

## FANNING THE FLAME

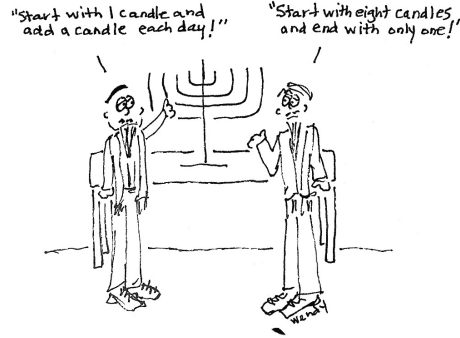
Gabriella Donati

One of the most beautiful aspects of our rich Jewish heritage is the unique way we are able to correlate events that occurred many centuries ago with our lives today. The search and elimination of *chametz* on Pesach, followed by seven days of eating only unleavened bread, evokes the deeper task of seeking and eliminating haughtiness and pride within ourselves and becoming more humble. The First Fruits holiday of Shavuot commemorates G-d's giving of the Torah, and our tradition of staying up all night and learning is a way of reconnecting and reconfirming the importance of that gift today.

The holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are preceded by an intense period of self-reflection and (hopefully) self-correction where each of us acknowledge our own personal shortcomings and strive to become the person the Al-mighty intends us to be. The upcoming holiday of Chanukah is no exception.

Our commemoration of Chanukah centers around the one small vial of purified oil that was found after the tremendous battle for control of the Jewish Temple that took place between the Maccabees and the Hellenists. This small vial contained only enough oil to light the Temple menorah for one day; it would take eight days of purification before fresh oil could be produced. Regardless, the Temple had to be rededicated so the lamp was lit using that one vial. The miracle is that the small portion of oil burned continuously for 8 consecutive days until the new oil was ready. We now light an 8-branched version of the Temple menorah in recognition and gratitude for that great miracle (the extra ninth branch is for the "servant" candle that lights the others).

Much initial discussion took place regarding our manner of lighting the *chanukiah* (menorah), becoming a famous *machloket* (dispute) between the houses of Shamai and Hillel. Shamai felt that we should start the holiday with eight lit candles, representing the complete mitzvah of publicizing the miracle, and reduce the number by one each night. Hillel argued that we should start with one and increase the number by one each night, hence, building up to the full mitzvah. After much deliberation, Hillel's view became the prevailing custom,



The Ancient Chanukah Dispute

and the one we follow today. The idea is that every day is one step closer to completion.

I like this idea of "one step closer to completion" and it parallels the tenet "one step at a time" that is typically stressed to *Ba'alei Teshuva*. Becoming religiously observant is an exciting endeavor. Many *Ba'alei Teshuva* become so enamored with Torah and a Torah-observant lifestyle that they rush headlong into this new world of mitzvot only to find themselves overwhelmed and frightened. The sudden realization that they have bitten off more than they can chew often leads to their reverting back to their previous non-observant lifestyle. This is why many rabbis (and similar wise folk) will encourage *Ba'alei Teshuva* to take things slowly and incorporate changes one step at a time. The beauty of this method is that over a period of time (that includes much study, reflection and understanding) the *Ba'al Teshuva* becomes a beautiful creation molded by the words of G-d, continuously striving to become better.

This idea is not limited to the *Ba'al Teshuva*. Those who were born into a religiously observant lifestyle, and even the non-observant, can take to heart this idea of becoming a more complete human being and living up to one's potential. Every one of us can be a better person tomorrow than we are today. All it really requires is the ability to see ourselves honestly and the desire to live up to our potential. Can you imagine the world we would live in if each of us sincerely tried to improve something about ourselves on a daily basis? If each of us worked to reveal a little more of our "inner light" each and every day? Wow. What a wonderful world that would be!

This is what I'm going to focus on when I recite the *bracha* (blessing) and light the candles on my *chanukiah* this year. I'm going to focus on what I can do tomorrow to live up to my potential as a Jewish woman and a loving human being, and be that one step closer to the "light unto the nations" that G-d requires of us all.

In the pure light of our *chanukiot*, may each one of us find the beauty and light within ourselves and seek to share this with the world.

*Gabriella Donati lives in Tel Aviv and feels blessed to consider herself a lifelong member of Rabbi Buchwald's Beginners Service (no matter how far away she is).*

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

## ENGAGEMENTS

Anne Slote Bossewitch  
and Martin Hochberg  
Charlene (Chana) Chan  
and Moshe Yeroshalmi  
Netanya Horowitz and Simcha Tropp  
Mazal Tov to parents, Rochelle and Harry Tropp  
Rebecca Leicht and Jason Gould  
Mazal Tov to parents, Renee and Allan Leicht



Shuli and Rabbi Avi Bossewitch, on birth of baby girl,  
Tova Nechama  
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Anne Bossewitch  
Chava and Naftali Burnham, on birth of baby boy,  
Oren Yosef  
Riki and Zvi Gewirtz, on birth of baby boy,  
Avraham Yehudah  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Barbara and Shlomo Dov Gewirtz  
Kayla (Cooper) and Len Rosen, on birth of baby boy,  
Jack Jair (Itzak Yair)

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Eliyahu David Amzallag  
Mazal Tov to parents, Kim and Raymond Amzallag  
Ross Chanofsky  
Mazal Tov to parents, Jessica and Jordan Chanofsky  
Daniel Jacob Gottlieb  
Mazal Tov to parents, Avivah and Michael Gottlieb  
Shira Hudes  
Mazal Tov to parents, Dr. Golda and Dana Hudes  
Roberto Levin  
Mazal Tov to parents, Susan Sarfaty and Jonathan Levin  
Yaakov Lewis  
Mazal Tov to parents, Alana Lewis and Jeff Lewis  
Esther Malka Robinson  
Mazal Tov to parents, Sarah and Rabbi Shaul Robinson

Benjamin Dov Spanbock  
Mazal Tov to mother, Carol Spanbock

## CONDOLENCES

Marc Ellman, on the loss of his father, Edwin Ellman  
Lisa (Castleman) Glazer, on the loss of her mother, Lois Raymond  
Beryl Korot, on the loss of her mother, Frieda Korot  
Michele Morse, on the loss of her father, Benjamin Block  
Sharona Spivack, on the loss of her father, Colin Boltman

## SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Reuven ben Baila  
Mordechai Shimon ben Liba (Dr. Marc Arkovitz)  
Elisheva bat Miriam

## CONGRATULATIONS

Kayla Rosen (Kristina Cooper, Cellist) on the release of her most recent CD, "Stone and Steel"

## THANK YOU

Roberto Novig for his friendly and welcoming ushering at the High Holiday Beginners Services at the NY Historical Society  
Dr. Morris Shamah and Tebah Educational Services for donating the holiday readers  
Gary Tolchinsky for donating ten copies of "Gossip: Ten Pathways to Eliminate it from your Life and Transform your Soul"

## MARRIAGES

Tzivvia Lamm and Tzvi Cohen  
Mazal Tov to parents, Ellen and Chaim Cohen  
Vivki Braun and Daniel Epstein  
Mazal Tov to parents, Marta and Joseph Braun  
Samantha Verrone and Jonathan Genkin  
Basya Chaya Ashin and Yair Dovid Guttman  
Mazal Tov to parents, Yehudis and Moshe Ashin  
Devorah Pearl Barrish and Michael Jonathan ("Yoni") Sokol  
Mazal Tov to father, Stacy Sokol  
Miri Noy Lemberg and Avraham (Theo) Yale

## BIRTHS

Tammy and Tsuriel Biale, on birth of baby boy, Yakir  
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Anne Bossewitch  
Sara and Dr. Josh Bleier, on birth of twin boys,  
Nathaniel Chanan and Yonatan Lev

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Fri December 19, 2008 - 22nd of Kislev**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:14 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:20 PM

**Sat December 20, 2008 - 23rd of Kislev**  
**Vayeshev**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 3:20 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:05 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:14 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:20 PM

**Mon December 21, 2008 - 24th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:04 PM

**Mon December 22, 2008 - 25th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:04 PM

**Tue December 23, 2008 - 26th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:05 PM

**Wed December 24, 2008 - 27th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:06 PM

**Thu December 25, 2008 - 28th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH LEGAL HOLIDAY**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:06 PM

**Fri December 26, 2008 - 29th of Kislev**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Chanukah Candles before ..... 4:18 PM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:18 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:25 PM

**Sat December 27, 2008 - 30th of Kislev**  
**Miketz ROSH CHODESH**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 6:55 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:18 PM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:18 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:25 PM

**Sun December 28, 2008 - 1st of Tevet**  
**ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM  
 Chanukah Candles after ..... 5:08 PM

**Mon December 29, 2008 - 2nd of Tevet**  
**CHANUKAH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Wed January 1, 2009 - 5th of Tevet**  
**NEW YEARS DAY**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

**Fri January 2, 2009 - 6th of Tevet**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:23 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:30 PM

**Sat January 3, 2009 - 7th of Tevet**  
**Vayigash**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 3:30 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:15 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:23 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:30 PM

**Tue January 6, 2009 - 10th of Tevet**  
**ASARA B'TEVET**  
 Fast Begins ..... 6:07 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 6:50 & 7:30 AM  
 Mincha ..... 4:10 PM  
 Fast Ends ..... 5:15 PM

**Fri January 9, 2009 - 13th of Tevet**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:29 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:35 PM

**Sat January 10, 2009 - 14th of Tevet**  
**Vayechi**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:29 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:35 PM

**Fri January 16, 2009 - 20th of Tevet**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:37 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:40 PM

**Sat January 17, 2009 - 21st of Tevet**  
**Shemot**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:37 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:45 PM

**Mon January 19, 2009 - 23rd of Tevet**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

**Fri January 23, 2009 - 27th of Tevet**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:45 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:50 PM

**Sat January 24, 2009 - 28th of Tevet**  
**Vaera**  
 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:45 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 4:55 PM

**Mon January 26, 2009 - 1st of Sh'vat**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Fri January 30, 2009 - 5th of Sh'vat**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 4:54 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:00 PM

**Sat January 31, 2009 - 6th of Sh'vat**  
**Bo**  
 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 5:54 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:00 PM

**Fri February 6, 2009 - 12th of Sh'vat**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 5:02 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:05 PM

**Sat February 7, 2009 - 13th 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 ..... 4:05 PM  
 Mincha ..... 4:50 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 6:02 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:10 PM

**Mon February 9, 2009 - 15th of Sh'vat**  
**TU B'SHVAT**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:50 AM

**Fri February 13, 2009 - 19th of Sh'vat**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 5:11 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:15 PM

**Sat February 14, 2009 - 20th of Sh'vat**  
**Yitro**  
 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  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 6:11 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:20 PM

**Mon February 16, 2009 - 22nd of Sh'vat**  
**PRESIDENTS DAY**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

**Fri February 20, 2009 - 26th of Sh'vat**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 5:19 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:25 PM

**Sat February 21, 2009 - 27th of Sh'vat**  
**Mishpatim SHABBAT SHEKALIM**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 4:25 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:10 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 6:19 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:25 PM

**Tue February 24, 2009 - 30th of Sh'vat**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**WED FEBRU 25, 2009 - 1st of Adar**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Fri February 27, 2009 - 3rd of Adar**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 5:27 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:30 PM

**Sat February 28, 2009 - 4th of Adar**  
**Terumah**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 4:30 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:15 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 6:27 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 5:35 PM

**Fri March 6, 2009 - 10th of Adar**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 5:36 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:40 PM

**Sat March 7, 2009 - 11th of Adar**  
**Tetzaveh SHABBAT ZACHOR**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Main Minyan  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 4:40 PM  
 Mincha ..... 5:25 PM  
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor after Mincha  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 6:36 PM  
 REMEMBER to set your clocks forward  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 6:45 PM DST

**Mon March 9, 2009 - 13th of Adar**  
**TA'ANIT ESTHER**  
 Fast Begins ..... 6:03 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 6:50 & 7:30 AM  
 Mincha ..... 6:25 PM  
 Maariv & Megila reading ..... 7:29 PM  
 Fast Ends ..... 7:29 PM  
 Maariv & Late Megila Reading ..... 9:15 PM

**Tue March 10, 2009 - 14TH OF ADAR**  
**PURIM**  
 Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 7:30 AM  
 Extra Megila Reading .. 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM  
 Early Mincha ..... 6:00 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:45 PM

**Wed March 11, 2009 - 15th of Adar**  
**SHUSHAN PURIM**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM

**Fri March 13, 2009 - 17th of Adar**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 6:44 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:50 PM

**Sat March 14, 2009 - 18th of Adar**  
**Ki Tisa SHABBAT PARAH**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 5:35 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:35 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 7:44 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 6:50 PM

**Fri March 20, 2009 - 24th of Adar**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 6:52 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:55 PM  
**SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA**

**Sat March 21, 2009 - 25th of Adar**  
**Vayakhel-Pekudei SHABBAT HACHODESH**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 6:55 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 5:40 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:40 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 7:52 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:00 PM

**Wed March 26, 2009 - 1st of Nisan**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

**Fri March 27, 2009 - 2nd of Nisan**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 6:59 PM  
 Mincha ..... 7:05 PM

**Sat March 28, 2009 - 3rd of Nisan**  
**Vayikra**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Talmud & Bible Class ..... 5:50 PM  
 Mincha ..... 6:50 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 7:59 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:05 PM

**Fri April 3, 2009 - 9th of Nisan**  
 Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Candle Lighting ..... 7:06 PM  
 Mincha ..... 7:10 PM

**Sat April 4, 2009 - 10th of Nisan**  
**Tzav SHABBAT HAGADOL**  
 Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM  
 Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM  
 Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Mincha ..... 6:35 PM  
 Shabbat Hagadol Drasha ..... 7:00 PM  
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends ..... 8:06 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:15 PM

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Beginners Shabbaton - \$40**  
 Fri-Sat, Dec 19-20, 2008  
 April 3-4, 2009

**Beginners Chanukah Party**  
**\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door**  
 Mon, Dec 22, 7:00 PM

**Beginners Shabbat Luncheons**  
**Saturdays 12:30 PM- \$20**  
 Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, May 2, June 6

**Beginners Schmooze**  
**Mon, 8:15 pm - Free**  
 March 2, May 4

**Purim Party**  
**\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door**  
 Mon, March 9, 9:05 PM

**SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA**  
 Fri, March 20, 6:45 PM