

## Chanukah 5774 News at Aleph



The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections pulls through once again for the Jewish inmates; all institutions are permitting the lighting of Chanukah candles at the right time in the evenings (besides Friday night) in the Chapel.

Although the Jewish prisoner will not be receiving doughnuts or latkes, they will be able to celebrate the lighting of the menorah in the Chapel with fellow Jewish inmates. The lighting of the candles will be supervised by a staff member or by the Rabbi at the institution and they will be able to listen to the message of Chanukah.

The Message of Chanukah is so pertinent to the inmate. It speaks of a minority overcoming the evil majority, and it speaks of prevailing despite the odds. The candles teach us to do what is right and that G-d makes those candles last miraculously for a full eight days, until more oil can arrive.

The obstacles the Jewish inmates face both during incarceration, that of being a small number in a controlled environment and the challenges that all inmates face upon re-entry, can seem overwhelming, both to them and their families. During Chanukah we learn that despite the odds we can persevere.

For more information about the Chanukah Re-entry Programs, please contact the office.