

Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah Contribution
Collaboration between Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, Stroum Jewish
Community Center and The PJ Library®.

Summary: The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle (JFED) and the Stroum Jewish Community Center (SJCC) partnered to sponsor the community Hanukkah celebration on December 5, 2010. The main attraction was a play, created by the JCC's Center Stage Director, Deborah Jacoby, using the PJ Library book Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah.

Timeline: We sat down with Deborah in September and planned out the book. Then in October we began to find students interested in acting. It was a small cast with 5 parts, and the students who made the commitment ranged from experience teen actors to first timers. The script was complete by the end of October and rehearsals began in November.

Successes: The students were fantastic. Each of them took their parts seriously and the synergy of the cast was flawless. On the day of the performance, the students were prepared and the play was a huge success documented in our post event survey to families. We had over 500 audience members with two showings during the Hanukkah event.

In addition, we purchased the book directly from the publisher so that everyone who attended the event received a copy of the book. We also made sure to put our PJ Library information in the book so they could sign-up to receive more books like the one they saw on stage!

Challenges: Deborah Jacoby was already scheduled to be out of town during the day of the performance and the teens missed her. In addition, the SJCC doesn't have a wireless microphone system, so at times it was tough to hear the actors.

Future: Unfortunately, Deborah Jacoby is no longer working for the SJCC. Therefore, it is uncertain if we will have a dedicated and talented director for future programming. However, we would like to consider doing this again if we have the right group.

Attached: Script of Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah

Bring your family and friends for a fun,
interactive Festival of Lights celebration.



**COMING
HOME for
HANUKKAH**
A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 5 · 11am-2pm

Stroom Jewish Community Center

3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island



Join *The PJ Library*® and
Stroom Jewish Community Center Stage
at a special live production
of *Ms. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah*.

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Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah 2010

A short play
Based on the book Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah
By Linda Glaser

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At Rise: *Dim light on the stage. Rachel, frozen, sits on the ledge of the stage. Mama and Papa are frozen stage left as Papa is helping Mama put on her coat. Spotlight on Rachel*

RACHEL

Tonight is the first night of Hanukkah and I can't WAIT to make potato latkes! I've been bugging Mama all day, but she insists that we wait until the relatives come next week! I love Hanukkah. For me, Hanukkah is delicious latkes and lots of company...

Mama and Papa unfreeze and continue to put on some layers to leave the house

MAMA

Rachel?

RACHEL

Yes Mama?

Rachel stands. Mama and Papa walk towards her.

MAMA

Are you ready to leave? Papa and I need to run some errands. Please get your coat on.

RACHEL

But Mama...are you sure we can't make latkes instead? It's the first night of Hanukkah! And... it's yucky outside anyway!

She runs to stage left and grabs the menorah and puts it downstage left.

RACHEL

It's just not Hanukkah without it!

Rachel hugs Mama tight. Mama grabs Rachel's hands and bends down to level.

MAMA

Don't you worry, Rachel, we'll light candles as a family and I promise it will still be Hanukkah. C'mon on my little latke, let me get you your coat!

RACHEL

Wait, Mama, can I go to Mrs. Greenberg's instead? Please!

MAMA

Oh I don't know, Rachel...

PAPA

I don't think Mrs. Greenberg wants a little monkey hanging around today

RACHEL

Please, I'll keep Mrs. Greenberg company! You don't need to worry, I won't cause ANY trouble!

MAMA & PAPA

If you won't be any trouble...

RACHEL

I'm NEVER any trouble!

Rachel runs off stage right. Papa and Mama exchange a smile and walk after her.

MAMA

Rachel, wait!

BLACK OUT

Lights up. Mrs. Greenberg is on the phone stage right.

MRS. GREENBERG

Yes, dear, thank you for the Hanukkah card! I love it! Now, even though you are far away, I have your smiling faces on my mantle! Oh, Barry, I have to get going, I see my little neighbor Rachel running over!

Rachel runs onstage and hugs Mrs. Greenberg

MRS. G

Well, hello there! What a lovely surprise!

RACHEL

Mrs. Greenberg, can we make latkes? Please!

Mrs. G

Rachel, it's been quite a long time since I've made Latkes... and it's a bit messy with all that grating and frying...

RACHEL

But Mama and Papa would be so surprised.

MRS. G

That's very true Rachel. I think I have all the ingredients we need...

RACHEL

Do you have potatoes?

MRS. G

Why, yes I do!

RACHEL

Do you have eggs?

MRS. G

Yes!

RACHEL

Do you have flour?

MRS. G

Yes, I believe so!

RACHEL

Do you have oil? Enough oil to remember of the miracle when it lasted 8 days?!

MRS. G

(She laughs) Yes, Rachel I do! It looks like we can do something special for your Mama and Papa, let's get started!

RACHEL

Yay! I'll grab the potatoes!

Rachel walks off SR and grabs a sack of potatoes. Mrs. G smooths out the table cloth and walks upstage to grab two potato peelers. Rachel returns sets the sack down and grabs two potatoes out. Mrs. G puts an apron on Rachel

MRS. G

There you are! Now do you know how to peel a potato Rachel?

RACHEL

Yes, I do Mrs. Greenberg. Watch!

Rachel excitedly starts to grate her potato as Mrs. G grates slowly and meticulously.

RACHEL

Oops! Mrs. Greenberg, most of my potato ended up on the floor!

MRS. G

OY! (She motions to the audience) **What a mess!** Oh, don't worry Rachel, I'll mop it up later. A little grated potato never harmed anyone! How about I grab some eggs for you to crack in a bowl.

Mrs. G grabs a carton of eggs and a bowl and sets them down next to Rachel

RACHEL

Mama taught me how to crack an egg just right! I have to make sure no shell falls into the mix!

MRS. G

Great, why don't you show me!

Rachel pulls out an egg and as she holds it up, it falls out of her hand and cracks on the floor.

RACHEL

Oops...

MRS. G

Oy! (She motions to the audience) **What a mess!** (Rachel grabs a mop) Oh no, Rachel, don't you worry. After all, what's a little egg between friends?

RACHEL

I'm just so excited for these latkes! I know what we need next! Flour!

MRS. G

Let me help you with that Rachel!

Rachel runs offstage to grab the flour.

RACHEL

I got it Mrs. G!

Rachel slowly drags in a huge bag of flour (It covers her face). It slowly starts to drop and flour starts to pour out. Mrs. G grabs it from her.

RACHEL

Oops!

MRS. G

OY! (She motions to the audience) **What a mess!** (Rachel grabs the broom) Oh, never mind that Rachel! I'll clean it up later. What's a little flour between friends?

RACHEL

Soon, when we are finished, it will really feel like Hanukkah!

MRS. G

I think we need to start frying up those latkes! Your mama and papa will be here any minute! Why don't you put some oil in the pan Rachel.

Rachel takes the bottle from Mrs. G

RACHEL

Mama always uses plenty of oil, because then we can remember the miracle that happened when the oil lasted for 8 days!

She begins to pour, but the oil comes gushing out

RACHEL

Oops!

MRS. G

Oy! (She motions to the audience) **What a mess!** (Rachel reaches for the mop). Don't bother Rachel!

Mrs. G sits down in chair and puts her hands on her head in exasperation.

MRS. G

I just need a few moments to rest Rachel... What's a little oil after all this!

Rachel looked at Mrs. G and looked around at all the mess. Then she looked down at the floor in despair.

Mama and Papa enter SR.

PAPA

Hellooo? Anybody home?

Mama and Papa take one big look around.

MAMA

Oh no!

RACHEL

Surprise! We wanted to make latkes for you, for Hanukkah!

PAPA & MAMA

(They motion to the audience) **What a mess!**

MAMA

Rachel, what have you done?

RACHEL

I.. I just wanted to do something special for Hanukkah. I didn't mean to make such a mess... I'm sorry.

Mrs. Greenberg gets up from her chair and takes Rachel's hands.

MRS. G

Oh, Katchkeleh, you dear little duck! It's not a terrible mess. It's a **WONDERFUL** mess! My house has not felt this lived in years!

RACHEL

(A big smile appears) Really? Well, I can make it lived-in anytime you want!

MRS. G

Oh, my darling, I'm sure you can!

RACHEL

Mrs. Greenberg, now I really think it's time I cleaned up!

MRS. G

No, no, not to worry, I'll take care of that later.

PAPA

Do us a favor, sit down and relax Mrs. Greenberg. Rachel and I will help you clean everything!

RACHEL

Yeah! That's right! We want to do it.

Mama puts on her apron and walks offstage as Papa and Rachel clean up the mess and set the table. Mama returns with a plate of latkes and sets them on the table. Rachel gets the menorah and sets it on the table as well.

RACHEL

Mrs. Greenberg, will you light the candles and say the blessing?

MRS. G

Yes, thank you Rachel. Why don't we say them together?
(She lights the candles) Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam,
Asher kid'shanu b'mitzvosav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah"

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam, She'asah nisim
la'avoseinu, bayamim ha'hem baz'man hazeh

Baruch ata Ado-nai, Elo-heinu Melech ha'olam, She'hecheyanu,
vekiyemanu vehigi'anu laz'man hazeh

RACHEL

Thank you, Mrs. Greenberg.

MRS. G

Don't thank me. Thank YOU! I've got latkes and company.

RACHEL

You sure do!

Rachel gives Mrs. Greenberg a big hug

RACHEL

Now this feels like Hanukkah!

BLACKOUT