

RABBI ZEV'S REFLECTIONS

Chanukah: Bringing Light to Our World



As we enter the month of December, we approach the joyful festival of Chanukah—a time when we gather with loved ones to kindle the menorah's flames and celebrate the miracle of light in

the darkest season. The story of Chanukah reminds us of resilience, hope, and the enduring power of faith. More than just a historical commemoration, Chanukah calls on each of us to be a source of light in the world.

Every night, as we add a candle to the menorah, we amplify the light not only in our homes but in our souls. The increasing glow serves as a metaphor for the impact we can have as individuals and as a community. Light is not diminished when shared - it grows stronger and brighter. The rabbis teach that each person is a vessel of divine light, capable of illuminating the lives of others through acts of kindness, compassion, and justice.

This year, as we reflect on the meaning of Chanukah, let us also think about our relationships beyond our immediate circles. In our interconnected world, we are part of a vast global community. The light we bring into our homes and congregation has the power to reach far beyond our temple walls.

Whether through supporting humanitarian causes, advocating for peace, or simply reaching out to someone in need, we are all called to be “lights unto the nations.”

Chanukah reminds us that even small acts—one candle, one kind word, one open hand - can dispel much darkness. Our responsibility is not only to cherish the warmth of our own traditions but also to extend friendship, understanding, and dignity to people of all backgrounds. In doing so, we honor the spirit of Chanukah and help build a world filled with hope and human connection.

I invite you this Chanukah season to reach outward and inward: foster deeper relationships within our temple and with our neighbors - locally and globally. Let us celebrate the miracle of light by making it shine ever brighter, together. May your homes be filled with joy, your hearts with peace, and your lives with purpose as we kindle the menorah and renew our commitment to repair and illuminate the world.

Be the Light...

Chag Urim Sameach—wishing you a joyful Festival of Lights!

B'ydidut- in friendship

Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein