

Hanukkah @ Home



SONGS



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WE PUT THE MENORAH IN THE WINDOW

Music and lyrics by Cantor Jacob Niemi

CHORUS:

We put the menorah in the window,
put it there for everyone to see.
We don't have to hide all the light we have inside,
So, we put the menorah in the window.

A long time ago the Jews were not free
to pray to God the way they wanted to,
but Judah Maccabee helped us all to see,
it's okay to be proud that you're a Jew.
So we... (Chorus)

VERSE 2:

Even now, we know that there are places
where people have to hide what they believe,
but if we make it known that they are not alone,
you'd be surprised how much we can achieve.
So, we... (Chorus)

VERSE 3:

Everybody's got a light inside them
that makes the world a better place to be,
but every now and then, it's good to have a friend
to help us find the light that's hard to see.
So, we... (Chorus)



MA'OZ TZUR – ROCK OF AGES

Traditional melody; English lyrics by Gustav Gottheil and Marcus Jastrow

Maoz tzur yeshu'ati
L'cha na'eh l'shabeiach
Tikon beit t'filati
V'sham todah n'zabeiach
L'eit tachin matbeiach
Mitzar ham'nabeiach
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Chanukat hamizbeiach.

Ufartzu chomot migdalai
V'tim'u kol hashmanim
U'minotar kankanim
Na'asah neis l'shoshanim
B'nei vinah y'mei sh'monah
Kav'u shir ur'nanim.
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Chanukat hamizbeiach.

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.

Children of the martyred race
Whether free or fettered
Wake the echoes of the songs
Where you may be scattered
Yours the message cheering
That the time is nearing
Which will see all are free
Tyrants disappearing.

מָעוֹז צוּר יֵשׁוּעָתִי
לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבֵּיחַ
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי
וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבֵּיחַ
עַתָּה תִּכְּוֵן מִטְּבִיחַ
מִצַּר הַמִּנְבִּיחַ
אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר
חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ

פָּרְצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי
וְטִמְאוּ כָּל הַשְּׂמָנִים
וּמִנוֹתַי קִנְקָנִים
נַעֲשֶׂה נֵס לְשׁוֹשְׁנֵינוּ
בְּנֵי בֵּינָה יְמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה
קִבְּעוּ שִׁיר וְרִנָּנוּ
אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר
חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ

AL HANISIM – FOR THE MIRACLES

Al hanisim v'al hapurkan
v'al hag'vurot v'al hat'shuot,
v'al hamilchamot
she'asita la'voteinu,
bayamim hahem
baz'man hazeh.

For the miracles and great deeds,
for the wonders and
accomplishments
and for the wars that were made
in the time of our ancestors...
In those days.. and in this time.

עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַפְּרָקָן
וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת
וְעַל הַמִּלְחָמוֹת
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה



CHANUKAH CHAG YAFEH – HANUKKAH, JOYOUS HOLIDAY

Folk melody; Hebrew lyrics by Levin Kipnis, singable English lyrics
by Judy Caplan Ginsburgh and Cantor Jacob Niemi

Chanukah, Chanukah,
Chag yafeh kol kach
Or chaviv, misaviv,
Gil l'yeled rach.
Chanukah, Chanukah,
s'vivon sov sov!
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov!
Mah naim vatov!

Chanukah, Chanukah,
Ein chalon b'li eish.
L'vivot, sufganiot,
B'chol bayit yeish.
Hanukkah, Hanukkah,
Chag chaviv m'od!
Shiru na, zamru na,
Utz'u lirkod!

Chanukah, Chanukah,
joyous holiday
Children laugh, children sing,
children dance and play.
Chanukah, Chanukah,
dreidels spin around.
Spin, spin, spin, spin, spin, spin,
Then fall to the ground!

Chanukah, Chanukah,
windows glowing bright.
Sufganiyot fry and float,
latkes every night.
Chanukah, Chanukah,
holiday so dear.
Dance & sing, spirit bring,
filled with joy and cheer.

חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה,
חַג יָפֶה כָּל כָּח.
אוֹר חָבִיב, מִסָּבִיב,
גִּיל לְיֶלֶד רַח.
חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה,
סְבִיבֹן סֹב סֹב!
סֹב סֹב סֹב, סֹב סֹב סֹב!
מַה נְעִים וַתּוֹב!

חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה,
אֵין חָלוֹן בְּלִי אֵשׁ.
לְבִיבוֹת, סוּפְגָנִיּוֹת,
וְכָל בֵּית יֵשׁ.
חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה,
חַג חָבִיב מְאֹד!
שִׁירוּ נָא, זָמְרוּ נָא,
וּצְאוּ לִרְקוֹד!

NEIR LI

Music and lyrics by Levin Kipnis and Daniel Samborski

Neir li, neir li, neir li dakik.
Bachanukah neiri adlik.
Bachanukah neiri ya'ir.
Bachanukah shirim ashir.

La la la la la la la la la (2X)
A light for me, a light for me, a little
light for me. On Hanukkah I will
kindle my light.
On Hanukkah my light will shine. On
Hanukkah I will sing songs.

נֵר לִי, נֵר לִי, נֵר לִי



S'VIVON – DREIDEL

Folk melody; Hebrew lyrics attributed to Levin Kipnis, singable English Lyrics by Shimon Gewirtz

*S'vivon, sov, sov, sov,
Chanukah, hu chag tov!
Chanukah, hu chag tov,
s'vivon, sov sov sov!*

*Chag simchah hu la'am.
Neis gadol hayah sham.
Neis gadol hayah sham.
Chag simchah hu la'am.*

*S'vivon, turn, turn, turn,
while the lovely candles burn.
What a great holiday!
Watch us sing and dance and play.*

*Tell the story everywhere,
a great miracle happened there!
It's a festival of lights,
for eight days and for eight nights!*

סְבִיבון סוב סוב סוב
חֲנוּכָה הוּא חַג טוֹב
חֲנוּכָה הוּא חַג טוֹב
סְבִיבון סוב סוב סוב

חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם
נֵס גָדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם
נֵס גָדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם
חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם

MI Y'MALEIL – WHO CAN RETELL

Folk melody; English lyrics by Judith K. Eisenstein

*Mi y'maleil g'vurot Yisraeil
Otan mi yimneh?
Hein b'chol dor yakum hagibor
go'eil ha'am.*

*Sh'ma!
Bayamim hahem
bazman hazeh,
makabi moshia ufodeh,
uv'yameinu kol am Yisraeil
yit'acheid, yakum l'higa'eil.*

*Who can retell the things
that befell us,
who can count them?
In every age a hero or sage
came to our aid.*

*Hark!
In days of yore, in Israel's ancient
land, brave Maccabeus led the
faithful band.
But now all Israel must, as one,
arise, redeem itself through deed
and sacrifice.*

מִי יִמְלִיל גְּבוּרוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל
אוֹתָן מִיִּמְנֶה?
הֵן בְּכָל דּוֹר יָקוּם הַגִּבּוֹר,
גּוֹאֵל הָעָם

יִשְׁמַע
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה מַכְבֵּי מוֹשִׁיעַ וּפּוֹדֶה
וּבְיָמֵינוּ כָּל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל,
יִתְאַחַד יָקוּם לְהַגְאֵל



BANU CHOSHECH L'GAREISH – WE COME TO DRIVE AWAY THE DARKNESS

Music and lyrics by Emanuel Amiran and Sarah Levi Tandai

*Banu choshech l'gareish,
b'yadeinu or va'eish.
Kol echad hu or katan,
v'chulanu or eitan.
Surah choshech,
hal'ah sh'chor!
Surah mipnei ha'or!*

We came to banish the darkness,
We hold in our hands light and fire.
Each one of us is a small light,
And together we are a great light.
Be gone darkness and blackness!
Be gone, away from the light!

בָּאנוּ חוֹשֶׁךְ לְגַרֵּשׁ,
בְּיָדֵינוּ אוֹר וָאֵשׁ.
כָּל אֶחָד הוּא אוֹר קָטָן,
וּכְלָנוּ אוֹר אֵיתָן.
סוּרָה חוֹשֶׁךְ,
הִלָּאָה שְׁחוֹר!
סוּרָה מִפְּנֵי הָאוֹר!

OCHO KANDELIKAS

Music and lyrics (Ladino) by Flory Jagoda

VERSE 1:

Chanukah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi. (2X)
Oh...

CHORUS:

Una kandelika,
dos kandelikas,
tres kandelikas,
kuatro kandelikas,
sintyu kandelikas,
seyshj kandelikas,
siete kandelikas,
ocho kandelas para mi.

VERSE 2:

Muchas fiestas vo fazer, kon alegriyas i plazer. (2X)
Oh... (Chorus)

VERSE 3:

Los pastelikos vo kumer, kon almendrikas i la myel. (2X)
Oh... (Chorus)

VERSE 1:

Beautiful Hanukkah is here... Eight candles are for me.
Oh...

CHORUS:

One candle,
two candles,
three candles,
four candles, f
ive candles,
six candles,
seven candles,
eight candles for me!

VERSE 2:

Many parties will I make, with happiness and pleasure.
Oh...

VERSE 3:

Little cakes will I eat, with little almonds and honey.
Oh... (Chorus)



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Music and lyrics by Peter Yarrow

VERSE 1:

Light one candle for the Maccabee children.
Give thanks that their light didn't die.
Light one candle for the pain they endured,
when their right to exist was denied.
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
justice and freedom demand,
Light one candle for the wisdom to know
when the peacemaker's time is at hand.

CHORUS:

Don't let the light go out! It's lasted for so many years.
Don't let the light go out! Let it shine through our love and our tears.

VERSE 2:

Light one candle for the strength that we need
to never become our own foe.
Light one candle for those who are suffering
the pain we learned so long ago.
Light one candle for all we believe in,
let anger not tear us apart.
Light one candle to bind us together,
with peace as the song in our heart... (Chorus)

VERSE 3:

What is the memory that's valued so highly
that we keep alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died,
when we cry out, "They've not died in vain!"
We have come this far always believing
that justice will somehow prevail
This is the burden, and this is the promise,
and this is why we will not fail... (Chorus)



THE LATKE SONG

Music and lyrics by Debbie Friedman

VERSE 1:

I am so mixed up that I cannot tell you,
I'm sitting in this blender turning brown,
I've made friends with the onions and the flour,
and the cook is scouting oil in the town.
I sit here wondering what will come of me,
I can't be eaten looking as I do.
I need someone to take me out and cook me,
or I'll really end up in a royal stew.

CHORUS:

I am a latke, I'm a latke, and I am waiting for Chanukah to come. (2X)

VERSE 2:

Every holiday has foods so special.
I'd like to have the same attention, too.
I do not want to spend life in this blender,
wondering what I'm supposed to do.
Matzah and charoset are for Pesach,
chopped liver and challah for Shabbat.
Blintzes on Shavuot are delicious,
and gefilte fish, no holiday's without... (Chorus)

VERSE 3:

It's important that I have an understanding
of what it is that I'm supposed to do.
You see, there are so many who are homeless,
with no jobs, no clothes, and very little food.
It's so important that we all remember,
that while we have most of the things we need,
we must remember those who have so little,
we must help them, we must be the ones to feed... (Chorus)



CHANUKAH, OH CHANUKAH

Hasidic melody; Yiddish lyrics attributed to Mordechai Rivesman, English lyrics by E. Guthmann

Chanukah, oh Chanukah, come light the menorah.
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the Horah.
Gather 'round the table, we'll give you a treat;
S'vivon 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.
Chanukah, oh Chanukah, a festival of joy,
a happy day, a jolly day for every girl and boy,
Spin the whirling dreidels all week long,
Eat the sizzling latkes, sing a happy song.
And while we are singing,
the candles are burning low.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light,
to remind us of days long ago.

ORIGINAL YIDDISH LYRICS:

(Oy), khanikeh oy khanikeh
a yontif a sheyner,
a lustiker a freylekher
nisht do nokh azeyner.
Ale nakht mit dreydlech
shpiln mir,
frishe heyse latkes,
esn on a shir.
Geshvinder, tsindt kinder
di khanikeh likhtlech on.
Zogt "Al Hanisim,"
loybt Got far di nisim,
un lomir ale tantsen in kon.
Zogt "Al Hanisim,"
loybt Got far di nisim,
un lomir ale tantsen in kon.

חנוכה אוי חנוכה
א יום-טוב א שיינער
א לוסטיקער א פריילעכער
נישט דא נאך אזוינער
אלע נאכט מיט דריידלעך
שפילן מיר
פרישע הייסע לאטקעס
עסן אן א שיעור

געשווינדער, צינדט קינדער
די חנוכה ליכטלעך אן
זאגט על-הניסים
לויבט גאט פאר די נסים
און לאמיר אלע טאנצען אין קאן
זאגט על-הניסים
לויבט גאט פאר די נסים
און לאמיר אלע טאנצען אין קאן



LIGHTING ALL THE CANDLES

Sung to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

I am lighting all the candles
On this Hanukkah night.
I am lighting all the candles,
To see them shining bright.
Flicker, flickers little candles,
Fill me with your glow.
Now the time has come to count them,
Ready, set and go
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8.

JUDAH MACCABEE

Music and lyrics by Rabbi Joe Black and Sue Black

This song is a great way to introduce the story of Hanukkah to young kids!

A long time ago in a land called Mod'in
Lived a young man named Judah, brave and serene
When Antiochus the tyrant said the Jews could not be free
He didn't count on Judah, the one called Maccabee

CHORUS:

In the window, shining so bright
I can see the Hanukkah light
And it gives me such a warm friendly glow
When I think of Judah Maccabee so long ago.

Now Judah and his brothers said it wasn't right
To take away their freedom, they knew they had to fight
They fought three long years 'til the king could take no more
They rebuilt the holy temple, its beauty they restored (Chorus)

When the temple was restored the brothers searched in vain
For oil to light the lamps, but not enough remained
Except for one small vial, enough to last one day
But instead it burned for eight, they proclaimed a holiday (Chorus)

Tonight we light our lamps, sing our songs and play our games
We remember that great miracle hidden in the flames
Today throughout the world we rejoice that we are free
To carry out the mission of Judah Maccabee (Chorus)



for very young children



for elementary-age children



for older children or adults



TWINKLE, TWINKLE HANUKKAH LIGHTS

Sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle Hanukkah lights,
Shining brightly for 8 nights,
See the dreidel spin around,
Eat some latke crisp and brown.
Twinkle, twinkle Hanukkah lights,
Shining brightly for 8 nights

THERE IS A LIGHT IN ME

by Carla Friend

There is a light in me (there is a light in me)
There is a light in you (there is a light in you)
And it will guide the way (and it will guide the way)
In everything you do (in everything you do)
So let us all join hands (so let us all join hands)
And venture through the dark (and venture through the dark)
'Cause when you search your soul
You find that inner spark!

CANDLES BRIGHT

Lyrics by Linda Brown

Sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle,
Candle bright,
Burning on this
Special night.
Add another,
Tall and straight,
Every night 'til
There are eight.
Twinkle, twinkle,
Candles eight,
Hanukkah we
Celebrate.



NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER

Music and lyrics by Debbie Friedman with inspiration from Zechariah 4:6 [KENDRA, ARE WE ALLOWED TO USE THIS? - Karin]

CHORUS:

Not by might and not by power,
But by spirit alone,
Shall all we live in peace.
Not by might and not by power,
But by spirit alone,
Shall all we live in peace.

The children sing
The children dream
And their tears may fall
But we'll hear them call
And another song will rise
Another song will rise
Another song will rise!... (Chorus)

The children sing
The children dream
And their tears may fall
But we'll hear them call
And another song will rise
Another song will rise
Another song will rise!... (Chorus)

Not by might!
Not by power!
Shalom!

LOTS OF LATKES

Words and music by Cantor Alan Leider

Lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots of latkes,
lots (let's all eat 'em up!) Repeat

S'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov,
s'vivon sov sov Repeat

Maccabee Maccabee, Maccabee Maccabee,
Maccabee Maccabee, Mac-mac-mac-mac-mac
mac-mac mac! Repeat



IN THE WINDOW

Chasidic melody; words by Judith Kaplan Eisenstein

In the window where you can send your glow
From my menorah on newly fallen snow
I will set you, one (two, etc.) little candle(s)
On this the first (second, etc.) night of Chanukah

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Folk tune; lyrics adapted from Raffi

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

I'm gonna take this light around the world and I'm gonna
Let it shine
I'm gonna take this light around the world and I'm gonna
Let it shine
I'm gonna take this light around the world and I'm gonna
Let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Well, I won't let anyone *blow* it out, I'm gonna let it shine
I won't let anyone *blow* it out, I'm gonna let it shine
I won't let anyone *blow* it out, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine



I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL

Music and lyrics by Samuel Goldfarb and Mikhl Gelbart; English lyrics by Samuel Grossman and others

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 all tired,
it drops, and then I win!... (Chorus)

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

One person spins the dreidel
And when the spinning's through
The dreidel drops with one side up
And tells you what to do... (Chorus)

Nun means you get nothing
Gimmel means you win
Hay means you get half the pot
And Shin you put one in... (Chorus)

EXTRA VERSES:

I had a little dreidel, I made it out of bread,
but then I got so hungry, I ate it up instead!... (Chorus)

I had a little dreidel, I made it out of mud,
and when it finished spinning, it fell down with a thud... (Chorus)

I had a little dreidel, I made it out of soap,
and when I'm in the bathtub, the soap will float, I hope... (Chorus)

I had a little dreidel, sitting on the shelf,
and if you want more verses, please make them up yourself... (Chorus)



THE MIGHTY MACCABEES

by Don Cooper

Hear it on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/mKQsE60vI00>

SPOKEN:

Chanukah is a celebration of peace and freedom.
It was first celebrated on the 25th of the Hebrew month of Kislev.

SUNG:

Long ago in a place far off
The story as I hear tell
A Syrian king named Antiochus ruled over Israel.
He said, "I am the law
I make all the rules
How you eat, how you work and play,
I shall tear down the temple of the Jews
They shall worship the way I say." (2x)

But one brave man named Mattityahu
Said, "This shall never be
I will not bow down, if you're for the Lord
Join my sons and follow me,"
And they called them the Maccabbees.

CHORUS:

Oh we are the mighty Maccabbees
Freedom is our battle cry
All courage and strength, all victories
Are gifts from our G-d on high,
For we are the army of the Lord
And we battle in G-d's name
And when our temple is restored
We'll rekindle the holy flame. (2x)

SPOKEN:

Mattityahu's son Judah Maccabee led the small army of Jews to victory.
And they returned to Jerusalem to rededicate their temple.

SUNG:

They restored and built up the altar stones
And cleaned up their holy place
Although there was oil for just one night
Still the flame burned eight long days
And that miracle which happened there
Is the thing which we celebrate
And this festival of lights we share
Is our Chanukah holiday.

(Chorus)