HANUKAH
Lighting the Hanukah Menorah

The home celebration of Hanukkah centers on the lighting of the Hanukah candles each of the eight nights of the Festival. The Hanukiyah (Menorah) has places for nine candles. Eight are of equal height; the ninth, called the shamash (worker) is placed higher and is used to kindle the other lights.

The candles are placed from right to left as you face the Hanukiyah. But you light the candles from left to right so that on each night the newest candle is lit first.

BLESSING FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Baruch ata Adonai eloheynu melech ha’olam asher kidshanu bemitzvotav veitzivranu lehadlik ner shel Hanukah.

Praised be the Eternal our God, Ruler of the world, for Mitzvot that make us holy, and for the joy of this Mitzvah: the kindling of Hanukah lights.

Baruch atah Adonai eloheynu melech ha’olam she’asah nisim lavotaynu bayananim hahaym ba’zman hazeh.

Praised be the Eternal our God, Ruler of the world, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

(on first evening only)

Baruch atah Adonai eloheynu melech ha’olam sho-he-choyanu vekhamanu vekhigiyanu ba’zman hazeh.

Praised be the Eternal our God, Ruler of the world, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

HANEROT HALLALU (after lighting the candles)


We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors.

During these eight days of Hanukah these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.
HANUKAH SONGS

MAOZ TZUR

antino yeshuah, lo ba'avo elohim.
Eccher b'hitiglach yeshuah yodeh.
Li'aah hamekha m'amar k'molam.
San ammor beisro m'mor, hanojek ha'mizm.

Y'vanim nik'tzu alai, azai bimey hash-manim,
U-far-tzu homot mig-dalai, vitmi'kol ha'shamim,
U-mi-notar kan-kanim, na-asa neys l'sh-shanim,
Brayy vina, y'mey sh'mona, kav'u shir u-r'nam.

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Thy saving power;
Thou amidst the raging foes, wast our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us,
And Thy word broke their sword
When our own strength failed us.

Children of the martyr-race, whether free or fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs, where ye may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering that the time is nearing
Which will see all men free, tyrants disappearing.

MI YE'ALEIH

Mi ye-ma-lei gev'u-rotil Yis-ra-eyl,
o-tan mi yim-neh?
Hein be-chol dor ya-kum ha-gi-bor,
go-eyl ha-am

She-ma! Ba-ya-mi-ma ha-he'mim
ba-zo-man ha-zeh,
Ma-ka-bi mo-shi-a u-ro-deh.
U-ve-yi-mu-nu kol am Yis-ra-eyl
Yit-a-chaid, ya-kum le-hi-ga-eyl!

Who can retell the things that befall 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 his faithful band.
And now all Israel must as one arise, redeem itself through deed and sacrifice!

HANUKAH FOOD

Most Jewish holidays have their own special foods and treats. On Hanukah it is customary to eat latkes (levivot) and doughnuts (sufganiyot). Both of these foods are fried in oil and remind us of the miracle of the jug of oil that burned for eight days.

Potato Latkes

3 large potatoes (2 c. grated)
small onion
2 eggs
2 Tablespoons flour or matzoh meal
1 teaspoon salt

Grate potatoes and place in bowl. Grate in onion. Add eggs, matzoh meal and salt. Drain off excess liquid. Drop by spoonfuls into well oiled frying pan. Fry on both sides in hot oil. Serve with applesauce or sour cream.

HANUKAH GAMES

We should do no work while the Hanukah lights are burning. One popular Hanukah game is the Dreidel or Sevivon.

Here are the rules for playing dreidel:
Everyone starts with an equal number of pennies, nuts or raisins. Each player puts one of these in the middle.
The first player spins the dreidel. If it lands on:
Num - the player does nothing
Gimmel - the player takes everything in the middle
Hey - the player takes half
Shin - the player puts one in

Before the next player spins, everyone puts another piece in the middle.
The Hebrew letters on the dreidel stand for the words "nes gadol haya sh'm." A great miracle happens there!