

Minhagim of Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
as given over by
Rabbi Menachem Goldberger

Chanukah

Lighting the Menorah

- It is our minhag to daven maariv before lighting (some other kehillos light between mincha and maariv).
- The menorah should be lit at nightfall (tzais hakochavim), approximately 45 to 60 minutes after sunset (shkia).
- When the lights are lit at tzais, they must burn for at least 1/2 hour from that time. If lit before tzais, they must last for 1/2 hour after tzais. One may light as early as plag hamincha, if necessary.
- No benefit should be derived from the lights, other than looking at them.
- It is most preferable to light using olive oil and wicks. Wax candles are permissible, as their light is also very clear. They are often more convenient.
- On the first night, we say 3 brachos: 1) lehadlik ner shel chanukah, 2) she'asa nisim, and 3) shehechiyanu. Only the first 2 brachos are said on the remaining nights.
- The menorah should be placed either on the left side of the doorway, opposite the mezuzah, or on a window sill visible from the street. If there is more than one menorah being lit in a home, one could be placed by the doorway, and the other by the window sill.
- It is preferable to place the menorah between 3 and 10 tefachim from the floor (between 11 and 37 inches). If that's not possible, it is permissible to place the menorah higher, but not greater than 20 amos (30 feet). This is measured from the floor of the residence, not from ground level. The menorah may not be placed less than 3 tefachim

from the floor.

After Lighting

- Immediately after lighting the menorah, the songs 'Hanayros Halalu' and 'Maoz tzur' are sung.
- It is Rabbi Goldberger's custom to recite tehillim during the 1/2 hour that the lights are burning, while sitting in front of the menorah. The tehillim are recited as follows:
 - 90 'Vihi noam' (the last pasuk), followed by 91 'Yoshaiv bseser elyon' . This is recited 7 times.
 - 67 'Lamnatzaiach binginos' . One time.
 - 'Ana b'koach' (found in the siddur before Lecha Dodi). One time.
 - 30 'Mizmor shir chanukas habais'. One time.
 - 133 'Shir hamaalos...hinai ma tov'. One time.
 - 33 'Ranenu tzadikim'. One time.
- It is the prevalent custom for women not to work during the 1/2 hour that the lights are burning. Cooking is OK, but activities such as laundry, washing dishes, mopping, cleaning, sewing, etc. should not be performed.

Erev Shabbos

- Chanukah lights are lit first, just before the Shabbos candles.
- The Chanukah lights must burn for at least 90 minutes.
- We do not sit by the candles or say tehillim.

Motzai Shabbos

- Our minhag is to first say havdalah, and then light for

Chanukah.
Shmoneh Esreh and Bentsching

- 'Al Hanisim' is added to both shmoneh esreh and bentsching. If you forget it, it is not necessary to go back.

Shacharis

- Full Hallel with a bracha is said every day of Chanukah.
- The Torah is also read every day. The leynung is the korbanos of the nisiim.
- It is permitted to go to work on Chanukah.

Special Meals/Special Foods

- Eating a special meal is a "ktzas mitzvah" (a small mitzvah) on Chanukah. If you sing songs of praise to HaShem at the meal, it is considered a seudas mitzvah
- Latkes, and other foods cooked in oil, are considered special for Chanukah.

Please be careful with the menorah around children. Make sure the menorah is placed safely in its location.

Frailechen Chanukah to One and All