



Wednesday, December 4, 2002

OU celebrates the spirit of Chanukah

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU web Writer

As part of the "December to Remember" events celebrating the spirit of the holidays, Oakland University held two events Dec. 3 to commemorate Chanukah.

More than 60 people gathered at noon in the **Recreation and Athletics Center** to challenge the Guinness World Record for simultaneous dreidel spinning. A dreidel is a four-sided top with a pointed bottom traditionally used in children's games during Chanukah.

Though the group fell short of the record of 358, everyone who participated, including many non-Jews, enjoyed the event and learned more about Chanukah traditions.

"We weren't able to set a world record, but it was still a very exciting event," said freshman political science major Rita Kamil, who is also vice president of OU's chapter of Hillel, an international organization of Jewish college students and young adults. "We'll have to try this again next year. It's very nice to see diversity represented on our campus through this type of programming."

Sophomore business major Tamar Katz said the dreidel spinning provided a good opportunity for OU's Jewish students to get to know each other better.

"We know that there are a lot of Jewish students on campus, but we don't all know each other," Katz said. "This event is a good way to inform the students we haven't yet met of the various Jewish activities we have at OU."

A reception was held afterward in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge, where students made and painted their own dreidels, sampled traditional Chanukah foods such as potato Latkahs and made their own Menorahs – ceremonial candleholders symbolizing the eight days of Chanukah.

"Events like this give everyone a chance to learn about Jewish traditions," said Lesley Weiss, program director of Hillel of Metro Detroit. "We would definitely like to get the word out that there is a Jewish student organization at OU with a lot of activities for students. We also have a lot of non-Jewish members and our organization is open to anyone ages 18-30."

To learn more about Jewish activities on campus and around Metro Detroit, visit the **Hillel of Metro Detroit** Web site or contact OU's **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

As part of the "December to Remember" events celebrating the spirit of the holidays, Oakland University held two events Dec. 3 to commemorate Chanukah. More than 60 people gathered at noon in the Recreation and Athletics Center to challenge the Guinness World Record for simultaneous dreidel spinning.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, December 4, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, December 4, 2002
Article Start Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2003