

Rebbetzen's Corner

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mourning during the eight (8) days of Channukah?
 Some scholars have made the observation that Channukah comes at the very darkest time of the year, during the winter solstice. Rather than "curse the darkness" we light a candle and bring light where there was only darkness. It is a wonder indeed to be able to "light up the darkness" — not only with our candles, but by our own inner light and our example as well.

Adlai Stevenson eulogized Eleanor Roosevelt by

saying: "She would rather light a candle than curse the darkness, and her glow has warmed the world." What a beautiful way to be remembered, to be thought of as having "warmed the world." Each of us has that very same capability inside. The ability to let our light shine on those around us, to say "yes" to G-d, and "yes" to life and "yes" to the light inside that is trying to come out. Don't hide your light under a basket or hold it tightly inside of yourself. Open up your heart this Channukkah Season to others — to your family, friends and even strangers. The weather is chilly, but you can help to "warm the world" by a friendly smile or a kind word. Start with a smile and a kind word, and

it'll make you feel so good that I know you'll go on to see what good deeds you could possibly do this holiday season. Let your light shine, you might be surprised at how bright it really is!

Shalom,
 Micki D. Hecht
 Rebbetzen, Temple Beth Am

BONN (JTA) — West Germany's Jewish community is putting pressure on the East German government to pay reparations to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, for whom it has refused to acknowledge responsibility.

The community's chairman, Heinz Galinski, stressed in a radio interview recently that the political and moral responsibility for the Nazi past applies equally to both German states.

West Germany has paid out an estimated \$40 billion in reparations to Jews and to non-Jews, including Germans persecuted for their political views.

East Germany, however, has refused any payment, on the grounds that it is an anti-fascist state made up of persecutees, whereas the West German Federal Republic is the successor to Hitler's Third Reich.

But the Jewish community does not accept that view, and a change of attitude may be in the making in East Berlin.

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