



Hamodi'a is published six times per year by

**Congregation Sons of Israel**

*The Lehigh Valley's Gateway to Judaism*

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CongregationSonsofIsrael



Congregation Sons of Israel's Information & Torah Newsletter



בס"ד

# Hamodi'a

## Chanukah Message

Many explanations have been brought forth to explain the eight-day observance of Chanukah, one of which was to the effect that the first day of Chanukah was originally designated in memory of the military victory over the Greeks who sought to destroy every last vestige of Judaism. This matter is mentioned in Megillat Ta'anit, which precedes the reactions in the Mishnah and the Talmud. In the Talmud only the miracle of the lights is mentioned. Why the difference?

At the time of the event, during the days of the Hasmoneans and shortly thereafter, the essential rejoicing of the Jews was over the military victory, over the destruction of the wicked and the multiplication of the decrees against the observance of Shabbat, of Rosh Chodesh, and of Brit Milah. To later generations, the essential joy was over the miracle of the oil, for the Hasmonean Kingdom subsequently ceased to exist. Their descendants perished while the sanctuary still stood. The

sanctuary and the nation of Israel was once again swept into bondage among the nations. Yet the miracle of the oil endured eternally. In commemoration of that miracle, the people of Israel light the Chanukah lamps each year in all of the lands of our dispersion.

Wherever oil is mentioned in the Torah or in the words of the sages with reference to lighting the Menorah, an allusion is intended to the wisdom of the heart and the thoughts of the mind. When the Greeks entered the sanctuary, they defiled all of the oils and symbolically blemished the feelings and thoughts of the people of Israel.

***“As long as our faith is unshaken and our thoughts are pure, we are redeemed even in bondage.”***

When the Hasmoneans returned to the sanctuary victoriously, they found only one jar of oil marked with the seal of the Cohen Gadol, which in itself was a miracle, sufficient to light the lamps for only one day. A miracle occurred and they burned eight days. The hand

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***This issue of Hamodi'a is sponsored by Sandy Preis and Gary Preis.  
Happy Chanukah to all!***

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# From Our President

## Chanukah - A festival of light - A time of miracles

But it's not just about oil that burned for 8 days. And it's not just about the miracles we recount when we recite "V'Al Hanissim" during Shemoneh Esrei and Birchah Hamazon.

The story could not have been possible had it not been for a person named Matisyahu and later his sons, the Maccabees. Had they not answered an inner call, perhaps from Hashem, imagine what the outcome could have been. They responded not just to a sense of preservation, but also to a sense of duty.

This theme is not unique to Chanukah and the Maccabees. We see this theme throughout the Torah as early as Avraham Avinu when the stage was set for the Akeida. In that case, there was a direct call to Avraham - and his answer was "Heneini" (here I am). Perhaps Matisyahu responded to a similar call.

As we approach this happy time of our Jewish year, let us consider how blessed we are as individuals, families and community, and what the word Heneini means for each of us.

Each week, on Shabbos, when I read the announcements, there seems to always be a plea for some type of action to be taken in response to some form of community need. In some way, the theme I spoke of earlier is alive in these weekly pleas.

Although struggling to return to pre-pandemic times, there is much available for those who wish to avail themselves. And there is much yet to be accomplished.

To our members who have joined in the effort to return Sons of Israel to its former state, I offer a sincere thanks. To all others who are able, I ask that you consider that voice inside calling to you. Please join us by answering "Heneini".

Extending my best wishes to all for a Chag Chanukah Sameach,

~Steven Tager



Support us when you shop this holiday season

**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Happy  
Hanukkah  
Chanukkah  
Hannukah  
Channukah  
Hanukah  
Chanukah



However You Spell it  
Have a Happy One!

*Chanukah message continued...*

of the Rebbono Shel Olom was clearly at work, that the sole surviving spark of true wisdom was fanned into a flame by which the nation of Israel would illuminate the world with the truth of Torah and the wisdom of its sages.

The miracle of purification is needed by the Jewish people through all generations. As long as our faith is unshaken and our thoughts are pure, we are redeemed even in bondage. If, G-d forbid, our beliefs and wisdom are tainted, then we are enslaved even in apparent freedom. A very decree issued by the non-Jewish world against Israel is subject to nullification if we are devout and righteous.

May the nations of the world walk in the light of the Majestic Menorah of Israel for all eternity.

Robert E. Simon,  
Ritual Chair

# Everything You Wanted to Know About Chanukah...

## *Who Is Supposed To Light The Chanukah Candles?*

1. Every Jewish man and woman must kindle Chanukah lights. Even the poor must try to kindle at least one light each night.
2. To publicly proclaim the miracle of Chanukah, the lights are kindled by the head of the family in the presence of the entire household. The household members may fulfill their mitzvah with head of the family, by listening to his blessings and answering "Amen." (If they hear the blessings but neglect to answer "Amen," the mitzvah is still fulfilled.) It is proper practice for the young to light, familiarizing themselves with the Mitzvah.
3. If one does not know how to recite the blessings, someone else may recite them for him (even if this person has already said the blessings on his own lights). The person hearing the blessings should answer "Amen," and then kindle the lights.
4. If a member of the household (who lives and eats there) is out when the lights are kindled, he has nevertheless fulfilled his mitzvah since the family head surely lit for him, too.
5. If one is living temporarily away from home, such as in a hotel, dormitory, or with relatives or friends, and no one lights for him at home, he must make arrangements to light for himself. If he has his own bedroom away from home, he should light there. If not, he should pay for a part of the oil or candles and fulfill the mitzvah when the hotel owner or his host kindles.
6. A minor may not kindle the lights for others.

## *Where & When Should I Light The Chanukah Candles?*

7. To publicly proclaim the miracle of Chanukah, one kindles the lights outside, near the left side of the front door, opposite the mezuzah. To distinguish these lights from ordinary lamps, one should place them at a height of at least three handbreadths (10.8 in.) from the floor. Properly, they should stand between three and ten handbreadths (36 in.) high. If this height is hazardous, one may place the Menorah higher than this.
8. On an upper floor, the lights are kindled at the right side of the window facing a public thoroughfare.
9. Do not light the lamps while holding the Menorah. The lamps should not be moved after lighting.
10. **Chanukah lights should be kindled at the onset of nightfall. This is 5:22 p.m. this year.** One may not do any work or even study Torah once the time for lighting has arrived.
11. The lights must burn until at least half an hour after nightfall. Therefore, one who kindles before the stars appear should make sure there is enough oil or wax to burn until a half hour after nightfall.
12. If the lights were not kindled at nightfall, try to light them within one half hour afterwards. If necessary, one may light until the crack of dawn. If one is lighting very late and no one outside will see the burning lamps, he should awaken someone in the house and kindle the lights, with the blessings.

## *Where & When Should I Light The Chanukah Candles?*

13. Even one who completely forgot to light one evening, should light on the rest of the evenings as usual.
14. Even if the lights are blown out, one has still fulfilled the mitzvah. Nevertheless, one should re-light them without the blessings. Lights may not be placed where they will be blown out easily.
15. When lighting Chanukah candles Friday evening, light the Menorah before lighting Shabbos candles. Make sure that there is enough oil in the Menorah to burn at least 1/2 hour after nightfall (approximately 1-1/2 hours from the time of Shabbos candle lighting). Those who use a

thin-candle Menorah for the other nights should use thick Shabbos-type candles on Friday evening.

## *What Kind of Candles or Oil Can I Use?*

16. All oils and waxes may be used for Chanukah lights. First choice, however, is olive oil; the miracle of Chanukah involved olive oil. There must be enough fuel to burn until the requisite half hour after nightfall.
17. After the lights burn out, the remains of the oil and the wicks may not be used. They should be burnt. One who specifies his intention to use the leftover wicks and oil, before kindling the lights, may use the leftover fuel after Chanukah.
18. It is praiseworthy to light as beautiful a Menorah as one can afford.

## *What's The Lighting Procedure?*

19. On the first night recite three blessings: "... asher kideshonu bemitzvosov vetzivonu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah"; "... she'osah nissim la'avoseinu...", and Shehechyanu. These blessings may be found in a standard Artscroll Siddur. One recites Shehechyanu only on the first night he lights candles.
20. If one inadvertently began to kindle the lights without reciting the blessings, and a light remains to be lit, he may still recite the blessings before kindling that light. If he has lit them all, he should recite only "She'osah Nissim."
21. After kindling the first light, say "Haneros Halolu" while lighting the remainder. If it is more convenient, one may recite it after completing all the lights.
22. On the first night, the rightmost lamp of the Menorah is lit. On subsequent nights the proper number of lamps are prepared in the rightmost positions. When lighting, the leftmost lamp (the one that has been added for that evening) is lit first, and then the rest of the lamps are lit moving towards the right. If your family has a different custom regarding the order of lighting and positioning, follow your family tradition.
23. One may not use the Chanukah lights for any purpose at all, even for the study of Torah. Therefore, it is customary to use an extra lamp or candle, the Shamash -- from which to light the Chanukah Menorah and to place it next to the Chanukah lights as a light for use. However, it is important to place the Shamash far away from the other candles, lest people become confused as to which night of Chanukah it is (thinking the Shamash is one of the regular candles).

## *What About Lighting In Shul?*

24. The Chanukah lamps are lit in the synagogue in a prominent location near the southern wall, because the Menorah in the Holy Temple was located near the southern wall. The person saying the blessings in the synagogue repeats them when he lights at home. If he has no family and lights alone, he says the first two blessings but does not repeat the Shehechyanu. Some communities kindle Chanukah lights in the synagogue every morning without reciting the blessings.



# A Message From Our Sisterhood

Sisterhood is in great need of being revitalized. With Covid and the passing of our dear member, Marjorie Jasper, who had been Sisterhood's treasurer, bills for dues, Book of Remembrance, and New Year's Greetings were not sent out the past couple of years. Sisterhood is struggling financially at this time to get back on its feet.

Names previously published in the Book of Remembrance and New Year's Greetings automatically appear each year unless we are asked to remove your listings. We thank you if you have made payments for your names which were included in these fundraisers.

Bills from Sisterhood will be sent out soon. It has been Sisterhood's policy to send out yearly dues to **ALL women who are members of Congregation Sons of Israel**. Dues are \$20. We don't know who would like to be a Sisterhood member and who would not. Please ignore this charge on the bill you receive if you don't want to be a part of our Sisterhood.

Sisterhood has supported the synagogue through its fundraisers and programs to help cover the costs of High Holiday security, babysitting, maintaining the shul's copier, and supporting the shul's Annual Gala.

## Sisterhood's ongoing fundraisers include:

- Tallis Weaving (If you'd like to weave a tallis, please contact our office.)
- Kosher Wine Cellar
- Gift Shop
- Selling of Giant & Weis Gift Cards
- Book of Remembrance
- New Year's Greetings in High Holiday edition of Hamodi'a
- Hamantaschen Bake Sale
- Holiday Bimah Flowers

**Sisterhood's Board needs new people to help us plan for future programs. If you can help or have any ideas, please contact Adina Poresky through the shul office. Thank you.**

## Support Sisterhood and Help the Shul



⇒ Before you go grocery shopping, please stop by our office to purchase **Giant or Weis gift cards**.

We receive 5% cash back from the stores on every dollar you spend when you purchase these **Giant or Weis gift cards**. This is an easy way to support our Sisterhood, who in turn supports the shul.

⇒ Also, know that our **WINE CELLAR** is stocked year round, not just for Pesach. A bottle of wine makes a great gift!

⇒ All items in our **Gift Shop** are now on sale for 10-25% off the ticketed price. Come see what we have! Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



# Cooking Corner with Diana Hirsch

## Aragon Chicken

I'm a big fan of fast, cheap, and easy. But when it deals with food, I add delicious to the list. I happen to have a very large collection of Jewish cookbooks and I found this recipe in "A Taste of Shabbos: The Complete Sabbath Cookbook." It was a project of the Women's Organization of Aish HaTorah. The book was originally published in 1987, so it isn't all that old. I don't see how I missed this. It would have been a staple if I'd seen it sooner. But we have it now.

## Aragon Chicken

### Ingredients:

- 3-4 lbs. chicken, cut into pieces
- Flour [to coat the chicken]
- Oil [for cooking in]
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ½ cup dry white wine

### Directions:

- ⇒ Coat pieces of chicken with flour.
- ⇒ Brown in oil in a [large] frying pan.
- ⇒ Cover the chicken with the chopped onion.
- ⇒ Add salt, pepper, cinnamon, and ground cloves.
- ⇒ Cover the frying pan, reduce flame to low, and simmer until the onions are transparent.
- ⇒ Add white wine.
- ⇒ Simmer until the chicken is tender.
- ⇒ Serve piping hot on a bed of rice.

### Notes:

1. Remember to rinse the chicken well before you start making this. (The water scares away germs.)
2. I'm OCD, so I spend lots of time picking out any feathers left on the chicken. I have to start making dinner an hour early because of that. I don't care that people (notably husband and roommates) laugh. I won't eat feathers.

3. The official "chef" way is to heat the pan, put the oil in, and let that heat up to just before it starts smoking before putting the food in. The food absorbs less oil that way.

4. To make this for Passover, substitute matzo meal for the flour.

5. The latest method I read about for not crying when chopping onions is to put the onions in the freezer for a while. The frozen onions can't release the onion stuff that makes you cry. It sounds reasonable.

6. The salt and pepper are to taste. Now, if we're talking about my taste...

7. I have nothing to say about the wine. My favorite is Manischewitz, so my opinion is moot.

8. The best way to know if the chicken is done is to use a meat thermometer. Stick it into the thickest part (not on the bone) and the chicken is done when the thermometer reads 165°.

9. Enjoy.

## COMMUNITY HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND JOIN US AT THE JCC AS WE CELEBRATE HANUKKAH WITH THE COMMUNITY. ENJOY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY INCLUDING FAMILY ACTIVITIES, KIDS CRAFTS, LATKES, AND DOUGHNUTS. END THE NIGHT AS WE LIGHT THE MENORAH TOGETHER.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 | AT THE JCC**

TO REGISTER CALL 610-435-3571 OR GO ONLINE AT [LVJCC.ORG/HANUKKAH](http://LVJCC.ORG/HANUKKAH)



**FAMILY ACTIVITIES**  
3-4:30PM

ADVANCE REGISTRATION  
IS REQUIRED

PRICE: \$20/FAMILY  
JCC MEMBERS:  
\$15/FAMILY\*

\*FAMILY PRICE INCLUDES  
PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN THE  
HOUSEHOLD. INDIVIDUALS  
(GRANDPARENTS AND  
CAREGIVERS) MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY A FAMILY AND  
PURCHASE A SEPARATE TICKET.

**COMMUNITY CANDLE  
LIGHTING**  
4:30-5PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE  
COMMUNITY

CONTACT: JACKIE WEISS ([jweiss@lvjcc.org](mailto:jweiss@lvjcc.org))



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# Thank You for Sharing. . . And Caring

## GENERAL FUND

A speedy recovery to Marcel Guindine  
*Eileen Ufberg*

Best wishes to the Padin Family in their  
new home  
*Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando*

In memory of Amy Fels's beloved father  
*Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando*  
*Barry & Carol Halper*  
*Alan & Abby Wiener*  
*Andy & Debbie Kimmel*  
*Karen & Peter Cooper*

Yasher Koach to Hartley Lachter on his  
thoughtful and instructive drasha  
*Barry & Carol Halper*

In honor of John Schneider's special  
birthday  
*Alan & Abby Wiener*

Yasher Koach to Hartley Lachter on  
giving a very meaningful drasha  
*Karen & Peter Cooper*

In honor of the birth of Hannah Kayla  
Benavie  
*Barry & Carol Halper*

In memory of Maurice Ojalvo  
*Mike & Carol Herman*

In memory of Jessica Cooperman's  
beloved Uncle Edward  
*Moshe & Lisa Markowitz*

In memory of Baron Jasper  
*Moshe & Lisa Markowitz*  
*Cooky & Mike Notis*  
*Arlene & Richard Stein*  
*Rusty & Nate Schiff*

A thank you to all at SOI for the beautiful  
times we had from winning the Great  
Adventure and IronPigs tickets, and in  
appreciation of April and her wonderful  
event  
*Raizy Kaplun*

A speedy recovery to Harry Fisher's  
sister  
*Moshe & Lisa Markowitz*

## MOTY HORNSTEIN

## ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Maurice Ojalvo  
*Judith Saranga*

## CANTOR SAMUEL WEISS

### MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

A speedy recovery to Marcel Guindine  
*Robert Simon*

In memory of Amy Fels's beloved father  
*Robert Simon*

A happy birthday to Robert Simon  
*Barbara S. Refowich*

In honor of the birth of Hannah Kayla  
Benavie  
*Robert Simon*

A happy wedding anniversary to  
Steven & Anne Tager  
*Robert Simon*

In memory of Baron Jasper  
*Robert Simon*

In appreciation of Robert Simon  
*Rance & Sheryl Block*

## DR. STEVEN W. WEINER

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Mikhail Karpilovsky  
Robert & Chana Weiner

## RALPH WEINER MEMORIAL

### KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of the birth of Eva & Albert  
Derby's first great grandson, Adin Noah  
*Steven & Anne Tager*

In memory of Mark & Alice Notis's  
beloved nephew  
*Marcia Schechter*

In appreciation of the CSOI minyan  
group for coming to our home during  
shiva  
*Amy & Eric Fels*

In appreciation of Rabbi David Wilensky  
and family for being with us for the High  
Holidays  
*Amy & Eric Fels*

In appreciation of Rabbi Seth Phillips for  
his kindness and caring upon the passing  
of my beloved husband, Stuart Schwartz  
*Janice Schwartz*

In honor of Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando's  
40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
*Steven & Anne Tager*

You are cordially invited to attend  
the JDS and PJ Library

# Chanukkah Party

WEDNESDAY | DEC 21 | 5:30PM

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY  
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Join us for lights, laughs, and latkes as  
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\$15 per adult | \$10 per child (under 3 is free) | Max \$60 per family

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OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY





## BAGEL & LOX SUNDAY BRUNCHES

The Sons of Israel Men's Club and the Regina Brenner Memorial Fund have offered to help sponsor:

### Sunday Bagel & Lox Brunches



There are four brunches scheduled, **January 15, February 19, March 12,** and **one in May**. A local speaker will be invited to give a talk of interest to all, and a Q & A session will follow each talk. Participants are welcome to stay and enjoy a wonderful opportunity for informal time with friends and new acquaintances. The committee would like these brunches to provide a time for people to gather and use the Shul as a place to socialize with others.