

THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF



PELHAM PARKWAY

JEWISH CENTER

YOM TOV / HOLIDAY EDITION

FROM OUR RAV

RABBI SHMUEL ZUCKERMAN

Of all the Jewish Holidays, Chanukah is perhaps the most curious. Each one of them is to commemorate and celebrate a moment in Jewish History that as a nation we received a gift or experienced a miracle. On Pesach, we celebrate that G-D took our nation from Egypt and redeemed us permanently from the bondage of the Egyptians. On Shavuot we celebrate the invaluable gift of the Torah that is the blueprint for creation and the guide for our lives. On Succot, we celebrate the bounty of the crop and the protection that G-D provides us in each generation. And, then on Chanukah, we celebrate the dedication of the temple... that has since been destroyed.

Certainly, the victory of the Chashmonaim was miraculous, but what does

that have to do with us how? Now can we genuinely celebrate this event?

Just a few weeks ago, we read the passage about Yaakov, ויזרח לו השמש, and the sun rose for him. The Medrash and Talmud point out this detail and ask, "And did the sun rise only for Jacob?" The Talmud answers that it was the same sun that set prematurely for Yaakov during his departure from Israel that now rose for him, prematurely, upon his return. The Medrash explains that in making the sun rise early, G-D was telling our patriarch, Yaakov, that his descendants too, would experience a sunset, a time when it would seem dark. But, like the rising of the sun for Yaakov, we would also experience a miraculous rising of the sun.

In a similar vein, we celebrate Chanukah, even though we don't have a temple.

Chanukah represents the victory of good over evil. We celebrate that in our history there have been those who have tried to extinguish the flame of our religion; they had their rise, but they ultimately fell. As we celebrate the past, we affirm our confidence that G-D will redeem us from this exile.

As we look forward to sharing this Chanukah with each of you and as a community, let us also pray that we merit to celebrate the dedication of the third temple in Jerusalem together.

*Wishing each of you a happy Chanukah,
Rabbi & Rebbetzin
Zuckerman*

Chanukah 2013
The Young Israelite

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

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DIVREI CHANUKAH

RABBI BENJAMIN HOUBEN

One salient feature of our calendar this fall, is the unique coincidence of Chanukah and Thanksgiving. But even though when we celebrate these holidays once a year they are rarely in close proximity, their messages converge in our prayers on a daily basis.

In the beginning of the



morning service, during Psukei deZimra, we recite verses of

praise excerpted from the Bible, with a special focus on the Psalms. Seven days a week, we open this section with Psalm 30, entitled "mizmor shir chanukat haBayit leDavid" -- "A psalm of David: The Song for the Dedication of the House [of God]".

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We Jews have always commented on the passing of time as it relates to a Chag. How often have you heard "They're married, it'll be 5 by Pesach." Or "Next Shevuos, I'll be 88". Our Shul is no exception to this custom. We moved out of the Old Building just before Purim 5 years ago, but I have always felt a special relationship between the Shul and Chanukah.

The last few months at the Old building were somehow spiritually dark. We had no Rav and no direction, both literally or figuratively. Somehow, in the time between our settling in on Muliner Avenue and becoming accus-

tomed to our new surroundings and our first Chanukah, we sought the light of Holiness as well as the new lighting of our new site.

That first Chanukah was awesome. Secure in our new home, we organized the first of many Chanukah Concerts. It was marvelous, and the awesome smell of Latkes emanating from the Kitchen only accentuated the lights from the Menorah and our collective souls.

We are light once again, and brighter than before. Our future, thanks to the efforts of Rabbis Zuckerman and

Houben are assured, and the continual efforts on the part of the Officers and

Board only add to the luster on the light that is our Young Israel, as we recommit ourselves to our mission of enhancing Yiddishkeit in Pelham Parkway.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a bright and joyous Chanukah.

Best Regards,
Charles Landsberg
President



YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Our Youth program would like to thank our group leaders; Coordinator Devora Gross, Chani Unger, Libby Unger. We thank you for all you do to entertain our incredible youth groups. Please note our schedule that we will have children's groups each day of Shabbos/Yom Tov. The program will take place at its usual time of 10:30am.

MENORAH WALK

Menorah walk- children and their parents are invited to join rebbetzin zuckerman in front of our home (2018 colden) at 4:20 pm on Friday night November 29 for a walk around the neighborhood to see all menorahs lit. A Chanukah treat will be provided for all the children.



Guess How Many Dreidels In This Supplement

CHANUKAH PROGRAMS

ONEG SHABBOS

Oneg Shabbos - Chanukah party at the home of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Zuckerman on Friday night November 29 at 8:00 pm

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Chanukah concert in shul on Sunday December 1. With Your host R' Ben Houben
Questions or comments? Email ayipprabbi@gmail.com or 824-9000 ext. 9

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Senator Jeff Klein will be coming to Bronx House for his annual Menorah Lighting in observance of the 7th night of Chanukah on Tuesday, December 3rd at 4pm. Activities will be taking place at the Senior Center all day leading up to the menorah lighting for Senior Center members. Everyone from the community is invited to join us from 4pm-5pm for the Menorah Lighting with Senator Klein and stay for light refreshments following the ceremony. Please feel free to stop

by the Senior Services office located on the first floor of Bronx House (990 Pelham Parkway South) from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday, to learn more about the Senior Center. You can also call 718-792-1800 ext. 228 with any questions. Check us out on the web at www.bronxhouse.org!



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

IZAK HELD

It has been yet another productive year at the Young Israel Jewish Center, and the Pelham Parkway community at large.

From new innovative programs, to more efficient (usually technological) ways to better serve our members, staff, and the community. At the end of the year we are always blessed that Chanukah is here to carry us over to the next, may our strives to enhance the community benefit *klal yis-roel* and be a merit in the world to come.

A few thanks are do, Thank you to our Gabbai Sheni Yitzchak Gross for his *divrei torah* each week in the bulletin and his vastly spread talents that enhance our shul. Thank you to

President Charles who is always at hand when needed for overview on the many projects the staff run. And a big *yoshor koach* to our kitchen manager Boris Skolnick for his tireless efforts.

From the office staff and myself I would like to wish all of our readers a wonderful chag and a freilichen Chanukah.

Izak Held

Administrative Director

718-824-9000 ext. 10



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Announcing... The Fifth Annual Pelham Parkway Community
**C-H-A-N-U-K-A-H
CONCERT**

Sponsored By The
YIPJ 

**YOUNG ISRAEL OF PELHAM PARKWAY JEWISH CENTER
and The Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway**

—Featuring—

- A raffle with prizes
- Festive refreshments from *Delicious On Lydig*
- Craft projects for children and, of course,
- Beautiful music in Hebrew, English, and Yiddish performed by:

Ⓜ Ken Gross Ⓜ Marty Laskin Ⓜ Cantor Eric Freeman Ⓜ
Ⓜ Associate Rabbi Benjamin Houben Ⓜ Moshe Israelashvili Ⓜ

Let us join together to enjoy this exciting celebration at
**10:00 AM Sunday Morning
December 1st, 2013
28 Kislev, 5774**

900 Pelham Parkway South | Bronx, NY. 10462
~ Admission is free for all ages; donations welcomed ~

Young Israel of Pelham Parkway Jewish Center

YIPPJC Newsletter

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Davening Times, Dial 2

Eruv Information, Dial 3

Adult Education, Dial 4

Directions & Location, Dial 5

Youth Programs, Dial 6

Housing Initiative, Dial 7

Mazel Tov, Dial 8

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SHABBOS AND YOM TOV NEWSLET- TER / TORAH SUPPLEMENT

25 KISLEV - 2 TEVES 5774
NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 5, 2013



DIVREI CHANUKAH (CONTINUED)

This is a prayer for the chanukah, or dedication, of the first holy temple in Jerusalem, which was presided over by King Solomon, the heir to David's legacy.

The Psalm continues to describe David's exultation after experiencing the salvation of God lifting him up from death's door. With his enemies overcome, David was also overcome by a new sense of excitement for the blessings of life in every moment. Surely the second temple Jews experienced a similar delicious shock, after defeating the forces outnumbering them, and witnessing the eternal lamp continue to burn.

Here in the Young Israel of Pelham Parkway Jewish Center, we are among many congregations who add this Psalm to the end of the service as well on Chanukah. This gives it twice the exposure during the holiday celebrating all the miracles that accompanied the re-dedication of the holy temple, in the time of the Maccabees.

But the second half of this holiday double-feature does not wait until the end of the service. Shortly following the introduction of Psalm 30, we then skip ahead to Chapter 100

of Tehillim, called "Mizmor leTodah" meaning, "A Psalm of Thanksgiving". Here we encounter a universal call to approach God in joyous praise, for all of the bounty bestowed upon us at every moment by our ever benevolent creator.

The Chanukah theme of historical salvation from a specific threat, and the Thanksgiving theme of cyclical gratitude for our seasonal blessings, are both represented through the Psalms as essential features in our daily meditations. As we celebrate these two anniversary moments together in a combined Jewish and American holiday, we can strive to maintain a more conscious and grateful perspective for the rest of the year. The daily service may now remind us to be inspired by our history - from the time of the ancient Jewish sovereignty to the era of our modern governments, and from moments of national and personal persecution to our modern religious freedoms in the United States and Israel today.

Rabbi Benjamin Houben