



# Hanukkah

*Shining Light on Your Family's Celebration!*

## Happy Hanukkah!!!

As the days become shorter, and the fall holidays are long gone, we welcome the "Festival of Lights," the holiday of **Hanukkah**. Hanukkah is technically considered a minor Jewish festival, yet it ranks with Pesach and Purim as one of the most popular Jewish family holidays. The inspiring story of Hanukkah, the rituals which emerged from it, and the special Hanukkah games and foods combine to help raise Hanukkah to a level of adoration.

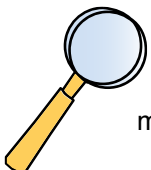
Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its destruction by the Syrian forces. A very important message of Hanukkah may be found in the name of the holiday itself: Dedication. When Jews dedicate themselves to high human principles, through devotion and actions such as **Tikkun Olam**, "repairing the world," Judaism is powerful. The celebration also recognizes the constant struggle to keep the light of Judaism in our lives. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, beginning on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. This is the date that the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated.

### Hanukkah Checklist

#### What You Need to Have a Bright Hanukkah!



- Hanukkah**, an eight branched Menorah
- 44 candles that fit into the Hanukkah
- Brachot** (Blessings) to say when you light the Hanukkah
- Dreidel
- Songs
- Hanukkah treats



Search for the magnifying glass insert to find our suggestions for **EIGHT GREAT IDEAS!!** Keep one of them in mind each night as you're lighting your Hanukkah!

# Hanukkah Story/Did You Know?



## Once Upon a Time...The Hanukkah Story

In the year 167 B.C.E., the king, Antiochus Epiphanes, ruled over the Jewish people in Judea and issued a law that all the people in his kingdom had to adopt the culture of the Greco-Syrians (oy gevalt!). This meant that the Jews would no longer be able to practice their own religious rituals such as observing Shabbat and celebrating together. The Greco-Syrians came to a Jewish village and set up an altar and commanded the Jews to show obedience to Antiochus. This angered many Jews. Mattathias, the old priest of the village and his five sons were particularly upset. They formed an army and called themselves the Maccabees (hammer) and were strong enough to defeat the Greco-Syrians and kick them out of Israel (yeah!).

Before his death, Mattathias put his brave son Judah Maccabee in charge of the growing army. After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Greco-Syrian army. When they reclaimed the Temple from its dirty state, they wanted to light the Menorah, as it was always lit in the Temple. They found a small jug of oil that still had a seal from the high priest, which meant that it was pure enough to be used in the Menorah of the Temple, but it was only enough to last one

day! When they lit the Temple Menorah with it, a miracle occurred, and the Menorah burned for eight days. Since then, we celebrate Hanukkah to remember the Maccabees and their miraculously successful fight for independence against the Greco-Syrians, and the miracle of the oil.

## Did You Know...

... that Jewish law strictly forbids gambling, except when it comes to the dreidel on Hanukkah?

... that the Israeli government minted coins to be used only for Hanukkah Gelt?

... that according to the Code of Jewish Law, Hanukkiot can be a maximum of 20 cubits high (each cubit equals 18 inches)? In 1997, a Menorah was built in Latrun, near the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Made of metal pipes this Menorah was more than 60-feet tall, weighed 17 metric tons, and took up an area of 600-square meters. A rabbi is lifted in a crane each night of the holiday to light the candles.


... that the amount of time that Hanukkah lasts is the same as that of the festival of Sukkot, and that during the year the Syrians had occupied the Temple, the Jews celebrated Sukkot during Hanukkah?


... that Hanukkah is not mentioned in the entire **Tanach**, the Jewish Bible?

... that when the Greco-Syrians occupied Israel, Jewish children were forbidden to study the Torah. However they continued to study in secret, and pretended to play with a spinning top, the dreidel game as we know it, when Greco-Syrian soldiers passed by?

... that one woman found 16 different ways to spell Hanukkah?  
How many different ways can you think of? Write them down!



 **Questioning:** What questions do you have about Hanukkah? Where can you find the answers? Why do we light candles? Why eight candles? Who were the Maccabees? If you have questions, ask your parents, your teachers, your rabbis, or check out Hanukkah websites or books!

 **Courage:** The Maccabees needed courage in order to defeat the bigger and stronger Syrian army. When do you need courage in your life? Do you ever feel that you have to fight for what you think is important?

# Lighting the Lights of Hanukkah



## Lighting the Hanukkiah

Although we light candles in our synagogues and we say special prayers, the most important practice of the holiday is lighting the Hanukkiah at home with our families, for eight nights.

There was a disagreement between two rabbis, Shammai and Hillel on how to light the candles. Shammai and Hillel lived almost two thousand years ago. Shammai wanted to start the holiday on the first day by lighting eight candles and decreasing the number by one each night, down to one candle on the eighth night to represent the amount of oil that lasted for eight days but decreased each day. Hillel said that we should add a candle each night for eight nights. This tradition has been accepted, and symbolizes the increasing amount of light and faith that are spread with each flame, and our responsibility as Jews to continue to share the heritage of Hanukkah and its ideas of hope and freedom into the world.

We fill our **Hanukkiot** (plural of *Hanukkiah*), as Hillel suggested, from right to left, just as we read Hebrew, and then we light them from the *opposite* direction, beginning with the newest candle.

In order to carry out the **Mitzvah** of lighting the Hanukkiah, at least one Hanukkiah is required per household. In many families, each person lights his or her own. Traditional Hanukkiot include nine separate lights, with eight of them on the same level. The last one, the **Shamash**, or worker candle, is placed higher or separately. The Shamash is lit first, and used to light each of the other eight candles. The candles should burn for at least a half an hour and the whole Hanukkiah, with candles burning, should be placed near a window for all to see. The lights are only to be dedicated to **Pirsum Ha'nes**, "publicizing the miracle." During the time that the candles are lit, one should not do any work! This includes leaving the dishes in the sink, waiting on that pile of laundry, and not doing homework while the candles are burning! If you want to make this time last longer, put your candles in the freezer before you light them, and they will burn for even longer!

Each night, as we light our Hanukkiot, we recite two Brachot. On the first night, we recite an additional blessing, the **Shechiyanu**, that is often said when we are doing something for the first time. Even though we lit Hanukkah candles last year, this is our first time doing it together *this* year.

## Blessings

### On all nights:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech ha'olam,  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

*Blessed are you, our God, Ruler of the Cosmos, who has sanctified us by Your commandments, and commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.*

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech ha'olam, sheasa nisim  
l'avotenu ba'yamim hahem ba'zman hazeh.

*Blessed are You, our God, Ruler of the Cosmos, who brought miracles upon our ancestors in past days and at this season.*

### On the first night only:

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheynu Melech ha'olam shehechyanu,  
v'kiyamanu, v'higianu la'zman ha'zeh.

*Blessed are you, our God, Ruler of the Cosmos, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר  
שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם  
וּבְזַמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

### Appreciation:

How do you appreciate your family? Take tonight, when the candles are burning to show the members of your family how you appreciate them. Which specific things do you appreciate?



# Hanukkah Games and Projects

## Make Your Own Hanukkiah!

To make a candle-burning Hanukkiah, just remember the guidelines: eight lights at the same height, for the eight nights, plus a Shamash set apart by height or location.

On a wooden base, glue any eight nonflammable objects in a row (plus one to the side for the Shamash) - try bolts, bottle caps, spools with bottle caps glued on top, or sea-shells.

Remember to light your Hanukkiah with adult supervision and to put it in a very safe place!

## Make a Hanukkiah Out of Your Hands!

*You will need:*

Colored Paper, Yellow or orange tissue paper, Crayons or markers, glue

1. Place your left hand on the left side of a sheet of paper so your wrist is even with the bottom of the page. Spread your fingers. Start at the bottom and trace around your four fingers. Don't trace your thumb!
2. Put your right hand on the right side of the paper and do the same.
3. Draw a large "candle" in the middle and connect it to your "candle" fingers.
4. Color the Hanukkiah and each of the candles. Glue bits of tissue paper for the flames.

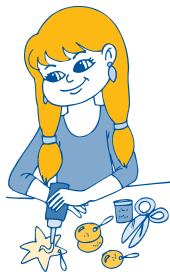
## Make a Candle Wax Catcher

*You will need:*

1 piece of 12" x 18" construction paper  
1 8.5" x 14" paper with the Hanukkah blessings written on it

1 piece of clear contact paper to cover both sides of the construction paper  
Hanukkah wrapping paper

Confetti, markers, and your imagination



1. Glue the Hanukkah blessings sheet to the center of the construction paper.
2. Cut out patterns, such as a dreidel or Hanukkiah on thick paper, and trace and cut the shapes out of Hanukkah wrapping paper.
3. Decorate with markers & confetti.
4. Carefully cover your Hanukkah candle wax catcher with a length of clear contact paper.
5. Put your wax catcher under your Hanukkiah to catch your Hanukkah candle drips.

## Can I Really EAT My Hanukkiah?!?

You can if you make the edible kind!

*You will need:*

- bread  
- cream cheese or butter  
- carrot sticks  
- pretzel sticks  
- raisins



Spread bread with cream cheese or butter. Arrange 8 pretzels as candles and a carrot stick as large candle in center. Use raisins as flames at the ends of the carrot and pretzels.

## Can I Really Eat My Dreidel?

*You will need:*

1 thin pretzel stick  
1 marshmallow  
peanut butter, marshmallow fluff or frosting  
1 chocolate kiss, unwrapped

Thread the marshmallow with the pretzel (push hard!) and add the chocolate kiss, pointy side down, to the bottom with peanut butter, marshmallow fluff or frosting. Makes one yummy dreidel.



## Arts & Crafts:

Participate as a family in a Hanukkah arts and crafts project. You will have it for the rest of the days of celebration.

## The Dreidel Game

A dreidel (or *sivivon*) is a four-sided top. On each side is a different Hebrew letter: נ (nun), ג (gimel), ה (heh) and פ (peh), corresponding to the words in the sentence "*nes gadol haya po*" ("A great miracle happened here").

Outside of Israel, the letter פ (peh) is replaced by ש (shin) for "*nes gadol haya sham*" ("A great miracle happened there"). The dreidel is used to play a game in which each letter represents a different amount of money (or nuts or chocolates) won or lost. To play, each person 'places a bet', often with pennies or chocolate *Gelt*. Then a player spins the dreidel. When it stops, the letter on top determines the next step for that player. When the pot is empty the game is over.

**Nun means:** player gets nothing.

**Heh means:** player wins half of what is in the pot

**Gimel means:** player wins all that is in the pot

**Shin means:** player must put one item (coin, nut, chocolate) in the pot



# Hanukkah Songs

## Maoz Tzur

Maoz tzur y'shuati, l'cha nae l'shabeyach.  
Tikon bet t'filati, v'sham toda n'zabeach.  
L'et tachin matbeach, mitzar hamnabeach,  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, chanukat hamizbeach.  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor, chanukat hamizbeach.

Rock of ages let our song praise Thy saving power.  
Thou amidst Thy raging foes, was our sheltering tower.  
Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us,  
And Thy word, broke their sword, when our own  
strength failed us.  
And Thy word, broke their sword, when our own  
strength failed us.



## Mi Yimalel

Mi yimalel g'vurot Yisrael oton miyimneh  
Hen b'chol dor yakum hagibor go'el haam  
Sh'ma! Bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh  
Macabee moshia u'fodeh  
U'vyamenu kol am Yisrael  
Yitached yakum higael.



Who can retell the things that befell us?  
Who can count them?  
In every age a hero or sage arose to our aid.  
Hark! In days of yore in Israel's ancient land  
Brave Maccabeans led the faithful band,  
But now all Israel must as one arise  
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice.

## I Like Latkes

(Sung to "Skip to My Lou")

I like latkes they taste fine,  
I'll put potatoes and oil in mine,  
Lots of butter and lots of salt,  
Strawberry jam and chocolate malt.

Vinegar, bubblegum, peanuts and paste,  
Carrot juice, jelly and lemon to taste,  
I like latkes they taste fine,  
But I'll never ever eat one of mine.



## Dreidel Song

I have a little dreidel. I made it out of clay,  
And when it's dry and ready, then dreidel I will play.  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel I made it out of clay,  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel now dreidel I shall play.



It has a lovely body, with legs so short and thin,  
And when it is all tired, it drops and then I win.  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel with legs so short and thin,  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel it drops and then I win.

My dreidel's always playful, it loves to dance and spin.  
A happy game of dreidel, come play now let's begin.  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel it loves to dance and spin,  
O dreidel dreidel dreidel come play now let's begin.

## Light the Candles Bright

(Sung to "The Farmer In The Dell")

Oh, light the candles bright,  
And dance around the light.  
Heigh-ho the derry-oh,  
It's Hanukkah tonight!

Spin the dreidel round,  
And watch it falling down.  
Heigh-ho the derry-oh,  
It's Hanukkah tonight!

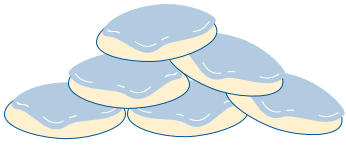
Latke treats to eat,  
And family to greet.  
Heigh-ho the derry-oh,  
It's Hanukkah tonight!



## Fun & Games:

Spend a night of Hanukkah playing games as a family. Play dreidel! Sing some new Hanukkah songs!!

# Hanukkah Recipes



## Hanukkah Cookies

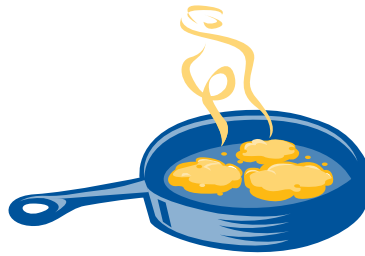
1/2 cup all-vegetable shortening  
1/2 cup margarine  
1 1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar  
1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon ground mace  
Icing (see recipe below)

1. Combine shortening and margarine; mix 30 seconds. Add sugar; beat until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine remaining dry ingredients, add to margarine mixture and beat well. Wrap and chill dough for 3 hours or until firm.
2. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/8-inch thickness; cut with cookie cutters. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 350° for 8 minutes or until edges are firm. Transfer cookies to wire rack and let cool. Spoon white icing on cookies. While white icing is still moist, drizzle with blue icing.

### Icing:

Beat 3 tablespoons meringue powder, 1/3 cup water, 3/4 teaspoon vanilla, and enough sifted powdered sugar (3 1/2 - 4 cups) to make icing of drizzling consistency. Remove three-fourths of icing to leave white. Stir in a few drops of blue food coloring to the remaining icing.

Makes about 60 cookies.

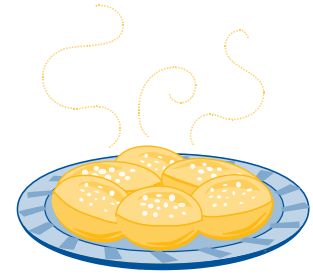


## Sweet Potato Latkes

1 pound sweet potatoes, peeled  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons sugar  
1 teaspoon brown sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon cayenne powder  
2 teaspoons curry powder  
1 teaspoon cumin  
2 large eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup milk (approximately)  
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
Peanut oil or vegetable oil for frying

1. Grate the sweet potatoes coarsely (watch your knuckles!).
2. In a separate bowl mix dry ingredients.
3. Add eggs and enough milk to the dry ingredients to make a stiff batter.
4. Add the potatoes and mix, the batter should be moist but not runny. If stiff, add more milk.
5. Heat 1/4 inch of oil in a frying pan and drop batter by tablespoons and flatten. Fry over medium-high heat several minutes on each side until golden.
7. Drain on paper towels and serve.

Makes about 16 three-inch pancakes.



## Sufganiot - Jelly Doughnuts

2 packages yeast  
1/3 cup sugar  
3/4 cup water  
1/4 cup orange juice  
1/3 cup margarine  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
4 or 5 cups flour  
3 egg yolks  
Your favorite jelly

1. Mix water, sugar, juice, and yeast. Let stand 10 minutes.
2. Melt margarine and add to yeast mix.
3. Beat in eggs and salt.
4. Add flour, mix by hand to form a soft dough.
5. Let rise 1 1/2 hours.
6. Roll dough 1/4 inch thick and cut circles (approximately 2 inches).
7. Let circles rise 1/2 hour.
8. Deep fry at 400° for about 3 minutes, turning once.
9. Insert jelly, roll in sugar - enjoy!



### Cooking:

Tonight, work together as a family to cook or bake your favorite Hanukkah recipes! Have a "latke bake-off" with another family and see who's Hanukkah treats taste better!



# Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World



As Jews, it is our responsibility to take part in some way in repairing the world. Hanukkah time is an excellent time to rededicate ourselves to this **Mitzvah**. There are many different approaches to **Tikkun Olam**, and many that can be practiced in honor of Hanukkah. One idea is to take time to sort through children's outgrown clothes and old toys. Let children select their things to give away. Shelters and other charities always need toys and other children's items in good condition. Another idea is to give Hanukkah Gelt to **Tzedakah**. Parents and children can decide together which organizations are most in need of funds during this time of year. While giving money and items is always appreciated by organizations that provide assistance and social services, another way to participate in Tikkun Olam is by doing an extra good deed each day of the festival. By acting like a **Mensch** (a good person), you are also setting an example for others to follow.



### Peace:

Help fight for peace and social justice by participating tonight in a Tikkun Olam activity. Organize a family project that will help to make the world a better place for everyone.

## Look At All My New Words!

Can you find each of these words elsewhere in this Hanukkah Guide?

### HEBREW

Brachot  
Hanukkah  
Hanukkiah  
Mitzvah  
Shamash  
Pirsum ha'nes  
Kislev  
Gelt  
Tikkun Olam  
Sivivon

### ENGLISH

Blessings  
Dedication  
Hanukkah Menorah or lamp  
Commandment  
Worker candle that lights the others  
Publicizing the miracle  
The Hebrew month in which Hanukkah falls  
Hanukkah money (real or chocolate!)  
Repairing the World  
Dreidel



### Sharing:

It has become traditional for families to give gifts on Hanukkah. Tonight, instead of getting a gift, give of yourself! Create a coupon book for someone you love with coupons for FREE LOVE! You can create a coupon for a hug, another for a kiss, and maybe one that says you will make your brother or sister's bed or help clean the house.

Did you try any of our EIGHT GREAT IDEAS? Do you have any suggestions for other ideas?  
Please let us know... Contact us by phone at 248-642-3566



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