

Tomorrow marks start of eight-day festival of lights

By Chris Welsch

Tomorrow is the beginning of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating the beginning of the fight for religious freedom.

Hanukkah shouldn't be confused with Christmas because the two holidays commemorate entirely different events, according to Rabbi Kenneth White of the South Street Temple.

"Hanukkah is the first recorded rebellion for religious freedom in the history of western civilization," White said. "It began with the Greek Syrians proclaiming that the Jews could no longer worship god the way they had in the past."

White said the rebellion was triggered when the Syrians broke into the Temple at Jerusalem and destroyed holy objects. They then set up an idol in the temple, and legend has it, the Syrians slaughtered pigs in the temple. (Pigs are not kosher animals.)

A man named Matathias, who had five sons, led the rebellion, he said. His son Juda was the leader of a guerilla band. The band swooped out of the hills and fought with the Syrians.

The war lasted three years, he said. The Syrians finally pulled back their forces in 165 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era).

The significance of the holiday is the fact that it commemorates a rebellion for religious freedom, White said. However, Hanukkah isn't a major holiday to Jews.

Hanukkah takes second place to Shabbot (the Sabbath) in the hierarchy of Jewish holidays, he said. Shabbot is one of the commandments from god, and is more a powerful holiday than Hanukkah.

The traditions of Hanukkah are rooted in legend, White said.

After the temple at Jerusalem had been liberated from the Syrians, the Jews began cleaning. They removed the idol, built a new altar and reconsecrated the temple.

As legend has it, the Jews wanted to re-light the candles of the Temple, White said. The candles were in Menorahs, or candlesticks. In those days the fuel they used for lighting was olive oil. All they could find was one small bottle. Legend says the bottle lasted eight days, hence the eight days of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah also is referred to as the festival of lights. A nine-branched candle stick is used. Each night a candle is added, until all nine candles are lit.

Since the oil played a prominent part in the holiday, foods cooked in oil became customary foods to eat during Hanukkah.

Potato cakes, or Latke, and doughnuts are common foods during the celebration.

In years past, small gifts were given to children on each day of Hanukkah. Now larger gifts are exchanged, White said. Some families give presents each night.

According to White, the importance of Hanukkah in American Jewish homes has increased over the years.

"The American culture has turned the month of December into a time of festivity," he said. "American Jews want to participate in the spirit of the Holiday season."

Hanukkah is the holiday in which they can participate, he said.

This year Hanukkah begins Dec. 10, which coincides with Shabbot, White said.

Jewish student celebrates Hanukkah away from home

Hanukkah away from home can be a happy-sad occasion for Jewish students.

Sally Hoffman, president of the Hillel Organization, for Jewish students, said lighting the candles on the Menorah sometimes is sad because she is a long way from home.

"It's sort of like having a birthday away from home," she said. "It's a joyous time and one which should be spent with the family."

Since Hanukkah begins Friday, Hoffman will be celebrating the holiday in her dorm room. She said her roommates and friends are usually interested in what's going on.

Sometimes they will watch me light the Menorah, she said. Reading traditional Hanukkah prayers also attracts the attention of her friends.

"They like it, I think," Hoffman said. "They can say they were with me in my time of joy."

Hoffman, a senior majoring in Elementary education, said she will spend the last day of Hanukkah with her family in New Mexico.

Hoffman said any Jewish students interested in the Hillel Organization should contact her. The group is planning to meet Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

SERIOUS GEAR FOR THE BEGINNER OR THE PRO

3731 Tennis Champion
Uppers: Canvas. Sole: Directly injected polyurethane. Inexpensive tennis shoe with excellent shock absorption from dual-material sole construction.

3790 Indoor Court
Uppers: Nylon/leather reinforced. Sole: Rubber. Ideal shoe for indoor sports. New inset zones improve sliding and stopping.

3737 High Point Lo
Lightweight shoe with reinforced rubber toe cap, padded heel. Padded nylon tongue. Canvas uppers. Rubber sole.

41006 Shoulder Bag
Padded, water-repellent coated nylon. Outside pocket and zippered inner compartment.

The Athlete's Foot

Glass Menagerie 1213 "Q" St. East Park Plaza Mall 220 N. 66th

Ties & Accessories
The Gentlemen's Store

The fun place to shop for your man. Ties, of course!

But, also cashmere socks
bronze figurines
deerskin gloves
gaming accessories
designer wallets
and on, and on!

East Park Plaza Mall 464-1113

W.C. Frank

Gift Certificates

\$5.00 worth of Merry Christmas for only \$4.50

Season's Greetings

TO _____

FROM _____

GIFT CERTIFICATES
Ten 50¢ Certificates, A 5.00 Value

W.C. Frank **4.50**
"A Frank We Can All Afford"

Booklet of Ten 50¢ Certificates - Perfect Stocking Stuffer!
"A Gift We Can All Afford"

W.C. Frank
1320 Q Street - Downtown

Copyright 1982. W.C. Frank Investments Inc.

THE MAGIC OF

Color & Line

- Individual Color Analysis: See for yourself how the right colors make you come alive. You'll receive color swatches for easy reference when shopping for fabric or clothing. No more color mistakes!
- Each Seminar, taught by a certified Color Analyst, is limited to six to ensure that you receive individual attention.

STUDENT SPECIAL
DEC. 6 - DEC 10

held by: **Stretch & Sew** Fee: reg. \$25
237 So. 70th-Esquire Plaza **\$20**
Lincoln, NE 68510 includes Swatches

Call for reservation 402-489-8879