



A SECULAR OBSERVANCE OF HANUKA

Hanuka is the festival of lights. It has its roots in the winter solstice festival of ancient Israel called *neyrot*.

Hanuka commemorates the courage of the Maccabees and the Jews of their time. The Maccabees defended their right to control their own destiny as a nation. Against great odds, they challenged a mighty oppressor.

The strength of their vision — and the effect of similar uprisings in the Greco-Syrian empire — made their dream a reality. They secured their freedom and re-dedicated their temple in Jerusalem. Our secular and humanistic celebration of Hanuka honors the dreams of self-determination and freedom, based, not on a miracle, but on opposition to tyranny.

This booklet, published by the Sholem Community, offers candle dedications and songs to enrich family Hanuka celebrations. Pick, choose, and adapt the ones that best suit you and your family.. And, above all:

Gut yontif! Khag sameyakh! Happy holiday!

sholem
community

Secular • Jewish • Progressive

HANUKA CANDLE DEDICATIONS

“The Spirit of the Maccabees...”

SHAMES:	<i>The spirit of the Maccabees lives in us. As they struggled for freedom for the Jewish people, we must pursue justice and peace for all those who are weak or oppressed. Only then can we give true meaning to the lights of the menorah.</i>
First Candle:	With the first candle, we remember the environment. Only clean air and water can sustain earth and the life it supports. Our environment is threatened by ignorance and greed. May the lights of our <i>menora</i> and the knowledge of science banish the darkness of ignorance and may the fighting spirit of Hanuka give us the strength to oppose the greedy.
SHAMES:	<i>(Repeat before each candle)</i> <i>The spirit of the Maccabees lives in us. We must give true meaning to the second light of the menorah.</i>
Second Candle:	We light the second candle with hope that peace will finally come to our sisters and brothers in Israel and Palestine. In the land where the Maccabees fought for freedom, may all people be free to live their own lives in their own ways.
Third Candle:	Let the third candle shine to celebrate the peace movement that unites millions of people around the globe. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace in the hope that the long night of hatred and death will soon see the dawn of a bright new day.
Fourth Candle:	The light of the fourth candle shines to remind us that our world and communities are made up of people of many colors, many languages and cultures. It reminds us to be proud of our diversity and to cherish everyone's heritage, as we are proud of our own.
Fifth Candle:	The fifth candle is lit on the night when many children receive <i>khanike gelt</i> — gifts of coins for Hanuka. This candle reminds us that amid plenty, millions of people suffer from poverty and hunger. We must do more. Our society — government and people — must do more.
Sixth Candle:	We light the sixth candle in honor of our heritage. Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents came to this country to build a better life. Now, it is our turn to welcome to this country those who come seeking freedom, health, and a future for their children and grandchildren.
Seventh Candle:	The seventh candle glows to remind us that we must know who we are so that we may discover what we can be. It reminds us that the Jewish people has a rich and beautiful culture. We need to reclaim the stories, the songs, the dances and drawings, the ideas and the humor and the languages that give us our own face in the family of nations.
Eighth Candle:	Our <i>menora</i> of freedom, justice, and peace shines on each of us with all its beauty. It lights up who we are now and who we will become. It illuminates our dreams and hopes. It glows on our families, our friends, our community. May its light strengthen us as we grow in understanding and in love.

“Recalling our ancient struggle...”

(Translation from Yiddish by Martin Birnbaum. Adapted by Hershl Hartman.
Courtesy of Service Bureau for Jewish Education, New York)

SHAMES:	Recalling our ancient Struggle tonight - You be the first To kindle the light	<i>du zay der ershter - tsind es on vider; dos ondenk likht far heldishe breeder.</i>
First Candle:	To the Maccabees, To their glorious fight; To the heroes of old I kindle this light.	<i>dos ershte likht mit shtolts tsind ikh on tsu dee heldn fun folk, tsu der makabeyisher fon.</i>
SHAMES:	(Repeat before each candle:) "Recalling our ancient... ...You be the second... third...fourth...fifth. etc."	<i>du zay der... tsveyter...; driter... fenter... finfter... zekster... zibeter... akhter</i>
Second Candle:	For the right to be different And to speak without fear— To the spirit of freedom This candle burns clear.	<i>far dos rekht tsu zayn zikh vee nor ikh aleyh ken; far frayhayt un glaykh-hayt o, likhtele, bren.</i>
Third Candle:	I light this candle With love in my heart For my people's culture Our writers, our art.	<i>mit shtolts un mit freyd tsind ikh on ot-dem flam; far der shprakh un kultur fun meyn yidishn shtam.</i>
Fourth Candle:	To all the children, Wherever they live— To my friends in all lands This candle I give.	<i>fur ale kinder umetum af der velt; far zeyer frayndschaft zol dos likht zayn tsebelt.</i>
Fifth Candle:	I light the fifth candle On this Hanuka night For the land of my birth: May its freedom stay bright.	<i>far mayn eygn land unter himlishe shtern; vee frayhayt tseloykhtn zol dos likhtele vern.</i>
Sixth Candle:	And now, to Israel And to Jews everywhere: May peace be their lot And freedom, their share.	<i>far medinas yisroyl un vu es lebn nor yeedn: zol oyfgeyn dos likhtl far glik un far freedn.</i>
Seventh Candle:	To all those who live By the work of their hands: This light to the toilers Of all the world's lands.	<i>tsu yedn vos arbet, tsum mentshn fun mee, zol oyfgeyn dos likht in shtraliken glee.</i>
Eighth Candle:	To joy everywhere, To justice and right, To life and to peace This candle burns bright.	<i>farn mentsh fun der velt, far dem frayen gedank; far lebn un sholem o, likhtl, bren lang.</i>

“We dedicate this candle...”

(Improvise and compose your own candle dedications. Dedicate them to ideals, people, or goals. For example, the following list of dedications was composed in November 2011 by students in the Sholem school's Vov class).

1. We dedicate the first candle to the memory of Steve Jobs. [But] as important as innovation and progress are, they should not come at the cost of exploited labor.
2. We dedicate the second candle to the power of people and that action and education can crumble oppression.
3. We dedicate the third candle to those struggling to find employment, and that comfort and security should be more than a dream, but a universal human right.
4. We dedicate the fourth candle to all people suffering under oppression, and to those people that are punished for what they say, write, and think.
5. For the fifth candle, the Vov class asks you to meditate on the responsibility of the bystander, and the ethical obligation to speak up and take action when a person is in need or being harmed.
6. We dedicate the sixth candle to the spirit of Hannah Senesh, celebrating that uniquely human trait to sacrifice for the greater good.
7. The seventh candle we dedicate to the immigrant seeking a better life, and to the memory that our ancestors were once immigrants seeking better lives.
8. We dedicate the final candle to freedom of speech and expression, and to the vigorous and civil exchange of ideas.

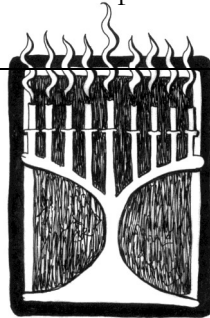


Illustration by Amy Goldman Koss

HANUKA SONGS

“S’vivoN sov sov sov ...”

*S’vivoN sov sov sov
Khanuka hu kbag tov
Khanuka hu kbag tov
S’vivoN sov sov sov*

*Kbag simkba hu la'am
Nes gadol hayah sham
Nes gadol hayah sham
Kbag simkba hu la'am*

*S’vivoN turn turn turn
While the lovely candles burn.
On our freedom holiday
Watch us sing and dance and play*

Watch this song performed. Gto to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2DHcWJWmOc>

“Light One Candle” by Peter Yarrow

Light one candle for the Maccabee Children
 With 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 peacemaker's 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.
 And light one candle for those who are suffering
 Pain we lived so long ago.
 Light one candle for all we believe in

That anger not tear us apart.
 And light one candle to find us together
 With peace as the song in our hearts.

(Chorus)

And what is the memory that's valued so highly
 That we keep it alive in that flame?
 What's the commitment to those who have died
 That we cry out they've not died in vain?
 We have come this far always believing
 That justice would somehow prevail.
 This is the burden, this is the promise,
 And THIS is why we will not fail!

(Chorus)

Don't let the light go out!
 Don't let the light go out!
 Don't let the light go out!

Watch Peter Yarrow sing this song. Go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOBD0nuQU_8

“Hanuka, O hanuka”

Hanuka, O hanuka,
 Eight days of gladness;
 The spirit of the Maccabees
 Destroys any sadness.
 Every night the *dreydl* spins on the
 floor
 We eat the steaming latkes
 Let's fry up some more.

Come light up the candle.
 The golden menorah will glow.
 And let us sing of freedom
 And let us sing of Sholem
 The brotherhood of people will grow
 (Repeat last 3 lines)

Khanike, oy, Khanike
A yontif a sheyner
A lustiker, a freylekher
Nito nokh azeyner
Ale nakht in dreydl,
Shpeeln meer
Zudik beyse latkes esn meer

Geshvinder, tsindt, kinder,
Di Khanike likhtelekh on,
Lomeer ale zingen
Un lomeer ale shpringen
Un lomeer ale tantsn in
kon.

Traditional translation:

Hanuka, oh, hanuka,
 Come light the *menora*,
 Let's have a party,
 We'll all dance the hora,
 Gather round the table,
 We'll give you a treat,
Dreydls to play with
 And latkes to eat.

And while we are playing,
 The candles are burning
 low,
 One for each night
 They shed a sweet light
 To remind us of days long

Hear Theodore Bickel sing this song. Go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxH0xF84h_0

“I Have a Little *Dreydl*”

I have a little *dreydl*
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Then *dreydl* I shall play.



Chorus:

Oh, *dreydl, dreydl, dreydl*
I made it out of clay
Oh, *dreydl, dreydl, dreydl*
Now *dreydl* we shall play.

*Ikh bin a kleyner dreydl,
Gemakht bin ikh fun blay,
To, kumt zhe ale shpeeln
In dreydl, eyns, tsvey, dray.*

*Oy, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
Oy drey zikh dreydl, drey,
To lomeer ale shpeeln
In dreydl eyns un tsvey.*

It has a lovely body
With legs so short and thin
And when it gets all tired
It drops and then I win.
(chorus)

My *dreydl* is so playful
It loves to dance and spin
A happy game of *dreydl*
Come play now, let's begin.
(chorus)

Hear the *Dreydl* song in Yiddish. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGX4NGGRTK4>

“Ocho Kandelikas (Eight Candles) by Flory Jagoda

Hanuka linda sta aki }
Ocho kandelas para mi. }
(repeat)

Beautiful Hanukah is here, eight
candles for me.

O.....

(Chorus:)

*Una kandelika, Dos kandelikas,
Tres kandelikas, Kuatro kandelikas
Sintyu kandelikas, Sej kandelikas
Siete kandelikas
Ocho kandelas para mi.*

One candle, two candles, three
candles, four candles,
five candles, six candles,
seven candles, eight candles for
me.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer }
Kon alegriyas i plazer. }
(repeat)

Many parties will be held, with
joy and with pleasure.

O...*Una kandelika...etc.*

One candle . . .

Los pastelikos vo kumer }
Kon almendrikas i la myel. }
(repeat)

We will eat *pastelikos* [a
Sephardic delicacy] with al-
monds and honey.

O...*Una kandelika...etc.*

One candle . .

Hear Flory Jagoda sing this Ladino song. Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeS46weU4ZI



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