

# Happy Hanukkah

The Hebrew word Chanukkah means “dedication,” and is because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple. Also called Hhanukah, the Hebrew word is actually pronounced with a guttural, “kh” sound. Some people spell and pronounce it “Chanukah” and others use “Hanukkah,” they are one and the same.



Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. On each of the eight days of Hanukah, the menorah is lit, a nine-branched candelabra, after nightfall (aside for Friday afternoon, when the candles are lit shortly before sunset). On the first night, one candle is lit plus the shamash (attendant candle), on the second night two candles are lit plus the shamash, and continuing until the eighth night when all eight candles and shamash are lit. Traditionally, the menorah lights are candles or oil with wicks. It is customary to give money gifts to children, play dreidel games, give an increased amount of charity each day of Chanukahto, and eat food fried in oil; to commemorate the miracle of Chanukah which occurred with oil.

Source: <http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/>



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