



# Brooklyn Heights Synagogue

## Chanukah Songbook



## The Blessings

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם,  
שעשה נסים לאבותינו, בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Barukh atah adonai eloheynu melekh ha-olam asher kiddeshanu b'mitzvotav  
vetzivanu le-hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Barukh atah adonai eloheynu melekh ha-olam she'asah nisim  
la-avoteynu bayamim hahem baz'man ha-zeh.

*On the first night of Chanukah, add:*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Barukh atah adonai eloheynu melekh ha-olam shehekiyanu  
v'kiyemanu v'higi'anu laz'man ha-zeh.

### Song 1: Maoz Tzur (Rocky Fortress)

Ma'oz tzur y'shuati  
L'kha na-eh l'shabei-ach  
Tikon beyt t'filati  
V'sham todah n'zabei-ach  
L'eit tachin matbei-ach  
Mitzar ha-m'nabei-ach  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor  
Chanukat ha-mizbei-ach  
Az egmor b'shir mizmor  
Chanukat ha-mizbei-ach



מעוז צור ישועתי  
לך נאה לשבח  
תכון בית תפילתי  
ושם תודה נזבח  
לעת תכין מטבח  
מצר המנבח  
אז אגמר בשיר מזמור  
חנוכת המנבח

*A less literal but more sing-able translation:*

Rock of Ages, let our song, Praise Thy saving power  
Thou amidst the raging foes, Wast our sheltering tower  
Furious they assailed us, But Thine arm availed us  
And thy word broke their sword, When our own strength failed us.  
And thy word broke their sword, When our own strength failed us.

## Song 2: Mi Y'maleil

Mi y'maleil g'vurot Yisrael  
Otan mi yimneh?  
Hein b'khol dor yakum hagibor,  
go-el ha-am.

Sh'ma!

Ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man hazeh  
Makkabi moshiya u'fodeh  
U'v'yameinu kol am Yisrael  
Yitacheid yakum l'higa-el.

מי ימלל גבורות ישראל,  
אותן מי ימנה?  
הן בכל דור יקום הגבור  
גואל העם.  
שמע!  
בימים ההם בזמן הזה  
מכבי מושיע ופודה,  
ובימינו כל עם ישראל  
יתאחד, יקום ויגאל.

Who can retell the things that befell us, who can count them?  
In every age a hero or sage came to our aid  
Hear! In days of yore in Israel's ancient land  
Maccabeus led the faithful band  
Now all Israel must as one arise  
Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice

## Song 3: S'vivon

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.



סביבון טוב טוב טוב  
חנוכה הוא חג טוב  
חנוכה הוא חג טוב  
סביבון טוב טוב טוב  
חג שמחה הוא לעם  
נס גדול היה שם  
נס גדול היה שם  
חג שמחה הוא לעם

(Translation)

Dreidel, spin, spin, spin.  
Chanukah is a great holiday.  
It is a celebration for our nation.  
A great miracle happened there.

**Song 4: \*My Dreydl,\* Hanukkah Song by S. S. Grossman**

I have a little dreydl,  
I made it out of clay;  
And when it's dry and ready  
Then dreydl I shall play,

O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
I made it out of clay;  
O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
Now dreydl I shall play.

It has a lovely body,  
With leg so short and thin;  
And when it is all tired,  
It drops and then I win.

O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
With leg so short and thin;  
O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
It drops and then I win.

My dreydl's always playful,  
It loves to dance and spin.  
A happy game of dreydl,  
Come play, now let's begin.

O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
It loves to dance and spin.  
O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
Come play, now let's begin.



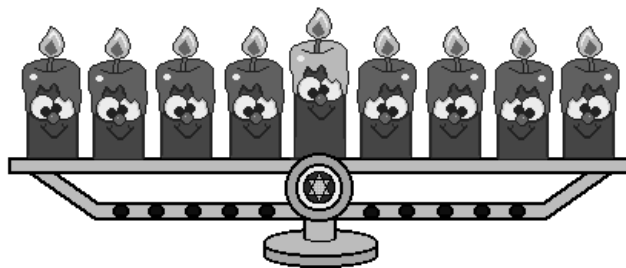
## Song 5: Chanukah, Oh Chanukah

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah  
Come light the menorah  
Let's have a party  
We'll all dance the *hora*  
Gather round the table, we'll have a treat  
*Sivivon* to play with, 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

*(Yiddish transliteration)*

Chanukah, O Chanukah  
A yontev a sheyner  
A lustiger a freylicher  
Nito noch azoyner  
Ale nacht in dreydl shpilm mir  
Zudigheyse latkes esn mir  
  
Geshvinder tsindt kinder  
Di dininke lichtelech on  
Zogt "al ha-nisim," loybt Got far di nisim  
Un kumt gicher tantsn in kon

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, a festival of joy,  
A holiday, a jolly-day, for every girl and boy.  
Spin the whirling dreidels all week long,  
Eat the sizzling latkes, sing the happy songs!  
Now light then, tonight then, the flickering candles in a row,  
Retell the wondrous story of God in all God's glory,  
And dance by the candles' cheering glow.



**Song 6: Mrs. Maccabeus (to the tune of “Oh Chanukah”)**

Each Chanukah we glorify brave Judas Maccabeus  
Who had the courage to defy Antiochus and free us.

Yet it is not that we should forget

Mrs. Maccabeus to whom we owe a debt.

She mixed them, she fixed them, she poured them into a bowl,  
You may not guess, but it was the lat-kes  
That gave brave Judah a soul.

The Syrians said, “It cannot be that old Mattathias,  
Whose years are more than 83, will dare to defy us!”

But they did not 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 lat-kes  
That gave him the courage to fight.

Now these little latkes, so brown and delicious,  
Must have really hit the spot, ‘cause with appetites so vicious,  
All the heroes downed them after their toil,

Causing in the Temple a shortage of oil!

One latke, two latkes, and so on into the night,  
You may not guess, but it was the lat-kes  
That gave us the Chanukah lights.



## Song 7: Ocho Kandelikas (in Ladino)

Hanukah Linda sta aki  
Ocho kandelas para mi,  
Hanukah Linda sta aki,  
Ocho kandelas para mi.

*Chorus:*

Una kandelika  
Dos kandelikas  
Tres kandelikas  
Kuatro kandelikas  
Sintyu kandelikas  
seysh kandelikas  
siete kandelikas  
ocho kandelas para mi.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias i plazer.  
Muchas fiestas vo fazer, con alegrias i plazer.

*Chorus:* Una...

Los pastelikas vo kumer, con almendrikas i la miel.  
Los pastelikas vo kumer, con almendrikas i la miel.

*Chorus:* Una...



Beautiful Chanukah is here, eight candles for me.  
One candle, two candles, three candles,  
four candles, five candles, six candles,  
seven candles, eight candles for me.

Many parties will be held, with joy and with pleasure.  
One candle...

I will cook pastelikas (a Sephardic delicacy) with almonds and honey. One candle...

## Song 8. Light One Candle

Peter, Paul and Mary

Light one candle for the Maccabee children  
With 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  
But light one candle for the wisdom to know  
When the peacemaker's time is at hand

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 hope and our tears.  
(2x)

Light one candle for the strength that we  
need  
To never become our own foe  
And light one candle for those who are  
suffering  
Pain we learned so long ago  
Light one candle for all we believe in  
That anger not tear us apart

And light one candle to find us together  
With peace as the song in our hearts

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 hope and our tears.  
(2x)

What is the memory that's valued so highly  
That we keep it alive in that flame?  
What's the commitment to those who have  
died  
That we cry out they've not died in vain?  
We have come this far always believing  
That justice would somehow prevail  
This is the burden, this is the promise  
This is why we will not fail!

Don't let the light go out!  
Don't let the light go out!  
Don't let the light go out!





## Song 9. CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Chag yafeh kol kach  
Or chaviv, misaviv,  
Gil l'yeled rach.

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
S'vivon sov sov  
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov,  
Mah na'im vatov.

חֲנוּכָּה, חֲנוּכָּה,  
חַג יָפֵה כּוֹל כָּךְ  
אוֹר חֲבִיב מִסָּבִיב,  
גִּיל לְיֶלֶד רַךְ.  
חֲנוּכָּה, חֲנוּכָּה,  
סְבִיבוֹן סֵב סֵב  
סֵב סֵב סֵב, סֵב סֵב סֵב  
מַה נְעִים וְטוֹב.

### Sing-able English:

Chanukah, Chanukah, what a holiday,  
Chanukah, Chanukah, time to sing and play,  
Chanukah, Chanukah, watch the dreidl turn,  
Turn, turn, turn, turn, turn, turn,  
As the candles burn.

## Song 10. To the tune of: "On Top of Old Smokey"

In the hills of Judea  
In the dark of the night  
There gathered the Maccabees  
All ready to fight.

Along came the Syrians  
So haughty and proud,  
And the battle was started  
They clashed long and loud.

When the battle was over  
And they counted the dead,  
The victory was ours:  
The Maccabees led.

They made pure the Temple  
And kindled the lights  
And a miracle happened:  
They burned for eight nights.



### **Song 11. To the tune of: "I've Been Working on the Railroad"**

I've been waiting for dear Chanukah  
All the long year through  
I've been dreaming of the Maccabees  
And potato latkes, too!  
Can't you see the candles glowing  
And the shammash nice and tall?  
I can vision Judah Maccabee  
Marching down the hall.

I've been waiting for dear Chanukah  
Impatient as can be;  
I've been dreaming of some presents  
For a good little kid like me!  
I want to sing the blessings  
In English and Hebrew  
And to kindle the menorah,  
Cause I'm proud to be a Jew.

Happy Hanukkah



### **Song 12. It's a Small "Chanukah" World**

It's a world of laughter  
A world of tears  
It's a world of hopes and world of fears  
There's so much that we share  
That it's time we're aware  
Happy Chanukah to all.

Eat the latkes, light the lights  
The Menorah will burn bright  
We'll play dreidel every night  
Happy Chanukah to all!

### Song 13: Al Hanissim – In honor of the miracles

Al hanissim, ve'al hapurkan,  
Ve'al hag'vurot ve'al hateshu'ot,  
Ve'al hamilchamot she'asita la'avoteinu  
Bayamim haheim, bazman hazeh.

In honor of the miracles and deliverance,  
Heroic deeds and salvation wrought  
And wars You fought, for our fathers,  
In days of yore and in present time.

### Song 14: Not By Might – Not By Power (by Debbie Friedman)

Not by might and not by power,  
But by spirit alone,  
Shall all men live in peace.  
Not by might and not by power,  
But by spirit alone,  
Shall all men live in peace.  
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!



### Song 15: Hanerot Halalu

Hanerot halalu, anu madlikin

These lights do we kindle

## Song 16: The Ladke Song (by Debbie Friedman)

I am so mixed up that I cannot tell you,  
I'm sitting in this blender turning brown.  
I've made friends with the onions & the flour,  
& the cook is scouting oil in the town.  
I sit here wondering what will come of me,  
I can't be eaten looking as I do.  
I need someone to take me out & cook me,  
Or I'll really end up in a royal stew.

### *CHORUS:*

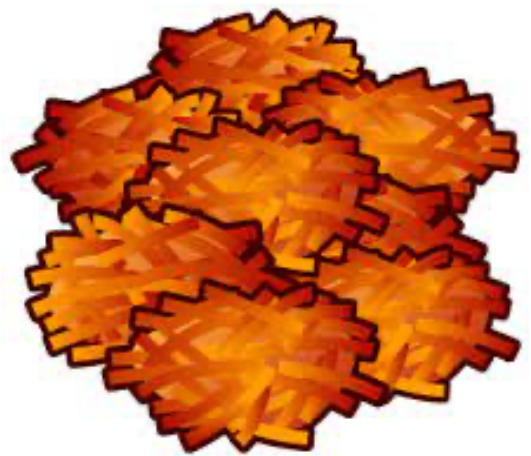
*I am a latke, I am a latke  
& I am waiting for Chanukah to come  
I am a latke, I am latke  
& I am waiting for Chanukah to come*

Every holiday has foods so special,  
I'd like to have that same attention too,  
I do not want to spend life in this blender,  
Wondering what I'm supposed to do.  
Matza & choroset are for Pesach,  
Chopped liver & challah for Shabbat  
Blintzes on Shavuot are delicious,  
& gefilte fish no holiday's without.

### *CHORUS*

It's important that I have an understanding  
Of what it is that I'm supposed to do,  
You see, there are many who are homeless,  
With no jobs, no clothes & very little food.  
It's so important that we all remember,  
That while we have most of the things we need,  
We must remember those who have so little,  
We must help them, we must be the ones to feed...

### *CHORUS*



## Song 17: Fayer, Fayer

*(Yiddish transliteration)*

Fayer, fayer... oy, s'iz heys!  
Fayer, fayer... oy, s'iz heys!  
Oy, s'iz heys! Oy, se brent a fayer!  
Fayerdike, brenendike, heyse latkes!  
Oy, se brent a fayer! Oy, s'iz heys!  
Fayerdike, brenendike, heyse latkes!  
Oy, oy, oy, oy! Oy, se brent a fayer!  
Oy, s'iz heys!  
Fayerdike, brenendike, heyse latkes!  
Fayer, fayer... oy, s'iz heys!  
Fayerdike, brenendike, heyse latkes!

Fire, fire... oy, it's hot!  
Fire, fire... oy, it's hot!  
Oy, it's hot! Oy, a fire's burning!  
Flaming, fiery, red hot latkes!  
Oy, a fire's burning! Oy, it's hot!  
Flaming, fiery, red hot latkes!  
Oy, oy, oy, oy! Oy, a fire's burning!  
Oy, it's hot!  
Flaming, fiery, red hot latkes!  
Fire, fire... oy, it's hot!  
Flaming, fiery, red hot latkes!



## Song 18: Borukh Ateh

*(Yiddish transliteration)*

Borukh Ateh, zingt der tate  
Un er tzindt di likht.  
Un di shtraln, milde faln  
Oyf zayn blas gezikht.  
Un a fayer, heylik, tayer  
In di oygn laykht.  
Un der mider, mit di glider  
Hot zikh oysgeglaykht.

Un es dakht zikh un es trakht zich:  
S'iz nokh epes do.  
S'iz geblibn vos tzu libn,  
Heylik iz di sho.  
Alte klängen, lang fargangen,  
Neyn! Es kingt nokh atzind.  
Zing zhe, tate, Boruch Ateh,  
Un ikh blayb dayn kind.

"Blessed are You", the father sings  
As he lights the candles.  
And the mild, delicate light  
falls upon his pale face.  
A fire that's precious and holy  
shines in his eyes;  
And this stooped, tired man  
begins to stand erect.

And it seems to me , and we believe it,  
There still is something here,  
there remains much to love.  
The hour is a holy one.  
Old sounds, long forgotten?  
But no, they are still resounding.  
Sings father: "Borukh ato . . ."  
I am still your child.