Light Up the Night

Live your life as the candle that brings light to a darkened world. Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, reminds us that no one has to sit in the dark.

First Hanukkah Candle: Sunday, December 2, after 4:30 PM
We don’t know for sure what the menorah in the ancient Temple may have looked like, but this depiction is an approximation. Note that the Temple’s menorah had seven branches, whereas a Hanukkah Menorah, a hanukkiyah, would have eight.

The priest would regularly light the menorah.
GUIDE TO LIGHTING A Hanukkiyah

WHAT YOU NEED
1. A hanukkiyah—make sure all candle holders are of equal height, except the one for the shamash (the candle used to light all others) which is either taller or shorter than the rest.
2. Hanukkah candles (purchased in grocery or Jewish book stores).
3. A window sill on which to light the hanukkiyah. We light the hanukkiyah in front of the window to publicize the miracle (pirsum haneis) of Hanukkah.

HOW TO DO IT
1. Load your hanukkiyah the way you read Hebrew, right to left.
2. Light only the shamash.
3. Early in the evening, but after dark, get the family together, stand and sing the first two blessings. On the first night we sing all three blessings. Also, whenever Hanukkah and Shabbat coincide, the hanukkiyah is lit before dusk and before the Shabbat candles. On those evenings, make sure your Hanukkah candles are of the extra long variety so that they burn for at least 30 minutes into Shabbat.

THE BLESSINGS

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha’olam,
asher kidishanu bemitzvotav, vitzivanu lehadlik ner shel Hanukkah.
Praised are You, Adonai, Who guides us through an incredible Universe, Who makes us holy through mitzvot and has given us the mitzvah of lighting the Hanukkah candle.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha’olam,
she’asah nissim la’avoteinu bayamim haheim, bazeman hazeh.
Praised are You, Adonai, Who guides us through an incredible Universe, Who made miracles for our ancestors long ago, and continues to make them today.

4. On the first night continue with the following— On other nights, continue with #5.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha’olam,
asher kidishanu bemitzvotav, vitzivanu lehadlik ner shel Hanukkah.
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melek ha’olam, shehehiyanu, vekiyimanu, vehigi’anu, lazeman hazeh.
Praised are you, Adonai, Who guides us through an incredible Universe, Who has granted us life, sustained us, and has let us witness this precious moment.

5. Light the candles, as you would read English, left to right.

6. Wish everyone a Hag Hanukkah Same’ah—A Happy Hanukkah—give everyone a Hanukkah kiss and you are now ready to exchange gifts.

To be or not to be, that...
No, no, no...
Sour cream or apple sauce...
That is the question!

(on the question of eating latkes—everyone agrees)
HANUKKAH SONGS FOR YOU TO SING—

HANEIROT HALALU

Ha-nei-rot ha-la-lu a-nu ma’d-li-kin
We kindle these lights [to commemorate]

Al ha-ni-sim ve-al ha-nif-la-ot,
the miracles and the wonders

ve-al ha-te-shu-ot ve-al ha-mil-ha-mot,
and for the salvations, and for the battles

She-a-see-ta la-avo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-heim baz-man ha-zeh,
which You have performed for our ancestors, in those days at this time,

Al ye-dei ko-ha-ne-kha ha-ke-do-shim,
through Your holy priests.

Ve-khol she-mo-nat ye-mei Ha-nu-kah ha-nei-rot ha-la-lu ko-desh ha-heim,
Throughout the eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred,

Ve-ein la-nu re-shut le-hish-ta-meish ba-hen,
and we are not permitted to make use of them,

E-la li-r-o-tan bil-vad, ke-dei le-ho-dot u-le-ha-leil
but only to look at them, in order to offer thanks and give praise

Le-shim-kha ha-ga-dol
to Your great Name for Your miracles,

for Your wonders and for Your salvations.
MA'OH TZUR

Ma-oz tzur y’shu-a-ti le-kha na-eh l’sha-bei-ah
Rock of Ages let our song praise Your saving power.

Ti-kon beit t’fi-la-ti v’sham to-dah n’za-bei-ah
You amid the raging throng were our sheltering tower.

L’eit ta-khin mat-bei-ah mi-izar ha-mi-na-bei-ah
Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us

Az eg-mor b’shir miz-mor Ha-nu-kat ha-miz-bei-ah
And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

EIGHT WAYS TO CELEBRATE EIGHT DAYS

BAKING NIGHT
Make your own latkes or sufganiyot or whatever else you're into. The project must be with everyone in the family and in this case, there can never be too many cooks in the kitchen.

MUSIC NIGHT
Get out your instruments and try to play your favorite songs: pots and pans are legitimate instruments. Or, decide on a CD to play throughout the house.

POPCORN & MOVIE NIGHT
Everybody decides on a favorite movie to watch as a family, pop popcorn and enjoy!

GAME NIGHT
Monopoly, Life, Charades, Bingo, etc. with the family

ICE CREAM NIGHT
Make your favorite sundaes, no matter what day of the week it is.

SHABBAT HANUKKAH NIGHT
Invite friends over for Shabbat dinner and celebrate Hanukkah and Shabbat together. Remember that the hanukkiyah gets lit before the Shabbat candles.
BOOK NIGHT
Which book are you reading and let everyone else in the family know about it.

WISH NIGHT
Make a wish, throw it into a hat, and everyone draws out a wish and reads it aloud. That person has to fulfill that wish.

HOW TO PLAY SPIN THAT DREIDEL

Each player puts in a playing piece (a penny, a nut, a hard candy) and the game begins. Each player takes turns spinning the dreidel. If it lands on:

- **Nun—NES—A Miracle**
  - the player receives nada, bubkes, and next player spins.

- **Gimel—GADOL—Great**
  - the player takes all of the pot. Mazal Tov!

- **Hay—HAYAH—Happened**
-- the player takes half of the pot. Betta than nothing, but you could do betta.

**Shin—SHAM—There**

-- the player puts a playing piece into the pot. Nebach!

Each time the pot is emptied out, each player puts in a playing piece (penny, nut, candy) and the game continues.

Sufganiyot or doughnuts are another Hanukkah treat. Owing to their greasy character, a sufganiyah reminds us of the miracle of the oil. One sufganiyah can have a whole lot of calories, but maybe on Hanukkah, you can eat them without fear of gaining weight—yet another Hanukkah miracle.
What happens when you combine eight fire pits together?

You get the...

The Midway Fire Pit Menorah
THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRE PIT HANUKKIYAH
Sunday, December 9, 5:30 PM
MIDWAY JEWISH CENTER
330 South Oyster Bay Road
Syosset, NY

And, of course, sufganiyot and hot chocolate for all...

Got a Fire Pit we Can Borrow? Please contact Lisa Stein at
lstein@mjc.org