

# Young Israel of Riverdale

## Chanuka 5778

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### **Rabbi's Message:**

The Rambam (Chanuka 3:3) describes the eight days of Chanuka as days of joy (simcha) and Hallel. However, the Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 670:2) rules that the festive meals are optional as Chanuka was not established for partying and joy (mishteh v' simcha).

These two statements appear contradictory, as the Maharshal (Baba Kama 7:37) notes. If so, why did the Shulchan Aruch not rule in accordance with the Rambam as he usually does?

In Kuntres B'Inyanei Y'mei Chanuka (p.39), Rabbi Chanoch Karelenstein answers that there is no dispute. Only on Yom Tov does the Rambam rule that a person is obligated to eat a festive meal (Yom Tov 6:17). On Chanuka, the days are days of joy, but festive meals are not mandatory.

The Tzl"ach (d'rush 34) teaches that the Greeks intended that Hashem's presence (the Shechina) would be removed from Am Yisrael. Therefore, on Chanuka, we must prevent that from happening. Those who talk in shul defile the holy atmosphere, as the Greeks defiled the holiness in the Bais Hamikdash.

This timely reminder, to be quiet in shul all year, but especially on Chanuka, reflects our primary obligation on this holiday: to enable the Shechina to dwell in our midst. Since the Shechina dwells only when there is joy (Shabbos 30a) we must make Chanuka days of joy..

The Haftora of Chanuka begins: Sing and be joyous BasZion for I am coming and I will dwell in your midst (Zecharia 2:14). We must be joyous on Chanuka so that Hashem's presence will dwell in our midst.

During these days of Chanuka 5778, let our homes be filled with joy, with festive meals, and with Torah, which gladdens the heart (Tehillim 19:9). And in our shul let us resolve to improve decorum to foil the plan of the Greeks who attempted to remove the Divine Presence from our midst. And let us pray for the ultimate restoration of the Shechina to Am Yisrael in the rebuilt Bais Hamikdash.

RABBI MORDECHAI WILLIG

**CHANUKA SCHEDULE:**

Chanuka, Wed-Fri, December 13-15 & Wed, December 20  
Shacharis-6:30, 7:20 a.m.

Rosh Chodesh, Mon-Tues, December 18, 19  
Shacharis- 6:20, 7:15 a.m.

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**Mazal Tov to:**

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Dr. Kalman and Dr. Rochelle Ausubel on two simchas: the birth of a granddaughter, Aliza Chaya, to Moshe and Tali Karp; the birth of a granddaughter, Shalhevet Temima, to Elli and Ellie Ausubel.

Lou and Lotte Bravmann on the Bas mitzvah of their granddaughter, Jenna Kaufthal.

Dr. Chezky and Esther Buchen on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Raitza BatZion. Special mazal tov to grandparents Marvin and Helena Goldstein and on the birth of a granddaughter, Miriam Tova, to Yair and Rachel Berko.

Rabbi Moshe and Debra Drelich on the forthcoming marriage of their son, Dovie, to Daniela Mael.

Rosalyn Feinman on the forthcoming marriage of her son, Tuvia, to Tziporah Adler.

Rabbi Noson and Mindy Joseph on the marriage of their son, Shlomo, to Buna Eisgrau.

Mrs. Lola Lerner, on the marriage of her grandson, Chaim Dovid, son of Issac and Beverly Lerner, to Estee Rubinstein.

Philip and Andrea Levin on the forthcoming marriage of their son, Avinoam, to Rebecca Bemmelen

Jay and Carol Lyons on the birth of a grandson, to Yoni and Rachel Lianni. Special mazal tov to the greatgrandfather, Dr. David Morris.

Kenneth and Julie Pinczower on the bar mitzvah of their son, Shmuel Yosef.

Daniel and Margaret Retter on the marriage of their granddaughter, Avigail, daughter of Avi and Yael Kamelhar, to Meyer Rokowsky.

Ephraim and Atara Rosenfeld on the birth of their son, Natanel Yerachmiel.

Dr. Harvey and Pearl Rosenfeld on their forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dr. Menachem and Annette Rubin, on the birth of a granddaughter, Tziril, to Assaf and Chaya Tamara Klein.

Rabbi Avrohom and Chaya Swerdloff on the birth of a grandson, Shimshon Dovid, to Rabbi and Mrs. Teichman.

David and Susan Tessel on the birth of their grandson, Bunim, to Bradley and Rebecca Goldstoff.

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**Condolences to:**

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Edward and Lawrence Turkel, on the loss of their mother, Jean Turkel

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**Refuah Sheleima to:**

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Rabbi Yaakov Bernstein

Shoshana Freeman

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**Tzeischem L'Shalom to:**

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Gabriel and Frances Gozland, who have moved to Bergenfield, NJ.

Mrs. Amy Kahan, who has returned to Chicago

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## Daf Yomi:

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- **Monday through Friday mornings:**
  - ✓ Before first *minyan* (Alain Spira)
  - ✓ After first *minyan* (Daniel Retter Monday-Friday)
  - ✓ After second *minyan* 8:10 (Rabbi Zvi Hirschberg)
  
- **Monday through Thursday evenings:**
  - ✓ After ma'ariv (Dr. Yosef Fink)
  - ✓ Riverdale Community Beth Midrash (Dr. Menachem Rubin)
  
- **Shabbos morning:**
  - ✓ Before 8:30 *minyan* (Dr. Menachem Rubin)
  - ✓ After 7:30 *minyan* (Dr. Yosef Fink)
  - ✓ After 8:30 *minyan* (Daniel Retter)
  
- **Sunday Morning:**
  - ✓ Before first *minyan* (Alain Spira)
  - ✓ After first *minyan* (Dr. Yosef Fink)
  - ✓ After first *minyan* (Dr. Harvey Rosenfeld)
  - ✓ 10:00 a.m.—Rabbi Zvi Hirschberg
  
- **Sunday Evening:**
  - ✓ Riverdale Community Beth Midrash (Dr. Menachem Rubin)