

Chanukah And The Building Of The Temple

By Marc H. Tanenbaum

The eight-day festival of Chanukah, which begins Dec. 22, commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple, the Bet Hamikdosh, in Jerusalem in the year 165 BCE, following its pagan defilement by the Syrians. With the destruction of the resplendent Herodian temple by the Romans in 70 C.E., the focus of Chanukah observance in the Diaspora inevitably shifted to the "miracle of the cruse of oil," and the Festival of Lights.

Since the time of King Solomon's temple, which was constructed about 1000 BCE, the Bet Hamikdosh was the dramatic national and religious focus of Israelite unity. The Roman destruction in the first century rendered the temple more symbolic than real in Jewish consciousness.

But with the reconquest of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount by Israel in the 1967 war, a preoccupation has developed among mainly traditional Jews to "rebuild the Temple speedily in our days."

There are fundamental differences of Halachic views among Orthodox Jews as to whether contemporary Jews have a right to rebuild the Temple before the Messiah arrives. Nevertheless, groups of Israeli traditional Jews are preparing seriously for the construction of "an intermediate temple" before the Messianic era.

There are now Talmudic schools in Jerusalem studying elaborate details of the Temple service, the genealogy of priests who may conduct animal sacrifices, and reconstructing the ritual imple-

ments that will be required should Temple sacrifices be restored.

Clearly, a reconstituted temple would trigger off major internal conflicts between traditionalist and modernists in the Jewish community. Instead of restoring the ancient glory of national unity, it could become a cause for further polarization.

Unquestionably, it would have massive consequences in the Moslem and Christian worlds. The Moslems speak of launching a jihad, a holy war, would their Al Aksa Mosque become threatened by a Jewish temple. Fundamentalist Christians are thrilled by the idea of the reborn temple, since that would fulfill their theological precondition for the Second Coming.

While I have heard or seen no response in the Vatican or in the Catholic religious world as yet, I would imagine a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem would not cause them rejoicing. A renewed Jewish temple, raised in glory and with panache, would be the death blow of that ancient Christian belief of the

"wandering Jews" punished by God.

A truly brilliant daily and weekly Jewish temple service, with or without sacrifices, would place Jerusalem front and center in the religious universe, rivaling Rome, Constantinople, and Mecca as the cynosure of spiritual presence.

In the meantime, we continue to light the eight glowing Chanukah candles, and that will keep us joyful and faithful for a long time until the Messiah comes.

LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. CHERRY, ESQ.
Happy Chanukah
Michael A. Cherry, Esq.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Criminal
- Divorces
- Civil
- Personal Injury

501 SOUTH SIXTH STREET
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101 (702) 385-3788

How to earn this much—insured!*

3 mo.	-8.00%
6 mo.	-8.05%
1 yr.	-7.70%
18 mo.	-N.A.
2 yrs.	-8.00%

Ask Dean Witter about an EasyCash™ CD and earn high interest with safety and liquidity. These CDs are issued by banks and savings institutions and are FDIC or FSLIC insured. They sell in denominations of \$1,000 and offer a wide range of maturities. Best of all, EasyCash CDs are currently negotiable in the secondary market. You can sell them before maturity and without penalty. The price you receive could be more or less than you originally paid depending on market conditions at time of sale. For a free booklet explaining our CDs, just ask.

Happy Chanukah
A member of the Sears Financial Network

Robert Z Disman
737-8129 **DEAN WITTER**

*1987 Dean Witter is a registered service mark of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. Member SIPC

SAVE \$ ON GARAGE STORAGE CABINETS NOW!
Happy Chanukah

STOP BY TODAY FOR FREE GIFT

GRAND OPENING

1. **L**ow cost
2. **A**ttractive
3. **R**eady to use
4. **S**atisfaction



Arizona's #1 Garage Storage Cabinet Maker Since 1976 is now in Las Vegas. Your needs determine LAR'S design.

Lars' Storage Cabinets & Closet Designs **Home Office 251-1990**

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
3375 Aldebaran • Suite A • Just north of Spring Mtn.
Call 798-3426 For Free Home Estimate/Mobile Showroom Service

BLINDS 4 LESS
We are the factory
Happy Chanukah

- MINI BLINDS
- WOOD BLINDS
- PLEATED SHADES
- VERTICAL BLINDS

FEATURING IN OUR SHOWROOM
VERTICAL BLINDS
\$1.00 per Horizontal Inch
in Stock Fabric
72 Hr. Delivery

• Free shop at home • installation available • Residential & commercial

369-8900
2754 S. HIGHLAND

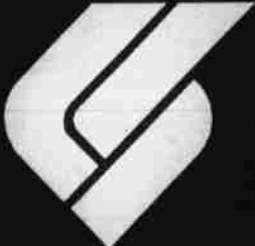
Hrs. M-F 8-5
Sat. 10-1
Evenings & Sunday
by appointment

Happy Chanukah
"PAINT" THAT INSULATES
BEAT THE HEAT
Never Paint Again

(ICC) Insulated Ceramic Coating Will Insulate & Out Perform 4 Inches Of Foam.
Ceramic Is Also Waterproof. Ceramic Is Fire Retardant. Ceramic Is Soundproof.

30 Beautiful Colors
No Money Down
Terms To Fit Your Budget
Why Wait? Call Today.
FREE ESTIMATES
435-7540

Modern Exteriors, Inc.
Sandhill & Raymert

 **Community Hospital**

New Beginnings - Chemical Dependency Center

Admitting that you or someone you love has a problem with alcohol or other drugs is difficult. However, it is the first step to recovery and the step that will make a difference for the rest of your life. The symptoms of chemical dependency are easy to recognize - once you are aware of them.

Call us for a free and confidential consultation at (702) 642-6905. We're here 24 hours a day. We listen and we care.

At New Beginnings, we treat one person at a time, one day at a time in a supportive caring environment.

Community Hospital
1409 East Lake Mead Blvd.
N. Las Vegas, Nevada 89030-7197 (702) 649-7711

Free Physician Referral (702) 649-3627

ACCREDITED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS