

NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER

Lana Friedman

The only thing I remember from my Bat Mitzvah--other than feeling incredibly self-conscious--is a line from my *haftarah*, which is read on Chanukah: "Not by might, not by power, but by My spirit--said the Lord of Hosts." *Zechariah* 4:6.

I don't remember the line's context, yet these words have stayed with me throughout my life as a soothing whisper, reminding me that things are in G-d's control--not in anyone else's control, no matter how mighty some may seem. And, not in my control, no matter how hard I may fight to make it so.

This does not mean that we sit back and wait for the world to happen to us. Quite the opposite. We are G-d's partners, and we each need to do our part to manifest G-d's goodness here on Earth.

The relationship between G-d's power and human action is a big part of Jewish belief. Yet it is often extremely hard to feel this in the present tense, as we walk through our lives wondering which way to go, what not to say, who to be near.

G-d's involvement sometimes can only be seen after we pick up the pieces; only then are we shown the strength of G-d along our path.

The Chanukah story of the few overcoming the many, of the tiny amount of oil bringing such overpowering light, of the unexpected re-dedication of our Temple...the impossible becomes possible, with G-d's help.

Every year I am reminded of the great faith that was needed to take that first Chanukah step. To light the small amount of oil, knowing it would not be enough, yet lighting it anyway. Our human actions opening a crack in the door for G-d's miracle to shine through.



Chanukah was always my favorite holiday as a child. The excitement of eight nights of presents, each gift wrapped with a number taped to it by my aunt to let me know on which night it could be opened. Lighting the menorah with my parents, singing the prayers and songs against the backdrop of crisp dark nights at the beginnings of winter, are vivid memories that remain with me to this day.

In college and then as a single adult in the Upper West Side Jewish community, I got used to spending Jewish holidays more with peers than with family. My memories of Chanukah during those years are of attending what felt like an infinite number of "singles" Chanukah parties, enjoying festive Chanukah Shabbat meals at my synagogue, and lighting candles alone in my apartment. My longings for latkes and miracles intermixed, as my journey continued.

In large part thanks to Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and the Beginners Service, which I started attending during that time, I drew closer to Judaism and also became reacquainted with a classmate from college, who is now my husband.

As parents now, my husband and I see that it is not easy to convey the complex Chanukah story to our 2 and 1/2 year-old son. We start with the candles, increasing in number and glow night after night. We watch as an awareness of this mystery begins to take shape in his eyes, as he, my husband and I delight together in the light of the miracle. And we hope that, like ours, our son's experience of childhood Chanukah celebrations, as well as his Jewish life on a daily basis, will be filled with a feeling of warmth and wonder that will carry him through his life.

Lana Friedman lives with her family on Long Island. She is extremely grateful to Rabbi Buchwald, NJOP and the LSS Beginners Service.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Tamar Dubin and Meir Brodsky
Mazal Tov to parents, Alene Brodsky and Dr. Steven and Leah Brodsky
Aviah Rosen and Joshua Lew
Mazal Tov to mother, Marilyn Rosen
Hindi Silber and Boaz (Bryant) Macaraeg
Dr. Mivi (Mevaseret) Jacobs and Dr. Gal Maor Navon
Mazal Tov to parents, Batya and Eddie Jacobs
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Vicky and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin
Chana Liebe Goldberg and Yitzy Rokach
Mazal Tov to parents, Menachem (Morty) Goldberg and the late, Shelley Cohen, z"l

MARRIAGES

Anna Barkhan and Michael Yehuda (Michael) Cena
Sophie Lee Daitch and Rob Brumer
Mazal Tov to parents, Bobbie Sue Daitch and David Landau
Talia Gerber and Ari Amsterdam
Mazal Tov to parents, Tracy and Sander Gerber
Tali Levi and Zev Marcus
Mazal Tov to parents, Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Helga Weisburger
Leah Ruth (Caitlin) Phillips and Michael Klein
Adi Singer and Amitai Ruskin
Mazal Tov to parents, Maura and Adam Ruskin
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Sylvia Freyer

BIRTHS

Shira and Jared Boschan on the birth of a son,
Jonah Bryan (Yonah Lev)

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg
Nomi and Rabbi Yoel Epstein on the birth of a daughter,
Sarah Pessel
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Judith Weil and Lloyd Epstein
Amira and Adam Goldberg on the birth of a son,
Nadav Gaili
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg
Chava and Akiva Goodman on the birth of a son,
Levi Yitzchak
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Sharone D'vora and Shmuel Goodman
Meira and Uri Himelstein on the birth of a daughter,
Shoshana Geula
Mazal Tov to parents, Menachem (Morty) Goldberg and the late, Shelley Cohen, z"l
Ariela (Alesia) Tyletskaya and Chen Cohen on the birth of a son,
Lael

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Liana Kase
Mazal Tov to parents, Amy and Mitchell Kase
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Ruth Nelkin

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Louis Vynerb, *Elazar HaCohen ben Malka*
Barbara Reader, *Baila bat Clarissa*
Yedidya Flaquer, *Yedidya ben Ahuva*
Ruth Nelkin, *Rochel bat Sarah*
Geraldine Katz, *Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel*

Angelo Verga, *Malachi Yosef ben Miriam*

CONDOLENCES

Don Barrakette on the loss of his mother, Olga Barrakette, z"l
Deborah Bendheim on the loss of her mother, Jane Bendheim, z"l
Family of William (Bill) Witkin, z"l

CONGRATULATIONS

Aidel and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and the Beginners on the 45th anniversary of the LSS Beginners Service.
Dr. Richard Seaman on being honored at the *Chatanim* Celebration as part of Park East Synagogue's virtual Simchat Torah celebration.

TZETCHEM L'SHALOM (to live or study in Israel)

Dr. Stuart Blaustein

WILLIAM (BILL) WITKIN

Bill Witkin, who passed away before his time (age 67), was a person who very much preferred to be in the background, quiet, pensive, thoughtful and enjoyed watching others in the limelight, rather than himself. He was an intelligent, well read, cultured person, whose opinions were well-formed and passionate. He was always concerned with others, rather than himself, reflecting his very unusual quality not found among many today--a good heart. He will be sorely missed.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Thu Dec. 10, 2020 - 24th of Kislev

EREV CHANUKAH

Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM
 Light one candle after 5:00 PM

Fri Dec. 11, 2020 - 25th of Kislev

FIRST DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Light 2 candles before/Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:15 PM

Sat Dec. 12, 2020 - 26th of Kislev

Vayeshev

SECOND DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 2:45 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:10 PM
 Mincha..... 3:55 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:12 PM
 Light 3 candles after 5:12 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Sun Dec. 13, 2020 - 27th of Kislev

THIRD DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Light 4 candles after 5:01 PM

Mon Dec. 14, 2020 - 28th of Kislev

FOURTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Light 5 candles after 5:01 PM

Tues Dec. 15, 2020 - 29th of Kislev

FIFTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Light 6 candles after 5:01 PM

Wed Dec. 16, 2020 - 1st of Tevet

SIXTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

ROSH CHODESH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Light 7 candles after 5:02 PM

Thu Dec. 17, 2020 - 2nd of Tevet

SEVENTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Light 8 candles after 5:02 PM

Fri Dec. 18, 2020 - 3rd of Tevet

EIGHTH DAY OF CHANUKAH

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:13 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:15 PM

Sat Dec. 19, 2020 - 4th of Tevet

Miketz

Morning Services... 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 2:45 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:15 PM
 Mincha..... 4:00 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:14 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Fri Dec. 25, 2020 - 10th of Tevet

A'SARAH B'TEVET

LEGAL HOLIDAY

Fast begins at 6:07 AM
 Morning Services..... 7:10 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha..... 4:05 PM
 Candle Lighting 4:17 PM
 Kabbalat Shabbat 4:20 PM
 Fast Ends..... 5:16 PM

Sat Dec. 26, 2020 - 11th of Tevet

Vayigash

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 PM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 2:50 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:20 PM
 Mincha..... 4:05 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:18 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM

Fri Jan. 1, 2021 - 17th of Tevet

LEGAL HOLIDAY

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 8:30 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:22 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 PM
 Fast Ends..... 5:16 PM

Sat Jan. 2, 2021 - 18th of Tevet

Vayechee

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 2:55 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:25 PM
 Mincha..... 4:10 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:23 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:30 PM

Fri Jan. 8, 2021 - 24th of Tevet

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:28 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30 PM

Sat Jan. 9, 2021 - 25th of Tevet

Shemot - Shabbat Mevorchim

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:00 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:30 PM
 Mincha..... 4:15 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:29 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM

Thu Jan. 14, 2021 - 1st of Shevat

ROSH CHODESH

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:40 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 4:40 PM

Fri Jan. 15, 2021 - 2nd of Shevat

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:35 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:40 PM

Sat Jan. 16, 2021 - 3rd of Shevat

Vaerah

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:10 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:40 PM
 Mincha..... 4:25 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:37 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:45 PM

Mon Jan. 18, 2021 - 5th of Shevat

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri Jan. 22, 2021 - 9th of Shevat

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:44 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:50 PM

Sat Jan. 23, 2021 - 10th of Shevat

Bo

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:15 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:45 PM
 Mincha..... 4:30 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:45 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:55 PM

Thur Jan. 28, 2021 - 15th of Shevat

TU B'SHEVAT

Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:50 AM

Fri Jan. 29, 2021 - 16th of Shevat

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:52 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:55 PM

Sat Jan. 30, 2021 - 17th of Shevat

Beshalach

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:25 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 3:55 PM
 Mincha..... 4:40 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:54 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:05 PM

Fri Feb. 5, 2021 - 23rd of Shevat

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:01 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:05 PM

Sat Feb. 6, 2021 - 24th of Shevat

SHABBAT MEVORCHIM

Yitro

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:35 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:05 PM
 Mincha..... 4:50 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:02 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:05 PM

Fri Feb. 12, 2021 - 30th of Shevat

ROSH CHODESH

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:40 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:09 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:15 PM

Sat Feb. 13, 2021 - 1st of Adar

Mishpatim - Parashat Shekalim

ROSH CHODESH

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:45 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:10 PM
 Mincha..... 4:55 PM

Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:11 PM
 Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv 5:20 PM

Mon Feb. 15, 2021 - 3rd of Adar

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri Feb. 19, 2021 - 7th of Adar

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:18 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:20 PM

Sat Feb. 20, 2021 - 8th of Adar

Teruma - Parashat Zachor

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:50 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:20 PM
 Mincha..... 5:05 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:19 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:30 PM

Thu Feb. 25, 2021 - 13th of Adar

TA'ANIT ESTHER

Fast Begins 5:24 AM
 Morning Services 6:50 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha..... 5:15 PM
 Ma'ariv..... 6:14 PM
 Fast Ends 6:14 PM
 Megilla Reading... 6:14, 7:40 & 9:15 PM

Fri Feb. 26, 2021 - 14th of Adar

PURIM

Morning Services..... 6:15 & 7:30 AM
 Women's Megilla Reading..... 9:30 AM
 Additional Megilla Reading... 1:00 PM
 Early Mincha 1:45 PM
 Candle Lighting 5:26 PM

Sat Feb. 27, 2021 - 15th of Adar

SHUSHAN PURIM

Tetzaveh

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 4:00 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:30 PM
 Mincha..... 5:15 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:27 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:55 PM

Fri Mar 5, 2021 - 21st of Adar

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:34 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:40 PM

Sat Mar. 6, 2021 - 22nd of Adar

Ki Tisa - Parashat Parah

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 4:05 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:35 PM
 Mincha..... 5:20 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:35 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:45 PM

Fri Mar. 12, 2021 - 28th of Adar

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:42 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:45 PM

Sat Mar. 13, 2021 - 29th of Adar

Vayakhel-Pekudei - Parashat Hachodesh

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 4:00 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 4:30 PM
 Mincha..... 5:30 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:43 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:50 PM

Sun Mar. 14, 2021 - 1st of Nissan

ROSH CHODESH

Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:50 PM

Fri Mar. 19, 2021 - 6th of Nissan

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:49 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:55 PM

Sat Mar. 20, 2021 - 7th of Nissan

Vayikra

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:30 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 5:05 PM
 Lazar & Bible Classes 5:35 PM
 Mincha..... 6:35 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 7:51 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:00 PM

Fri Mar. 26, 2021 - 13th of Nissan

Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:57 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM

Sat Mar. 27, 2021 - 14th of Nissan

Tzav - Shabbat Hagadol

ERUV PESACH

Morning Services... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Service 9:15 AM
 Mincha..... 6:30 PM
 Shabbat Hagadol Drasha 6:55 PM
 Candle Lighting 7:57 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 7:58 PM

All classes and events are tentative, pending state COVID-19 regulations and updated synagogue policies.

Some classes may be offered on Zoom.

Please check lss.org/beginners for the most up to date information.

SAVE THE DATES

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons - \$25

Saturdays, 12:30 PM, Jan 2, Feb 6

Purim Party

\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door

Thurs, Feb 25, 7:30 PM

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

Fri, March 5

Beginners Shmooze

on Zoom - register online

Free

Mon, March 8, 8:15 PM

Beginners Passover Shabbaton

\$50, lunch only \$25

Fri- Sat, March 19 - 20

Model Seder

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Mon, March 22, 7:00 PM