

Light

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For the congregation at Adat Shalom Synagogue on Middlebelt, the holiday is one associated with the family, said Rabbi Ely Spectre.

"The emphasis is in the home," Spectre said. "But we have activities as well."

Starting with a school program for nursery-school children and their parents on the first day of Hanukkah, there are activities for all ages, with a Hanukkah celebration for senior citizens on the final day (Thursday).

For the synagogue's 1,100 families, the holiday is also one to commemorate religious tolerance because it commemorates a struggle against religious intolerance.

This year is unusual in that because of the Jewish calendar, the holiday does not coincide as closely with Christmas as in most years, Spectre said. The proximity of the holidays of two religions can be a reminder that religious tolerance is what Hanukkah is about, he said.



SHARON LEMUEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seasonal surroundings: Boys sing and dance around the menorah near the Lubavitch Center in Farmington Hills

"We should be happy for Christians who are also celebrating their holiday," he said. "My col-

leagues in the ministry are always decrying the materialism of the holidays. The hype is something

we all have to try and counterbalance with the spiritual meaning of the holidays."

CLARIFICATION

A caption under a photograph on page 3A of the Dec. 9 Farmington Observer should have identified the tot on Santa's lap as Ariel Feldman.

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Arthritis Today
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
18829 Farmington Road
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Phone: 478-7860

LYME ARTHRITIS

Lyme arthritis is an uncommon condition that results from a tick bite. In the majority of patients the condition presents in a dramatic manner: a red blotch that begins at the site of the bite and thereafter extends over the body. Often the redness clears in the center of the blotch giving the skin a sinking bulls-eye appearance. Weeks to months after the skin change resolves, the arthritis appears, most commonly the knees are involved. First one knee, then the other, develops aching and, if fluid accumulates, swelling. The pain comes and goes, and the knee feels fine between episodes.

In contrast, many people believe that the daily aches they suffer and the constant fatigue they feel, comes from Lyme arthritis. Unfortunately the blood tests that individuals request to confirm their feelings are not reliable.

Furthermore, physicians cannot undertake a trial of therapy and "see what happens." Treatment for Lyme arthritis involves prolonged use of antibiotics with attendant expense and the possibility of a drug reaction, with good reason physicians refrain from such experimenting. Instead, doctors prefer to wait; in time the fatigue will resolve or reveal its source.

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