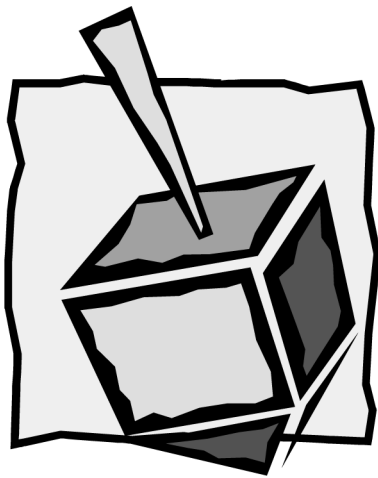
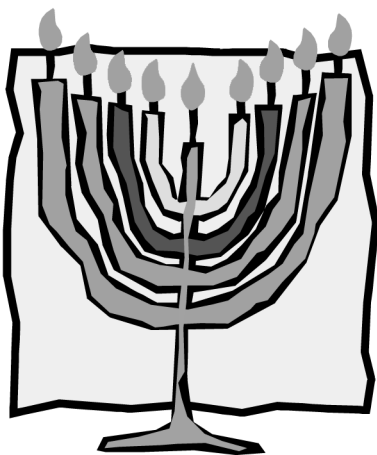
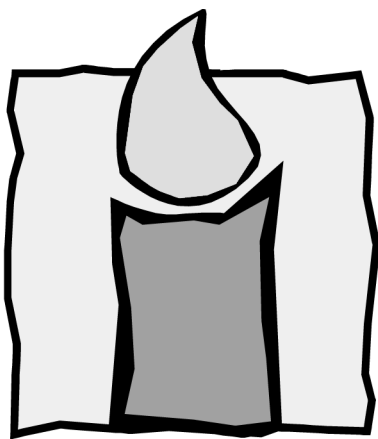
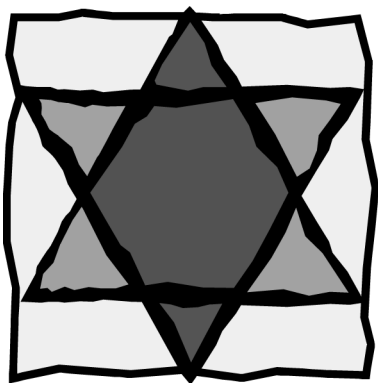


Hag Sameach



Happy Chanukah

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis...

100 years of caring

Chanukah means dedication, and since 1910, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS) has been dedicated to enhancing the well-being and self-sufficiency of individuals and families by assisting them to meet the unique challenges of daily life.

We strive to make the world a better place by working with individuals and families who need a helping hand in times of stress. We assist people of all ages, regardless of race, religion, heritage, income or background. Whether you are facing issues of mental health, aging, illness or employment, call us, and we will do our best to help you overcome your barriers to success.

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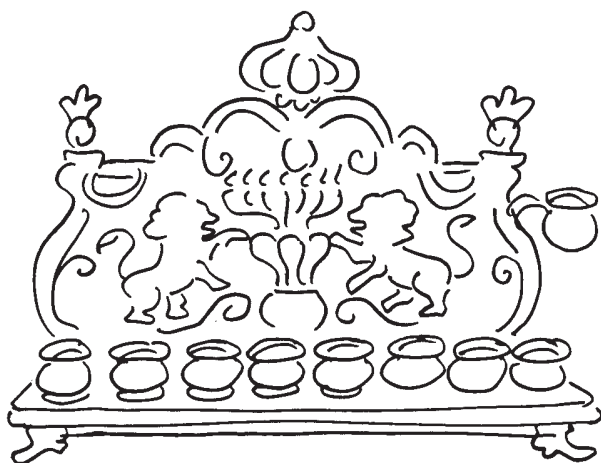


The Story of Chanukah

Chanukah, or the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day holiday that begins at sundown on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev.

In 160 BCE, a powerful and wicked Syrian king named Antiochus conquered the Jews and forced them to forsake their religion. Those who refused were tortured or killed. One Jew, Mattathias, was unafraid. Mattathias had five sons; the most famous was Judah Maccabee. Under Judah's leadership, the Jews battled back against their Syrian oppressors.

They recaptured Jerusalem, and repaired and cleansed the Temple. Then all of the Jews gathered to celebrate the rededication of the Temple. (Chanukah means "dedication.") Only a small flask of oil was found to light the great Menorah. It was enough oil for one day. However, it continued to burn brightly for eight days and that is why we celebrate Chanukah for eight days.

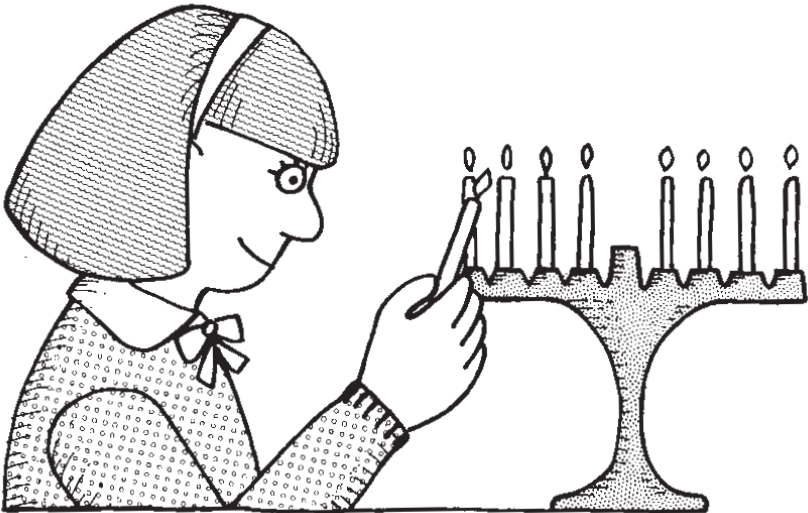


Lighting the Candles

The Chanukah menorah, also called a *chanukiyah*, should be lit at sunset and placed in front of a window, so that people passing by can see the candles burning. You need 44 candles for all eight nights. Each night a *shamas* (helper) candle is lit and is used to light first one candle, then two, and so on.

Candles should be lined up from right to left. The last candle added is the first one lit, and the lighting continues from left to right.

In some families, it is the custom for everyone to light his or her own *chanukiyah*. In other families, parents and children take turns. On Shabbat, light the Chanukah candles before Shabbat begins.



How to Light the **Menorah**



- * Each night put the candles in the menorah from right to left.
- * Each night add one more candle.
- * Light the candles from left to right, the newest candle first
- * The shamas is the tallest candle.
- * Light the shamas with a match.
- * Always light the other candles with the shamas.
- * The candles, or oil, must burn at least one-half hour each night.
- * The menorah can have candles or cups for oil.
- * Enjoy and share the beauty of the lights.

Candle Blessings

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu, melech ha'olam, asher
kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu, l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world,
who makes us holy by Your mitzvot and commands
us to light the Chanukah candles.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu, melech ha'olam, she'asah
nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world,
who made miracles for our ancestors in those days, in
this season.



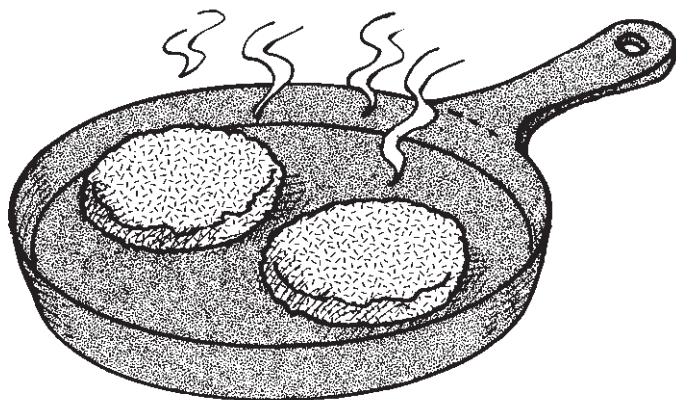
Candle Blessings

On the first night, we add a third blessing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu, melech ha'olam,
she'hecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu, lazman hazeh.

We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of
the world, who has kept us alive and well
so that we can celebrate this special time.



Other Chanukah customs:

- * Giving small gifts or small amounts of money
- * Eating foods cooked in oil, such as potato latkes (pancakes) or donuts
- * Having a small party—having friends visit, lighting candles together and exchanging gifts
- * Playing the dreidel game (see next page).

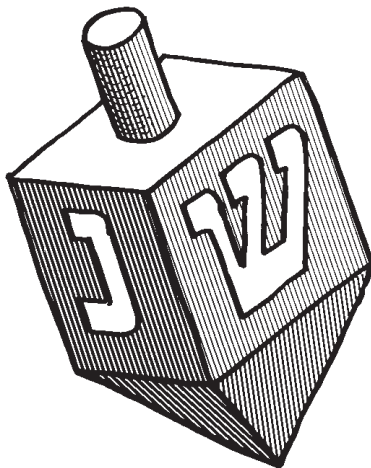
Spin the Dreidel!

The dreidel is a small spinning top with four sides. Each side has a Hebrew letter on it. Those letters begin the words of the Hebrew sentence *Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*, or "A great miracle happened there." The miracle refers to the one-day supply of oil that burned for eight days in the Great Temple of Jerusalem after the Maccabees' victory.



Rules of the Dreidel Game

1. Each player should start with a “stake” of ten or fifteen pennies, nuts, or raisins.
2. Each player puts a “wager” (one penny, nut, or raisin) into the middle of the table.
3. Taking turns, one person at a time spins the dreidel.
4. The letter on the side of the dreidel facing up when it falls determines what he/she does next:
 - נ *Nun* stands for “nothing”—the player does nothing
 - ג *Gimel* stands for “all”—the player takes everything in the pot
 - ה *Hey* stands for “half”—the player takes half of the pot
 - ש *Shin* stands for “put in”—the player puts one wager in the pot





Mission Statement

Inspired by the wisdom and values of our tradition, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis supports people of all backgrounds to reach their full potential.

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