



our house

beiteinu view

Hanukkah 2017

What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah tells a story of military valor and epic bravery. It focuses attention upon a dramatic crisis in Jewish history when Antiochus's fanatical oppression of the Jews sparked a revolt for religious freedom. It celebrates valiant people called the Maccabees, who answered the call to stand up for their people and their way of life. It recalls the first struggle in history when people fought not for material possessions, but for ideals – especially the ideal of human Liberty. It calls to mind one of the first times in history when the human spirit refused to be intimidated by force.

Hanukkah is a powerful message of inspiration for all people to resist tyranny. How vastly different human history might have been if the Maccabees had lost their war and Judaism had disappeared 21 centuries ago. Could Christianity and Mohammedanism have been born centuries later? Could a faith Long dead have yielded any spiritual offspring? Thus, the church and the Mosque, no less the Synagogue, owe their existence to the Maccabees.

Hanukkah means “dedication,” and it underscores not so much the military achievement as the spiritual victory; the re-dedication of the Temple.

The victory on the field of battle was crucial but the ultimate triumph was in the inner Temple of the Spirit; in the hearts and minds of the people.

To underscore this aspect of Hanukkah, tradition prescribed for the Sabbath of Hanukkah the prophetic reading which contains the words: “not by might nor by My power but by My spirit, says the Lord” (Zachariah 4:6). Hanukkah commemorates not the spirit of power, but rather **the power of the Spirit**.

In answer to the question: “**Why do we celebrate Hanukkah?**” Our sages told the legend of a small flask of oil which was found in the desecrated Temple in Jerusalem after the enemy had been driven out. Containing sufficient oil for only one day, it miraculously lasted for eight. Here we can find a clue to the destiny of our people and our faith. By every known standard, **we should have “burned ourselves out”** long centuries ago. Time and again, we have heard our final doom pronounced. Yet time and again, through courage and loyalty, **we have found the necessary fuel to keep alive the flames of faith and hope**. Hanukkah summons us in our time to act as worthy heirs of a dedicated people. Stand up and stand proud for your beliefs!

We wish you and your family a happy holiday.





beiteinu
SYNAGOGUE

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Hanukkah 2017

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Israel by Bike!

By Dr. Jan Solkov, Member of Beiteinu

Most people see Israel from a bus or a car or on foot. How about seeing Israel from the seat of a bicycle? It only takes 40 minutes by plane to go from Tel Aviv to Eilat. Of course, it takes a lot longer on a bicycle, but you get to see and experience so much more!

On the Israel Ride (israelride.org), I biked 300 miles in 5 days beginning November 1, 2017. There were 167 cyclists who rode from Jerusalem to Eilat through hilly terrain. You'd be surprised to learn that many people there have done this ride repeatedly for several of the 15 years that this riding event has been held. Here are some facts about this year's friendly, enthusiastic participants:

- 167 riders (including 66 women)
- 20 of our country's states were represented, along with Israel, Australia, South Africa, England, France, and Canada
- Riders ranged in age from 12 to 77 (including lots of people over age 50)

It was a fundraising ride to support the environmental sustainability work at the Arava Institute and collaboration efforts toward peace between Arabs and Jews through the work of Hazon. I was able to raise \$5,000, thanks to the generosity of 80+ donors!

This was a very organized and well-supported ride. Imagine the logistics (food, lodging, bicycle support, moving luggage, registration and orientation, answering our many questions, etc.) for three

different riding groups which all take different routes! The groups are based on riding pace and number of miles for each day; I rode comfortably in the middle group which averaged 12-14 mph and 60 miles per day. We stayed at hotels and Kibbutz guesthouses and ate delicious, healthy foods at all meal times and rest stops. There were informative presentations each day during which we learned about the historical and environmental significance of the terrain at rest stops and overnight stays.

It was an amazing experience to see Israel in this way. Not only did I learn more about Israel's history, geology, and culture, but I had time while riding, to be in this country for hours with my own thoughts and introspection. How often do you really have time to spend reflecting about yourself? This was a great opportunity for personal growth and enhancing self-confidence.

In the photo I am standing in the Red Sea in Eilat at the end of the ride on Day 5, feeling very proud of my accomplishment.

If you are interested in doing this ride, registration for the 2018 Israel Ride is now open (israelride.org), and the registration cost is discounted if you register early. I encourage you to consider it, and I would be happy to answer your questions (drjanice1@yahoo.com).



The whole group of 167 riders



Rest stop on Day 3 at Yerucham Park



Standing in the Red Sea at Eilat, after completing 300 miles of bike riding through Israel in 5 days

Member Spotlight

Meet Dan & Jen Scotto D'Antuono

Spoiler Alert: You are about to find out how to get the absolute best pretzels in the whole world. Interested? Read on!

Meet Dan and Jen Scotto D'Antuono, a lovely couple in our Beiteinu family. Married this past June by Rabbi Cove, they come from very different backgrounds and yet share much in common with each other and with the principles of Beiteinu.

Jen, along with her younger brother, grew up in the Havertown area – products of the incredible caring and fortitude of their single mother. Jen's mother immigrated from Iran, always feeling a bit like a stranger in a strange land. As a Jew in Iran or an Iranian in the U.S., her life was difficult and isolating, however, she turned that feeling of alienation into a quest to help others feel more accepted.

Lynda, Jen's mom was a math teacher who would come home with crazy stories about her students, yet her tremendous heart and kindness helped these students change perspective and find warmth in a world that can sometimes feel unrelenting. Still today, Jen's mom is not only a fantastic role model, but a true hero.



Dan shared a very similar upbringing with Jen in that he and his younger brother also grew up as the sons of an immigrant. Their father immigrated from Italy before meeting their mother in Lancaster and settling down in Harrisburg.

Dan and Jen met ten years ago while at Drexel University, studying in completely different undergraduate programs. Jen is now an actuary and

Dan received his PhD in material science engineering only a week before his nuptials. Dan is very proud of this significant feat.

And, just in case the past few months had not already been eventful enough, Jen is pregnant with their first child, Dan is beginning his new career and they are house-hunting. But what do they do when they are not having major life events? Jen loves baking, watching movies, woodworking and, of course, spending time with Dan. Dan loves guitar, music, woodworking, binge-watching movies, and cooking with Jen – particularly baking.

Enter the pretzel. Using all natural leavening, Dan has mastered the art of baking pretzels, which makes you wonder “Why material science engineering?” when there was clearly a tastier calling. In any case, Jen, connoisseur of fine baked goods, is confident that Dan makes the best pretzels on the planet, so make sure you ask him for a taste when you see him. This in no way discounts Jen's cooking. In fact, even though she grew up in a home where her mother did not cook, she stunned her mom and her 3rd grade class during show-and-tell, with her amazing mac-and-cheese. Jen's Mac-and-Cheese? Dan's pretzels? Clearly it was beshert!

And that brings us to Beiteinu and Rabbi Cove. Jen grew up in a Jewish home and Dan was raised Catholic. For many, this could be challenging, but Beiteinu has provided them with a welcoming environment that does not cast judgment, and offers a friendly spirit that embraces the couple. Dan and Jen both love the fact that Rabbi Cove explains everything at each service. According to Jen, “Whether it is services, holidays, or life events, we have felt complete comfort and connection because Rabbi Cove teaches in a way that helps each person on their own spiritual journey. He makes everything more meaningful . . . because what is the point in doing something if you don't understand why you are doing it.” Not only has Beiteinu allowed Jen and Dan to feel accepted, it has even inspired Jen to organize her own Seders for her enormous extended family with the same focus on explanation and understanding for all.

We are excited to have Jen and Dan in our Beiteinu family and hope you will all have an opportunity to meet them . . . and “break pretzel” together!



Family Chanukah Trivia Quiz

Answers on the last page

1. What does the Hebrew word Chanukah mean?
2. In English, Chanukah has two names. The Festival of _____ and the Festival of _____.
3. For how many days do we celebrate Chanukah?
4. During which Hebrew month do we celebrate Chanukah? On which day?
5. What historical event does Chanukah commemorate?
6. Who was the Syrian-Greek ruler who tried to pull Jews away from Judaism?
7. Name the five sons of Mattathias. Which son led the fight against the Syrian army?
8. What was the battle cry of Mattathias?
9. In what community did the Jewish revolt begin?
10. After the army recaptured Jerusalem and the Temple, what was Judah's first act?
11. What is another name for potato pancakes that we eat during Chanukah?
12. What is the name of the jelly donuts that we eat during Chanukah?
13. What is the name of the spinning top that children play with on Chanukah?
14. What Hebrew letters are on the four sides of the dreidel? What do they mean in English?

Important Dates (Shabbat Services)

Bucks County services will be held at the Yardley Friends Meeting House- 65 N Main St, Yardley, PA 19067

Montgomery County services will be held at the Plymouth Friends Meeting House- 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Moorestown, NJ services will be held at the Moorestown Friends House- 118 E Main St, Moorestown, NJ 08057

DECEMBER:

Bucks: Friday, Dec.8th - 7:30pm

Montgomery: Friday, Dec. 22nd - 7:30pm

JANUARY:

Bucks: Friday, Jan.12th - 7:30pm

Moorestown, NJ: Friday, Jan. 26th - 7:00pm

FEBRUARY:

Bucks: Friday, Jan.9th - 7:30pm

Montgomery: Friday, Feb.23rd - 7:30pm

MARCH:

Moorestown, NJ: Friday, Mar. 9th - 7:00pm

Montgomery: Friday, Mar. 23rd - 7:30pm

APRIL:

Bucks: Friday, Apr.13th - 7:30pm

Montgomery: Friday, Apr. 27th - 7:30pm

MAY:

Moorestown, NJ: Friday, Apr.11th - 7:00pm

NO SERVICES (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND)

JUNE:

Bucks: Friday, Feb.8th - 7:30pm

Montgomery: Friday, Feb. 22nd - 7:30pm

Dates, times and locations may change after this newsletter is sent out. Please double-check the website - beiteinu.org or beiteinu.shulcloud.com for times, locations and other events.

Minyanim Every Thursday 7:30am

Meet us in Yardley, where we start the day with prayer, thought-provoking conversations, and reflection.

Worship is followed by breakfast and friendly conversation.

Please call **Rabbi Cove** at **484-432-0931**

or email him at rabbi@beiteinu.org if you would like to join us.





Beiteinu and Rabbi Howard Cove, invite you to join us in welcoming in the New Year and the High Holidays. We strive to offer options that are best for each individual and your needs.

(Family includes dependent children)

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Individual: \$396

Family: \$817

Over 35 years of Age Full membership allows you to share in all the high holiday festivities as well as joining us for Shabbat service, minyan, and all other activities and events.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Individual under 35: \$279

Family under 35: \$583

Over 35 years of Age Full membership allows you to share in all the high holiday festivities as well as joining us for Shabbat service, minyan, and all other activities and events.

HIGH HOLIDAYS

\$250/ per person

Children 18 and under \$25

High Holidays Only Unable to commit to membership at this time but still want to come for the high holidays.....no problem. Enjoy all High Holiday events including New Year's Under The Stars, Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Day and Yizkor Service.

**MINYAN
SHABBAT**

4 Services \$72/pp

All Services \$218/pp

Want to be a part of the Beiteinu family but unable to make it to the holidays. Great, join us on Thursday Morning minyan, Shabbat services and other special events throughout the year.

**EREV ROSH
HASANAH**

\$36

New Year's Under the Stars Enjoy a concert, courtesy of Adam Weitz and A-Sharp productions. Dance, eat a catered dinner and take part in a service culminating in the blowing of the Shofar at sundown, under the stars.

Tickets may be purchased online at: **beiteinu.org**

Or by check mailed to: Beiteinu, P.O. Box 231, Haverford, PA 19004

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I have enclosed my payment in the amount of \$ _____ Added Donation: \$ _____

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by Mark Parisi

Answers to the Chanukah Quiz

1. Dedication
2. The Festival of Lights and the Festival of Dedication
3. Eight
4. Kislev, on the 25th day
5. The Israelites' struggle for religious freedom against the Syrian Greeks
6. Antiochus Epiphanes
7. Judah, Eliezer, Simon, Jonathan and Yohanan. Judah led the revolt.
8. Mi l'Adonai Elay, "Whoever is on the side of God, follow me."
9. Modin
10. He cleansed and rededicated the Temple.
11. Latkes
12. Sufganiyot
13. Dreidel
14. Nun, gimmel, hey, shin meaning "A great miracle happened here"