

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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MAYOR



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MENORAH LIGHTING AT CITY HALL ***Jersey City to Celebrate the First Night of Hanukkah*** ***by Lighting the City Hall Menorah***

JERSEY CITY -- Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy will join **Rabbi David Wilansky** in celebrating the first night of Hanukkah by lighting the City Hall Menorah at **3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 01, 2010**. The ceremony will be held outside on the lawn at **City Hall, 280 Grove Street**.

Rabbi David Wilansky, of the **Bris Avrohom of Jersey City Sons of Israel Congregation**, will say a special prayer at the lighting of the Menorah. He will also speak on the meaning of the **Chanukah** or Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of lights that begins on the eve of Kislev 25, and celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, of purity over adulteration, of spirituality over materiality.

About Chanukah and the Significance of the Menorah Lighting

The Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who sought to forcefully Hellenize the people of Israel. Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of G-d.

These faithful Jews sought to light the Temple's menorah, they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks; miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah, or Hanukkah. At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting: a single flame on the first night, two on the second evening, and so on until the eighth night of Chanukah, when all eight lights are kindled.

About Bris Avrohom

Founded in 1979, **Bris Avrohom** continuously serves the needs of Russian Jewish Immigrants - from finding a home and a job, to performing a bris or bar Mitzvah, or a Jewish Wedding to improving the spiritual and educational interests. Bris Avrohom, which means The Covenant of Abraham, has touched many lives by enriching their outlook towards Yiddishkeit and by acquainting them with their 3,300-year-old Jewish heritage and traditions.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-369-0699.///