



December News

2019

Chanukah: The Festival of Lights– December 22-30, 2019

When Judah and his brothers defeated the Syrian Army and declared that “the whole Jewish nation should celebrate these days every year” (II Maccabees, 10:8), they probably couldn’t imagine the hoopla that North American Jews make today over the holiday of Chanukah. The Maccabees fought a guerilla war against Hellenism for the right to live as Jews. Their small, untrained army managed to run the Syrian army out of town (a miracle in its own right) and then came back to Jerusalem to clean up the Temple. While fighting they missed the celebration of Sukkot. In catching up on the delayed Sukkot celebrations, Chanukah also became an eight-day holiday. They celebrated with feasts, songs of praise to G-d,

the playing of harps, payer, and the lighting of lamps. We learn this from the first and second books of Maccabees, written less than 50 years after the events commemorated by Chanukah. The story we all recall from childhood of the miracle of the oil lasting for eight days appears in the Talmud, written at least 500 years after the events.

In Israel today, people concern themselves with *pirsum ha-nes* (publicizing the miracle) of Chanukah. Candles burning in *chanukiot* can be seen burning in windows and in glass boxes outside of the front doors of houses. Families get together to eat *sufganiot* (jelly donuts fried in oil) which take the place of *latkes* there as the traditional Chanukah food. Gift giving is not

a widely practiced tradition at all.

We might take a hint from our Israeli cousins. Chanukah is a minor holiday in the Jewish calendar. It is a time to publicize the miracle. Rather than a fancy present, why not give your children the gift of your time. Light candles with them, play dreidel, take them to a Chanukah party or to a Jewish storytelling hour.

Happy Chanukah to you and yours!

Source: M. S. Handelman (2000). *Jewish Every Day*. P.194. A.R.E. publishing, Inc. Denver,



Important Dates

December 4	Pizza Day
December 16	Board of Directors Meeting at 4:30 PM at 1007 Sinclair Street
December 20	Preschool Families– Chanukah Concert 3:00 PM at 1007 Sinclair Street
December 24	1:00 PM –Early closure for Christmas Eve
December 25	Closed for Christmas Day
December 26	Closed for Boxing Day
December 31	4:00 PM –Early closure for New Year’s Eve
January 1	Closed for New Year’s Day
February 17	Closed for Louis Riel Day
April 10	Closed for Good Friday
April 13	Closed for Easter Monday

Visit us at <http://www.alephbetdaycare.ca>





Preschool Families:

Let's share the celebration!

**Come join us for a Chanukah Concert
and Bake Sale**

**All proceeds raised from our bake sale will be used
towards creating a new outdoor natural play space**

WHEN: December 20/19(Friday)

3:00 PM

WHERE: The Gym (1007 Sinclair Street)

ATTIRE (for the children): Something blue and /or white

**Please bring a non-perishable food item for the
Chanukah Hamper**



***Tickets will be provided to the
families as seating is limited.**





Here are the 2019/2020 Board of Directors appointees:

Chair Person: Jana Wilson

Co-Chair: Miranda Syrota

Secretary: Joelle Beardy

Treasurer: Heather Demchenko

Members at Large: Cheri Hnytka Kelly, Candice McPetrie, and Candace Woloshyn.

Thank you for your time and dedication to making Aleph-Bet the best it can be! Your work on the Board of Directors has a direct impact on the quality of services families' receive in the community.

Chanukah Fun for the Whole family: The Dreidel Game

Why not start a new tradition with your family to enjoy over the holiday season. It 's simple, fun, and inexpensive. Here is how to play:

Materials:

- 1 Dreidel
- A bunch of small items to act as counters (i.e. raisins, pretzel sticks, chocolate gelt, beans, etc.)

Game play:

- 1) Divide the counters equally amongst the players.
- 2) Every player contributes one counter into the "pot."
- 3) Players spin the dreidel in turn and contribute or collect items from the pot based on which letter faces up when the dreidel stops its spin.

Nun– Nisht– The player collects nothing from the pot.

- Gimmel**– Grantz—The player gets it all.
- Hey**– Halb– The player collects half the pot.
- Shin**– Shtel– The player sets one of his own items into the pot.
- Have fun playing and maybe you'll start a new family tradition.



Oh, Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

I made it out of clay

Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel

My dreidel I shall play

Please notify staff of your child's attendance over the winter break. We will need this information in order to schedule staff appropriately.

