

# Chanukah Song Sheet

## 1. O Chanukah O Chanukah

Folk melody  
English: F. Minkoff  
Hebrew Verse: E. Indelman

*English:*

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  
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 (2x)

*Yiddish:*

Oy Chanukah oy Chanukah a yontif a  
sheiner  
A lustiker a freylicher nito noch a zeyner  
Alle nacht in dreydlech shpiln mir  
Zudik hesse latkes essen mir  
Geshvinder tsindt kinder di Chanukah  
lichtelech on  
Zol yeder bazunder bazingen dem  
vunder un tantzen freylech  
in kohn (2x)

## 2. Mi Y'Maleil?/Who Can Retell?

Hebrew: Music by Menashe Ravina; words:  
unknown  
English: B.M. Edidin, Judith K. Eisenstein and  
others

Mi y'maleil g'vu-rot Yisraeil? Otan mi  
yim-neh?  
Hein b'chol dor ya-kum ha-gi-bor go-eil  
ha-am

Who can retell the things that befell us?  
Who can count them?  
In ev'ry age a hero or sage came to our  
aid (repeat)

Sh'ma! Bayamim ha-heim bazman  
hazeh  
Makabi moshia ufodeh

Uv-yaminu kol am Yisraeil, yit-acheid  
yakum l'hi-ga-eil.

## 3. Al Hanisim

Words: Chanukah Liturgy: Sofrim 20:8  
Music: Dov Frimer

Al hanisim v'al hapurkan v'al hag'vurot  
v'al hat-shu-ot  
V'al hamilchamot she-asita lavoteinu  
bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

## 4. Ocho Kandelikas

Ladino - by Flory Jagoda

1. Chanukah linda sta aki, ocho  
kandelas para mi (2x)

*Chorus:*

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

2. Muchas fiestas vo fazer, kon  
alegriyas y plazer (2x) *Chorus*

3. Los pastelikos vo kumer, kon  
almendrikas y la myel (2x) *Chorus*

## 5. Light One Candle

words and music by Peter Yarrow

Light one candle for the Maccabee children.  
Give 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.  
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 strength that we need to  
never become our own foe.  
Light one candle for those who are suffering the  
pain we learned so long ago.  
Light one candle for all we believe in, let anger  
not tear us apart.  
Light one candle to bind us together with peace  
as the song in our heart. *Chorus*

What is the memory that's valued so highly that  
we keep 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 and this is the promise and  
this is why we will not fail. *Chorus*

### **6. Hanerot Halalu**

*Chorus:*

**Ya-ba-bim-bam, bim-bam, bim-bam, bim-  
bam, bim-bam, bim-bam, bim bam**

Hanerot halalu, anachnu madlikin  
Al hanisim v'al hat-shuot, v'al hamilchamot  
She-asita la-avoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man  
hazeh  
Al y'dei ko-hanecha  
Ko-hanecha ha-k'doshim. *Chorus*

V'chol sh'monat y'mei Chanukah  
V'chol sh'monat y'mei Chanukah  
Hanerot halalu, hanerot halalu kodeshem

### **7. Chanukah Chanukah**

Folk Melody

Verse: L.Kipnis

Chanukah, Chanukah, chag yafe kol kach  
Or Chaviv misaviv, gil l'yeled rach.  
Chanukah, Chanukah, s'vivon sov sov  
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov, ma na-im va-tov.

### **8. I Have a Little Dreidel**

Music: Samuel Goldfarb/ 50's Rock version: Michael  
Gelbart

Verse: S.S. Grossman

I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay,

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

My dreidel's always playful  
It loves to dance and spin  
A happy game of dreidel, come play now let's  
begin. *Chorus*

### **9. S'vivon**

Folk Song

Verse: L. Kipnis

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

Chag simcha hu la-am, Nes, Gadol, Haya, Sham  
Nes, Gadol, Haya, Sham, Chag simcha hu la-am

### **10. In the Window**

Melody: Chasidic

Words: Judith Kaplan Eisenstein

In the window where you can send your glow  
From my menorah on newly fallen snow  
I will set you, one (two, etc.) little candle (s)  
On this the first (second, etc.) night of Chanukah

### **11. Lots of Latkes**

Words and Music By Cantor Alan Leider

1. Lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots of latkes,  
lots (let's all eat 'em up!) *Repeat*

2. S'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov  
sov, s'vivon sov sov *Repeat*

3. Maccabee Maccabee, Maccabee Maccabee,  
Maccabee Maccabee, Mac-mac-mac-mac-mac-  
mac-mac mac! *Repeat*

### **12. Chanukah Catch ( Round)**

Words and music by Steven Richards

1. Candles burning all night long,  
Chanukah, O Chanuka
2. Judah, Judah Macabee, fought the  
Greeks to set us free

3. Meno-meno, me-no-no-rah, m'no, m'no,  
m'no-no rah

### **13. Ner Li**

Words: L. Kipnis, Music: Daniel Sambursky

Ner li, ner li, ner li d a-kik  
Ba-cha-nu-ka nei-ri ad-lik  
Ba-cha-nu-ka nei-ri ya-ir  
Ba-cha-nu-ka shhi-rim a-shir  
La, la, la, la la.....

I light my thin little candle on Chanuka  
It will illuminate all and I shall sing joyous  
songs

### **14. Not By Might, Not By Power**

(Words and Music by Debbie Friedman)

**Not by might and not by power, but by spirit  
alone shall we all live in peace. (2x)**

The children sing, the children dream, and their  
tears may fall, but we'll hear them  
call and another song will rise, another song will  
rise, another song will rise!

### **15. Ma'oz Tsur**

Hebrew words by Mordechai, 13<sup>th</sup> century poet  
English words: Marcus Jastrow, Gustav Gottheil  
Adapted from the German of Leopold Stein  
Ashkenazic melody

Ma-oz tsur y'shu-ati, l'cha na-eh l'shabei-ach  
Ti-kon beit t'filati v'sham toda n'zabeiach  
L'eit tachin mat-beiach mi'tzar ham'na-bei-ach  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor Chanukat ha-miz-  
beiach (2x)

Rock of ages, let our song praise your saving  
power.  
You amidst the raging foes were our shelt'ring  
tower.  
Furious they assailed us, but your arm availed  
us.  
And your word broke their sword when our own  
strength failed us (2x)

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 men free Tyrants  
disappearing. (2x)

### **16. Judah Maccabee**

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CHORUS:

In The window, shining so bright  
I can see the Hanukkah Light  
And it gives me such a warm, friendly glow  
When I think of Judah Maccabee, so long ago

A long time ago, in the land of Modin  
Lived a young man named Judah - brave and  
serene.

When Antiochus the tyrant said the Jews could  
not be free

He didn't count on Judah - the one called  
Maccabee

Now Judah and his brothers said it wasn't right  
to take away their freedom - they knew they had  
to fight

They fought three long years till the kind could  
take no more  
they rebuilt the holy temple, its beauty they  
restored

Now when the Temple was restored, they  
searched and searched in vain  
for oil to light the lamps, but not enough  
remained

Except for one small vial, enough to last one  
day

but instead it burned for eight - they proclaimed  
a holiday

Tonight we light our lamps, sing our songs and  
play our games

we remember that great miracle hidden in the  
flames

And today throughout the world we rejoice that  
we are free

to carry out the mission of Judah Maccabee

### **17. Adam Sandler's Chanukah Song (Original Version)**

Certain words changed to make it appropriate for children: by M. Fensin

“Marijuanika” changed to “silly songikah”

“gin and tonica” changed to “milk and tonica”

Time to take out the Menorah.

Put on your yarmulke, Here comes Chanukah  
So much funukah, To celebrate Chanukah  
Chanukah is the festival of lights... Instead of  
one day of presents, we have eight crazy nights

When you feel like the only kid in town, without  
a Xmas tree

Here's a list of people who are Jewish just like  
you and me

David Lee Roth, lights the menorah

So do Kirk Douglas, James Caan and the late  
Dinah Shore-ah

Guess who eats together at the Carnegie Deli  
Bowser from Sha Na Na and Arthur Fonzerelli  
Paul Newma's half Jewish, Goldie Hawn's half  
too

Put them together, what a fine lookin' Jew

You don't need “Deck the Hall” or “Jingle Bell  
Rock”

'Cause you can spin a dreidel with Captain Kirk  
and Mr. Spock - both Jewish

Put on your yarmulke, It's time for Chanukah  
The owner of the Seattle Supersonics  
Celebrates Chanukah

O.J. Simpson, not a Jew

But guess who is? Hall of famer Rod Carew-he  
converted

We got Ann Landers and her sister Dear Abby  
Harrison Ford's a quarter Jewish - not too  
shabby

Some people think that Ebenezer Scrooge is  
Well he's not, but guess who is -- All three  
Stooges

So many Jews are in showbiz

Tom Cruise isn't, but I heard his agent is.

Tell your friend Veronica, It's time to celebrate  
Chanukah

I hope I get a harmonica, On this lovely, lovely  
Chanukah

So drink your milk and tonicah, And sing this  
silly songikah

If you really, really wannakah, Have a happy,  
happy, happy, happy Chanukah

### **18. Sing Along Song Chanukah Verses**

Original Melody: S. Rubin; txt: Sinai Reform  
Temple, Bay Shore, NY

Hanukkah's also called

"The Festival of Lights"

We sing songs and eat latkes

For seven days and nights.

On Hanukkah we celebrate

The Festival of Lights

4 Candles lit on every side

The Shamash burns so bright

On Hanukkah we play a game

And 'dreidl' is its name

There's Nun and Gimel, Hey and Shin

It's in the Hall of Fame.

### **19. Banu Choshech L'gareish**

Words: S. Levi-Tannai

English words: Fanchon Shur

Music: Emanuel Amiran

Ba-nu cho-shech l'ga-reish

B'ya-dei-nu or va-eish

Kol e-chad hu or ka-tan, v'chu-la-nu or ei-tan

Su-ra cho-shech, hal-ah sh'chor,

Su-ra... mip-nei ha-or

Repeat last two lines

We have come to banish night

Banish it with candle light

All the little candle rays

Join to make a mighty blaze

Banish darkness, banish night

Chanukah is the feast of light

*Repeat last two lines*

## 20. Yodelay Do Potato

Peter and Ellen Allard

I like to eat potato latkes  
I like to eat them all day.  
And when I eat potato latkes, this is what I say:

Yo-dle-lay do potato ( 2x)  
Yo-del-lay do potato latkes for me.  
Yo-de-lay do po-tato ( 2x)  
Yo-dle-lay yo-dle-lay potato.

I like to eat them with applesauce, I like to eat  
them all day...

I like to eat them with sour cream, I like to eat  
them all day...

I like to eat them in \_\_\_\_\_, I like to eat them all  
day...

## 21. The Chanukiah

Jackie Cytrynbaum

How many candles, how many candles,  
How many candles do we light?  
On our chanukiah, on our chanukiah,  
The first Chanukah night?  
One, one, one, one, one, one  
One candle burning, one candle burning  
The first Chanukah night.

How many candles, how many candles,  
How many candles do we light?  
On our chanukiah, on our chanukiah  
The second Chanukah night  
Two, two, two, two, two, two,  
Two candles burning, two candles burning  
The second Chanukah night.

Repeat for third, fourth, etc. Chanukah nights

## 22. Latke Ditties ( Each Hanukah We Glorify)

Words: Ben Aronin

Music: Folk melody "Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah"

1. Each Chanukah we glorify Brave Judah  
Maccabeus

Who had the courage to defy Antiochus, and  
free us.

Yet it is not fair that we should forget  
Mrs. Maccabeus, to whom we owe a debt.

She mixed it  
She fixed it  
She poured it into a bowl  
(You may NOT guess  
But it was the LATkes  
That gave brave Judah a soul)  
*Repeat last three lines*

2. The Syrians said: "It cannot be that old  
Mattthias

Whose years are more than 83 will dare to  
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 may NOT guess  
But it was the Latkes  
That gave him courage to fight)  
*Repeat last three lines*

3. Now this is how it came about—this  
gastronomic wonder

That broke the ranks of Syria like flaming  
bolts of thunder  
Mrs. Maccabeus wrote in the dough  
Portions of the Torah and fried them just so.

They shimmered  
They glimmered  
Absorbing the olive oil  
( You may NOT guess  
But it was the Latkes  
That made the Syrians recoil.)  
*Repeat the last three lines*

4. Now these little latkes brown and delicious  
Must have hit the spot 'cause 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 may NOT guess  
But it was the Latkes  
That gave us the Chanukah light)  
*Repeat the last three lines*