

**THE JEWISH VOICE**

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Letters to the editor, articles or other information to be considered for publication should be typewritten and signed by the author. Please keep letters to a maximum of 250 words. All material is subject to editing. The deadline for calendar event items, articles, letters, etc., is the 1st of the month preceding the month of publication. Opinions are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of El Paso.

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**DEADLINE FOR  
The January 2007  
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**Commentary**

By Grace B. Ellowitz



Hanukkah, O Channukah, ! I wish that we had little children with whom to enjoy this holiday.

We do have a series of David Sharir paintings of the seven Jewish festivals, and one of my favorites is the one representing Hannuka . Though there are spears, bows and arrows and weapons proliferated throughout the painting -- in everyone's hand -- illustrations of

potential war and pain -- the colors are vibrant and in the center a very large eternal light with the star of David in the center, the Maccabees guarding the entrance to the Temple, and a figure that must be G-d at the very top, hands uplifted. This inspiring picture is rimmed with an army of soldiers, some atop elephants and each ready to fight to protect the Temple.

My fascination with these pictures is the fact that in each one is my collection theme, "Hands uplifted."

What do uplifted hands stand for? Is it supplication? Disbelief? Acceptance? a sign of welcome?

Anticipation? Exhilaration?

Lift your hands up as high as you can, outstretched. What do you feel?

I love this pose. I feel lifted, exhilarated. I expect some breathless experience to swoop down and envelop me into a new feeling of freedom and equality.

I guess that is what Hanukkah really is. A feeling of freedom and equality. A time of miracles.

May we all be ready for the miracles of tomorrow, and, the joy of living today.

**HAPPY HANUKAH!!!**

Three years ago, El Pasoans enjoyed the city-wide family Hanukah concert given by Cantor Robbi Sherwin with Scott Leader, Rabbi Larry Bach, and Larry Lesser. The concert included a challenge in which the musicians took turns spontaneously creating new rhymed verses to the "I Have a little dreidl" song in response to audience

suggestions for dreidl-making materials other than clay. (Tip: don't try this with "silver" nothing rhymes with silver!) This year, Larry Lesser was inspired to rewrite the entire dreidl song to have an "El Paso flavor," which appears here for your enjoyment. Happy Chanukah and may our menorahs burn brighter than the Franklin Star!

**"EL PASO DREIDL SONG"** lyrics copyright 2007 Lawrence Mark Lesser, all rights reserved; may be sung to the tune of "I Have a Little Dreidl"

Oh dreidl, dreidl, dreidl some are made of clay:  
But down here in El Paso, we have our own way!

Oh dreidl, dreidl, dreidl some are made of clay:  
But down here in El Paso, we have our own way!

I have a little dreidl, made from desert sand:  
When I try to spin it, it slips right through my hand!  
I have a little dreidl, I made it from a cactus:  
To not hurt when you spin it takes a lot of practice!

I have a little dreidl, I made it out of balsa:  
It weighs even less than a corn chip with some salsa!  
I have a little dreidl, made from habanero:  
When it spun, it burned a hole right through the stair-o

Oh dreidl, dreidl, dreidl some are made of clay:  
But down here in El Paso, we have our own way!

Oh dreidl, dreidl, dreidl some are made of clay:  
But down here in El Paso, we have our own way!

I have a giant dreidl, I made it out of bronze--  
Like that big horse statue, with all its pros and cons.  
I have a little dreidl, I made it out of gelt  
That came from some metal Asarco might have smelt.

I lost my little dreidl, it sure was a great toy, though,  
I should not have spun it right by the arroyo.  
But I'll get a fun new dreidl, shaped like a piñata:  
I'm told it's not quite ready, but they'll finish it  
....mañana!

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