

# American Jewish World Hanuka Cover Contest Winner: Isa Melendez

The 29th annual AJW Hanuka Cover Contest, for students in grades 1-8, called on young artists in the community to create a work relating to the Festival of Lights. This year's competition saw some brilliant artworks submitted, making it especially difficult to single out just one for special recognition and reproduction on this edition's front page.

We are proud to announce that Isa Melendez is the winner of this year's Hanuka Cover Contest.

Isa, 11, is in the sixth grade at Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School in St. Louis Park. She is the daughter of Shana Krupp Melendez and Michel Melendez, of Plymouth. She has an older brother, Marco, and a younger sister, Mia.

During a phone interview this week, Isa explained, vis-à-vis her colorful, Hanuka-themed artwork, which was done with color pencils, that "I just thought that it would look dramatic, with darkness surrounding the candlelight." The



Isa Melendez

AJW judges were impressed by the painterly quality of Isa's illustration.

The hanukia with all candles lit appears under the words "Light in the Darkness" — also in Hebrew translation.

In this difficult year, we likely can agree that more light, more positivity

is needed.

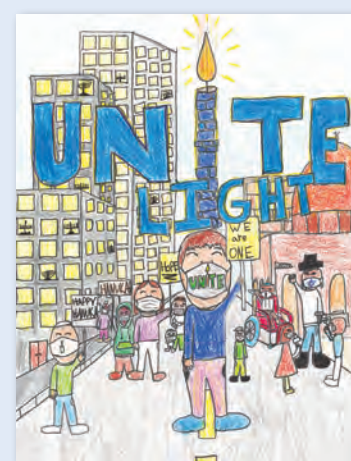
At Heilicher, Isa enjoys language arts and art classes. Outside of school, she likes figure skating and downhill skiing. When I asked about where she goes to ski, she responded, "Vermont." Her mother explained that the family used to live in New York; they moved to the Twin Cities a year and a half ago.

As this year's winner, Isa will receive a gift card, a customized ball cap ("American Jewish World Hanuka Contest Winner"), chocolate Hanuka gelt, Bamba peanut puffs from Israel and a certificate suitable for framing courtesy of the American Jewish World.

We congratulate all of the artists who entered our contest this year — they're all winners in our book. We appreciate the time and effort spent on creating Hanuka-themed pictures. For Isa and those still eligible to enter, we

hope to see your work again next year!

— Mordecai Spektor



**1st RUNNER-UP**  
Avi Herman,  
5th Grade  
Heilicher Minneapolis  
Jewish Day School



**2nd RUNNER-UP**  
Meir Shlomo Feller,  
4th Grade  
Lubavitch Cheder  
Day School



**3rd RUNNER-UP**  
Rishi Goldberg,  
7th Grade  
Lubavitch Cheder  
Day School



**YOUNG LIGHTS HONOREE**  
Pearl Freidberg,  
2nd Grade  
The Newman School,  
Talmud Torah of St. Paul

**LIGHT CANDLES**  
December 4  
4:13 p.m.  
December 11  
4:13 p.m.  
December 18  
4:15 p.m.  
December 25  
4:19 p.m.

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[community@ajwnews.com](mailto:community@ajwnews.com)

## Hanuka Cover Contest Participants:

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Elissa Badzin         | Yankel Goldberg             |
| Sam Belenky           | Sheina Grossbaum            |
| Shalom Dov Ber Belzer | Yossi Grossbaum             |
| Shira Liba Belzer     | Avi Herman                  |
| Chana Bendet          | Dahlia Herman               |
| Mendel Bendet         | Rayna Kaufman               |
| Annie Berdass         | Rosalie King                |
| Myra Berdass          | Spencer Lorberbaum          |
| Ruthie Berdass        | Isa Melendez                |
| Amichai Davis         | Mia Melendez                |
| Eliora Estrin         | Eliza Miller                |
| Meir Shlomo Feller    | Isabella Margulis           |
| Shaya Feller          | Delilah Rajkowski           |
| Abby Fefferman        | Ilsa Rajkowski              |
| Pearl Freidberg       | Chaim Yechiel Rubinfeld     |
| Esty Friedman         | Zeev Velvel Schluss         |
| Raizy Friedman        | Menachem Mendel Silberstein |
| Shalom Friedman       | Leah Steiner                |
| Bentzi Goldberg       | Mussi Steiner               |
| JoJo Goldberg         | Eliana Weiss                |
| Mendel Goldberg       | Noah Winthrop               |
| Rishi Goldberg        |                             |
| Sheina Goldberg       |                             |

## The American Jewish World

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**Mordecai Spektor**  
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Proofreader  
**IIZE Mueller**

Assistant Editor  
**Adrian Glass-Moore**

Production Coordinator  
**Monte Gruhlke**

Founders **Rabbi Samuel Deinard** and **L.H. Frisch**  
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# Candles & Politics



HAPPY HANUKKAH

**Zoom conversation with Minnesota's legislative leaders following candle-lighting and honoring of retiring Senators Dick Cohen and Paul Anderson**

**Tuesday, December 15  
7:30 pm**

Visit [minndakjrc.org/events](http://minndakjrc.org/events) to register