

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS:

(1) בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל (שַׁבָּת ו) חֲנֻכָּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlom, asher kid'shonu b'mitzvatov,
v'tzivonu l'hadlik ner shel [on Shabbat, add: Shabbat v'] Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us by
Thy commandments and instructed us to kindle the lights of [on Sabbath, add:
Sabbath and] Chanukah

(2) בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlom, she'osah nisim l'avotenu, bayamim
hehem, baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe who did wondrous things
for our ancestors in this season, in those days.

On the first night only, add:

(3) בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ
לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlom, shehechyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu
laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe who has kept us in life,
sustained us, and brought us to this moment of Holiness.

Ma'oz Tzur

Ma'oz Tzur, or "Rock of Ages," is a traditional Hanukkah song that was composed by a man named Mordecia in Europe in the twelfth century. Both the Hebrew and English words can be sung with the traditional melody, though throughout the centuries a number of different tunes have been used to accompany Ma'oz Tzur.

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נֶאֱדָה לְשַׁבְּחָה,
תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלֵתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,
לַעֲת תִּכּוֹן מִטְבַּח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ,
אֶז אֶגְמַר בְּשִׁיר מְזִמּוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמְּזִבְּחַ.

*Maoz tzur yeshua-ti
Lecha na-eh li-sha-beyach
Tikone bait ti-fee-lati
Vi-sham todah ni-za-beyach.
Li-ate ta-chin mat-beyach*

*Mee-tzar ham-na-beyach
Az eg-more bi-sheer meez-mor
Chanukat ha-meez-beyach
Az eg-more bi-sheer meez-mor
Chanukat ha-meez-beyach.*

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Your saving power.
You amid the raging throng were our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us.
And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

MAOZ TZUR

My salvation's stronghold, fort,
Praising You is such delight.
Build your house of prayer, Lord
Cleansed from idols after fight.
You came to our assistance
When we gave resistance.
Then we sang a hymn of thanks
For your aid's persistence.

Ramparts, pyramids and forts,
Egypt had us build for them.
We found no justice in their courts
When they drowned our children.
With grace beyond all measure
You redeemed Your treasure.
You split the sea to help us flee
Now Pesach is our pleasure.

Dear to us Your temple was
Still we could not tarry there.
Babylon's superior mass
Exiled us we knew not where.
We drank that poisonous potion,
Were moved in that commotion.
When we turned we were not spurned,
But gave You our devotion

Keen was Haman's hate for us
When he was in power.
He vowed slaughter, death to us
Mordecai didn't cower.
To pride he kept clinging
While on the gallows swinging.
On that tree meant for me,
Haman wound up swinging.

Ionian, Hellenist and Greek
Did defile our holy place.
G-d did aid the faithful meek
Who gave the enemy the chase.
Then they found new meaning,
When they found in cleaning,
In their toil some pure oil,
Hanukkah's beginning.

Holy aid extend to us
And bring the end of exile soon.
When the foes oppressed the just
You did protect us from dire doom.
In an exile dour at our darkest hour,
Edom vain lost its reign
Make our shepherd flower.

I Have a Little Dreidel

I have a little dreidel,
I made it out of clay.
And when it's dry and ready,
Oh dreidel I shall play.
(Chorus)
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,
I made it out of clay;
And when it's dry and ready,
Then 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.
(Chorus)

O dreidel dreidel dreidel
With leg so short and thin
O dreidel dreidel dreidel
It drops and then i win
My dreidel is always playful,
It loves to dance and spin.
A happy game of dreidel,
Come play – Now let's begin.
(Chorus)
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,
It loves to dance and spin.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,
Come play – Now let's begin.

I Have a Little Lightbulb

(sung to the tune of "I Have a Little Dreidel")

I have a little lightbulb
It's called a compact fluorescent
It's better than the usual bulb
And makes a great Hannukah present

Refrain: Oh lightbulb, lightbulb, lightbulb
It helps save energy
Oh lightbulb, lightbulb, lightbulb
Come save the world with me!

The thing about this lightbulb
Is that it gives off much less heat
And therefore uses less electricity
Wow, now isn't that neat?

(Refrain)

I have a dream for this lightbulb
To go in every home and Hebrew school
Not mention office buildings
And every single shul

(Refrain)

This simple little lightbulb
Can go a long, long way
In saving precious energy
Each and every day

(Refrain)

S'vivon

S'vivon, sov, sov, sov
Chanuka, hu chag tov
Chanuka, 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.

(Translation)

Dreidel, spin, spin, spin.
Chanuka is a great holiday.
It is a celebration for our nation.
A great miracle happened there.

סְבִיבוֹן, סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב
חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב!
חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חַג טוֹב!
סְבִיבוֹן, סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב.

חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם
נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם!
נֶס גְּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם!
חַג שְׂמֵחָה הוּא לָעַם

NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER by Debbie Friedman

Not by might and not by power,
but by spirit alone shall we all live in peace. (2x)

The children sing, the children dream,
and their tears may fall, but we'll hear them call
and another song will rise,
another song will rise,
another song will rise!

Chanuka, Chanuka

Chanuka, Chanuka
Chag yafeh kol kach
Ohr chaviv, mi-saviv
Gil li-yeled rach.

Chanuka, Chanuka
S'vivon, sov, sov
Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov!
Ma nayim vi-tov.

חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה, חַג יָפֵה כָּל כָּךְ
אוֹר חֲבִיב מְסֻבִּיב, גִּיל לְיֶלֶד רַח.

חֲנֻכָּה, חֲנֻכָּה, סְבִיבוֹן, סוֹב, סוֹב,
סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב, סוֹב
מָה נְעִים וְטוֹב.

(Translation)

Chanuka is a great holiday.
Surrounded with lovely light,

Fun for little children
Dreidel, spin, spin, spin,
How wonderful!

Oh Hanukkah

Yiddish:

Chanukah oy Chanukah, a yontif a sheiner
A lustiker a freylicher nito noch a zeyner
Alle nacht in dreydlech shpiln mir
Zudik hesse latkes essen mir
Geshvinder tsindt kinder
di Chanukah lichtelech on
Zol yeder bazunder bazingen dem vunder
un tantzen freylech in kohn (2x)

Oh Hanukkah, Oh 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,
Latkes to eat

And while we are playing
The candles are burning bright
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
To remind us of days long ago.

חֲנֻכָּה, אָ חֲנֻכָּה,
אָ יום-טוב אָ שׂינער
אָ לוסטיקער, אָ פֿריליכער,
ניטאָ נאָך אַזינער
חֲנֻכָּה, אָ חֲנֻכָּה,
אָ יום-טוב אָ שׂינער
אָ לוסטיקער, אָ פֿריליכער,
ניטאָ נאָך אַזינער

אַלע נאַכט אין דרידל
שפּילן מיר
זודיק, הייסע לאַטקעס
עסן מיר

OCHO KANDELIKAS (Ladino)

by Flory Jagoda

1. Chanukah linda sta aki,
ocho kandelas para mi (2x)

Chorus:

O --- Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,
tres kandelikas, kuartro kandelikas sintyu

kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

2. Muchas fiestas vo fazer,
kon alegriyas y plazer (2x) Chorus

3. Los pastelikos vo kumer,
kon almendrikas y la myel (2x) Chorus

Light One Candle By Peter Yarrow_

Light one candle for the Maccabee children, for 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.
But light one candle for the wisdom to know when the peacemakers' 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 the 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, that anger not tear us apart.
Light one candle to bind us together, with peace as a song in our heart.

What is the memory that's valued so highly, that we keep it alive in this 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, this is the promise and this is what we will not fail.

This Little Light of Mine (American folksong)

The light that shines is the light of love-
Lights the darkness from above.
It shines on me and it shines on you,
Shows what the power of love can do.
I'm gonna shine my light both far and near.
I'm gonna shine my light both bright and clear.
If there's a dark corner in this land,
I'm gonna let my little light shine!

Chorus: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Some say "It's dark, we cannot see"
But love lights up the world for me.
Some say "Turn around and just go hide"
But we have the power to change the tide.
Some call life a sad old story
But we see a world that's bound for glory.
The real power is yours and mine,
So let your little light shine!

HANEROT HALLELU

הַנְּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מְדַלִּיקִים עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת וְעַל
הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שְׁעֲשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְן
הַזֶּה, עַל יְדֵי כְּהֵנִיף הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנְּרוֹת הַלְלוּ
קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֶלָּא לְרְאוּתָם בְּלִבָּד,
כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסְיָךְ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל

Hanerot hallelu anachnu madlikin, al hanisim v'al hanif'laot v'al hat'shuot v'al
hamilchamot - sheasitah l'avotenu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh al y'dei
Cohanecha hak'doshim. Vchol sh'monot y'mei Chanukah hanerot halellu kodesh
hem, v'ain lanu rashut l'hishtamesh bahem, elah lirotam bilvad, k'dei lahadot
ul'hallel l'shimcha hagadol al nisecha, v'al nif'lotecha, v'al y'shuatecha.

Mrs. Maccabeus (to the tune of "O Chanukah")
(by Ben Aronin, z"l, of Congregation Anshe Emet in Chicago)

Each Chanukah 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, and 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 Chanukah light.
You may not guess but it was the latkes
that gave us the Chanukah 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 matzoh balls and a warm bagel topped with cream cheese.

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

Eight Days of Fire

(To the tune of Jerry Lee Lewis' "Great Balls of Fire")

By Josh Males

They beat the Greeks and they chased them away.
Their flask of oil would burn just one day.
They lit the wick - Oh, what a trick!
Ribono Shel Olam, Eight days of Fire!

They cleaned the temple an' they made it look nice.
Brought a couple cows for a sacrifice.
Those Maccabees - Threw out the sleaze.
Ribono Shel Olam, Eight days of Fire!

CHORUS

Light those candles, oooh...
from left to right
Place that Menorah
over by the window in plain sight
Those lights
So bright
Add another candle every night,night,night,night

We open up the presents as we sing "Maoz Tzur".
You hope it ain't clothes but you can never be sure.
Instead of "Gelt",
You got a belt!
Ribono Shel Olam, Eight days of Fire!

CHORUS

We spin the "dreidel" an' we don't go to school.
We chant the "Hallel" every morning in "Shul".
Dressed in "Gatkes",
We scarf down "latkes"
Ribono Shel Olam, Eight days of Fire!

AL HANISIM

Al hanisim v'al hapurkan
v'al hag'vurot v'al hat-shu-ot

V'al hamilchamot she-asita lavoteinu
bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹן וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמְּלָחֳמוֹת
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם
בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה

Hannukah in Santa Monica

By Tom Lehrer, 1990

I'm spending Hannukah in Santa Monica,
Wearing sandals, lighting candles by the sea,
I spent Shavuos in East Saint Louis,
A charming spot, but clearly not the spot for me...

Those eastern winters, I can't endure `em
So every year I pack my gear and head out west til Purim

Rosh Hashona I spend in Arizona
And Yom Kippah way down in Mississippah

But in December there's just one place for me
Mid the California flora I'll be lighting my menorah
Like a baby in its cradle I'll be playing with my draydel
Here's to Judas Maccabeus, Boy if he could only see us
Spending Hannukah, in Santa Monica, By the Sea!

Mi Y'malel?

Who Can Retell?

Who can retell the things that befell us?

Who can count them?

In every age, a hero or sage
Arose to our aid

Hark!

In days of yore in Israel's ancient
land

Brave Maccabees led the faithful
band

But now all Israel must as one arise
Redeem itself through deed and
sacrifice.

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל
אותן מי ימנה?
הן בכל דור יקום הגבור
גואל העם.

שמעו! בימים ההם בזמן הזה
מכבי מושיע ופודה
ובימינו כל עם ישראל
יתאחד יקום להיגאל

Mi y'malel g'vurot yisrael

Otan mi yim'neh

Hein b'chol dor yakoom hagibor

Goayl ha'ahm

Shema! Bayamim haheym baz'man hazeh

Macabi moshi'ah u'fodeh

U'vyameinnu cawl ahm yisrael

Yitachad yakoom l'hitga'el

Who will Deny? (to melody MI Y'MALEIL)

Who will deny

The King of the Fry

The awesome latke?

It's not a tomato,

Just tastes like potato

It's oh so good.

Hear! Hear my friends

The stirring history,

Of a people struggling to be free;

Matzo is the food of liberty

Latke is the food of bravery.

Tzimmes and fish

And kugel and knish

And blintzes blessings;

Bagels and lox

Are surely the tops

For Jewish joy.

Hear! Hamantashen for festivity

Kreplach are the food for piety

Honey for New Year's prosperity

Latke is the food for bravery.

Antiochus

Who fought Antiochus.
Tell me please.
I know. I know.
The Maccabees.

Who saved the Temple.
Tell me please.
I know. I know.
The Maccabees.

Who gave us Chanukah.
Tell me please.
I know. I know.
The Maccabees.

Feast of Light

We have come to banish night,
Banish it with candle light.
All the little candle rays
Join to make a mighty blaze.
Vanish darkness, vanish light,
Hanukkah is the feast of light.

The Dreidel Song

Words and music: Debbie Friedman 1987

Chorus:

Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin
Watch the dreidel spin, spin, spin
Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin
Watch now let the fun begin
Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin
Spin the dreidel, try to win
And sing along this dreidel song with me.

See the dreidel spinning round
Spinning round and round
And round

When it stops it will tell you
This is what you have to do.

Chorus

You take nothing Nun will say
Gimmel wins, it's fun to play
Hey takes half, but land on Shin
And you'll have to put some in.

Chorus