THE BAR MITZVAH PROJECT AND CHANUKAH

Mordechai Beilis

Dedicated in memory of my father *Aharon Simcha ben Yitzhak, z"l,* and my mother *Mazala Aviva bat Menachem, a"h*

My father never officially had a Bar Mitzvah. I just had my second.

Chanukah, celebrating the dedication or, should we say, rededication of the Temple, is a minor holiday in Judaism. In fact, the question I have is why even celebrate or commemorate this event at all?

Antiochus IV, who was in control of the Middle East more than a century after the death of Alexander the Great, upended the autonomy that Alexander had given the people when he allowed them to continue to observe their own religions. Under Alexander's relatively benevolent rule, many Jews assimilated into the Hellenistic culture. They adopted the language, the customs and the dress of the Greeks. This blending into the secular society, as Jews did in Europe in the last century, and as American Jews are doing today, can be both beneficial and disastrous for Jewry.

Under Antiochus IV, the Second Temple was looted and services stopped. Judaism was outlawed. In 167 B.C.E., Antiochus prohibited *Brit Milah* (circumcision) and ordered pigs to be slaughtered on the Temple altar. These actions provoked a large-scale revolt headed by Mattityahu HaKohen and his five sons. It started with Mattityahu killing a Jew who was anxious to offer a pig as a sacrifice.

By 165 B.C.E., the Jewish revolt against the Seleucid monarchy was successful. The Temple was liberated and rededicated, and then came the miracle of the oil. The festival of Chanukah was instituted to celebrate this event.

So my question is: Why continue to celebrate Chanukah when the Temple was destroyed and never rebuilt and the Jews of the time eventually assimilated as well? In the end, everything the Maccabees fought for and won was upended.

I believe that in maintaining the joyful celebration of Chanukah, the rabbis are reminding us that not everything in life is Tisha b'Av. We need to celebrate every victory we have in order to keep our Jewishness going.

My father was eight years old when he and his family fled Poland to Russia as the Germans invaded. He never had a Bar Mitzvah. When my time came to have a Bar Mitzvah, I asked my father if he wanted to be called up for an *aliya* as a Bar Mitzvah. He didn't want to. For my Bar Mitzvah I *leined* (read) only the haftarah because, not having attended a day school, learning to *lein* the Torah would have been beyond my abilities.

With the institution of the Bat/Bar Mitzvah Project at Lincoln Square Synagogue by Dassa Gerber Greenbaum and the Chaz, I decided to (as Rabbi Shaul Robinson said) re-energize my connection to Torah. I was pushing the boundaries of my limited beliefs. I was re-dedicating my relationship with G-d in a very real concrete way.

Learning to *lein* my *aliyah* portion was difficult. I would mispronounce the same word over and over again. Then I would pronounce that word correctly in one reading, but pronounce another word incorrectly in another. Still I pressed on. Bill Caplow, my mentor, had incredible patience. Finally, just a few days before Simchat Torah, the day of the Bar Mitzvah Project, it all came together.

The lighting of the menorah is often related to education. The fifteen of us in the Bar Mitzvah Project all had an education and our own reasons for doing it. Some never had a Bar Mitzvah. Some who even went to day school never *leined* because it wasn't the custom at that time. For some, the program was easy, for others it was a challenge. Still we came together with our families and friends and re-dedicated ourselves to Torah. We were a success.

My father felt a sense of loss at not being Bar Mitzvahed, but in the end he went up for a simple *aliyah* at my Bar Mitzvah.

The Maccabees had to risk their lives. They had to go beyond their own beliefs to conquer a superior army, to re-dedicate the Temple and, in essence, themselves to G-d.

Ten years after my father's death could I have done any less for him and me?

Mordechai Beilis is an IT specialist for the NYC 311 call center (DoITT). He attended the LSS Beginners Service in 1995.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS
Laura Gruca and Steven Lapkoff

MARRIAGES
Racheli Thau and Akiva Bedziner
Mazal Tov to mother, Devorah Altman
Dr. Jenny Choi and Dr. Marc Bessler
Jenna Nelson and Lev Beltser
Yelena Bogunova and Adi Nahmani
Lizzy Brenner and Sam Zakay
Mazal Tov to mother, Ann Crane

BIRTHS
Yehonatan and Gitty Bousbib, on the birth of a daughter, Chaya Rochel Bousbib
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Yehudah Aryeh and Ilana Bousbib
Rachel and Rafi Coten, on the birth of a daughter, Elisheva Miriam
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Esther Chana and Eliya Stromberg
Chava and Yosef Maccaba, on the birth of a son, Aharon Shalom
Chava Yehudis and Akiva Moshe Goodman, on the birth of a son, Shalom Dovber Goodman
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sharone D'vora and Shmuel Goodman
Sara and Ari Shapiro, on the birth of a daughter, Riva Odeliah
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Fay and Neal Shapiro
Batya and Yitzchak Shmallov, on the birth of a daughter
Mazal Tov to grandfather, Andy Siegel
Rachel Miriam and Eliezer Zev Stromberg, on the birth of a son, Moshe Meir Stromberg
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Esther Chana and Eliya Stromberg
Leah and Yaakov Weiner, on the birth of a daughter, Chana Rivka Weiner
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Dr. Janice Bennett

BAR/BAT MITZVAH
Michael Blitzer and Matthew Blitzer
Mazal Tov to parents, Elizabeth (Hadassah) Kirk and Gerald Blitzer
Joshua Broome
Mazal Tov to parents, Donna Mirman and Bernard Broome

SPEEDY RECOVERY
Roslyn Dickens, *Raizl bat Basha*
Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, *Mordechai Menashe ben Henya Ruchama*
Louis Vynerib, *Elazar HaCohen ben Malka*

CONDOLENCES
Ziporah Rothkopf, on the loss of her mother, Im Hee Lee
Captain Louis Stock, on the loss of his sister, Edith Kupferberg

TODAH RABBAH
Special thanks to Gavriel Berger for leading the LSS Beginners High Holiday Services in the absence of Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, and to Jeffrey Neuman and Dr. Ari Klapholz for reading the Torah.
The Gibber Family for sponsoring the High Holidays flowers at the Lincoln Square Synagogue Beginners Service and Helene Miller and Chaviva Warner for setting up the beautiful flowers
Kiddush Sponsors on the High Holidays: Dr. Sandra and Michael Hecht and their children, Susan Hecht and David Cohen and Robin and Neil Goldberg
Break Fast Sponsors following Yom Kippur Services: Ellen and Mordecai Lipkis
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CONGRATULATIONS
Mordechai Beilis, Bill Greenbaum, Moshe Jennings and Angelo Verga on their "Bar Mitzvah" as part of the LSS Bar Mitzvah Project
Happy 75th Birthday to Enid Langbert

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Tue Dec. 12, 2017 - 24th of Kislev
EREV CHANUKAH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:50 AM
Mincha . . . . . 4:15 PM
Light Chanukah Candles After . . 5:00 PM

Wed December 13, 2017 - 25th of Kislev
1st Day CHANUKAH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:15 PM
Light two candles . . . . . after 5:01 PM

Thu December 14, 2017- 26th of Kislev
2nd Day Chanukah
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:15 PM
Light three candles . . . . . after 5:01 PM

Fri December 15, 2017- 27th of Kislev
3rd Day Chanukah
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Light four candles before Shabbat candles
. . . . . 4:12 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:15 PM

Sat December 16, 2017 - 28th of Kislev
4th Day Chanukah *Mikeitz*
Morning Services. . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 2:50 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:15 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:00 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends
Light five candles . . . . . .after 5:12 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:20 PM

Sun December 17, 2017- 29th of Kislev
5th Day Chanukah
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:20 PM
Light six candles . . . . . after 5:02 PM

Mon December 18, 2017- 30th of Kislev
6th Day Chanukah ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:20 PM
Light seven candles . . . . after 5:02 PM

Tue December 19, 2017- 1st of Tevet
7th Day Chanukah ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:20 PM
Light eight candles . . . . . after 5:02 PM

Wed December 20, 2017- 2nd of Tevet
8th Day Chanukah
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:20 PM

Fri December 22, 2017 - 4th of Tevet
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:20 PM

Sat December 23, 2017 - 5th of Tevet
Vayigash
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 2:45 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:15 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:00 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:15 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:25 PM

Mon December 25, 2017 - 7th of Tevet
Legal Holiday
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Thu December 28, 2017 - 10th of Tevet
ASARAH B'TEVET
Fast begins at. . . . . 6:07 AM
Morning Services . . . . . 6:50 & 7:30 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 4:10 PM
Fast Ends . . . . . 5:08 PM

Fri December 29, 2017 - 11th of Tevet
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:19 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:25 PM

Sat December 30, 2017 - 12th of Tevet
Vayechee
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 2:50 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:20 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:05 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:20 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:25 PM

Mon January 1, 2018 - 14th of Tevet
Legal Holiday
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri January 5, 2018 - 18th of Tevet
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:25 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:30 PM

Sat January 6, 2018 - 19th of Tevet
Shemot
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 2:55 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:25 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:10 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:26 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:35 PM

Fri January 12, 2018- 25th of Tevet
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:32 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:35 PM

Sat January 13, 2018 - 26th of Tevet
Va'eira
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:05 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:35 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:20 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:34 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:40 PM

Mon January 15, 2018 - 28th of Tevet
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Wed January 17, 2018 - 1st of Shevat
ROSH CHODESH Shevat
Morning Services. . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri January 19, 2018 - 3rd of Shevat
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:40 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:45 PM

Sat January 20, 2018 - 4th of Shevat *Bo*
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:10 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:40 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:25 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:42 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 4:50 PM

Fri January 26, 2018 - 10th of Shevat
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:48 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 4:50 PM

Sat January 27, 2018 - 11th of Shevat
Beshalach
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:20 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 3:50 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:35 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:50 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 5:00 PM

Wed January 31, 2018 - 15th of Shevat
TU B'SHEVAT
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri February 2, 2018 - 17tht of Shevat
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 4:57 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:00 PM

Sat February 3, 2018 - 18th of Shevat
Yitro
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:30 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:00 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:45 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 5:59 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 5:05 PM

Fri February 9, 2018 - 24th of Shevat
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 5:06 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:10 PM

Sat February 10, 2018 - 25th of Shevat
Mishpatim Parashat Shekalim
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:40 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:10 PM
Mincha . . . . . 4:55 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 6:07 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv24 . . . . . 5:15 PM

Thu February 15, 2018 - 30th of Shevat
ROSH CHODESH Adar
Morning Services. . . . . 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri February 16, 2018 - 1st of Adar
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services. . . . . 7:10 & 7:40 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 5:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:20 PM

Sat February 17, 2018 - 2nd of Adar
Terumah
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:45 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:15 PM
Mincha . . . . . 5:00 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 6:16 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 5:25 PM

Mon February 19, 2018 - 4th of Adar
PRESIDENT'S DAY
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri February 23, 2018 - 8th of Adar
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 5:22 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:25 PM

Sat February 24, 2018 - 9th of Adar
Tetzaveh Parashat Zachor
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:55 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:25 PM
Mincha . . . . . 5:10 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 6:24 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 5:30 PM

Wed February 28, 2018 - 13th of Adar
TA'ANIT ESTHER
Fast Begins . . . . . 5:20 AM
Morning Services . . . . . 6:50 & 7:30 AM
Mincha/Ma'ariv . . . . . 5:20 PM
Fast Ends . . . . . 6:18 PM
Megilla Reading. . . . . 6:18 & 9:15 PM

Thu March 1, 2018 - 14th of Adar
PURIM
Morning Services . . . . . 6:15 & 7:30 AM
Women's Megilla Reading
. . . . . .10:00 AM
Megilla Reading . . . . . 1:00 PM
Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 5:35 PM

Fri March 2, 2018 - 15th of Adar
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 5:30 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:35 PM

Sat March 3, 2018 - 16th of Adar
Ki Tisa
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:50 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:35 PM
Mincha . . . . . 5:20 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 6:32 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 5:40 PM

Fri March 9, 2018 - 22nd of Adar
SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA
Morning Services. . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 5:38 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 5:40 PM

Sat March 10, 2018 - 23rd of Adar
Vayakhel-Pekudei - Parashat Parah
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 3:55 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 4:40 PM
Mincha . . . . . 5:25 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 6:40 PM
Move clock forward
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 6:45 PM DST

Fri March 16, 2018 - 29th of Adar
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:46 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 6:50 PM

Sat March 17, 2018 - 1st of Nisan
Vayikra Parashat Hachodesh
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services. . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Beginners Mishnayot. . . . . 5:05 PM
Talmud & Bible Classes . . . . . 5:35 PM
Mincha . . . . . 6:35 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 7:47 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 6:55 PM

Fri March 23, 2018 - 7th of NIsan
Morning Services . . . . . 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:53 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 6:55 PM

Sat March 24, 2018 - 8th of Nisan
SHABBAT HAGADOL *Tzav*
Morning Services. . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:15 AM
Mincha . . . . . 6:25 PM
Shabbat HaGadol Drasha . . . . . 6:50 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends . . . . . 7:55 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:00 PM

Thu March 29, 2018 - 13th of Nisan
Morning Services . . . . . 7:00 & 7:50 AM
Bedikat Chametz . . . . . after 7:59 PM

Fri March 30, 2018 - 14th of Nisan
EREV PESACH - *Taanit Bechorot*
Morning Services with Siyum
. . . . . 6:30 & 7:30 AM
Latest time to eat Chametz. . . 10:41 AM
Latest time to burn Chametz. . ..11:36 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:01 PM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 7:05 PM
Begin Seder . . . . . .after 7:50 PM

Sat March 31, 2018 - 15th of Nisan
PESACH
Morning Services. . . . . 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Mincha . . . . . 6:55 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:01 PM
Start Seder after. . . . . 8:02 PM

SAVE THE DATES

Beginners Shabbaton
$50, Lunch only: $25
Dec 8 - 9, March 23 - 24

Beginners Chanukah Party
$25 in advance, $30 at the door
Sat, Dec 18, 7:00 PM

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons - $25
Saturdays, 12:30 PM
Jan 6, Feb 3, March 3

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA
Fri, March 9

Purim Party
$25 in advance, $30 at the door
Wed, Feb 28, 6:00 PM

Beginners Shmooze - Free
Mon, March 5, 8:15 PM

Model Seder
$15 in advance, $20 at the door
Thu, March 22, 7:00 PM