



# CHANUKKAH *SIDDUR*



**FOR ALL THE NIGHTS  
OF CHANUKKAH**



*Mosaic*  
Choose your Jewish life



## WHAT IS CHANUKKAH?

Chanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev. In Hebrew, the word *chanukkah* means "dedication." The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E. (See the story on the following pages.)

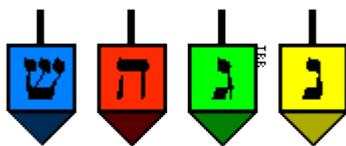
The story of Chanukkah is told in the two books of the Maccabees, written sometime in the first century B.C.E., about a hundred years after the whole drama happened. The books of the Maccabees are in the Apocrypha, not part of the Hebrew Bible. Even later than that, the Rabbis told the story of the miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days (probably because they wanted to bring a more spiritual aspect, rather than military, into the celebration of the festival).

The Chanukkah story relates one of the earliest struggles to achieve religious freedom. When we celebrate Chanukkah, we reaffirm the right of people to practise their religion in peace, safety and security.

Every community has its own Chanukkah traditions, but some that are almost universally practised are: telling the story; lighting the *Chanukkiyah*, spinning the *dreidel*, eating fried foods (such as *latkes*, potato pancakes, and *sufganiyot*, doughnuts), and singing Chanukkah songs.

I hope this 'Chanukkah *Siddur*' is of help in guiding you through your celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights.

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin



[www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org)



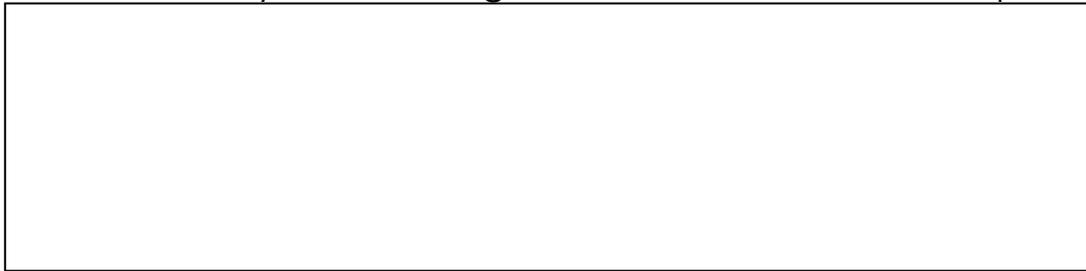
## The Story of Chanukkah for Tots

(with boxes for our little ones to draw pictures)

About 2,300 years ago, the most powerful people in the ancient world were the Greeks. King Philip conquered Greece. When Philip died, his son Alexander became king and was known as 'Alexander the Great'. After Alexander's death, his generals fought over his empire. King Antiochus led his army into Judea, the home of the Jewish People.



The Jews lived quietly, working and playing, living by the rules of the Torah. They had managed to build a beautiful Temple.



Antiochus told them, 'I am your king now! You shall pay taxes to me and worship the gods of Greece as I do!'

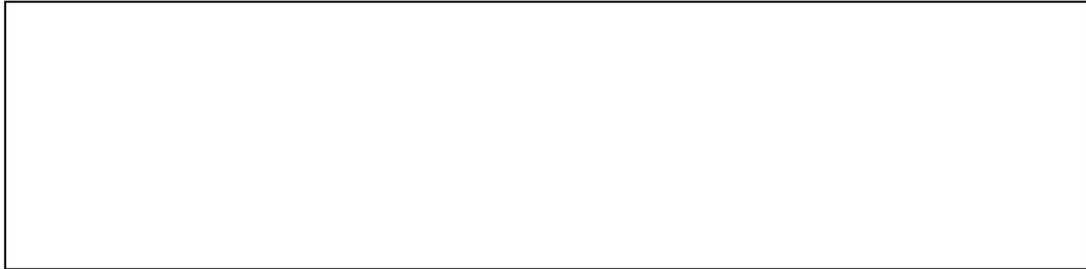
Antiochus sent his soldiers to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. They brought in Greek idols and pigs for sacrificial services forbidden by Jewish law. They forced the Jews to change their names to Greek names, wear Greek clothes and eat Greek foods



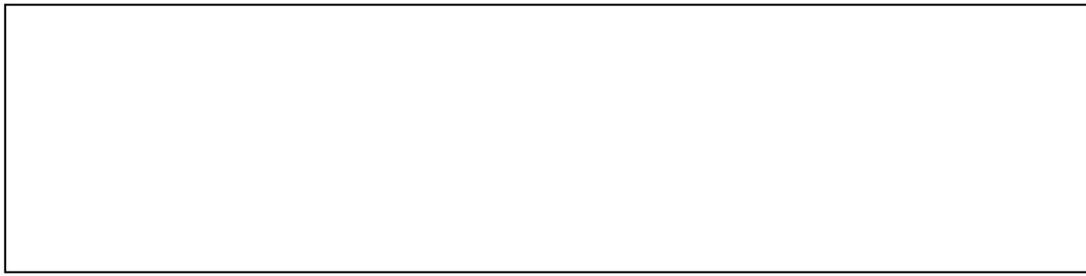
In the village of Modi'in, Mattathias told the king's soldiers, 'You cannot tell us to whom we can pray!' Mattathias' son Judah became the leader of the rebellion against Antiochus, with the help of his brothers, Jonathan, Simon, John and Eleazar.

Eleazer asked, 'How can these farmers and grain merchants hope to fight the king's army?'

Judah replied, 'We know this land and they don't. We'll know the best places to lead them into an ambush.'



The Jews scored victory after victory and the enraged King Antiochus declared, 'Anyone caught studying the Jewish religion, learning the Hebrew Alphabet, or praying in the old ways shall be put to death!'



Teachers and students learned Torah until a soldier would come. Then they would play *dreidel*.

'Tomorrow,' said Judah, 'We shall drive the king and his army from Jerusalem!'



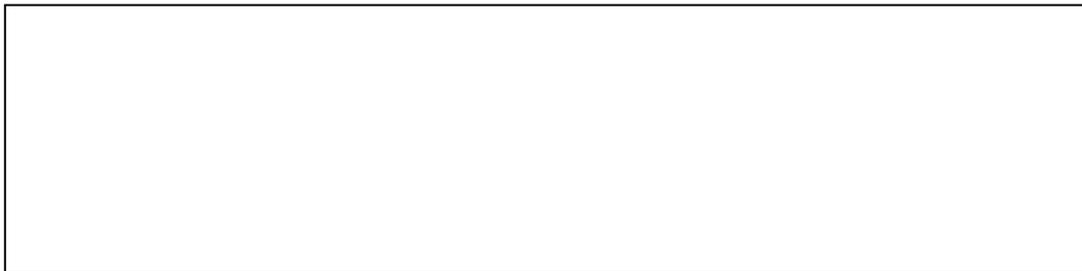
The Maccabees won the war, after three years, forcing Antiochus' men from Jerusalem and then out of Judea. The Jewish fighters then marched to clean and rededicate the Temple.

The Temple was cleaned and rededicated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kisleiv, 165 BCE. The first thing the Jews did was to belatedly celebrate the festival of Sukkot, which was the most important festival in the calendar then, and that is why Chanukkah is celebrated for eight days.

The story goes that, when the Jews arrived in the Temple, there was only one small jar of sacred oil, enough for one day, but a miracle happened, and it burned for eight days!



**And we all say, 'HAPPY CHANUKKAH!'**



## **THE STORY OF CHANUKKAH**

A long time ago, the Jewish people who lived in the land of Israel prayed in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was big and beautiful. Jews came from all over the land, and the surrounding countries, to visit the Temple and to pray there.

At the time our story begins, some 2,200 years ago, the king of the Syrian Greeks, called Antiochus Epiphanes, ruled over the land of Israel. His forces marched into Jerusalem and took over the Temple. Antiochus was a cruel man and he made new laws that did not allow the Jews to practise their religion and even tried to force them to follow Greek customs and worship Greek gods.

Things got worse and worse and, one day, many years ago, in the year 168 BCE, soldiers entered Modi'in, a small village in the countryside, northwest of Jerusalem. They put up an altar in the centre of the village and assembled the Jews. They tried to make them kill a pig and eat its meat, which Jews are forbidden to do. Mattathias, a priest who lived in Modi'in, decided to resist and he, his five sons, Johanan, Simon, Judah, Eleazar and Jonathan, and the villagers attacked the soldiers and defeated them.

Knowing that Antiochus Epiphanes would bring his army to kill them all, Mattathias led his family and the people of his village to the hills where they stayed, determined to protect themselves and fight, if necessary. Soon other Jews joined them and they became a small army. The Syrian Greek army was

much bigger, but the Jews were fighting for their right to be Jewish and for their lives.

Mattathias' five sons were known as 'the Maccabees', and Judah the Maccabee was the leader of the army. Miraculously, the Jews won the long battle against the Syrian Greeks and, three years after they first began to fight, they finally reached the most important place of all, the Temple in Jerusalem.

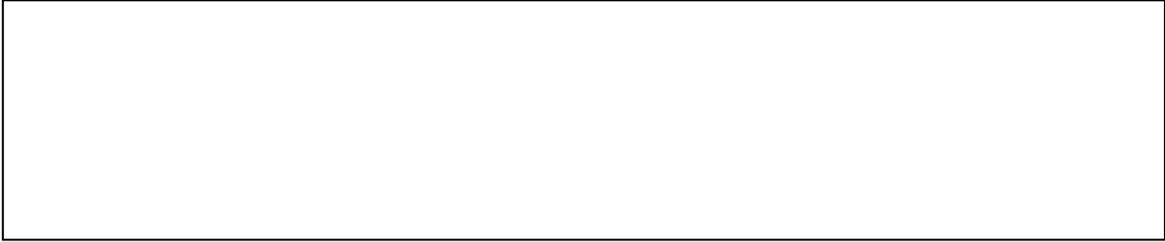
The Temple was a mess. Weeds were growing everywhere. The altar was broken. The precious vessels and candlesticks had all been taken away. The Jews got to work and cleaned up the Temple. They made it beautiful again, built a new altar, made new candlesticks and lit the oil lamps. It was the 25<sup>th</sup> of the Jewish month of Kislev (in December, 165 BCE) when they finished and they began the celebration of rededicating the Temple, making it holy and a special place where God is worshipped. The word, Chanukkah, is a Hebrew word meaning 'dedication', to remind us of the time when the Temple was made holy again, re-dedicated to the worship of God.

There is a story told that, when the Maccabees wanted to light the golden menorah in the Temple, they discovered only one small jar of oil, enough to burn for one day. They sent for more oil, but it took a while to prepare it. While they were waiting, a miracle happened and the oil lasted for eight days. (That story is the reason for the custom of eating foods cooked in oil, such as doughnuts, and *latkes* (potato pancakes)during Chanukkah.)

The autumn Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles) lasts for eight days. Two thousand years ago, it was the most important festival in the year, and it was celebrated by going to the Temple in Jerusalem. While they were fighting, the Jews were not able to celebrate Sukkot, so it is thought that what really happened was that, when they got the Temple back, as well as rejoicing over winning the fight to live as Jews in their land, they celebrated the eight days of Sukkot. The next year, Sukkot went back to its normal time in the autumn, and in December there was a new holiday. For eight days, the Jews everywhere would celebrate Chanukkah to remember the miracle, the miracle of a small group of Jews who fought and beat a mighty army, so that they would be free to be Jewish.

Today, we still remember the miracle of long ago. When Jews light the candles, on Chanukkah, we hope that we will always have the freedom to be Jewish, and that all people will always have the freedom to enjoy their religion, in security and peace.

'May the heroic example of the Maccabees inspire us always to be loyal to our heritage and valiant for truth. Let the lights we kindle shine forth for the world to see. May the message they proclaim help to dispel the darkness of prejudice and hatred, and spread the light of liberty and love.' (*Siddur Lev Chadash*, p. 399)



## LIGHTING THE CHANUKKAH CANDLES

The Candles are placed in the Chanukkiyah from right to left, and are lit from left to right. Light the *Shamash* ('servant candle'), recite the blessings, then use the *Shamash* to light the Chanukkah candles.



DAY 1



DAY 2



DAY 3



DAY 4



DAY 5



DAY 6



DAY 7



DAY 8



Before kindling the Chanukkah lights on the **first night** of Chanukkah (or if you're kindling the Chanukkah lights for the first time this year), recite all three blessings. On **every subsequent night** only the first two are recited.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.**

*Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lekh ha-olam asher  
ki-d'-sha-nu b'-mitz-vo-tav v'-tzi-va-nu l'-had-lik  
ner shel Cha-nu-kkah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukkah light.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.**

*Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lekh ha-olam she-a-sa ni-sim lavo-tei-nu  
ba-ya-mim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

Recited **only** on the **first** night (or the first time lighting this Chanukkah):

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.**

*Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lekh ha-olam  
she-heche-ya-nu v'-ki-y'-ma-nu v'-higi-a-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

After the candles have been lit, you may recite the following, if you wish, and then sing Ma'oz Tzur:

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מְדַלִּיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת,  
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ. וְכָל שְׂמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנֻכַּת הַנֵּרוֹת הַלְלוּ קֹדֶשׁ, וְאִין לָנוּ רְשׁוֹת  
לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם, אֲלֵא לְרְאוֹתֶם בְּלֵבָד, כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת לְשִׁמְךָ עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל  
יְשׁוּעָתְךָ, וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ.

*Ha-neirot hallalu anachnu madlikin al ha-nissim, v'al ha-t'shu'ot,  
v'al ha-nifla'ot she'assita la-avoteinu. V'khol-sh'monat y'mei  
Chanukkah ha-neirot hallalu kodesh; v'ein lanu r'shut l'hishtameish  
bahem, ella lir'otam bil'vad, k'dei l'hodot l'shim'kha al nissekha  
v'al nifl'otekha v'al y'shu'atekha.*

We kindle these lights in remembrance of the wonderful deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During all the eight days of Chanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are enjoined not to use them but only to gaze upon them, so that their glow may move us to give thanks for Your wonderful acts of deliverance.

### MA'OZ TZUR

מְעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נָאֵה לְשַׁבַּח,  
תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תִּפְלֵתִי וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,  
לַעֲת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבַח מִצֶּר הַמְּנַבַּח,  
אִז אֶגְמַר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ.

*Ma'oz Tzur y'shu'ati l'kha na'eh l'shabeiach  
Tikon beit t'filati v'sham todah n'zabeiach  
L'eit takhin mat'beiach mitzor ha-m'nabeiach  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor chanukat ha-mizbeiach (x2)*

Refuge, Rock of my salvation, to You our praise is due.  
Let Your house become a house of prayer and thanksgiving for all peoples. When by Your will all bloodshed ends and enemies cease to scream hate: Then we shall celebrate with joyful song the true dedication of Your altar.

## Potato Latkes Recipe

Serves 6

Paper Towels

Peeler

Grater

Mixing Bowl

Wooden mixing spoon

Measuring Spoons

Large Frying Pan

4 Large Potatoes

3 Tablespoons Matzah Meal

3 Eggs, Beaten

1 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

Oil for Frying

Applesauce

Sour Cream



Golden Brown Latkes for Chanukkah

1. Peel and grate potatoes
2. Drain off excess water
3. Place grated potatoes in mixing bowl and add matzah meal, eggs, salt, and pepper.
4. Mix well
5. Heat 1 to 2 tablespoons of oil in large frying pan. Drop in 1 large spoonful of mixture for each latke. Fry a few latkes at a time for 2 minutes on each side until brown. Add more oil as needed.
6. Drain on paper towels and serve with applesauce or sour cream.



## DREIDEL

The most popular Chanukkah game is dreidel. The dreidel is a spinning top. Its name in Yiddish means 'turn'. The Hebrew word for dreidel is סְבִיבּוֹן (s'vivon).

There are four letters on the dreidel: נ ג ה ש

They stand for the words נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם (Nes Gadol Hayah Sham), which means 'a great miracle happened there'.

Dreidels in Israel have these letters: נ ג ה פ

They stand for the words נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה פֹּה (Nes Gadol Hayah Peh), which means 'a great miracle happened here'.

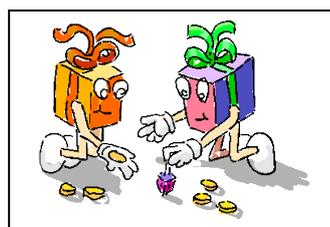
Rules for playing dreidel:

- נ Nun - the player does nothing
- ג Gimmel - the player takes everything in the middle
- ה Hey - the player takes half
- ש Shin - the player puts one in

An easy way to remember is:

- נ - N - nothing
- ג - G - get
- ה - H - half
- ש - Sh = share

Everyone puts in a counter. Before the next player spins, everyone puts in another counter..



Your Chanukkah dreidel is ready to spin:  
 Read through the rules and you're set to begin!  
 Land on the *Gimmel* ג and win it all,  
 Take only half if on *Hay* ה dreidel falls.  
 Nun נ gets you nothing, so try to be brave;  
 Shin ש loses all that you've managed to save!



## CHANUKKAH SONGS

### Sevion - Dreidel

סְבִיבוֹן סֵב סֵב סֵב חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חֵג טוֹב  
 חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חֵג טוֹב סְבִיבוֹן סֵב סֵב סֵב  
 סֵב נָא סֵב בְּעוֹלָם נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם  
 סֵב נָא סֵב כֹּה וְכֹה נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה פֹּה

*Sevion sov sov sov Chanukkah hoo chag tov  
 Chanukkah hoo chag tov Sevion sov sov sov  
 Sov na sov ba'olam ness gadol hayah sham  
 Sov na sov ko va'kho ness gadol hayah po*

Little dreidel, spin, spin, spin  
 Chanukkah is a good festival  
 Spin, little dreidel, spin, spin, spin  
 Spin, now spin, in the world  
 A great miracle happened there  
 Spin, now spin, like this and like that  
 A great miracle happened here

### MATTATHIAS AND HIS FIVE SONS

Mattathias bold, five brave sons had he  
 Eleazar eldest son, Simon, John and Jonathan  
 And Judah Maccabee, Judah Maccabee



Happy Hanukkah

## LIGHT A CANDLE FOR CHANUKKAH

Debbie Friedman

Light a candle for Chanukkah,  
Let the candles glow.  
Light a candle, bring the light  
Of joy to those you know.  
Bless the candles, oh so bright  
On these very special nights.  
*V'tzivanu l'hadleek ner shel Chanukkah.*

Light another candle,  
Let the candles shine.  
The Maccabees have shown us  
Miracles are yours and mine.  
What a very pretty sight;  
We'll light candles for eight nights.  
*V'tzivanu l'hadleek ner shel Chanukkah.*



## ONE LITTLE CANDLE

One little candle, one little candle  
One little candle burning bright  
Light the Chanukkiyah, light the Chanukkiyah  
It is Chanukkah tonight!  
Two little candles...

# חג חנוכה שמח

Chanukkah, Chanukkah, Festival of Light  
Chanukkah, Chanukkah, candles burning bright  
Every day we light one – see how they shine.  
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – and the *shamash* - 9!



\*\*\*\*\*

One little, two little, three little candles,  
Four little, five little, six little candles,  
Seven little, eight little Chanukkah candles,  
And the *shamash* too.

\*\*\*\*\*

## I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL

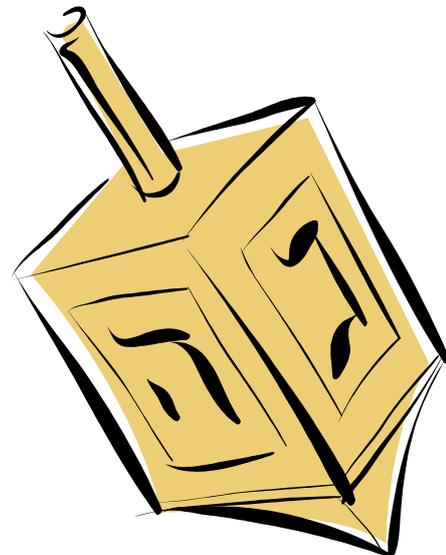
I have a little dreidel  
I made it out of clay  
And when it's dry and ready  
Oh dreidel I shall play

Chorus:  
Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel  
I made it out of clay  
Oh dreidel dreidel dreidel  
Then dreidel I shall play.

It has a lovely body,  
With leg so short and thin  
And when it is all tired  
It drops and then I win.                      Chorus

My dreidel's always playful,  
It loves to dance and spin.  
A happy game of dreidel  
Come play – now let's begin.                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of straw



It went 80 miles an hour  
And broke the speeding law                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of mud  
And when I tried to spin it  
It fell down with a thud.                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of bread  
I did not spin that dreidel  
I ate it up instead.                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of schmaltz  
And when I tried to spin it  
It did a little waltz                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it out of sand  
And when I tried to spin it  
It crumbled in my hand                      Chorus

I had a little dreidel  
I made it in my mind  
An imaginary dreidel  
Is the hardest one to find                      Chorus

We have a little dreidel  
It's sitting on the shelf  
So if you want more verses  
You can make them up yourself.      Chorus

### **MY CANDLES (IN THE WINDOW)**

Judith K. Eisenstein/Chassidic

In the window where you can see the glow  
from my menorah on newly fallen snow,  
I will set you one (two, three, etc.) little candle(s)  
on this the first (second, third, etc.) night of Chanukkah

## OCHO KANDELIKAS (Flory Jagoda)



*Chanukkah linda sta aki  
Ocho kandelas para mi*

Chorus:

*Una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas,  
Kuatro kandelikas, sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,  
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi*

*Muchas fiestas vo fazer  
Kon alegriyas i plazer (Chorus)*

*Los pastelikos vo kumer  
Kon almendrikas i la myel (Chorus)*

Beautiful Chanukkah is here. Eight candles for me.

Chorus: One little candle, two little candles... eight candles for me.

Many parties I will have with happiness and pleasure.

The little pastries I will eat, filled with almonds and honey.

## **MI YEMALEL**

Folktune

Arr: E. Kalendar

*Mi yemaleil g'vurot Yisraeil otan mi yimne  
Hen be'chol dor yakum ha'gibbor go'eil ha'am.  
Shema, ba'yamim ha'heim ba'zman ha'zeh  
Maccabi moshia u'fodeh  
Uv'yameinu kol am Yisraeil  
Yitacheid yakum lehiga'eil*

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 Maccabeus led the faithful band  
But now all Israel must as one arise,  
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice.

### **CHANUKKAH/SOLSTICE**

Linda Hirschhorn

Turning, turning, spirits yearning, reaching for the night.  
Colours going, shadows growing, darkening the light.  
Ancient story told, renewed with the cold.  
Mystery of light, burned into the night.

### **NER LI**

*Ner li ner li ner li dakik*  
*Ba-Chanukkah neiri adlik*  
*Ba-Chanukkah neiri ya'ir*  
*Ba-Chanukkah shirim ashir*

I have a thin little candle.  
On Chanukkah I will light my candle.  
On Chanukkah I will sing songs.

### **NOT BY MIGHT – NOT BY POWER**

Debbie Friedman

Not by might and not by power  
But by spirit alone (*ru'ach*) shall we all live in peace.

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.

Not by might, not by power - Shalom

## CANDLES BRIGHT

Linda Brown | Sung to the melody of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle,  
Candle bright,  
Burning on this  
Special night.

Add another,  
Tall and straight,  
Every night 'til  
There are eight.

Twinkle, twinkle,  
Candles eight,  
Chanukkah we  
Celebrate.

## CHANUKKAH, CHANUKKAH

Words: Levin Kipniss, Melody: Folk-tune

חנוכה, חנוכה, חג יפה כל כך  
אור חביב מסביב, גיל לילד רך.

חנוכה, חנוכה, סביבון טוב טוב  
טוב נא, טוב נא טוב  
מה נעים מה טוב

*Chanukkah, Chanukkah  
Chag yafeh kol kakh  
Ohr chaviv, mi'saviv  
Gil l'yeled rakh.*

*Chanukkah, Chanukkah  
S'vivan, sov, sov  
Sov, sov, sov! Sov, sov, sov!  
Ma nayim va-tov.*

Chanukkah is such a beautiful holiday.  
Surrounded with lovely light,  
Fun for little children.  
Dreidel, spin, spin, spin.  
How lovely and good!

## **LOTS OF LATKES**

Cantor Alan Leider

Lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots of latkes,  
lots (let's all eat 'em up!) *Repeat*

S'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov  
sov, s'vivon sov sov *Repeat*

Maccabee Maccabee, Maccabee Maccabee,  
Maccabee Maccabee, Mac-mac-mac-mac-mac-mac-  
Mac-mac! *Repeat*

## **CANDLELIGHT (The Maccabeats)**

Lyrics: David Block and Immanuel Shalev

I'll tell a tale  
Of Maccabees in Israel  
When the Greeks tried to assail  
But it was all to no avail

The war went on and on and on  
Until the mighty Greeks were gone

I flip my *latkes* in the air sometimes  
sayin' ayy ohh spin the *dreidel*  
Just wanna celebrate for all eight nights  
singin' ayy oh, light the candles

We say *al hanissim*  
Oh yea for all eight nights  
Then we play *dreidel*  
By the candlelight

And I told you once, Now I told you twice  
'Bout the miracle of the candlelight

They took the field  
The rivals thought "are they for real?"  
But those Maccabees they'd never yield  
They charged ahead with sword and shield

The war went on and on and on  
Until the mighty Greeks were gone

I flip my *latkes* in the air sometimes  
sayin' ayy ohh spin the *dreidel*

Just wanna celebrate for all eight nights  
singin' ayy oh, light the candles

We say *Maoz Tzur*  
Oh yea for all eight nights  
Then we play *dreidel*  
By the candlelight

And I told you once, Now I told you twice  
'Bout the miracle of the candlelight

And the great *menorah*  
For eight days it kept on burning  
What a celebration  
A great return to Torah learning

'Cuz I can feel it, and Ay-ay-ay  
*Nes gadol, nes gadol, nes gadol hayah sham*

I flip my *latkes* in the air sometimes  
sayin' ayy ohh spin the *dreidel*  
Just wanna celebrate for all eight nights  
singin' ayy oh, light the candles

We say *al hanissim*  
Oh yea for all eight nights  
Then we play *dreidel*  
By the candlelight

And I told you once, Now I told you twice  
'Bout the miracle of the candlelight