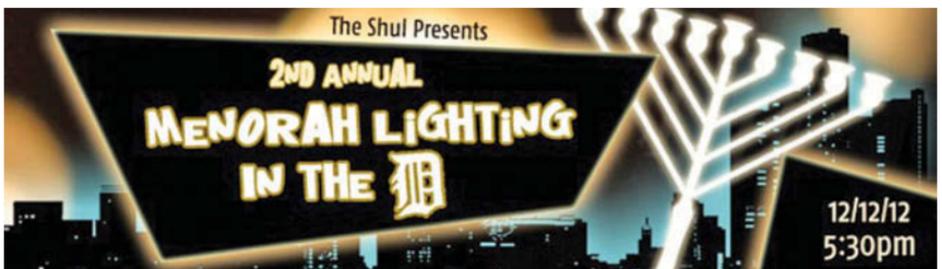


Menorah Lighting In Downtown Detroit

Second annual celebration to be bigger and better than last year.



Jackie Headapohl
Managing Editor

Last year's lighting of the menorah in Downtown Detroit drew more than 600 people. This year's event, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12 in Cadillac Square in Campus Martius Park in Detroit, is expected to draw 1,000.

The Shul with the Chabad-Lubavitch Foundation of Michigan and CommunityNEXT are once again producing the community-wide menorah lighting event this Chanukah to renew a sense of Jewish identity, bring Judaism to Downtown Detroit, and to welcome people of all ages, religions and backgrounds to the city for a night of merriment. This event, like other Chabad-led public menorah lightings all over the world, will be a source of inspiration and pride for Jews throughout the Detroit metropolitan area.

"Being Downtown means we can share the message of the menorah with more people," said Itty Shemtov of The Shul. "The feedback we got last year from people was that it created a warm feeling to celebrate a Jewish holiday in public and created feelings of unity. The message of the Chanukah flames is that hope and unity are eternal."

This year, brothers Eric and Israel Nordin of the Detroit Design Center are creating a permanent 24-foot menorah, which will be on display Downtown the entire week of Chanukah, from Dec. 8-16.

The Nordins were approached by The Shul a few weeks ago about design ideas. "We looked at some other epic menorahs around the world and chose a design inspired

by some of our sculptural pieces in Brighton, Birmingham and Detroit," said Eric Nordin. "The rabbi felt that we needed to maintain traditional style, but was artistically very open-minded."

The menorah, made out of stainless steel with glass details, encompasses a geometric yet still traditional design, Nordin said. "The major hurdle has been the time frame. We have three weeks to make magic happen."

The menorah will be lit at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, the fifth night of Chanukah. The public is invited to celebrate the Festival of Lights by coming to enjoy refreshments and holiday festivities, such as traditional Chanukah doughnuts called *sufganiot* and hot cider by Jerusalem Pizza, a hot soup bar, ice skating and a very special music presentation sponsored by the Stephen Gottlieb Music Festival.

The Second Annual Menorah Lighting in Detroit is hosted by The Shul of West Bloomfield and co-sponsored by Quicken Loans, CommunityNEXT, Honigman, the Detroit Medical Center, Printwand, PJ Library, SPARC and the *Detroit Jewish News*.

Round-trip bus transportation will be available from The Shul in West Bloomfield. The bus will leave from The Shul promptly at 4:15 p.m. The return bus will leave Campus Martius Park at 7 p.m. The fee for the bus is \$10 and seats must be reserved by Dec. 7.

You can also drive to the event. Free parking, arranged by Quicken Loans, is available at Two Detroit Garage. For more information, visit www.MenorahInTheD.com or call The Shul office at (248) 788-4000. □