



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jewish Community Celebrates Chanukah, Commemorates Mumbai Victims

The Winnipeg Jewish community will gather this Sunday, December 21st, to celebrate the beginning of Chanukah and pay tribute to the victims of the Mumbai Massacre.

Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of lights, is an eight day festival of rededication beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

When Antiochus IV, the Seleucid-ruler, was in control of ancient Israel, he began to oppress and persecute the Jews. The Great Temple in Jerusalem was desecrated, a Hellenistic priest was placed in the Temple, Jews were massacred, and the practice of the Jewish religion was prohibited. A group of zealots led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son Judah Maccabee, led a revolt. The revolution succeeded and the Temple was rededicated. According to tradition, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. Chanukah, an eight day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle.

Chanukah will begin with the lighting of the Giant Chanukah Menorah in front of the Asper Jewish Community Campus, located at 123 Doncaster Street.

The lighting will be immediately followed by the memorial service for the victims of the Mumbai Massacre. The service, organized by Chabad Lubavitch of Winnipeg and the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, will include the lighting of five Yahrzeit (memorial) lamps, psalms, readings and a brief film, followed by a car parade to the future site of the Jewish Learning Centre, at the corner of Centennial and Grant. At the conclusion of the parade, a fireworks display will rekindle the lights for our community's mourners.

The community celebration will be preceded by the Rady JCC's Chanukah Extravaganza Family Event, taking place from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Activities include face painting, inflatable bouncers, Chanukah arts and crafts and games and prizes.

-30-

Media Contact:
Jon Waldman, Communications Coordinator
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg
P: (204) 477-7473 E-mail: jwaldman@jewishwinnipeg.org.

Immediate Past President
Edward Lyons, O.C.

President
Jonathan Kroft

Vice President
Ben Cohen

Departmental Chairs
Marilyn Billinkoff
Marty Greenfeld
David Kroft
Adam Levene
Abby Morris
Gustavo Zentner

Campaign Chair
Israel Ludwig

Women's Campaign Chair
Sharon Allentuck

Board of Directors
Rena Boroditsky
Neil Duboff
David Gisser
Sergio Glogowski
Yhetta Gold, C.M.
Sherman Greenberg
Fay-Lynn Katz
Faith Kaplan
Steven Kohn
Lisa Levinson
Eric Sawyer
Jeremy Shinewald
Sean Shore
Marshall Stitz
Larry Vickar
Joel Weinstein
Leslie Wilder

Board of Governors
Don Aronovitch
Marjorie Blankstein, C.M.
Mel Fages
Morley M. Globerman, z"l
Ian Goldstine
Sid Halpern
Larry Hurtig
Evelyn Katz
David S. Kaufman
Guy Kroft
Mendle Meltzer, z"l
Howard Morry
Monte Nathanson
Al Omson

Chief Executive Officer
Bob Freedman

Chief Financial Officer
Jack Ciplinski

Financial Resource Development Director
Elaine Goldstine

Financial Resource Development Associate Director
David Greaves

Community Planning Director
Faye Rosenberg-Cohen

Community Relations Director
Shelley Faintuch

Next Generation Initiatives Director
Judi Price-Rosen