

Hanukkah @ Home



STORY, READINGS & BLESSINGS



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THE HANUKKAH STORY

Judah and his brothers with all of Israel
ordained that the days of the dedication of the
alter should be kept in their season from year to
year for eight days ... with mirth and gladness.



APOCRYPHA: I MACCABEES 4:59

Long ago (167 BCE), the Jewish people lived in the land of Israel, then called Judea. They were ruled by a Greek king ruling from Syria. Although they were not free, they were allowed to celebrate their holidays and pray in their Holy Temple in Jerusalem. A new king, Antiochus, came to power. He didn't want to rule over a nation of many religions and many cultures; he wanted to rule one nation with only the same religion and culture as himself, according to Greek customs. He didn't want the Jewish people to dress, eat, or worship differently from himself. He made it illegal to observe Jewish customs, and he gave Jews the choice to convert or face death. Jews were forbidden to celebrate Shabbat and festivals and to read or study Torah. Worst of all, Jews were forbidden to worship in the Temple. His guards ransacked the Temple and set up idols and altars to Greek gods inside.

Many Jews were saddened by the desecration and destruction of the Holy Temple and feared for their lives, feeling forced to follow the king's orders. Despite fear and anger, a small yet brave Jewish resistance movement sprung up against the cruelty of Antiochus.

In Modi'in, a town near Jerusalem, a Jewish man named Mattathias refused to bow down to the Greek statues. With his five sons, he fought off the soldiers and escaped to the caves in the nearby mountains. Their family was a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans or Maccabees. They organized a small army, also referred to as the Maccabees. Mattathias's son Judah became the chief strategist and military leader of their revolt for religious freedom. Though they were few in number and not well trained, their courage and skill enabled them to drive the Syrians away.

After three years of fighting, the Maccabees reached Jerusalem, taking it back from Antiochus's soldiers. The Jewish fighters became builders as they cleaned and rebuilt the Holy Temple. On the southern side of the sanctuary stood the menorah, a symbol of God's presence. As the Jews cleaned the Temple, they searched for an unopened jar of pure oil. At last, they found one jar, with its seal still intact, and the Jews rejoiced. One jar was only enough to burn in the menorah for a single day, and it would take at least another week for a fresh supply of pure olive oil to be prepared. The Jews faced a quandary: Should they light the menorah and let the flame go out until more oil was procured? Or should they wait and use the oil for the day before the new oil would arrive to maintain a continuous flame? After fighting for their religious freedom, they didn't want to postpone performing the mitzvah, so on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, they lit the menorah and rededicated the Holy Temple.

That is when the Hanukkah miracle occurred: The oil for only one day miraculously lasted for eight, enough to keep the Temple's sacred light illuminated until new oil could be prepared. In fact, the word "Hanukkah" means dedication. They celebrated the whole time. The Jews then knew that God's presence had returned to the Temple. For these miracles, the Jewish people prayed and thanked God.



Judah Maccabee and his brothers proclaimed that every year, for eight days, the Jews should celebrate a Festival of Lights, which became known as Hanukkah. Each winter, during Hanukkah, Jews light hanukkiyot for eight days to remember the miracles that happened long ago. Then, as now, the burning flame would light up dark days, offering a symbol of hope and joy. With every Hanukkah candle we light, we illumine the most important messages of all: that we must always work to find light in the darkness, and we must always work to keep the light of religious freedom burning for all people, for all time.

FOR ANOTHER WAY TO SHARE THE HANUKKAH STORY, LISTEN TO & DISCUSS:

"Judah Macabee" by Rabbi Joe Black

"The Mighty Macabees" by Don Cooper

Or check out PJ Library's Hanukkah Hub (<https://pjlibrary.org/hanukkah>) and 2020 Quick Guide to Celebrating Hanukkah With Kids (<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/november-2020/hanukkah-2020-with-kids>)

MACCABEE MATTERS

Mattathias (Matityahu) had five sons: Yochanan (John), Yehuda (Judah), Shimon (Simon), Elazar (Eleazar), and Yonatan (Jonathan)

The name Maccabee was originally a title of honor given to only Judah. Later the name was extended to the whole family.

There are many ideas about the meaning of "Maccabee." It may be related to the Hebrew word for "hammer" or the Greek words for "strong" or "fighter." The word "Maccabee" comprises the initials of the verse "Mi kamocha ba'eilim Adonai" ("Who is like You among the mighty") that the Jews sang at the splitting of the sea during the exodus. It is said that this was the Maccabean battle cry and was written on their shields.

MENORAH OR HANUKKIYAH

A menorah and hanukkiyah are both candelabras. A menorah is what stood in the Temple and what the Jews lit with one jar of oil in the Hanukkah story. The menorah has seven branches, for the days of the week. It was adapted to have eight branches plus the shamash for the holiday of Hanukkah. This eight-branch menorah is known as a Hanukkiyah. Today, many people use the word "menorah" to reference both the seven-branch menorah and the hanukkiyah.



DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ALL THE WAX?

Try lighting the virtual hanukkiyah at virtualmenorah.com. You can even place the candles into the hanukkiyah!

HANUKKAH'S CENTRAL THEMES

FREEDOM:

The Hanukkah story demonstrates the importance of standing up for one's right to be different.

THE FEW OVER THE MANY:

Hanukkah celebrates the small band of Jews (who had few weapons and little military training) and their triumph over the mighty Syrian army.

JEWISH IDENTITY:

The Hasmoneans and their followers fought to preserve their religious traditions and cherished way of life.

DID YOU KNOW?

נ (nun): Harry Truman was the first president to celebrate Hanukkah at the White House. In 1951, he accepted a menorah as a gift from the Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion. Jimmy Carter was the first president to officially recognize Hanukkah (not until the 1970s)!

ג (gimel): At Valley Forge, George Washington learned of the story of Hanukkah from one of his Jewish soldiers. It has been said that Washington was so inspired by the story of a small band of warriors who overcame a larger and better equipped army that it helped strengthen his resolve to forge ahead during the Revolutionary War.

ה (hey): On Friday night (Shabbat), the Hanukkah candles must be lit before the Shabbat candles and remain lit for at least 48 minutes.

ש (shin): 2020 marks Temple Beth El's 80th year of celebrating Hanukkah. Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky, of blessed memory, was a Holocaust survivor from Berlin. He founded Temple Beth El in 1940, soon after his emigration to the United States, and brought with him a hanukkiyah that can be found in the Frank Adult Lounge at Temple.

CHEESE—A HANUKKAH FOOD?

Many know about the miracle of the oil and thus eat foods cooked in oil to celebrate. There is an even longer tradition of celebrating by eating cheese (not just in Wisconsin) or other salty foods. Its origin is the story of Judith, who saved the city of Bethulia from the tyrant general Holofernes by feeding him salty cheese and wine until he fell into a deep sleep, whereupon she killed him, saving her people and city. Read more about her incredible story at reformjudaism.org/global-hanukkah-cuisine-what-we-eat-and-why or njop.org/chanukah/chanukah-heroines/.



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A SERVICE OF REDEDICATION/CANDLE-LIGHTING READINGS

Hanukkah translates to “dedication.” The Festival of Lights is our opportunity to rededicate ourselves to lifting up the light for ourselves and the well-being of all. It’s a time for reflection and inspiration.

Follow candle lighting each night with these readings to make your celebration even more meaningful. Read one each night, or try adding one each night, just as we add one more candle to the hanukkiyah each night, so on the last night you read them all!

OPTIONAL

Can be read before candle lighting or before the other readings.

Each night one candle lights another. Together and on their own, each candle has the power to shine light into our world dispelling the darkness. We/I too have the power to ignite the flame of one another and unite with others to shine brightly, together, shedding a light helping all people out of the darkness and into a bright, better world. Let the lights of Hanukkah guide us/me.

BRAVERY & COURAGE

We/I light this Hanukkah candle in honor of the courage and bravery of the Maccabees and their bravery as freedom fighters for standing up for what they believed was right. Believing they deserved religious freedom, they willingly put their lives on the line for that freedom. We/I now rededicate myself to work for the rights of all people, and to let the courage and bravery of the Maccabees live through us/me.

GRATITUDE & TZEDAKAH

We/I light this Hanukkah candle for justice and gratitude for all those shining light through the darkness. May we show our gratitude toward ourselves and others as we speak to repair the world. As our tradition shares, during their struggle for freedom, the Maccabees, children and adults, contributed charity toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. There are many forms of oppression in our world today that we are called upon to bring an end to. May our tradition guide us each time we choose to stand up, speak out, and make change in our society. As we kindle our Hanukkah lights, let us rededicate ourselves to the work of building a more just world.

FAMILY

We/I light this Hanukkah candle in recognition of the precious gift of family. Often, we are/I am pulled in different directions and take one another for granted, forgetting to express our love and spend quality time together. We/I rededicate ourselves/myself to setting aside distractions to simply be together, connecting, sharing our interests and time with one another. Like the Maccabees, let us always face the ups and downs of life together, united by the bonds of family. Kindling these lights we pray that through kindness and thoughtfulness our love for one another will increase, from strength to strength.



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PEACE

We/I light this Hanukkah candle as a call for peace. Just as the world was not peaceful in the time of the Maccabees, it's still not peaceful today. The pursuit of peace is a mitzvah in which we must actively engage at all times. Today, seeking harmony and peace for our troubled world is one of our most sacred tasks. When we end disagreements through mutual understanding, when we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we are doing our part in making peace a living ideal. As we kindle our Hanukkah candles, let us rededicate ourselves with renewed strength to achieving peace for ourselves, our families, friends, and everyone on earth.

KNOWLEDGE & FAITH

We/I light this Hanukkah candle to rekindle the spark of learning and rededicate ourselves/myself to the study and practice of Judaism. We/I will continue on the path of the Maccabees, who courageously fought to preserve our faith. We/I resolve to sustain our heritage and deepen our/my understanding of it, and use it to make humanity and the world better. By increasing our knowledge and understanding of Judaism, we become more in tune to its values and aware of our responsibility to embody and live these values daily. Learning opens our minds and secures our freedom. As we kindle these candles, let us rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition.

COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY

We/I light this Hanukkah candle in honor of community and the diversity that gives it strength. We must have respect for everyone, be accepting of differences, and fight for the freedom of all people. We must seek out ways of bridging the valleys of separation that prevent humans from sharing love with one another. As a community we share in each other's sorrows and celebrate the joys and lean on one another in times of need. As we kindle our Hanukkah lights, we rededicate ourselves to being there for one another as a community and have compassion and draw strength from our diversity.

HOPE, JOY, LOVE, & KINDNESS

We/I light this Hanukkah candle with compassion, loving-kindness, hope, and joy. Like the Maccabees, we/I need to build our lives on the hope that truth, knowledge, and understanding will triumph. We/I give thanks for moments of connection, kindness, and love as we love our/my fellow human beings as ourselves/myself. We must look inward to discover where joy lives in our hearts and let it shine through us, spreading joy to all we encounter. Now, as we kindle the Hanukkah lights, may our lives be strengthened by the highest hopes, moments of joy, a warm love, and sacred kindness.

REDEDICATION

We/I light this Hanukkah candle bringing the hanukkiyah to its fullest light and dedicate ourselves to living our best, brightest life; living and acting in alignment with our values; focusing on all that we love; raising up our ideals, our democracy, and the well-being of all people and the planet, with a commitment to justice, dignity, and people; living with the freedom of conscience; and being the voice of reason to guide those in power. As we kindle our Hanukkah candles, we rededicate ourselves to being present and purposeful in our action, raising our voice in the face of injustice, and giving thanks for the moments of connection we share, the bounty we have, and the beauty that surrounds us.



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SPARKS

Use these questions to inspire you as you reflect and act on each theme. You can use these sparks as journal prompts, discussion starters, meditations, or topics for personal reflection.

BRAVERY & COURAGE

- What belief, idea, or value would you fight for?
- What was a time when you were brave?
- Who do you know that is brave? Someone from a TV show or movie or book? A family member or friend? Why do you think this person is brave?
- Can you remember a time when you said something that you knew other people disagreed with, but you felt it was the truth? Tell the story.
- Have we shown courage in the past year? How can we demonstrate bravery in the year to come?

GRATITUDE & TZEDAKAH

- Upon realizing that they had won the war and that their oil lasted eight days, the Maccabees immediately celebrated by giving thanks to God. What are things for which you'd like to thank someone?
- Am I satisfied with what I spend and save? How do I support what is important to me in my community and beyond? Do these reflect my values?
- How have I shown gratitude today?
- What are the miracles in your life?
- In thinking about the historic struggles that have afflicted the Jewish people, we too must be mindful of the tragedies and atrocities faced by many other unprotected communities. What steps can you take to make sure we learn from history?

FAMILY

- How have I shown my appreciation for my family recently?
- What are your family's Hanukkah traditions? What new traditions do you want to start?
- How can I bring light to others?
- Is there a special person you can bring into the light of your loving family influence?
- Who are the family members and friends to whom I can turn outside my household? How am I nourishing these relationships?
- What's your favorite Hanukkah memory and why does it stand out for you?

PEACE

- How can I be the most effective instrument of peace for the community, for the nation, and for the world? How can I be a peaceful example to those around me?
- How is the daily work of our life serving a greater purpose? How do we respond to Judaism's imperative to stop and reflect? When do I live to work and work to live?
- How can I be an agent of change to bring about peace?
- How can I/we bring more peace to myself/ourselves?
- What more can I learn to help be an agent of peace?



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KNOWLEDGE & FAITH

- How do I honor my curiosity and nourish my mind?
- What is something new I learned today?
- When has someone empowered you to discover your own talents within you?
- How do I want to grow Jewishly?
- How can I strengthen by faith?
- Why is faith or Judaism important to me?
- What Jewish values do I value most? How do I live those values?

COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY

- When have you been a match, igniting someone else's spark to action?
- How can I make my community, my country, my world a better place?
- What can I do to bring a message of tolerance to those around me? How do I reach across our differences and build bridges of connection

HOPE, JOY, LOVE, & KINDNESS

- How do we build our lives on hope, not fear or despair?
- Kindness and truth will win out over falsehoods. How has this held true for you?
- What is a time when you have felt thankful for moments of connection, kindness, and love?
- How do we discover where joy lives in our hearts, and how do we spread that joy to all we encounter?
- How can I bring joy, kindness, and happiness to others in my world?
- Am I giving and experiencing love in a way that is satisfying?
- Can I love myself or my fellow human beings better?
- Where can I show more compassion for myself and others?

REDEDICATION

- How can I best share the many freedoms and gifts I have with all peoples of the earth?
- What is my responsibility in helping to repair the world when there is so much to do?
- Where do we experience meaning? When might we feel as if we are vessels for holy work on earth?
- How can I best be of service? How can I shine my light? What can I do to bring love, goodness, and justice into the world



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ACTIVITIES AND QUOTES

BRAVERY & COURAGE

- “One who is brave guides their faculties in accordance with intelligence and reason”
—Maimonides
- “The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest.” —unknown
- Being brave is when you feel scared of something, but you do it anyways because you know it's the right thing to do.
- Explore the Jewish value of ometz lev, or courage on this episode of Shabboom:
<https://youtu.be/7aETP4nG5ZI>
 - Make a list of new things and experiences you want to try
 - Talk about fears to overcome

GRATITUDE & TZEDAKAH

- The Hebrew word tzedakah directly translates to “righteousness,” but it is often used to signify charity. Hanukkah is a time for rediscovering the meaning of a gift. Tonight, in lieu of exchanging gifts, decide on one or two organizations worthy of your donation.
- For each of the eight days of Hanukkah, intentionally identify ways to be generous. You may choose to be generous with your time or with money, or both. One act of generosity may be directed toward a family member, while another may be directed toward a stranger and another toward yourself.
- Gratitude has been shown to be one of the strongest factors in people's happiness. People who demonstrate gratitude tend to have greater physical health, stronger relationships, more successful mechanisms for coping with stress and obstacles, and greater positive emotions.
- Check out the Jewish Center for Justice Hanukkah Guide: https://jewishcenterforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019_JCJ_Hanukkah_Guide.pdf
- Consider this reading from the American Jewish World Service: https://ajws-americanjewishwo.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Chanukah_Reading_2019.pdf
- “If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”
- “The greatest gift is to be able to give and the life we lead is measured by the good we do.”
—Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
- “Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.” —Randy Pausch

FAMILY

- Share a favorite Hanukkah memory.
- Call family members to share something you love about them and offer holiday greetings.
- “Families are the crucible of our humanity. They are the miniature world in which we learn how to face the wider world.” —Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
- Do something to show your appreciation for your family today.
- Spend quality time with your family, putting distractions aside and making the effort to be present. Laughter always makes for great family time.
- Work on a family tree or history.
- Look at pictures of family members with young kids and share something about each person.



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PEACE

- "When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." —Jimi Hendrix
- Take up a mindful practice, such as meditation or yoga, or focus on breathing to bring inner peace to yourself.
- Be an active listener.
- End disagreements through mutual understanding and the mending of hurt and wounded feelings.

KNOWLEDGE & FAITH

- Learn something new every day/week.
- Add a new-to-you Jewish ritual or practice.
- Show gratitude by sending thank-you notes.
- Say blessings over experiences such as walking, eating, wearing new clothes, seeing a rainbow, or starting a journey.

COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY

- Take part in social justice causes, advocacy, education, and service.
- Care for the environment: reduce your plastic use, recycle, offset your carbon footprint (find calculators and information online), etc.
- Be active in diverse groups or interfaith activities.
- Send a holiday card.

HOPE, JOY, LOVE, & KINDNESS

- Notice moments of joy and find reasons to celebrate.
- Create moments of connection, and join in laughter.

REDEDICATION

- "A man cried out to God, 'Look at all the suffering in the world. Why don't you send help?' God replied, 'I did. I sent you.'"
- Take some time to listen and watch this magnificent rendition of "We Shall Overcome" with Bernice Johnson Reagon and many friends at Pete Seeger's 90th birthday celebration. Let it inspire and uplift us all. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jW2MRTqzJug>



MENORAH MITZVAHS

The lighting of the Hanukkah menorah (hanukkiyah) is a mitzvah (sacred obligation) not found in the Torah. It is "d'rabbanan," that is, a dictate from the rabbis of the Talmud. We are directed to light candles on eight successive nights, increasing the number each night. The commandment (mitzvah) at the heart of Hanukkah observance is "a candle for each person and their household." So, it's a mitzvah to kindle the Hanukkah lights at home.

An additional mitzvah of Hanukkah is "pirsum hanes," publicizing the miracle that took place in the days of the Maccabees. A number of our customs come from this requirement, such as lighting at sundown, when the flames are most likely to be seen by passers-by, and placing our menorahs in the window to be visible from the outside. Many families light more than one hanukkiyah to share even more light in recognition of the miracle of the oil that should have burned for only one day yet lasted eight days until more oil could be made.



CANDLE CHOREOGRAPHY

HOW TO LIGHT YOUR HANUKKIYAH

Each night we begin by placing the shamash, the attendant candle, in place. Per tradition, we place the candles in the hanukkiyah from right to left and kindle them from left to right using the shamash. When the hanukkiyah is facing you, the candle for the first night is placed in the rightmost of the eight equal branches, and the shamash is placed in its holder, which is set apart from the rest.

1. Place shamash in the hanukkiyah.
2. Place one candle for each night of Hanukkah from right to left. The first night is the rightmost candle. The last (eighth) night is the leftmost candle. Place only the candles for the nights up to the current one, leaving the other places empty until their night arrives, so the light grows.
3. Light the shamash.
4. Hold the lit shamash (over foil or other safe surface to catch drips of wax).
5. Recite the blessings.
6. Use the shamash to light the other candles from left to right, so the kindling begins with the newest light.
7. Let the candles burn themselves out. Try not to blow Hanukkah candles out unless it's a safety concern or emergency.

SHABBAT HANUKKAH

With an eight-night holiday, the festival always includes the celebration of Shabbat at least once, raising the question of which candles to kindle first. Traditionally one does not do work on the Sabbath, which includes kindling candles.

FRIDAY NIGHT

On Friday night we bless and light the Hanukkah candles first. Then we light and bless the two Shabbat candles ushering in the Sabbath.

1. Bless Hanukkah candles.
2. Light Hanukkah candles using the shamash.
3. Light Shabbat candles using a match or lighter.
4. Bless Shabbat candles.

We do not cover our eyes while reciting the Hanukkah candle blessings, though some have the tradition to cover their eyes while reciting the blessing over the Shabbat candles.

SATURDAY NIGHT

On Saturday evening, to end Shabbat, we light and extinguish the three-wick Havdalah candle and then welcome in the new night and day of Hanukkah.

1. Light and extinguish Havdalah candle.
2. Light Hanukkah candles.



HANUKKAH CANDLE BLESSINGS

THE FIRST BLESSING—BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES

Melody and words at <https://youtu.be/9WMGWJaZkb4>

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world:
You hallow us through sacred obligations, and you ordain that we kindle the lights of Hanukkah.

THE SECOND BLESSING—THANKS FOR THE MIRACLE OF DELIVERANCE

Melody and words at <https://youtu.be/6ON2UQ6fhml>

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
she'asah nisim la'avoteinu v'imoteinu,
bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world:
You performed miracles for our ancestors, in ancient days at this season [and in our day as well].

THE THIRD BLESSING—MARKING A JOYOUS OCCASION IN JEWISH LIFE (TRADITIONALLY SAID ON THE FIRST NIGHT ONLY)

Melody and words at <https://youtu.be/-ynpfKLTP0g>

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
she'hecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi'yanu laz'man hazeh.*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world:
You have given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this joyous time.



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SHABBAT BLESSINGS

The candles are lit before the blessing is said.

BIRKAT HANEIROT—THE CANDLE BLESSING

**Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech
ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav,
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ, וְצִוִּינוּ לְהַדְלִיק
נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world: You hallow us through sacred obligations,
and you ordain that we kindle the lights of Shabbat.

KIDDUSH—A BLESSING OF GRATITUDE FOR THE SANCTITY OF SHABBAT

It is traditional to hold the cup of the "fruit of the vine" while reciting the following blessings:

*(softly/quietly) Vay'hi erev vay'hi voker
(regular volume) yom hashishi. Vay'chulu
hashamayim v'haaretz v'chol tz'vaam.
Vay'chal Elohim bayom hash'vi-i m'lachto
asher asah. Vayishbot bayom hash'vi-i mikol
m'lachto asher asah. Vay'varech Elohim et
yom hash'vi-i vay'kadeish oto, ki vo shavat
mikol m'lachto asher bara Elohim laasot.*

וַיְהִי עֶרֶב וַיְהִי בֹקֶר יוֹם הַשִּׁשִּׁי:
וַיְכַלּוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְהָאָרֶץ וְכָל-צָבָאָם:
וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מְלַאכְתּוֹ
אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וַיִּשְׁבֹּת בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
מְכַל-מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: וַיְבָרֶךְ
אֱלֹהִים אֶת-יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי
בּו שַׁבָּת מְכַל-מְלַאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר-בָּרָא
אֱלֹהִים לַעֲשׂוֹת:

And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. The heaven and the earth were finished, and all their array. On the seventh day God finished the work that God had been doing, and God ceased on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because on it God ceased from all the work of creation that God had done.

continued >>>



Hanukkah @ Home

STORY, READINGS & BLESSINGS

**Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu,
Melech haolam, borei p'ri hagafen.
Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu,
Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'ratzah vanu, v'Shabbat
kodsho b'ahavah uv'ratzon hinchilanu,
zikaron l'maaseih v'reishit. Ki hu yom
t'chilah l'mikra-ei kodesh,
zecher litziat Mitzrayim. Ki vanu vacharta,
v'otanu kidashta, mikol haamim.
V'Shabbat kodsh'cha b'ahavah
uv'ratzon hinchaltanu.
Baruch atah, Adonai, m'kadeish
haShabbat.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וּרְצָה בָּנוּ,
וְשִׁבֵּת קִדְּשׁוֹ בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרָצוֹן הִנְחִילָנוּ.
זִכְרוֹן לְמַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית, כִּי הוּא יוֹם
תְּחִלָּה לְמִקְרָאֵי קֹדֶשׁ, זִכָּר לִיְצִיאַת
מִצְרַיִם, כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֵרָתְךָ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ
מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְשִׁבֵּת קֹדֶשְׁךָ בְּאַהֲבָה
וּבְרָצוֹן הִנְחַלְתָּנוּ.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, מְקַדֵּשׁ הַשַּׁבָּת.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, who creates the fruit of the vine.
Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world:, who finding favor with us, sanctified us with mitzvot.
In love and favor, You created the holy Shabbat as our heritage, as a reminder of the work of Creation.
As first among our sacred days, it recalls the Exodus from Egypt. You chose us and set us apart from the peoples.
In love and favor You have given us Your holy Shabbat as an inheritance.
Blessed are You, Eternal, who sanctifies Shabbat.

Drink the "fruit of the vine" before placing it back on the table.

HAMOTZI—A BLESSING OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR FOOD

Remove the cover from the challah before saying the blessing.

**Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
hamotzi lechem min haaretz.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמוֹצִיא לֶחֶם מִן הָאָרֶץ:

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world who brings forth bread from the earth.



Hanuffah @ Home

STORY, READINGS & BLESSINGS

HAVDALAH

As Shabbat ends, the Havdalah candle is lit. It is customary to raise the cup of wine or grape juice high when the last sentence is recited and then proceed to the blessings.

Hinei El y'shuati, evtach v'lo efchad.
Ki ozi v'zimrat Yah Adonai vay'hi li lishuah.
Ush'avtem mayim b'sason mimaay'nei hay'shuah.
L'Adonai hay'shuah, al am'cha virchatecha, selah.
Adonai tz'vaot imanu, misgav lanu, Elohei Yaakov,
selah. Adonai tz'vaot, ashrei adam botei-ach bach!
Adonai hoshiah; haMelech yaaneinu v'yom kor'einu.
LaY'hudim hay'tah orah v'simchah v'sason vikar;
kein tih'yeh lanu.
Kos y'shuot esa, uv'shem Adonai ekra.

הִנֵּה אֵל יְשׁוּעָתִי, אֲבֹטַח וְלֹא אֶפְחָד,
כִּי עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה יִי, וְיִהְיֶה לִּי לִישׁוּאָה.
וְשָׁאַבְתֶּם מַיִם בְּשִׂשׂוֹן, מִמַּעַיְנֵי הַיְשׁוּעָה.
לִי הַיְשׁוּעָה, עַל עֲמָךְ בְּרַכְתְּךָ סֵלָה.
יְיָ צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ, מִשְׁגֵּב לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב
סֵלָה. יְיָ צְבָאוֹת, אֲשֶׁרִי אָדָם בֹּטֵחַ בָּךְ.
יְיָ הוֹשִׁיעָה, הַמֶּלֶךְ יַעֲנֵנוּ בְיוֹם קִרְאָנוּ.
לַיהוּדִים הָיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׂשׂוֹן וִיקָר.
כֵּן תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ. כּוֹס יְשׁוּעוֹת אֲשָׁא, וּבְשֵׁם
יְיָ אֶקְרָא.

Behold, the God who gives me triumph! I am confident, unafraid; for the Eternal is my strength and might and has been my deliverance. Joyfully shall you draw water from the fountains of triumph, deliverance belongs to the Eternal; Your blessing be upon Your people! The Eternal God of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our haven. Selah. The Eternal God of Hosts: Happy is the one who trusts in You. O Eternal One, grant victory! May the Sovereign answer us when we call. The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor. So may it be for us. I raise the cup of deliverance and invoke the name of Eternal.

BLESSING OVER THE WINE

Lift the cup of wine or grape juice and recite the blessing, then take a sip.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
borei p'ri hagafen.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגָּפֶן.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

continued >>>



Hanuffah @ Home

STORY, READINGS & BLESSINGS

BLESSING OVER THE SPICES

Hold up the spice box and recite the blessing, then smell the spices.

**Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
borei minei v'samim.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מִיְּבֵי בִשְׁמִים.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, Creator of varied spices.

BLESSING OVER THE FLAME

Hold the Havdalah candle and recite the blessing, then hold the back of your hand up to the light with your fingers bent toward you. This forms shadows on your palm, thereby using the light for the first time in the new week.

**Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
borei m'orei ha-esh.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, Creator of the lights of fire.

BLESSING OF SEPARATION

**Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol,
bein or l'choshech, bein yom hash'vi-i
l'sheishet y'mei hamaaseh.
Baruch atah Adonai, hamavdil bein kodesh l'chol.**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל, בֵּין אוֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ,
בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעַמִּים, בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
לְשֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הַמְבַדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, who distinguishes between the holy and ordinary, between light and dark, between the seventh day and the six days of work. Blessed are You, Eternal our God, who distinguishes the holy and ordinary.

(Extinguish the candle in the remaining wine or grape juice.)



ELIJAHU HANAVI—PRAYER FOR THE PROPHET ELIJAH TO HERALD REDEMPTION

*Eliyahu hanavi,
Eliyahu hatishbi,
Eliyahu hagiladi.
Bimheirah b'yameinu,
yavo eileinu,
im Mashiach ben David.*

אֱלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא,
אֱלִיָּהוּ הַתִּשְׁבִּי,
אֱלִיָּהוּ הַגִּלְעָדִי.
בְּמַהֲרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ,
יָבֹא אֵלֵינוּ,
עִם מָשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד.

May Elijah the prophet,
Elijah the Tishbite,
Elijah of Gilead,
quickly in our day come to us
heralding redemption.

SHAVUA TOV

Shavuah tov!

שָׁבוּעַ טוֹב . . .

A good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign and joy increase.