

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
December 5773/2012					30 16 Kislev 5:30pm Services 4:54pm CL	1 17 Kislev 9:15am Services 9:30am Shabbat School 12:45pm Torah Class 5:55pm Havdalah Vayishlach
2 18 Kislev	3 19 Kislev	4 20 Kislev 4:00pm Religious School 7:00pm Mishneh Torah	5 21 Kislev	6 22 Kislev RSVP due for Hanukkah Party	7 23 Kislev 7:30pm Bat Mitzvah Michal Spanjer 4:53pm C.L.	8 24 Kislev 9:15am Bat Mitzvah Michal Spanjer 5:55pm Havdalah Vayeshev Erev Hanukkah
9 25 Kislev Hanukkah	10 26 Kislev Hanukkah	11 27 Kislev 4:00pm Religious School 5:30pm Hanukkah Party - RSVP Hanukkah	12 28 Kislev Hanukkah	13 29 Kislev Hanukkah	14 1 Tevet 6:00pm K.I.S.S. Services 4:53pm C.L. Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah	15 2 Tevet 9:15am Services 12:45pm Torah Class 5:56pm Havdalah Miketz Hanukkah
16 3 Tevet 10:00am-12:00pm Maccabiah Games @ The Temple Hanukkah	17 4 Tevet	18 5 Tevet 4:00pm Religious School 7:00pm Mishneh Torah	19 6 Tevet	20 7 Tevet	21 8 Tevet 5:30pm Services 4:56pm C.L. Winter Begins	22 9 Tevet 9:15am Services 12:45pm Torah Class 5:59pm Havdalah Vayigash
23 10 Tevet FAST DAY	24 11 Tevet OFFICE CLOSED	25 12 Tevet OFFICE CLOSED	26 13 Tevet	27 14 Tevet	28 15 Tevet 5:30pm Services 5:01pm C.L.	29 16 Tevet 9:15am Services 12:45pm Torah Class 6:03pm Havdalah Vayechi
30 17 Tevet	31 18 Tevet					

Chanukah (or Hanukkah)

The most important aspect of Chanukah is the lighting of the candles:

It is customary to light one extra light in addition to the required number for the given night. This extra light, the shamash (the helper) is used for kindling the Chanukah lights. It is customarily placed on the Menorah, either above or below or in front or behind, to show that it is not one of the regular lights.

On the first night of Chanukah we light the first flame, and each night after, we add an additional light. The flames are lit from left to right, with today's flame being lit first. (Note that the candles (or wicks) are placed from right to left, but lit from left to right!)

The Menorah should be placed for *pirsum ha-nes*, publicizing the miracle, publicly visible to proclaim this great miracle to the outside world as well as for one's family.

The Chanukah lights are lit immediately at nightfall, but can be lit through the remainder of the night as long as the members of the household are awake, or there is significant traffic in the streets. The lights should burn for at least half an hour after the stars appear in the sky.

Erev Shabbat, the Chanukah lights are lit first, and then the Shabbat lights. One puts enough oil into the menorah for burning half an hour after the appearance of the stars, i.e. an hour and a half after the actual lighting. If using candles, the large Shabbat candles should be used. After Shabbat, Havdalah is first recited and then the Chanukah lights are lit.

Chanukah Blessings

1. Baruch ata A-do-nai Elo-he-nu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.
(Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and has commanded us to light the Chanukah lamps.)
2. Baruch ata A-do-nai Elo-he-nu melech ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avotenu, bayamim hahem bazeman hazeh.
(Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has done miracles for our ancestors in bygone days, at this time.)

And on the first night only:

3. Baruch ata A-do-nai Elo-he-nu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu vehigi'anu lazeman hazeh.
(Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has given us life, and has sustained us, and has brought us to this time.)

The lights are then kindled, and we recite:

“We kindle these lights to commemorate the miracles and the wonders and the acts of salvation and the battles that You fought on behalf of our ancestors long ago, at this time, through your righteous priests. And during all the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are holy! We do not make use of them, but only to behold them, in order to give thanks and to praise Your great Name, for Your miracles, and Your wonders and Your acts of salvation.”

Then Maoz Tzur is sung:

Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati, lekha na'eh leshabe'ah. Tikon beit tefilati, vesham toda nezabe'ah.
Le'et takhin matbe'ah mitzar hamnabe'ah. Az egmor beshir mizmor hanukat hamizbe'ah.

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. And Your Word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.

Kindling new the holy lamps, priests, approved in suffering. Purified the nation's shrine, brought to G-d their offering. And His courts surrounding, hear, in joy abounding, happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding. Happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding.

Children of the martyr 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 free, tyrants disappearing.
Which will see, all free, tyrants disappearing.

There is so much more to Chanukah than space allows. I recommend these sites for more information:

<http://www.aisk.com/h/c/?s=nb>

http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/default_cdo/jewish/Hanukkah.htm

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Judaism/holiday7.html>

Chanukah Sameach,

Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan