



Media Contacts

Eli Natinsky
Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue
248-703-1634
pr@downtownsynagogue.org

Anna Kohn, Director
Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue
313-962-4047
anna@downtownsynagogue.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Chanukah with the Downtown Synagogue!

DETROIT, December 8, 2014 – The Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue (IADS) will commemorate the Jewish “Festival of Lights” with its always-popular **Chanukah Happening** on Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. at IADS, 1457 Griswold in Detroit.

The annual gathering is free and open to all, and families with children are especially encouraged to attend. Guests will light menorahs and enjoy latkes and other traditional holiday dishes. Additional event highlights are a “Chai Stakes” dreidel tournament and “The Hasmonean Hullabaloo,” a new, original Chanukah spiel.

“The Chanukah Happening is a great introduction to the Downtown Synagogue – there’s lots of people, food, entertainment and spirit,” said Ariel Payne, an IADS lay-leader and creator of this year’s Chanukah spiel. “Also, this is the first time we’ve put on a play for the holiday. There will be songs and jokes, and it’s going to be something everybody will enjoy.”

Guests are asked to bring a warm weather item to the party to benefit Heart 2 Hart Detroit, a local non-profit that provides resources for the homeless and those in need in Metro Detroit. Suggested donations include coats, gloves, mittens, hats, socks, sweaters, and hygiene products.

The Chanukah season celebrations continue with **IADS Presents: A Kosher Kind of Christmas** on Wednesday, December 24 at 7 p.m. Attendees will light the menorah for the last night of Chanukah before settling in for a movie marathon and home-made kosher Chinese food. There is no cost to attend the event at IADS, 1457 Griswold in Detroit, and attendees are asked to bring a kosher side dish or kosher dessert to pass.

“Chinese food and movies are a Christmas tradition for many in the Detroit Jewish community,” said Erik Wodowski, an IADS lay-leader and event organizer. “We’re excited to host everyone for the second year of this fun get-together.”

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IADS MISSION

The principal mission of the Downtown Synagogue is to serve as a beacon for the Jewish community of Metropolitan Detroit by maintaining a traditional, egalitarian synagogue in Detroit; by acting as a conduit for Jewish activity in the city; by offering a wide range of programming that will support the revitalization of the city; and by ensuring accessibility to all.

For more information, go to: downtownsynagogue.org

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- » **Angels And Dreamers** Sixth-grader fulfills dream of reading to sick children. **See page 16.**

Chanukah Fun Downtown Synagogue mixes food, donations and fun for the holiday.

Following election of officers at its annual meeting Dec. 21, members and friends of the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue in Detroit held a Chanukah happening complete with latkes and other holiday fare, a Chai Stakes dreidel tournament and, new this year, an original Chanukah spiel, "Chanukah Hasmonean Hullabaloo," by Ariel Payne.

Admission was wearable warm-weather items to donate to Hart 2 Heart, an organization that serves homeless people in Downtown Detroit.



Elijah, 12, and Ravi Appelman, 9, of Bloomfield Hills



Amit Weitzer and Jackie Victor, both of Detroit



Benny Mattis of Detroit and Lauren Hoffman of Princeton, N.J.

Photos by Jerry Zolynsky



Nancy Pinegood and Andy Wartenberg of East Rapids, Carole Deroven of St. Helen and Cindy Starman of West Bloomfield fill their plates at the buffet.



Max and Nathan Newman, 4, of Bloomfield Hills



Joe Lewis of Oak Park narrates the Chanukah spiel.