

Lighting the Menorah

Hanukkah is a joyous festival. It is marked by the lighting of candles in the home, beginning with one candle on the first night, and add one on each following night of the holiday.

The center candle acts as the **Shammash** - which means 'one who serves'. Since we are forbidden to make use of the Hanukkah lights, the light from the Shammash provides the legal fiction whereby we may read, etc. in the proximity of the Hanukkah lamp.

So that everyone knows Hanukkah is here, we place the candles near a window facing the street. The lighting ceremony is accompanied by blessings and followed by song.

On Friday night, the lighting of the menorah precedes the lighting of the Shabbat candles.

On Saturday night, the lighting of the menorah <u>after</u> Havdalah.

Before kindling the lights, say these blessings

(1) "Blessed are You, O L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us by Your commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of Hanukkah." בְּרוּךְ אַתְּה ד׳ אֱ־לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשְׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתִיו וְצִוְנוּ לְהַדְלִיק וֵר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melech ha'olam. Asher kideshanu be'mitzotav ve'tzivanu le'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

(2) Blessed are You, O L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ד׳ אֱ־לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים בְּרוּךָ אַתָּה ד׳ אֱבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיַמִים הָהֵם בַּוּמַן הַזֵּה.

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheynu Melech ha'olam. She'asa nisim la'avoteynu ba'yamim hahem bazeman hazeh.

*When kindling the Hanukkah lights on the First night recite: Blessed art Thou, L-rd our G-d, Ruler of the universe, that Thou hast given us life and sustenance and brought us to this happy season.

בְּרוּך אַתָּה ד׳ אֱ־לֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקוּמָנוּ וִהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזִּמַן הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam she-heche-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

After the candles are lit, recite the following:

During all the eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred and it is not permitted to make any profane use of them, but we are only to look at them, in order that we may give thanks unto His name for His miracles, His deliverance and His wonder.



HANUKKAH CANDLE LÌGHTÌNG SCHEDULE

Kislev/Tevet 5782 - December 2021

Light candles after sunset (except before/after Sabbath - see below)

1st Candle	Sunday Eve	November 28 (after 4:30 pm)
2nd Candle	Monday Eve	November 29 (after 4:30 pm)
3rd Candle	Tuesday Eve	November 30 (after 4:30 pm)
4th Candle	Wednesday Eve	December 1 (after 4:29 pm)
5th Candle	Thursday Eve	December 2 (after 4:29 pm)
6th Candle	Friday Eve December 3 <i>Light BEFORE Sundown, <u>before</u> lighting</i> <i>Sabbath Candles</i> (in Cedarhurst = 4:10 pm)	
7th Candle	Saturday Eve December 4 <i>Light after Havdalah</i> (Havdalah in Cedarhurst = 5:02 pm)	
8th Candle	Sunday Eve	December 5 (after 4:29 pm)

HANUKKAH MENORAH (HANUKKIYAH)

SHAMMASH -

In the Sephardic tradition we light the Shammash first with a separate candle or flame, and then proceed to kindle the rest of the lights with that separate flame

> On the second eve of Hanukkah, light this candle <u>before</u> lighting the candle to its right, etc.





Hanukkah - The Festival of Lights

Hanukkah, the "Festival of Lights", starts on the 25th day of the Hebrew calendar month of Kislev and lasts for eight days.



The Hanukkah Story:



Over 2000 years ago, the Greek-Syrian ruler Antiochus IV tried to force Greek culture upon peoples in his territory. Jews in Judea – now Israel – were forbidden their most important religious practices as well as study of the Torah. Although vastly outnumbered, some Jews in the region took up arms. Led by Mattathias the Hasmonean, and later his son Judah the Maccabee, the rebel armies became known as the Maccabees.

After three years of fighting, around the year 165 B.C.E., the Maccabees victoriously reclaimed the Temple on Jerusalem's Mount Moriah. Next, they prepared the Temple for rededication – in Hebrew, Hanukkah means "dedication." In the Temple they found only enough purified oil to kindle the Temple light for a single day. But miraculously, the light continued to burn for eight days.

The Menorah:



The lighting of the menorah, known in Hebrew as the *hanukiya*, is the most important Hanukkah tradition. A menorah is a candlestand with nine branches. Eight candles – one for each day of Hanukkah – are usually of the same height, with a taller one, the *shamash* ("servant"), used to light the others. Each evening of Hanukkah, one more candle is lit, with a special blessing.

The menorah symbolizes the burning light in the Temple, as well as marking the eight days of the Hanukkah festival.

"Ocho Kandelikas" (Eight Little Candles) Hanukkah Song:

Composed by Flory Jagoda, a Jewish-American musician, "Ocho Kandelikas" is sung in Ladino to celebrate the joy of lighting the candles on the menorah. Please find the lyrics below.

Hanukka linda sta aki,	Beautiful Hanukkah is here,
ocho kandelas para mi. (x2)	eight candles for me. (x2)
O Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,	O One little candle, two little candles,
trez kandelikas, kuatro kandelikas,	three little candles, four little candles,
sintyu kandelikas, sesh kandelikas,	five little candles, six little candles,
siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi	seven little candles, eight candles for me.
Muchas fiestas vo fazer,	Lots of parties to have,
kon alegriyas y plazer. (x2)	with happiness and pleasure. (x2)
Los pastelikos vo kumer,	Little pastries to eat,
kon almendrikas y la myel. (x2)	with little almonds and honey. (x2)



THE TEMPLE FAMILY IN

THE SEPHARDIC TEMPLE WEEKLY BULLETIN . NOVEMBER 27, 2021

SEPHARDIC TEMPLE WORSHIP SERVICES

Minyan Services will be held in the Chapel and Shabbat Morning Services will be held in the Sanctuary as outlined in our updated COVID-19 Policy, available on our website: www.sephardictemplecedarhurst.org/covid-19

Registration to the Temple office for Shabbat requested by Thursday.

Please be advised that there will be a Bar Mitzvah in the building catered by Genadeen occurring simultaneously with our Shabbat morning services on November 27. We provide this information to help you plan accordingly.

בסימן טוב ומזל טוב SIMAN TOV & MAZAL TOV

On the Birth of a Baby Boy:

Benny Noah Crespi

Sister: Cori Rose Crespi

Parents: Jamie & Michael Crespi

Grandparents: Elissa & Neil Crespi Sue & Dan Bernheim

Great-grandparents: Marion & the late Bob Crespi The late Pauline and Daniel Kleinstein



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TO OUR NEW MEMBERS The Nizry Family

SISTERHOOD MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 10:30AM SEVY LIBRARY

ZOOM PROGRAM THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 at 7:30pm

with Howard Mortman 'When Rabbis Bless Congress'

See link accompanying the flyer below

MOVIE NIGHT

Hanukkah, Wed., December 1 at 6:30pm



Joseph and the AMazing Technicolor Dreamcoat



Pizza • Jelly donuts • Popcorn \$5 per person

RSVP to the Temple office by Nov 29

Ladinc Phrase of the Week

קאמינוס די ליג׳י אי מייל Kaminos de leche i miel, kaminos buenos

Roads of milk and honey, good travelings

Courtesy of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America: www.sephardicbrotherhood.com

SEPHARDIC TEMPLE COVID-19 POLICY (As of November 22, 2021)

As we continue to respond to ongoing developments, our COVID-19 Policy has been updated as follows for worship services and events:

Adults over the age of 18 must be fully vaccinated and face masks are optional.

Individuals under the age of 18 who are not vaccinated must wear face masks and sit in a designated section.

<u>Only fully vaccinated individuals are permitted to attend weekday Shahrit services and Friday</u> evening Shabbat services held in the Chapel.

Participation in weekday Shahrit services (Sundays at 9:00am, and Monday – Friday at 8:00am) is also available via Zoom, please contact the Temple office for more information.

Vaccination verification needs to be provided to the Temple office prior to Shabbat, or upon entry on Shabbat morning.

Shabbat morning services begin promptly at 8:45am and conclude around 11:45am. The Temple can only be entered through the front doors. The doors will be opened and staffed no earlier than 8:30am. Please check our weekly bulletin for information about Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Pre-registration for attendance to Shabbat services is requested, by contacting the Temple office: 516-295-4644, admin@thesephardictemple.org. A Shabbat Registration Confirmation email will be sent on Thursday evening to confirm your reservation.

Social distancing is still suggested, and hand sanitizer will be available.

Please be aware of all signage in the building and comply with our requests to maintain hygiene.

Anyone attending a service who finds afterwards that they are COVID-19 positive, agrees, by the fact of their attendance, to notify immediately the Sephardic Temple of their COVID-19 positive status so appropriate contact tracing and quarantine can occur without delay. It is important to note that - even if you are vaccinated - if you have any COVID symptoms or do not feel well, please do not come to Temple.

We ask for your cooperation as we implement these revised protocols. We are doing so after serious deliberation and consultation with both medical experts and Jewish communal professionals.

As always, your health is our priority. Please continue to be vigilant in following general COVID protocols in your daily life. Please encourage all who can get vaccinated to do so.

Your attendance at Temple services and events signifies your agreement with the above procedures.

Wishing you anyos muchos, y salud buena para todos!

Isaac Mayo, President Rabbi Steve Golden



Thanksgiving Note from Rabbi Golden

It is sometimes heard in Jewish circles that Thanksgiving Day is a "non-Jewish holiday" and should not be observed by religious Jews. This view is historically wrong and morally dubious.

Thanksgiving Day is a national American holiday for all residents of the United States, of all religions. Jews participated in Thanksgiving from the very beginning of the United States' history. This national holiday belongs to Jews as to all other Americans. It is altogether fitting that Jews join fellow Americans in observing a day of Thanksgiving to the Al-mighty for the blessings G-d has bestowed upon this country. Jews, in particular, have much reason to thank G-d for the opportunities and freedoms granted to us.

In his famous letter to the Jewish community of Newport in 1790, President George Washington wrote: "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants--while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

These are words, expressive of the American spirit at its best, for which we can be thankful.



Letter to the Hebrew Congregation at Newport

George Washington, August 21, 1790

Gentlemen:

While I received with much satisfaction your address replete with expressions of esteem, I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring you that I shall always retain grateful remembrance of the cordial welcome I experienced on my visit to Newport from all classes of citizens.

The reflection on the days of difficulty and danger which are past is rendered the more sweet from a consciousness that they are succeeded by days of uncommon prosperity and security.

If we have wisdom to make the best use of the advantages with which we are now favored, we cannot fail, under the just administration of a good government, to become a great and happy people.

The citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy -apolicy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship.

It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am pleased with your favorable opinion of my administration and fervent wishes for my felicity.

May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants — while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.

May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way everlastingly happy.

Matherpter

Source: George Washington: A Collection, ed. W.B. Allen (Liberty Fund: Indianapolis, 1988)



Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 PM

Join us on Hanukkah for pizza, jelly donuts, popcorn, and a special screening of: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

\$5 per person

Open to the community as per the Temple's COVID-19 Policy RSVP to the Temple office by Monday, November 29



Based on the stage musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, this 1999 movie adaptation of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** reimagines the Old Testament story about the youngest son of Jacob and the betrayal of his brothers.



On Shabbat, December 4 we will resume our *Nosh and Derash*

learning session with Rabbi Golden as well as celebrate our



December Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat

Please contact the Temple office to let us know if you have a birthday or anniversary in December that you would like to be acknowledged



THE SEPHARDIC TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

at the Sephardic Temple (in the Sevy Library)

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23, 2021

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

\$50 per person

Checks payable to: The Sephardic Temple Men's Club

Seats are limited!

Please contact the Temple office to make reservations

(516-295-4644) admin@thesephardictemple.org

Cook's Corner

IN THE KITCHEN FOR THANKSGIVING

Tahíní Mashed Sweet Potatoes with Fried Sage Leaves (Gluten Free - Daíry Free - Vegan!)



Hummus meets Thanksgiving – with a cloud of sweet potatoes whipped with nutty tahini, and bright, lemony sumac. If you can't find sumac, substitute some cumin and lemon zest for another option.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups sweet potatoes, washed, peeled and diced into 1-inch pieces (about 1½ pounds)
- ➢ ¼ cup tahini
- > ½ cup extra virgin olive oil, plus more for frying
- \succ 2 teaspoons sumac
- ➢ Kosher salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste
- ➤ 10 sage leaves
- > 2 tablespoons pine nuts (optional)

Yield: 4 servings, Cook Time: 20 Minutes, Prep Time: 15 Minutes

Potatoes and fried sage can be made up two days ahead of time. Serve warm and garnish right before serving.



Directions:

- 1. Place sweet potatoes in a 2-quart saucepan and cover with water.
- 2. Bring to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce to a simmer and cook until potatoes are fork tender, about 15 to 20 minutes.
- 3. Drain sweet potatoes and return to the pot.
- 4. Add in tahini, olive oil, and sumac and mash with a potato masher or ricer. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 5. To make fried sage leaves, heat ¼ inch oil in a small sauté pan over medium high heat. Set aside a paper towel on a plate for cooling.
- 6. Fry sage in two batches for about five seconds making sure to coat in oil.
- 7. Transfer sage to paper towel with a slotted spoon and season with salt immediately. Use to garnish mashed sweet potatoes with pine nuts.

Source: Amy Kritzer. https://whatjewwannaeat.com/tahini-mashed-sweet-potatoes-fried-sage-leaves/

Have a recipe worth sharing? Help us further document our heritage and traditions.

THE SEPHARDIC TEMPLE • 775 Branch Boulevard, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 Tel: (516-295-4644), Fax: (516-295-1941), Email: admin@thesephardictemple.org



IN THE KITCHEN FOR HANUKKAH



Small quantities of

pine nuts, called

"snobar" by Syrian

cooks, are frequently

added to rice, salads,

and meat mixtures.

Serves 8

Ríce and Píne Nuts (Syrian – Ríz Ou Snobar) Ingredients:

- > 2 cups uncooked long grain rice
- ➤ 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- ➢ 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- > 3/4 teaspoon salt
- > 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground saffron dissolved in 1 tablespoon water (optional)
- > 1/2 cup pine nuts (pignolias)

Directions:

- 1. In sauce, combine rice, broth, oil, salt, and pepper. Bring to boil and stir with fork.
- 2. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 25-30 minutes, or until rice is fluffy.
- 3. Stir in saffron and mix well.
- 4. In dry, clean skillet, toast pine nuts until just golden. Stir into rice and serve.

Spínach Salad (Syrían - Spanakh Salata)

Ingredients:

- \blacktriangleright 2 pounds fresh spinach
- ➢ 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- > 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- > 1/4 cup cider vinegar or lemon juice
- \succ 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash of pepper
- > 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- > 2 tablespoons pine nuts (pignolias)

Directions:

- 1. Wash spinach thoroughly. Tear into bite-sized pieces. Drain in colander.
- $2. \ \ Combine \ spinach \ and \ scallions \ in \ large \ bowl.$
- 3. Chill, covered, until serving time.
- 4. Combine oil, vinegar, salt, pepper, and cumin. Just before serving, pour dressing over spinach and scallions. Toss well.
- 5. Sprinkle with pine nuts.

Source: Angel, Gilda. Sephardic Holiday Cooking: Recipes and Traditions. Mount Vernon, NY: 1986. This book was kindly donated by the family of Rose Mayo (OBM) and was a staple in her kitchen



Great paired with the rice recipe above, or enjoyed on its own, this healthy dish is traditionally enjoyed by Syrian Sephardim during Hanukkah.

Serves 8