

**Temple Beth Sholom**  
**HANUKKAH**  
**SONG BOOK**



## **The Hanukkah Story**

In order to establish political and cultural unity among the diverse regions under his rule, Antiochus Epiphanes, King of Syria, decreed that all of his subjects should worship the Greek gods. He made traditional Jewish worship illegal, placed a statue of Zeus in the Jerusalem Temple, set up altars to the Greek gods in every town and city in Israel, and forced the Jews to eat forbidden foods.

The Jews rebelled against this religious oppression and rose up in revolt against the Syrian forces. Led by Mattathias of Modi'in, his son Judas Maccabeus, and the remaining Hasmonean brothers, the small, ill-equipped Jewish army defeated the garrisons of Syria in three years of pitched battle. In the end, they achieved not only their religious freedom, but their full political independence from Syria.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev in the year 165 BCE, the victorious insurrectionists marched in triumph through the streets of Jerusalem to begin the process of recleansing the Temple. The statue of Zeus was removed, all of the holy sanctuary objects were repurified, and the Temple was rededicated to the worship of God. In all, the ceremony of rededication took eight days.

This is essentially the story of Hanukkah as it occurs in the First and Second Books of the Maccabees. At a later date, the rabbis added to it the legend of the cruce of pure oil that burned for eight days, in commemoration of which we light the Hanukkah candles for eight nights.

### **Laws Relating to the Hanukkah Candles**

By Jewish law, there is a specific way of kindling and displaying the Hanukkah candles. Here are some simple directions that will aid in fulfilling this very old and beautiful ritual.

1. On the first night of Hanukkah, place one candle in the menorah on the extreme right. On the succeeding nights, place the candles from right to left.
2. Light the candles from left to right so that the candle added each night can be given the honor of being the first lit.
3. Kindle all of the candles from the “extra” candle, known as the Shamash.
4. Before we light the candles, we recite two blessings on each night. The first refers to the commandment to light the candles, and the second to the miracle that happened in connection with this festival. In addition, a third blessing – the Shehecheyanu – is recited on the first night only; its purpose is to thank God for sustaining us in life and enabling us to celebrate this festival.
5. Place the menorah in a conspicuous location, preferably near a window, so that everyone may know of Hanukkah.
6. Allow the candles to burn for at least one-half hour.
7. On Friday evening, light the Hanukkah candles before the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, light the Hanukkah candles after Havdala.

## Lighting the Hanukkah Candles

The lights of Hanukkah are a symbol of our joy. In a time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom: freedom to be themselves and freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples.

Within living memory, our people were plunged into deepest darkness. But we endured; the light of faith still burns brightly, and once again we see kindled the flame of freedom. Our people Israel has survived all who sought to destroy us. Now though love and self-sacrifice we labor to renew our life.

Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world. May they illumine our lives even as they fill us with gratitude that our faith has been saved from extinction time and time again.

*As you face the Hanukkah Menorah, place the first candle on your right. Subsequent candles are added to the left. Light the Shamash, take it in your hand, and say:*

**Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.**

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Eternal Soul of the universe, who has made us holy through Your commandments and has commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

**Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, she'asah nisim la-avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim bazman ha-zeh.**

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Eternal Soul of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in days long ago, at this season.

*On the first night of Hanukkah, recite the Shehecheyanu prayer, also:*

**Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v'kiyemanu v'higianu laz'man ha-zeh.**

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Eternal Soul of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

# Songs for Hanukkah

## MAOZ TZUR

Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a tee  
L'cha na-eh l'sha bei ach  
Tee-kon beit t'fee-la tee  
V'sham to-dah n'za-bei-ach  
L'eit tachin mat-bei-ach  
Mee-tzar ham'na-bei-ach  
Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor  
Hanukkat ha-miz-bei-ach

Yevanim nikbetzu alai,  
Azai bimei Hashmanim.  
Ufartzu homot migdalai,  
Vetim'u kol Hashmanim.

Uminotar kankanim  
Na'asa nes lashoshanim.  
Bnei vina yemei shmona  
Kav'u shir urenanim.

## ROCK OF AGES

Rock of Ages let our song  
Praise your saving power;  
You amidst 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 martyr race  
Whether free or fettered,  
Wake the echoes of the song  
Where ye may be scattered.  
Yours the message cheering  
That the time is nearing  
Which will see all men free  
Tyrants disappearing.

Kindling new the holy lamps,  
Priests approved in suffering.  
Purified the nation's shrine,  
Brought to God their offering.  
And His courts surrounding,  
Hear in joy abounding,  
Happy throngs, singing songs,  
With a mighty sounding.

## THE DREIDEL SONG

I have a little dreidel. I made it out of clay.  
And when it's dry and ready, then dreidel I shall play.  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.  
Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, now 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!  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, with legs so short and thin.  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it drops and then I win!

Nun means you get nothing,  
Gimel means you win,  
Hey means you get half the pot,  
And, shin you put one in.

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, then dreidel I shall play.

## S'VIVON

S'vivon sov sov sov  
Hanukkah hu chag tov  
Hanukkah hu chag tov  
S'vivon sov sov sov

Chag simcha hu la-am  
Nes gadol haya sham  
Nes gadol haya sham  
Chag simcha hu la-am

## NOT BY MIGHT (D. Friedman)

Not by might and not by power,  
But by spirit alone  
Shall we all 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. (3x)

## AL HANISIM

Al hanisim v'al hapurkan  
v'al hag'vurot v'al hat'shu-ot  
V'al hamil'chamot she-asita la-avoteinu  
bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

## O HANUKKAH, O HANUKKAH

O Hanukkah, O Hanukkah,  
Come light the menorah.  
Let's have a party.  
We'll all dance the hora.  
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.

*(And now in Yiddish!)*

Oy Chanukeh, Oy Chanukeh,  
a yom tov a shayner.  
A lustiker, a fraylicher, nito noch a zoyner.  
Alle nacht in dreydlech, sh'pilm mir.  
Zudik hayse latkes, est on a shir.  
Geshvinder, tsindt kinder,  
Dee dininke lichtelech on.

Zingt "Al Hanisim," loibt Gott far di nisim,  
Un kumt gicher tantzen in kon. (2x)

## Y'MEI HA-HANUKKAH

Y'mei ha-Hanukkah  
Hanukkat mikdashenu  
B'gil uv'simcha  
M'mal'im et libenu  
Layla vayom s'vivonenu yasov  
Sufganiyot nochal bam larov  
Ha'iru, had'liku  
Neirot Hanukkah rabim  
Al hanisim v'al hanif'laot  
Asher hal'lu ha-Maccabim  
Al hanisim v'al hanif'laot  
Asher chol'lu ha-Maccabim

## MRS. MACCABEUS

Each Hanukkah we glorify brave Judah Maccabeus  
Who had the courage to defy Antiochus, and free us,  
Yet it is not fair that we should forget  
Mrs. Maccabeus, whom we owe a debt.  
She mixed it; she fixed it  
She poured it into a bowl  
You may not guess, but it was the latkes  
That gave brave Judah a soul.

You may not guess but it was the latkes  
That gave brave Judah a soul.  
The Syrians said: "It cannot be that old Mattathias  
Whose years are more than 83 will dare to defy us!"  
But they didn't know his secret, you see  
Mattathias dined on latkes and tea.  
One latke, two latkes  
And so on into the night  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that gave him the courage to fight.  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that gave him the courage to fight.

Now this is how it came about this gastonomic  
wonder  
That broke the ranks of Syria like flaming bolts of  
thunder  
Mrs. Maccabeus wrote in the dough  
Portions of the Torah then fried them so.  
They shimmered, they simmered,  
Absorbing the olive oil  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that made the Syrians recoil.  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that made the Syrians recoil.

Now these little latkes brown and delicious  
must have hit the spot 'cause with appetites vicious  
All the heroes downed them after their toil  
Causing in our Temple a shortage of oil  
One latke, two latkes,  
And so on into the night.  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that gave us the Hanukkah light.  
You may not guess but it was the latkes  
that gave us the Hanukkah light.

## THE EIGHT NIGHTS OF HANUKKAH

On the first night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the second night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, two matzah balls and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the third night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

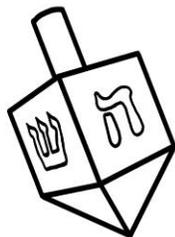
On the fourth night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, four pounds of corned beef, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the fifth night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, five kosher dills, four pounds of corned beef, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the sixth night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, six grandmas cooking, five kosher dills, four pounds of corned beef, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the seventh night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, seven rabbis dancing, six grandmas cooking, five kosher dills, four pounds of corned beef, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

On the eighth night of Hanukkah, someone sent to me, eight fiddlers fiddling, seven rabbis dancing, six grandmas cooking, five kosher dills, four pounds of corned beef, three golden latkes, two matzah balls, and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.



## LIGHT ONE CANDLE (P. Yarrow)

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.

Light one candle for 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

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

## HANUKKAH, HANUKKAH

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, chag yafe kol kach  
Or Chaviv misaviv, gil l'yeled rach.

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, s'vicon sov sov  
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov, ma na-im va-tov.

## MI Y'MALEIL/ WHO CAN RETELL

Mi y'malel g'vurot Yisrael  
Otan mi yimneh?  
Hein b'khol dor yakum hagibor, go-eil ha-am.  
Sh'ma! Ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man hazeh  
Maccabee moshiya u'fodeh  
U'v'yameinu kol am Yisrael  
Yitacheid 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.  
And now Israel must as one arise  
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice.

## OCHO KANDELIKAS (Flory Jagoda)

Hanukkah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi,  
Hanukkah linda sta aki, ocho kandelas para mi.

### **Chorus:**

O... una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres  
kandelikas, quatro kandelikas,  
sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas, siete  
kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias y plazer.  
Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias y plazer.

### **Chorus**

Los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas y la myel  
Los pastelikos vo kumer, con almendrikas y la myel

### **Chorus**



## SUFGANIYOT (Ellen Allard)

Chorus:

Sufganiyot, we're gonna gonna make some,  
Sufganiyot  
It's yummy in the middle!  
Sufganiyot, we're gonna gonna make some,  
Suf gany gany yot. (2x through chorus)

What's in the middle?

Strawberry!

What's in the middle? (*whisper*: sufganiyot!)

What's in the middle?

Strawberry!

What's in the middle of your sufganiyot?

### **Chorus**

What's in the middle?

Chocolate!

What's in the middle? (*whisper*: sufganiyot!)

What's in the middle?

Chocolate!

What's in the middle of your sufganiyot?

### **Chorus**

Bridge:

Crisp on the outside, Soft on the inside  
Pop the little pocket into your mouth  
Suf gany suf gany suf gany YOT!

### **Chorus**

What's in the middle?

Vanilla Custard!

What's in the middle? (*whisper*: sufganiyot!)

What's in the middle?

Vanilla Custard!

What's in the middle of your sufganiyot?

### **Chorus**

Bridge

### **Chorus**

End: Suf gany gany,  
Suf gany gany  
Suf gany gany yot!

**LOTS of LATKES!** (Leider)

**1:** Lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots! Let's all eat 'em up!

**2:** S'vivon sov sov ...

**3:** Maccabee Maccabee....

**THE LATKE SONG**

(Debbie Friedman)

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 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 am a latke, and I am  
waiting for Hanukkah to come (2x)

Every holiday has food so special.  
I'd like to have that 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)**

It's important that I have an  
understanding, of what it is that I'm  
supposed to do.

You see there are 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)**

**YODLELAYDO POTATO**

(Peter and Ellen Allard)

I like to eat potato latkes,  
I like to eat them all day.  
And when I eat potato latkes,  
This is what I say:

**Chorus:**

Yodlelaydo potato, yodelelaydo potato,  
yodlelaydo potato latkes for me.  
Yodlelaydo potato, yodlelaydo potato,  
Yodelay, Yodelay, Hee Hee!

I like to eat them with applesauce,  
I like to eat them all day... **(chorus)**

I like to eat them with sour cream,  
I like to eat them all day... **(chorus)**



## HAPPY JOYOUS HANUKKAH!

(Woody Guthrie/Klezmatiks)

How many nights for Hanukkah?  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Nights and days, days and nights,  
Happy joyous Hanukkah

### Chorus:

Eight are the nights of Hanukkah  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Eight are the days,  
and eight are the nights  
Happy joyous Hanukkah

How many candles do I light?  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Eight are the candles you should light  
For a Happy joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

One for Moses on the Mount  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Two for the mother and father love  
Happy Joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

Three for the Books that Ezra taught  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Four's for the Hebrew children  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

Five for the Brothers Maccabee  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Six for the tricks the King did play  
Happy Joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

Seven for the sons of Hannah that died  
Not so happy Hanukkah  
Eight for the new built alter place  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

Nine is the light of God that shines  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Around this whole wide world tonight  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
(Chorus)

Nine is for God's light that shines  
Eight for the new built alter place  
Seven for the sons of Hannah that died  
Six for kings and the tricks they tried  
Five for the brothers Maccabee  
Four for the Hebrew children  
Three for the Books that Ezra taught  
Two for the father and mother love  
One for Moses on the Mount

Eight are the night of Hanukkah  
Happy joyous Hanukkah  
Eight are the days  
and eight are the nights  
Happy Joyous Hanukkah

HAPPY JOYOUS HANUKKAH!



Songbook conceived by Alan Friedman, z'l  
Updated by Cantor David E. Reinwald – Hanukkah 2014/5775