# BELIEFS & Values

## Hanukkah a time of celebration

As we learn from our sages and scholars, Hanukkah was the Jewish peoplehood. This fight for religious firedom was therefore a pick first affirmation of their willingness to die for this right.

\*\*RABU ARNIE\*\*

\*\*India ARNIE\*\*

\*\*Indi

You're Perfect,

TIS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE WITH

struggle to preserve the personal religious identity of the Jowish people. Loss of that religious identity of the Jowish people. Loss of that religious identity ment a loss of Jowish people. Hoss of that religious freedom was therefore a fight for Jowish people and the survival.

Hanukhah symbolizes the fight against totalitarianism in all forms. The struggle was wanged in a particular context, but its implications were and are universal. - a festival of liberty and freedom. Hanukhah celebrate with the struggle was wanged in a particular context, but its implications were and are universal. - a festival of liberty and freedom. Hanukhah celebrate with the struggle was wanged in a particular context, but its implications were and are universal. - a festival of liberty and freedom. Hanukhah celebrate with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not relieve the third internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal life of the Jowish people. He did not interfer with the internal religious freedom.

Tues. Dec. 29 8pm

Tues. Dec. 29 8pm & 8pm

Thur. Dec. 31 7pm & 10pm
Sat. Jan. 2 6pm & 9pm

A thur. Dec. 31 7pm & 10pm
Sat. Jan. 2 6pm & 9pm

Tues. Dec. 29 8pm

Tues. Dec. 29 8pm

Tues. Dec. 29 8pm

Robertoli, MI 48824

So or mer (311) 181-18112

Tues. Dec. 31 181-18112

Tues. Dec. 32 181-18112

Tues. Dec. 33 197-1812

Tues. Dec. 34 181-1812

Tues. Dec. 35 2pm & 8pm
Thur. Dec. 31 17pm & 10pm
Sat. Jan. 2 6pm & 9pm

Tues. Dec. 39 8pm & 8pm
Thur. Dec. 31 17pm & 10pm
Sat. Jan. 2 6pm & 9pm
Sat. Jan. 2 6pm & 9pm

Tues. Dec. 39 8pm & 8pm
Thur. Dec. 3

at best. For this reason, and because of the disflavor engen-dered by the anti-Pharisee stance of the Hasmoneans, the miracle of the lights was stressed and not the military vic-tories over the Seleucids.

tories over the Seleucids.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, there has been a natural affinity between the victories of the Maccabees and the contemporary struggle for peace and security of the modern state. and security of the modern state.

The Hanukkah lights are first
mentioned by the Roman Jewish
historian Josephus in his book
Antiquities (12.7): "From that
day to this we observe this festival and call it lights."

ay to mis we observe this testival and call it lights.

The Talimud speaks of the
tenmandment of lighting the
Hanukkah lights in a prominent
place in order to "proclaim the
miracle" of Hanukkah to the
entire world: "Our sages taught:
The Hanukkah lights should be
placed at the door of the house.
A person who lives in an upper
story should place it in the nearest window to the public thoroughfare. In time of danger,
however, it may be placed on the
table and that will be sufficient...."

cient..."

The Rabbis of the Talmud stressed the miracle of the cruse of oil, rather than the miraculous military victory of the Hamoneans, for they wished to stress the role of divine intervention and minimize the military prowess of the Hamonean

dynasty. A famous passage in the Talmud asks: "What is Hanukkah?" In response to its own question, the Talmud states: "Our sages taught: Beginning with the twenty-fifth of the month of Kisley, during the days of Hanukkah, we neither fast nor mourn. For the idolaters entered the Sanctuary and defiled all the oils in the Sanctuary; and when the power of the Hasmoneans overcame and defeated them, they searched, but found no more than one flast of oil, eaded with the seal of the High Priest, and there was not enough oil in it to last more than one day. But a miracle took place, and they kindled with it for eight days. For future years, therefore, they established these days as days of feasting, praise and thanksgiving."

The link between Hanukkah and Christman romesants.

days as days of teasting, praise and thanksgiving.

The link between Hanukkah and Christmas represents a problem for North American Jewry. While Hanukkah is but a minor festival in the Jewish calendar, Christmas is one of the two main holidays twith Easteri in the Christian calendar. Although Hanukkah and Christmas occur at the same time of year, they have virtually nothing else in common. With pressure upon families to give gifts during the holiday season. Jews (particularly parents) face considerable pressure to emulate their Christian neighbors and friends. This has resulted in the commercialization of Hanukkah as well.

Guest columnist Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg is rabbi at Congrega-tion Shir Tikvah in Tray.

### COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, clo Belie's and Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspaper,

### **CHRISTMAS TREE**

The First Presbytering. Church, Birmingham, is holding its traditional Christmas treat sale. Proceeds benefit various mission projects and their youth programs. All kinds are avail-able.

Times are 4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 and noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the church 1669 West Maple Road, on Maple Road east of Cranbrook Road.

#### **EILU V EILU**

Eilu V Eilu, the cooperative adult Jewish learning project of the Detroit Conservative movement, is offering a Latte & Learning series at 10 a.m. Mondays at Borders Books & Music, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Tuition is \$7 ner session.

#### CONGREGATION **SHIR TIKVAH**

Congregation Shir Tikvah, 3900 Northfield Parkway, south, of Wattles between Crooks and Coolidge in Troy, will hold a Shabbat service during, Hanukkah at 7.15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. The menorah will be



