



Chanukah

A COLLECTION OF BLESSINGS,
SONGS, RECIPES AND MORE



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Many people look forward to receiving gifts over the Chanukah holiday. But we like to think of Chanukah itself as a gift. In the darkest season of the year, we kindle lights; when the weather isolates us from others, we gather with family and friends; when world events seem hopeless, we stand strong as a community and remind ourselves of the courage it takes to preserve freedom. The traditions and rituals that surround Chanukah help to propel these themes forward. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington produced this booklet to bring these accessible, fun traditions to your home and to help you personalize the standard customs with twists that speak to you.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Chanukah can be translated as rededication. We hope that the spirit of the Maccabees inspires us to become more thoughtful citizens, committed to bringing light into our homes, to our community and to the global village we inhabit.

May the light of Chanukah bring happiness and blessings to you and your family.

Chag Sameach,

Liza Levy
President

Steve Rakitt
CEO

Chanukah

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

There are two names for Chanukah, each highlighting a Jewish historical event, a set of behavioral values and a theme that can have universal application. Over time, the original meaning of an event or holiday may morph to remain fresh and relevant. One of the blessings over lighting the candles in the *chanukiya* (the eight-branched Chanukah menorah) asks us to be cognizant of the great things that happened: *bayamim haheim bazeman hazeh*, “in those days past and in this present season.” Perhaps this gives us permission to learn about a holiday’s past but also to explore how the names, symbols and rituals are meaningful today.

CHANUKAH: Festival of Rededication

THEN: In 167 BCE, a Syrian-Greek King named Antiochus ruled Judaea. He issued decrees that banned Jews from practicing Judaism, culminating in the desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. After a three year battle, Jews, under the leadership of Judah Maccabee, regained control of Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple to Israelite worship. (History summary: <http://ow.ly/Et663>; video summary: <http://ow.ly/E3Ls5>).

NOW: We find ways to rededicate our lives to the values of Jewish tradition and the values of religious freedom. Another shade of meaning of the Hebrew word, Chanukah, is education (*chinukh*). Becoming a life-long learner of Jewish culture is a way to renew yourself and your community.

CHAG HA'URIM: Festival of Lights

THEN: The rededication of the Temple culminated in the rekindling of the Temple candelabra. The Talmudic sages ordained that everyone should kindle lights each night of Chanukah to spread the word of the miraculous victory of “the few over the many.”

NOW: We recall the ancient lights and battles but remain vigilant for the rights of minorities and the freedom of religion. We should also find meaning in the metaphor of light as knowledge, warmth and inspiration, and our role in spreading the “light” at home and in the community (see more on page 22). The energy source for light in ancient times was olive oil, and Judaea was a major producer of this natural resource. You may have a Chanukah discussion about today’s energy sources and how we can encourage the use of renewable energy. As a Chanukah gift to your family, do a home energy audit to save money and natural resources. Get started: <http://ow.ly/E3LO6>, <http://ow.ly/E3LF6>



Blessings

On Chanukah we get together
to fill our home with light;

We also raise our voice in song
to push away the night.

Songs of joy and gratitude
for living proud and free,

Songs that make all singers
into one big family.

CHANUKAH

Blessings

Chanukah Blessings

A READING BEFORE LIGHTING
THE CHANUKAH CANDLES:

Tonight we celebrate the opportunity...

To remember the lights of victory when we said “NO!” to oppression;

To remember the lights of hope when all humanity says “YES!” to freedom;

To remember the light of knowledge and understanding between neighbors;

To remember the light in our hearts when we gather to celebrate, sing and eat together.

And so we light the candles of the Chanukah menorah, and rededicate ourselves to freedom, knowledge and community.





Light the *Shamash*—the helper candle—first and use it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights.

On the first night of Chanukah, set one candle in the far right of the *Chanukiyah*. On each following night, add another candle to the left of the previous one. Each night, light the newest (leftmost) candle first, and continue lighting from left to right.

SAY OR SING:

ברוך אתה ייִהוָה מלֵךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קָדְשָׁנוּ בְמִצְוֹתָיו וַצְאַנְנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

ברוך אתה ייִהוָה מלֵךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבּוֹתֵינוּ וְאַמּוֹתֵינוּ בָּימִים הָמִם בָּזְמָן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

FOR FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

ברוך אתה ייִהוָה מלֵךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁהַחֲנִינוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּעַנוּ לִזְמָן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this season.





Songs

CHANUKAH, OH CHANUKAH

Oh Chanukah, oh Chanukah, come light the menorah
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the hora.
Gather round the table, we'll all have a treat
Sivivon to play with and latkes to eat.

And while we are playing,
The candles are burning low.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.

CHANUKAH Songs

I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay,
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

Chorus:
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made it out of clay,
And when it's dry and ready
Then dreidel I shall play!

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin,
And when it gets too dizzy
It drops and then I win!

(Repeat chorus)
My dreidel's always playful
It loves to dance and spin,
A happy game of dreidel
Come play now, let's begin!

(Repeat Chorus)

SEIVON, SOV, SOV, SOV

Seivon, sov, sov, sov
Chanukah, hu chag tov
Chanukah, hu chag tov
Seivon, sov, sov, sov!

Chag simcha hu la-am
Nes gadol haya sham
Nes gadol haya sham
Chag simcha hu la-am.

Translation:
Dreidel, spin, spin, spin.
Chanukah is a great holiday.
It is a celebration for our nation.
A great miracle happened there.

MAOZ TZUR

*Maoz tzur yeshua-ti
Lecha na-eh li-sha-beyach
Tikone bait ti-fee-lati
Vi-sham todah ni-za-beyach.*

*L'ate ta-chin mat-beyach
Mee-tzar ham-na-beyach
Az eg-more b'sheer meeze-mor
Chanukat ha-meez-beyach.
Az eg-more b'sheer meeze-mor
Chanukat ha-meez-beyach.*

ROCK OF AGES

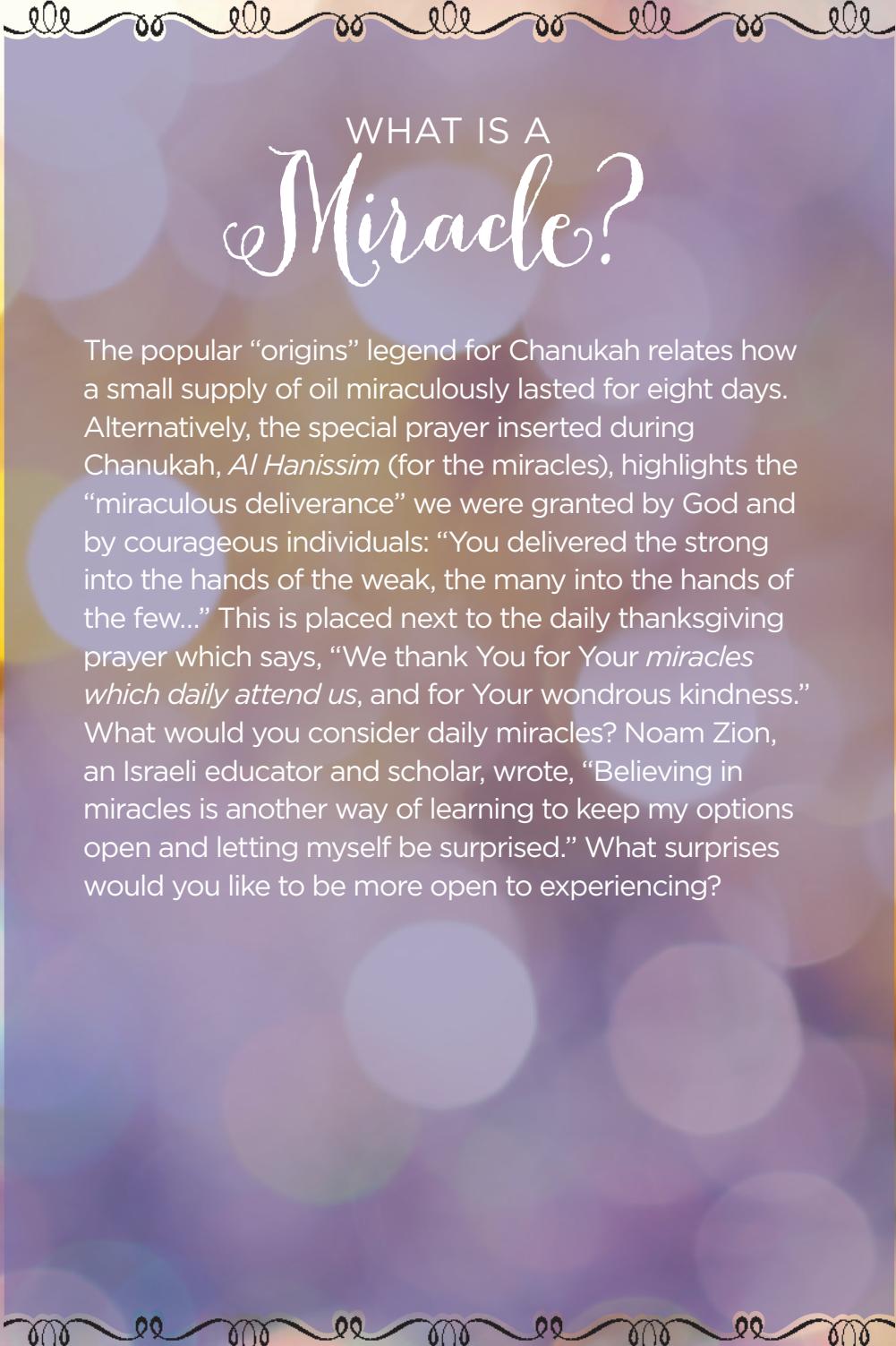
Popular English Translation

Rock of ages, let our song
Praise Your saving power;
You, amid the raging foes,
Were our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us,
But Your arm availed us.

And your word,
Broke their sword,
When our own strength failed us.
(Repeat last three lines)



For videos of these and other songs, check out the PJ Library playlist: <http://ow.ly/yiknY>



WHAT IS A Miracle?

The popular “origins” legend for Chanukah relates how a small supply of oil miraculously lasted for eight days. Alternatively, the special prayer inserted during Chanukah, *Al Hanissim* (for the miracles), highlights the “miraculous deliverance” we were granted by God and by courageous individuals: “You delivered the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few...” This is placed next to the daily thanksgiving prayer which says, “We thank You for Your *miracles which daily attend us*, and for Your wondrous kindness.” What would you consider daily miracles? Noam Zion, an Israeli educator and scholar, wrote, “Believing in miracles is another way of learning to keep my options open and letting myself be surprised.” What surprises would you like to be more open to experiencing?



Recipes

To remind us of the oil that
we lit in times gone by,

We make our tasty latkes,
in oil they will fry.

And to wish us all and all our friends
a life happy and sweet,

We'll also eat some doughnuts
and chocolatey coin treats.

CHANUKAH *Recipes*

The foods we eat on Chanukah are symbolic of the story. Foods prepared in oil, like latkes (fried potato or veggie pancakes) or *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts), remind us of the oil used to rekindle the menorah, which legend says lasted for eight days. What other foods could symbolize the values of light and freedom, unity and courage?

TRADITIONAL POTATO LATKES

Ingredients

- 5 large potatoes, peeled
- 1 large onion
- 3 eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup matzah meal or flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- Dash red pepper
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil (for frying)

Preparation

- Grate the potatoes and onion with a fine or medium grater. A food processor may be used with the shredding blade, or pulse carefully with the steel chopping blade. Be careful not to make it into a puree.
- Strain out excess water from the shredded potatoes and onion. Add eggs, flour, salt and pepper.
- Heat $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. This also works well in an electric frying pan. When oil is hot, place a large tablespoonful of batter into the pan, one at a time, to create each latke. Fry on one side until golden brown (about 5 min). Turn over and fry on the other side (2-3 min). Remove from frying pan and place on paper towels to drain excess oil.
- Continue cooking in batches until all batter is used, adding oil to the pan as needed. Serve warm with a side dish of applesauce and/or plain yogurt or sour cream.



EASY HOMEMADE APPLESAUCE

By Shaina Shealy

Ingredients

3 pounds of your favorite apples
Water
Optional: cinnamon, brown or white sugar, low-calorie sweetener

Preparation

■ Peel, core and quarter the apples. Put all the apples into a pot with 1/4 inch of water on the bottom. Cover and simmer over low heat, stirring occasionally until the apples are cooked through and very soft. They should mash very easily with a fork, potato masher or stick blender. Add cinnamon and/or sugar or sweetener to taste, if desired. Serve warm or cooled. Refrigerate leftovers... if there are any.

ZESTY CRANBERRY YOGURT SAUCE

By Shaina Shealy

For a healthy and yummy twist on a Chanukah classic, try this sauce in place of sour cream on latkes. It's great with old fashioned latkes and especially on sweet potato latkes.

Ingredients

2 cups whole cranberries, fresh or frozen
¾ cup dates, chopped
Zest and juice of 2 oranges
½ teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ cup dried cranberries or raisins
½ cup toasted walnut pieces
2 cups plain Greek yogurt
1 tablespoon orange zest for garnish

Preparation

■ Cook cranberries, dates, orange juice and zest, cloves and cinnamon on low heat for 15 to 25 minutes until the cranberry skins break apart. Remove from heat and allow to cool and thicken. Stir dried cranberries or raisins and walnut pieces into mixture, then stir the cranberry sauce into Greek yogurt and garnish with orange zest.



SUFGANIYOT (JELLY DOUGHNUTS)

By Paula Shoyer

Homemade doughnuts are really special—you just can't compare them to store-bought ones! They are best eaten the day they are made but can be warmed in the oven the second day.

Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce (1 envelope) active dry yeast
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup warm water
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup plus 1 teaspoon sugar, divided
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk or soy milk
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for dusting pans and work surface
- 4 to 5 cups canola or vegetable oil, for deep-frying
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cup raspberry or strawberry jam

Preparation

- In a large bowl, place the yeast, warm water and 1 teaspoon of the sugar and stir. Let sit 10 minutes.
- Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the sugar, the milk, butter or margarine, eggs, salt, vanilla and 3 cups of the flour to the bowl with the yeast mixture and mix either with a wooden spoon or with a dough hook in a stand mixer. Add between $\frac{1}{2}$ cup and 1 cup more flour, a little at a time, and mix into the dough until the dough is smooth and not sticky. Cover with a clean dishtowel and let rise for 1 hour in a warm place.
- Punch down the dough and shape back into a ball and let rest, covered with the towel, for 10 minutes. Take 2 cookie sheets and sprinkle some flour on them.
- Sprinkle some flour on the counter and roll the dough out to about $\frac{1}{3}$ -inch thick. Using a 3-inch-round cookie cutter or drinking glass, cut out circles and place them on the prepared cookie sheets. Re-roll and cut out any scraps. Place the cookie sheets in a warm place. Let rise another 45 minutes.
- Heat about 2 inches of oil in a medium saucepan to 360°. Use a candy thermometer to see when the oil stays at 360° for a few minutes and adjust the flame to keep the oil at that temperature.
- Take out another cookie sheet and line it with foil. Place a wire rack on top of the cookie sheet and set near the stovetop. Add the doughnuts top-down in the oil and cook 1½ minutes. Turn the doughnut over and cook another 1½ minutes. Lift with a slotted spoon and place on the wire rack to cool. Repeat.
- Use a knife or skewer to puncture a hole in the side of each doughnut, moving the knife or skewer around inside to make a space for the jam. Place $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the jam in a pastry bag fitted with a small, round tip (about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch) and squeeze some jam into the hole; you will feel the doughnut get heavier. Add more jam into the pastry bag as needed. Roll each filled doughnut in the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar and serve.
- Store covered at room temperature for up to one day.

Reprinted with permission from
The Kosher Baker: 160 Dairy-Free Desserts from Traditional to Trendy (Brandeis, 2010).



The Menorah

The standard *menorah*, the candelabrum lit daily in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem and now used on the seal of the State of Israel, has seven branches, perhaps recalling the days of creation. The special *menorah* we use on Chanukah, the *chanukiya*, has eight branches, recalling the legend of the oil miraculously lasting for eight days. But a closer observation of the *chanukiya* reveals a ninth branch off to the side. This is reserved for the *shamash*, the “helper candle.” Tradition asks us to light the candles with a singular mission: to spread the word of our miraculous victory and survival. So we symbolically refrain from using the eight candles for room illumination or for lighting other candles. The *shamash* helps the other candles stay true to their mission. Who are the “helper candles” in your life? Think of times when a “helper candle” kept your light bright; consider sending them a thank you note during Chanukah. How have you served as a helper to others so they may better accomplish their tasks?



Discussion

If you are blessed with the time and space to invite people over for some face-to-face discussions, consider posing the following questions as you sit around the candles munching latkes. You can also “rededicate” (a meaning of the holiday name!) a night of social media to reconnecting with family and friends wherever they may be. Post some questions to Facebook or send an email with a challenge to add commentary to your answers. Take the opportunity to think, reflect, reminisce and share the light with others.

CHANUKAH Discussion

THERE'S A LOT-KE TO TALK ABOUT ON CHANUKAH!

- What are the lights in your life?
- What is a miracle the world could really use?
- How can you change some of the darkness in your life to light?
- What is the most valuable gift you gave this year?
- Who brings light into your life?
- What unique/special lights do you bring?
- What are you really dedicated to?
- What miracles are you grateful for?
- What else do you wish lasted eight days?
- How do you spell Hanukkah/Chanukah?
- Do you have any family recipes that have been passed down through the generations?
- To whom would you bestow the Maccabee Award for courage?
- A *chanukkat habayit* is a house warming or new home dedication. What makes a house a "home"?
- A root of the word Chanukah is *chinukh* (education). Describe a memorable teacher and what made them so.
- Chanukah songs add joy to the celebration. What song would you choose to be the soundtrack of your biography?

Did You Know...

While the Talmud relates a tale of miraculous oil, the Book of Maccabees focuses on the importance of Chanukah as a military victory. The latter also includes a troubling record of civil strife between segments of the Jewish population that led up to the fighting. Those who favored some measure of assimilating Hellenistic lifestyles were bitterly opposed by those who zealously defended Jewish culture and beliefs against foreign influence. The strife escalated into civil war, which led to the intervention of the Syrian-Greek army and then the loss of autonomy. While the Maccabees restored political and religious autonomy to Judaea through their revolt, it is interesting to wonder what would have happened if the disagreements had not become violent. How may we keep our people's differences from erupting into violence? How can our discourse remain civil? Is it possible to agree to disagree yet keep some unity as a people? What are the dangers of extremism, and what may be the cost of apathy or inaction?



Activities

The end of the year is approaching,
and it's Chanukah time again.

It's so nice to spend our days and
nights with close family and friends.

There are great books to read,
there are crafts and games to play,

There are ways to share the life,
as we celebrate each day.

CHANUKAH Activities

Playing with the sevivon/dreidel is more than just a game. When the decree was issued forbidding Jews from studying Torah or practicing rituals, a creative response helped Jewish life continue. In fields and caves, Jews gathered to study and pray, keeping spinning tops and the equipment of games of chance nearby. If Syrian-Greek soldiers approached, the books were swept away and the “gaming” set up. What looks like a game today was indeed an act of courage and spiritual resistance to oppression.

What other examples of spiritual resistance or non-violent demonstrations are you familiar with in history? How would you demonstrate your displeasure at a law or social situation?

PLAY DREIDEL

A dreidel is a four-sided top used to play dreidel games on Chanukah. The Hebrew letters on a dreidel are *nun* נ, *gimmel* ג, *hay* ה, and *shin* ש, which stand for *Nes Gadol Haya Sham* (A Great Miracle Happened There). How to play:

1. Gather small tokens like nuts, candy or coins and give a few to each player, plus some for the pot.
2. Players take turns spinning.

Nun (נ) = Nothing happens

Gimmel (ג) = Get (take all in the pot)

Hay (ה) = Half (take half of the tokens in the pot)

Shin (ש) = Share (put one in the pot)

3. The game ends either after everyone has had a certain number of turns or one person wins a pre-designated number of tokens.

CHANUKAH *Activities*

GIVE HOMEMADE CHANUKAH GIFTS

- Decorate a picture frame and insert a special picture.
- Make chocolate candies (using chocolate molds from the craft store or chocolate covered pretzels, marshmallows and more).
- Decorate a small drawstring bag and fill it with coins, a dreidel and instructions on how to play the dreidel game.
- Make a Chanukah card using paint, markers, stickers, glitter—you name it!

MAKE YOUR OWN MENORAH

You can make a menorah from almost anything as long as it's not flammable. You'll need eight candle holders (one for each night) and a taller holder for the *shamash* (the "helper candle").

SOME IDEAS:

- Votives and a larger vase or candle for the *shamash*, filled with sand to hold the candles.
- Painted tea light holders (you can prop up the *shamash* holder on something to make it taller).
- Paint wooden spools of different heights. Don't forget to use a metal washer to keep the flame from the wood!

DECORATE YOUR HOME

- Garlands are easily made and stored for the following year. Try stringing Stars of David made from six popsicle sticks, origami dreidels, printed pictures of your family from Chanukahs past or pieces of felt in Chanukah shapes: dreidels, stars, circles for latkes or *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts).
- Display your collection of dreidels in glass jars or buy new, inexpensive ones to fill jars. (You can also paint wooden dreidels and use those to fill the jars.)
- White paper lanterns can be decorated with markers, dot markers or liquid watercolor (use a small bit at a time or use an eye dropper) and hung. Lightbulbs on a cord can be purchased inexpensively if you want to light them from within.



MAKE ONE NIGHT A NIGHT OF GIVING

Establishing an “attitude of gratitude” for your family can be an easy way of sharing Jewish values and ethics with your children. Consider designating one of the eight nights as a giving-to-others night by volunteering, collecting items to be donated as a family or having your child(ren) use the money that would have been spent on gifts to buy a gift for a child in need.

There are many positive acts that Judaism values. Some of the most important include:

- *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) or *chesed* (kindness)
- *Tzedakah* (justice or charity)
- Doing/performing a *mitzvah* (a good deed or sacred act)

The process of reflecting with children after an experience provides meaning and memories for the child and the adult. Consider incorporating these suggested questions into the experience. These questions are designed to be open-ended and without a “right” or a “wrong” answer.

Discussion questions for your family before volunteering or before deciding where to help:

- If you were feeling sad or lonely, what would help you feel better? What if it were someone else who felt sad or lonely or hungry? What could we do?
- Tell me about a time when you helped someone else and felt really good about it.

After volunteering or dropping off donations:

- How are you feeling right now? Is it different than before?
- What do you think was most important about what we just did?

For more ideas to make the season bright, see our Social Justice page (page 22).





THE DECEMBER OPPORTUNITY

For Interfaith Families

This season has been called the “December Dilemma” because of the confusion children may feel due to the proximity of Chanukah and Christmas. But confusion and anxiety may also occur in adults, when issues of competing cultures arise; and the pressure may be acute for interfaith families. For that reason, we choose to call this the “December Opportunity,” an opening for families to have honest discussions about cultures, rituals, identity and respect.

THE DECEMBER OPPORTUNITY
For Interfaith Families



When individuals of different faiths, or even when individuals within variations of the practice of Judaism, become partners, the thing to remember is that you are partners, working together to build a life built on trust, communication, kindness and generosity. Have the conversations before issues arise, when they can be addressed calmly rather than in the frantic rush of emotions that come with an intense holiday season (that seems to start earlier each year). Be open about what your absolute needs are, what you can compromise on and what traditions you can start together that feel unique, special and "yours."

Recognize that there may be new topics that arise or previous ones that were not considered and just be in a space to work through them together. Remember that there is no right or wrong answer, and you have to do what works best for you and your family at this time of year. That might mean a different path in different years depending on changing comfort levels and the ages of the children.

Be aware that there are sensibilities and sensitivities on both sides, likely going back to childhood memories that your partner may wish to recreate. Be respectful to their families but clear that these are the decisions made by partners, not by individuals within the relationship.

And while it's tempting to call a Christmas tree a "Chanukah Bush," another key to success is to maintain the distinctiveness of different holidays. Can you have latkes on Christmas Eve? Sure. But it might be better to reserve them for their own dates if they don't overlap that year. Feeling like each holiday (and its accompanying memories, family opinions, traditions) is being honored will help make the holiday season a time of opportunity to reflect, redefine and rejoice.

Learn more with two guides for interfaith families at this time of year: <http://ow.ly/E7vTP> and <http://ow.ly/E7wcH>

Did you know...

Gift-giving was NOT a part of the original Chanukah tradition. Instead, coins were distributed to the children. This was symbolic of the use of coins to reflect sovereignty. Conquering groups minted coins with their generals and national monuments. After the victory of the Maccabees, new coins were minted praising Judah the Maccabee and the freedom of Jerusalem. Examine American coins. What are the images and phrases on them, and what themes/values do they reflect? Are there gifts that could be appropriate to give during Chanukah?



Social Justice

The most treasured book of Jewish wisdom, the Torah, calls on Jews to be “a light to the nation.” On Chanukah, this concept comes alive! For eight nights, Jews gather with family and friends to light the Chanukah menorah.

CHANUKAH Social Justice

It is considered a *mitzvah* (a sacred act) to share that light with others. Some people place their menorah on the window sill and others, especially in Israel, use a special box to display the menorah outside. Doing so literally “brightens up” some of the darkest days of the winter. The practice reminds us that our actions can add light to the world!*

Here are some other ideas for bringing light to the world:

- Play the dreidel game with coins, and the winner gets to decide the charity to which all the coins get donated.
- Donate gift cards, toys or warm winter clothes to those in need. Find a list of places to donate the items at Jconnect.org.
- Another *mitzvah* is *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests). Use the holiday as an opportunity to practice hospitality by inviting guests to light the candles and celebrate with you. Discuss how and why we welcome guests into our homes.
- For one of the nights, give presents to others who may be less fortunate instead of exchanging within your family or with friends.

* Material from the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA).





Children's Books

With each of these PJ Library® books, you have an opportunity for sharing a holiday but also starting a conversation. The books offer a preview of the holiday's traditions and meanings. For a conversational reading experience, the questions and comments you make model how children think about a story. To do this for some readings of the book, ask a question—pause—give them time to think! Children need to talk about a story because that's how they understand a story. And if they understand a story, they'll better understand the holiday.

Children's Books

BABY & TODDLER

(6 months–2 years old)

Honeyky Hanukah by Woody Guthrie, illustrated by Dave Horowitz

Chanukah Lights Everywhere by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Melissa Iwai

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel by Amy Cartwright

The Eight Nights of Chanukah by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Elivia Savadier

Hanukkah! by Roni Schotter, illustrated by Marylin Hafner

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

(3–5 years old)

The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Nancy Cote

The Chanukkah Guest by Eric Kimmel, illustrated by Giora Carmi

Eight Winter Nights by Laura Melmed, illustrated by Elisabeth Schlossberg

The Hanukkah Trike by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by Kathryn Mitter

A Horse for Hanukkah by Myriam Halberstam, illustrated by Nancy Cote

EARLY ELEMENTARY

(6–8 years old)

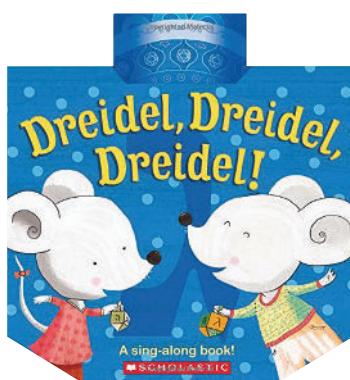
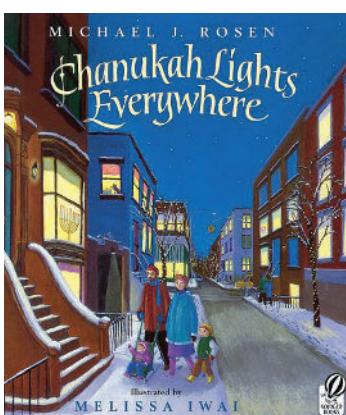
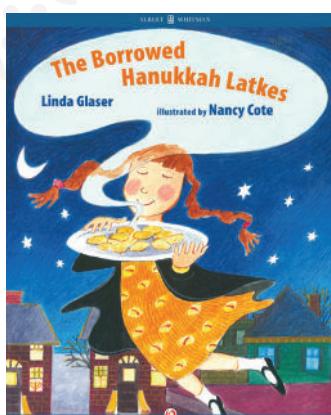
All the Lights in the Night by Arthur Levine, illustrated by James Ransome

Chanukah in Chelm by David Adler, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley

Emanuel & the Hanukkah Rescue by Heidi Smith Hyde, illustrated by Jamel Akib

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