



A NOTE FROM ELISABETH

Tuesday night, we light the first lights of Hanukkah. During Hanukkah, we light candles each night, play dreidel, eat latkes and sufganiyot, sing and tell stories, and each day we give thanks for all the gifts that are ours. Each day of Hanukkah we add Hallel as well as Al Hanissim to our prayers to express our gratitude.

**We light the Hanukkiah in our homes-- as close to sundown as we are able. Although one menorah per household is perfectly good, many expand on the mitzvah by lighting a Hanukkiah for each member of the house.

Unlike all other candles in Jewish tradition (including Shabbat candles), we are **not permitted to use the light from the Hanukkah candles for any purpose. They are simply to enjoy and to help us focus our attention.

Since the candles that mark each night of Hanukkah can not be used for any other purpose, we first light an additional candle (the Shamash). We use the Shamash to light the rest, beginning with the newest candle. **[Place the candles in the Hannukiah from right to left, but light them from LEFT to RIGHT]

**The blessings for lighting the Hanukkah candles are as follows:

1. Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-Olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through mitzvot, and commanded us to light the lights of Hanukkah.

2. Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-Olam, she-asah nissim la-avoteinu, bayamim ha-hem baz-man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.

(On the first night only)

3. Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-Olam, she-he-che-ya-nu, v'kiyamanu, v'higiyanu, laz-man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this moment.

May these lights inspire us to see the light we carry within and, just as we make a point to place our Hanukkiot in the window to "publicize the miracle of Hanukkah", so too may we use these 8 days to consider how we can share our own light with others in our world.

Have a wonderful--light-filled--Hanukkah!

Hag Ha'Orim Sameach!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

12/21 HS (3-7) (parents invited to candle lighting at 5:45 PM)

12/22-1/3 WINTER BREAK

1/4 HS (3-7) resumes

1/8 HS (3-7)

1/10 HS (K-2)

1/11 HS (3-7)

1/15 NO HS--MLK weekend

1/17 HS (K-2)

1/18 HS (3-7)

1/20 Kitah Gimel (3rd grade) Shabbat Dinner/ Shaarei Mitzvah-Express Innovation program

1/22 HS (3-6)--NO Kitah Zayin

Happy Birthday

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a "Yom Huledet Sameach!"

Ori M. (Kitah Vav) 12/18

Jonah G. (Kitah Gimel) 12/20

PSJC COOKBOOK SALE—extended thru 12/22!!!

Just in time for Chanukah...buy 1 PSJC Cookbook (\$20) and get 1 at 50% off (\$10)! We'll even do the math for you...2 copies of PSJC Cooks! for just \$30! Are you looking for a great Chanukah gift that also gives back to your community and has original student art work? Then look no further! We have a limited number of cookbooks so get your copies now!

The sale is over on 12/22!

See Elisabeth in the Education office or call 718-832-5863 to get your copies today!





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Tzedakah Fair

Students in 5th-7th grade should spend the next week or two thinking about which charitable organization they would like to research and represent at this year's Tzedakah Fair on Sunday, January 29th. Students may work in pairs. All students need to let Elisabeth know which organization they have chosen BEFORE winter break. If anyone is having trouble choosing an organization, see Elisabeth for suggestions. Pre-B'nai Mitzvah students can present the same organization they are using for their "Mitzvah project." **The whole community is invited to the Tzedakah Fair! More details to come soon!**

Hey Kitah Gimel (3rd grade)! Your class dinner is coming up! Save the date for 1/20/12! More details coming soon!

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to **Katie Pearlman** (Kitah Zayin), big sister of **Jackson Pearlman** (Kitah Hay) on becoming a Bat Mitzvah this past Shabbat at PSJC. Katie did a wonderful job leading services and reading Torah and Haftarah. Yashar Koach!

WHAT HAPPENS ON A SNOW DAY?

The weather is getting colder and a bit more iffy. Even though we already had a freak-blizzard in October, I wanted to remind everyone what happens when there is inclement weather. Tuesday and/or Wednesday sessions: Hebrew School will be held on Tues/Wed any day that New York City public schools are open. If public schools cancel **after school** activities, Hebrew School will be cancelled as well. Sunday sessions: Hebrew School will be held unless you hear otherwise. We will make every effort to operate on a normal schedule, but if we are in the middle of a very severe storm on Saturday, the committee and the Principal will confer after Shabbat is over. If it does not seem that it will be possible to hold school on Sunday morning, class parents will call all families Saturday night to tell them that Hebrew School is cancelled. We will attempt to reach all families. We will also send e-mails to those for whom we have addresses. If you have any doubt as to whether or not Hebrew School will be held, call your class parent on Sunday morning and CHECK YOUR EMAIL. A list of the class parents and committee members will be in the school directory handed out in early fall. If a severe storm begins near the start of class time (either on a Wednesday afternoon or a Sunday morning), we will follow the procedures outlined above.

Jewish Camp Fair

SAVE THE DATE

When the Winter Holidays are Done Its Time to Plan the Summer Fun!

Jewish Summer Overnight Camp Fair

Sunday January 8, 2012 from 1 to 3 PM

Hosted by the Park Slope Jewish Center

Located at 1320 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215, at the corner of 8th Ave. and 14th St.

Please come and meet representatives from a variety of Jewish Overnight Camps to help you find the right fit for your child's Jewish sleep away camp experience next summer.

\$1,000 needs blind grants are available for first time campers through The One Happy Camper Program at www.onehappycamper.org

Pizza and snacks will be served.

Questions? Contact ESFieldman@gmail.com

WINTER BREAK DATES

There is NO HEBREW SCHOOL on 12/25, 12/27, 12/28, 1/1 and 1/3. School resumes on Wednesday 1/4.

Please bear with us at the end of December and beginning of January as we will likely have a number of substitute teachers (many of our wonderful staff members have different winter break schedules than we do and are off on amazing programs in Israel and visiting friends and family in their home towns). They will come back to us energized and with new creative ideas to enhance our classes.

BRACHA BEE CONTINUES!

Keep it up 3rd-7th graders! It might be getting a little more difficult, but keep practicing and keep earning those prizes! The brachot are posted online and there are always copies in Elisabeth's office.

