

Hebrew Day Institute



לכבוד שבת

L'chvod Shabbat



November 30, 2007



Hanukkah Choir Performances

Our wonderful choir led by Dr. Ruth Newhouse and Dina Korman shined on Tuesday evening, November 27th at Ohev Sholom—The National Synagogue. The feeling of Hanukkah was everywhere! Our children were full of joy and ruach. We look forward to our next performance! For a complete performance list, please see last page.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

School Closed for Parent Teacher Conferences

School will be closed on Monday, Dec. 3rd for parent teacher conferences.

Tzedakah of the Month

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Please send your children to school on Fridays wearing their blue school shirt. Please remind them to bring their tzedakah to school!

Hanukkah Play

Please join us on Thursday, December 6th at 2:30 for our Hanukkah play performed by the K, 1st and 2nd graders!





Parsha Talk

By Rabbi Philip Pohl (a proud Hebrew Day Institute parent)

This year Hanukkah begins on Tuesday evening, December 4, 2007. We all know that the major symbol during the holiday of Hanukkah is the progressive lighting of candles each evening at sunset. That is the preferred time, although unlike Shabbat, it is not prohibited to light the Hanukkah candles later in the evening.

So how do we proceed on Shabbat? Which candles do we light first on Friday night, December 7, Shabbat candles or Hanukkah candles? I imagine you are saying, "That's simple Rabbi. On Friday night, we first light the Hanukkah candles and then kindle the candles for Shabbat. Any candle lighting, even Hanukkah candle lighting, after Shabbat begins, is prohibited." And that is correct.

What about the end of Shabbat? What happens first, the ritual of Havdalah with its burning candle which formally ends Shabbat, or the lighting of Hanukkah candles? If we apply the same logic as we use for the beginning of Shabbat, the answer would be, first we end Shabbat with Havdalah and then light the Hanukkah candles.



And that is correct, but only some of the time. If you are ending the Sabbath at home, then you follow the above procedure - first Havdalah, then light the Hanukkah candles. But if you happen to end Shabbat with a Ma-Ariv (Evening) minyan in shul, then the procedure (at least according to many opinions) is actually just the opposite – first light the Hanukiah and then recite Havdalah.

Mah Nishtanah – why the difference?

The difference is because when you are in synagogue, it can be assumed that you (or at least some of the others present) are actually reciting Ma-Ariv (the Evening) service. If so, then it is likely you will remember to include a special additional paragraph that is inserted into the Amidah and recited only at the end of Shabbat and Festivals. That paragraph begins with the phrase "Atah Chonantanu" and in English reads:

"You graciously granted us knowledge of your Torah, teaching us to fulfill the laws You have willed. You set apart the sacred from the profane, even as You separated light from darkness, singled out the people Israel from among the nations, and distinguished Shabbat from all other days...."



Clearly, the theme and language of the above paragraph is very similar to the theme and language of the home Havdalah prayer. And in essence, it actually serves as the prayer and moment which ends Shabbat. Technically, if Shabbat wasn't already over, you would not even be permitted to pick up a match, let alone strike it and light a candle.

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Parsha Talk

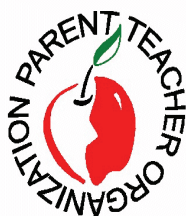
By Rabbi Philip Pohl (a proud Hebrew Day Institute parent)

Therefore, in shul, once you have recited the extra Havdalah-like paragraph in the Amidah, you can be certain that Shabbat is already over. Since it is preferable to light the Hanukkah candles immediately after, but as close to sunset as possible, the custom is that at the synagogue we first light the Hanukkah candles and then proceed with the Havdalah ritual which includes wine, spices and lighting a braided candle. At home, not everyone (or anyone) might recite the Amidah and include this special Shabbat ending paragraph. It is the more well-known Havdalah ritual, which ends the Sabbath for those who have remained in the household. Only then do the members of the family in the household proceed to light the Hanukkah candles.

I've always been fascinated by this difference in Halachic practice between what happens in the home and what happens in shul. And, I've always admired it as well. It seems realistic to imagine that in shul, when we are connected to the larger community, we will be more careful and scrupulous in our observance. In shul, we are more likely to help each other be certain to perform rituals correctly. And because we are more careful, there is less room for error, which means we can do things differently than we would at home. In shul, the Hanukkah candle lighting can occur before the ritual Havdalah because it is certain that the Havdalah paragraph found in the Amida will have been recited. But at home, we need to recite the ritual Havdalah first since not everyone will include that other special paragraph added to the Amida.

How interesting and amazing - two different procedures depending upon whether you are at home or at shul. Even the Halachic process recognizes the strength and insurance we all receive when we leave our home and join other members of the Jewish community in shul.

Hanukah Samayach,
Rabbi Philip Pohl



PTO Corner

By Edith Calem

Babysitting co-op planned for Monday, Dec. 3rd during Parent—Teacher conferences. Interested? Contact Edith Calem at pto@hebrewdayinstitute.org or 301-963-4409.

PTO Meeting on Sunday, December 9th at 9:30 am at the Starbucks in Montrose Road Shopping Center on Rockville Pike. Come out to shmooze, and share coffee and conversation with other Hebrew Day Institute parents! Please let Edith know if you will attend. Space is limited on a Sunday morning!

Special thanks to Sue Meiselman for organizing our amazing Scholastic Book Fair! The students and teachers really enjoyed visiting the Book Fair and all of the family activities were wonderful. A great time was had by all! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered at the Book Fair.





Hanukkah Choir Performances

Sunday, Dec. 2nd	3 pm	Cantor Rochelle Helzner and The Robyn Helzner Trio Concert Tikvat Israel Congregation 2200 Baltimore Rd. Rockville, MD <u>MUST WEAR A WHITE SHIRT</u>
Thursday, Dec. 6th	1 pm	Har Tzeon-JCC Senior Luncheon Har Tzeon Synagogue Habib Social Hall
Thursday, Dec. 6th	6 pm	White Flint Mall Lower level, in front of Bloomingdales



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Candle Lighting Time

Friday, November 30 4:29 pm

