## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT CHANUKAH

I have no fond childhood memories of Chanukah.

My mother was the daughter of oppressed Russian peasants who became tists. My father was the son of upperclass German professionals who became riotocaust victims. Faith, ritual and Torah had been discarded by both my mother's unlettered ancestors and my father's educated ones before either of them was born. The tradition passed down to my parents by their parents, and their parents before them, was secularism – resistance on one hand, and patriotism on the other. Judaism was, to my parents, indistinguishable from political and economic oppression.

"America" was all the Promised Land my secular parents ever wanted - the end of 20 centuries of pogroms, concentration camps, wars, discrimination, inflation, depression, and virulent anti-Semitism. They believed that the safety which they cherished demanded assimilation, and it was to them a small price to pay. We never went to synagogue. We never lit Shabbat candles. And we never celebrated Chanukah.



Nurtured in America's privileged protection, I chafed under the yoke of my parents' fearfulness. First I rejected their patriotism in favor of revolution. Then I rejected their secularism in favor of spirituality. But my spiritual search was limited by a heritage of ignorance. I pursued every path to G-d but my own. Until now.

In the Beginners Service I was shown riches within rituals I had been taught re hollow. I glimpsed a light which had been lost to my family for erations. And I began to suspect that perhaps it had been assimilation, and not faith, which had failed my forebears.

The history of Chanukah, which commemorates a military victory and a miracle, is the story of the failure of assimilation and the triumph of faith.

Chanukah, which means dedication, is the only major holiday which has no

by Enid Langbort basis in the Bible. The earliest versions of the Chanukah story are found in the First and Second Books of the Maccabees, and in the works of Josephus. These versions recount the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Antiochus, who had outlawed Jewish practice, and the rededication of the Temple. However, they contain no reference to the miracle of the oil. The Mishna, too, is silent regarding Chanukah. It is only in the later writings of the Gemara that the miracle of the oil is mentioned and the military victory is de-emphasized.

Why did the emphasis change? Before the Maccabean revolt, many Jews had flocked to Hellenism, changing their names and even reversing their circumcisions. There are scholars who believe that the suppression of Jewish practice was actually initiated by Jews who desired to assimilate into Hellenistic culture and enlisted the support of Antiochus to fight their fellow Jews who resisted them. Even during the revolts, many Jews still desired to assimilate with the Hellenists and did not hesitate to bow down to Greek statues or sacrifice pigs before the king. And the Maccabees also fought against these Jewish Hellenists as they rid the land of the Greeks. When they won and rededicated the Temple, the people's national pride was renewed. When the oil lasted for eight days, the hearts of the people were re-ignited in faith.

Yet as kings of Judea, the Maccabees, the great Jewish war heroes, subsequently became Hellenized. Transformed from defenders of faith to proponents of assimilation, they opposed, and even persecuted, the rabbis. Less than 100 years after their celebrated victory, Herod, who detested the Maccabees, killed them all.

Heroic acts are unusual -- they inspire us with admiration and pride. A miracle, however, is a doorway to the Divine. By the time the Mishna was written, the Jews were living under Roman domination. Assimilation had failed. The Maccabees had failed. Even victory had failed. But faith remained. Chanukah remained. A festival of light during the darkest season of the year remains.

The holiday of Chanukah is centered around the lights of the menorah. It is our job to bring the light to the world, to make the miracle public. In fact, the Bnei Yissachar (a famous Chassidic Rabbi) writes that on Chanukah we Jews are given part of the primordial light which has been hidden since Creation and is preserved for the righteous in the world to come; and, with this light, you can see from one end of the world to the other.

Happy Chanukah.

Judge Enid Langbert is a member of the Lincoln Square Beginners Service. An Administrative Law Judge, she has three children and three grandchildren.

# **CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV**

#### **ENGAGEMENTS**

Donna Arrick and Russel Merman

## MARRIAGES

Tammy Bossewitch and Tsuriel Biale Mazal Tov to parents Anne and Kenneth Bossewitch Ashira Cohen and Asher Schapansky Mazal Tov to parents Ellen and Chaim Cohen Helene Novin and Jeffrey Strumeyer

Helene Novin and Jeffrey Strumeyer Blanche Schreiber and Yedidiah Buchwald Mazal Tov to parents Aidel and Ephraim Buchwald

#### **BIRTHS**

Sacha and Elon Gold, on the birth of a boy, Brandon Mazal Tov to grandparents
Lynn and Sidney Gold
Avivah and Michael Gottleib,
on the birth of a girl, Naomi Sarah
Karen and Alain Ickovics, on the birth of a girl,
Talia Moriah
Drs. Chava and Steven Kaplan,
on the birth of a boy, Chananya Simcha
Rabia and Oliver Mitchell,
on the birth of a boy, Ari Yosef
Ezra and Tehilla Reich, on the birth of a girl,
Orah Rose
Mazal Tov to grandparents
Beref Korot
and Steve Reich
Bluma and Dr. Stephen Snyder,

on the birth of a girl, Leah Ariel

### BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Mevasseret Tova Jacobs
Mazal Tov to parents Batya and Eddie Jacobs
and grandparents
Vicky and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin
Emma Lardner
Mazal Tov to parents Natalie and James Lardner
Raphy Leicht
Mazal Tov to parents Renee and Allan Leicht

#### CONDOLENCES

Robin Gordon Apple and Kenneth Gordon, on the loss of their father, Edward S. Gordon James Lardner, on the loss of his father, Ring Lardner Jr.

Avraham Mora, on the loss of his father, Carlos Mora Sr.
Regina and David Ullendorf, on the loss of their husband and father, Henry Ullendorf
The family of Rabbi Herschel Cohen
The family of Esther Goodman
The family of Joseph Goodman

#### REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (SPEEDY RECOVERY)

Max Janovic Les Nelkin

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Joann and Alan Goldberg, who received the Yedid YESHA award at the recent One Israel Fund/YESHA Dinner

James Lardner, on the publication of his book NYPD: The Inside Story of New York's Legendary Police Department, Henry Holt and Co.

## SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Shabbaton - \$30
Fri-Sat, Dec 22-23, 2000
Beginners Shabbat Luncheons
Saturdays 12:30 pm- \$15
Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 5
Beginners Schmooze- Mondays 8:15 pm - Free
March 3, April 3
Beginners Chanukah Party \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
Mon Dec 25, 7PM
Purim Party
Thurs, March 8, 2001
Shabbat Across America
Fri, Mar 23, 2001

### RABBI HERSCHEL COHEN z"I

Rabbi Cohen was a true partner in all the Beginners programs. He participated in our Shabbatonim, our special parties, teaching the Basic Judaism classes, and was the instructor for those studying for conversion. In reality, he was a teacher and a mentor to all. We shall miss him dearly. Condolences to the entire family.

# **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES		
Thu December 21, 2000 - 24th of Kislev Chanukah Candles after	Sat January 20, 2001 - 25th of Tevet Shemot	Sat March 3, 2001 - 8th of Adar Terumah ZACHOR
Fri December 22, 2000 - 25th of Kislev CHANUKAH Morning Services . 7:00 & 7:40 AM Chanukah Candles before 4:14 PM Candle Lighting 4:14 PM Mincha 4:20 PM	Daf Yomi         7:00 AM           Bible Class         8:30 AM           Morning Services         7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM           Talmud & Bible Class         3:50 PM           Mincha         4:35 PM           Shabbat Ends         5:40 PM           Daily Mincha & Maariy         4:45 PM	Daf Yomi 7:0° AM Bible Class 8: A Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9: A Talmud & Bible Class 4:40 PM Mincha 5:25 PM Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Mincha Shabbat Ends 6:30 PM Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:35 PM
Sat December 23, 2000 - 26th of Kislev Vayeshev           CHANUKAH         7:00 AM           Daf Yomi         7:00 AM           Bible Class         8:30 AM           Morning Services         7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM           Talmud & Bible Class         3:25 PM           Mincha         4:10 PM           Shabbat Ends         5:14 PM           Chanukah Candles after         5:14 PM	Thu January 25, 2001 - 1st of Sh'vat ROSH CHODESH         Morning Services       7:00 & 7:40 AM         Fri January 26, 2001 - 2nd of Sh'vat         Morning Services       7:10 & 7:50 AM         Candle Lighting       4:48 PM         Mincha       4:55 PM         Sat January 27, 2001 - 3rd of Sh'vat Vaera	Thu March 8, 2001 - 13th of Adar TA'ANIT ESTHER   5:08 AM   Morning Services   7:00 & 7:30 AM   Mincha   5:30 PM   Maariv & Megila reading   6:26 PM   Fast Ends   6:26 PM   Late Megila Reading   9:30 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM  Sun December 24, 2000 - 27th of Kislev CHANUKAH  Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM  Chanukah Candles after 5:04 PM	Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible Class       4:00 PM         Mincha       4:45 PM	Fri March 9, 2001 - 14th of Adar PURIM         6:30 & 7:30 AM           Morning Services         9:00 AM & 12:00 NOON           Extra Megila Reading         5:38 PM           Mincha         5:45 PM
Mon December 25, 2000 - 28th of Kislev CHANUKAH LEGAL HOLIDAY Morning Services . 7:00 & 8:30 AM Chanukah Candles after . 5:05 PM	Shabbat Ends       5:48 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       4:55 PM         Fri Febuary       2, 2001 - 9th of Sh'vat         Morning Services       7:10 & 7:50 AM         7:20 AM	Sat March 10, 2001 - 15th of Adar Tetzaveh         SHUSHAN PURIM         Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         March 2010 8:45 AM
Tue December 26, 2000 - 29th of Kislev CHANUKAH Morning Services	Candle Lighting       4:57 PM         Mincha       5:00 PM         Sat Febuary       3, 2001 - 10th of Sh'vat Bo         Daf Yorni       7:00 AM	Morning Services         7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM           Talmud & Bible Class         4:50 PM           Mincha         5:35 PM           Shabbat Ends         6:38 PM           Daily Mincha & Maariv         5:45 PM
Wed December 27, 2000 - 1st of Tevet ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH Morning Services	Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible Class       4:05 PM         Mincha       4:50 PM         Shabbat Ends       5:57 PM	Fri March 16, 2001 - 21st of Adar         Morning Services       7:10 & 7:50 AM         Candle Lighting       5:46 PM         Mincha       5:50 PM
Thu December 28, 2000 - 2nd of Tevet CHANUKAH Morning Services	Daily Mincha & Maariv	Sat March 17, 2001 - 22nd of Adar Ki Tisa PARAH         Daf Yomi
Morning Services         7:40 AM           Candle Lighting         4:18 PM           Mincha         4:25 PM           Sat December 30, 2000 - 4th of Tevet Miketz	Fri Febuary 9, 2001 - 16th of Sh'vat       7:10 & 7:50 AM         Morning Services       5:05 PM         Candle Lighting       5:10 PM         Mincha       5:10 PM	Talmud & Bible Class       4:55 PM         Mincha       5:40 PM         Shabbat Ends       6:46 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       5:55 PM
7:00 AM	Sat Febuary 10, 2001 - 17th of Sh'vat Beshalach           Daf Yomi         7:00 AM           Bible Class         8:30 AM           Morning Services         7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM           Talmud & Bible Class         4:15 PM           Mincha         5:00 PM           Shabbat Ends         6:05 PM	Fri March 23, 2001 - 28th of Adar         Morning Services       7:10 & 7:5         Candle Lighting       5:53 HM         Mincha       6:00 PM         Sat March 24, 2001 - 29th of Adar Vayakhel-Pekudei         HACHODESH
Mon January 1, 2001 - 6th of Tevet NEW YEARS DAY Morning Services	Daily Mincha & Maariv       5:10 PM         Fri Febuary 16, 2001 - 23rd of Sh'vat       7:10 & 7:50 AM         Morning Services       7:14 PM         Candle Lighting       5:14 PM         Mincha       5:20 PM	Daf Yomi         7:00 AM           Bible Class         8:30 AM           Morning Services         7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM           Talmud & Bible Class         5:05 PM           Mincha         5:50 PM           Shabbat Ends         6:53 PM
Morning Services         7:00 & 7:30 AM           Mincha         4:10 PM           Candle Lighting         4:25 PM           Fast Ends         5:14 PM	Sat Febuary 17, 2001 - 24th of Sh'vat Yitro         Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Sun March 25, 2001 - 1st of Nisan ROSH CHODESH Morning Services
Sat January 6, 2001 - 11th of Tevet Vaylgash       7:00 AM         Daf Yomi       8:30 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible Class       3:35 PM         Mincha       4:20 PM	Taimud & Bible Class . 4:25 PM Mincha . 5:10 PM Shabbat Ends . 6:14 PM Daily Mincha & Maariv . 5:20 PM Mon Febuary 19, 2001 - 26th of Sh'vat PRESIDENTS DAY	Fri March 30, 2001 - 6th of Nisan       7:10 & 7:50 AM         Morning Services       7:00 PM         Candle Lighting       6:00 PM         Mincha       6:05 PM         Sat March 31, 2001 - 7th of Nisan Vaylkra       7:00 AM
Shabbat Ends	Morning Services	Daf Yomi       2:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Mincha       5:05 PM         Shabbat Hagadol Drasha       5:30 PM         Shabbat Ends       7:00 PM         PEMEMBER to set your clocks forward
Sat January 13, 2001 - 18th of Tevet Vayechi       7:00 AM         Daf Yorni       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible Class       3:40 PM         Mincha       4:25 PM         Mincha       4:25 PM	Sat Febuary 24, 2001 - 1st of Adar Mishpatim         ROSH CHODESH SHEKALIM         Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning Services       7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible Class       4:30 PM         Mincha       5:15 PM	Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:05 PM DST  Thu April 5, 2001 - 12th of Nisan TA'ANIT BECHORIM MUKDAM Morning Services 6:30 & 7:30 AM  Fri April 6, 2001 - 13th of Nisan EREV EREV PESACH
Shabbat Ends 5:32 PW Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM Mon January 15, 2001 - 20th of Tevet MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	Shabbat Ends         6:22 PM           Daily Mincha & Maariv         5:30 PM           Fri March 2, 2001 - 7th of Adar Morning Services         7:10 & 7:50 AM           Fri March 2, 2001 - 7th of Adar Morning Services         7:10 & 7:50 AM	Morning Services         7:10 & 7:50 AM           Latest time to burn Chametz         11:25 AM           Candle Lighting         7:08 PM           Mincha         7:15 PM
Morning Services 7:05 & 8:30 AM  Fri January 19, 2001 - 24th of Tevet Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 4:40 PM Mincha 4:45 PM	Candle Lighting 5:30 PM Mincha 5:35 PM	Sat April 7, 2001 - 14th of Nisan Tzav           SHABBAT HAGADOL EREV PESACH           Morning Services         6:45 A²           Latest time to eat Chametz         10:10 A           Daf Yomi         6:30 Pi.           Candle Lighting         7:09 PM           Mincha         7:15 PM           Begin Seder after         7:58 PM
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