

# HANUKKAH

Festival of Rededication /  
Festival of Lights



**Golden Manor**

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Hanukkah 2014 begins sundown on **Tuesday, December 16**  
and ends in the evening of **Wednesday, December 24**

Hanukkah is a very joyous 8 day holiday known as “The Festival of Rededication” or “The Festival of Lights” that celebrates two miracles – a great Jewish military victory and a miraculous supply of oil for the Temple.

## Observances:

Attending work and school is allowed during Hanukkah

**Length:** 8 Days

## Customs:

Hanukkah is a time to celebrate with family and friends, to eat yummy holiday treats, and to play the dreidel game.

- The lighting of the menorah – an eight-branched candelabrum – is a central part of the holiday. A candle is added each day and lit after sundown.
- Gift-giving is not a traditional part of the holiday, but does occur in places where Jews have a lot of contact with Christians. It is unusual for Jews to give hanukkah gifts to anyone other than their own young children. The only traditional gift of the holiday is “gelt,” small amounts of money.



## HANUKKAH FOODS

It is traditional to eat foods fried in oil in celebration of the miracle of a small cruse of pure oil that burned for eight days.

- Potato Latkes (Many creative variations)
- Jelly Donuts
- Applesauce



\* Traditions and views often differ from family to family.  
Source: MyJewishLearning.com; www.ifcj.org, www.jewfaq.org

# THE DREIDEL GAME

Playing with the dreidel is a traditional Hanukkah game played in Jewish homes all over the world. The Hebrew word for dreidel is *sevivon*, which, as in Yiddish, means “to turn around.” Dreidels have four Hebrew letters on them, and they stand for the saying, *Nes gadol haya sham*, meaning A great miracle occurred there. In Israel, instead of the fourth letter shin, there is a peh, which means the saying is *Nes gadol haya po*--A great miracle occurred here.

## How to play:

- 1.** Any number of people can take part in this great game.
- 2.** Each player begins the game with an equal number of game pieces (about 10-15) such as pennies, nuts, chocolate chips, raisins, matchsticks, etc.
- 3.** At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the center “pot.” In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one game piece left, every player should put one in the pot.
- 4.** Every time it's your turn, spin the dreidel once. Depending on the outcome, you give or get game pieces from the pot:
  - a)** *Nun* means *nisht* or “nothing” in Yiddish. The player does nothing.
  - b)** *Gimmel* means *gantz* or “everything” in Yiddish. The player gets everything in the pot.
  - c)** *Hey* means *halb* or “half” in Yiddish. The player gets half of the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one).
  - d)** *Shin* (outside of Israel) means *shtetl* or “put in” in Yiddish. *Peh* (in Israel) means “pay.” The player adds a game piece to the pot.
- 5.** If you find that you have no game pieces left, you are either “out” or may ask a fellow player for a “loan.”
- 6.** When one person has won everything, that round of the game is over!
- 7.** We suggest that if you use money to play the game, ask players to donate part or all of their winnings to tzedakah (charity). You can ask parents to match these contributions. This way everyone wins and you can share the Hanukkah gifts with those in need!



A dreidel is a pointy, four-sided top which can be made to spin on its pointy base. Some dreidels are made out of carved wood, and others out of plastic.

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