

The Shofar

Seasonal News for the Synagogue of the Hills

bhshul1@gmail.com

Synagogue of the Hills - 417 North 40th Street - Rapid City, SD 57702
(605) 348-0805

www.synagogueofthehills.org

So, Is it That Time of the Year Again?

No, Sam; no, Emily; no, John; no, Christine; – yes, it is time for Chanukah (or however you choose to spell it) and no, for the umpteenth time, it is not like Jewish Christmas. Yes, we do light candles and no, not every kid gets a gift on every night (as kids, we only received gifts on the first night.) Such is the perception of the non-Jewish world of Chanukah. Oh, and by the way, please don't ask me what we do for Easter – it's really very simple; the rule is, if one does not celebrate Christmas one cannot celebrate Easter, it's that simple.

Yes, I will admit that the two holidays seem to be temporally related with both coming at about the darkest time of the year. And again, both holidays

incorporate light as part of the festivities, but that's about where any similarities end. You see, our holiday of Chanukah, our Festival of Lights, is ours and ours alone. As Rabbi Sacks reminds us, "ancient Israel gave the world the idea of hope. We are here because God created us in love, and through love we discover the meaning and purpose of life."



So where in Torah do we read about Chanukah – you’re correct, nowhere, as Chanukah is what is referred to as a post-biblical festival. Sure, everyone knows the story of Chanukah in our own age-appropriate manner.

In short, the historical events on which the holiday of Chanukah is based took place during a particularly turbulent phase of Jewish history. Around 200 B.C., Judea—also known as the Land of Israel—came under the control of Antiochus III, the Seleucid king of Syria, who allowed the Jews who lived there to continue practicing their religion. His son, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, proved less benevolent: Ancient sources recount that he outlawed the Jewish religion and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods. In approximately 168 B.C., his soldiers are said to have descended upon Jerusalem, massacring thousands of people and desecrating the city’s holy Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs within its sacred walls.

Led by the Jewish priest Mattathias and his five sons, a large-scale rebellion broke out against Antiochus and the Seleucid monarchy. When Matthathias died in 166 B.C., his son Judah, known as Judah Maccabee (“the Hammer”), took the helm; within two years the Jews had successfully driven the Syrians out of Jerusalem, relying largely on guerilla warfare tactics. Judah called on his followers to cleanse the Second Temple, rebuild its altar and light its menorah—the gold candelabrum whose seven branches represented knowledge and

creation and were meant to be kept burning every night.

According to the Talmud, Judah Maccabee and the other Jews who took part in the rededication of the Second Temple witnessed what they believed to be a miracle. Even though there was only enough untainted olive oil to keep the menorah’s candles burning for a single day, the flames continued flickering for eight nights, leaving them time to find a fresh supply. This wondrous event inspired the Jewish sages to proclaim a yearly eight-day festival

Judaism and its culture of hope survived where other cultures that sought to destroy us have been relegated to the dust bin of history – Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

So the real question is “like hey man, that happened a long time, so what relevance does it have today? Yeah, I know, Adam Sandler reminds us with his groovy Chanukah-Yarmulka song, so what relevance does it have for us today?”

The answer is as simple as it is complicated. More this year than in years past, especially in the face of the rise of anti-Semitic activity world-wide, Rabbi Sacks reminds us that “Judaism and its culture of hope survived where other cultures that sought to destroy us have been relegated to the dust bin of history. A candle of hope may seem a small thing, but on it the very survival of a civilization may depend.”

Chag Sameach – Happy Chanukah

Steve

A Message from Rabbi Tzvia

Dear Synagogue of the Hills,

As these dark days grow in number, we can turn towards our Festival of Lights to give us strength and to give us hope. So long ago, the Maccabees felt useless against a regime that was determined to stifle their religious freedom. They struggled against the cruel laws set upon them by the Babylonians. That was until one family, the Maccabees, decided that they would not tolerate this anymore. They rose up and became a beacon of light in a very dark time. They were so determined to fight for what they believed in, and in the end they won. They won back their Temple and anointed it once more with the holy oil. And when all seemed futile and they were unsure if the oil would last until someone came back with more, they were offered a miracle. The oil actually lasted all 8 days, just enough time to find some more. SOTH, we are living in a dark time. Our days are shorter and our emotions are spent on such decisive issues. However, if there is anything we can learn from our story of



Hanukkah, it is this: you cannot have darkness without light and that darkness does not last forever. But neither does it come from thin air. We have to take the strength of the Maccabees within ourselves and be the changes we wish to enact. We need to always be searching for the miracles in our everyday, the ones that keep us moving. I am wishing everyone a very Happy Hannukkah, Chanukah, or Hanukah. However you spell it, let it be a time filled with light, love, and laughter.

Chag Semach,
Tzvia

The Hanukkah Blessings

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, אשר
קידשנו במצוותיו, וציוונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

Transliteration

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik
ner shel Hanukkah.

Translation

Praised are You,
Our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who made us holy through Your
commandments
and commanded us
to kindle the Hanukah lights.

The Second Blessing

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, שעשה
נסים לאבותינו, בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Transliteration

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem
bazman hazeh.

Translation

Praised are You,
Our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors
in those ancient days
at this season.

The Third Blessing

(First Night Only)

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו,
וקיימנו, והגענו לזמן הזה

Transliteration

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu Melech ha'olam,
shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu
la'zman hazeh.

Translation:

Praised are You, Our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has given us life and sustained us and
enabled us to reach this season.



You're watching a preview. To watch the full video, download or add it to your Dropbox.



One of the highlights of the year for the Synagogue of the Hills was the August presentation of klezmer music and meaning presented by local professional musicians and narrated by Stan Adelstein. For a preview of this high-quality video you can click on this link: [Klesmer 5f.mp4](#)

**OVER
the
RIVER
and
THROUGH
the
WOODS
to . . .**



Dave and Michele's FIFTH ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY

You and your family are invited to our home for an evening of good food, catching up with friends, and having a night out during the dark of winter! It's open house but an RSVP would be nice. Call and leave a message at (605) 342-1761 Michele and Dave

TIME: 6 PM to 10 PM, Saturday, December 8, 2018

**LOCATION: 1101 Ridgeland Loop, Rapid City, SD
57702**

Directions from Rapid City: Go west on Omaha, which becomes Chicago, South Canyon Road and then Nemo Road. About three miles out of town you will see an interpretive site on the left followed by a left turn lane onto Schroeder Road, turn left onto Schroeder. Take it as it winds around the top of the plateau. Towards the end you will go down into a small ravine, first left, then right then left. As you come out of the ravine, Ridgeland Loop is almost immediately to the right. Turn right, go about 100 yards then turn left as the road forks. Go up the hill, our drive way is marked with a long string of blue lights. Park on the right side of the driveway.

Yahrzeits

“to remember is to keep alive”

Mayer Drosin 5 Heshvan, 5761
Great grandfather of Michelle Fish

Richard Ingram 1 Tevet, 5751
Father of Mary Ingram

Yetta Brooks 7 Heshvan, 5761
Great grandmother of Irv Fish

Morris Adelstein 7 Tevet, 5760
Father of Stan Adelstein

William Beard 3 Kislev, 5743
Father of Michele Beard

Rosette Elfassy December 21,
2001
Sister of Georgette Ohayon

Joseph Haber 4 Kislev, 5748
Father of Ann Stanton

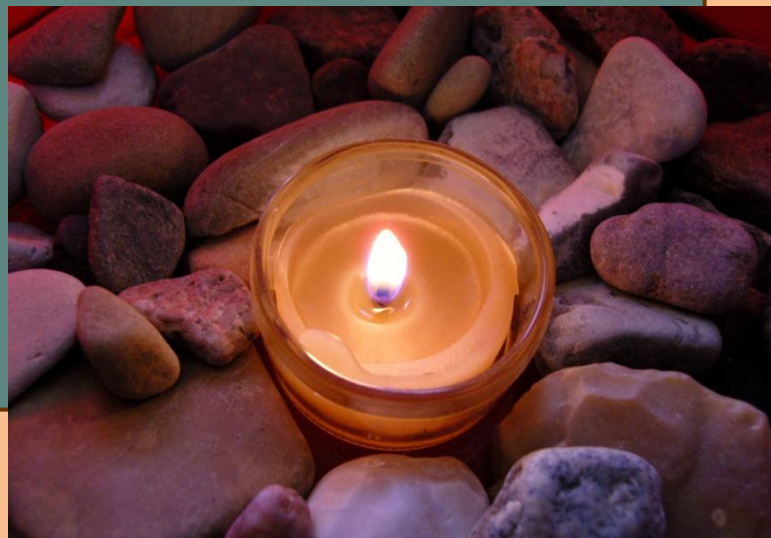
Bertha Adelstein 16 Kislev, 5760
Mother of Stan Adelstein

Sadye Weintraub 17 Kislev, 5761

Lorraine Beard 28 Kislev, 5753
Mother of Michele Beard

Death is merely moving from one home to another. The wise man will spend his main efforts in trying to make his future home the more beautiful one.”

-Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgenstern
of Tomashov (the Kotzker Rebbe)



Stop the Presses!!

Here are a few more items that merit attention:

The Synagogue of the Hills Annual Meeting for all members will take place at the Synagogue of Hills on Sunday, December 16th at 10:00 AM followed by a brunch. The intent of the meeting is to provide the membership with a “State-of-the-Synagogue” accounting of our activities over the course of this past year. We will also entertain nominations from the floor for new Board members. After the meeting there will be a short Board meeting during which officers will be elected. Please forward any agenda items you wish to have discussed.

Local Chanukah Celebrations



Firstly, the annual lighting of the menorah will take place on the first night of Chanukah at Main Street Square at the west side of the ice rink at 5:00 PM. Stan will officiate the ceremony.

Secondly, there will be the 5th annual Chanukah celebration at Michele and David's house on Saturday night, December 8th from 6:00 - 10:00 PM. For details please see the separate entry in this Shofar.

Thirdly, Rabbi Alperowitz from Chabad South Dakota will conduct a candle lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 9th. Please see the Chabad website for further details

and . . .

In response to the tragic events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, a vigil organized by Linda Boyle occurred in Rapid City on October 28th as a show of support for the victims of the massacre. Linda's message to the Jewish community as they appeared in her letter to the Synagogue of the Hills follows along with links to videos of the event – S.I.B.

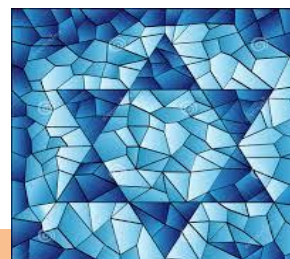
Hello, my friends! After some preparation and tech issues (living in Nemo presents bandwidth issues!), I have videos and slide show videos for you from the 10/28 Vigil and from the Day of the Dead honoring at Racing Magpie in Rapid City, where we had a memorial for the eleven souls taken at Tree of Life Synagogue. We were so comforted and welcomed at Shabbat service. Due to the potential bad weather forecasted, I reluctantly left early. I hope we may stay in touch. Please let me know if there are any difficulties viewing any of these videos. They are all on YouTube on my channel, In Song & Justice - Linda Boyle.

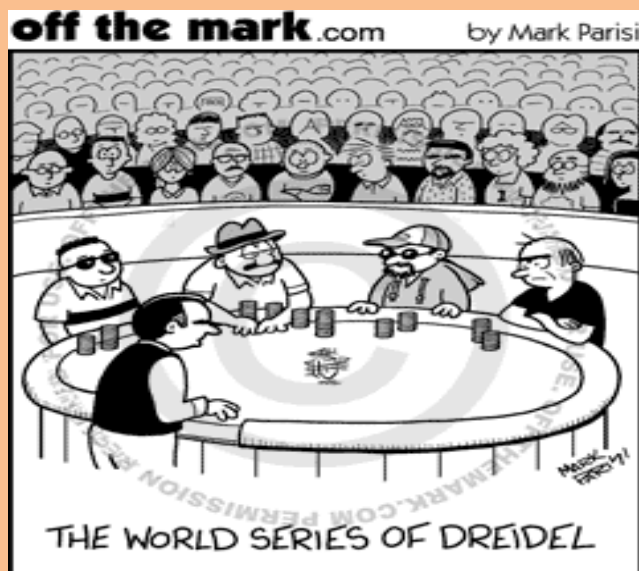
Vigil -Etz Chaim Hi: <https://youtu.be/5iDIGp887q8>

Vigil - Song: <https://youtu.be/vTzSXX9sVsE>

Vigil: Placing stones <https://youtu.be/23uWWY-xx84>

Vigil slide show video: <https://youtu.be/eUUshgqpqgs>





The Shofar is how the members of the Synagogue of the Hills communicate with each other. That is, *The Shofar* is a periodic forum for matters of interest that are a bit more formal than a remark over a cup of coffee, but a bit less formal than a written statement to the Board of Director. It could be a birth announcement, a press release, a public service blurb, a letter to the editor (that's me, Leonard Running), a joke, a cartoon, an opinion, anything that YOU think might be important or entertaining to our family.

Your contributions are welcome . . . no, critical to the well being of the synagogue. You can send emails to bhshul1@gmail.com or anything in paper form to the address above. Let *The Shofar* be heard!