkage between the two holidays can be seen by the common prayer of *Al Hanisim* which is used for both Chanukah and Purim with subsequent individual sections for Chanukah and for Purim.

In truth, the holidays of Chanukah and Purim were both among a series of holidays established during the era of the Second Commonwealth in appreciation of G-d's saving the Jewish nation from some impending danger. They were all recorded in a book named "*Megilat Taanit*." When the Second Temple was destroyed our sages nullified all the holidays listed in *Megilat Taanit* with the exception of Chanukah and Purim for they were the prototypes of all the other holidays. Purim represented the physical saving of the Jewish nation while Chanukah represented the spiritual salvation of the Jewish people. So it has been throughout the generations to this very day, we are attacked either physically, as in the case of Hitler, or spiritually as we were during the Communist regime in Russia. May Hashem once again come to Israel's aid and provide us with both physical and spiritual salvation.



## MAKING A SIMCHA? WE MAKE IT AFFORDABLE!

The magnificent sanctuary and party room of *Congregation Poile Zedek* are available for your simcha at a remarkably affordable price.



Centrally located at 145 Neilson Street, New Brunswick, NJ, we are just a few short blocks from New Jersey Transit, major highways, and the New Brunswick Hyatt. **DON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE BEFORE CALLING US!** (732) 545-6123 In the Orthodox tradition.

## WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



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

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

**Torah Study in Russian — Thursday 7:00 P.M.**  
Learn the Torah with Rabbi Eli Kogan.  
Men and women. Refreshments served.

## Eruv Information

In order to utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is functioning for that Shabbat) by calling the Eruv hotline: (732) 247-ERUV before Shabbat.

For notification 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. For a map showing the boundaries of the Highland Park/Edison and New Brunswick Eruvim go to [www.hperuv.org](http://www.hperuv.org)



(Continued from page 5)

**20 Tevet - January 10**

Mark Morrison ..... grandfather, Zelig

**21 Tevet - January 11**

Steve Salit ..... Harry Bolotin

**23 Tevet - January 13**

Herb Gross ..... father

**24 Tevet - January 14**

Mark Morrison ..... grandmother, Sarah

**27 Tevet - January 17**

Lawrence Brody ..... father, Leo Brody

**Shevat 5767 - Jan./Feb. 2007**

**3 Shvat— February 1**

Sylvia Margolis ..... mother

Phyllis Schneier ..... father

**4 Shvat — February 2**

Esther Marder ..... sister, Ruth Berkow

Sylvia Margolis ..... sister, Rose

**5 Shvat — February 3**

Ted Poretz .....mother, Inez Poretz

**6 Shvat — February 4**

Mollie Cohn ..... husband

**7 Shvat — February 5**

Lillian Glasser ..... father, Himan Smith

Irving Smith ..... father, Himan Smith

**8 Shvat — February 6**

Golda Pearlman ..... stepson, Kevin Phillip Pearlman

**9 Shvat — February 7**

Norman Mironov ..... brother, Irving

**10 Shvat — February 8**

Joan Israel ..... Aunt Lillian

Bobbi Rubin ..... Grandmother Buchbinder

Harry Schick ..... Grandmother Buchbinder

**13 Shvat — February 11**

Milton Yatvin .....your father, Isaac

**14 Shvat — February 12**

Bruce Horowitz ..... your mother

**16 Shvat — February 14**

Joan Israel .....Uncle Harry

Mark Morrison ..... Aunt Sadie

Norman Mironov ..... Sarah Mironov

**17 Shvat — February 15**

Harry Schick ..... Grandfather Schick

Bobbi Rubin ..... Grandfather Schick

**20 Shvat — February 18**

Gerald Gordon ..... father

Sophia Mezhibovsky .....husband, Mikhail

**23 Shvat — February 21**

Richard & Elizabeth Friedman .....aunt Bertha

**24 Shvat — February 22**

Frances Schneier .....mother

**27 Shvat — February 25**

Eve Bagen .....sister, Eleanor Berman

Mark Morrison ..... father

*To include your loved ones in our Yahrzeit list and to receive a reminder by mail of upcoming yahrzeits, please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, 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-be-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-beche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-ma-nu Ve-higi-a-nu La-z-man Ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, 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:

Friday, Dec. 15..before candle lighting	4:10 PM	⚡
Saturday, Dec. 16 .....	after 5:25 PM	⚡⚡
Sunday, Dec. 17 .....	after 4:35 PM	⚡⚡⚡
Monday, Dec. 18.....	after 4:35 PM	⚡⚡⚡⚡
Tuesday, Dec. 19.....	after 4:35 PM	⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡
Wednesday, Dec. 20 .....	after 4:35 PM	⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡
Thursday, Dec. 21 .....	after 4:35 PM	⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡
Friday, Dec. 22 ..before candle lighting	4:15 PM	⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡

**Special Foods**

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. 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 in the victory over the Syrians, women have an equal obligation to participate in lighting 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:

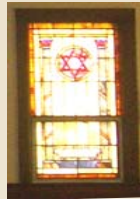
- ◆ The 25th word in Bereshit (Genesis) is "ohr", meaning light. Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins on the 25th of Kislev.
- ◆ The 25th place of encampment of the children of Israel in the wilderness was Hasmonah. The Macabee family who successfully defeated the Greek army were from the Hasmonaen 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.

**What's In A Name?**

- ◆ 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev, the Jewish nation regained their religious freedom.
- ◆ The word “*Chanukal*” can also be identified with the Hebrew word meaning “dedication”. It was on this day, the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

**A Loving Tribute**

**Memorial Windows**



Memorialize your loved ones by dedicating a stained glass window in our beautiful sanctuary. A limited number of windows are still available for this fitting tribute to the memory of a cherished family member. Each window is \$1500.

**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. Each plaque is \$150.



Please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123 to dedicate a window, order a plaque, or for more information.

(continued from page 3)

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, the Jews pretended to play with the dreidels. In this way, they were able to circumvent this edict.
- ◆ On the dreidel, the Hebrew 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 Po (here), "A great miracle happened here!"



### Asarah B’Tevet

This year, Asarah B’Tevet, the fast of the Tenth of Tevet, falls on Sunday, December 31. The fast begins 5:40 am and ends at 5:35 pm.

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 10th of Tevet, the Prophet Ezekiel (חזקאל) who lived in Babylonia, 1000 miles away, had a prophecy in which he was instructed by G-d to record this date — the 10th of Tevet, for on this very day the city of Jerusalem came under siege.



### A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

The congregation has recently sustained a great loss with the passing of two veteran and dedicated members, Fred Gordon and Audrey Mininov, of blessed memory, who served Poile Zedek for many years. Freda Gordon served as sisterhood president and member of the Chevra Kadisha for half a century and Audrey Mironov served as an officer of the sisterhood. In addition, they helped to maintain the cemetery committee throughout these many years.

We also would like to acknowledge the loss of Alex Gulko who for the past decade has been a mainstay of our daily minyan.

They will all be greatly missed by the congregation..

We wish to express our deep condolences to the families and may they be consoled among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

המקום ינחם אתכם  
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

### Good & Welfare

#### Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

#### Births

Edith Salit and Steve & Ann Salit on the birth of a great-grandson and grandson to their children Michael & Cheryl Kornfeld.

#### Engagements

Chaim & Anat Applebaum on the engagement of their daughter Shira Tal to Daniel Huff of Sharon Mass.

Chaim Solomon to Chani Agar.

#### Marriages

Gail & William Bogner on the marriage of their daughter Elana to Yaakov Zachter.

#### Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following: Harry & Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, David Gang, Miriam Goldman, Yehudit Mitchell, Baruch Savitt, Malvina Savitt, and Edith Hess Schwartz.

#### Condolences

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to: The Honorable Gerald Gordon and family on the loss of mother and grandmother, Freda Gordon.

Gulko family upon loss of Alex Gulko.

Imre Lefkovits on the loss of his brother.

Rabbi Mendy Meyer, of our Partners In Torah program, upon the loss of his mother.

Norman Mironov and family on the loss of wife, mother, and grandmother, Audrey Mironov

*“May the Almighty console the families among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”*

#### Yahrzeits

**Kislev 5767—Nov./Dec. 2006**

**4 Kislev - November 25**

Bernard Israel ..... cousin, Tamara Podair

**6 Kislev— November 27**

Joan Israel..... grandmother, Hindel Schay  
Bobbi Rubin..... Grandmother Schick

- Harry Schick ..... Grandmother Schick
- 11 Kislev— December 2**  
Elizabeth Friedman ..... mother
- 12 Kislev—December 3**  
Joan Sassenoff ..... mother, Rose Brinstein
- 13 Kislev—December 4**  
Esther Marder ..... mother Mollie Berkow
- 15 Kislev—December 6**  
Harriet Kuryk Miller..... mother, Ray Kuryk
- 17 Kislev—December 8**  
Ivan Saiff ..... brother, Seymour  
Jeanette Saiff..... husband, Seymour  
Robert Spies..... grandfather, Jacob Grossman
- 18 Kislev—December 9**  
Mark Morrison grandfather, Frank
- 21 Kislev— December 12**  
Esther Marder .....sister, Serena Joyce Berkow
- 23 Kislev— December 14**  
Beatrice Einstein .....brother, George  
Marvan Marantz ..... sister, Ceil  
Edith Schwartz ..... sister, Ceil
- 26 Kislev—December 17**  
Bernard Israel .....grandfather, Benjamin  
Evancky

#### Tevet 5767 - Dec. 2006/Jan. 2007

**3 Tevet - December 24**

Bernard Israel .....great grandmother, Tamara

**4 Tevet - December 25**

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

**6 Tevet—December 27**

Myra Schrier..... father, Bertrand Basner

**9 Tevet - December 30**

Beatrice Einstein ..... father

**11 Tevet - January 1**

Bernard Israel ..... grandfather, Morris Siegel

**12 Tevet - January 2**

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

**16 Tevet - January 6**

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