

# CHABAD NEWS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI



Light plays a central role in our everyday lives. Light is what allows us to appreciate our surroundings; to connect with the beauty that fills our world. Light, as well, has become a symbol for advanced technology and forward-thinking: The light-bulb is the universal icon for innovation and new ideas, and the earliest manifestation of electricity was light.

Throughout Jewish history, too, light has played an important role. Light was the feature of the first day of creation; Moses’s face shone with an all-powerful light; and the Temple’s Menorah emitted its light throughout the entire world.

The theme of light is highlighted most prominently in the festival of Chanukah — when the light of the Menorah overcame the spiritual darkness wrought by the wicked Greek regime.

To understand the message of light, we must first contrast it with its opposite: Darkness.

Darkness is intrinsically linked to disunity and fragmentation. The Kabbalah explains that darkness among people indicates separation and divisiveness, where each person is clouded by their own lives and cannot find room for their fellow.

Light, by contrast, represents unity and connectivity. Light allows us to see things for how they truly are. Light allows us to appreciate others who have different - even dissenting opinions, because we can see them for the truth of their being: Human beings deserving of respect. Light allows us to put aside our differences, and to unite for a common cause.

In “light” of all this, there is something strange about the Menorah - the seeming exemplar of the victory of light over darkness. The Menorah in the Temple had not one, but seven

branches. If the Menorah is the true token of harmony and cohesion, wouldn’t its message be better expressed if it were to have only one, unified, branch?

To answer this question, we must reconsider the way we understand unity.

At first glance, unity seems to call for uniformity and like-mindedness. The only way for people to connect, it would seem, is if they share the same beliefs and engage in similar behaviors. Were it to be otherwise, conflict would reign supreme.

Such unity, however, is not true unity.

True unity is achieved when different people, with diverging, or even contradictory beliefs, nevertheless rise above their differences and coexist with one another. True unity is reflected in seven distinct branches, each headed in its own distinct direction, yet all stemming from the same base. The Menorah, with all its intricate designs and

*Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch is an organization that provides social, educational, recreational, and religious programming. Chabad is a place where every Jew, affiliated or unaffiliated, observant or non-observant, can come and feel comfortable. We believe that regardless of educational background or affiliation, it is the inalienable right of every Jewish person to learn and participate in our heritage, which belongs to us equally.*

(continued on page 4...)



## CLUB CHAI APPRECAITION DINNER

An exclusive appreciation dinner was held on Sunday, November 12, to honor Chabad's dedicated Club Chai members who provide monthly sustenance to Chabad through donations in increments of Chai, \$18.

This Club is crucial to Chabad's ongoing financial stability.

Words cannot express

Chabad's gratitude toward its Club Chai members. These generous and special people partner with Chabad to reach out to the community through education, social, and cultural services.

Attendees watched a presentation depicting some of their Chai dollars at work. A heartfelt thank you to the members who

supported their monthly donations after The Club Chai Dinner.

This year, the Club Chai has grown to 75 monthly donors netting Chabad \$48,000 annually.

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 dollars a month! If you would like to become a Club Chai member, please contact Chabad for more information at 752-3030.



## HAVDALLAH GAME NIGHT

Rocket balloons, artisanal popcorn booth, fabulous Jewish games, an exciting Jewpardy Game Show, and more kept children and their

families entertained with the CKIDs Havdallah Game night that took place on November 25. Upcoming CKIDs events will include the

Chocolate Gelt factory, Kids Shabbat Takeover and Mega Babkallah Bake! Stay tuned for more information.



**ROSHCHODESH SOCIETY RCS PAUSE AND AFFECT**

Rosh Chodesh Society launched its first class on Tuesday, November 21. Attendees enjoyed

Shabbat treats of challah and dips and matzah ball soup while they learned about "The Gift of Rest."

Ladies are invited to join the next class on December 26. Contact Chabad for more info.



**BABYCCINO**

Sunday mornings at Chabad feature a heavy dose of cuteness with the babes and tots that join

Babyccino for some interactive, stimulating Jewish playtime. This month, Babyccino

focused on the Six Days of Creation. Join Babyccino as we explore Chanukah in December!



**CTEEN ISRAEL FEST AND TGIS**

This month, CTeen enjoyed a Shabbat Dinner at the Rabbi's Home and Israeli themed event;

"Heritage, Hummus and Homeland" featuring a falafel bar, camouflage cupcakes baking, and tile

decorating for a bomb shelter in Israel.

CTeen Latke Wars is coming up in December.



**HEBREW SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

Hebrew School of The Arts students were busy with their Jewish Homes,

Lifecycles, and Shabbat curriculums this month. They've also been

preparing food for those in need, learning Aleph Bet and Hebrew!



**RABBI'S MESSAGE***(...continued from page 1)*

ornaments, was constructed from a single block of gold.

The Menorah represented true individuality - cups, flowers, knobs, arms and candle-holders - yet each unit was united with a common core.

This is the true meaning of unity. When we unite—not by suppressing our differences and conforming to the one voice, rather—by utilizing our differences for a common cause: To spread light and holiness into this world.

The same is true in our own lives. Unity is a necessary component of coexisting as a functioning society. To do this, we must first overcome the illusory obstacle that so often divides us - our differences. We must refrain from trying to bend others to our will, even if we believe wholeheartedly in the truth of our view. Every individual brings a different perspective, and each is deserving of respect and consideration. This is what makes each of us unique and special; the unique perspective we bring to the table. Unity is achieved when we harness our differences and use them for the greater good, when together, as a society, we focus our energies on using our unique potential to work toward a common goal, to bring more light and holiness into this world.

Then, we can truly experience the miracle of Chanukah.



Rabbi Mendy Bukiet

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# Spread the Light!


**Dreidel Tournament**  
**Chanukah Israel Celebration**  
**Menorah Lighting at Ellenton**  
**CKIDS Chocolate Gelt Factory**  
**CTeen Latke Wars!**


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AND SPREAD THE CHANUKAH LIGHT TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

For further details, contact Chabad at 941-752-3030, [info@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:info@chabadofbradenton.com),  
or [www.chabadofbradenton.com](http://www.chabadofbradenton.com).

Please consider  
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JOIN CHABAD OF BRADENTON & LAKEWOOD RANCH FOR

# Chanukah Israel Celebration

*Celebrating the holy land of Israel and its people.*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017, 6:00PM**

**LAKEWOOD RANCH MAIN STREET**

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## ONGOING PROGRAMS

*All events take place at The Chabad House.*

### Talmud Classes

Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm

Explore the Talmud and its laws in its original text. No prior knowledge of the Talmud or Hebrew is necessary.

Book fee: \$45.

### Torah Studies

Saturday mornings, 9:00-9:30 am

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

### Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday night, 7:00 pm, Saturday mornings 9:30 am

Enjoy warm, family friendly services at The Chabad House.

Saturday morning services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush.

### Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sunday mornings, December 3, 10 & 17, 9:30 am-noon

Give your child the experience of a lifetime at CHS with an outstanding curriculum, professional and warm teachers, hands-on lessons, CKids motivational system, and an innovative Hebrew reading Aleph Champ program.

### CKids Shabbat Club

Saturday mornings, 11:00 am - Noon

Includes prayer, games, and songs for children ages 3-12, and is followed by a Kiddush luncheon.

### Babyccino

Sundays, December 3, 10 & 17, 9:30 am-10:15 am

This exciting program at Chabad ventures out into a place where motherhood and childhood happily intersect, creating and offering ways to engage both parents and children at the same time. Babyccino provides a chic meet for mod moms and their tots and features centers for creative art and expression, Judaic discovery, music and movement, sensory stimulation, dramatic play, parallel play, and social interaction. Suggested donation is \$10 per class or \$250 annually.

For more information on any of the above ongoing events, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or e-mail [info@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:info@chabadofbradenton.com).

### RCS: Pause and Affect – A Shabbat Outlook

Tuesday, December 26, 7:30 pm -

Women are invited to join RCS's latest course "Pause and Affect", a Shabbat Outlook. The second class, entitled "Glow of Peace" will include teachings of inspiration and meaning on lighting Shabbat candles. Course fee is \$75 (textbooks included) or \$18 per class. JVC members are entitled to a \$5 discount.

### JLI – Great Debates in History

Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 pm

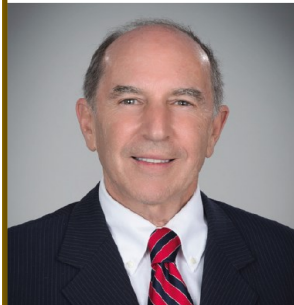
This will be the final class in the series which features six of the biggest debates that rocked the Jewish world including: sectarians and their opposition to rabbinic Judaism; whether Judaism can survive without a land; how to balance faith and reason; the Chassidic movement and its opponents; and whether Judaism is better served as a private enterprise, or through proud, public display. Course Cost: \$75 – textbook included.

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## IN APPRECIATION

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Jerry & Sherri Braunstein  
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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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Sarah Christensen  
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Brent & Ricki Rubin

Linda Schwartz  
Steve Shapiro  
Joe Slavings  
Richard and Lauren Vallone  
Simon & Naya Weiner  
Steve Weinshel  
Ida Weiss  
Jerry & Judy Zivic

## CLUB CHAI

Join Club Chai!  
Provide monthly sustenance to Chabad in multiples of 18 (Chai-Life).  
Be a partner in our valuable work and community! Contact Chabad for more information at 752-3030.  
A warm welcome to our new Club Chai Members:

**Jack & Shely Plotnick**

*We apologize if anyone's name was left out inadvertently. It by no means reflects a lack of appreciation.*

## KIDDUSH SPONSOR

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IHO Wynna's birthday

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**Richard & Lauren Vallone,**  
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IHO Jerry & Judy Zivic

on the birth of their grandson and the proud parents

*Contact Chabad at 752-3030 to sponsor a Kiddush for \$150 or a Deluxe Kiddush for \$300.*

*To send a donor card in someone's memory or honor contact Chabad at 752-3030 or [info@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:info@chabadofbradenton.com).*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information, contact Chabad at 941-752-3030, [info@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:info@chabadofbradenton.com), or visit [www.chabadofbradenton.com](http://www.chabadofbradenton.com).

### Tuesday, December 5, 7:00-9:00 pm: CTeen – Latke Wars and Dreidel tournament!

Teens are invited to celebrate Chanukah with Latke Wars! They will compete to see who can create the tastiest and most creative latkes. They will also host a Dreidel Tournament for the community, raising money for Pantry Packers, an organization that feeds the hungry in Israel.

Special thanks to the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for sponsoring CTeen 5778.

### Tuesday, December 5, 7:45-8:45 pm: CTeen Dreidel Tournament!

Join a Dreidel Tournament for the community, hosted by CTeen raising money for Pantry Packers, an organization that feeds the hungry in Israel. Latkes, Doughnuts and Prizes!!! Admission is \$5.

### Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 pm: Chanukah Israel Celebration

Join Chabad at the annual Chanukah Celebration & Menorah Lighting held at Lakewood Ranch Main Street featuring an Israel Charity Box Menorah, Freylach Band Concert, Falafel with Yoav and Kosher BBQ, Kona's Ice Truck, Doughnut Decorating, Latke Bike, and Hot Latkes. Fun activities to include Face Painting, Judah the Maccabee, Dreidel Moonbounce, Chanukah Art, Storytime Booth, raffles, and more. This event is sponsored by Lakewood Ranch Main Street and The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Admission is free. Nominal food fees do apply. Help sponsor this event for \$500. Become a "Pillar of Light" and sponsor one charity box for \$360.

### Thursday, December 14, 6:00 pm: Menorah Lighting at Ellenton Outlet Mall

Join Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch at the annual Menorah Lighting at the Prime Ellenton Outlet Mall featuring latkes, doughnuts, dreidels, raffles, magic show, and great music. All are welcome. Admission is free. Sponsor this event for \$180.

### Sunday, December 17, 11:00 am-12:00 pm: CKids – Chocolate Gelt Factory

Get messy at this Chocolate Gelt Factory that goes from cacao bean to chocolate coin. While your chocolate hardens, learn engineering techniques to wire your own electric menorah. \$10 / Admission is Free for CHS Students!

### Sunday, January 7, 7:30 pm: Kosher Cooking Competition -

Calling all Chefs! It's that time again! Join Chabad for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Kosher Cooking Competition. The competition will include a Kosher presentation by Rabbi Mendy, Kosher corned beef making demonstration, Kosher Food tasting, and cooking and competing for fabulous prizes. Reservations required. Join the Competition or RSVP to Chabad. Admission is \$10 a person or \$100 per table.

Would you like to place an ad or personal greeting in this space?

## Advertise in Chabad News.

1/4 page- \$36 1/8 page - \$18  
Business Card - \$10

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Contact Chanie Bukiet at [chanie@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:chanie@chabadofbradenton.com) or 752-3030 to reserve your space for the January issue by December 15.



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