



# The Daily Dreidle

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By Clare and Freddie (an EHC Production 5767)

## Editorial

Chanukah is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Kislev and we light the first candle this Friday before we light the Shabbat candles.

Chanukah means Dedication and we remember how the Temple was rescued from the Syrians and rebuilt for the Jews to pray in again.

There are some good stories about Heroes and Heroines that are told at Chanukah and we have told them in our newsletter.

There are some good traditions as well. We eat food cooked in oil, like potato latkes and sufganiot which are doughnuts, to help us remember the miracle of the oil. We play with the Dreidle and if we are lucky our parents give us Chanukah gelt (real and chocolate).



Next months newsletter is all about the trees as we think about Tu B'Shvat.

## Judah the Maccabee

By Freddie

A long time ago in a town called Modi'in lived a man called Matisyahu. One day Matisyahu refused Antiochus's order to sacrifice a pig. Another Jewish man approached the alter and started to sacrifice the pig. Matisyahu killed the man and all the soldiers. He then said to the Jews, "whoever is for Hashem come with me!"

He escaped with his 5 sons and many followers to the mountains. Here they could follow the laws of Hashem and prepare for war against Antiochus and the Syrian-Greeks.

Matisyahu grew old and weak from the battles and soon he died. Before he died he brought his 5 sons together and told them:

"Continue to follow the ways of Hashem  
And do not give up this fight! All Jews must be able to follow the ways of the Torah without fear."

Matisyahu died and his son Judah led the brave soldiers. His followers were called the Maccabees.

They won the battles by hiding in the caves and ambushing the other soldiers when ever they saw them. They went back and rebuilt the temple. When they came to light the menorah there was only enough oil to last for one day.

They put in the menorah and went to make some more. It took them 8 days to get some more oil and when they got back to the Temple the flame was still alight. We celebrate Chanukah to remember the miracle of the oil.



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## The Menorah By Freddie

We were so happy to have our Temple back that we have celebrated Chanukah ever since. We celebrate Chanukah because we want to remember the miracle of the oil that lasted 8 days. Every day of Chanukah we light one more candle, so on the 1 day there will be 1 candle, the second day 2 candles, get the picture?

The shamash is the candle that lights the others, in Hebrew, shamash means helper. Before we light the candles on the first night we say 3 blessings including one for doing something new. The first blessing is for lighting the candles for the first time in the year, the second blessing is for the miracles of Chanukah (the oil and victory over the over the Greeks), the third blessing is for thanking G-d for keeping alive and supporting us, and helping us get through the year. After that we sing songs like Hanerot Halalu and Mo'At Zur.

We light the candles in a special order. As you face the Chanukkiah, place the first candle on your right. On each night add one more candle. Light the Shamash and then always light the newest candle first. The Candles should be placed in a window for everyone to see.

## The Games Column - by Clare.

The Dreidel and how it is played:

The dreidle is like a spinning top but it is square. On each of the 4 sides there is a letter. The letters are

**Nun** = Ness

**Gimmel** = gadol

**Hay** = hayah

**Shin** = Sham

These letters stand for "A great miracle happened there".

In Israel the **Shin** is replaced with **Peh** which stands for Poh, and in Israel the children say "a great miracle happened here".

To play the game everyone needs to have counters or chocolate money. Everyone puts money in the pot and the first person spins the dreidle. Depending on how the dreidle lands they win or lose.

To help you remember what to do there is a verse on the song in "I had a little dreidle" which goes

Nun means you get nothing

Gimmel means you win

Hay means you get half the pot

And Shin means put one in

After each spin everyone puts into the pot again and the next person spins. The Game continues until all the counters are won or eaten.

We play Dreidle to remind us of the times that Antiochus would not let the Jews study Torah. But they did in secret. If a soldier was heard they would quickly hide their scrolls and play with dreidles so the soldiers would think they were gambling rather than studying.

**If you want to make your own dreidel go to**

**<http://www.hanukat.com/activities/dreidel.GIF>**



## Chanukah in Livingston.

By Clare

When I was 4 I went to Woodlands Nursery. When it was Chanukah, the teachers took me and four other children to the shops to buy donuts. I gave them out at nursery as it was my special day. When I was in primary 4 at Meldrum Primary, when the children worked on their Christmas books, my teacher helped me make a dreidel. This year I was asked to give the P1 class a talk on Chanukah. I told them the story of Judah Maccabee and showed them a chanukiah and a dreidle and explained how to play it. The teacher asked me to come back the next week and teach them songs. I taught them, "I had a little dreidle" and then I made them pretend to be candles on a Chanukiah when we sang "One Chanukah Candle on the Chanukiah" which goes to the tune of "One currant bun in the baker's shop".



## Chanukah Foods



We eat food cooked in oil on Chanukah to remind us of the miracle of the oil. Potato latkes are a mixture of potatoes and onion grated and cooked in oil.



Sufganiyot are special Israeli donuts that are filled with jam and fried in oil.



Chocolate money is eaten on Chanukah, when our parents won't give us real money.

## Jewish Heroines

### The stories of Hannah and Judith.

By Clare

At the time of Judah Maccabee, the Greeks were trying to make the Jews pray to the their idolatry gods but **Hannah** and her 7 sons would not .

The Greeks tortured her 7 sons until they were dead and she had to watch them die .

Then she died and fell over their dead bodies.

All women were to go to the Greeks before they got married according to the King Hefornes. The daughter of the priest was getting married but refused to go to the Greeks so they formed siege around the walls of Jerusalem. **Judith** decided to go to the palace to save the people of Jerusalem. She took cheese to the king so she could eat it instead of his non-kosher food. The king ate the cheese and got really thirsty and drank loads of wine. The king was so drunk that he fell asleep. Judith then bravely took his sword and chopped off his head. She put it in her bag and went home. The next she hung it up on the walls of Jerusalem for the Greeks to see. When the Greeks saw they ran away and left Jerusalem. Because of this the decree of the Greeks was abolished and the women were free.

**Chanukah is a time to remember heroes and heroines who fought for their people and their beliefs.**

**To remember these women it has become tradition that for half an hour after the candles are lit women get a rest and a holiday from their work!**



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Would Judah Maccabee survive in the modern world and would James Bond survive during the times of the Maccabeans. Freddie compared their skills and wrote a adventure story where the two heroes find themselves transported into each others worlds.

	James Bond	Judah Maccabee
Weapons	Guns, trick weapons, knives	Swords, spears, bows and arrows
Character	Rebel (but goodie)	Rebel (definitely goodie)
Enemies	Hates evil governments	Hates the government - Antiochus
Hobbies	Gambles - plays poker	Gambles - plays dreidle
Other operatives	The Bond Girls	The Maccabees
Transport	Fast cars	Fast Carts/ Feet

## Judah the Maccabee And James Bond By Freddie

Swords clashed, spears soared, arrows flew.

It was just another battle for Judah the Maccabee, Suddenly something went off. The fighting stopped, everything was quiet for a minute and then everything was back to normal. After the battle, Avram one of Judah's brother's asked Josef, another brother. "Have you seen Judah." "No and he wasn't at the bonfire." "I hope he wasn't taken captive!"

Meanwhile in the 21st century

Guns were shot, knives were thrown, machine guns were fired.

And somewhere in the middle, a dark shadow sprinted through the building's dark corners.

He caught sight of his accomplice. "I have to get to the bomb room, or the bombs will go off!"

"But it's too dangerous, and you'll never get through La Chiffe and his henchmen!"

"Well I have to try!" He started sprinting again, this time faster than before. A flash of light consumed him.

When Judah the Maccabee woke up he was in a dark room with a mirror. He ran to the metal door and put his ear to it. He was in the twenty first century.

"We got him boss!" "NO! That's not him! He was in a dark suit and now he is in full battle armour! And how did he manage to stop the bombs!" " He pulled out the card just in time."

"Search him for it, then torture him the old fashioned way! With the rope!"

Judah pulled out his knife and tried at the door. There was a small skylight above him .He pulled out a second knife. He stuck them as high as he could in the wall and pulled himself up. He got to the sky light and climbed out using his mountain climbing skills.

Somebody ran towards him and said 'What happened to James?' Judah Maccabee said 'Who's James?'

The other person said 'Come with me'!

She took him to a dark building next to the river and took him into a dark room. There was a lady sitting behind a desk, and another young girl standing next to her holding a file.

'Hello, I'm M' said the lady sitting behind the desk. The young lady introduced herself as Moneypenny.

Well, I'm Judah Maccabee and I really want to get out of herE!'

'We only want you here to know what happened to a person named James Bond. He was in a dark suit and has dark hair and is in your general area.'

'Will someone please tell me who is James Bond' said Judah

'That brings up another question as to how you got out the chamber' said M. The accomplice explained how she had seen Judah climb



out the sky light.

Money Penny smiled and whispered something into M's ear. M started to smile faintly and said 'We have a job for you'.

Money Penny dropped the folder on to the desk which showed a dark haired man with a scar across his grey coloured eyes. 'La Chiffe' she whispered.

When Bond woke up, he was in a cave crowded with many people in rags, most of them carrying spears and swords or bows and arrows.

'Judah' one of them said

'Who the heck is Judah', said Bond.

'Water' a lady offered

'Have you seen Judah' the man said again.

'No' 'Who are you?' a lady covered in rags across her head said.

'The names Bond, James Bond'

And then a man ran through the cave hole shouting 'Antiochus, soldiers, surprise attack'

'Where' shouted a man in full battle armour 'The valley and there is more than there has ever been'

For a second there was silence, then screaming and then chaos. Everyone ran to the entrance to the cave to see them. He was right, there were more than there ever had been and they were half a mile away.

'They are coming straight for us', then a boy carrying a sling shot stepped forward.

'I know where we can hide and attack'

'Where' said Bond

Ten minutes later, they were behind some trees on the right of the soldiers. Bond had quickly learnt their battle techniques and offered to lead the army. 'On my mark someone will throw a stone as a diversion, and someone will attack from the side, the back and the front, and over them' said Bond.

They quickly agreed and got in their positions. 'One, two, three, four,' James whispered.

'Attack'

They jumped out of their positions and attacked but the soldiers had a secret weapon. They divided and a giant with the biggest sword; weapons and set of armour they had ever seen.

'I am the son of Goliath' the giant whispered. Then James stepped forward and shouted once more 'Attack'.

Son of Goliath repeated even louder 'Attack'.

James shouted to his right hand man 'Leave Son of Goliath to me and deal with the rest'

Quickly the Maccabees dealt with the soldiers but at great loss. There had been many casualties and they retreated to the cave.

The right hand man shouted to James before he left 'We'll meet you back at the cave'.

Son of Goliath tackled James but he quickly got back on his feet. James noticed a sling by Goliath's feet and edged towards it. He pulled it to him with his feet and grabbed a stone without Son of Goliath noticing.

'Time to die' said Son of Goliath. 'You first' said 007

He pulled back on the sling and fired hitting Son of Goliath straight on the head. He was knocked out. 007 shouted 'Victory' so everyone in the cave could hear. As soon as he got to the entrance, he felt a slight tingling and saw a light. When the light dimmed, he realised he was right in the middle of London.

Judah had refused to take a gun but had only accepted his usual battle weapons. They had picked a cold night to battle La Chiffe but he was used to hardship. They climbed through the window and ducked outside La Chiffe's door and heard voices. He went down to a basement room and they followed quietly so as not to be heard. As he walked, Judah prayed to God that he would not be captured and killed.

'You know, if I wasn't here I would be home eating my mother's Cholah' said the girl accomplice

Judah pulled two knives out of his pocket and threw them at La Chiffe's accomplices. They then stealthily tiptoed into the basement room to find La Chiffe with two other accomplices.

He hit his target and La Chiffe retaliated by pulling a gun out of his jacket and aiming it at Judah's head. Judah dodged the bullet and threw another two knives that hit the gun and the phone breaking them.

It was hand to hand fight between Judah and La Chiffe. This was something Judah and his army were specialised in. A tear of blood seeped from La Chiffe's eye. Judah was too quick for him. He kicked La Chiffe to the ground and knocked him out.

'I called the police' said the Lady accomplice. They arrived through the door as Judah was consumed by a ray of light. He woke up and was back in his cave. 'Judah!' shouted his brother.