

*"Who can tell
Jewish hero stories?
We can!"*

Early Zionist
Chanukah song

Clal— The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Founded in 1974, Clal—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership is a think tank, leadership training institute, and resource center. Bringing Jewish insights to a wide American audience, Clal makes Jewish wisdom an accessible public resource. A leader in religious pluralism, Clal builds bridges across communities to encourage diversity and openness. Linking Jewish texts and tradition with innovative scholarship, Clal promotes Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life, reinvigorating communities and enhancing leadership development.

Clal's diverse faculty, with its reputation for excellence, provides cutting-edge teaching, lectures, programs, and consulting nationwide. Working with scholars, professionals, volunteer and religious leaders, Clal has earned a reputation for compelling programs that explore religious and American identity. Joining with experts from diverse fields, Clal offers new perspectives on contemporary issues, reaching influential leaders, thinkers, and practitioners. Clal's publications and resources offer thought-provoking ideas, tools, and techniques that enrich people, communities, and institutions. In all of Clal's work, it strives to build vibrant Jewish life that is engaged in the intellectual and ethical challenges of the world.

Clal— The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership:

Brings

Jewish wisdom to the
American spiritual
landscape and makes it a
resource for all.

Builds

bridges across
communities to encourage
pluralism and openness.

Promotes

inclusive Jewish
communities in which
all voices are heard.

Nurtures

volunteer, professional
and rabbinic leadership
to build dynamic
communities and helps
people to re-imagine
Jewish life.

Enhances

Jewish participation
in American civic and
spiritual life.



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

**The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership**

**440 Park Avenue South
4th floor
New York, NY 10016-8012
212-779-3300
fax 212-779-1009
www.clal.org**

*Many Voices.
Strong Communities.
One People.*

©2009 Clal-The National Jewish
Center for Learning and Leadership

*What do
Judah Maccabee,
Igor Olshansky,
and You all have
in common?*

In a word—
HEROISM

*One was a hero, one is, and all of
us either could be or already are.
In an age when people question
whether there really are heroes
anymore, Chanukah reminds us
that there are always heroes
and we are them — if we give
ourselves permission.*



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

**The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership**

WE ALL KNOW THE STORY of brave, strong Judah and his brothers. But do we recall that he was a small town boy with few material or institutional resources at his disposal when he began his career? Do we remember that he is a hero because he lived his values, not because he became famous?

IN A CULTURE which too often substitutes celebrity for heroism, we need to recall that part of the story also. It's the part which reminds us that everyone is already a hero, or at least has the capacity to be one. It's the part of the story that reminds us that no matter who we are, we can live according to our most deeply held values and proudly share them with others. That's what Igor Olshansky does.

The 6'6", 315 lb. Dallas Cowboys defensive end with Stars of David tattooed on his shoulders arrived in America from Ukraine in 1989. Fiercely proud of his Jewishness and happy to tell all listeners that it defines his efforts to be a good person, Igor, too, is a hero living his values. And that is something each of us can also do.



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

EACH OF US, according to Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, is a living Chanukah candle capable of spreading our own inner light in the world and living a story of heroism by doing so. Like that little jar of oil which burned longer than anyone thought reasonable, we can live more brightly than we often imagine, even under the most difficult of circumstances.

LIKE JUDAH AND IGOR, each of us can live our most deeply held values in ways that not only improve our own lives, but contribute to the lives of those with whom we live and work.

This Chanukah, ask yourself:

What values do you hold that could be lived more fully and inspire those around you?

When have you done something heroic?

Remember, it doesn't have to be big to be real.

Who inspires you and how do they do so?

THIS CHANUKAH, remind at least one other person—your child, a friend, whomever you choose, that they, too, can be a hero by living their values out loud.