



## **Chanukah Candle Blessings**

**and**

## **Songbook**



## Chanukah Candle Blessings

### First Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק  
נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu bemitz'votav  
vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, all pervading Spirit of the universe. You make us holy through precepts and give us the precept of lighting the Chanukah candles.

### Second Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם  
בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech ha'olam, she'asah nissim la'avotaynu bayamim  
hahaym bazman hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Spirit of the universe, who made miracles for our ancestors in those days at this season.

**On the first night of Chanukah, we add this blessing for doing something new:**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמַּן הַזֶּה

**Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu Melech ha'olam shehecheyanu v'kiyemanu  
v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh. Amen.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Spirit of the universe, who has given us life and sustained us and brought us to this season. Amen.



## Ma'oz Tzur

*Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati, lecha na'eh l'shabeyach  
Tikon beyt tefilati, vesham todah n'zabeyach.  
Le'eyt tacheen matbeyach, mitzor ham'nabeyach,  
Az egmor beshir mizmor, Chanukat hamiz'beyach.*

Rock of ages, let our song praise thy saving power;  
Thou amidst the raging foes, was't our sheltering tower.  
Furious, they assailed us, but thine arm availed us,  
And thy word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.

## Oh Chanukah!

Oh Chanukah oh Chanukah  
Come light the menorah;  
Let's have a party, we'll all dance the horah.  
Gather' round the table, we'll give you a treat.  
Dreydels 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 ago. ) x 2



## Mi Yemallel

Mi yemallel g'vurot Yisrael otan mi yimne?  
Hen bechol dor yakum hagibor go'el ha'am.  
Shema! Bayamim haheym baz'man hazeh  
Makabee moshiya ufodeh  
Uv'yameynu kol am Yisrael yitached yakum vehiga'el

Who can retell the things that befell us, who can count them?  
In every age, a hero or sage came 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.

## Chanukah

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Chag yafeh kol kach.  
Or chaviv misaviv gil layeled rach.  
Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Sevion sov sov.  
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov,  
Mah na'im vatov.

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Festival of Light.  
Celebrate, dedicate  
For eight days and nights.

Spin the tops, sing the songs,  
Light the candles bright--  
Chanukah, Chanukah  
Sing with all your might!



## I Have A Little Dreydel

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

Oh dreydel, dreydel, dreydel,  
I made it out of clay,  
And when it's dry and ready,  
Then dreydel I shall play.

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

Oh dreydel, dreydel, dreydel,  
I made it out of clay,  
And when it's dry and ready,  
Then dreydel I shall play.

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

Oh dreydel, dreydel, dreydel,  
I made it out of clay,  
And when it's dry and ready,  
Then dreydel I shall play.





### **Sevion Sov Sov Sov**

Sevion sov sov sov, Chanukah hu chag tov  
Chanukah hu chag tov, sevion sov sov sov

Chag simcha hu la'am, nes gadol hayah sham  
Nes gadol hayah sham, chag simcha hu la'am.

(Spin dreidel, spin. Chanukah is a good holiday.  
It's a joyous holiday for our people. A great miracle happened there.)

### **Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin**

Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin, spin dreidel, spin.  
Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin, win dreidel, win.  
Will it be Hey or Shin? Where will it fall?  
Will it be Gimmel or nothing at all?

Final Repetition:

Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin, spin dreidel, spin.  
Nun, Gimmel, Hey, Shin, win dreidel, win.

**Words of Torah Went into the Dough** (to the tune of Oh Chanukah)  
words by Cantor Henry Greenberg with adaptation by Rabbi Pam Frydman

Each Chanukah we glorify  
Brave Judah Maccabee-us,  
Who had the courage to defy  
The Syrians and free us.  
Yet it is not fair that we should forget  
His mom and his dad  
Whom we owe a debt.

They mixed it, they fixed it,  
They poured it into a bowl.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave brave Judah a soul.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave brave Judah a soul.

The Syrians said, "It cannot be  
That Judah's dad Ma-tta-thi-as,  
Whose years were almost 83  
Would ever dare defy us."  
But they didn't know his secret,  
You see;  
Mattathias dined on latkes and tea.

One latke, two latkes,  
And so on into the night.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave him the courage to fight.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave him the courage to fight.

Now this is how it came to be,  
This gastronomic wonder,  
That broke the ranks of Syria,  
Like flaming bolts of thunder.



Mrs. Maccabee-us  
Wrote into the dough,  
Portions of the Torah  
And fried them just so.

They simmered, they shimmered,  
Absorbing the olive oil.  
You all may not guess, but it was the  
latkes that made the Syrians recoil.  
You all may not guess, but it was the  
latkes that made the Syrians recoil.

Now these little latkes,  
Brown and delicious,  
Must have hit the spot,  
Because with appetites vicious,  
All the heroes downed them  
After their toil,  
Causing in our Temple  
A shortage of oil.

One latke, two latkes,  
And so on into the night.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave us the Chanukah light.  
You all may not guess,  
But it was the latkes  
That gave us the Chanukah light.

## **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.  
Light one candle for those who are suffering  
the pain we learned long ago.  
Light one candle for all we believe in;  
let anger not tear us apart.  
And light one candle to bind us together  
with peace as a song in our hearts.

### **Chorus**

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

### **Chorus**



**Congregation B'nai Emunah**

3595 Taraval Street San Francisco, CA 94116

[www.bnaiemunahsf.org/](http://www.bnaiemunahsf.org/) • 415-664-7373 • [office@bnaiemunahsf.org](mailto:office@bnaiemunahsf.org)