

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon
706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511
Phone (813) 681-6547
www.BethShalom-Brandon.org

December 2022 Volume 33 Issue 7



Hanukkah

By Sasha Ginsberg

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From the Rabbi's desk...



December eighteenth we get ready to bring the light of winter here in sunny Florida by lighting our Menorah or Chanukah. This is truly a holiday of religious freedom. This is also a Holiday that symbolizes the strength of the Jewish people's spirit. As we place the menorah by the window except if we live in an anti-Semitic neighborhood we will light the candles for eight nights, immediately following sunset however, except on Friday, where we light the candles before Shabbat, so we are not in any violation, of creating light on the Shabbat. On Saturday, we will kindle the lights of Chanukah, after Shabbat.

Chanukah candles should remain lit for at least one hour and a half. As we gather all the family members around, we light the first light which is our Shamesh or leader candle or Service candle. We then recite the blessings, as we light the Chanukah Candles from left to right.

The leader candle is then placed the farthest away from the other candles, back in its designated place.

Have a Very Happy Chanukah,

Rabbi Lefkowitz



The story of a little candle pushing away the monster of frightening darkness of human sensibility over-coming terror and brute force, of life and growth over coming destruction. The battle is very much alive within each of us, and in the world outside of us.

It reoccurs at every winter solstice, at every dawn of each day, with every photon of sunlight that breaks through the earth's atmosphere bringing it warmth and life-nurturing energy. With every breadth of life, every cry of a newborn child, every blade of grass that breaks out from under the soil, every decision to do good in the face of evil, to be kind where there is cruelty, to build where others destroy, to move humanity forward when others pull us toward chaos. And that is Chanukah.

Chanukah is an eight-day spiritual journey. Many people know the story of Chanukah but only as a historical pretext to give gifts and eat latkes. We can call that the body of Chanukah. The soul of Chanukah is its meditation. joy, warmth, and light. Not only in our homes with our loved ones, but with the entire world.

When we light the Menorah at Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon, our hope is that by igniting our souls, everybody will follow the light of the world, one candle at a time.

We look forward to having you join us and making this Chanukah incredibly special.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Lefkowitz

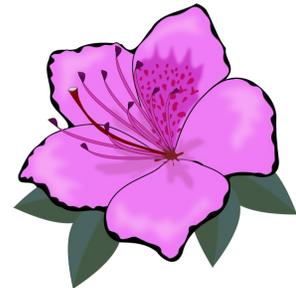
The President's Corner



Steve Billor

Membership

Please welcome our newest members:



CBS Business

Shabbat Services

Meeting ID: 897 3400 8923
Password: 770549

Our Shabbat services will take place Friday Nights at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary as well as online. Our livestream feed is available on Zoom and Facebook. For outdoor services, the Zoom link will not work, so please sign in to Facebook. Join us in the celebration of Shabbat and you are welcome to like, comment, and share.

We established a new Zoom link. You will be able to login from our weekly eNews. The process has not changed, just the link. For your information here is the new link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734008923?pwd=WEtGZXN1UVVNM0lCa3BoTzJyZUc0UT09>

We are glad that you enjoy our shabbat services and hope to see you on the Zoom screen this Friday.

Facebook Information for Shabbat Service:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethShalomBrandon/>



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To reserve your place in the next issue, e-mail John Zelatis at

jjzelatis@zomesa.com or call the

CBS office at

813-681-6547.

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. Someone can be reached at [cbs-brandon@outlook.com] and 813-681-6547 or you may contact Rabbi Lefkowitz directly at 407-222-6393 or rlefkowi@bellsouth.net. Rabbi Lefkowitz will be available for in person meetings on Fridays. Call him at 407-222-6393 to schedule an appointment.



Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns or questions.



SHARE A MAZEL TOV!

Do you have a family member, friend, spouse or congregant you would like to wish Mazel Tov to in our Kibbitzer? You can send an email to the-kibbitzer@hotmail.com with their name and accomplishment, engagement or birth. It's important during these times to see the good in



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The Kibbitzer

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 For current news and events
 see the congregation's website:
<http://www.bethshalom-brandon.org>

Congregation Contacts

813-681-6547 • CBS-brandon@outlook.com

Office hours:

By appointment.
 Voicemails and emails will be monitored daily.
 Office is closed on holidays

Weekly Email Blast submissions**MEMBERSHIP**

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 2

Friday, December 9

Friday, December 16

Friday, December 23

Friday, December 30



Oneg Schedule

December Sponsors

There can be no joy without food and drink.

Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

December 2	CBS Members	Please bring a dish to share
December 9	CBS Members	Please bring a dish to share
December 16	April Katz Newport	In honor of Connor and Jamie's 14th birthday
December 23	CBS Members	Please bring a dish to share
December 30	Petie Maguire	In honor of Max celebrating turning 5

**If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, please call
Judith Pliner at (856)816-2174**

Dinner with the Tribe



Anita Clifford

Whoopie! In November, we're going to a nearby winery for our Dinner With the Tribe. The wines are well regarded and quite delicious! They've won awards and I've seen their wines at Publix. You will be able to enjoy their wines at a wine tasting where **you can sample 8 different wines.**



**Keel and Curley Winery
5202 Thonotosassa Road
Plant City, FL 33565**

Saturday, November 19th

**3:30 PM Wine Tasting
4:30 PM Dinner/Appetizer**

Wine tasting:

Experience Keel and Curley Winery with an immersive wine tasting! You will taste and learn about eight of our signature farm fresh wines. This includes the blueberry wine as well as their award winning fruit fusion wines.

Dining Reservation:

We are still recovering from Hurricane Ian. We apologize for the use of temporary patio tents and limited outside seating. We encourage walk-in seating while we make necessary adjustments.

Book a dining reservation with us to enjoy our farm fresh menu and handcrafted wines, beers, and ciders.

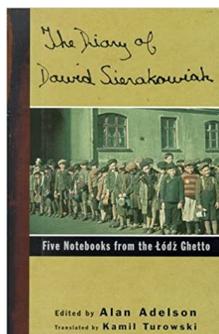
Sign up for the wine tasting which costs \$15.00 + fees (approx. \$21/person). You may use the following link. **Please let me know that you've signed up and paid for the wine tasting niewdnarb@yahoo.com**

https://www.keelfarms.com/eat?gclid=CjwKCAjwkaSaBhA4EiwALBgQaAvVIzoZ81C6OUjuSoUkG6qAAeVvCfQoglnD3AGt_IZhP4Oqfrm9NhoCZeMQAvD_BwE

Library News

Books, Books, and Books

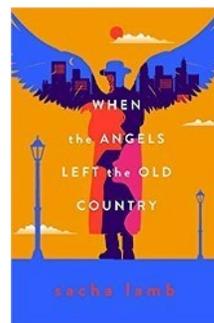
The Diary of Dawid Sierakowak
Edited by Alan Adelson



In working on my genealogy, I've been reading many books about the Lodz Ghetto since many of my family members ended up being transported there. This personal diary adds insight to the non-fiction books I've read. The book synopsis comes from Amazon.

"After the liberation of the Lodz Ghetto, Dawid Sierakowak's notebooks were found stacked on a cookstove, ready to be burned for heat. Young Sierakowak was one of more than 60,000 Jews who perished in that notorious urban slave camp, a man-made hell which was the longest surviving concentration of Jews in Nazi Europe. The diary comprises a remarkable legacy left to humanity by its teenage author. It is one of the most fastidiously detailed accounts ever rendered of modern life in human bondage. The luxury of life was never returned to David, but a new awareness of its richness can be our reward for reading the diary of this brilliantly and brutally deprived young human being."

When the Angels Left the Old Country
By Sacha Lamb



A sweeping, engrossing tale that follows two mystical creatures, an angel and a demon, as they journey to America from their small shtetl in the early twentieth century.

This novel by Sacha Lamb is both an action-packed adventure filled with dybbuks, mystery, and murder, and also a sweet story of two beings discovering their place in each other's lives. It is simultaneously a story of a woman who is trying to figure out her identity, and of the lengths we will go to make sure our friends, family, and community thrive in a hostile world. *When the Angels Left the Old Country* is a phenomenal story that explores gender identity and sexual orientation while showcasing the power of community and the journey one must take to truly know oneself.

Men's Club



Myron Feldman

Tuesday, December 13th
7:00 PM



Bring the family to The Talking Pint where we will eat, drink, and be merry and cheer on the Lightning.



The Talking Pint Bar & Bistro
13418 Boyette Road
Riverview, FL 33569
813/315-9889



Thank you!!

Building & Grounds



Based on the information I received at the October Board meeting, I propose completing items in the Building and Grounds report as outlined below. This is a proposed draft and open for comment, so please feel free to add thoughts, change, and modify dates, times, scope, and what to bring. The communication plan is ask for volunteers using eblast, the Kibitzer if the timeline allows, and Shabbat services.

Gabe Lifschitz

1. Dates: December 11th and 18th , both are Sundays from 10:00 AM until noon.

2. Scope:

- a. Clean the front CBS sign
- b. Remove the twigs and leaf debris from the south gutter
- c. Clear debris of stormwater grates - west side of the parking lot
- d. Trim bushes around the building
- e. Wash the blue canopy
- f. Remove leaf and branch debris from the open space across the double glass doors - may contact boy scout for community hours
- g. Reattach fence sections where needed
- h. Added Item to do as a group: Remove the fallen tree that straddles 521 and 523 S Larry Cir (Dan and Ashleigh's house)
- i. What to bring:
- j. Landscaping gloves
- k. Shovels
- l. Hoes
- m. Rakes
- n. Bush clippers
- o. Garbage bags, 42-gallon
- p. Beverages and bagels

Who: Everyone, we can make this a shared fun event

Thank you so much

Gabe



Our Congregation

Yahrzeits



Birthdays

Anniversaries



High Holiday Donations



thank you!

Jewish Arts & Culture mini-fest

Film



**Wednesday,
December 14
7:30 PM**

Bryan Glazer Family
JCC Tampa



**Sunday,
December 18
3:00 PM**

Bryan Glazer Family
JCC Tampa

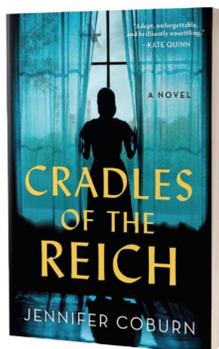


**Sunday,
December 18
1:00 PM**

Bryan Glazer Family
JCC Tampa



Book/Author

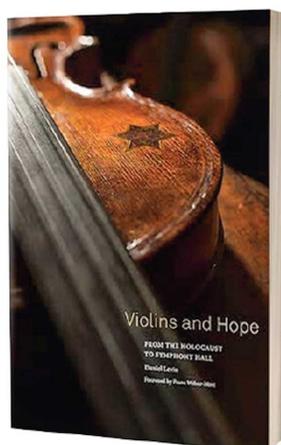


Friday, December 16 | 12:00 PM
BRIO ITALIAN GRILL – INTERNATIONAL MALL
Author, Jennifer Coburn, *Cradles of the Reich: A Novel*

At Heim Hochland, a Nazi breeding home in Bavaria,
three women's fates are irrevocably intertwined

Author Discussion & Luncheon Ticket - \$36

Music



Sunday, December 18 | 10:30 AM
Bryan Glazer Family JCC

**Author Daniel Levin; *Violins and Hope:*
*From the Holocaust Symphony Hall***

Explores the life's mission of Amnon Weinstein,
founder of the renowned Violins of Hope program.

Musical presentation by Patel Conservatory & Bagel Brunch Ticket - \$18

For more information contact brandy.gold@jewishtampa.com

Jewish Heritage Night



21 / BRAYDEN POINT

Jewish Heritage Night

TICKET OFFER

December 15 | 7:00 PM



TICKETS ONLY \$38!

Your ticket includes a custom Lightning pin and a kosher meal on the Budweiser Biergarten available until the start of the 2nd period. There will be a symbolic menorah Lighting on the plaza at approximately 6:15pm



CUSTOM LIGHTNING PIN INCLUDED!

To purchase tickets contact Ben Salo at 813-301-6623 or email bsalo@viniksportsgroup.com



TampaBayLightning.com |

BE THE THUNDER

Virtual Jewish Caregiver Support Group

First Thursday of the Month
10:00–11:30 am

This virtual support group provides a county-wide opportunity for caregivers to share their experience and receive inspiration, guidance and support through a Jewish lens.

Facilitators: Kelly Siegel and Sandi Sunter

To register for a Zoom link or for more information contact Kelly Siegel at (727) 735-8743 or email KellySiegel@EmpathHealth.org.

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Ashkenazi Civilization

Classes on Zoom

YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization January 10-27 | Live on Zoom

Join us this January to delve into Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture during its thousand-year history in Eastern Europe and in many Diasporas. Explore connections between Jewish life and the national, political, philosophical, and artistic identities Jews have historically inhabited. Discover how Jews have been influenced by, and influencers of, the cultures in which they've made temporary or permanent homes.

All classes will take place on Zoom. Class space is limited and courses fill up quickly, so reserve your spot today!



AMERICAN YIDDISH SHORT STORIES

Instructor: Anita Norich
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 10:45am-12:00pm ET



HISTORY OF THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE

Instructor: Dovid Katz
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 2:30pm-3:45pm ET



TREBLINKA AND ITS CONTEXTS – PAST AND PRESENT

Instructor: Elzbieta Janicka
6 sessions, Wednesdays & Fridays
January 11-27, 2023 | 9:00am-10:15am ET



"ISRAEL'S MOMENT":

A HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Instructor: Jeffrey Herf
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 4:00pm-5:15pm ET



VISIONS OF CONTINUITY AND RUPTURE:

FRANZ KAFKA, S. AN-SKI, ISAAC BABEL, AND JOSEPH ROTH

Instructor: Jonathan Brent
6 sessions, Wednesdays & Fridays
January 11-27, 2023 | 10:45am-12:00pm ET



THE BIRTH OF THE JEWISH NOVEL:

LA CELESTINA, LAZARILLO DE TORMES, DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA

Instructor: Ilan Stavans
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 6:30pm-7:45pm ET



JEWISH FOLK MEDICINE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Instructor: Marek Tuszewicki
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 12:00pm-1:15pm ET



CLOTHING, CRIME AND CLASS CONFLICT:

JEWES IN THE SHMATE TRADE

Instructor: Tony Michels
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 6:30pm-7:45pm ET



FROM ASHES TO ASHES:

DEATH IN THE JEWISH IMAGINATION

Instructor: Maya Balakirsky Katz
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 1:00pm-2:15pm ET



JEWES AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Instructor: Maya Eonton
6 sessions, Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 10-26, 2023 | 8:00pm-9:15pm ET

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Held annually in January since 2012, the YIVO-Bard Winter Program on Ashkenazi Civilization invites students to delve into Ashkenazi Jewish life and culture during its thousand-year history in Eastern Europe and in many Diasporas. The Winter Program courses explore connections between Jewish life and the national, political, philosophical, and artistic identities Jews have historically inhabited, illuminating the fact that Jews have always been influenced by, and influencers of, the cultures in which they've made temporary or permanent homes.

FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION: <https://yivo.org/Winter-Program>

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Dinner With the Tribe

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\$18 for non-members

Your ad for selling household items benefits CBS

Congregation Beth Shalom

provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ✧ Friday worship services at 7:00 PM
- ✧ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ✧ Adult Education classes
- ✧ Community-wide events
- ✧ Community Food Bank



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Congregation Beth Shalom.

The Miracle of Chanukah

JewishHistory.org

We bring Jewish History to Life

Chanukah was a miraculous military victory, but a tiny cruse of oil proved more miraculous and enduring in the memory of the Jewish people.

In the wake of Alexander's appearance in and departure from Jerusalem, relations between Jews and Greeks were so good that an exchange of cultures took place. Each influenced the other. For the Jewish minority, however, what began as a small undertow of assimilation — such as giving children Greek names and speaking the Greek language — became a surprisingly powerful, high-speed rip current threatening to drag the caught-off-guard Jews out to the sea of complete assimilation.

Jews who embraced Greek culture at the expense of Judaism became known as Misyavnim, or Hellenists. Estimates are that a third or more of the Jewish population was Hellenist, including those who reversed their circumcision, ate pork, bowed to idols and even became self-hating enough to side with the enemies of Israel. Hellenism threatened to annihilate the Jewish world through assimilation in ways tyrants tried but could not do by force. Had the situation continued as it was, the Greeks would perhaps have won the battle by default. However, they overstepped themselves.

Here Come the Greeks

At the beginning of the year 190 BCE, the situation between the two great post-Alexandrian empires, the Seleucid and the Ptolemaic, deteriorated badly. The Seleucids mounted an invasion that took their army through the Land of Israel, which was sandwiched in-between.

Whenever a foreign army comes into a country it changes the view of the populace. Instead of an attractive culture, the Greeks were now an occupying enemy. Instead of something to be imitated, now they became something to be resisted. The Jewish people are very stubborn. The same person who is so stubborn that he will not observe the Torah in freedom will observe it with passion if forbidden from observing it. He becomes stubborn the other way. A good case could be made that if the Communists in Russia would have left the Jews alone they would have completely assimilated. However, once told that they could not be Jewish a certain percentage of Jews decided to be Jewish at great risk. That happened with the Greeks as well.

Progressively More Intolerable Laws

The Greek army exerted a very heavy hand against the Jews. First, they forced Jews to finance their war through collection of taxes. Then they forced them to quarter their soldiers in Jewish homes. Finally, the Greeks were determined to crush the Jewish religion.

First, they took the statue of Zeus and mounted it in the courtyard of the Temple. Next, the Greeks banned the observance of the Sabbath on the pain of death. Then, the Talmud (*Kesubos* 3b) records, there was a period of time which lasted a number of decades when the Greek officer in town had the right to “live” with a woman on her wedding night before her husband-to-be.

The Greeks also banned circumcision. Whoever circumcised his child was put to death; both child and father were killed. Then the Greeks demanded that altars to the Greek idols be established and that sacrifices be offered on a regular basis in every Jewish town. Finally, the Jewish educational system was entirely interrupted.

The Jews Rebel

About the year 166 BCE, a group finally stood up to the Greeks: Matisyahu (Mattathias) and his family, known as the Hasmoneans. We do not know much about them except that they were of noble descent from the priestly class (*Kohanim*), including those who had served as High Priests.

They lived in a small town called Modin, which was about 12 miles northwest from Jerusalem. (The town exists today, and is about 20 miles west of modern Jerusalem.) One day, a Greek contingent marched in, set up an altar, gathered all the Jews and forced them to sacrifice a pig to Zeus. They then asked for a Jewish volunteer to perform the sacrifice. One stepped forward. As he approached the altar Matisyahu stabbed him to death. Chaos broke out. The Greek army attempted to subdue the crowd, but the Jews were armed and slaughtered the entire Greek patrol. There was no turning back now.

The Miracle of Chanukah

JewishHistory.org

We bring Jewish History to Life

Page 2

The Maccabees

Matisyahu had five sons, all of whom were people of great organizational leadership as well as pious, committed Jews: Johanan (Yochanan), Simon (Shimon), Jonathan (Yonason), Judah (Yehudah) and Eleazar.

They ran to the caves and organized an army – not to fight an open war, but a guerilla war. Originally they organized of force of about 3,000 men. Eventually it grew to 6,000 and never reached more than 12,000 men.

The General of the Army was the great Judah, known to the world as Judah the Maccabee (or Judas Maccabaeus as he was called in Shakespeare's *Love's Labor's Lost*). "Maccabaeus" is the Greek word for hammer, but the Jews took it, and made it Jewish by declaring that "Maccabee" stood for the first four letters in *Exodus* 15:11, meaning, "Who is like You, God?" – which was said by Moses and the people after the miraculous drowning of the Egyptians at the Sea of Reeds. An enormous Syrian-Greek army, numbering almost 50,000 men, marched into Judea. Judah the Maccabee marshaled his forces and with guile and courage outmaneuvered the far larger Greek army, forced it to divide and then destroyed its various components, killing many thousands and forcing the survivors to flee north to Syria.

It took many years, but their hit-and-run tactics wore down three great Greek armies. However, the Jews paid a very heavy price in terms of blood. Matisyahu died in the early going. Judah Maccabee was killed in the third great battle. Eleazar died while attacking an elephant. Johanan and Jonathan were killed as well. The only Maccabee brother who survived was Simon.

The Miracle

The last famous battle was for the fortress of Antonius, which guarded the Temple. When Antonius fell, the Jews came back to the Temple. They shattered the statue of Zeus and cleaned the Temple to the extent that they could. Any priests who worked for the Greeks were sent away or executed.

They only found one small flask of uncontaminated oil with the seal of the High Priest. By Torah law, the flame of the *Menorah* (Candelabrum) in the Temple could only be lit with specially prepared pure olive oil. The amount of oil remaining in the one uncontaminated flask was only enough to burn for one day, and it would take eight days to produce a new batch of pure oil.

What could they do?

They lit it – and it miraculously burned for eight days. That is why *Chanukah* lasts eight nights (the festival was established a year later by the Rabbis).

What is Chanukah?

The Talmud does not say much about *Chanukah*. There are perhaps forty lines spread out in different volumes, whereas almost all the other holidays have an entire Talmudic volume about them. In addition, the few words the Talmud has to say about *Chanukah* are cryptic. Perhaps that is why *Chanukah* has been subject to reinterpretation, as it has been in our time. People make whatever they want to make out of it. However, that is a mistake, a tragedy.

In the Western world, it has the misfortune of falling out in December. Therefore, in the homes of many Jewish people it has sadly become the Jewish version of the December holidays, a mixture of commercialism and non-Jewish traditions and ideas.



The Miracle of Chanukah

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What is Chanukah?

What the Talmud does say is that the important thing is to “advertise the miracle.” People have to recognize that a miracle took place. It is vital to keep the wonder in Chanukah. That is why the rabbis gave more emphasis to the miracle of the lights than the military victory.

Wars come and go. Even the glow of miraculous victory can fade. Young people today do not think that Israel’s War for Independence in 1948 was such a miracle. In 1967, Jews expected a second Holocaust. Now people brush the miraculous Six Day War off as nothing special.

History provides numerous examples of outnumbered forces defeating a superpower using guerilla tactics. Was the Maccabean victory so miraculous? That was the question Jews at the time must have asked themselves.

However, when the small flask of pure oil that could only last one day lasted eight days it proved that there was a miracle that happened there. The little flask of oil shed light on the big military campaign. “Not by the army, not by power, but through My Spirit, says God” (*Zechariah* 4:6). *Chanukah* is about the little light that sheds a great light.

There is an indefinable, spiritual, electric charge that binds the generations together that cannot be found in any book. It can only be had when parents and grandparents do things like sitting together with their children around the *Chanukah* lights celebrating, discussing and advertising the miracle; experientially getting in touch with the wonder of the past, the wonder of the present, the wonder of life.

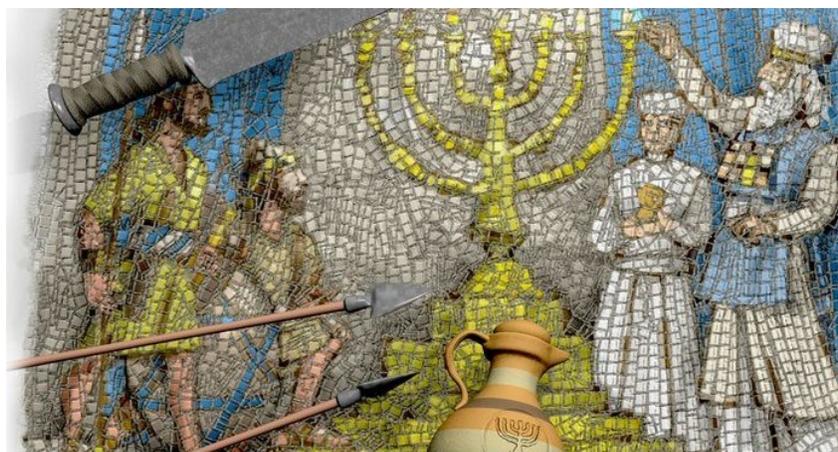
What Ever Happened to the Hellenists?

Chanukah is a very popular, emotional and beautiful holiday. However, the necessity for *Chanukah* begins with the story of the invasion of Greek culture and the weakness of the Jews in responding to it. It originates from the growth of an enormous sect of Hellenists within the Jews, who even supported the Greeks during the war.

What happened to the Hellenists? Their influence all but collapsed in the wake of the defeat. They would never return again as Hellenists, because the war brought out their true colors as traitors and they lost whatever appeal they could have had to the Jewish people.

Most of them retreated to the city of Caesarea, which remained a Greek city (and later would become a Roman city). They were just not part of the Jewish people any longer.

Their demise punctuated the fact that more than a military victory, the miracle of the oil signified that *Chanukah* was a victory of the spirit of the Jewish people, a victory that granted them the right to observe the Torah. That is why its memory and the people who observe it have endured.



Time for a Nosh

Classic Potato Latkes

By Tina Wasserman at ReformJudaism.org



INGREDIENTS:

6-8 thin skinned potatoes, such as Yukon Gold
 3 eggs, beaten well
 1 Tablespoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
 1/2 cup matzah meal
 1 large onion, cut into 8 pieces
 Oil for frying
 Applesauce (optional)
 Sour Cream (optional)



DIRECTIONS

1. Grate the raw potatoes using the large grating disk on a processor or the largest holes on a grater if doing it by hand. Place the grated potato in a colander, rinse with cold water. Set aside to drain.
 2. Combine eggs, salt, pepper, and matzah meal or cracker meal in a 3-quart bowl. Mix thoroughly.
 3. Change to the cutting blade on your processor. Add the onions to the work bowl. Pulse on and off 5 times. Add 1/4 of the grated potatoes to the onion and pulse on and off to make a coarse paste. Add to the egg mixture and stir to combine.
 4. Add the drained potatoes to the bowl and mix thoroughly, using a large spoon or your hands.
- Heat a large frying pan or large skillet for 20 seconds. Add enough oil to cover the pan to a depth of 1/4 inch and heat for an additional 10 seconds. Drop mounds of potato mixture into the pan. Fry on both sides until golden. Drain the fried latkes on a platter covered with crumpled paper towels. Serve with [applesauce](#) and sour cream.

Additional Notes

- Grated potatoes turn black when exposed to air. Rinsing the potatoes under running water washes away excess starch, the discoloring culprit.
 - Always grate the potatoes separately from the onions so that you don't lose any of the flavorful onion juice when you drain the potatoes.
- The best way to drain fried foods is on a plate covered with crumpled paper towels. Crumpling them yields more surface area for absorption.

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