



# THE AJAI!

## THE ASSOCIATION OF JAGUARS AGAINST ILLITERACY



## Making Menorahs By Camilo Azzellini Sitrin

Hello, and happy Hanukkah everyone!!! And speaking of Hanukkah, I am happy to announce that on Thursday, December 11th, 2025, Hillel Academy visited Jablon Studios, an art studio in Vestal, to create mosaic menorahs. I believe that I speak for the entire school, teachers included, when I say that it was a very enjoyable excursion. Not only was the process entertaining, but the results were all beautiful! I was quite impressed by the unique and lovely artistic taste of every student in the school.

I have asked a few Hillel students for their opinion on this delightful field trip as well...



It was very, very, very, very fun! It was also very educational and interesting.”-Avromy Chein



“Making the mosaic menorahs was very fun!”  
-Rae Weistman



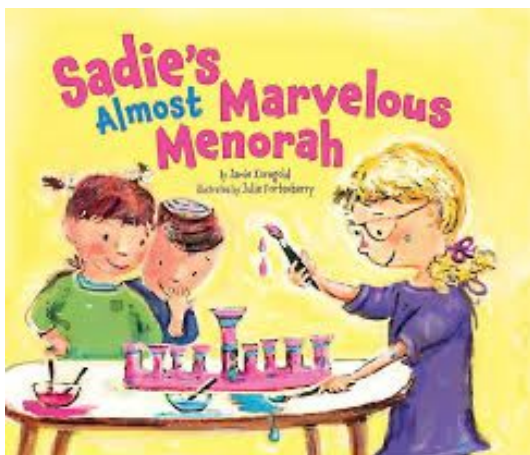
“Jablon Studios was the most enjoyable place I have ever, ever been to in my entire life!!!!!!!!!!!!!! -Gittel Slonim

Indeed! On behalf of the entire school, I would also like to thank Emily for providing us with this amazing experience! There are more pictures of the field trip on the next page!

# Making Menorahs Continued



## HANUKKAH BOOK REVIEWS

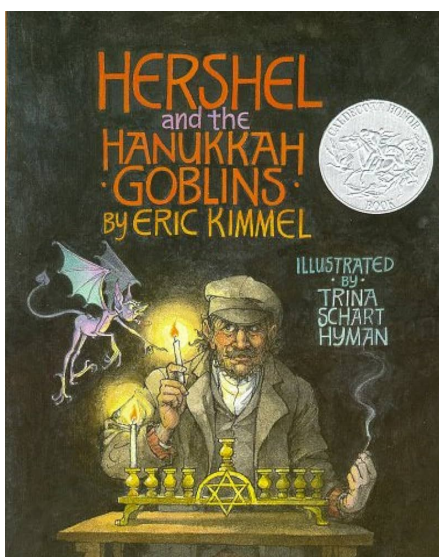
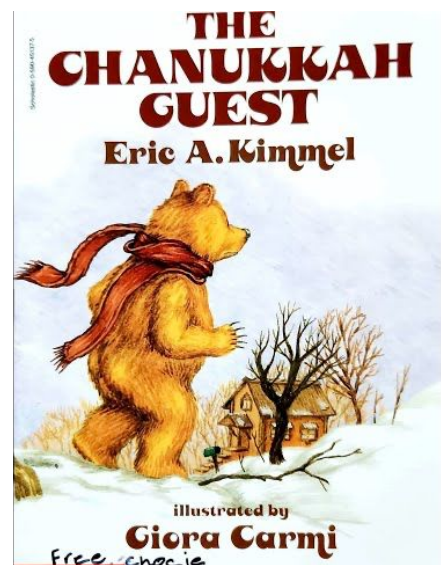


Sadie's Almost Marvelous Menorah is written by Jamie Korngold and illustrated by Julie Fortenberry. This is a 20 page picture book about a girl named Sadie who loves Hanukkah. She goes to a Hebrew school (like Hillel). In Sadie's school she and her classmates are making Menorahs when something very shattering happens. My favorite part of the book is when Sadie's Shammash gets a new name: Sadie's super Shammash. If you like making crafts for Hanukkah then you should read this book.

By Johan Kaminsky

This is a review of the book The Chanukkah Guest, written by Eric A Kimel and illustrated by Giora Carmi. This is a picture book. Bubbe Brayna makes the best latkes around. The rabbi is coming to her party, but a bear comes instead. My favorite part of the book is when she tries to take off the bear's coat. If you like short, funny, stand alone books you will like The Chanukkah Guest.

By By Zalman Slonim



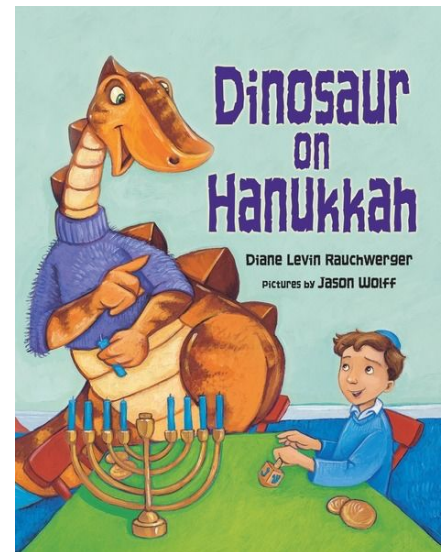
Hello I'm doing a book review on the book Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins written by Eric Kimmel. It is a picture book about a man named Hershel who came to a town on the first night of Hanukkah and saw no menorahs in the windows. He asked the rabbi why, and this is what the rabbi said "the goblins don't let us celebrate Hanukkah". The only way to stop them is to light the menorah all 8 nights. But, be warned, the goblin king comes on the 8th night and he must light the candles for the spell to be broken. My favorite part of the book is when he plays dreidel with a goblin. I recommend this book for people who like monsters and Hanukkah.

By Avromy Chein

# HANUKKAH BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED

By Lilly Foster

This is a book review on Dinosaurs on Hanukkah. In the book there is a dinosaur who comes on Hanukkah. My favorite part is when the dinosaur makes latkes. If you like rhyming books and dinosaurs, this is the Hanukkah book for you.



## LET'S DISCOVER HANUKKAH

By Jonah Kaminsky

On December 14th, most of the Hillel Academy students went to the Discovery Center, which is a place where you can learn about different things, for their Hanukkah celebration. At the discovery center we all gathered into a room where we sang songs, read 2 books then ate donuts (yummy). Then the kids went off and played. There were some crafts like: a menorah necklace, coloring sheets, and shalom folds. I asked Avromy what he thought of the event and he said "I thought it was a good experience and a good way for the community to learn about Hanukkah". That is it for this article I hope you enjoyed!



# Hanukkah Treats and Eats

Camilo Azzellini Sitrin



-Gelt: Hanukkah Gelt is a very popular food for Jews all over the world at this time of year. It was originally real money, but in the mid-1900s, it had mostly been replaced by chocolate coins, wrapped in golden foil.



-Latkes: Latkes are potato pancakes that are particularly popular on Hanukkah. Classic potato latkes are made from shredded potatoes, grated onions, eggs, and flour. They are then fried in a pan, causing them to gain their characteristic outside-crispiness and inside-tenderness.



-Sufganiyot: These delicious desserts are another common Hanukkah food. They are very sweet donuts, usually filled with jelly, jam, or, increasingly, chocolate. There are many Sufganiyot equivalents all over the world: Berliners in Germany, Bomboloni in Italy, and Pączki in Poland. (Though, funnily enough, Berliners are known as such nearly everywhere in Germany except in Berlin, where they go by a different name!)



-Kugel: Kugel is a common dish, on Hanukkah, as well as at regular times. It is a baked casserole, usually made from egg noodles or shredded potatoes. Fun Fact: When it was first made about 800 years ago, Kugel was actually savory rather than sweet. Not until much later were sweeter elements incorporated.



# JCC HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

Hello, on December 15th the JCC had their annual Hanukkah event, for the community. We came and met in the lobby for a few minutes, then we went outside to light the menorah. We lit it with a torch and Rae said the brachot. Then we went inside and watched the JCC youth perform. Hillel students performed after and then we watched the Hanukkah video. Finally people ate latkes, coleslaw, tuna and lemonade before heading home.



By Avromy Chein

*On behalf of the entire AJAI team, thanks for reading and we will see you next year!!*

