

Happy Legos!

Blocks from The Shul's 10-foot menorah will benefit needy children.

Photos by Angie Baan



Rabbi Kasriel Shemtov of The Shul, right, with U.S. Rep. Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, who lit the Legos menorah

Last year, it was a 12-foot menorah of donated cans of food for needy families. This year, it was a 10-foot menorah made from Legos.

On Dec. 13, more than 125 children and adults gathered at The Shul in West Bloomfield to construct a colorful contemporary menorah from the plastic building blocks. The construction took five hours. A trial run was held the week to make sure all would go well.

Many participants donated Legos or money to buy them. The blocks will later be donated as gifts to under-privileged children, according to Itty Shemtov, holiday director.

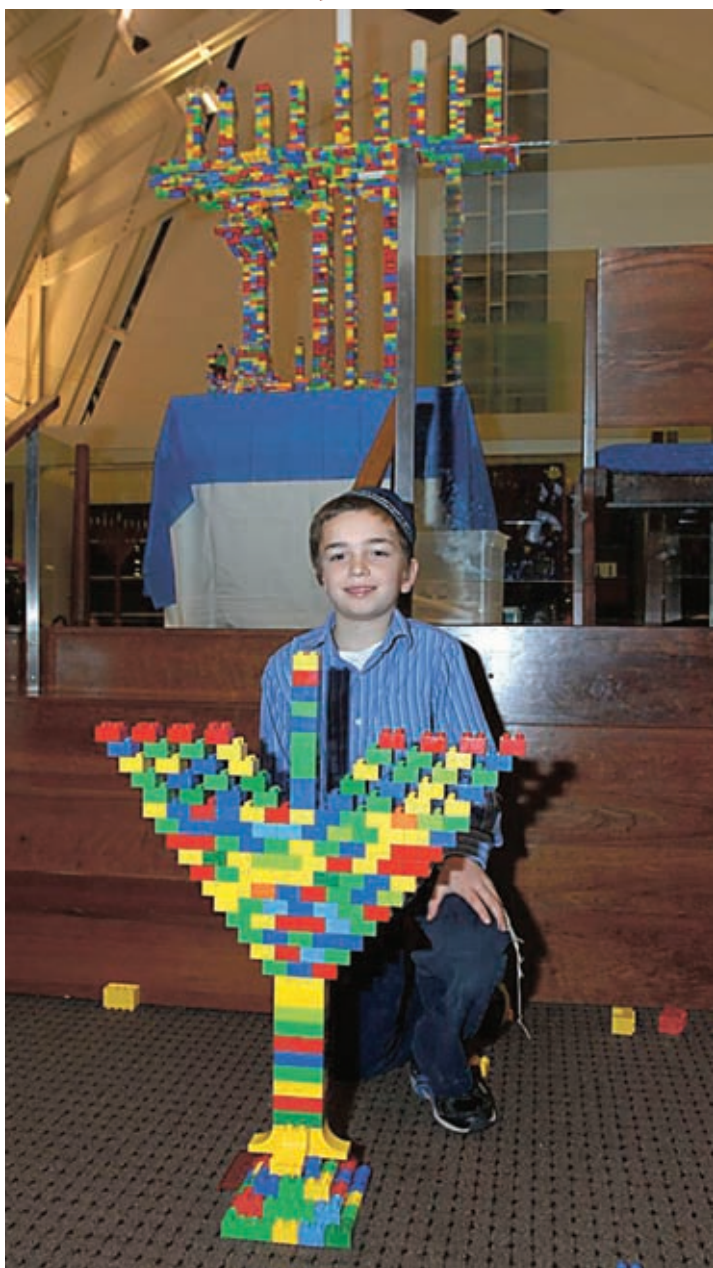
Families also enjoyed other festivities and refreshments.

A highlight of the event was when U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, lit the menorah to celebrate the miracle of Chanukah.

This week, children from The Shul's Hebrew school dismantled the menorah and packed the Legos in gift boxes so they can deliver them to the designated children.

"The Shul-Chabad Lubavitch would like to acknowledge the generous support of our Chanukah program by Federation's Alliance for Jewish Education and the DeRoy Testamentary Foundation," Shemtov said. "With this support, The Shul was able to participate in Federation's Artist-in-the-Schools program. We were fortunate to have Shawn Stearn, our artist-in-residence, work with the Hebrew school students to create the Lego menorah." □

— Keri Guten Cohen, story development editor



Yisrolik Shemtov, 9, of West Bloomfield with his own Legos menorah in front of the 10-foot menorah made at the event



Brian Weinstein of Farmington Hills dressed as Judah the Maccabi, Itty Shemtov (a director at The Shul) of West Bloomfield, Annette Newman of Waterford as Baby Cakes the clown and Max Stein, 9, of Farmington Hills



Above: Rudy Kellman, 8, of West Bloomfield



Left: Leon and Nita Bekker of West Bloomfield with their children, Ari, 6, and Elan, 4