CHANUKAH IS HERE ONCE MORE

by Gerald August

When I was three years old, I was in a Chanukah play at the Jewish Community Center in Wilmington, Delaware. I still remember the lines I delivered to two hundred people. "Chanukah is here once more. We'll buy candles at the store." I got an ovation. (But not a standing ovation.)

The home I came from was a traditional home that observed the holidays and kashruth. But my early education was in the public school system. However, when I was 15 years old, I went to a camp run by observant Jews who said I belonged in a yeshiva. And so, for the last two years of high school and several years thereafter, I went to a yeshiva.

Eventually, however, I went to the University of Delaware, and after graduation moved to New York and became a "three day a year Jew." Holidays, Shabbat and Kashrut, vanished. Oh, yes, I did light Chanukah ndles.

About five years ago, I was walking past Lincoln Square Synagogue and saw a poster for Rabbi Buchwald's Crash Course in Judaism. I don't know why I went in, but I did. It was interesting. No, it was more than interesting. It was a wonderful talk on the basics of Jewish belief. He explained things in a way that I had never heard before. He spoke about the moral and ethical side of the commandments. He opened my eyes to a Judaism that related to the world I live in. One of the things Rabbi Buchwald emphasized that stuck in my mind, was the numerous times the Torah repeats the command to be kind to strangers--because we (Jews) were strangers in the land of Egypt.

The Torah repeats this injunction, to be exact, thirty six times. I have often thought-why 36 times?? Finally, I concluded that certainly one of the most difficult things for a person to do, is to be kind to those who are different from us. Torah, with its profound understanding of the human psyche, emphasized and re-emphasized this commandment to firmly implant this sense of caring and empathy in our individual and national consciousness.

So, I started to attend the Beginners Service. Why would a yeshiva boy go to a Beginners Service? When you have been away for twenty years you have to get back to the basics.

Then Rabbi Buchwald suggested I take a class with Rabbi Simcha Weinberg. Great idea! I was immediately turned on to Rabbi Weinberg and what he was teaching. I learned from him how to let the Torah talk to me and how to talk to the Torah. I learned to question, to probe, and to ruminate. Torah study became alive, exciting, dynamic, creative and meaningful. My mind got sharper. (Maybe you CAN teach an old dog new tricks.)

One more thing. The people I met at the Beginners Service were into working on improving their moral and ethical character. They were very concerned, for example, about *Loshon Hara* (evil speech). Once I visited the home of someone who had a sign posted on his door which read *"No Loshon Hara spoken here."* Gradually, impressed by these excellent role models, I also began to develop a greater sensitivity for proper speech. Can you think of a better group of people by whom to be stimulated?

So, what does all this have to do with my acting debut at age three? On Chanukah we use the shammash (the servant candle) to light the other candles. And I guess that's what has happened to me. I realized that you have to pass on what you know. And so, over the past several years, I have helped the rabbi and lay leaders in Wilmington develop a Beginners Service, and from this I hope many more candles will be lit.

I'm sorry, I have to go now, because:
"Chanukah is here once more, and
I have to buy candles at the store."

Gerald August is a consultant who helps business people improve their presentation and public speaking abilities.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Dr Lynn Davidman and Arthur Abrams
Polly Hagen and Gabriel Bousbib
Alycia Pivawer and Dr. Jeff Buchmann
Mazal Tov to parents, Beverly and Gerald Pivawer
Melissa Berman and Neil Bane
Amy Lemisch and Tony Gittleson
Rachel Kosloff and Ian Scheinmann
Rachel Bernstone and Joshuah Wallenstein
Mazal Tov to mother, Alice Mayo

MARRIAGES

Lilli Schleikhorn and Gerald Michael Cutler
Annie Linhart and Michael Elias
Annie Hernandez and Dr. Stephen Glassberg
Jennifer Kaplan and Michael Lazar
Anna Sapozhnik and Marc Miller
Paula Gelbaum and Dr. Michael Weinberg

BIRTHS

Yehudis and Moshe Ashin, on the birth of a boy, Yosef
Monica and Daniel Barach, on the birth of a girl, Hannah Frances
Helene and Ari Bousbib, on the birth of a boy, Betzalel
Nancy Jacobs and Leonard Cohen, on the birth of a girl, Ariella Tova
Malka and Michael Levinson, on the birth of a boy, Moishe
Romy Karz and Alex Rappaport, on the birth of a boy, Gabriel Moshe (1 year old)
Shelly Winston and Neil Roland, on the birth of a boy, Eliezer Micha
Devorah and Dr. Jack Shershow, on the birth of a boy, Menashe Tzvi

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Nachman Tzvi Kramer son of Ronnie & Baruch Kramer
Yonatan Ephraim Shlomo Teleky son of Dr. Elaine & Bruce Teleky.

CONDOLENCES

Janice Horowitz and Richard Bookstaber on the tragic passing of Rick's son, Joseph Bookstaber
Lisa Castleman on the loss of her father, Melvin Castleman
Ronnie Kramer on the loss of her mother, Doris Zipper

PUBLISHING KUDOS

Dr. William Kolbrener; "Toward a Genuine Jewi[illegible] Philosophy: *Halakhic Mind's* New Philosoph[illegible] Religion," *Tradition*, Spring 1996.
Joel S. Sorkin, "Religious Pluralism in Israel," *Midstream*, August/September 1997.
Stuart Hample, *Grandma Grampa and Me, (Workman, 1997)* and *Children's Letters to G-d* (Workman) sold its one millionth copy.

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM (To live and/or study in Israel)

Joel S. Sorkin

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons - Saturday 12:30 pm $15
Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7

Beginners Schmooze - Mondays 8:15 pm - Free
Jan 5, Feb 2 Mar 2

Beginners Shabbaton
Dec 19-20

Chanukah Party
Mon Dec 29

Shabbat Across America
Fri Mar 20

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Monday December 29, 1997 - 30th of Kislev Rosh Chodesh CHANUKAH
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Kindle (7)Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:07 PM

Tuesday December 30, 1997 - 1st of Tevet Rosh Chodesh CHANUKAH
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Kindle (8)Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:08 PM

Wednesday December 31, 1997 - 2nd of Tevet CHANUKAH
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Thursday January 1, 1998 - 3rd of Tevet New Years Day
Morning services ..... 7:05 & 8:30 AM

Friday January 2, 1998 - 4th of Tevet
Candle Lighting ..... 4:22 PM
Mincha ..... 4:25 PM

Shabbat January 3, 1998 - 5th of Tevet (Vayigash)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible classes ..... 3:30 PM
Mincha ..... 4:15 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:22 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:30 PM

Thursday January 8, 1998 - 10th of Tevet Asara B'Tevet
Fast Begins ..... 6:08 AM
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:30 AM
Mincha ..... 4:20 PM
Fast Ends ..... 5:17 PM

Friday January 9, 1998 - 11th of Tevet
Candle Lighting ..... 4:29 PM
Mincha ..... 4:35 PM

Shabbat January 10, 1998 - 12th of Tevet (Vayechi)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:40 PM
Mincha ..... 4:25 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:29 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:35 PM

Friday January 16, 1998 - 18th of Tevet
Candle Lighting ..... 4:36 PM
Mincha ..... 4:40 PM

Shabbat January 17, 1998 - 19th of Tevet (Shemot)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:45 PM
Mincha ..... 4:30 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:36 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:45 PM

Friday January 23, 1998 - 25th of Tevet
Candle Lighting ..... 4:44 PM
Mincha ..... 4:50 PM

Shabbat January 24, 1998 - 26th of Tevet (Vaera)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 3:55 PM
Mincha ..... 4:40 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:44 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:50 PM

Wednesday January 28, 1998 - 1st of Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Friday January 30, 1998 - 3rd of Sh'vat
Candle Lighting ..... 4:53 PM
Mincha ..... 5:00 PM

Shabbat January 31, 1998 - 4th of Sh'vat (Bo)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:05 PM
Mincha ..... 4:50 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 5:53 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:00 PM

Friday February 6, 1998 - 10th of Sh'vat
Candle Lighting ..... 5:02 PM
Mincha ..... 5:05 PM

Shabbat February 7, 1998 - 11th of Sh'vat (Beshalach)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:10 PM
Mincha ..... 4:55 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:02 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:10 PM

Wednesday February 11, 1998 - 15th of Sh'vat Tu B'Shvat
Morning services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Friday February 13, 1998 - 17th of Sh'vat
Candle Lighting ..... 5:10 PM
Mincha ..... 5:15 PM

Shabbat February 14, 1998 - 18th of Sh'vat (Yitro)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:20 PM
Mincha ..... 5:05 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:10 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:15 PM

Monday February 16, 1998 - 20th of Sh'vat Presidents Day
Morning services ..... 7:05 & 8:30 AM

Friday February 20, 1998 - 24th of Sh'vat
Candle Lighting ..... 5:18 PM
Mincha ..... 5:25 PM

Shabbat February 21, 1998 - 25th of Sh'vat (Mishpatim-Parshat Shekalim)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:30 PM
Mincha ..... 5:15 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:18 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:25 PM

Thursday February 26, 1998 - 30th of Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Friday February 27, 1998 -1st of Adar Rosh Chodesh
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Candle Lighting ..... 5:27 PM
Mincha ..... 5:30 PM

Shabbat February 28, 1998 -2nd of Adar (Terumah)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:35 PM
Mincha ..... 5:20 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:27 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:35 PM

Friday March 6, 1998 -8th of Adar
Candle Lighting ..... 5:35 PM
Mincha ..... 5:40 PM

Shabbat March 7, 1998 -9th of Adar (Tetzaveh-Parshat Zachor)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:45 PM
Mincha ..... 5:30 PM
Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Mincha
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:35 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:40 PM

Wednesday March 11, 1998 - 13th of Adar Ta'anit Esther
Fast Begins ..... 5:0[illegible]
Morning services ..... 7:00 & 7:[illegible]
Mincha ..... 5:[illegible]
Maariv & Megila reading ..... 6:2[illegible]
Late Megila reading ..... 9:30 PM

Thursday March 12, 1998 - 14th of Adar PURIM
Morning services ..... 6:30 & 7:30 AM
Extra Megila readings ..... 1:30 PM
Early Mincha ..... 5:00 PM
Mincha ..... 5:40 PM

Friday March 13, 1998 - 15th of Adar SHUSHAN PURIM
Morning services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting ..... 5:42 PM
Mincha ..... 5:45 PM

Shabbat March 14, 1998 - 16th of Adar (Ki Tisa)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 4:50 PM
Mincha ..... 5:35 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:42 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:50 PM

Friday March 20, 1998 - 22nd of Adar
Candle Lighting ..... 5:50 PM
Mincha ..... 5:55 PM

Shabbat March 21, 1998 - 23rd of Adar (Vayakhel-Pekudei-Parshat Parah)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 5:00 PM
Mincha ..... 5:45 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:50 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:55 PM

Friday March 27, 1998 - 29th of Adar
Candle Lighting ..... 5:57 PM
Mincha ..... 6:00 PM

Shabbat March 28, 1998 - 1st of Nisan (Vayikra Rosh Chodesh-Parshat Hachodesh)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:40, 8:45 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible class ..... 5:05 PM
Mincha ..... 5:50 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 6:57 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 6:05 PM

Friday April 3, 1998 - 7th of Nisan
Candle Lighting ..... 6:05 PM
Mincha ..... 6:10 PM

Shabbat April 4, 1998 - 8th of Nisan (Tzav. Shabbat Hagadol)
Daf Yomi ..... 8:00 AM
Morning services ..... 7:45, 8:45 & 9:4[illegible]
Bible class ..... 4:2[illegible]
Mincha ..... 5:1[illegible]
Shabbat Hagadol Drasha ..... 5:35 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 7:05 PM
REMEMBER to set your clocks ahead one hour
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:10 PM DST

Thursday April 9, 1998 - 13th of Nisan Ta'ani Bechorim [mukdam]
Morning services ..... 6:30 & 7:50 AM