



## Stony Brook Hebrew Congregation Newsletter

### This month's services schedule

Date:	Candle Lighting	Evening Service	Shacharit/Mincha	Kriat Shema	Maariv	Shabbat Ends
5-6	4:06 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:22 am	5:20 pm	5:07 pm
12-13	4:06 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:27 am	5:20 pm	5:08 pm
19-20	4:09 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:31 am	5:25 pm	5:10 pm
26-27	4:12 pm	5:00 pm	9:30 am	9:34 am	5:30 pm	5:14 pm

**Weekday Shacharit** – Mondays & Thursdays at 7:00 am.

**Weekday Mincha** – 12:45 pm in HSC 4th Floor – Dr. Fuhrer's Office.

### Learning

**Tuesdays at 8:00 pm** – Weekly Talmud class led by Rabbi Roffman in the Beit Midrash.

### Special events in December

**Change in Prayers** – On December 4th at Maariv we begin to say *Ten Tal U'Matar* in the weekday Amidah.

**Chanukah** – First night on Sunday, the 21st of December, and last night on Sunday, the 28th of December.

**Chanukah Party** – The Streys will be hosting this year's Chanukah party on Sunday, December 21st, at 1:00 pm. Their address is 60 Aspen Lane, Stony Brook.

**Rosh Chodesh Tevet** – Starts on Friday night, the 26th of December, and ends on Sunday day, the 28th of December.

### Nachas News

Happy Birthday to David Leib, Mario Aluf-Medina, Deborah Zlochower, Yosef Norman, Alex & Dmitri Milch, Zack Ebin, Yisroel Meir, and Rafi Linkoff.

### Observing Yahrzeit

Louise Linkoff for her mother Shmuel on the 11th of Kislev, December 8th.

### Kiddush

Kiddush this month is sponsored by the Fine family.

### Rabbi Roffman's Monthly Message

The mitzvah of lighting candles on eight nights of Chanukah is unique in that it succeeds in being repeated without ever being repeated. Every night a different number of candles

are lit. This is unusual because with other mitzvot that are repeated, they are always done in the same way. For each day of Sukkoth, the same number of species are waved. We don't put on a different number of tephillin depending on the day of the week. Yet with Chanukah, every night is different. The *Bach* asks why the Sages designed the mitzvah of Chanukah in this unique way. He answers by explaining the difference between Chanukah and Purim.

Purim was established to commemorate the miracle that occurred when the Jewish people were in danger of being killed. We celebrate our physical salvation with a festive meal, celebrating G-d with our physical beings. On Chanukah, however, the Syrian-Greeks did not wish to kill us physically. Rather they wanted to stamp out the Jewish soul. He goes on to explain that we were vulnerable to this threat because of a laxness that had developed in our service to G-d. This attitude was especially prevalent with mitzvot that were done repeatedly, and had become more a matter of routine than inspiration. The menorah was actually the archetype of mitzvot that were done repeatedly, as we were charged to ensure that it would be lit constantly as a *Ner Tamid*.

When the Sages instituted the mitzvah of lighting candles, they wanted this mitzvah to be repeated and yet completely free of routine or habit. To perform this mitzvah in an elevated way, one had to add something new to it every night, thus acting as the model for the rest of our service to G-d. This mitzvah would teach us that we must guard ourselves from losing our appreciation of mitzvot and to always grow in our understanding and diligence of their performance.