

Honoring The Sakharovs



Actor Robert Culp (right) and his wife, Candace, joined Nazi hunter and past President of the International Sakharov Hearings, Simon Wiesenthal, (second from left) and Efrem and Tatiana Yankelevich in paying tribute to Soviet dissident and Nobel Laureate Dr. Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, in absentia, at a dinner in Los Angeles. The Yankeleviches, daughter and son-in-law of Mrs. Bonner, received the Simon Wiesenthal Center's 1984 Humanitarian Award at the event, attended by over 1,300 international leaders, entertainment personalities and prominent businessmen. Culp, star of the long-running series, "I Spy," portrayed a KGB official in a dramatic presentation based on the lives of the Sakharovs which also starred the evening's Master of Ceremonies Lorne Greene and actress Valerie Harper. The drama was presented as part of the emotional tribute to the two noble individuals exiled in Gorky, whose plight has drawn widespread attention and protest.

The Jewish Festival Of Lights

By Sister Charlene Altemose

There's something about Light which gives it a mystique all its own. In darkness, it brightens; in the chill it warms; in doubt, it inspires. In fact, light has always been a saving factor and so, most religions use light as a perennial symbol for spiritual presence and hope.

On December 18 begins the Jewish Festival of Lights or the Feast of Dedication. It commemorates the victory of the Jews over the Assyrian-Greek regime which imposed restrictions on Jewish religious practices and abused the Temple. In 165 B.C., the Maccabees rededicated the Temple and rekindled the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) which was always burning before the Ark.

Tradition tells of the miracle which occurred. There was only enough oil for the lamp to be lit one night. Instead, it burned for eight nights and there was time to prepare more oil.

Today this event is recalled by placing an eight-branch menorah in the window. It is lit for eight evenings in Jewish homes.

Over the years other Hanukkah prayers, songs, games and customs have developed. Gifts are

Jewish Cemeteries In Poland To Be Restored

NEW YORK (WNS) — An agreement has been reached by the World Federation of Polish Jews and the Polish government for the restoration of Jewish cemeteries desecrated during World War II, it was announced here by Stefan Grajek, the head of the organization. Many illustrious rabbinic scholars are interred in some of the

cemeteries. Exhaustive surveys of existing Jewish cemeteries revealed some 400 potential sites, Grajek said. Of those some 140 can be adequately identified and rehabilitated.

Happy Chanukah
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given at Hanukkah to remind one of God's goodness and generosity to his people.

One's tastebuds, too, must be reminded of the season. Pancake dishes, because they are cooked in oil, are traditional Hanukkah foods. Best known among these are: potato latkes and chremlach, filled with raisins, dates and nuts.

When I was studying Hebrew, one of my favorite stories in the primer reader told of the dreidel game played on Hanukkah. A four-sided top is spun and on each side is the first letter of the Hebrew phrase, "A miracle happened here."

Yes, Hanukkah commemorates a miracle and thus it's special for all our Jewish friends. To you we extend joyous Hanukkah greetings!

But Hanukkah calls us all to join in the spirit of the feast. It recalls all those who have had to suffer for convictions they know to be right. It stands out as a symbol of the victory of oppressed over the oppressor.

Hanukkah shouts forth a clarion call for religious freedom, to worship God freely and to pay the price for it. Hanukkah challenges each of us to rededicate ourselves to our faith community and to appreciate the religious heritage that is ours.

Above all, Hanukkah is a season which reminds us that God's ways are not ours, that His standards of success rest on spiritual foundations: that in the end, right prevails over might in God's good time.

May the blessing prayed today be ours. "Bless art Thou, O Lord God, King of the Universe, who has performed miracles for our forefathers in those days at this time."

Congregation



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