



## Tree of Life

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה....

December 3, 2010

26 Kislev, 5771

Congregation Etz Chaim

[www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)



### In This Issue

[Shabbat Miketz, Shabbat Chanukah](#)

[Chanukah Tidbits](#)

### Davening Times

#### Shabbat Mevorchim

Friday,  
Candle lighting - 4:11 PM  
Mincha - 4:16 PM

Saturday,  
Shacharit  
Main - 9:00 AM  
Sephardic - 9:10 AM  
Rabbi's Shiur - 3:30 PM  
Mincha - 4:00 PM  
Shabbat Ends - 5:16 PM

Sunday  
Shacharit - 8:30 PM  
Mincha/Ma'ariv - 4:05

Daily  
Shacharit - Mon & Fri -  
6:45 AM  
Shacharit - Tues, Wed, Thurs  
- 6:40 AM  
Ma'ariv - 7:45 PM

### THIS WEEK -

**Class with Miriam Krupka on Shabbat 10:15 AM**  
**Chanukah Hagiga - Sunday, December 5. 11:30-2:30**  
**Rosh Chodesh Tevet: Tuesday and Wednesday**  
**To Dream Together - Rabbi's Message ([see below](#))**

### Kiddush Sponsor

**Paul and Tita Celler in Memory of Paul's father,  
David Meir be Tzvi, on his Yahrzeit. May his neshama  
have an aliyah.**

### Chanukah Trivia -

The Hebrew word 'Chanukah' shares the same root as the word 'Chinuch' -- Education. During Chanukah we focus our attention on matters affecting the Jewish education of children. This is one of the reasons it is traditional to give 'Chanukah gelt' to children on Chanukah -- after testing them on their Jewish studies.

The windows of the Holy Temple were wider outside than in. Rather than let the sunlight in like all other windows, the Temple windows were built to let the light of the Menorah out,

### Quicklinks

[Our Website](#)

[Shul  
CalendarKosher.com](#)

Check with Office re  
regularly scheduled

classes for the  
duration of Chanukah

to shine into the rest of the world.

A plain donut contains 300 calories. One glazed donut contains 295 calories. One jelly-filled donut contains 215 calories. One powdered cake donut contains 260 calories. One sugared donut contains 305 calories. About 45 minutes of walking (4mph) burns the calories in a 2.5oz plain donut.

The name *Maccabee* may come from the Hebrew word for hammer. It is also an acrostic for "Mi Kamocha Ba-Elim Hashem?" (Who is like You among the mighty, O G-d?).

The Menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem was decorated with 22 cups -- all turned upside down! This was a sign of G-d's blessing pouring down upon the world.

### The Coat Drive -

**We have three coats. Looking for twenty seven more. Please check your closets. Bring the coats you are not wearing to the Shul for distribution to those who need them. Thank you!**

### Upcoming Events

**Malcolm Hoenlein - Next Shabbat, December 11, 2010**  
**a not to be missed event**

#### To Dream Together

When commenting on this parsha, the Chofetz Chaim used to say that when the time of the great geula-the complete redemption of the Jewish people-will come, the liberation of our land and the return of our people to the land of their fathers will result in such momentous change that none will have the power to stem the flow. In an instant, the geula will be revealed before our very eyes.

When the time came for Yosef to be freed from the prisons of Egypt, the parsha refers to the hasty manner of his release."Pharaoh sent and called for Yosef and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon and he shaved himself and changed his garments and he came in unto Pharaoh." Without the usual formalities required to release a prisoner, they drew him hastily from the dungeon. The time had come, and nothing could stand in the way.

Our festivals are not meant merely for rejoicing over victories of the past, neither are our fasts meant merely for mourning over defeats. History must take its course, but once its tide turns, it moves rapidly and cannot be stopped. The greatest thing is to grasp the opportunity, to see that turning point and to pursue it. As Jews, we must do so, together, as a people. We must function for the common defense of every Jew, no matter where he or she may be.

The greatest miracle of Chanukah was not the flask of oil that burned for eight days-that is not even mentioned in the siddur-but rather the dauntless courage of the few in defiance of enemies on all sides; the few who stirred the conscience of Jews all over to rise in arms against the invader. This created an enthusiasm that spread like wildfire to burn out the evil that had taken root. A light was kindled in every home, as the haftorah states, "in that day of your redemption shall ye call every man to his neighbor." The tide was turned, the lights kindled, and the flow could not be stemmed.

For two thousand years we have been dreaming, and wise men of all generations have given their interpretations. Very few have seen G-d's plan in all the upheavals of our history. We have enjoyed fat years and suffered lean years, times of prosperity and times of poverty. The finest lesson of Chanukah, then, is this-one light alone is inadequate, it must radiate its brightness, it must influence others, it must increase in numbers, strength and intensity and must spread its grace. "Ye shall call every man to his neighbor" - we must join together and be neighbors with unity of purpose. We must live together as Jews, walking in the same law of life, fighting for the same cause, and kindling the flame of redemption-each in his own way. Only then, together, shall we turn the tide toward redemption, in our own land and abroad. Only then will the scattered remnants of Israel be redeemed hastily, fulfilling G-d's plan, such that the flow will never be stopped.

Shabbat shalom and Happy Chanukah.  
Rabbi Krupka