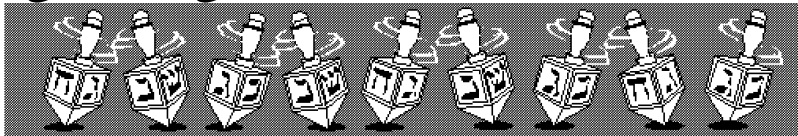


Lighting Hanukkah candles



Ingredients:

- One menorah (in some families, each person lights their own)
- A box of Hanukkah candles - you'll need 44 in all
- Matches - at least 8
- A safe and visible place to light

A Little History

"Hanukkah" comes from the Hebrew root meaning "to inaugurate." We light the menorah on all eight nights of Hanukkah to commemorate the rededication of the ancient temple in Jerusalem, when the last remaining container of undefiled oil miraculously lasted for eight nights. The menorah also celebrates the triumph of freedom over persecution, recalling the ancient Maccabees' struggle against their Syrian foes, in which -- though weaker and far outnumbered -- they emerged victorious.

What to Say: Hanukkah Blessings

The first blessing thanks God for the commandment to "kindle the Hanukkah lights." We therefore recite the blessing before lighting the candles, and then proceed to carry out the commandment. The second blessing praises God for the miracle the candles publicize, and is therefore said as the candles are being lit.

Hold the lit *shamash* in your right hand and say:

1.

ברוך אתה ה' א' מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam, a-sher kid-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel cha-nu-kah. (Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.)

2.

ברוך אתה ה' א' מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam, she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-tei-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-zman ha-zeh. (Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors, at this season, in days past.)

3. On the first night of Hanukkah we add the following "*shehechyanu*" blessing, signifying that it is the first time that we have lit the Hanukkah lights this season:

ברוך אתה ה' א' מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-olam, she-he-chi-yanu ve-kiy'manu ve-higi-anu la'zman ha-zeh (Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who gave us life and kept us and delivered us to this time.)

Who's on First: Lighting the Menorah

On the first night of Hanukkah, a single candle (or oil wick) is lit, on the far right side of the menorah. On each successive night an additional candle is added, from right to left (two candles lit on the second night, three on the third...) until finally, on the eighth night, all eight candles are lit. It is customary to light from left to right, with the newest candle lit first. Kindly allow the candles to burn themselves out. The candles are lit by a "*shamash*" or service candle, which after being used to light the other candles, takes its own special place on the menorah - usually in a place slightly set apart from the rest.

After lighting all the candles of the day, it's traditional to sing upbeat Hanukkah hymns like *Maoz Tzur*:

Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati, lecha na'eh leshabei-ach

Tikon beit tefillati ve-sham todah nezabei-ach

Le-eit tachin matbei-ach mitzar ham'nabei-ach

Az egmor be-shir mizmor hanukkat ha-mizbei-ach

Rock of ages, let our song praise Your saving power

You, amid the raging foes, 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.