

There are eight ways to celebrate listed below. Feel free to mix and match and choose. Imbedded in them are links to music, to stories, to recipes, to children's books and to articles.

- 1. Set up a table near a window (preferably facing the street.)** Cover it with aluminum foil. Set up as many Hanukkiyot (Hanukkah menorahs) as you can find (the ones your kids made in the ECP?) Every one can light a Hanukkiyah. Click here for the blessings. Jewish tradition counsels not to work while the candles are burning. Sing a song together. Eat. Read a book. Play a game. Bask in the glow of candlelight.
- 2. Hanukkah celebrates miracles.** The story of the oil is a beautiful legend, but it still contains the stuff of miracles. How incredible to hope, when you think you don't even have enough to start! "That's the Jewish answer to a world that feels dark. Go ahead and light." One of the most incredible miracles of the physical universe is the transformation of matter into energy. Watch the miracle as the candles burn. What other miracles in your life are happening practically in front of your eyes that you don't notice?
- 3. Have fun.** If you have little ones at home, march around the house like Maccabees. Turn and melt and jump little candles (sung to 10 Little Indians.) Play dreidel.
- 4. Take a "soulfie."** Rabbi Naomi Levy writes, "We've grown accustomed to taking selfies to help us remember special moments in our lives – but it doesn't capture the self at all. It doesn't take in our interior world – our minds, our souls, our longings, our feelings, our prayers. A selfie is all surface. A selfie, in which we're always disproportionately large and the background vista looks like a tiny speck, it also a distortion of reality." Hanukkah is a perfect time to take a soulfie, she advises. Connect to the light within.
- 5. Desserts!** Sufganiyot (jelly donuts), stained-glass cookies, Hanukkah butter cookies. There are real recipes and short-cuts. I (Shira, not a cook) use beignet mix for sufganiyot – sprinkle with confectioners sugar and dip into raspberry jam.
- 6. Tell stories.** Attached are some of our favorites. Or tell stories of Hanukkah moments you remember – or of miracles in your life.
- 7. The historical story of Hanukkah** is about conflict, civil war, assimilation and zealotry. Read a summary of this all-too-real story. www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/opinion/11brooks.html. One conceptual differences between Judaism and Christianity: hmsi.info/their-story-is-not-ours-an-article-by-rabbi-harold-m-schulweis-from-reform. In 2016, Kol Ami put the Maccabees on trial for religious fanaticism and murder. Read the closing arguments of the prosecution and the defense here. What lessons do these stories from history hold for you about our Jewish world today?
- 8. Bring light into someone's life.** Cook for the homeless at Kol Ami. Help celebrate birthdays at the Coachman Family Center. Pick up a bag of food from the Atrium and bring it to someone who needs. Light candles by video (Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp) with someone who is far away or homebound.

lilith.org/articles/8-lessons-for-hanukkah-useful-all-year/

A great article for families on Hanukkah and giving tzedakah.