



THE DIALOGUE

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE FOR THE CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

IT'S CHANUKAH!

By: Malkie Herson

I love being Jewish! I love the holidays, the customs, the overall feeling of belonging to a People. I also love my iPhone. I love texting, talking and most of all...playing! So I decided to join the two things I love into one perfect whole: I am going to write a Chanukah iPhone app! A game. A *fun* game, but with a deeper message. A game that will help users see that Chanukah is more than gifts and gelt and candles...

My dad writes computer programs for a living; he'll be the one to actually *build* the app. But I need to give him the idea.

Hmmm. I need an idea. An angle. Let me think.

Oh, I got it! One of my favorite messages of the Menorah is that we have the responsibility to fill the world with light. The Menorah's candles are *physical* light, but it reminds us that we have to fill the world with *spiritual* light, too. This was the message of the Menorah in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, site of the Chanukah story 2,300 years ago, and it is the message of the Chanukah Menorah today.

When the rabbis of the Talmud arranged the Chanukah customs, one rabbi suggested that we start the 8-day holiday by kindling 8 flames on our Menorah, decreasing a candle each night, until we light only 1 on the last night of Chanukah. Kind of like a count-down. Another rabbi, Rabbi Hillel felt that since always *increase* in light, we should begin by lighting one candle on the first night, two on the second, until we light all eight on the eighth night. Each night, adding more and more light.

*Dedicated in loving memory of
Rabbi Mendy Deren and Rabbi Levi Deitsch
The way they lived their lives brought light to the world.
We are committed to live as they have lived.*



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