

# Chanukah Customs & Practices

**When:** Chanukah begins on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, at night. The last candle is lit on Wednesday night, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and the holiday ends at nightfall on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3-4, 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 (5:16 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 5:46 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, November 29<sup>th</sup> we light 3 candles (plus the *shamash*). Chanukah candles must be lit before Shabbat candles, before 4:15 PM. Enough oil or large candles must be used so that they remain lit until at least 5:45 PM. On Saturday night, November 30<sup>th</sup> we must light after Shabbat ends, no earlier than 5:15 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.

# Calendar of Events

November 21 .....	Shul Board Mtg. 7:30 pm
November 27 .....	Light 1st Chanukah Candle
December 5 .....	Inter-Sisterhood Mtg. @ Temple Concord
December 13 .....	Fast of Tenth of Tevet
December 14 .....	Kiddush Luncheon
December 19 .....	Shul Board Mtg. 7:30 pm
January 11 .....	Kiddush Luncheon
January 14 .....	Sisterhood Afternoon Mtg.
January 16 .....	Shul Board Mtg. 7:30 pm
February 1 .....	Ice Cream for Breakfast Kiddush
February 8 .....	Kiddush Luncheon
February 12 .....	Sisterhood Mtg. 7:30 pm
February 20 .....	Shul Board Mtg. 7:30 pm
February 23 .....	ChaiLine Deadline 10:00 am
March 8 .....	Kiddush Luncheon
March 12 .....	Sisterhood Mtg. 7:30 pm
March 13 .....	Fast of Esther
March 16 .....	Purim



## HAPPY CHANUKAH



# 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
- 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 with the help of Melanie and Samantha Tuberman
- Cathy Velenchik for providing the Yahrtzeit candles
- 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
- Mark Budman who continues to work on the Beth David website even though he now lives in Massachusetts
- Paula Rubin for arranging for people to serve and clean up the Yom Tovim *kiddushim*
- Rabbi Zev Silber for excellence in Shofar blowing
- Sheldon and Ahren Edison for donating the herring for the Yom Tov *kiddushim* in memory of Sheldon's parents and wife (Ahren's grandparents and mother) and in honor of our *gabbai*, Aaron Alweis
- Meryl and Harold Sasnowitz for donating the candy bars for Simchat Torah
- 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 Charles Manasse for the frequent last-minute *eruv* repairs
- Gaby Yonaty, Charles Manasse, Bob Kutz and Arie Ullmann for putting the *schach* covering on the Sukkah, and Bob Kutz for supplying the American and Israeli flag banners
- 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 Silbers and Adamits for hosting and feeding the Torah Tour students
- The Wrights and Silbers for hosting Moshe Shmaryahu
- Barbara Bank and/or David Serkin for proofing each issue of the *ChaiLine*
- Rabbi David Serkin for underwriting this year's calendar in memory of his father, Jack, of blessed memory, and in appreciation of the entire Beth David Family for their support during his recent illness