




Temple Beth Sholom

December 2012 5773

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

חזק חזק ונתחזק
Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened.



The December Dilemma

The comparisons between Chanukah and Christmas in the United States are inevitable. Because the two holidays fall out in December, they have gotten crammed together in the brains of retailers, schools, the media and the general population. Though the holidays have nothing to do with each other, (aside from the fact that the stories behind both holidays are contained in the Christian bible), the status of Chanukah has risen amongst the Jewish community of the United States to a level far beyond its original intent as a minor festival. Because of retailers, the media and kids whose parents do not want to deprive their children of the same kinds of experiences as their Christian neighbors, gift giving has become associated with the Festival of Lights.

So, Chanukah, in the past 50-60 years or so, and in the eyes of the general population of the US, has become a time of gift giving, like Christmas and Kwanzaa, only in a Jewish sort of way. It began innocently, a generation or two ago, as Jewish parents gave their children a few coins-Chanukah Gelt- and has progressed to expensive gift giving.

There is nothing particularly wrong about giving gifts. It's just that they don't have any particular significance or connection to the Festival of Chanukah. In fact, if gifts are not given, you have done nothing wrong or diminished the holiday in any way.

We should be clear about something: The reason we give presents on Chanukah is because Chanukah just happens to arrive around the same time as Santa. Our holiday has become engulfed by the US's obsession with Christmas presents.

The irony here is simple: The reason for the Festival of Lights is because the Jewish people fought a war to keep from being assimilated by another culture and religion. And here we are, over 2,000 years later, being influenced by another religion and culture!

Israel celebrates Chanukah just as we do in the U.S., but without gift giving. Israelis give gifts on the Festival of Purim!

We must never forget why Judah Maccabee led his troops into battle. We must fulfill the mitzvah of lighting the candles each night. We can also follow tradition by eating jelly donuts or latkes. Giving presents or money is great! But we should not forget that this is above and beyond the original intent of this joyous festival.

Join us as we celebrate the last night of the Festival of Lights together:
Saturday, December 15, 6 PM at Temple Beth Sholom.

Happy Chanukah!
Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum



Dear Congregants:

I usually write an article appropriate for the Jewish holiday or the season coinciding with our newsletter. But, this time I would like to talk about some good things that have occurred relating to our temple.

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

We were fortunate to attract a Rabbi as talented as Rabbi Rosenbaum's to Lake Havasu. Once he made the decision to join our congregation it was then my job to develop an atmosphere with the Rabbi's help to increase our congregation's numbers. The Rabbi has definitely shown his cantorial skills and has made our services more enjoyable and more participatory. He has expressed his enjoyment with our community and is dedicated to ensuring our future. This is exactly what Temple Beth Sholom needed at a time when we were struggling to survive. We will be lighting our menorahs on Dec 15th to symbolize Chanukah's festival of rededication. Our resurgence begins now.

Eli Goldblatt

You are asking yourself who is Eli Goldblatt? Eli works for Shalom and Sons and I met him while I was in Las Vegas, NV. He is the sales representative for Shalom and Sons. They supply Smiths Food and Drug stores with all the Jewish novelties and kosher products. His company will be supplying some of the items for our Chanukah party. He will be in Lake Havasu the week before Chanukah and will deliver some dreidels.

I am sure that this relationship will help us obtain more Jewish products in Lake Havasu.

Jon E Stern

Again some of you are asking yourself, who is Jon E Stern? Jon is a new reporter for Today's News Herald. He lives in Bullhead City with his wife and two sons. He met with the Rabbi last week and published a very informative Chanukah article. He is Jewish and is interested in writing articles about the issues that help inform our community about the Jewish religion. I am excited as some of you may be we will have a voice at the newspaper. He is also interested in joining the temple when he gets settled in with his family.

Rabbi Segal

When I found the "Jewish Experience" at the Smiths Food and Drug grocery store I also found a the name and number of a scribe in Las Vegas that will look at our torah and give us a repair estimate. I have contacted Rabbi Segal and have made arrangements to drop off our torah next week. This is another step ensuring our religious future by extending the life of the document that is the core of our religion.

I wanted to let you know of these new connections because they represent positive signs for the temple. I will continue to do all that I can to find ways to help our congregation succeed.

Shalom, Stuart



Our thanks for donations from the following congregants

Garry Meyers for his continued generous donations
and to Jill Fetz for the DELICIOUS home baked challahs

Temple Beth Sholom

Rabbi Elliot Rosenbaum

2012 TBS Board of Directors

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|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
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Why Do We Celebrate Chanuka?

By 169 B.C.E. (2171 years ago) the ruler of the Northern Greek Empire (created by Alexander the Great) was the King of Syria. An egotistical tyrant, Antiochus the Fourth, added "Ephiphonus" ("God on Earth") to his title. In an effort to unite his kingdom, made up of many different peoples with many different religions, Antiochus passed a series of laws designed to force all of his subjects to convert to the Greek religion, Hellenism (Zeus, Apollo, Mount Olympus, etc.)

For the people of Israel, who were ruled by the Syrian king, this series of laws became more and more difficult to follow. Rebellions began to take place throughout Israel. A great soldier, Judah the Maccabee, arose to lead the Jewish army against the Syrians sent by Antiochus. The war raged for 3 years, ending in a victory for Israel. Israel was once again an independent nation.

After their victory over the Greeks, the Israelites returned to the Great Temple in Jerusalem to find it desecrated and in ruins. As legend has it, there was only one small vessel of oil with which to light the Menorah that would have lasted only one day. The miracle was that the oil lasted eight days, enough time to make more oil for the Temple.

A year later the rabbis of the time created a new festival, designating that, beginning with the 25th of Kislev, eight days of Chanuka are to be observed on which praise and thanksgiving were to be said. This declaration was recorded in the Talmud.

How to Celebrate Chanukah

- ☆ Kindle the Chanukah menorah on each of the 8 nights of Chanukah after nightfall.
- ☆ Use olive oil or paraffin candles, large enough to burn for half an hour.
- ☆ Use a "shamesh" (helper candle) to kindle the lights, and place it in its special place on the menorah.
- ☆ All family members should be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights.

- ☆ The Chanukah lights should be displayed in the front window or by a doorway.
- ☆ It has become traditional to give gifts or “gelt” (money) on Chanukah.
- ☆ Traditional foods made with oil (to commemorate the Miracle of the Oil) such as Latkes (potato pancakes) or Sufganiote (jelly donuts fried in oil) may be eaten.
- ☆ On Friday afternoon the Chanukah lights are kindled BEFORE the Shabbat candles are lit.

NOTE: From the time the Shabbat candles are lit until Shabbat ends, the Chanukah menorah should not be relit, moved or prepared. After Shabbat ends, the Chanukah lights for Saturday night are kindled.

How to light the Chanukah Candles:

On the first night of Chanukah, one light is lit and on each successive night another light is added until the eighth night when all the lights are lit. On the first night, light the candle on your extreme right. The following night add a candle immediately to the left of the first and kindle it first. Then kindle the light of the previous night. Follow the same procedure each night always **adding from right to left** but **always lighting from left to right**. The reason for this procedure is that the additional light recalls the greatness and growth of the miracle.

+ RGDQGOJ KMH6 KDP P HV KHSHU FDQGOI

Praised are you, Lord our G-d,
King of the universe,
whose mitzvot add holiness
to our life and who gave us the
mitzvah to light the lights of Cha-
nukah.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,
ha-clam melech eloheynu adnai atah baruch

אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנכה.
chanuka shel ner l'hadlik v'tsivanu b'mitsvotav kid'shanu asher

Praised are you, Lord our G-d,
King of the universe,
who accomplished miracles for
our ancestors in ancient days,
and in our time.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,
ha-olam melech eloheynu adonai atah baruch

אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנכה.
chanuka shel ner l'hadlik v'tsivanu b'mitsvotav kid'shanu asher

2 QMHILUAM KDBG

Praised are you, Lord our G-d,
King of the universe,
for granting us life, for sustain-
ing us, and for enabling us to
reach this day.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,
ha-olam melech eloheynu adonai atah baruch

שְׁחַחֲנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.
hazch laz'man v'higiyanu v'kiy'manu shechcheyanu

3. Kindle the candle(s)

4. Sing Ma-oz Tsur:

Rock of ages, let our song praise
 Your saving power.
 You, amid the raging foes,
 were our sheltering tower.
 Furious, they assailed us,
 but Your arm availed us,
 (And Your word broke their sword,
 When our own strength failed us.)-2

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעַת לְךָ נִצָּח לְשַׁבַּח
 l'shabeyach na-eh l'cha y'shu-ati tsur ma-oz

תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלְתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח
 n'zabeyach todah v'sham t'filati beyt tikone

לֵעֵת תִּכּוֹן מִטְּבַח מִצָּר הַמְּנִיחַ
 ham'nabeyach mitsar mat'beyach tachin l'eyt

אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
 hamizbeyach chanukat mizmor b'shir egmor az

How to Play Dreidle

The Game

The four letters which appear on the four corners of a dreidel alude to the miracle of Chanukah. Taken one after the other they spell out (from right to left): Nes Gadol Haya Sham: A Great Miracle Happened There (In Israel the Shin-Sham-There- becomes a Pay which stands for Here)





Here's How:

All players get an equal amount of pennies, chocolate coins (gelt), candies, raisins, or tokens.

All players put one token in the pot in the center.

The dreidel is a four sided spinning top with a different Hebrew letter on each side. Players take turns spinning the dreidel.

The player acts according to the letter which is facing up when the dreidel stops spinning.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|----|---|---|
| 1. |  | nun- Nes: player does nothing | 2. |  | gimel- Gadol: player takes all the tokens in the pot |
| 3. |  | hay- Haya: player takes half of the tokens in the pot | 4. |  | shin- Sham: player must put one token into the pot |

The winner is the one with the most tokens

Joe's Mom's Potato Latkas

4 Large potatoes, scrubbed but not peeled, then cut to fit the shredding tube of a food processor
 1 Large Egg
 1 Medium Onion, cut to fit the shredder of a food processor
 2 Tbls. Of Flour
 1 teaspoon of salt
 Freshly Ground Black Pepper
 Oil to Fry

- Place potatoes and onion in food processor and grate.
- If Potatoes give off a large amount of liquid then drain in colander.
- Add the flour, egg and spices. Mix well.
- Form Latkas and fry in oil.

Notes: To check if oil is hot enough, drop a little shredded potato into the pan. They should sizzle immediately. This recipe will make 16- 20 Latkas- slightly larger than a silver dollar.

Sponsors are needed for Oneg Shabat.

Oneg sponsorship requires that you supply refreshments for the congregation
or simply donate \$30.00 to buy the items.

Help support Temple Beth Sholom, contact David to purchase scrip that you can then
use to purchase groceries at Smiths or Bashas supermarkets.
David has scrip available in various denominations, using scrip to purchase groceries
is a painless way to financially benefit the temple.
You have to eat anyway, support the temple when you buy groceries.
Contact David at weisbly4@me.com for more information

Temple Beth Sholom needs your PARTICIPATION

**If you are aware of unaffiliated families, please invite them to
Sabbath services and/or advise the board.**

**Please consider taking a more active part in running your temple.
Call, email or let us know at services.**

Schedule of services through 2012

Friday, Dec. 14th at 7:30 PM Shabbat Service
Saturday, Dec. 15th at 6:00 PM Chanukah Celebration
Friday, Dec. 28th at 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

Our Next Board Meeting will be announced in a separate email

6:00pm at the Temple.

Plan on attending, show your support of TBS

Everyone is welcome