

Chanukah Customs & Practices

When: Chanukah begins on Tuesday, December 16th, at night. The last candle is lit on Tuesday night, December 23rd, and the holiday ends at nightfall on Wednesday, December 24th.

Work is permitted on Chanukah (except for Shabbat). Women have a custom not to work for the first 30 minutes after the candles are lit.

Food: Holiday meals are not required, but we do have a custom to celebrate with special meals. Some people eat dairy on Chanukah, there is a custom to partake of latkes and jelly donuts. Children have a custom to play dreidel and other games related to Chanukah.

Special prayers: We add *al hanissim* in Grace after meals and the *amidah*. If one forgets, it need not be repeated. We recite *hallel* and a special Torah reading each morning. On the Shabbat that coincides with Chanukah we read from 2 Torah scrolls and a special *Haftarah* for Chanukah. Monday and Tuesday, December 22-23, are also Rosh Chodesh, and we will read from 2 Torah scrolls.

Candle lighting: We light one oil lamp or candle on the first night, adding an additional candle each night, until we light 8 candles on the last night. It is customary to first light a *Shamash*, a helper candle, from which we light the rest. Candles should be large enough, or use sufficient oil, for the lights to burn for at least 30 minutes.

Placement: Our custom is to place the *chanukiah* by a window that faces the street. If not placed by the window, it should be placed by the main house door, opposite the *mezuzah*.

When do we light: Candles should be lit after nightfall (5:18 PM), except for Friday night (see below), or as soon thereafter as possible, but no later than dawn. In emergency situations candles may be lit earlier on condition that there is enough oil or large candles to remain lit until at least 5:38 PM. Please consult the rabbi.

How do we light: We place the first candle on the right side of the *chanukiah* as we face it, and add each new candle to its left. We light the *Shamash*, recite the 2 *b'rachot* (3 on the first night) as found in the siddur, and kindle from left to right. The *Shamash* is placed in the *chanukiah* separated from the other candles. It is customary to recite *haneirot halalu* and sing *maoz tzur* following the lighting.

Shabbat and Chanukah: Friday night, December 19th, we light 4 candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukah candles **must** be lit **before** Shabbat candles, before 4:16 PM. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:36 PM. On Saturday night, December 20th, we must light **after** Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:17 PM. It is customary to recite *havdalah* at home before lighting the Chanukah candles.

Travelers: If you are on the road, you are still required to light Chanukah candles. Please consult the rabbi for details and how you can observe the mitzvah.

Beth David Calendar

Our apologies for the calendar coming out so late. We will try to do better next year.

If you received a calendar this year and did not want one, or if you didn't receive a calendar and do want one for this year and/or in the future, please let us know.

We are always looking for more personal ads and any listings that might need updating. The listings include yahrzeits and the birthday and anniversary of any one living in your home, including your college students. There is no charge for these listings.

If you place a personal ad, your charge for the ad includes three extra listings of a birthday or anniversary of someone not in your household, plus the calendar. There is never a charge for a yahrzeit listing.

This year the charges are \$45 for the greeting and calendar and \$15 for the calendar alone. For those calendars that we had to mail out the cost to us was \$2.24 each, so we did try to deliver as many as we could.

If this sounds confusing, give me a call and I will try to clear up the confusion.

Thank you,
Marlene Serkin
607-729-3235

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Thanks to

- Moshe Shmaryahu for the beautiful *tefillot*
- Aaron Alweis for arranging all the honors, his excellent work as *gabbai*, expertly finding replacements for planned honors, and changing the ark curtains and Torah covers
- Leonard Preston for handling the seating arrangements for the Yom Tovim
- Meryl Sasnowitz for the Yizkor announcements and preparing the weekly Kiddush lists
- Lillian Zodikoff for making the weekly reminder calls for the Kiddush workers
- Shirley Lash for the office work, preparing all the Yom Tov documents, child care, and always willing to do anything we need, beyond the call of duty
- The women of Sisterhood for supplying, enhancing, and/or presenting the holiday and Shabbat *kiddushim*, Yom Kippur children's lunch, break-the-fast, and Yom Tov candles
- Marlene Serkin for all the shopping for the Yom Tov *kiddushim*, preparing the candles, and putting out the break-the-fast and the many behind the scenes jobs she takes care of
- Cathy Velenchik for providing the Yahrtzeit candles, shopping and arranging for people to serve and clean up for the holiday *kiddushim*
- Lori and Brian Tuberman for the flowers in the sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah in honor of Maxine & Marvin Kaplan, Brian's parents; and the flowers on Yom Kippur in memory of Lori's father, Jack Harary, and in honor of Lori's mother, Joyce Harary
- Rabbi Zev Silber for excellence in Shofar blowing
- Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz for donating the candy bars for Simchat Torah
- Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the herring for the *kiddushim* in memory of Sheldon's parents and wife (Ahren's grandparents and mother) and in honor of our *gabbai*, Aaron Alweis
- Marcy and Gaby Yonaty for donating the apples for Simchat Torah
- Paula and Charles Rubin for donating the kichel in memory of their beloved son, Steven
- The Chevra Kadisha for sponsoring the Shmini Atzeret Kiddush
- Dan Gold for checking the *eruv* each week and Dan and Charlie Manasse for the frequent last-minute *eruv* repairs
- Gaby Yonaty, Charlie Manasse, and Bob Kutz for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah.
- The Shabbat luncheon sponsors and speakers throughout the year
- Judy Silber for all the time and effort she puts into the monthly Shabbat Luncheons
- Dora Polachek for arranging for the interesting speakers for the Shabbat luncheons
- The Wrights for hosting Moshe Shmaryahu
- Barbara Bank and/or David Serkin for proofing each issue of the *ChaiLine*

Happy Chanukah

