

Chanukah Blessings and Songs

Chanukah Candle Blessings

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

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

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
she-asah nisim l'doroteinu
bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְדוֹרוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

On the first night only:

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu
v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Chanukah Songs

1. Hanerot Halalu

Hanerot halalu anachnu madlikim
al hanisim, v'al naniflaot
v'al hat'shuot v'al hamilchamot,
she-asita laavoteinu, she-asita l'imoteinu,
bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

הַנְּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ
הַנְּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מִדְּלִיקִים
עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמַּלְחָמוֹת,
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ,
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

We kindle these lights for the miracles, the wonders, the deliverances, and the wars
which You brought for our ancestors in those days at this time of year.

2. Light One Candle

(Words and Music: 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

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 learned 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

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
This is why we will not fail!

3. Maoz Tzur

Maoz tzur y' shuati, l'cha na-eh l' shabei-ach
tikon beit t' filati, v' sham todah n' zabei-ach
l' eit tachin matbei-ach, mitzar ham' nabei-ach
az egmor b' shir mizmor
chanukat hamizbei-ach.

מעוז צור
מעוז צור ישועתי, לך נאה לשבח
תכון בית תפילתי, ושם תודה נזבח
לעת תכין מטבח, מצר המנבח
אז אגמר בשיר מזמור
חנכת המזבח.

4. Hanukkah Blessings

(Words and Music: Stephen Page)

How lucky are we that we
Have lights so we can see
Although the day is done
What miracle that a spark
Lifts these candles out of the dark
Every evening, one by one
Until the end of Hanukkah, of Hanukkah.

With the jingle bells and the toys
And the TV shows and noise
It's easy to forget
At the end of the day
Our whole family will say
These words for Hanukkah

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu
Melech ha'olam,
Asher kid'shanu
B'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
L'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah

Light the candles for Hanukkah,
for Hanukkah
We remember how Maccabees
Fought so all of us could be free
And so we celebrate
The festival of the lights
There's a joyful time very night, we illuminate
The candles of Hanukkah, of Hanukkah

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu Melech ha'olam,
She'asa niseem la'avoteinu
Bayamim ha-hem ba-z'man ha-zeh

Hanukkah...

Hanukkah...

5. Let's Light the Candles Again

(Words and Music: Andrea Goldman Cole)

Evening comes, time is near,
Chanukah is calling
Gather with loved ones and friends
Children can't wait,
See the glow on their faces
Let's light the candles again.

Sing the song, time of joy,
By candlelight we're playing
wishing this week never ends
One day's not enough for all those
goodies, games and stuff, so
Let's light the candles again

Set one for each night,
Eight nights, we know
The menorah's bright
in the window
and we feel the warmth of this time of year
tonight

Sing the song, time of joy,
by candlelight we're playing
wishing this week never ends
One day's not enough for all that's
special here to us, so—
Let's light the candles again

Let's light the candles again
Let's light the candles again

6. Al Hanisim

עַל הַנְּסִים, וְעַל הַפְּרָקוֹ,
וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת, וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת,
וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת,
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Al hanisim, v'al hapurkan,
v'al hag'vurot, v'al hat'shu-ot,
v'al hamilchamot,
she-asita laavoteinu
bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

7. Ocho Kandelikas

(Ladino, by Flory Jagoda)

Chanukah linda sta aki,
ocho kandelas para mi.

O... Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,
tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas,
sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas,
siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer,
kon alegriyas y plazer.

Los pastelikos vo kumer,
kon almendrikas y la myel.

8. Chanukah Chanukah

(Words: L. Kipnis)

Chanukah, Chanukah,
chag yafeh kol kach.
Or chaviv misaviv gil l'yeled rach.
Chanukah, Chanukah,
s'vivon sov sov,
sov, sov, sov, sov, sov, sov,
Mah na'im va-tov!

9. O Chanukah

O Chanukah, O Chanukah,
come light the menorah.
Let's have a party. We'll all dance the hora.
Gather round the table,
we'll give you a treat,
Dreidels 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!

10. Mi Y'maleil / Who Can Retell?

מִי יִמְלֵל גְּבוּרוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל
אוֹתָן מִי יִמְנֶה?
הֵן בְּכָל דּוֹר יָקוּם הַגְּבוּר,
גּוֹאֵל הָעָם.

שְׁמַע!
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה
מִכְּבִי מוֹשִׁיעַ וּפּוֹדֶה.
וּבְיָמֵינוּ כָּל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
יִתְאַחַד יָקוּם לְהַגְאֵל.

Mi y'maleil g'vurot Yisrael
otan mi yimneh?
Hein b'chol dor yakum hagibor,
go-eil haam.

Sh'ma!
Bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh
Makabi moshi-a ufodeh.
Uv'yameinu kol am Yisrael
yitacheid yakum l'higa-eil.

Who can retell the things that befell us,
who can count them?
In ever 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.
And now all Israel must as one arise,
redeem itself through deed and sacrifice!

11. I Have a Little Dreidel

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

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

It has a lovely body
with legs so short and thin.
And when it is so tired,
it drops and then I win!

12. Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages let our song
praise Your saving power.
You amidst the raging foes
were our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us
but Your arm availed us.
And Your word broke their sword
when our own strength failed us.

Children of the Maccabees,
whether free or fettered,
wake the echoes of the songs
where you may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering,
that the time is nearing
which will see all people free,
tyrants disappearing.

13. S'vivon

S'vivon sov, sov, sov,
Chanukah hu chag tov!
Chanukah hu chag tov!
S'vivon sov, sov, sov.

Chag simcha hu laam
Neis gadol hayah sham,
Neis gadol hayah sham,
Chag simchah hu la'am!

14. Hanuka Dance

(Words and Music: Woody Guthrie)

Tippy tap toe! Happy Hanukah!
'Round you go! My little latke!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!

Clap your hands! Happy Hanuka!
Clap clap hands! My little shtroodler!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!

Jump real high! Happy Hanuka!
Jump jump high! My little fruitycake!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!

Run real fast! Happy Hanuka!
Runny run run! My little sugar pie!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!

Hop hop hop! Happy Hanuka!
Hoppity hop! My little rabbit!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!

Skippy skip skip! Happy Hanuka!
Skippity skip! My little honeybun!
On your toes! Happy Hanuka!
And around and around you go!