

**Sam Kushner
Bar Mitzvah
At Temple Beth Sholom**



(Photograph by Marvin)

Sam Kushner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Kushner, was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, recently. Dr. Louis M. Lederman, Rabbi, officiated. Hazzan Simon Bergman, Cantor, chanted the liturgy.

The December Dilemma

By Rabbi William Berkowitz
National President
American Jewish Heritage Committee

December is a time of cold weather, snow, vacations, and crowded department stores. It's also an annual occasion for what's been called, "The December Dilemma." Anyone who lives in the United States knows that December is Christmas time. And that realization takes on a specially poignant aspect for Jews. Because unlike their Christian friends and neighbors, they don't celebrate Christmas -- or do they? Across the years we have heard about Christmas decorations, and Christmas trees, and Christmas dinners in many Jewish homes. We've also heard about "Chanukkah bushes." All of these factors are merely symptomatic of the December Dilemma, which is another way of asking how can Jews live in a predominately non-Jewish environment and still walk with their heads held high? Is the pay-off for living in a free society, Jewish insecurity?

I think not. First we must remember that we live in a society which respects differences. To be an American is to respect the differences that we share. At one time, we thought that America was a melting pot, in which all differences melted away. Now we view America as a great salad bowl, in which different elements all blend together, and retain their differences, yet give forth something of beauty because of their diversity. The second message of this season is

to remember that Christmas and Chanukkah, are the tales of minorities, staking their faith in their faiths. The Maccabees were a minority, who had to struggle for their religious liberty. The early Christians were a minority who in the pagan Roman empire, had to struggle for their convictions. To be a Jew and to be a Christian is to struggle for one's convictions, and in America, to respect and celebrate one's diversities. Our convictions may make us great, but it is our diversities, which make us strong.

December is a time when the sun sets early, and the cold winds slash our faces. It's also a time when we must warm ourselves and our communities by the spiritual power of our convictions and diversities. Let Christians be Christians and let Jews be Jews. Each of us strong in our diversity, make a grand statement. The founder of the Christian faith, Jesus, celebrated Chanukkah. Without that struggle for religious liberty, there would be no Christianity. I would urge our Christian neighbors and friends to remind our Jews of this fact, and tell them that as we each worship in our own way, the God of the universe, who seeks our diverse and distinctive faith, we should do so authentically. Nothing is so vulgar to the true connoisseur, as costume jewelry, and nothing is as cheap and pathetic as a "Chanukkah bush." What makes America great is that in this country, we can in the month of December have both the Chanukkah menorah and the Christmas tree, stand side by side, symbolic of two separate faith communities, free to practice their religion, in a country, with liberty and justice, for all.

Happy Chanukah

SEGAL'S KOSHER MEATS

Local Delivery
734-9540

Happy Chanukah

Congregation Shaarei Tefilla Forman - Glick

1331 So. Maryland Parkway
ORTHODOX

7:30 AM DAILY - 8:30 AM SAT. - 9:00 AM SUN.
FRIDAY NIGHT AT SUNDOWN

384-3565 Member Of Union Orthodox Congregations

Southern Nevada Music Co.

Happy Chanukah

Denise Caryn Lisa

The Wunderlich Sisters
Caryn, Denise & Lisa
represent "The House Of
Steinway" in Las Vegas.

*"Let our family bring MUSIC
into the home of your family."*

SINCE 1958

731-4646

953 E. SAHARA AVE. LAS VEGAS
(SAHARA ENTRANCE OF COMMERCIAL CENTER)

Happy Chanukah

Bunkers

□ Mortuary □ Eden Vale □ Memory Gardens

Mortuary and Memorial Parks

- Service With Dignity
- Two Beautiful Memorial Parks With Mausoleum & Crematorium
- Serving All Faiths For Four Decades
- Complete Funeral & Cemetery Pre-Planning Featuring the GUARDIAN PLAN® Insurance Funded Pre-Arranged Funeral

BUNKER MORTUARY 385-1441
925 N. LAS VEGAS BL.

BUNKERS MEMORY GARDENS 645-1174
7251 W. LONE MOUNTAIN RD.

BUNKERS EDEN VALE 385-1441
1216 N. LAS VEGAS BL.