

The Poile Zedek Bulletin

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

December 2009/January 2010

Kislev/Tevet 5770

THE MIGHTY INTO
THE HANDS OF THE WEAK



גבורים ביד חלשים

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

The holiday of Chanukah will commence this Friday evening December 11th and continue for eight days through Saturday night, December 19th.

The minimum requirement for fulfilling the mitzvah of the Chanukah lighting ceremony is to light one light per evening per family. However, the prevailing custom is to light one light on the first night and to increase one light each night thereafter, so that on the eighth night we light eight candles as prescribed by *Bet Hillel*, the School of Hillel. In so doing, in addition to publicizing the miracle of Chanukah, we indicate which day of Chanukah we are celebrating.

The Rambam, Maimonides, at the conclusion of his chapter on the laws of Chanukah poses the following question as asked in the Talmud in the Tractate Shabbat: when faced with a zero sum situation whereby you have the obligation to perform both candle lighting ceremonies, but unfortunately you one have only one light, which ceremony should you perform? Should you light the Chanukah lights or the Shabbat lights? The Chanukah lights are to publicize G-d's miracles and thereby bring glory to Hashem. Nevertheless, lighting the Sabbath candles, which are lit primarily for *Shalom Bayit*, that there be tranquility in the home, takes precedence. The Rambam emphasizes גדול השלום - how great is shalom, peace, for the entire Torah and all the mitzvot are to promote harmony and unity in the world as is stated: דרכיה דרכי נעם וכל נתיבותיה שלום - "Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace" (Proverbs III:17).

May we witness peace and tranquility at home, in Israel, and throughout the world.

Happy Chanukah.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is no simple task to organize a synagogue dinner. The many different facets involved in planning a dinner require a great deal of organization, coordination, and attention to detail, in order to ensure that it runs smoothly and successfully. So, I was particularly gratified to hear comments such as "It was great" and "fabulous" from attendees to describe our 108th Anniversary Dinner, which was held on November 22, at the Regency Jewish Heritage Home in Somerset.

The theme of our dinner "*Olam Chesed Yebaneh – The World is Built on Kindness*" was most appropriate since our honorees are individuals who have consistently and graciously given of themselves to Poile Zedek and to the Jewish Community. We are most appreciative to our Guests of Honor Hy & Anat Appelbaum; Community Service Awardees Joel & Rhoda Paul; Keter Shem Tov Awardee Dr. Robert G. Berkowitz; and Ahavat Chesed Awardee Hanna Idesis, for all that they've done and continue to do.

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank all those who helped make the dinner a success. Our sincere thanks go to Marty Bengio and David Gross of the Regency Jewish Heritage Home who went out of their way to make the lovely auditorium in their facility available to us and to accommodate our needs; to Bob Berkowitz, our dinner chairman; to Caryn Lipson, Myra Shrier, and Morty & Judy Evans for seeing to many of the details; and to Sue Speizer who spent many hours working with Myra to put together the Auction of Goods & Services which was held during the dinner. Much appreciation goes as well to the many volunteers for their invaluable assistance. Jeff Wilks, who provided the music, and Pavilion 39 Caterers, are also to be

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**WEEKLY SHACHARIT
(MORNING) SERVICES**

Monday—Friday 7:30 AM
followed by a light Breakfast and class
Sunday 8:00 AM
followed by a light Breakfast and class
Shabbat 9:00 AM
followed by a hot Kiddush

WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



Millionaire Club — Lunch & Torah study with Rabbi Mykoff
Tues. 12:00 - 1:30 P.M.

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

**THE SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

In the course of helping to plan Poile Zedek's 108th Anniversary Dinner, I had the pleasure of working closely with many of the people who make up the backbone of the PZ community. The camaraderie, cooperation, good will, and behind the scenes effort that went into making the Dinner a success, was a joy to experience.

I am therefore honored and excited to accept the post of Poile Zedek's Sisterhood President. There is a lot of planning going on for events in both the immediate and distant future.

The Sisterhood is currently preparing for our Chanukah party, featuring a sumptuous dairy meal and an interactive performance by Jay the Magician. We are also busily planning entertainment for our Purim seudah.

There is enormous talent out there, and I look forward to having new Sisterhood members assist in all aspects of programming. Can't wait to meet you!

Myra Shrier

**JAY THE MAGICIAN'S
CHANUKAH EXPERIENCE**
comes to *Poile Zedek*
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

See page 8 for details.

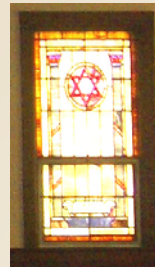
ERUV INFORMATION

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

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.

LAWS AND CUSTOMS



Starting Friday evening, December 11, the 25th day of Kislev, through Shabbos, December 19, 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.

SPECIAL FOODS

It is customary to eat delicacies fried in oil, such as potato latkes and donuts, in remembrance of the miracle

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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, "Shehecheyonu," thanks G-d for enabling us to reach this holiday season and celebrate Chanukah. *After the first night, only the first two blessings are recited.*

The blessings are as follows:

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

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

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 Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-heche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-ma-nu Ve-higi-a-nu Laz-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. 11.....before lighting Shabbat candles | |
| which is at 4:13 PM | 🕯 |
| Saturday, Dec. 12..... after 5:25 PM | 🕯🕯 |
| Sunday, Dec. 13 after 4:45 PM | 🕯🕯🕯 |
| Monday, Dec. 14..... after 4:45 PM | 🕯🕯🕯🕯 |
| Tuesday, Dec. 15..... after 4:45 PM | 🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯 |
| Wednesday, Dec. 16 after 4:45 PM | 🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯 |
| Thursday, Dec. 17 after 4:45 PM | 🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯 |
| Friday, Dec. 18 before lighting Shabbat candles | |
| which is at 4:14 PM | 🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯🕯 |

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of the oil. It is also 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 Holofernus 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.

CHANUKAH 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, Shavuot, and Succot - 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 25th day of Kislev that the Jewish nation vanquished their enemies,

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(President's message continued from page 1)

commended for their part in the success of our dinner. And most important, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all those who were represented in our 108th Anniversary Dinner Journal and who attended the dinner – you made it all worthwhile.

We will, IY"H, have a copy of our dinner journal and pictures of the dinner available on our website, www.poilezedek.org, within the next week or two.

Much thanks to Burt & Flo Stein who graciously opened up their home tous this past Sunday and hosted a "jewelry & toons" fundraiser on behalf of Poile Zedek.

I am pleased to announce that Myra Shrier has accepted the position of Sisterhood President of Congregation Poile Zedek. She has many good ideas to benefit the shul and I know that she will be a great asset to Poile Zedek in this capacity. We all wish her much hatzlacha.

Myra has already begun by organizing this year's Chanukah party, to be held on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 3:00 pm. Jay the Magician's Chanukah Experience will magically recreate the miracle of Chanukah. There will be a festive dairy meal before the show. The Chanukah festivities will also be sponsored in part by Ira Gang in memory of his father, Daniel Gang, ז"ל, whose yearzeit is on Chanukah. Please see page 8 for more information.

My best wishes to all for a Happy Chanukah, a healthy winter, and peace in Israel and throughout the world.

Danny

A SIMCHA YOU CAN AFFORD
IN *Congregation Poile Zedek's*
HISTORIC LANDMARK SYNAGOGUE

Our magnificent sanctuary
and party room
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.
www.poilezedek.org

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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 Hasmonians 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 27. The fast begins at 6:05 AM and ends at 5:20 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 (יְחֶזְקֵאל) 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.

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GOOD & WELFARE

MAZEL TOV TO THE FOLLOWING UPON THEIR CELEBRATIONS:

Births

Elisha & Marty Klein on the birth of a granddaughter, Marissa Lynn and to their children, Michael and Erin Klein and a granddaughter to their children Rachel & Ira Gottfried.

Rabbi Yehoshua & Esther Lewis on the birth of a daughter.

Bar Mitzvahs

Boris & Regina Bakshiyev on the Bar Mitzvah of their son at Poile Zedek.

Michael & Judi Seidemann on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Yeshaya Amitai and on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Rivka Zinnes.

Roman & Ruth Shualov on the Bar Mitavah of their son Jason at Poile Zedek.

Jay & Michele Wegodsky on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Josh at Poile Zedek.

Engagements

Michael & Judi Seidemann on the engagement of their granddaughter Efrat to Yaakov Shalom Greenfeld.

Rabbi Sharir & Shayna Yablonsky on the engagement of their daughter, Fraidy, to Moshe Yoel Bree .

REFUAH SHELAIMA

A speedy and complete recovery to the following: Bea Einstein, Morton Evans, Dr. Efraim Frankel, Pearl Friedkin, Mike Gross, Marvin Mitchell, Baruch & Wade Savitt, Boris Shaulov, Irving Smith, Phyllis Smith, and Helen S. Solomon.

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CONDOLENCES

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to:
Sophia Novichenok & the Novichenok family upon the
loss of their husband and father Yaakov Novichenok.

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

YAHRZEITS

KISLEV 5770—DEC. 2009/JAN. 2010

4 Kislev - November 21

Bernard Israel..... cousin, Tamara Podair

6 Kislev— November 23

Joan Israel grandmother, Hindel Schay

Bobbi Rubin.....Grandmother Schick

Harry SchickGrandmother Schick

12 Kislev—November 29

Joan Sassenoff..... mother, Rose Brinstein

13 Kislev—November 30

Esther Mardermother, Mollie Berkow

Norman Mironov wife, Audrey

15 Kislev—December 2

Harriet Kuryk Miller mother, Ray Kuryk

16 Kilslev—December 3

Klara Skuratovskaya husband, Aleksey Gulko

17 Kislev—December 4

Ivan Saiff..... brother, Seymour

Robert Spies grandfather, Jacob Grossman

18 Kislev—December 5

Mark Morrison grandfather, Frank

Ruth Weinfeld..... father, Jerry Rosenberg

21 Kislev– December 8

Esther Mardersister, Serena Joyce Berkow

23 Kislev— December 10

Beatrice Einsteinbrother, George

Bernard Israel..... uncle, Barney Podair

Marvin Marantz sister, Ceil

Edith Schwartz sister, Ceil

26 Kislev—December 13

Bernard Israel.....grandfather, Benjamin Evansky

29 Kislev— December 16

Ira Gangfather, Daniel Gang

Tevet 5770 - Dec. 2009/Jan. 2010

2 Tevet - December 19

Leonard Bier mother, Gloria Bier

3 Tevet - December 20

Bernard Israel...great grandmother, Tamara Mikulitsky

4 Tevet - December 21

Robert Berkowitz..... grandfather, Dovid Berkowitz

Ruth Grossman..... mother, Fannie Greenberg

Bernard Israel..... uncle, Dr. Julius Israel

Esther Marderhusband, Max Marder

6 Tevet—December 23

Myra Schrierfather, Bertrand Basner

9 Tevet - December 26

Beatrice Einstein father

11 Tevet - December 28

Bernard Israel grandfather, Morris Israel

12 Tevet - December 29

Lola Kamp..... mother-in-law, Alice Kamp

Mildred Tanzman father, Morris Siegel

16 Tevet - January 2

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

20 Tevet - January 6

Mark Morrison grandfather, Zelig

21 Tevet - January 7

Steve Salit.....Harry Bolotin

22 Tevet— January 8

Joan Israel aunt, Rosie Shilepsky

23 Tevet - January 9

Dan Becekenstein uncle, Samuel Beckenstein

Herb Grossfather

24 Tevet - January 10

Bobbi Bruskin husband, Marvin

Richard Bruskin brother, Marvin

Stanley Bruskin brother, Marvin

Mark Morrison grandmother, Sarah

26 Tevet - January 12

Myra Shrier..... mother, Eva Basner

27 Tevet - January 13

Lawrence Brody father, Leo Brody

28 Tevet - January 14

Sophia Mezhibovsky mother, Ruchel Kleyner

SHEVAT 5770 - JAN./FEB. 2010

3 Shvat— January 18

Sylvia Margolis.....mother

Phyllis Schneierfather

4 Shvat — January 19

Esther Marder sister, Ruth Berkow

Sylvia Margolis..... sister, Rose

5 Shvat — January 20

Ted Poretz..... mother, Inez Poretz

7 Shvat — January 22

Lillian Glasser father, Himan Smith

Lena Kogan..... mother, Rimma Glushenkova

Irving Smith father, Himan Smith

8 Shvat — January 23

Golda Bosowitch stepson, Kevin Phillip Pearlman

9 Shvat — January 24

Norman Mironov brother, Irving

10 Shvat — January 25

Joan Israel aunt, Lillian Shaffer

Bobbi Rubin Grandmother Buchbinder

Harry Schick Grandmother Buchbinder

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- 13 Shvat — January 28
Sara Parsowith mother, Carol Matz
Milton Yatvin your father, Isaac
- 14 Shvat — January 29
Bruce Horowitz your mother
- 15 Shvat—January 30
Eli Bussel father, Max Bussel
- 16 Shvat — January 31
Joan Israel uncle, Harry
Mark Morrison aunt, Sadie
Norman Mironov Sarah Mironov
- 17 Shvat — February 1
Harry Schick Grandfather Schick
Bobbi Rubin Grandfather Schick
- 18 Shvat—February 2
Dan Beckenstein brother, Yosef
- 20 Shvat — February 4
Sophia Mezhibovsky husband, Mikhail
Carol Weisfelner mother, Channa Isser
- 27 Shvat — February 11
Gary Bagen aunt, Eleanor Berman
Ron Bagen aunt, Eleanor Berman
Mark Morrison father

Poile Zedek Cemetery
Affordable Interment Options
for you and your family.

The Poile Zedek Cemetery has a number of plots still available. Reserving a plot in advance gives you and your family peace of mind and insures that family members will be buried next to each other. The fee for reserving/buying a plot in our cemetery is extremely reasonable.

To reserve plots for your family or for more information please call Kevin Leff, of the Poile Zedek Cemetery Association, (201) 310-4802 or the synagogue at (732) 545-6123, or Email admin@poilezedek.org.

Yahrzeit Donations

To sponsor a Kiddush or breakfast, or make a donation in memory of your loved one, please complete and return the form below to the synagogue.

Also, in order to help keep the Yahrzeit list up to date, please let us know the full name of the above family member and any other family member(s) that you would like included and return to the synagogue.

Name _____

Address _____

I would like to (check one)

sponsor a daily breakfast - \$18 sponsor a Sunday breakfast - \$25 sponsor a Kiddush - \$36

make a donation in memory of :

Relative's name _____ Hebrew date of death _____

Enclosed please find my check for \$18 \$25 \$36 \$54 \$72 \$100 other _____.

Please add the following names to the Yahrzeit list:

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