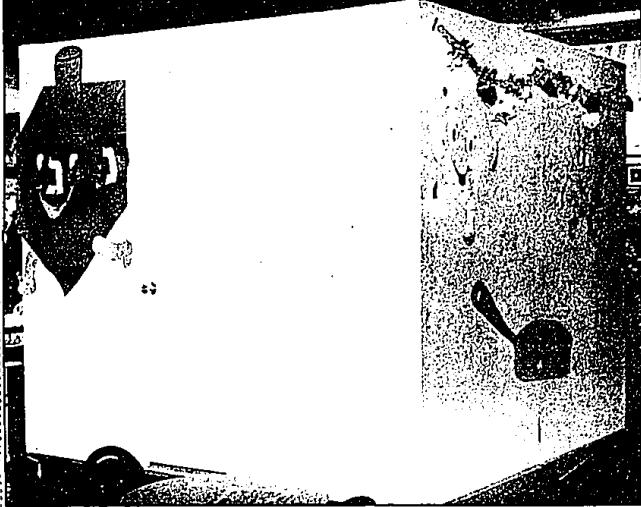


# Dreidel House explains Hanukkah

**'It's intended to provide an unusual and pleasant Hanukkah experience for Jewish children. It's designed so that children can feel wrapped up in Hanukkah.'**

— Rabbi Chaim Bergstein



Dreidel House at Hunters Square/Tally Hall will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Dec. 24.

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**D**REIDEL HOUSE, a Hanukkah fun booth for children prepared by volunteers, opened Wednesday at Hunters Square/Tally Hall in Farmington Hills.

"It's intended to provide an unusual and pleasant Hanukkah experience for Jewish children," said Rabbi Chaim Bergstein of Congregation Bais Chabad in Farmington Hills.

"It's designed so that children can feel wrapped up in Hanukkah."

Shaped like a Hanukkah dreidel, the brightly colored booth features

costumed Judah the Maccabee, explaining the significance of the Festival of Lights, which recounts the Jewish struggle for religious freedom.

Each youngster receives a Hanukkah Gift Pak, containing a dreidel, holiday flyers, candies, a charity box and two nickels.

"One nickel is for the child, the other is to be given to somebody else," Bergstein said. "They're to signify that the holiday is not just a time to enjoy yourself, but a time to share with others."

**DREIDEL HOUSE** visitors can play two video computer games to test their Hanukkah knowledge. They also can view a 25-minute, award-winning dramatic video presentation, "Lights."

"The video is presented in cartoon form and describes not only the struggle for religious freedom but what religious freedom meant," Bergstein said.

"It's a very, very refreshing approach," he added. "Everything lights up and ideas are very, very vividly expressed in a way that children can appreciate and understand."

Dreidel House hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 24. Admission is \$1. It's near the rear in Tally Hall, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. The Hanukkah project is one of many sponsored and run by the Lubavitch Women's Organization, "N'Shei Chabad," of Michigan.

**THE MIRACLE** of Hanukkah took place in about 140 BCE, when King Antiochus IV decreed that a common Hellenic religion would rule the inhabitants of Palestine and that Judaism must be destroyed. Thousands of Jews were massacred; thousands of others assimilated.

In the city of Modin, Mattathias and four of his sons, descendants of the Jewish high priests, decided they would not surrender their religious heritage. When Antiochus' forces arrived at Modin, Mattathias and his son, Judah the Maccabee, led a part of the king's troops and began their rebellion against the numerically su-

perior Syrian army and its Jewish collaborators.

About three years into the rebellion, the Jewish temple in Jerusalem was retaken. The Greek idols were removed, and the feast of Hanukkah began. But when the Maccabees prepared to once again light the temple's menorah, they realized there was not enough oil to last one night. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days and nights, long enough for a new supply to arrive.

**DURING THE** persecution, Jews were forbidden to study their ancient

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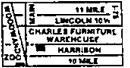


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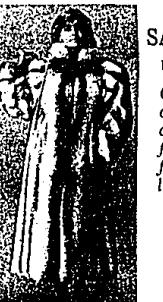
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