

Lend your Menorah for Display in the Kripke Library

By Mark Kirchhoff, Program & Communications Assistant



If the Star of David is the unmistakable symbol of the Jewish people, then the Menorah is the cherished symbol of Hanukkah. Dreidels and gelt may be a part of the festivities, but the Menorah stands for the peace, serenity, family, and joy of overcoming impossible odds that are part of being a Jew. At this time of year when the family retrieves its treasured Menorah for the holiday season, the memories and emotions that are associated with it are renewed. Often a family has more than one Menorah. Some have been

purchased from year-to-year to enjoy the differences and creativity of their designers. Some are gifts. Others are family treasures handed down from one generation to the next. All have stories associated with them.

This Hanukkah season the Jewish Federation of Omaha is asking and encouraging you to bring one of your Menorahs to the Kripke Jewish Federation Library where a special area has been prepared for a Hanukkah display December 12-19th. This is a great way to share the light from your Menorah not only with your neighbors, but also with the entire community. And since each Hanukkah will have special significance for you, please bring with it a very brief – no more than three sentences – written description about your Menorah. It might be something like, “This Menorah was given to me at my Bat Mitzvah on May 7, 1994. Whenever I see it or light it, I always remember my friend.”

Please contact Jennie Gates Beckman as soon as possible at (402) 334-6445 or jbeckman@jewishomaha.org to make arrangements to display your Menorah. Along with books and DVD's from the library, the display will tell in a personal way the story of families getting together and lighting the Menorah one day at a time, so that on the eighth day, all the candles are burning bright. In this way, Jews and non-Jews who visit can share in one of the traditional customs that has come to be so special in the Jewish community. The display may be viewed from December 12 – 19th at any time that the front entrance to the Jewish Community Center is open. These hours are Sunday: 11:00am - 5:00pm, (ask for assistance from the receptionist at the front desk to visit the library), Monday-Thursday: 8:00am - 9:00pm (after 6:00pm ask for assistance from the receptionist) Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm. Be sure to pick up your Menorah the week of December 19th so you have it in your home for the first day of Hanukkah, December 24.

As a culminating event to the Hanukkah display, the Federation will host a special children's *Hanukkah Extravaganza* on December 19 from 5-7 pm. **Happy Hanukkah!**