
CONGREGATION

Beth Abraham

• BULLETIN •



Bangor, Maine

DECEMBER 1982

KISLEV 5743

BETH ABRAHAM CONGREGATION

York Street
Bangor, Maine

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CHANUKAH

In the fourth century B.C.E., Alexander the Great conquered Asia and the Middle East. His conquests paved the way for the fusion of Greek culture and eastern tradition, which became known as Hellenism. Wherever the tentacles of Alexander reached, the Hellenistic culture was adopted either entirely or at least partly.

During the second century B.C.E., Antiochus the Syrian king who then ruled over Israel, was determined to institute a full program of Hellenization among the Jewish people. In the year 167 B.C.E. the Maccabees revolted against Antiochus and in the year 165 B.C.E. they were victorious. The holiday of Chanukah thus commemorates the overthrow of Hellenization in the land of Israel.

Why, the question might be asked, were other countries and cultures able to adapt to the Hellenistic culture while the Jews were not. One interesting answer is given that other cultures and nations either substituted their deities with those of the Hellenistic culture or adopted some ways of the Hellenistic culture while still holding on to some of their own. In other words, they added some things to their religion while at the same time they deleted others.

The Jewish people however, could not accept any other deity side by side with the Almighty in heaven, for that in itself would be a desecration of g-d. Though the Torah has 613 commandments, just by adding one or subtracting one, not only would this be sacreligious, but it would create a change in the entire Torah. It is not a question of adding one new law to the others or deleting one, but it would thus cause a change in the entire Torah. It would not be the "Jewish Torah"; it would be a new religion.

Today in our day and age, Judaism is facing somewhat the same threat as it faced during the time of Hellinism, however, with one difference. During the time of the Syrians the threat was from without and from within. Today, it is only from within our own ranks. We must understand that deleting and adding to the Torah does not merely constitute a few changes in some of the laws, but it causes a complete metamorphosis, whereby the Torah is not the same Torah from Sinai.

May the lights of the menorah illuminate the hearts of all our brethren so that Torah Judaism may continue to remain the cornerstone of our faith.

H.J.I.

A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

A Yeminite Jew was visiting a Tel Aviv hotel for the first time and he stationed himself at the elevator and a few moments later several young and attractive women came out. "This indeed is a wonder", he thought to himself. "I must get my wife to come here and take this treatment."

The women in our synagogue have had this remarkable affect upon our entire membership. They have added a zestful purpose to synagogue life by creating that important family feeling during the shabbosos and holiday services.

LAWS CONCERNING THE KINDLING OF THE CHANUKAH LIGHTS

1. Beginning with Friday evening, December 10th, the Festival of Chanukah commences. Every night for eight nights the Chanukah lights are kindled.

2. Each night an additional chandle is added; the first night, one; second, two, etc., exclusive of the Shamesh.

3. The lights are kindled left to right, so that the traditional light of each night is kindled first. (The candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left.)

4. The candles should be placed on the window sill in order that they may be seen from the outside.

5. Before lighting the candles, the blessings are made. On the first night we recite three blessings and on the following nights, only the first two blessings. On Friday evening the Chanukah candles are lit before the Sabbath candles.

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

1. Bo-ruch A-to Ado-Noy
E-lo-he-nu Me-lech
Ho-o-lom A-sher Kid-sho-nu
B-mitz-vo-sov V-tsi-no-nu
L-had-lik Ner Shel
Hanukkah

1. Blessed art Thou,
O, Lord, our G-d, King
of the Universe, who
has sanctified us by
thy Commandments, and
commanded us to kindle
the lights of Hanukkah.

2. Bo-ruch A-to Ado-noy
E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ho-
o-lom She-o-soh Ni-sim
La-a-vo-se-nu Ba-yo-mim
Ho-hem Baz-man ha-zeh

2. Blessed art Thou,
O, Lord, our G-d, King
of the Universe, who
performed miracles for
our fathers in the days
of old, at this season.

The following blessing is said only on the first night.

3. Bo-ruch A-to Ado-noy
E-lo-he-nu-Me-lech
Ho-o-lom She-he-che-yo-nu
V-ki-y-mo-nu V-hi-gi-o-nu
Laz-man Ha-zeh

3. Blessed art thou,
O, Lord, our G-d, King
of the Universe, who
has kept us in life,
and has preserved us to
reach this season.

LAWS PERTAINING TO PURIM

1. Thursday, February 24th, is "Tannith-Esther" -
"Fast of Esther".
Saturday evening, March 26th, and the following
morning of the Purim day, the Megillah (book of
Esther) must be read.

It is obligatory upon all, both male and female,
to hear the reading of the Megillah.
2. On the day of Purim, everyone must observe
"Mishloachmonos" -- sending a gift of at least
two kinds of edibles to at least one friend.
3. On the day of Purim a special Purim Feast should
be celebrated and everyone should rejoice with
the wonderful miracles of Purim and be inspired
by it.

PURIM SERVICES

Saturday Evening, February 26th 6:00 P.M.
Reading of Megillah

Sunday Morning, February 27th 7:30 A.M.
Morning Services

ATTENTION

For Members of All Ages

Please join us for the first annual first night of
Chanukah Family Dinner and Surprise Entertainment,
Saturday evening, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.
sponsored by the sisterhood.

CANDLE LIGHTING FOR DEC, JAN, FEB, MARCH 18th

Friday, December 10th	3:34 P.M.
Friday, December 17th	3:35 P.M.
Friday, December 24th	3:38 P.M.
Friday, December 31st	3:43 P.M.
Friday, January 7th	3:50 P.M.
Friday, January 14th	3:58 P.M.
Friday, January 21st	4:06 P.M.
Friday, January 28th	4:15 P.M.
Friday, February 4th	4:24 P.M.
Friday, February 11th	4:39 P.M.
Friday, February 18th	4:48 P.M.
Friday, February 25th	4:57 P.M.
Friday, March 4th	5:06 P.M.
Friday, March 11th	5:14 P.M.
Friday, March 18th	5:22 P.M.

BLESSING FOR CANDLE LIGHTING

BORUCH A-TO A-DO-NOY E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-O-LOM
A-SHER KID-SHO-NU B-MITZ-VO-SOV V-TZI-VO-NU L-HAD-LIK
NER SHEL SHABBOS

SISTERHOOD NEWS

The Sisterhood Rummage Sale was such a success in October that we have scheduled another one-day sale for Sunday, December 5. If anyone has some more rummage to be picked up, please call me, Roz Isaacs, or Barbara Podolsky.

On Saturday evening, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. the Sisterhood invites you to attend a festive family dinner with surprise entertainment and a dinner consisting of latkes and much more!!

Plans are under way for the Twelfth Annual Fashion Show in March and a united effort with the men for a gala 50th Anniversary Party for the shul in May.

My family and I wish you all a very happy Chanukah.

Louise Rolnick
Sisterhood President