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## **IWU Celebrates Hanukkah**

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## **IWU Celebrates Hanukkah**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's Jewish student religious organization, Hillel, will host a Hanukkah dinner on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. in the Davidson Room located in the Memorial Center (104 University St., Bloomington).

The program is open to the public.

The dinner, held annually, 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 on the evening of Dec. 21 and runs through Dec. 29th, 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, contact the Office of University Communications at (309) 556-3181.