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Jewish Interfaith Wedding Network

# 8 WAYS TO CELEBRATE HANUKKAH

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# HAVE A HAPPY HANUKKAH





#### What is the Holiday of Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and it remembers the rededication of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. This historic event happened in the 160s BCE/BC (before Jesus was born). ... During Hanukkah, on each of the eight nights, a candle is lit in a special menorah (candelabra) called a 'hanukkiyah'.

In this guide, we cover the basic 8 steps to celebrating this 8 day Jewish Festival of Lights.

#### How to Use This Guide

 Clickable Links: When you use this guide from the internet either in a browser or the PDF version, you can access the clickable links leading to more information on the topic from the best curated content to get you authentic, quick and easy directions. Look for Blue Clickable Links throughout this guide...

Suggested list of Hanukkah Supplies with a link to product details.

- Click on the item you want to view and it takes you to the item on Amazon.com
- With full disclosure, the products in this list do have Amazon affiliate links, where we do get a small fee from the company.



#### **Questions You Need To Know About Hanukkah**

#### • When is Hanukkah in 2020 and 2021

Hanukkah starts on the 25th of Kislev, and lasts for eight nights and days.

#### Hanukkah 2020: Night of December 10-Day of 18th

2020: Nightfall on December 10 - Nightfall on December 17

On Thursday evening (Dec. 10) light one candle on your menorah.

The last night to light a candle is December 17, holiday ends at sundown Dec 18.

#### 2021: December November 28-December 6

2021: Nightfall on Nov 28 - Nightfall on December 6

On Sunday evening (Nov. 28) light one candle on your menorah.

The last night to light a candle is December 5, holiday ends at sundown Dec 6.

#### • What is the Hanukkah Candle Holder Called?

The Festival of Lights holder is called a **Hanukkiah Menorah**. It has 8 candle holders and 1 taller holder using this candle to light the 8 candles.

#### Why do we celebrate Hanukkah for eight days?

We celebrate the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days instead of 1. This allowed 2nd Temple Everlasting Light burn continuously until more olive oil could be made.

#### What are two most popular Hanukkah Foods?

Celebrate miracle of oil with eating foods fried in oil. Two most popular are potato pancakes called Latkes [Yiddish] from Eastern Europe tradition and Sufganyiot, a type of Jelly Donut a big tradition in Israel.

#### • What is the major game played during Hanukkah?

A spinning top called a Dreidl. It's a gambling game with 4 different Hebrew Letters on each side. See the Activity page for how to play and why is explained in the video.



## 8 Traditions to Celebrate

Hanukkah is considered a minor Jewish holiday especially for the children. In recent years in the U.S., it's become a more important holiday to celebrate because of it's close proximity to Christmas. It's a more important holiday in the U.S. than in Israel.

Today with so many families being of mixed Jewish and Christmas heritage, we are finding ways to integrate both into the December holiday season, especially in the United States.

#### 8 Basic Hanukkah Traditions

- Light the Hanukkah Menorah
- Tell the Miracle of Hanukkah
- Delicious Treats Cooked in Oil
- Hanukkah Gelt
- Gift Giving
- Dreidl Game
- Songs
- New Traditions

#### **STEP 1: LIGHT THE CANDLES**

#### **Festival of Lights**

Candles are lit using a 9 branch candelabra called Menorah Hanukkiah. Light candles for 8 nights of Hanukkah after it's dark.

Hebrew days start sundown night before. Candles are added from right to left. Light the candles from left to right using the 9th candle [Shamash]

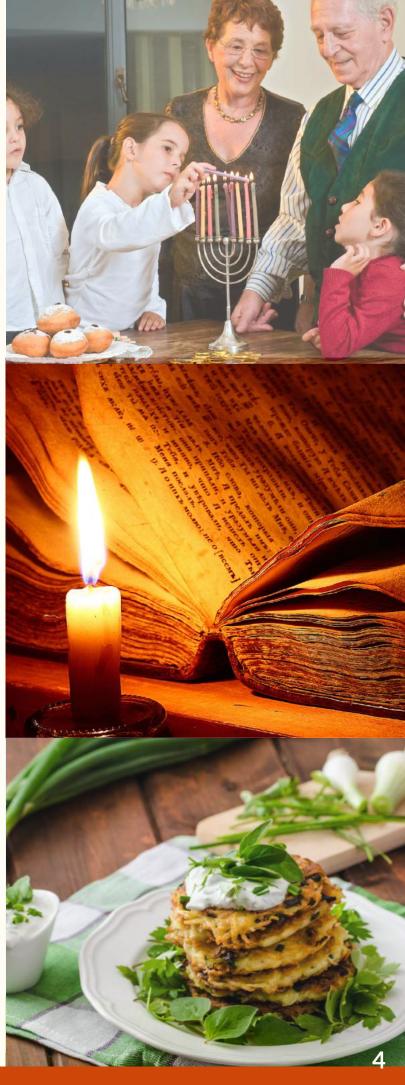
Recite the blessings. See Blessing guide page listed later in the guide.

#### STEP 2: TELL THE STORY

2500 years ago the Greeks were in the land of Israel. They want the Jews to follow Greek culture. The Macabee Jews didn't want to do that and a war started. Lots more Greeks & very few Jews. Magically the Jews won. The Jews reclaim the Second Temple. It's destroyed inside. Need to relight the Temple menorah. Not enough olive oil & will take a few days to make more. The miracle is it lasted for 8 days, which kept the light burning.

#### STEP 3: DELICIOUS FRIED TREATS

During Hanukkah we eat food fried in oil to commemorate the Miracle of the Oil lasting longer than expected. Different Jewish subcultures eat different foods: Ashkenazi East European Jews eat Potato Latkes [pancakes]. Sephardi Spanish Jews eat Sufganiot, jelly donuts. There are other types of food from the Jews who lived in India, Iraq, Iran and other places too.



#### STEP 4: GIVING GELT

Hanukkah gelt [money] refers to money, as well as, chocolate coins given to Jewish children on the festival of Hanukkah.

American chocolatiers of the 20th century picked up on the gift/coin concept by creating chocolate gelt. In the 1920s, Loft's, an American candy company, produced the first chocolate gelt, wrapped in gold or silver foil in mesh pouches resembling money bags. The coins are used when playing Dreidl, the Hanukkah game.



#### STEP 5: THE GIFTS OF GIVING

Though Hanukkah is a minor holiday in the Jewish year, its proximity to Christmas has heightened its gift-giving tradition, especially in the United States. The old European custom of giving Hanukkah gelt (coins or money) is still around, but the current trend of giving actual gifts really took shape in the 1950s.



#### STEP 6: SPIN THE DRIEDL

A dreidl is a four-sided spinning top, played during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. The dreidel is a Jewish variant on the teetotum, a gambling toy found in many European cultures.

See the details on playing Dreidl in the activity section of this guide



#### STEP 7: SING SONGS

More evidence proves that singing, especially in groups, can lift your mood. Want to add joyful celebration to your gathering. There are a few traditional songs to sing: See our list of songs with links in the activity section. Dreidl song lyrics in activity section.

#### **STEP 8: CREATING NEW TRADITIONS**

There are certain holiday traditions that most people follow, but the thing that makes each family unique are the traditions created on your own. When you have a partner from different backgrounds, you begin to incorporate each others. When starting a family, a whole new chapter opens about teaching the next generation. You can start by beginning to ask yourself; What traditions are most important and create ways to celebrate both. Combine the two? special foods can be a place to start.

#### BE CREATIVE AND INNOVATE

What do you absolutely love about your childhood holiday traditions? How does it make you feel. When you incorporate your style to the tradition, it just makes it feel special. Let your imagination run a little wild. It's time to stop worrying about what other people think and express yourself.





# Hanukkah Blessings

#### Blessing 1:

How to sing Blessing 1: https://youtu.be/9WMGWJaZkb4

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

#### Blessing 2:

How to sing the blessing 2: https://youtu.be/6ON2UQ6fhml

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

#### Blessing 3: first night only

How to sing Blessing 3: https://youtu.be/ToWlpBhgJcc

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

# Food Recipes Idaho Potato Latkes



#### **INGREDIENTS**

6 medium russet potatoes

1 small onion

2 large eggs

3tbs matza meal or regular flour

1 tsp salt

1/4 tsp ground pepper

#### **IDAHO POTATO LATKES**

Grate 6 medium Idaho Russet potatoes into a bowl of lightly salted cold water. Drain the water off and press out the rest.

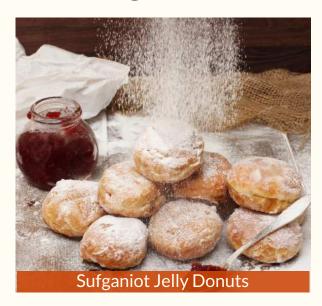
Stir into the potatoes, 1 finely chopped medium onion. Add 2 large eggs, 3 tablespoons of matza meal or regular flour, 1 teaspoon of salt, and 1/4 teaspoon of ground pepper.

Heat 1/4 inch oil in a iron skillet over medium high heat. Heat until a single drop of water dropped into oil splatters. Using a large cooking spoon (3 tablespoon size) add large spoon of potato batter to hot oil and fry until golden brown. Turn over and again fry until golden brown. Place on a brown paper bag or paper towel to sop up the excess oil.

Put the cooked latkes on a cookie sheet and into warm 200 \* oven until all the mixture is fried.

SERVE WITH APPLESAUCE, SOUR CREAM, or JAM.

# Sufganiot [Sephardi Donuts]



- \* 2 eggs, beaten
- \* 2 tablespoons sugar
- \* 2 tablespoons oil
- \* 1-/12 teaspoon baking powder
- \* 1 cup flour
- \* orange peel, chopped fine (optional)
- \* 1/4 cup almonds, chopped fine
- \* 1/4 teaspoon orange-flower water (optional)
- \* oil for deep-frying
- \* syrup (below)
- 1. Mix all ingredients except the oil for deep-frying together into a firm dough. Add 1 or 2 tablespoons more flour if necessary.
- 2. Roll out the dough into a 1/2-inch-thick round flat shape, using a small glass to cut out the donut hole.
- 3. Heat the oil over moderate heat until it is hot, then reduce heat to low. Add the donuts, a few at a time, and fry for 2 to 3 minutes, or until brown on both sides. The donuts will rise to the top when done. Remove from the oil and drain on paper towels.

#### Syrup

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon orange-flower water
- 1/8 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1. Mix the sugar, lemon juice, orange-flower water and vanilla together in a pan and just cover the mixture with water. Simmer the mixture over low heat for about 45 minutes to thicken. Stir and remove the syrup from the heat. Use immediately or set aside for later use.
- 2. When using it to dip the donuts, continue to simmer the syrup over very low heat. With a fork dip each donut into the syrup. Remove to a colander. If the syrup becomes too thick, add 1 or 2 tablespoons warm water. Spread the donuts on a platter, and sprinkle chopped nuts on top, optional.



# How To Play Dreidl

The dreidel is a Jewish variant on the teetotum, a gambling toy found in many European cultures. Hebrew letter on each of the 4 sides. Whatever side the top lands on, Hebrew alphabet: ב (Nun), ג (Gimel), ה (Hei), ש (Shin), which together form the acronym for "נס גדול היה שם" (Nes Gadol Hayah Sham – "a great miracle happened there").

) (Nun)

If 1 (nun) is facing up, the player does nothing.

ג (Gimel)

If  $\lambda$  (gimel) is facing up, the player gets everything in the pot.

ש (Shin)

If ש (shin) or פ (pe) is facing up, the player adds one of their game pieces to the pot (sometimes accompanied by the chant "Shin, Shin, put one in"[17]). In some game versions a Shin results in adding three game pieces to the pot (one for each stem of the Shin).

ה (Hei)

If n (hei) is facing up, the player gets half of the pieces in the pot. If there are an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes the half the pot rounded up to the nearest whole number.

If the player is out of pieces, they are either "out" or may ask another player for a "loan"

How You Play Dreidl

: https://youtu.be/rZ6tX3lw92k



# Hanukkah Songs Links

#### **Hebrew Classics**

Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah

Traditional version with on screen lyrics: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=ICh2J7fxzM0

Hanukkah oh Hanukkah

Pentatonix-style music video mashup from Jewish a cappella group Shir Soul <a href="https://youtu.be/kH83oNwhDVM">https://youtu.be/kH83oNwhDVM</a>

#### **Dreidl Song:**

Good for the kids to watch and learn the song. The lyrics next page. for you to print out... https://youtu.be/9BhN4\_MluBo

**Modern Classics** 

Pass the Candle

Tells the story of how to light the candles from left to right with a modern music beat. https://youtu.be/346Xq\_YvZEs

The Latke Song

by Debbie Friedman: https://youtu.be/mwb1PnLcchw

Ma Oz Tzur Rock of Ages with RebbeSoul A favorite of mine.

https://youtu.be/Eoxh5g92USg



# **Dreidl Song Lyrics**

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 I made it out of clay And when it's dry and ready Then, dreidel I will play

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and I will win

Oh, dreidel, dreidel I made it out of clay And when it's dry and ready Then, dreidel I will play

My dreidel is so playful It loves to dance and spin A happy game of dreidel Come play now, let's begin

Oh, dreidel, dreidel I made it out of clay And when it's dry and ready Then, dreidel I will play

Sing a Long with Youtube Video Link: https://youtu.be/9BhN4\_MluBo

# Hanukkah Planner

Step 1: What Hanukkah Traditions do you want to incorporate this year? Jot down a couple ideas.
Step 2: Make a list of supplies and ritual items
Step 3: Create a timeline and gather your supplies, ritual items and have fun. Watch the accompanying video that shows you how to use this guidebook most effectively. Have

# Hanukkah Supply List



#### Hanukkah Menorah:

Menorah Tree of Life Rustic Pewter Finish For Hanukkah

stores like Target have good supplies for Hanukkah now too.

#### Candles:

Hand dipped candles

#### **Electric Menorah**

Modern Electric menorah Traditional Electric menorah

#### **Dreidels**

The Dreidel Game
Kids Dreidels
20 wooden Dreidels

#### Hanukkah Gelt

Chocolate coins in a box Dark Chocolate coins bags

#### Wrapping Paper

Hanukkah Gift Bags Hanukkah Tree of Life Paper 3 rolls

#### Hanukkah Cookie Cutters

Hanukkah cookie cutter 1 Hanukkah cookie cutter 2

#### **Decorations:**

**Party Decorations** 

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# Hanukkah Glossary

**Dreidel:** spinning top marked with the Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, hei and shin, an acronym for Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, "a great miracle happened there."

Hanukkah Gelt: monetary gifts given on Hanukkah.

**Hanukkiah Menorah:** nine-branched candelabrum kindled on Hanukkah commemorating the holiday miracle.

Latke: fried potato pancake, traditionally served on Hanukkah.

**Kislev**, Month of: Jewish month corresponding to November - December when Hanukkah occurs.

**Maoz Tzur:** traditional song sung after the lighting of the menorah. see the link on Song page by RebbeSoul

**Menorah:** the seven-branched gold candelabrum in the Temple, also refers to the nine-branched candelabrum kindled on Hanukkah commemorating the holiday miracle.

**Sufganiot:** fried donuts, a traditional Hanukkah food.

Gelt

Sevivon: Hebrew for spinning top we also know as Dreidl

**Shamash:** the 9th candle on Hanukkiah Menorah used to light the Hanukkah lcandles.

**Yehuda Maccabee:** a member of the Hasmonean family who led the Maccabees to victory.

**Yehudit:** On the 6th night of Hanukkah we celebrate the book of Judith [Yehudit], a member of the Hasmonean family who ingeniously planned and executed the assassination of the Syrian-Greek General Holofernes, ending the siege on the city of Bethulia and saving its residents from starvation.

# About the Designer

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Yehudit Steinberg, founder of Jewish Interfaith Wedding Network in 2003, in San Francisco CA., now residing in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She specializes in producing guides, workbooks, video and podcasts on topics in the Arts, Culture and Spirituality.

Visit her Jewish Fusion Weddings Etsy boutique: https://www.etsy.com/shop/jewishfusionweddings

For the last 15 + years, Yehudit works with couples creating custom personalized ceremonies for weddings, baby naming & end of life. She's developing an online Ritual Resource Center with a Facebook group community of interfaith individuals families to gather to support each other in creating meaning ritual practices, life events and celebrating holidays incorporating Jewish traditions.

A published author in the book: Traditions: Complete Book of Prayers, Rituals and Blessings Hyperion Press NY. Since 2013, Yehudit's been teaching 'Live Media Classroom' to women entrepreneurs.

