



# Rumblings & Ruminations



Newsletter from Sharon Snir for December 2006  
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**T**here are some months when I wonder whether Rumblings & Ruminations will actually happen.

I find myself sitting in a dark void where there is no sign of a bright idea. I ask myself, "What do I want to say this month?" The answer is always the same. Just wait. The idea will come to you.

This has been the most challenging of months for me. Our daughter left Australia to emigrate to Israel where her beloved lives. And although I am so happy she is following her heart, her leaving was heart breaking for me.

"Coincidentally" I have been unwell since she left. At times it seemed there was no light at the end of the tunnel. Yesterday, however, I felt I had truly turned the corner and am now on the road to full recovery.

Last Saturday I was in hospital having yet another procedure, and before my doctor did anything, I made him put on a yarmulke. That is a small skull cap worn by Jewish men when they pray. He was surprised yet willing to participant. Putting his around my shoulders he listened as I prayed in Hebrew that this procedure will be blessed by Spirit and bring about a full and speedy healing for me. I walked out of the hospital, certain that I would not need to do this again.

Whilst all this is happening my elderly parents struggle with problems of dementia and ill health. How to help? What to do? Where to go and what will be, are all questions that unfortunately do not always have an answer. Again it sometimes seems difficult to imagine a light at the end of the tunnel.

And yet I know the Light is there.

Tonight, we in my family will light the 4th candle of Chanukah. There are eight days in all. The festival of Chanukah reminds me that not only is there light at the end of the tunnel but in fact the Light never really went out.

The story of Chanukah is a story of a Miracle



In response to this persecution, Judah Maccabee and his four brothers organized a group of resistance fighters known as the Maccabees.

After three years of fighting, the Maccabees were finally successful in driving the Syrians out of Judea and reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem. The Maccabees wanted to clean the building and to remove the Greek symbols and statues. On the 25th day of the month of Kislev, the job was finished and the temple was rededicated.

In celebration, Judah and his followers wanted to light the eternal light known as N'er Tamid. The tradition goes that once the oil lamp is lit it must never be extinguished, and unfortunately there was only enough oil for one day. Nevertheless, Judah lit the oil lamp.

So now comes the miracle. The oil lasted a full eight days which gave everyone enough time to make more oil.

We celebrate this miracle by lighting one candle on the first day, two on the second three on the third and so on until there are eight candles burning brightly on the eighth day.

Sometimes friends bring over their Chanukia (candelabras) and each of us light the candles together. Can you imagine? It is such a radiant celebration of the infinite power of Light.

We can always shine more brightly. Physical Light is a mere reflection of our inner spark. There is no limit to how brightly we can shine.

Although a cloudy night can temporarily blind us to the starry sky it is only a matter of waiting a day or so until the clouds disappear millions and millions of night lights are revealed again.

Sitting in the dark void of nothing requires patience and trust.

Without patience and trust three wise old

