Dec. 17, 1957
Congregation Tifereth Israel
24 Kislev 5718

Chanukah - Dec. 18 to Dec. 25

CHANUKAH ISSUE
CHANUKAH SUGGESTIONS

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

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

2. Plan a simple program for lighting the Menorah in your home.
   a. Explain briefly the significance of the holiday before the lighting of the candles on the first night. All members of the family should be present at candle lighting.
   b. Let each child light a candle or his own Menorah.
   c. Give presents (Chanukah gelt), wrapped in Chanukah wrappings, if possible, each night after candle lighting.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Boruch ato hashem* eloheu melech haolom, asher kidishnu bemitzvosov vetsivonu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by thy commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

2. Boruch ato hashem* Eloheu melech haolom, she-so nisim lavosenu bayonim hohaim bazeman hazeh.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in the days of old at this season.

3. Boruch ato hashem* Eloheu melech haolom, shehechiyounu ve'kiyamounu vehigianu lazeman hazeh.

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

(to be recited after the candles are lit)

Haneros halolu anachnu madlikin ol hanisim v'al hatshuos v'al haniflo-os she-osiso laavoseinu ol yeday l'chanecha hakodoshim, v'echol shmonas yamay Chanukah haneros halolu kodesh hahim v'ain loru reshus lehishtamesh bohem ol lirosom bilvad, kedey lehados leshimcho ol nisecho ve-ol yeshuosocho ve-ol nifleosecho.

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

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

HAOZ TZUR

Naoz tzur yeshuosi
Lecho no-eh leshaby-ach,
Tikon ba'i tefilosi
Veshom todo nezabe-ach.
Le-es tachin matbay-ach
Hitzor hamnabay-ach,
Oz egmor beshir mizmor
Jhanukas hamizbay-ach.

Yevonim nikbetsu olai
Azei binei chashmonim,
Ufortsu chomos nigdolai
Ve'tima kol hashmonim.
Umivosor kankemim
Na-aseh nes lashoshanim,
Benei vino yemay shmono
Kovu shir urnonim.

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

Children of the martyr race,
Whether free or fettered.
Make the echoes of the songs,
Where ye may be scattered,
Yours the message cheering,
That the time is nearing,
Which will see, all men free
Tyrants disappearing.
1. There should be sufficient oil in the Chanukah menorah, or candles large enough, to burn at least half an hour. The tapers should be placed in a straight line, since no day of Chanuka is superior to another. Only the Shamash may stand on a different level.

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

3. One light is kindled the first evening, and an additional one each succeeding evening for eight evenings. The Shamash does not count as a candle. It is used only for lighting the other candles. The individual candles are put in place starting with the right-hand side of the menorah. The candles are lit from left to right, i.e., the last one placed in the menorah is the first to be lit. The blessings are recited BEFORE lighting the candles. "Haneiros Halalu" and haas 'zur follow the kindling of the lights.

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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN IN NEW BUILDING ON JAN. 5

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

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

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

***

CHANUKAH PLAY DEC. 22

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

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

***

LOU KOHN APPOINTED TREASURER

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

***

At the New Shul

NEW YEAR’S EVE DINNER
Tuesday evening, Dec. 31, 1957

SISTERHOOD DONOR DINNER
Sunday evening, Jan. 12, 1958
"America Illustrated", The U.S. Information Agency's Russian-language magazine published monthly in the Soviet Union, carries an article on "What is Education", which quotes six college presidents, including Dr. Belkin of Yeshiva.

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

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

***

Hazel Tov

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

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

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

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

***

KINDLE THE SABBATH LIGHTS

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

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

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

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

***

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

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

***