

Your Jewish Connection – Jews Fighting for Freedom

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee

Written by Linda S Trapasso

As we approach the time of year with the least amount of light, it's time to celebrate Hanukkah, which is a Festival of Lights that brightens eight days of December. Hanukkah starts on 25 Kislev, so the first night is on Tuesday, December 20. You can find information about this holiday on the Internet using the list of Web sites we've explored in this column:

- Learn about Hanukkah at www.myjewishlearning.com and www.alljewishlinks.com.
- Decide what foods to eat at kosherfood.about.com and joyof.kosher.com/.
- Find events in NH and the Boston area via www.tbanashua.org, www.jewishnh.org, www.jewishboston.com, and www.shalomboston.com.
- The Jewish Outreach Institute has a short list of Hanukkah story books (www.joi.org/celebrate/hanuk/books.shtml) plus other holiday information.

Hanukkah is widely celebrated here in the USA. The holiday is about dedication, and the pursuit of religious and human ideals and freedoms. The Maccabees fought against Antiochus, who put his statue in the Temple in Jerusalem. According to our laws, Jews do not bow down to statues or idols. The Maccabees won their fight against Antiochus, but the Temple was destroyed. It was repaired and then rededicated with the lighting of a menorah. The menorah had only enough olive oil to burn for one night, but the menorah burned for eight nights until new olive oil was available.

The Maccabees are not the only ones to fight for freedom. Did you know that Jews helped the colonies win the American Revolution? One of the better-known Jews in this effort was Haym Salomon. He had a significant role in financing the revolution and supporting the new fledgling government. (momentmagazine.wordpress.com/2011/07/04/revolutionary-american-jews/)



The Jewish patriot Francis Salvador was elected to the General Assembly of Carolina. In warning settlers of an impending attack, he was shot and eventually scalped, becoming the first

Jew to die fighting in the American Revolution. (www.jewishtreats.org/2009/07/jews-and-american-revolution.html)

President George Washington remembered the Jewish contribution when the first synagogue opened in Newport, Rhode Island (the Touro Synagogue), and sent a letter, dated August 17, 1790, declaring that the new nation would "... give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." These few words affirmed the founding fathers' commitment to the principals of religious freedom as a cornerstone of democracy in America.

(www.tourosynagogue.org/default.asp)



Check these out for additional information on the Jewish contribution to the American Revolution and growth of America:

- The amazing story of Jewish influence on the founding fathers of American democracy
www.aish.com/jl/h/cc/48955806.html
- How the Jews Saved the American Revolution
www.jewishmag.com/80mag/usa3/usa3.htm
- A Jew-y July Fourth: Or, What Did Jews Do in the American Revolution?
www.thejewishweek.com/blogs/well_versed/jew_y_july_fourth_or_what_did_jews_do_a_merican_revolution
- The Jews of St. Eustatius: Rescuers of the American Revolution
www.hebrewhistory.info/factpapers/fp037_eustatius.htm
- Jewish Heroes and Heroines of America from Colonial Times to 1900
www.fau.edu/library/brodytoc.htm

NOTE TO EDITOR: Please format this into columns as needed, and place images appropriately.
Thanks!

NOTE TO EDITOR: The following list can go in a sidebar if that makes it easier to fit into the bulletin.

Jewish Web Resources

www.tbanashua.org Our own TBA Web site!

www.rabbijon.com Rabbi Jon's blog.

www.jewishnh.org Jewish Federation of NH.

www.hebcal.com Check Hebrew calendar dates.

www.jewishboston.com Lists Jewish events in the greater Boston area and beyond.

www.shalomboston.com More resources for greater Boston and beyond.

www.myjewishlearning.com Lots of general information.

www.jewfaq.org Provides information from a traditional perspective.

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org Has information on all facets of Jewish life.

www.alljewishlinks.com Jewish directory and search engine.

www.cjh.org The Center for Jewish History.

www.jewishgen.org "The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy."

www.jgsgb.org Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

kosherfood.about.com The About.com Guide for Kosher food.

www.jwi.org Jewish Women International.

joyof.kosher.com/ Joy of Kosher blog.

www.werepair.org Repair the World.

www.canfeinesharim.org/ Canfei Nesharim, part of Torah-based environmental movement.

www.biggreenjewish.org/ The Big Green Jewish Website.

www.coejl.org The leading Jewish environmental organization in the US.

www.haaretz.com Online edition of Haaretz Newspaper in Israel.

www.jpost.com The Jerusalem Post - English daily newspaper.

www.israelnationalnews.com IsraelNationalNews (Arutz Sheva), an English-language news site.

www.forward.com The Forward, a legendary name in American journalism.

www.camera.org Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, CAMERA.

www.thejewishadvocate.com The Jewish Advocate, greater Boston's Jewish newspaper.

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