



Under Syrian Rule

By Dovid Yarmush



The Chanukah story began
over 2,000 years ago!

Let's start with Antiochus III. He waged war against King Ptolemy of Egypt. Antiochus won the war and he ruled Israel. He gave the Jews special privileges. When he died, his son Seleucus IV took over, and treated the Jews badly. Hellenists, people who worshiped idols and accepted the Syrian way of life) influenced Jews to leave their faith and worship the Greek idols. Yochanan (Jocanon) the High Priest saw the danger of the Greeks' influence. The Hellenists hated him (Yochanan). People told the king there was a lot of wealth in the Beis Hamikdash (Holy Temple). Seleucus IV told his minister Helyodros to take the money from the Beis Hamikdash. The High Priest begged him not to but he did not listen, he went through the gate and fainted on the ground.

After that, he did not dare to enter again. A little while later, Seleucus was killed and his brother Antiochus IV became the King. He was called Epiphanes meaning the god's beloved. A few Syrian Rulers recieved this title but this guy was the meanest.

Antiochos tried to figure out who the Jews were by forbidding Jewish laws. He took out the High Priest, then put the high priest's brother Joshua and made him the High Priest Joshua liked to be called Jason. He was a member of the Hellenist party. Joshua (or Jason) was replaced by a man named Menelaus who promised the King to bring him more money than Jason did. When Yochanan protested against the Hellenists, the ruling high priest sent murderers to kill him. Antiochis was in a successful war against Egypt, but messengers from Rome arrived and were commanded to stop the war, meanwhile in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), a rumor spread that something happened to the king. Thinking he was dead, the Jews rebeled against Menelaus. The dangerous High Priest ran away with his friends. The King came back from Egypt and he was really mad. When he heard what happened in Jerusalem he told his army to fight the Jews. They killed thousands of Jews; then they made a few harsh laws against the Jews. The scrolls were taken away from the Jews or burned. Kosher, Shabbos, and Bris Milah (circumcision) and if you did any of those you would die. Even Rabbi Eliezer, a man of 90, had to eat pork (a non-kosher food); then they put him to death. There were a lot of other people who sacrificed their lives. to keep their faith and Jewish way of life, just like Chana and her seven sons (read Naomi's article to know more about them).



The Maccabees

Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

The Maccabees were a group of Yidden (Jewish people) who had a lot of faith in G-d. The word Maccabees means "one is like you, among all powers G-d."

Did you know that Antiochus killed thousands of Jews, took their scrolls and did not let them worship G-d and hold services or customs like resting on Shabbos?

Antiochus demanded that Mattisyuno offer sacrifices to the Greek gods. Mattisyuno replied, "my sons and brothers are determined to remain loyal Jews to G-d." A Hellenized Jew went up to the alter to offer a sacrifice and Mattisyuno grabbed his sword and killed the man. He chased the rest of them away. They then destroyed the altar. After Mattisyuno passed away, Yahuda took over the leadership of the Maccabees.



When we celebrate Chanukah today, we remember the story of the Maccabees and how brave they were to fight for their rights as Jews. To me, I see the Maccabees as role models. I would like to try to behave like them. We are all Maccabees, every Jew alive today.

Art Award

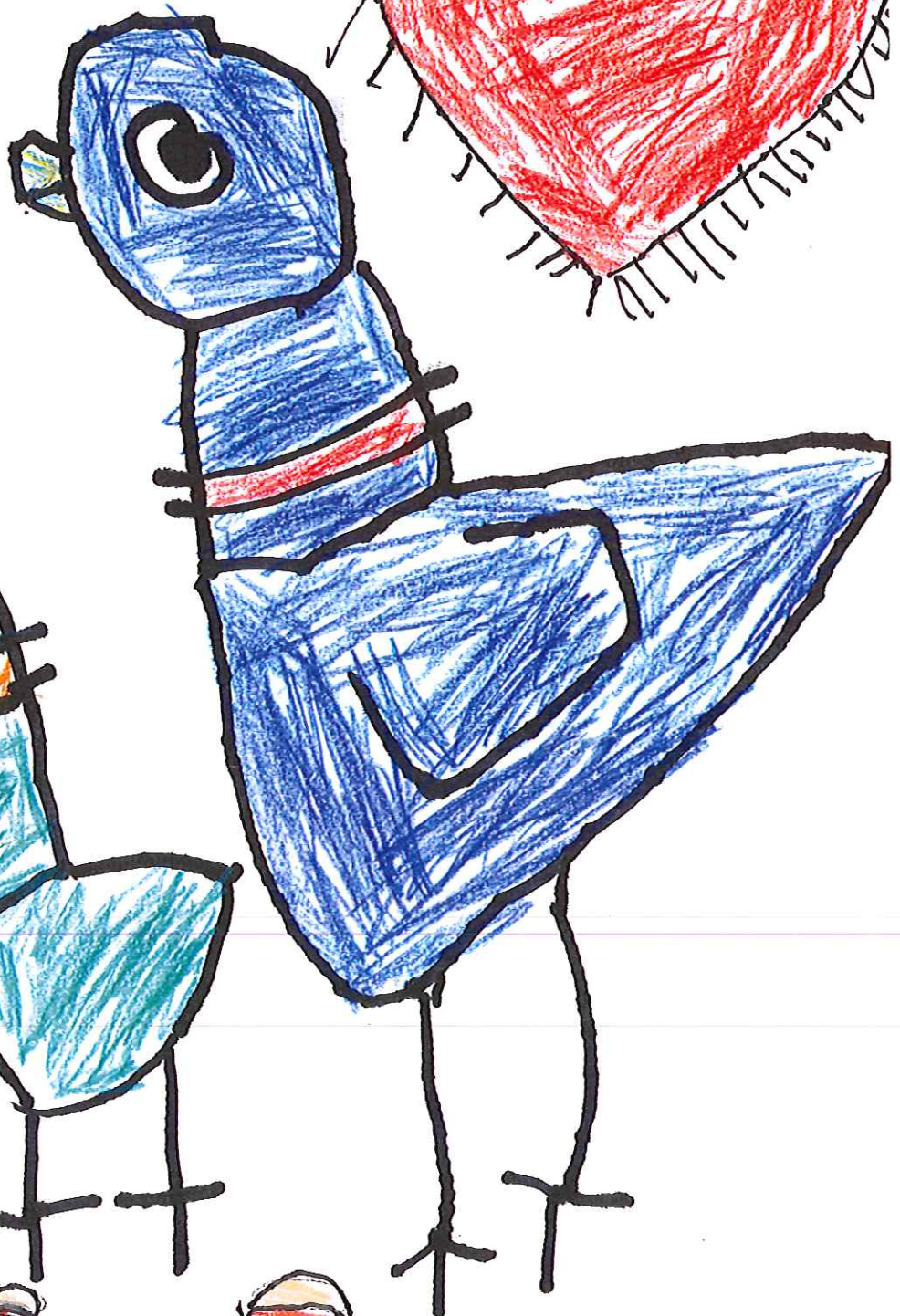
This award is presented to:

Issac

the ^{for} cutest pigeons

Signed
Mo Katy

Date
12-13-22



Chanah And Her Seven Sons

By Naomi .M

Do you know how king Antiochus killed the Jewish people?



Once upon a time there was a king named Antiochus who did not like the Jewish people; so he said all Jewish people will die if they learn Torah,

keep Kosher, have a Bris, do Mitzvos, or keep Shabbat. He wanted them to be Greek because he thought that Greek was so good and everyone should be Greek. All vestiges of Judaism were outlawed. The king asked the seven sons "do you want to be Greek or die?" They said they would die, Antiochus was so mad that he ordered all of the boy's tongue, hands, and feet severed and placed in a fire.

I am so glad that I am not getting my tongue, hands, and feet severed and placed in a fire. Just for being an observant Jew.

The Story of Yehudit

By Daniel Mendelson.

A long time ago in Bethulia, in the land of Judea, the city came under siege by a Greek general, Holofernes. Holofernes



fought hard and bravely in hope that the city would surrender. Fortunately the city did not surrender; In the hopes of starving the people, so Holofernes

decided to block supplies from coming in and out of the city.

Uzziah, the commander of the city's defensive force said that if Hashem did not help them in five days he would surrender.

But one widow, Yehudit, thought differently. So she went to Uzziah and said "Why are you testing Hashem to help us? If you really have faith in Hashem, then you'd never give up your trust in him." Then Uzziah said, "what can we do?" Yehudit Replied "I will go to Holofernes with my made and ask for an

agreement." Uzziah was shocked and thought that the idea was very bad. Even though they said it was a bad idea, she went with her maid? They walked out of the city and one of the guards asked "what are you doing?" They replied, "we are looking for Holofernes." The guards led them to Holofernes and she started to talk. Holofernes was feasting his eyes on the very pretty widow. Holofernes said he will only spare the people if they get married. Then he decided the next day they would have a feast in his tent. The next night she came with cheese and wine. She got there and fed him the cheese and he washed it down with the wine. Eventually he got so drunk that he fell asleep. So she rolled him over on his stomach, took his own sword and chopped off his head! Then she told the city to attack their camp. All the soldiers went to Holofernes only to find his headless body and they all fled for their lives.



Happy Birthday
Nissi Dubrowski

Art Award

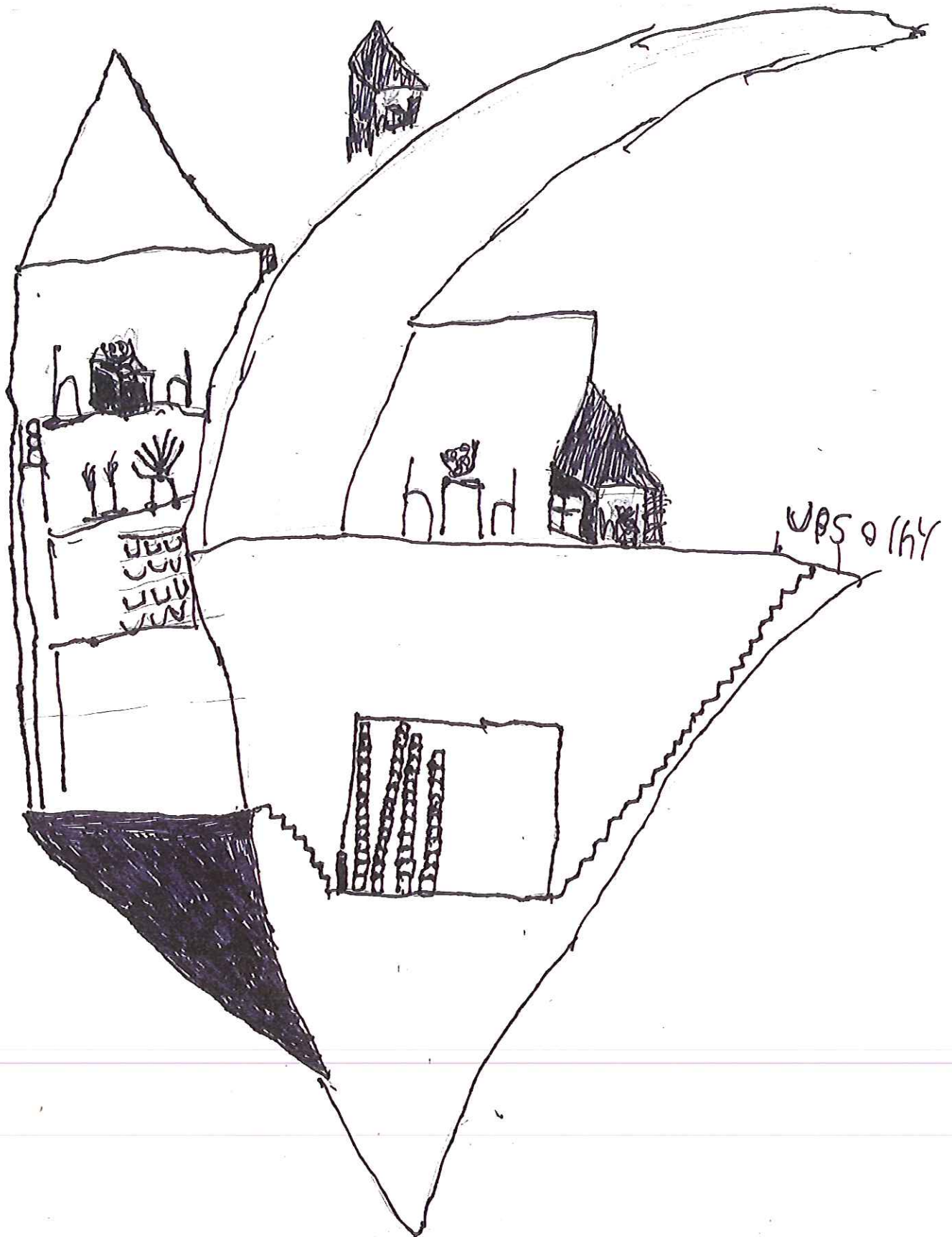
This award is presented to:
Nissi Dubrowski

for
the Bluest Dreidel

Mrs. Katy

12-13-22





WPS 0164

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Keeping In Touch

By Emet Howitt Vallone

Did you know during the battle with the Greeks Hashem made a miracle and Yehuda (the Maccabee leader) looked like an angel, so the Greeks got scared and ran away?

The date: 164 BCE



During their occupation of the Holy Land (Israel), the Greeks went into the Holy Temple and defiled all the oil they found. The Maccabees (an army who fought for Hashem) defeated the Greeks. They could only find one cruse of oil with the seal of the high priest intact. It was only enough for one night. Hashem made a miracle and it lasted for eight days which was enough time for new oil to be made.

The Greeks pouring out the oil and defiling it was obviously not an accident. This happened because the Greeks did not like the mitzvahs that connected us to Hashem.

The Greeks wanted to Hellenize (make them convert to their religion and culture) the Jews. They wanted to make us like them. They put Greek statues in the Holy Temple and planned to put a pig on the Misbayach (an altar to Hashem) but Yehuda the Macabee killed them before they could sacrifice the pig on the Misbayach (altar). The Maccabees gave their all to serve Hashem.

This single jug of pure oil reveals a level of soul that transcends normal limits. The Hanukkah miracle serves as an eternal testimony to our essential connection to HaShem that the Greeks tried to sever. Through Torah and its commandments, we can kindle the potential for light we all possess within our souls. The Rebbe taught that “to make this world suitable place for HaShem to dwell in, we are but conduits for G-d's will, may it be fulfilled”.

Based on articles “Keeping In Touch” from Chabad.org and teachings from the Lubavitcher Rebbe on “Mesiras Nefesh” (self sacrifice) and Google.



When they looked for the oil jars with the high priests' seal they found only one that still had the seal on it with enough oil for only one day. They knew that eight days are needed for new oil to be made.

www.jewishkids.org



Compromise

BY: Tzvi Dubrowski

The miracle of chanukah was totally unnecessary.

Every single child who goes to school knows the story: the Greeks had defiled (made impure) the holy temple's store of oil. So when the Maccabees liberated the temple they could not find ritual pure oil with which to kindle the menorah. Then a single cruse of uncontaminated oil was found, enough to keep the menorah lit for a single day.



Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, until new oil could be prepared.

According to Chabad.org, "Strictly speaking, none of this was necessary. The law which forbids the use of ritually impure oil in the Temple would not have applied under the circumstances which then prevailed. According to Torah law, the prohibition of impurity, if affecting the entire community is waived-if the entire community, or all the kohanim (priests), or all the Temples vessels are ritually impure, it is permissible to enter the temple and conduct the temple services under conditions of impurity.

Nevertheless G-d wished to show His love for His people: He suspended the laws of nature in order to enable them to rededicate the temple without any compromise on its standards of purity-even if it be a perfectly legal and permissible compromise".

When I was on Chabad.org I saw something very interesting and here it is. "Every chanukah we reciprocate in kind. How many lights must be kindled on the chanukah menorah ? Most would reply: one on the first night, two on the second and so on. The law, however, is otherwise. According to the talmud, The mitzvah of Chanukah is [fulfilled with] a single light for each household. Those who do more than is

obligatory, kindle a single light for each individual. Those who do more than those who do more than is obligatory... kindle one light on the first day and add an additional light on each succeeding day".

"There are those who buy the least costly tefillin on the market, who give the absolute minimum that the laws of charity mandate, who employ every halachic exemption and loophole they can lay their hands on. But when was the last time you saw a single light in the window of a Jewish home on the sixth night of Chanukah? On Chanukah we all do more than those who do more than is obligatory—after all, G-d did the same for us".

According to chabad.org, "the name Chanukah comes from the word *chinuch*, which means "inauguration." Chanukah celebrates the renewal of the service in the Holy Temple after it was liberated from the Greek defiler, purified, and rededicated as the seat of the divine presence in our world.

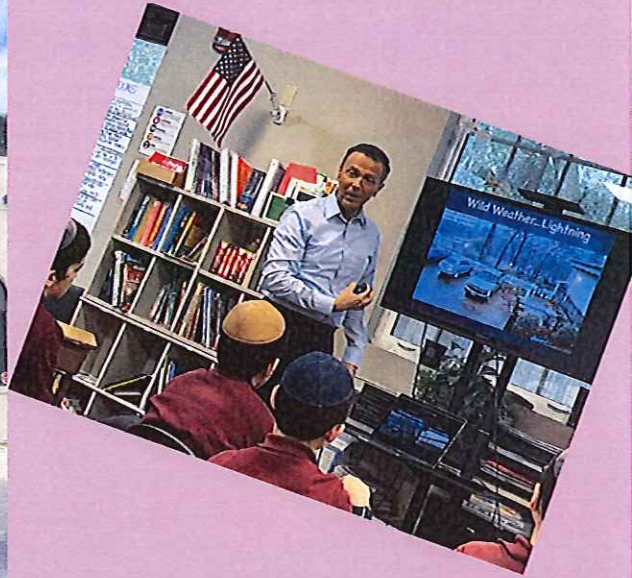
Chanukah serves as a model for all inaugurations, including the most significant inauguration of all—education, a child's inauguration into life (indeed, *chinuch* is also the Hebrew word for "education"). The uncompromising insistence on purity and perfection which Chanukah represents holds an important lesson regarding the essence of the educator's task."

"Compromise is anathema (which is when someone is a enemy or exact opposites) to education. To a mature tree, a gash here or a torn limb there is of little or no consequence. But the smallest scratch in the seed, the slightest nick in the sapling, results in an irrevocable (which means it is not able to be changed) deformity, a flaw which the years to come will deepen rather than erase.

Virtually every life is faced with demands for compromises—some tolerable, others not. The educator who wishes to impart a set of values and priorities that will weather them all, must deliver, in word and example, a message of impeccable purity, free of even the slightest and most acceptable compromise".

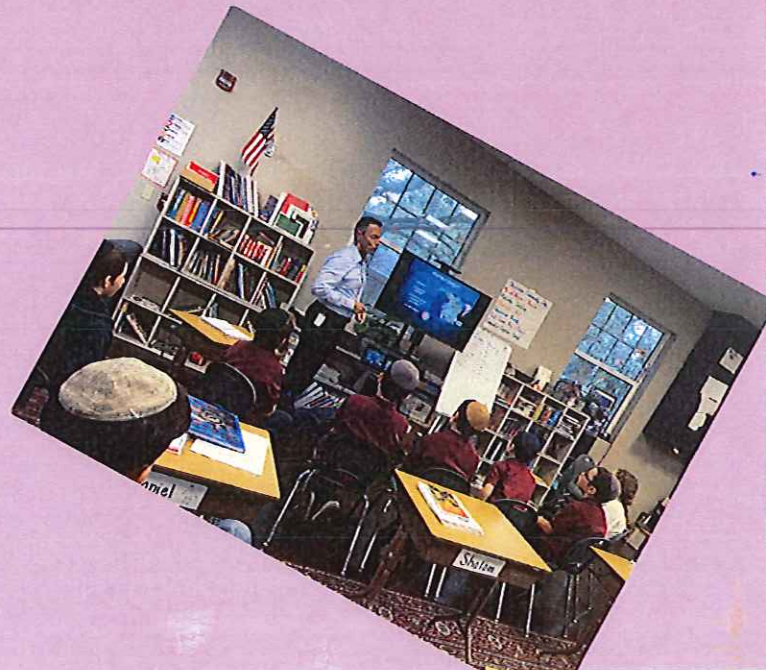


Our Visit with Meteorologist Greg Dee

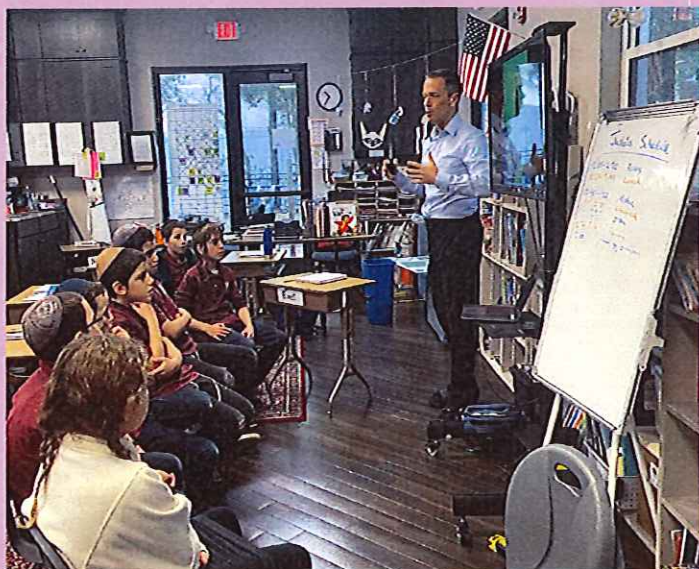


On Monday, December 12, Upper Elementary got a visit from the local ABC Action News meteorologist Greg Dee. We asked lots of questions about thunderstorms and his career as a weatherman.

He said the best part of his early morning work shift was getting out early every day. This schedule allows him to visit lots of places in Tampa Bay, like the beach and Busch Gardens. Because everyone else is at school or work, there's less crowds and shorter lines!



We learned about how he uses the green screen and television screens in the studio to deliver his weather forecasts to the community. Did you know he doesn't use a script when he gives the weather forecasts? Because everything is new and up-to-date, there's no time to write a script to read. Mr. Dee has to think on his toes and adlib when he's in front of the camera.



Mr. Dee has to arrive at the studio in time for a 3:00AM meeting! Then he has to study that day's current information, satellite images, radar, and computer models to come up with the forecast. The cameras start rolling at 5:00 am, so he can't be late!

He taught us so much! We learned that lightning is about 50,000°F, and in Tampa Bay, the thunderstorms can produce about 1,000 strikes in an hour. We also learned about the five ways lightning can strike a person:

1. A direct strike
2. A side flash
3. Ground current
4. Conduction
5. Streamer

He reminded us that if we can hear thunder, we can be struck by lightning. In fact, most people are struck by lightning when they aren't in the rain, they're standing in the dry air outside the thunderstorm.

What a great visit.... It was ELECTRIFYING!!!



Art Award

This award is presented to:

Shneur L.

Brilliant Blue

Ms. ^{Sigrid}Katy

Date
12-13-22



Chanukah

Byy Rochel Yarmush

Chanukah, oh chanukah, come light the menorah. Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay!

Yup it's that time of year, let's cheer!
Chanukah is here!
Come join the celebration;
And tell the old tale with jubilation!

Long ago in the time of the Greeks
Jews lived with the Torah in peace .
But then came a nasty king,
Who made laws against these things.

"No Shabbos, no Kosher," Antichous did say.
But the Jews replied, "no way!"
In secret, in caves, Jews kept learning.
And when the greeks came, they had spies
who would give them warnings.

They'd pull out dreidels and spin them around.
And the Greeks never found-
The scrolls they hid
And the maccabee army was made up of yids!

The Jews fought for what they knew was right.
And although the Greeks had all the might,
With Hashem's help the Maccabees won.
You would think the story is done

But wait, there's more, just so you know-
To the holy temple the Jews did go.
And they looked for a jug of oil with which to light the menorah,
With the Kohen Godel's seal, like it says in the Torah.

They finally found one small jug of oil,
That would last for one night and then it would spoil?
But the oil lasted for 8 whole days.
Once again, Hashem's miracle saved us in so many ways.

We light the menorah to spread more light
So as we eat our donuts with delight,
Remember the miracle and wish all
A Happy Chanukah!



