

The Shaliach

News and Views from the Young Israel of Plainview



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Chanuka and the Electric Menorah

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It's hard not to notice the plethora of lights that adorn a neighbors home each time December rolls around. Indeed, many of us are struck with a small pang of inferiority as our simple Chanuka candles contrast with the flashing lights, holograms, and inflatables that welcome the Christian holiday. The holiday of Chanuka, based as it is in *pirsumei nisa* (publication of the miracle), inspires the question of should we compete? Should we supersize our candles, embrace modern technology, and publicize Maccabean victory and the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days making use of electrical equipment?

The land of Israel's first chief Rabbi, Avraham Yitzchak Hakohen Kook zt"l answered this question with a resounding no. Basing himself on pure Halacha, he argued that we remain committed to the particularities of the Rabbinical decree. Though the Talmud in the second chapter of tractate Shabbat allows for the use of all oils and wicks to fuel the Chanuka lights, electricity is anathema. When the Great Assembly established the Mitzvah to light Chanuka candles during the Second Temple period, electricity did not exist. As in all Halacha, we are committed to the Mitzvah as it was established. He supports this notion by pointing to the exemption of stains from the impurity of Niddah. A stain that is the size of a *gris* (lice) is considered pure. The Talmud's measurement suggests that anything smaller than 220 mm (roughly a dime) is pure. We are all aware that lice of such unusual size no longer exist. Still, we remained committed to the measurement that existed at the time of the institution. Similarly, since electricity did not exist when Chanuka was established, it is not considered a viable fulfillment of the Mitzvah to light Chanuka candles.

Nevertheless, R. Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l allowed in cases of immense need, such as when one is on an airplane or traveling through the night, to fulfill the mitzvah of Chanuka candles using a flashlight. Still, he admits that it would be even better to light at home before you leave or have someone light for you at your destination.

In a fascinating contrast, most Halachik decisors allow the use of electrical light to fulfill the Mitzvah of Shabbat candles. The very same authorities that prohibit the use of the electric Menorah allow one to use electric candles on Friday night. Some require a bulb with filament, but the contrast remains the

(Continued on page 5)

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Mail addressed to the **Rabbi, president, treasurer, or MALI** is received and read within a reasonable amount of time. All other mail should be mailed directly to the recipient to insure it is read in a timely fashion. For example, all Sisterhood mail **must** be mailed to the **home address** of the person in charge of the activity that you desire (Calendar, Mishloach Manot, Wine, Siddurim & Chumashim, etc.). Information about where to direct your mail is usually included in the flyers.

Thank you for your cooperation.

President's Pen

In 1969 a ride on the Subway cost \$0.20. Some things have changed since 1969, but the love and dedication of our community to one another has only grown over the last 50 years.

It was such an honor to spend Shabbat with many of our pioneers and hear their stories about the early years of the shul. Thank you to everyone who helped to organize and sponsor our YIP50 Shabbaton.

The celebration will continue throughout the year including at our Journal Dinner in March celebrating YIP 50, Past Present and Future. Stay tuned for more information.

We are working hard to spread the word about our special community, and help Plainview start off its next 50 years. Our publicity committee has been hard at work. Thank you to Esther Linder, Francie Goldberg and Rabbi Weissman who attended the OU emerging communities fair. We had fantastic interest in our community and are looking forward to hosting a prospective family shabbaton in spring. Help us spread the word by inviting families to visit and by sharing our social media posts.

Congratulations to our honorees Ben and Aileen Kirschenbaum and all those who participated in our first Israel Bonds Breakfast in conjunction with Midway Jewish Center and Plainview Jewish Center. It was a wonderful community wide event and we were privileged to hear from Sgt. Benjamin Anthony on the challenges faced by Jewish communities in Europe. Thank you to Ariane Eisman for organizing a phenomenal event.

Our Israel programming continues with an AIPAC event in conjunction with Midway Jewish Center. Please join us for an informative presentation on the current state of Israel relations with AIPAC Northeast Deputy Political Director Michael Krasna. Learn more about AIPAC and AIPAC's policy conference. Please RSVP to Abbey Taub ataub@aipac.org (no cost to attend and refreshments will be served).

Have a Happy Chanukah.

David Gross

YIP Golden Jubilee Dinner Past Present and Future

Calling all YIP members!

As you know this year marks our wonderful Shul's golden anniversary and we are honoring our past, present and future members at this year's journal dinner. To celebrate these 50 years we have some exciting new ideas, but we need your help to do so! All we need from you is information. We need to find ALL of our past members. Friends that moved away, children who grew up and flew the nest, snow birds who followed the sun. Attached is a link to help facilitate this endeavor.

<https://www.yiplainview.org/yip50>

Thank you and stay tuned!

Michelle Meir

VP of Journal dinner

Sisterhood Spotlight

As we get ready to light our Chanukah Menorahs, we wanted to shine our own light on our Sisterhood Board. First, we would like to thank Shmuela (and Liebel) Sternbach and Melissa Ciner for all of their hard work in creating and distributing the Sisterhood Calendar. We appreciate their dedication and hard work. On December 15th, Sisterhood will be hosting our biggest event of the year, our annual Sisterhood Dinner. This year we are honoring our well-deserving past president Michelle Meir. We encourage everyone to attend this special evening at Crest Hollow Country Club. Thank you to Yaffa Gartner, Shmuela Sternbach and the entire Dinner Committee for their hard work. Please stay tuned for exciting events scheduled over the Winter months. We wish everyone a Happy Chanukah,

Wendy Ofer and Perri Wallowitz

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Dear YIP Community,

Thank you to those who came to my father's funeral (Dr. Morton K. Siegel Z"L), made minyanim, helped with food, took the time for a shiva visit, sent cards and made donations. I truly appreciate the kindness and caring shown by the community.

Debbie Eisenstadt



Chodesh Kislev Tov! We hope that the festival of Chanukah will usher in brightness to our lives, especially with recent difficulties for our fellow Jews. Even during the darkest days, may we be able to recognize the good and the light that surrounds us and connects us to our brothers and sisters in hope.

Our Mikveh is an independent organization that depends upon the support of its community, and on behalf of our Board, we greatly appreciate those who responded to our Rosh Hashana appeal. All funds go towards the costs of our everyday operations and facilities improvement. We also wish to acknowledge the generous support of our MALI 365 club members, who help to sustain our Mikveh every single day. Joining the MALI 365 club only costs \$1 a day, and it's never too late to join. See <http://www.limikveh.org/Support-Us> for more information.

We are planning an exciting Women's Yoga Miniseries workshop for the near future. Please be on the lookout for further details. We are looking forward to our annual MALI 365 concert sometime in the Spring. More information to follow! We are always looking for help to plan and work on the committees for these various events, and we welcome your participation. Please contact us if you are able to volunteer.

Happy Chanukah to all, and thank you for your continued support,

Janet Akhavan and Alissa Ossip
MALI Co-Presidents

Rabbi's Study *(Continued from page 1)*

same as they prohibit even such a bulb on Chanuka.

The difference between Shabbat and Chanuka candles stems from the goal and purpose of the two Mitzvot. We light before Shabbat to bring peace into the house. Our goal is to ensure that the home is properly lit in order to appreciate the aesthetic beauty of the Shabbat treats and experience. We light candles in order to use the lights; the Mitzvah is result oriented. Chanuka is different. Halacha prohibits us from gaining any benefit from the Chanuka lights. It is a process oriented Mitzvah. Turning on an electric light differs markedly from lighting a candle's wick and therefore may not be used to fulfil the Mitzvah on Chanuka.

The procedural quality of the mitzvah to light Chanuka candles highlights the specific nature of the Mitzvah that celebrates the bravery of the Maccabees. Worn and weary, they return to a sullied Temple and contaminated oil. It was an act of immense faith to pour that single cruse of oil into the Menorah with the hope that it would last. That act of faith that was complemented by God's response is the miracle that we celebrate on Chanuka. Chanuka is a holiday that commemorates the procedure, the action spurred on by belief. The effortless flip of a switch hardly recognizes that commitment. It's true the glow of the simple candle looks inferior to the bright luminosity of flashing lights, but the act of lighting is a far more significant representative of faith.

Israel Bonds Breakfast November 24 2019



Honoring Ben & Aileen Kirschenbaum



**YIP
50**

**YIP 50th
Anniversary
Shabbaton**



NOVEMBER 22-23 2019

LIFE CYCLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazal Tov

Parents, Sharon and Steve Albert, and grandparents, Suzanne & Marvin Gurwitz, and Rhoda Albert, on Daniel's engagement to Marjorie Rasinovsky from Brazil

Parents, Levana & Ohad Gil, and grandparents, Tirtsa & Rabbi Gil, on the Bat Mitzvah of Yonit

Lisa & Danny Rosen on the birth of Zachary

Grandparents, Shelley & Gary Katz, great grandparents, Esther & Paul Katz, and parents, Gabi & Craig Resmovitz, on the birth of Amy Beth

Elana Max on her Bat Mitzvah

Eddie Simpser on being awarded/Chai Lifeline's Maimonides Medical Achievement Award

Michelle Meir on being honored at the Ssterhood dinner

Aileen and Ben Kirschenbaum on being honored at an Israeli Bonds breakfast

Grandparents, Yoram & Ena Haase, and Rochelle & Brad Denning, great grandmother, Miriam Haase, and parents, Noa & Jon Denning on the birth of a boy

The Hoch and Pollack families on Michelle's engagement to Gideon

Great grand parents, Shelly & Larry Solomon, and Linda & Gene Brody, grandparents, Diane & Jonathan Brody, and parents, Avidan & Lior Brody on the birth of Yahav

Lisa & Phil Floumanhaft on the Bat Mitzvah of Addison

Ariella Hurtes on her engagement to Avner Baruch

Condolences

Levana Gil on the loss of her father, Aharon ben Samina

Debbie Eisenstadt on the loss of her father, Mordechai ben Shneur Ziev

Former member, Avraham Tryfus, on the loss of his daughter Jennifer Tryfus, stepdaughter of Holly Tryfus

Former member, Henry Zanger, on the loss of his brother, Yehoshua Zanger

Goldie Meyers on the loss of her sister Rachel Izkowitz

Jessica Glowacki Tentler on the loss of her father, Gerald Glowacki

Rochelle Sroka on the loss of her mother, Claire Gochman

May the Omnipresent console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Welcome New Members

Danny & Lisa Rosen and their children Jared and Zachary

Azi & Ariela Baer



Danny & Lisa Rosen



Azi & Ariela Baer



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The Board of Trustees and a vote of the Membership, in keeping with current law governing minors and drinking, adopted the following Shul policy:

It is the policy of the Shul that there be no consumption of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age on synagogue premises or at synagogue events.

Your support in maintaining this policy is appreciated.

KIDDUSH / SHUL CALENDAR

JANUARY 2020

1/18/2020 JACOB COHEN BAR MITZVAH

FEBRUARY 2020

2/1/2020 NCSY SHABBATON

2/22/2020 DANIEL ALBERT AUFRUF

2/28-3/3/2020 AIPAC CONFERENCE

MARCH 2020

3/7/2020 FIND IT IN PLAINVIEW SHABBATON

APRIL 2020

4/24-4/25/2020 SIR: DR. ELANA STEIN HAIN

MAY 2020

5/8-5/9/2020 SIR: DR. MORDECHAI KEDAR

5/24/2020 ALEC EISMAN WEDDING

JUNE 2020

6/6/2020 RAFI BRANDLER BAR MITZVAH

6/27/2020 NOAM WEISSMAN BAR MITZVAH

JULY 2020

7/11/2020 MINDY GROVER BAT MITZVAH

SEPTEMBER 2020

9/5/2020 ELIE GROSS BAT MITZVAH

DECEMBER 2020

12/19/2020 ETHAN FARBER BAR MITZVAH

The shul calendar can be viewed at yiplainview.com/calendar.

To reserve, remove or correct a date on the Shul calendar, please contact the Office Manager by e-mail at "officemanager@yiplainview.com," or at 516-433-4811 extension 1. Please provide the date and occasion.

To book a Kiddush through the shul please visit yiplainview.com/Kiddush for options and our catering policy. All Kiddush's must be paid in full, one week in advance except for a bris or a baby naming.



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Marty Taub



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