

Chanukah Programming Featured on NET Television

LINCOLN, Neb. (Nov. 13, 2009) -- Programs focusing on Jerusalem and Chanukah will be featured on NET Television during December.

For more than 40 centuries, untold numbers of Jews, Christians and Muslims have gone to Jerusalem to look for God, while billions more have worshiped from afar. **“Jerusalem: Center of the World,”** airing Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 9 p.m. CT on NET1 and in high-definition on NET-HD, delves into the historical facts and religious beliefs that have led so many thousands to live and die for this city.

Host Ray Suarez, senior correspondent of PBS’ “The NewsHour,” together with an outstanding roster of historians and scholars, explores the founding of the city and the birth and convergence of the world’s three major monotheistic religions. He lends voice to the key events in the city’s history as described in the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, the Talmud, the Hagaddah, the Koran and the Hadith, and takes viewers through Jerusalem’s constantly shifting role in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Actress Fran Drescher hosts a fun-filled hour celebrating Chanukah. Airing Thursday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD, **“A Chanukah Celebration”** is filled with stories, ideas and information to bring new meaning to the holiday season.

The program features a delicious dessert from chef, author and television host Jeff Nathan (New Jewish Cuisine); home celebration and decorating tips from TLC’s Teresa Strasser (While You Were Out); musical performances from popular recording artist Craig Taubman and some very special guest artists; a contemporary telling of the “Eight Lights of Chanukah” by Irwin Kula, leading teacher of Jewish learning and host of Simple Wisdom With Irwin Kula.

“A Chanukah Celebration” will be repeated on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

Hosted by internationally renowned Jewish musician Craig Taubman, **“Lights! Celebrate Hanukkah Live in Concert”** celebrates the holiday by bringing together an eclectic group of performers, many of them well-known in the Jewish music scene. The hour-long program airs Thursday, Dec. 17, at 10 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

With high energy and old-country charm, the Grammy Award-winning Klezmatics share songs from their hit Hanukkah album, while Cantor Alberto Mizrahi -- the “Jewish Pavarotti” -- wows the audience with his Middle-Eastern rendition of “Ocho Kandelikas.”

Michelle Citrin, whose YouTube videos “Rosh Hashanah Girl” and “Twenty Things to Do With Matzah” have received millions of views, gets the crowd singing along to Peter Yarrow’s “Light One Candle.” Emmy Award-winner Mare Winningham, a recent convert to Judaism, tells her unique story through “A Convert Jig,” while Grammy Award-nominee and top-selling saxophonist Dave Koz transforms “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” into a song about hope -- and a potential new Hanukkah classic. Multi-instrumentalist Josh Nelson leads a children’s choir in

the moving ballad “L’Dor Vador,” and gospel singer Joshua “The Prince” Nelson puts a new spin on “I Have a Little Dreidel.”

Host Taubman performs a number of songs, including his original compositions “Shehechianu” (with his sister, Cantor Caren Glasser), “Holy Ground” (with dance troupe BodyTraffic) and the traditional melody “Maoz Tzur” (a duet with multi-Grammy Award-winner Laurence Juber).

NET1 and NET-HD are part of NET Television. NET Television is a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET’s Web site (netNebraska.org/television).

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NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.