



# TEMPLE SHALOM

## Family Hanukkah Celebration Guide

Hanukkah means "dedication" in Hebrew, and is the eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. The home celebration of Hanukkah today includes lighting the *hanukkiyah*, a special menorah for Hanukkah; foods prepared in oil including latkes (potato pancakes) and *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts); and special songs and games.

For a kid friendly version of the Hanukkah story use this link:

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah/kid-friendly-version-hanukkah-story>

## Ritual Objects

**Menorah** is a Hebrew word meaning "candelabrum" and is to the nine-branched ceremonial lamp in which the Hanukkah candles are placed and blessed each night of the holiday. The nine branches include eight branches, one for each day of the holiday, and one branch for the *shamash* (helper) candle that is used to light the other candles. In ancient times, oil was used in the menorah. Over time, candles were substituted for oil. The Hanukkah menorah can also be called a *hanukkiyah*.

A **dreidel** is a 4-sided top with letters on each side. Over time, the letters on the dreidel came to stand for the first letter of each word in the Hebrew statement "*Neis gadol hayah sham*," which means "A great miracle happened there" and refers to the defeat of the Syrian army and the re-dedication of the Temple. In Israel, one letter on the dreidel differs from those used in the rest of the world. The *shin* has been replaced with a *pey*, transforming the Hebrew statement into *Neis gadol hayah po*, which means, "A great miracle happened here."

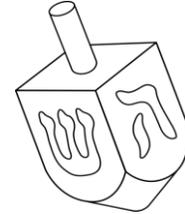
**Make a marshmallow dreidel** <https://toriavey.com/toris-kitchen/candy-dreidels/>

## Here's how to play the basic dreidel game:

1. Each player begins the game with an equal number of game pieces (about 10-15) such as pennies, nuts, chocolate chips, raisins, matchsticks, etc.
2. At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the center "pot." In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one game piece left, every player should put one in the pot.
3. Every time it's your turn, spin the dreidel once. Depending on the side it lands on, you give or get game pieces from the pot.

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- **Nun** means “*nisht*” or “nothing.” The player does nothing.
- **Gimel** means “*gantz*” or “everything.” The player gets everything in the pot.
- **Hey** means “*halb*” or “half.” The player gets half of the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one).
- **Shin** (outside of Israel) means “*shtel*” or “put in.” *Peh* (in Israel) also means “put in.” The player adds a game piece to the pot.



5. If you find that you have no game pieces left, you are either “out” or may ask a fellow player for a “loan.”

6. When one person has won everything, that round of the game is over!

## Food

**Latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts)**—foods cooked in oil—are traditionally eaten during Hanukkah and serve as a symbol of the legend of the jar of oil that lasted for eight days.



## Chanukah Recipes

- The NYTimes Chanukah Recipe Round-Up: <http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2009/12/08/dining/hanukkah-slideshow.html?ref=hanukkahrecipes>
- How to make latkes video: <https://reformjudaism.org/video-how-make-potato-latkes>

**Easy Sufganiyot with biscuit dough:** makes 8-10



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## Ingredients

- one roll of store-bought biscuit dough
- canola oil, for frying
- a small bowl of sugar, white or powdered
- about 1/2 c jam (or other filling)

## Instructions

- Let dough sit at room temperature for 20 minutes so that it's easy to roll out.
- On a floured surface, roll out dough until it's 1/2-inch thick. cut out 2 1/2- or 3-inch circles (i like using a ball jar lid).
- Fill a pot with 2 inches of oil and heat it to 360 f. you'll want to keep the temperature between 360 and 375.
- Fry the dough until each side is a deep brown. test one to make sure they're not doughy in the middle.
- Transfer donuts to a paper towel, pat off any excess grease, and then coat with sugar.
- Fill with jam using a squeeze bottle. If the jam is being difficult, warm it for 30 seconds in the microwave.

Check out all the PJ Library Chanukah books here: <https://pjlibrary.org/books-and-music/books?Holiday=Hanukkah&title=Hanukkah#form>

And for family activity and recipe suggestions, cut out this link: <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog?tagname=hanukkah&groupid=4>

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## Blessings for lighting the Hanukkah Menorah (Hanukkiyah)

Candles are added to the *hanukkiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right.

The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights.

To hear the blessings chanted, use this link: <https://reformjudaism.org/practice/prayers-blessings/hanukkah-blessings>

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

*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.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנוֹ הַזֶּה.

*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.

For first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

*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.

