

## WJCS HANUKKAH PROGRAMS:

The festival of lights is almost upon us. This is a time when programming coordinators in the WJCS Jewish Programs division would normally be in the throes of planning numerous in-person events. Instead, as we have done since the Covid pandemic began, we have pivoted to offering virtual events.

Our annual Chanukah celebration for members of our Holocaust Survivor Groups and their families is typically a time to come together to eat, dance, sing, and celebrate. This year, we will be celebrating on Zoom (day and time to be announced). In addition, the Holocaust Survivors in our program will be receiving a gift bag filled with Kosher holiday refreshments. While the gifts cannot replace the joy of coming together, they do diminish the sense of isolation and aloneness. As one Survivor said after receiving the holiday food packages for Passover and Rosh Hashanah, "The food is nice and delicious. But it's more than just the food. It's knowing that I am not forgotten." As Halina Rosenkranz, WJCS Holocaust Program Facilitator, says, "may another Chanukah miracle come forth as we leave this year behind and enter 2021."

*(Contact for WJCS Holocaust Groups: Halina [Rosenkranz--hrosenkranz@wjcs.com](mailto:Rosenkranz--hrosenkranz@wjcs.com))*

In past years, Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) hosted our Chanukah celebration for Havorah, a WJCS program for individuals with disabilities. The Chanukah program is full of songs, fun, and interactions and brings together our Havorah community, clergy, and the teens at WRT, for whom this is part of their curriculum for confirmation class. Since we are not having group gatherings this year, WRT is planning to have their teens create a video of songs and skits that we can then distribute to the groups that generally attend the Havorah program.

*(Contact for Havorah: Barbara L. Murray  
WJCS Jewish Cultural Specialist--[bmurray@wjcs.com](mailto:bmurray@wjcs.com))*

Members of the WJCS Shelanu program, a friendship community for young Jewish adults ages 18-35 with disabilities, are playing Chanukah Bingo this year...virtually. Words like Chanukah, Menorah, Dreidel, Shamas replace Bingo numbers.

*(Contact for Shelanu: Robin Davies-Small; [rdaviessmall@wjcs.com](mailto:rdaviessmall@wjcs.com))*

The WJCS Jewish Healing Spiritual Center will be offering a Chanukah bereavement program on December 16 from 5:30-7 pm. The program, called **Bringing Light into the Darkness: A Chanukah Bereavement Program** celebrates the healing potential of Chanukah. It is for individuals who have experienced any kind of loss and are at any stage of the grieving process. The program will be facilitated by Gillian Rittmaster, LMSW, and Rabbi Pamela Wax.

(Contacts: Rabbi Pamela Wax; [pwax@wjcs.com](mailto:pwax@wjcs.com) and Gillian Rittmaster [grittmaster@wjcs.com](mailto:grittmaster@wjcs.com).)