

What makes this Hanukkah so special for the GJC community?

During the summer of 2023, the GJC Men's Club began refurbishing the Dancing Children Hanukiyah, which has graced the front lawn of Germantown Jewish Centre since 2000. On the first night of Hanukkah, the Men's Club will re-dedicate the Hanukiyah in memory and honor of Dick Menin z"l, their long-serving and dedicated president, Hy Zelkowitz, who created the original design, and Tim Daniels z"l and Harold Arnold, the duo who helped with the original construction. To link the Hanukiyah's past with its future, the children of GJC were invited to personalize the backs of the panels with their handprints. On Thursday, December 7, the Men's Club will officially re-dedicate the Hanukiyah during the lighting ceremony. To mark this special occasion, the Men's Club is inviting everyone to a latke dinner during GJC Celebrates! Hanukah that same evening. Please consider attending, and please consider sponsoring candles on the Hanukiyah, which will allow the Men's Club to continue the support they give to the GJC community!

What went into the refurbishment of the Hanukiyah?



Day 1, July 9: We began work on the Hanukiyah under the Maple Tent on the front lawn of Germantown Jewish Centre. After a brief introduction and a light breakfast, we began our work which involved (1) disassembling the 7 figures and documenting the locations and lengths of the connecting wires; (2) sanding the surfaces of all 8 figures so that the primer will properly adhere; and (3) applying primer to all 8 figures. We made amazing progress in a relatively short amount of time. A special thanks to Rabbi Reba Carmel for sharing words of Torah and blessing to inspire us, to Sandy Meyer for catering, to Jose Toro who helped with most everything, and, especially, to Rachel Marks who gave us the artistic courage to carry this project off.



Day 2, July 16: We had another successful session this morning despite the heavy rain and storm warnings. Seventeen volunteers showed up to paint, schmooze and eat. The group, which included eleven new volunteers, completed the goal of priming the fronts of the panels and painting the backs. The backs were primed last week. We worked in the Marcus due to the stormy weather. Next Sunday we plan to paint the fronts with the primary color of the particular panel. It is gratifying to see so many participants willing to pitch in.



Day 3, July 23: We completed our third session today. The panels have now been painted with the base colors. Next week we plan to do a touchup. Rachel Marks will then complete our painting work by recreating the original design. Thereafter we plan to reassemble the "children" and put them to bed until Hanukah.



Day 4, July 30: A heartfelt thanks to the thirty volunteers who made this project a huge success. A special thanks to Rachel Marks who oversaw the entire project; and to Rachel and Rivkah Walton who, with their artistic skills recreated the design features of the panels. The Men's Club volunteers had previously painted the base coats of the panels with varying degrees of skill, but always with lots of enthusiasm. The new paint finish will be especially noticeable when illuminated on the GJC lawn during Hanukah 2023.

VOLUNTEERS: Sherman Aronson, Richard Baron, Rabbi Reba Carmel, Jim Casey, Lawrence Charap, Nan Daniels, Helen Feinberg, David Fish, David Franklin, Dick Goldberg, Mark Greenberg, Itzhak Kornfeld, David Kraut, Ned Kripke, Dena Lake, Rabbi Judd Levingston, Peter Maas, Juniper Marks, Rachel Marks, Barb Menin, Jim Meyer, Sandy Meyer, David Picker, Dan Piser, Coleman Poses, Miles Rittmaster, Chuck Schleifer, Rabbi George Stern, David Thalheimer, Rivkah Walton, and Ken Weiss.

GJC CELEBRATES!

HANUKAH

DEC. 7 AT 6:00 PM

FOOD! FUN!

Latke Dinner, Hanukiyah Lighting,
and DJ Dance Party with Rak-Dan!

LATKES GALORE!

RSVP: <https://germantownjewishcentre.org/gjc-celebrates-hanukah-2023/>

The GJC Men's Club is hosting the biggest Hanukah celebration ever to mark the special Re-Dedication of the Dancing Children Hanukiyah. FREE Latke Dinner! Dreidel Games! Dance Party, Sufganiyot, and more! We'll light the Dancing Children Hanukiyah and sing together during the night. Light up the Hanukah night with DJ Rak-Dan and Friends! Come join the party and dance to the musical stylings of the most popular Jewish DJ in the region - he makes every event twist and shout with games, giveaways, and glorious swag. GJC Celebrates! Hanukah will be fun for all ages and a night to remember!

To sponsor a candle, please fill out the form below. Candles are \$36/honoree (checks payable to GJC Men's Club.)

2023 Hanukiyah Fundraiser

Please note that the fundraiser directly supports all programming during GJC Celebrates! Hanukah 2023!

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

In honor/memory of (please specify for each):

Name(s) and email address(es) of people to notify:

Preferred Night to Sponsor (Please circle): December Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Amount Enclosed (\$36 per honoree): \$ _____

Please send form and payment to: ATTN: Men's Club
Germantown Jewish Centre
400 W. Ellet Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

