



## Night Before Chanukah



"I thought I was in a strange hoise,"  
As long as I'm here,  
I'll leave a few toys."  
"Come into the kitchen,  
I'll get you a dish,  
A gupel, a leffel a shtikele fish."  
With smacks of delight,  
he started his fressen,  
Chopped liver and knadlach  
and kreplach gegessen.  
Along with his meals,  
he had a few schnappes.  
When it came to eating,  
this boy was tops.  
He asked for some knishes  
with pepper and salt,  
But they were so hot he yelled  
"Oy gevalt!"  
He buttoned his hoysen  
and ran from the tish,  
"Your Koshereh meals  
are simply delish".  
As he went through the door,  
he said "See ya'll later,  
I'll be back next Pesach  
in time for the Seder."  
More rapid than eagles  
his prancers they came,  
As he whistled and shouted  
and called them by name.  
"Now Izzie! Now Morris!  
Now Louis! And Sammy!  
On Irving! And Maxie!  
And Hymie and Manny!"  
He gave a geshrey  
as he drove out of sight.  
"A good yontiff to all  
and to all a good night."

## A Year With No Chanukah

As impossible as it may seem the year 3031 will have no Chanukah unless a major correction is made in the Hebrew calendar.

A New Orleans father and son team, Dr. Julius L. Levy, Jr., a past-president of Temple Sinai, and his son Richard, a premedical student at Tulane University, have written a computer program which accurately calculates the dates for Easter and the Jewish Holidays through the year 9999. The program, written in the computer language, BASIC, required over two months to develop because of complexities of lunar cycles, solar cycles, and the many exceptions to the rules which have been dictated by Catholic law and Jewish *halachah*.

The year 3031 will have no Chanukah because the holiday that year will fall on January 1 of the year 3032, a year that will have two Chanukahs! The phenomenon occurs because of a flaw in the Hebrew calendar which has existed for approximately the last 1500 years. The Hebrew calendar is based upon both lunar and solar cycles, unlike the common (Gregorian) calendar which is based on solar cycles alone. The Gregorian calendar, in use since 1582, is more accurate than the Hebrew calendar, which loses one day approximately every 216 years. This means that, even today, Jews are celebrating their



holidays about nine days later than they did in Second Temple times. The error will continue to accrue so that, if no correction is made, we will be celebrating Chanukah in February by the year 9999.

As was done to the old (Julian) calendar by a Papal Council in the year 1582, a correction of the Hebrew calendar will eventually be necessary. The easiest method of making the correction would be to eliminate the second Adar in one of the years which would

otherwise have two. This will keep the holidays in concert with the seasons as was originally intended. The correction will have to be repeated every 3000 years or so to maintain accuracy.

The Levys have donated their "Perpetual Calendar" program to the UAHC. In addition to calculating the movable holidays, it also displays the monthly calendar for any year in the common era through 9999 as well as the day of the week for any date in this period.

## Menorah -

### Lighting The Candles From Left Or Right?

The candles are placed in the *chanukiyah* from the right side to the left (the way we read Hebrew), but lit from left to right. In that way the newest candle (which stands for the new day) is given the honor of being lit first.

The candles should be lit sometime during the evening, after sunset. On Friday evening they are lit before the Sabbath candles.

The Chanukah candles should burn for at least one half hour. There is a custom in many homes that while the candles are burning, no work is done.

While oil was used in the early days of the holiday, most people today use wax candles. You will need forty-four candles to light your way through the eight days of Chanukah, but if your family follows the custom of each person lighting his or her own *chanukiyah*, be sure to stock up so you don't run out of candles before you run out of nights on which to light them.

## Chanukah Recipes

*Chanukah is a holiday out of our history  
Why it is so joy-filled is surely no mystery.  
The menorah we light is a symbol of freedom  
From the tyranny of Syria and Antiochus, the hedon.  
We celebrate for eight days and nights,  
Add a candle a day and a gift for each light.  
Latkes (or pancakes) are served as a treat  
Hot, crisp and sizzling ----- ready to eat!*

### Potato Latkes (pareve)

5 large potatoes ¼ cup matzoh meal  
1 large onion ½ tsp. salt (or more to taste)  
2 eggs Oil for frying

Grate potatoes and strain through a strainer until most of the water has drained through. Grate onion and add onion, eggs, salt and matzoh meal to potatoes. Mix well. Heat about ½ inch of oil in frying pan. Add potato mixture, one tablespoonful at a time, into hot oil. When golden brown on edges, turn over and brown on other side. Remove from pan and drain on paper towel or brown paper bag.

Serve with applesauce, sugar, or (if dairy meal) sour cream.

### Fruit Latkes (dairy)

2 medium apples ½ cup milk  
2 tbs. sugar ⅔ cup applesauce  
¼ tsp. cinnamon 1 cup flour  
1 egg beaten 3 tbs. oil

Core and slice apples. Mix sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle over apples. Mix eggs, milk and applesauce and beat well. Pour over apples. Mix in flour and beat well. Fry in oil, pressing two slices of apple into each pancake. Serve with powdered sugar or syrup.

### Potato/Tuna/Cheese (dairy)

1 standard recipe potato latkes (or 1 pkg. of mix)  
1 - 6½ oz. can tuna, drained and chopped  
½ cup grated cheddar cheese  
½ cup chopped walnuts  
Oil

Combine all ingredients. Fry in hot oil. Makes 4 luncheon main-course servings.

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