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### **Faith Matters**

Saturday, December 16, 2006

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<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061216/NEWS01/612160347/-1/all>

### **RABBI SPREADING NEW THOUGHT**

Rabbi Tom Heyn, who retired as rabbi at Cedar Village in Mason this year, is spreading a unique message to synagogues across the country with his words and his music.

Heyn has been on a speaking tour, offering Jewish congregations what he calls an "integral" approach to the faith.

"The different facets of the human experience have much in common and can be understood through science and spirituality. That leads to a broader, more inclusive understanding of the human experience," he said. "There are common truths in many faith traditions."

This weekend Heyn finds himself speaking about Hanukkah as it relates to this integral thought to a Humanistic Jewish congregation in Westchester County, N.Y.

"There are rich images of Hanukkah reflected in other faiths as well," he said. "At the darkest time of the year, it's when we see the most light. Most of our world's traditions have a festival of light, many around this time of year. That's not a coincidence.

"There's a thought of driving away the darkness that is universal and common to the human experience," he said.

Hanukkah, which began Friday at sundown, continues for eight nights.

It commemorates a miracle following the Jewish people's fight with the Greeks to express their faith in 165 B.C.E. They rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem.

The miracle was that one day's oil for the lamps lasted for eight nights until more oil could be pressed.

Heyn said the roots of the holiday also celebrate the freedom of religion Americans often take for granted.

"In the country and cultural environment we live in now, we're fortunate there's a lot of religious freedom. Now we need to take that to the next level. What are we going to do with that freedom?" he said. "There's an essential relationship between freedom and responsibility."

For more information about Heyn, visit [www.rabbitom.com](http://www.rabbitom.com).

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