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Hillel to Host Hanukkah Dinner

November 22, 2011

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – On Tuesday, Nov. 29, Illinois Wesleyan University's Jewish student religious organization, Hillel, will host a Hanukkah dinner. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 6 p.m. in the Davidson Room of the Memorial Center (104 University St., Bloomington). No reservations are necessary.

Held annually, the dinner features traditional Jewish food including kugel, a sweet Jewish noodle dish, and beef brisket. Traditional Jewish prayers are said before the meal and a rabbi will speak.

Hanukkah, which begins this year on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 20 and runs through Wednesday, Dec. 28, commemorates the recapture of the Jewish temple from the Syrians in 165 BCE by a Jewish group called the Maccabees. The Maccabees rededicated their temple to God, but only had enough oil to light the temple lamps for one night. The oil lasted for eight days, allowing the Maccabees to prepare more oil. Every year Jewish families celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah by lighting one candle each night for the eight nights on the menorah, a particular kind of candelabra, and exchanging gifts.

For additional information on the event, contact the Office of Communications at (309) 556-3181.

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