



READING EAGLE: JEREMY DREY

Mall celebration kicks off Hanukkah with food, fun

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As busy crowds of people rushed around the Berkshire Mall to finish their holiday shopping Thursday evening, one crowd was dancing in a circle and clapping their hands near a giant menorah

Rabbi Yosef Lipsker dances with the children during Hanukkah at the Mall festivities Thursday at the Berkshire Mall. "Today we're here to celebrate unity," Lipsker said.

and a band playing Hebrew songs.

Rabbi Yosef Lipsker of the Chabad Center of Berks County held the annual Hanukkah at the Mall in front of Boscov's, where about 100 people participated in menorah lighting, eating doughnuts and potato pancakes known as latkes, and dancing to the music of the Baal Shem Tov band.

Lipsker pointed out that everyone is so busy, they miss the chance to connect to one another's spirituality.

"Today we're here to celebrate unity," he said.

The band played lively modern and traditional Hebrew songs while children gathered in a circle in front of the stage and danced as the rest of the crowd clapped and sang along.

"The guy sings in Hebrew; it's nice," said Nimi Goldshtain, 43, who moved to Reading from Tel Aviv, Israel. He was at the event with his son Jaiden, 7.

"We have been waiting for it all year," Goldshtain said.