

MINYAN COMMITTEES/CONTACTS

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Drashot	
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Cathie Lippman	213/658-6917
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Fran Grossman	213/933-5040
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Ronnie Cohen	213/658-8057
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Val Goldstein	310/837-5503
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Norm Saiger	310/837-5927
Rachel Green	213/938-8110



I volunteered to be the new Minyan Monthly editor mainly because I invested so much of my time and money into purchasing PageMaker and learning how to use it. So if the content of this newsletter does not please you, I hope that at least the aesthetics will.

I look forward to placing any of your Minyan related articles in The Minyan Monthly. Please submit them on disc as a text file if in a DOS or Windows format or as a Word or Word Perfect document in MAC format. I'd appreciate receiving all submissions by the 10th of each month. My goal is to complete the layout by the 20th of each month for distribution the third week of the month. Feel free to also FAX articles to me (if it's not too long) or mail them to me. My address is: 6516 Whitworth Drive, Los Angeles, 90035.

In addition, I hope to have a classified section in upcoming issues. If you have anything to sell or rent and would like to place an ad in the Minyan Monthly (for a nominal fee), please submit that as well. Any fees collected from the Minyan Monthly will go directly to the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter.

It's my pleasure serving our community.
Sandra Braun

Tempel Beth Am Library Minayn

MINYAN MONTHLY

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Shevat -Adar 5756

Drash - Shabbat Chanukah, 12/23/95 by Paul Nisenbaum

If the Macabees lived in Israel today, would they be your heroes?

Before you answer, I want to explore with you how Matathias, his sons, and followers acted as partners with G-d to save the Jewish way of life.

As we all know, the Greeks wanted everybody to be Hellenized, to be civilized, to be harmonized with the artistic beauty of the body, architecture, literature, and the didactic elegance of the mind. They were so eager to have Israelites enter this transcendental state of advanced culture that they slaughtered Israelites caught studying Torah, observing Shabbat, keeping kashrut, offering korbnot, or performing brit milah.

While some Israelites reluctantly acceded to the Greeks, especially under penalty of death, others fully embraced the freedom of hedonistic Hellenism. And when Israelite men wanted to participate in the games at the newly constructed gymnasia in Jerusalem, naked, as was the custom, they

relinquished their brit with G-d and Israel by surgically reversing their brit milah. Ouch!

The Macabees, as defenders of the faith with G-d's support, fought two wars — one against the Greeks, the second against other Israelites. The wars began when a Greek army officer visited Modin and attempted to enlist the influential and religious Matathias in convincing the Israelites to forgo the brit of their ancestors. Even as Matathias denounced the Greeks and proclaimed his faith in G-d and the Torah, a fellow Israelite rushed forward to offer a sacrifice to a Greek god. Matathias, possessed with the zeal of Pincus, killed the offending Israelite, as well as the Greek officer.

The Macabees and their growing number of followers, with G-d on their side, waged war and killed enough Greeks and assimilated Israelites to reassert a Torah true Israelite presence in Jerusalem. They restored the beit hamigdash and held a hanukat hameezsbaach to G-d. G-d acknowledged their faith and active partnership in tikun olam with the miracle of the oil.

continued on page 2 - Macabees

What criteria did the Macabees and G-d use to determine whether an Israelite was not observant enough and had to be killed? Was it not praying daily? Not studying Torah? Both? Or was it the blatant rejection of the Torah such as eating swine, burning the Torah, or sacrificing to Greek gods? What was the minimum level of observance required by the Macabees? Or G-d? Are these criteria still valid today? How many of Jews in Los Angeles would meet the criteria with over 50% interfaith marriages and probably 90% not keeping Shabbat? How many Jews in Israel today would not be considered observant enough? If an Israeli Jew today saw another Jew threatening Jewish survival and killed him, would he be your hero?

Nearly fifteen hundred years ago, Moslems captured and razed a temple and built a mosque in its place. How would you react if CNN showed the mosque being overrun and torn down with religious zeal. Then the temple rebuilt to its previous grandeur and rededicated? A year or two ago, Hindus in India zealously overran a mosque, destroyed it, and rebuilt a Hindu temple that Moslems had destroyed there about 1500 years ago. As I recall, there was not much of a hue and cry from the world, the U.N., or liberals, or even Moslems calling for terrorism or Jihad against Hindus. What would have happened if our hero Judah Macabee had recaptured the Old City in 1967, and after kissing the kotel h'maravi, marched up to the Temple Mount and reclaimed it for Israel? Would he be your hero?

For Chanukah, our rabbinic tradition has us focus on the joy of G-d's miracles. He gave the light of victory to the Macabees in war, as well as the light of 8 days of oil in the rededicated beit hamigdash. The Talmudic sages only discussion of Chanukah is on the halacha for lighting the candles. Our siddur demands that we celebrate with the praises of al hanisim, hallel, and psalm 30, today, Shabbat Chanukah, and the omission of the somber tachnun from daily shachrit. Clearly, to our sages G-d was the commander-in-chief of these wars and is the hero of Chanukah.

So I ask you, if the Macabees and G-d joined together in Israel today as they did 2000 years ago, would they be your heroes?

Soon we will pray the musaf service. Remember it represents the afternoon sacrifice in the beit hamigdash that was rededicated by the Macabees and G-d. May we dedicate ourselves to Torah and deeds of lovingkindness. Ken y'he ratzon.

 **PURIM CARNIVAL** 

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

11:00 - 4:00

SHUMACHER DRIVE



PRIZES/FOOD/RIDES/GAMES

Proceeds go to support the Temple U.S.Y. groups and schools of the Pressman Academy

TORAH AND HAFTORAH
COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Minyan is in need of a new coordinator to assign Torah and Haftorah readings for each shabbat. Leslie Barnett and Val Goldstein have been co-coordinating for nearly two years. As of June 1, 1996, neither Leslie nor Val will be available to continue because of other commitments. It is a very important job in the Minyan. This is a position that requires no knowledge of Hebrew and is a way for a new member of the Minyan to get to know other Minyan members. It can also easily be shared by several people. Again, neither Leslie nor Val will be available as of June 1. Please contact Leslie 310/571-3680 (*work*) 310/838-1477 (*home*) or Val 310/837-5503 if you or any one you know might be interested in helping out.

 **MEGILAH ESTHER**

Monday, March 4, 1996

7:15 PM - LIBRARY MINYAN



B.Y.O.

**RITUAL COMMITTEE
MEETING TO BE HELD**

Ronnie Cohen, Chair person

There will be a meeting of the Ritual Committee of the Library Minyan on Sunday evening, February 25, 1996, at the home of Ronnie & Hilda Cohen, 6674 Maryland Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90048, at 7:30 pm.

The agenda will include:

a) A discussion of appropriate ritual attire for people at the bima — whether they are leading a particular portion of the service, or whether they are called up for an aliya to the Torah.

b) The Library Minyan standard "siddur tefilot," and permissible variations.

All members of the Library Minyan are invited to attend, but voting (if any) will be restricted to members of the Ritual Committee.

OUR condolences to BARRY ROSENBLATT
on the loss of his mother

Mitzi Rosenblatt



May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion