

The Jewish Traveler

HANUKKAH AT SEA ABOARD THE PEARL

By Maxine Silverstein

Gary and I had a wonderful experience this past Hanukkah. We were invited to participate in the inaugural sailing of Norwegian Cruise Line's new Norwegian Pearl. After this initial sailing for the travel industry, NCL invited us to stay on this beautiful new ship. Our four-night sailing cruised to Key West and Cozumel, and also had a full day at sea. This particular cruise was during Hanukkah, and I was very interested in seeing what Hanukkah activities would be onboard. I was not disappointed at all.

Hanukkah was celebrated every evening at sundown, and the attendance was amazing to me. There was such a different assortment of guests at every service – singles and couples, young and old, and lots of families with children. At least fifty guests were there every night for this delightful celebration. Rabbi Ralph Kingsley, a retired Reform rabbi from North Miami Beach performed the



Rabbi Kingsley conducting Hanukkah services



The bowling alley on board



Gary & Maxine at services

nightly Hanukkah service. All the children in attendance were involved. Rabbi Kingsley had different prayers for each night. We sang lots of different Hanukkah songs. Afterwards potato latkes and apple sauce were served. The potato latkes were more like tater tots but enjoyed by all. This was a fantastic treat, and a great way to celebrate Hanukkah aboard a fabulous cruise ship. What a wonderful way to combine Hanukkah

with a great family vacation at sea. Your family can all be together for this celebration and also enjoy an incredible cruise experience.

Chances are you'll treasure everything about the Norwegian Pearl. This big, new, beautiful ship offers a world of amenities that will wow you. Imagine twelve unique restaurants, including Asian dishes at Lotus Garden, French at Le Bistro, tapas at Mambos, steak and chops at

Cagney's and so much more. There's even a bowling alley – the very first one at sea with four bowling lanes – and a rock climbing wall. We did not have a chance to bowl, but all the guests that did bowl thought it was lots of fun and a very different cruise experience. The entertainment is endless with dazzling Broadway- and Vegas-style shows onboard every night. There is also an art gallery to help you expand your horizons and an

Internet café to help you keep in touch. Whether you want to work out or chill out there is also a great health spa and fitness center with the newest exercise equipment. These new ships have something for everyone and are like floating mega hotels.

This turned out to be a wonderful relaxing vacation, and we also got to experience fabulous nightly Hanukkah services. This is a great way to unite Hanukkah with a cruise experience. It's definitely something I would like to do again with my family. ☆

Jewish Family Services

Fourth Annual Hanukkah Party

Jewish Family Services celebrated Hanukkah with Jewish residents of nursing homes for the fourth year in 2006. More than 75 people attended.

The Annual JFS Hanukkah party means so much to many of these people. For some it is among the few times they leave their facilities when they are not visiting a doctor's office. For many others, it is one of only a handful of opportunities they have to be in a room



Bea Gibbs, Morris Kaye(z"l), and Jonathan Carr light the candles on the Chanukah menorah.

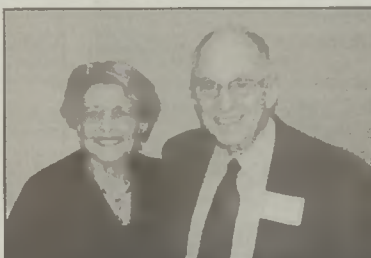
surrounded by other Jewish people, celebrating a Jewish holiday and eating Jewish food. All of the guests enjoy reconnecting with their Jewish roots and are so appreciative of Bea Gibbs and the Senior Outreach program at Jewish Family Services. ☆

Job Seekers Support Group

Temple Israel and Jewish Family Services are co-sponsoring a newly formed Job Seekers Support Group. The first meeting will be held on February 22 from 6-7:30. The group will meet in the board room at Temple Israel. All members of the Jewish community seeking employment or looking to change jobs or careers are invited to attend. ☆

Jewish Family Services Annual Meeting Standing Room Only

Lerner Hall was filled to capacity and beyond in honor of Jewish Family Services. Rabbi Ezring formally dedicated the new JFS space with a mezuzah hanging ceremony and community members toured the JFS space – inspecting the enlarged Food Pantry, offices and Play Therapy space. Karen Knoble, Board President presided over a brief Annual Meeting, debuted JFS' first video and honored Alan Goldberg with a "Lifetime Achievement Award". Next on the Agenda was Michael Kahn, a Counselor, Life Coach and Cinematherapist. Michael guided guests through an interactive discussion on Jewish caretaking in films. He selected a wide range of movies including:



Alan Goldberg, pictured here with his wife Ruth, received the "Lifetime of Achievement Award" at the JFS Annual Meeting.

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