

Something to Think About

Chanukkah! Oy Chanukkah! A yontif a Shayne... It really is such a beautiful holiday. We fill our homes with light and joy as we retell the legend of the bravery of the Macabees and the oil that lasted eight nights when it was only enough for one. Each family does this in its own way. Some fill the house with decorations. Some light as many Chanukkiot as there are family members. Some light a different Chanukkiyah each night. Some fry latkes others *sufganiyot*. All exchange gifts of one sort or another.



Elaine Brody

When our children were young, Buzz and I began giving each of them a “day alone” for Chanukkah. It could be with either of us, and could be an activity of the child’s choosing. There were train rides, movies, theatre outings, craft projects, dinners, and more. They are the gifts our girls remember long after the other presents have been forgotten. As you plan for this Chanukkah, consider giving the gift of your time.

This can also be an opportunity to teach your children and grandchildren about tzedakah. We have been giving our grandchildren a gift certificate for \$50.00 that they

can redeem for a donation to the charity of their choice. We send the check in the child’s name, and the acknowledgment goes to each child.

On another note entirely, I want to let you know that my next column will come to you from New Zealand. Once again, Buzz and I are fortunate to be going to spend the winter months where it’s warm. As always, we will mix travel with visiting old friends. We wish those of you staying home an easy winter.

Thanks for encouraging me to try to give you something to think about.

*L’hitraot,
Elaine*

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

For Love of Fried Food

Are you ready for Chanukkah? I can’t wait for latkes and *sufganiyot*! There is just something about fried food that tastes so good. It may not be the healthiest option, but once in a while, it can be okay. And Chanukkah is the perfect time for fried food!



If you haven’t been to My Jewish Learning recently, you’ll marvel at the beautiful web site it now has. Plus it has over a [dozen latke recipes](#) along with latke toppings. There are other fried foods, too, such as the traditional *sufganiyot* as well as the untraditional, like Beer-Battered Pumpkin Rings and Lemon Olive Oil Cupcakes.

Can’t find an out-of-the-ordinary latke recipe you like? Head over to [The Spruce](#) for more unusual latke recipes – from Zucchini Feta to Thai Corn Fritters. And if you want something untraditional for dessert, check out the Greek recipes. There are several Greek fried puffs and donuts at The Spruce that will tempt you!

If you want to mix it up this year, try out some [Mexican Chanukah recipes](#) at Chabad.org. Then add [Hanukah Churros](#) from Food52 for a wonderful Mexican menu.



Sephardic cuisine is overshadowed here in the USA by Ashkenazi cuisine. So you’ll be happy to know that there are Sephardic Chanukkah recipes,

along with a few others, at [Judaism Unbound](#). You can find more Sephardic Chanukkah recipes at [Tablet Magazine](#). One I’d like to try is the Savory *Sufganiyot*, stuffed with a choice of meat, cheese, or fish.

What about Jewish Italian food? Have a look at [Dinner in Venice](#), a web site by Alessandra Rovati. Two recipes she has for Chanukkah that I like are Fried Chicken Cutlets Italian-Jewish Style and Chanukkah Treats with Sambuca and Honey. The Forward also has an article on Jewish Italian Chanukkah food, [Buon Hanukah!](#)

So now that you have the food, ask everyone to sing for their supper with the [ThoughtCo list of Chanukkah songs](#) (includes YouTube links). Spin that dreidel and enjoy something different this year!