December 2006

The Gift of Caring

Hope Tomaselli
St. John Fisher College

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Living with Other Gods

2006
Winners
There once was a homeless man on the street,
  Cold and lonely on Christmas day.
The snow was beginning to numb his feet,
  And he needed a place to stay.

He knocked on the door of a modest house;
  A family answered the door.
Asked the man, “Could you spare a room tonight?
  For I can walk no more.”

The family at once let the stranger in
  And invited him to dine.
The man was grateful as they bowed their heads
  And prayed over food and wine.

When the food had been consumed,
  (They could eat not one bite more),
They invited the man to the living room –
  And what a surprise was in store!
The man stared at the Christmas tree,
   Lighted all aglow,
   And at the presents underneath,
   Wrapped up tight with bows.

   The family asked the man
   If he would sing a Christmas song,
   The man froze up in such a way
   They thought something was wrong.

The man wore such an odd expression,
   The family asked him why.
   The man said, “I’m so sorry
   But I am a Jewish guy.”

   The husband of the family said,
   “That is no problem here.
   If you don’t wish to sing, we will,
   And you can lend your ears.”

The man sat in a comfy chair,
   So relieved he sighed;
   And as the family started to sing,
   A tear came to his eye.

   He was so grateful sitting there,
   The family was so kind.
   Their acceptance of his religion
   Gave him peace of mind.

And when the family stopped their song,
   The man knew what to do;
   Said he, “You’ve shared so much with me,
   Now let me share with you.”

   The man reached in his pocket
   As the kids’ eyes shined with joy,
   And out he pulled a dreidel saying,
   “This is a Jewish toy.”

   The family spent the next hour
   Learning the dreidel game,
   And despite different religions,
   On that day they were the same.