



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

December 13, 2017

Shabbat Shalom

Happy Chanukah



Candle lighting at 4:37pm

Shabbath Services 9:20am

## A Chanukah Miracle? No, Just an Affirmation of Reality

I'll be quite honest – I wasn't sure if I was going to write this article or not. In fact, when I discussed with Ellen a few days ago what my main article should be for this week's Chatter and she said Jerusalem, I said it might be too hot a political topic. And I try not to do political in the Chatter.

But last night, while attending the community Chanukah celebration in Lakewood Ranch, we spoke with the Rabbi, who said it's a shame that some have politicized the topic of Jerusalem, because for Jews it should not be political – Jerusalem was the capital of Israel during Biblical times, and to the people of Israel today, it is their capital. It is home to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, and to the executive branch of the Israeli government, so it is the capital of Israel.

Why is Harrisburg the capital of Pennsylvania instead of one of the much larger cities of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh? Because the people of the State of Pennsylvania have decided that this is where their capital should be and this is where the government is headquartered. And that is the case in every city and country around the world.

Except, for some reason, the State of Israel.

## High? Or a New Low?

How many of you happened to see the article in the November 3 edition of the Chronicle, "Making Havdalah the 'high' point of the week"?

The Chronicle used an entire page to talk about smoking pot and getting high as a way to celebrate Havdalah. It includes a quote from a Catherine Goldberg, "I love being Jewish and I love weed, so it made sense to bring my two passions together. I wanted to show people that Judaism can be really fun and it doesn't mean you have to go to temple."

OY!

Synagogues everywhere are seeing a decline in attendance at services. We are sometimes struggling to get enough people for minyan so we can read the Torah and say kaddish. But Ms. Goldberg thinks that being a good Jew means getting high instead of going to Temple.

I guessed I missed the mitzvah that tells us to get high.

Medical marijuana for those who need it – fine.

Getting high instead of going to Temple – no, no, no.

I know that the Chronicle is trying to appeal to diverse and younger audiences, but seriously? Let's get high on the Torah, not marijuana.

Do you remember that, prior to 1979, the United States did not recognize China? According to the U.S., the world's most populated country did not exist. But it *did* exist – whether we recognized it or not. Likewise, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, whether the President had recognized it or not.



The thing that surprised me most about the President's decision to comply with a 20-year old law and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is that so many Jews disparaged the him for doing so. They claimed that recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel would hurt the "peace process" – as if the peace process has benefitted Israel over the past 70 years, as if the Palestinians have recognized Israel's right to exist, as if Jews can freely visit the Temple Mount?

And, I must tell you, that in discussing this with friends on Facebook, the discussions sometime took anti-Semitic turns. For example, when I referred to Israel as America's only dependable ally in the Middle East, one friend said, "What about the Rosenbergs and our nuclear secrets?" What do the Rosenbergs have to do with Israel? They were Jewish, but they were not Israeli.

Well, I do not want to get political, but I am glad that Jerusalem, the City of Peace, the place where the miracle of Chanukah occurred, is the capital of the Jewish State of Israel.

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).

# Chanukah Events

**The Carols:** Remember Leon Zions who gave a sensational concert at the Carnegie Shul a couple of years ago? Well, Leon is appearing on stage in Carnegie in a production of *The Carols* at the Carnegie Stage on December 14, 15, 16 at 8:00 pm, December 16, 17 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$5-30. It looks like a great show and if I know Leon it will be terrific. For more info go to [www.carnegiestage.com](http://www.carnegiestage.com).

## South Hills Community Chanukah Celebration



*Celebrate the 8th night  
of Chanukah with  
the entire community!  
FREE and open to everyone*

**Tuesday,  
December 19  
5:30-7:30 PM**

JCC South Hills  
345 Kane Boulevard

- Chanukah songfest and candle lighting
- Chanukah dinner with pizza, potato pancakes and jelly donuts
- Chanukah obstacle course in the gym
- EKC dreidel tournament
- Balloon artist and face painting

*Please bring a bottle of cooking oil to donate to the SHIM food pantry*



For more information and to RSVP: [southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/chanukah/](http://southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/chanukah/)

