

Chanuka 5772

Schedule of Services

Monday to Friday morning:
Shacharit: 6:30am
(*except Rosh Chodesh 6:20am*)

Sunday morning:
Shacharit: 8:30am

Sunday evening:
Mincha/Ma'ariv at the previous Friday's candle lighting time.

Erev Shabbat:
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat at candlelighting time.

Shabbat morning:
Shacharit: 9:00am

Mincha: immediately following kiddush on Shabbat

Ma'ariv and Havdalah:
14-15 minutes after the end of Shabbat.

Check the shul website for updated news, schedules and davening times.

Message from the Rabbi

This coming Tuesday evening, we begin the celebration of Chag Oorim, the Festival of Lights. As we have noted on so many occasions, discussion of Chanukah is conspicuously absent from the Mishna.

The Gemara in Tractate Shabbat, 21b, recounts one of the many disputes between Bet Hillel and Bet Shammai. Shammai maintains that the proper way to observe the mitzva of 'nerot Chanukah' is to begin the chag with lighting eight candles and then reduce the number each night until the last night, when we would light just one. Hillel believes that beginning the chag with one candle and increasing the number each night is the way one should light the menorah.

The Talmud, in attempting to explain the source for the difference of opinion between Hillel and Shammai, recounts a further dispute.

Rabbi Yossi bar Abin, a fourth century Amora, is of the opinion that their difference of opinion stems from their basic difference in how we view the days of Chanukah. Shammai rules that we light the candles with an eye to the days that are yet to come. Hillel, on the other hand, says we should light the candles with that eye poised on the days that have already passed.

Another view is offered by Rabbi Yossi bar Zvida. He believes that Shammai's halachic stance is because of the analogy of Chanukah and Sukkot — which, we have learned, is the biblical model for the Rabbinically ordained holiday of Chanukah. On Sukkot, the number of 'karbanot', sacrifices, begins with thirteen animals, and decreases each day of the chag, ending with seven on the seventh day, corresponding to the seventy nations of the world. On Shmini Atzeret, we offer just one bull, corresponding to the singular People of Israel.

Hillel, says Rabbi Yossi bar Zvida, says that the halachic principle of "ma'alim bakodesh ve'ayn moridin" applies here. One should ascend (or increase) in matters of holiness, and not descend (or decrease).

We observe 'hadlakot nerot', lighting the candles, according to the opinion of Bet Hillel, either to encourage us to appreciate the sanctity of each moment (Rabbi Yossi bar Abin), or to show us the importance of striving and growing spiritually (Rabbi Yossi bar Zvida).

There is something to be learned from Bet Shammai as well. We must always eagerly anticipate our growth and development as Jews, as well as the need to actualize one of the primary goals of Judaism: to be concerned with "the nations of the world" as well as Klal Yisrael, the one, singular People of Israel. We must always be concerned with both the 'universal' and the 'particular'.

Beile and our entire family, join me in wishing everyone a wonderful, meaningful Chanukah.

Rabbi Robert D. Block

Message From the President



Two miraculous events are celebrated on Chanukah. The miracle of the oil, as recorded in the Gomorra Shabbos 21b, relates to the miraculous burning of the cruse of pure oil for eight days. The miracle of the military victory of the Macabees over the Syrian/Greeks is recounted in the Al-HaNisim prayer added to the Amida and Birchat Hamazon during Chanukah. (Those of us who had the privilege to hear Rabbi Goldenberg at Lox n Learn had a stimulating lesson in the history of Chanukah.)

If we examine these two miracles, one in the Holy Temple and the other in the land, we can ascribe different meanings and purposes to each.

The miracle of the oil occurred in the sanctum of the Holy Temple, performed by the Cohanim as they rededicated the Temple. It was likely witnessed by only a small number of people, probably all Cohanim or Leviim. This was primarily a religious event, carried out according to the laws of the Temple. The symbol of the Temple was the Menorah. Its light serves as inspiration for the Jewish people, providing a source of instruction and focus for the Jewish people.

The military victory was a national event. It was likely much more widely witnessed. If you will, it occurred on the land and in the streets and was seen by many. Thus it was easier for everyone to identify with the military victory and miracle.

The two miracles should not be viewed as independent of each other, and in fact should rather be thought of as interconnected. The events of the Temple, with its rituals and laws, exist to be a source of inspiration and teaching for the people. It was the focal point of religious observance. The national spirit of the people exists in the military victory, with the nation. We have to be involved in both religious activities as expressed in the Temple and the “secular” activities as expressed in occupying the land. We should not lose sight that both are important. A secular nation without Jewish religious values and teachings is not “Jewish” and conversely a religion of only ritual without the concept of the land is also not “Jewish.” It is our purpose to find the way to combine the holy and secular in our observance of the Mitzvot so that we can combine the two miracles of Chanukah. Chanukah sameach,

Marc Yunis
President

Shul News

Mazal tov to the entire Farnum family on the birth of a son, Jacob, to Tzion and Rachel.

Mazel tov to the entire Goldenberg family on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Irene (Chaya Rina), to Alex and Lisa.

May they be blessed to raise their children to Torah, Chupah and maaseem toveem.

Mazal tov to the entire Berookhim family on the marriage of Bobby and Talia Berookhim.

Mazal Tov to the Yagoohbzar family on Jasmine’s engagement to Shimon Yedidzion of Los Angeles.

Mazel tov to Heather and Seth Ostrow and their families on their marriage.

Yehi ratzon sheyizkoo livnot bayit neeman byisrael.

Our sincere condolences to Shirley Cohen on the passing of her husband.

Our sincere condolences to Michael Goon on the passing of his father, Gilbert Goon.

Our sincere condolences to the Esraelian family on the passing of Malca’s father, Moshiaich ben Eliyahu.

Our sincere condolences to Paula Lester on the passing of her grandmother, Ethel Raskin.

May G-D comfort the mourners together with all Mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

What's new in the Roslyn Synagogue Youth Department?



Motzei Shabbat November 12th we had our kickoff event for the youth department. As Shabbat ended, "Make Your Own Sundae" night began. The shul was transformed with games for everyone as well as delicious pizza from our local pizza place "Village Pizza," along with plenty of ice cream and toppings for everyone. With over forty participants, the night was a great (and tasty) success.

Among the excitement in the Roslyn Synagogue Youth Department, we are very excited to add a few new members to junior congregation including some male staff from Yeshiva University as well as the lovely young ladies who joined the shul for "Torah Tours" on Simchat Torah. Please make sure to welcome them to our shul and help them feel at home!

Looking to the future, we have some very exciting events on the horizon. We're planning a shul trip to a New York Islander's game on January 14th. Additionally, stay tuned for updates about a new program for parent and child learning once a month on Motzei Shabbat in the shul.

For more information about what's going on in our youth department, email Rabbi Bauer at bauervim@gmail.com.

Annual Sisterhood Dinner



The Roslyn Synagogue Sisterhood held their Membership Dinner on December 12 at Chosen Village in Great Neck. Members enjoyed delicious Chinese food and lively conversation.

Beile Block enlightened us with a d'var torah about the approaching holiday of Chanukah. We also collected toys to be given to needy and sick children around the holidays.





Don't forget to sign up for the New York Islanders Game on January 14, against the Buffalo Sabers. We need people to sign up soon so that we can purchase tickets at a discounted group rate. We are also looking for parents who are able to carpool.

For more information please contact:
Rabbi Bauer at bauervim@gmail.com

The Annual
Roslyn Synagogue Chanukah Dinner

is around the corner!

December 24th at

7:30pm

Safa Restaurant

451 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck

Time is running short to reserve a spot. Please RSVP
to: alanssonen@yahoo.com
as soon as possible to make sure you won't
miss out on the festivities.

Friends, families and kids are all welcome.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for
our sisterhood toy drive.

Thank you to the following
businesses who contributed
raffle prizes for our
Chanukah dinner:

- Ambalu Jewelers
- Roslyn Florist
- Great Neck Glatt
- Roslyn Village Pizza

Please support these business
establishments!

Roslyn
Village Pizza

Pizza • Pasta • Panini • Falafel • Sushi

We are open Saturday nights and on
December 25th.

During Chanuka we will have sufganiyot
(jelly doughnuts) and levivot (latkes).

VHQ

Dine in, Pick-up, Delivery, Catering
295 Warner Avenue, Roslyn Heights

516.484.5777