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Open to Jewish full-time undergraduate or graduate students who are metro Detroit residents.



Jews in the D

COURTESY OF THE SHUL

Light the Night

What to know about Menorah in the D.

STEFANI CHUDNOW CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Being among the most vibrant and close-knit Jewish communities nationwide, Detroit is a wonderful place to be during the Jewish holidays. Chanukah is certainly no exception, thanks to the folks behind Menorah in the D.

Every year for the past nine years on the first night of Chanukah, The Shul-Chabad Lubavitch of West Bloomfield hosts a free celebration and menorah lighting in Downtown Detroit's Campus Martius/Cadillac Square. This year, plan on joining them on Sunday, Dec. 22, as they usher in the Chanukah holiday with Detroiters of all ages.

"People from all walks of life come together to launch Chanukah for the city of Detroit and ignite a flame that will bring warmth and light to the hearts of so many and transform darkness into light," said Rabbi Kasriel Shemtov, spiritual director of The Shul-Chabad Lubavitch. "For the Jewish community, it's a moment of inspiration and pride."

Beginning at 4:30 p.m., entertainment and refreshments will be available for everyone to enjoy, including a marshmallow roasting pit, face painting, balloon sculpting, horse-drawn carriage rides and a complimentary snack bar. Chef Cari Kosher Catering will also be

providing kosher food for purchase from her food truck.

At 5 p.m., the lighting ceremony of the 26-foot menorah will commence. Designed by Erik and Israel Nordin of the Detroit Design Center, this menorah will be lit by significant members of the Metro Detroit community. This year, one of the torchbearers will be Nick Gilbert, son of Jennifer and Dan Gilbert of Quicken Loans and the Gilbert Foundation. Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence of Michigan's 14th District will also be there. Following the lighting ceremony, stick around for live music and a fire show.

Menorah in the D represents so much more than inviting Chanukah into the year. It also symbolizes the Jewish community coming together in times of challenge.

"The menorah lightnings this year come during a tense time in the country, amid concern about a rise in racism and anti-Semitism," publicist Sari Cicurel said. "Therefore, this event brings everyone together for the spirit of this holiday and highlights the beautiful stories of those lighting the Menorah." □

The Shul is still accepting sponsorships and volunteers. To learn more, call (248) 788-4000 or the Menorah in the D hotline at (313) 757-2028, visit menorahinthed.com or email info@menorahinthed.com.