



Shabbat Announcements

Parshat Mikeitz

December 27, 2008 30 Kislev, 5769

**TORAH
ARTSCROLL, 222
HERTZ, 155**

**MAFTIR
ARTSCROLL, 768
HERTZ, 599**

**HAFTORAH
ARTSCROLL, 1210
HERTZ, 987**

Times

Candle lighting	4:15 pm
Early Mincha	3:30 pm
Mincha	4:20 pm
Hashkama Minyan	8:00 am
Parsha Shiur	8:30 am
Youth	8:30 am
Main Minyan	9:00 am
Beit Midrash	9:15 am
Gemorah Shiur	3:30 pm
Mincha	4:10 pm
Shabbat Ends	5:24 pm
Sunday, December 28	7:30 am 8:30 am
Monday	6:35 am
Tues., Wed., Fri.,	6:45 am
Thursday	6:30 am 7:30 am
Second Shacharit Minyan (Daily)	7:45 am
Mincha (week of December 28)	4:25 pm
Late Ma'ariv Mon., - Thurs.,	8:15 pm

Latest times for
Shema/Shmoneh Esrei

December 27	9:37/10:23 am
January 3	9:39/10:26 am

Next Shabbat - Vayigash

Candle lighting	4:21 pm
Mincha	4:25 pm

GNS TEFILLA DIGEST:

A Weekly Discussion about the Fundamentals of Jewish Prayer By Rabbi Brahm Weinberg – Rabbinic Intern

This inspiring article about tefillah is sponsored by David and Diane Rein in memory of Diane's mother, Helene M. Fink z"l.

Issue # 26 – Chanukah

Over the last 5 weeks we have been discussing the shma in the Tefilla Digest and we will continue to do so for a number of weeks to come since it is such a vast topic. Nevertheless, we are taking just a one week break to discuss a few ways that the holiday of Channuka, which we are currently celebrating, impacts our *tefilla*, our prayer service.

Lighting Candles in Synagogue

Despite the fact that the lighting of Chanukah candles is really meant to be done in the home and is a mitzvah that is intrinsically tied to the home, nevertheless, the rabbis instituted the practice of lighting candles in the synagogue as well. Before *maariv*, the evening service, the Chanukah candles are lit in the synagogue and the traditional blessings are recited. At *shacharit*, the

morning service, everyday except on Shabbat when it is forbidden to light a fire, the candles are lit once again but without a *bracha* (The appropriate time to fulfill the mitzvah of lighting candles is only at night when it is dark and the lights of the menorah are most visible. When lighting in synagogue during the day no *bracha* is recited since it is not to fulfill the mitzvah, but simple done for added exposure).

The reason the rabbis instituted this practice was to enable greater publicization of the miracles that G-d performed for us at this time of year which is one of the essential purposes of lighting the candles altogether – *pirsumei nissa*. The synagogue is a public place where many people gather and so it became customary to light candles as part of the prayer services so that many people would see them and be reminded of G-d's miracles.

Furthermore, we have many practices in the synagogue that are meant to imitate and recall the practices in the Temple, because the synagogue is called a *mikdash me'at*, a mini-Temple (Yechezkel 11:16). Therefore, it is appropriate and

unique to recreate the miracle of the lighting of the menorah by the Hashmonaim in the Temple within the confines of the synagogue, the *mikdash me'at* – the closest thing we have to the Temple itself.

Al hanissim

The most essential feature of our prayer service that marks the holiday of Chanukah is the recitation of the passage of *Al hanissim* (P.470 in the Artscroll Siddur). This passage which, in short, tells the story of Chanukah is recited at *shacharit* (morning services), *mincha* (afternoon services), *maariv* (evening services), *mussaf* (additional service of Shabbat), as well as in *birkat hamazon* (grace after meals).

The passage is inserted in the *amidah* between “*modim*” and “*v'al kulam yitbarach*” in the section of the *amidah* known as *hoda'a* (thanksgiving). This passage marks the day but, more essentially, thanks G-d for the miracles that He performed for us and therefore it is appropriate that it is placed in the section of the *amidah* in which we thank G-d for all that He does. In the *modim* passage that comes before *al hanissim* we thank G-d for “*nisecha shebechol yom imanu*”

**KIDDUSH IS
SPONSORED BY
GREAT
NECK
SYNAGOGUE**

**SEUDAH SHLISHIT
IS SPONSORED BY
SUSAN & JIM FRISCH
IN MEMORY OF
HER FATHER
FELIX SAMELSON**

“for the **miracles** that you perform for us every day.” This is an appropriate lead-up to *al hanissim* which discusses the *specific* miracles of Chanukah. After *al hanissim* we continue with “*ve'al kulam*” which says that in return for all of what Hashem does for us (the miracles *and* the mundane) His name should be exalted forever. This is a good follow up to *al hanissim* saying we not only thank G-d when He does the spectacular miracles, but recognize all the **everyday** occurrences, recognize **kulam**, which He does as well.

The Talmud says (Shabbat 25b) that Chanukah was established as a holiday for *hallel* (praise) *v'hodaa* (thanksgiving). Rashi (ad loc) believes that the recitation of *al hanissim* in our prayers is actually the *central* expression of *hodaa*, of thanksgiving, that fulfills the obligation of *hodaa* to Hashem for which the holiday was established. This also implies that the *al hanissim* prayer was instituted by the rabbis as soon as they declared Chanukah to be a holiday (Others like the Rambam disagree).

Although we don't have time to discuss them here, there are other changes to the *tefilla* on Chanukah: Full *Hallel* is recited every day, there is a special Torah reading every day, an extra Psalm (30) with the theme of rededication of the Temple is added after *tefilla*, and no *tachanun* is said.

Question to Ponder

The Talmud (Shabbat 25b) mentions two miracles in the context of Chanukah: The crucible of oil that lasted for eight days instead of one and the military victory of “*rabim be'ad meatim*” “of the few at the hands of the many” (The Jews, few in number led by the Hashmonaim pushed back the army of the Assyrian Greeks).

In fact, even the name “Chanukah” implies this dual significance: Chanukah is an acronym for “*chanu b'chaf heh*” “they encamped on the 25th” meaning that the holiday commemorates the close of the war which occurred on the 25th day of Kislev. This implies that the holiday was established to remember the military victory. However, Chanukah also means “rededication” which implies that what we are celebrating on Chanukah is the rededication of the Temple with the lighting of the Menorah and the miracle of the oil.

Nevertheless, the Talmud says that the holiday was established *not* for the military victory, but to commemorate and publicize the miracle of the oil.

The commentators all struggle to figure out exactly what the main miracle is that we are celebrating and why the Talmud stresses the oil over the military victory. After all, if our lives were threatened in the war and we were saved and we regained independence in our own land it would seem more significant than finding some pure oil that lasted 8 days!

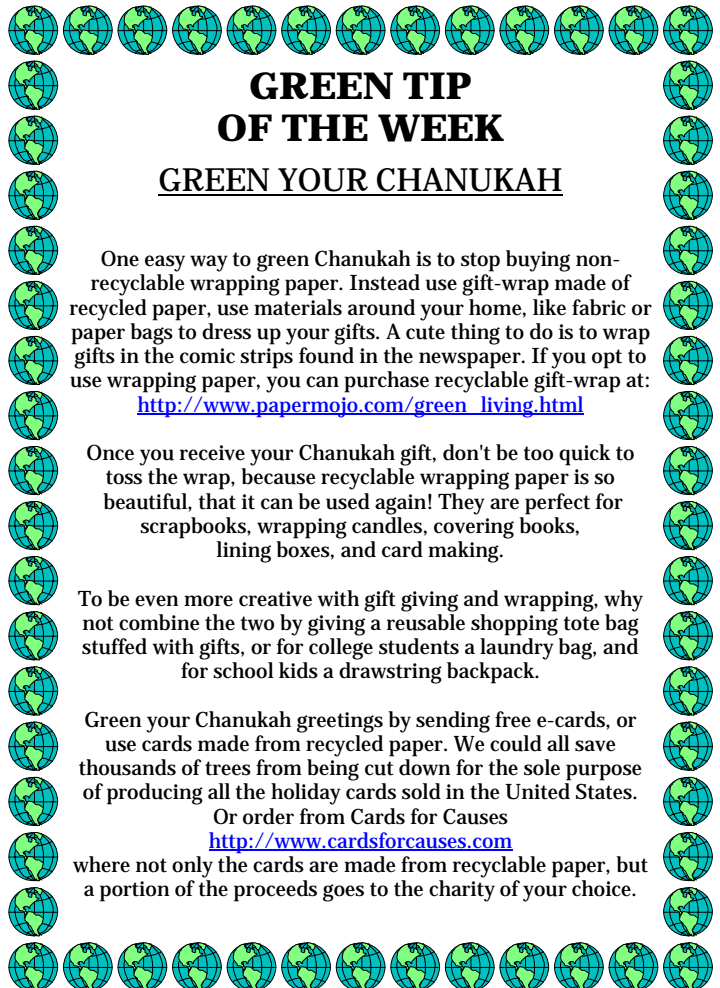
R. Chaim Shmulevitz (Sichot Mussar – Vayeshev) explains that while perhaps the military victory was a more *necessary* miracle,

we celebrate the miracle of the oil because what we are celebrating on Chanukah is our relationship with G-d. The love of G-d for his people was *even more* apparent in the small miracle of the oil than in the military victory. G-d, in some way, “had” to save us in the war because He promised that the Jewish people would forever continue to survive. However, the miracle of the oil was that extra little touch which was smaller and less “necessary” which let us know that Hashem loves us and wanted to do something special to let us know even in times of great hellenization and decline in Jewish practice He was still there with us.

The Maharal explains (Ner Mitzvah and Chiddushe Agadot) that what we are celebrating on Chanukah is really the military victory. The Talmud just says that they established the holiday through the miracle of the oil and made it the flagship of Chanukah but it is not its essence. The rabbis did this because they knew that since the miracle of the war occurred *bederech hateva*, through natural means, its miraculous nature would not be as apparent whereas the oil was *shelo bederech hateva*, not natural at all and would highlight G-d's involvement in the miracles of the holiday even more.

The passage of *al hanissim* mentions only the military victory! This fits very well with the explanation of the Maharal, but seems to contradict the Talmud as well as other commentators! The passage mentions that they lit the menorah in the Temple once the war was over and they cleaned it up, but never mentions that the oil was found pure or that it lasted eight days instead of one! How could this be in such flagrant contradiction to the Talmud??

I would love to hear your answers!



**GREEN TIP
OF THE WEEK**
GREEN YOUR CHANUKAH

One easy way to green Chanukah is to stop buying non-recyclable wrapping paper. Instead use gift-wrap made of recycled paper, use materials around your home, like fabric or paper bags to dress up your gifts. A cute thing to do is to wrap gifts in the comic strips found in the newspaper. If you opt to use wrapping paper, you can purchase recyclable gift-wrap at: http://www.papermojo.com/green_living.html

Once you receive your Chanukah gift, don't be too quick to toss the wrap, because recyclable wrapping paper is so beautiful, that it can be used again! They are perfect for scrapbooks, wrapping candles, covering books, lining boxes, and card making.

To be even more creative with gift giving and wrapping, why not combine the two by giving a reusable shopping tote bag stuffed with gifts, or for college students a laundry bag, and for school kids a drawstring backpack.

Green your Chanukah greetings by sending free e-cards, or use cards made from recycled paper. We could all save thousands of trees from being cut down for the sole purpose of producing all the holiday cards sold in the United States.

Or order from Cards for Causes <http://www.cardsforcauses.com> where not only the cards are made from recyclable paper, but a portion of the proceeds goes to the charity of your choice.

	<p>Great Neck Synagogue 26 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, New York 11023 516-487-6100</p>
	<p>Dale Polakoff, Rabbi Shalom Axelrod, Assistant Rabbi Brahm Weinberg, Rabbinic Intern Dr. Ephraim Wolf, z"l, Rabbi Emeritus Zeev Kron, Cantor Eleazer Schulman, z"l, Cantor Emeritus Mark Twersky, Executive Director Howard Silberstein, President Harold Domnitch, Chairman of the Board</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RABBI REISMAN SATURDAY NIGHT TELECAST

In the Weinstein Torah & Technology Center Saturday evening 7:30pm, www.gnstorah.org.

RABBI AXELROD WEDNESDAY NIGHT PIZZA AND PARSHA

There will be a special Chanukah celebration at this week's Pizza and Parsha this Wed. Dec. 24th. Sponsors are welcome!

RABBI POLAKOFF THURSDAY CHUMASH CLASSES

There will be Chumash class on Thurs., Dec. 25th. Women's Chumash at 9:15am, and Power Chumash at 8:30pm.

SCHOLARS KOLLEL

The Scholars Kollel will hold a special breakfast on Thursday December 25th, following the 7:45 am minyan featuring **Rabbi Bentzion Chait**.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Sunday Breakfast is sponsored by **Laden & Eliyahou Elyassoff** in memory of his father **Yitzhak ben Maschia**.

SISTERHOOD MEETING

On Tuesday, January 6th, at 8pm in the Braun Youth Center, GNS Sisterhood will hold a meeting to discuss and plan upcoming events. We welcome your attendance and participation and look forward to seeing you there!

GNS WEBSITE

Our new website www.gns.org is now officially in service. Thanks to the tireless effort of **David Rogelberg**, **Nik Kron**, and **Rabbi Polakoff**, we are up and running. When you go to the website you will find all the important times, dates, and events that are happening at GNS, and you will also be able to access the Shabbat Announcements. Explore the site, look through it, and feel free to make comments! The site allows you to be interactive and comment on the posts that are there. We hope that you enjoy the experience.

SAVE THE DATES: SISTERHOOD CALENDAR

Jan. 13th 8pm - Guest Speaker, **Dr. Jill Maura Rabin**, head of Urogynecology, Chief of Ambulatory Care at LIJ and Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Women's Health at Albert Einstein Medical School, will be speaking on women's health issues, at the home of **Cindy Ludwig**, 22 Nassau Drive. We are grateful to UJA for providing a grant for her appearance.

GNS LITTLE LEAGUE

Applications for Little League are available in the Synagogue Office. Please have them filled out and back to the office by the February 1st deadline. Season opener is April, 5th. Payment must accompany the application.

THANK YOU

The Hunger Initiative warmly thanks those who participated in the "Share the Light" Chanukah program. From our youngest volunteers who made almost 100 Chanukah cards together with their parents, the High School students who baked, packaged, and delivered, and the GNS community who selflessly came out in the wintry weather to make a difference. If you would like to donate food, even if it's a little extra when you are making dinner, **Herschel Minster** collects outside of Mazur's every Friday afternoon, and delivers food for Shabbat to those in need, and will also pick up in Great Neck during the week, you can contact him at 718-279-3989.

BABY CHANGING TABLE

There is now a baby changing table located in the handicapped stall of the ladies bathroom in the Youth Center Hallway.

GNS SISTERHOOD THANK YOU'S

The Sisterhood would like to thank **Marci Rabinowitz** for opening up her beautiful home to host cookbook author **Susie Fishbein** for a most wonderful and delicious 3 course cooking demonstration and meal! Everyone who attended had a fabulous time! Special thank you to **Erica Zucker Heisler**, **Vivian Kron**, **Liz Ort**, and **Jessica Smooha** and for all their help with the event. We would also like to thank **Margery Libin** for organizing a wonderful Chanukah Workshop using stained glass art with artist **Roberta Flatow**. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time! This event was also sponsored by Margery Libin in memory of her mother, **Florence B. Mandell z"l**.

MAGAZINES WANTED

Please drop off your used magazines to the Synagogue office.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Mazal Tov to Tammy & Ben Jampel on the marriage of their children **Daniela** and **Matthew Schneid**.

Mazal Tov to Meryl & Mark Friedman on the engagement of their son **Jared** to **Serah Gutman**, daughter of **Susan & Bela Gutman**.

Mazal Tov to Zara & Eli Moradi on the engagement of their daughter **Bianca** to **Edwin Shirazian**.

TOMCHEI SHABBOS DELIVERY

We need volunteers to donate two weeks a month to share delivery routes in Queens on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30-9pm. Please contact **Rabbi Moskowitz** at smoskowitz@gns.org.

SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the way the Post Office is now handling bulk mail, you may have been getting your Shabbat Announcements very late. To keep them current, we are sending an email version of the news out each week. Our new website will be running soon, where the full version of the announcements will be available. Please send your email address to: mtwersky@gns.org so you may get your news in a timely fashion. The board has decided to stop mass mailing the announcements by the first of the year. Hard copies will be available in the office, and on Shabbat. If you don't have internet access, let us know, and we'll mail your copy.

NSHA PTA FUNDRAISER

Harlem Wizards vs. North Shore Lions, (Parents, Faculty and Students) this January 10th, at North Middle School at 7:30pm. \$25 per person in advance, and \$30 at the door. For more info: **Dalya Vilinsky** 487-1221.

Howard Lorber and Family would like to thank, Rabbi Polakoff, Rabbi Axelrod, Cantor Kron, Mark Twersky, the Synagogue staff, and the entire community for their outpouring of support, sympathy and kindness following the death of his mother, Hannah Lorber.

Y
A
H
R
Z
E
I
T

Saturday, 30 Kislev

Drora Brody for Mazal Yefet
Edith Lubin for Annie Goldberg

Sunday, 1 Tevet

Ada More Benerofe for Miriam Aviv
Steven Kashan for Ezra Kashan
Phyllis Miller for Louis Eisendorfer
Norman Seif for Helen Gewirtz-Seif
Chava Shalmon for Yosef Grinszpan
Martin Sokol for Milton Sokol
Gerald Traub for Emil Traub

Monday, 2 Tevet

Alexander Forkosh for Clara Forkosh
Joseph Hyman for Leon Hyman

Tuesday, 3 Tevet

Lev Dynkin for Rakhil Shifman
Semyon Dynkin for Rakhil Shifman
Susan Frisch for Felix Samelson
Sabina Geist for Harry Geist
Leonard Kahn for Robert Kahn
Joan Katz for Nathan William Rezak
Joan Katz for Max Sadinoff
Mel Klapper for Yehusah Heshel Klapper
Roslyn Korman for Fannie Wasserman
Rachel Lee for Harry Geist
Sidney Mauthner for Frieda Mauthner
Leo Mindick for Israel Mindick
Katalin Samelson for Felix Samelson
Ezra Sheena for Gorjia Sheena
Jerrald Weinstein for Morris Weinstein
Doreen Zobel for Harry Geist

Wednesday, 4 Tevet

Baruch Toledano for Jamila Toledano
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Weinberg for Louis Tabachnick

Thursday, 5 Tevet

Ruth Wachtenheim for Felix Halpern

Friday, 6 Tevet

Nadine Eckstein for William Engel