



# CHANUKAH SONGS



## MA'OZ TZUR

Ma'oz tzur yeshu'ati,  
Lecha na'eh leshabe-ach.

Tikon beit tefilati  
Vesham todah nezabe-ach.

Le'eit tachin matbe-ach,  
Mitzar ham'nabe-ach

Az egmor beshir mizmor  
Chanukat hamizbe-ach

(repeat last two lines)

## THE ROCK OF AGES *(Singable version)*

Rock of Ages, let our song  
Praise thy saving power.

You amidst the raging foes  
Were our sheltering tower.

Furious, they assailed us,  
But your armour veiled us.

And thy word broke their sword  
When our own strength failed us.

(repeat last two lines)

## YEMEI HACHANUKAH

Yemei Ha'Chanukah  
Chanukat mikdasheinu.

Begil uvesimchah  
Nemaleh et libeinu.

Laila vayom, svivoneinu yisov.  
Suvganiyot nochal bam larov.

Ha-a-iru, had'liku,  
Neirot Chanukah rabim.  
Al hanisi'im  
Ve'al hanifla'o-ot  
Asher cholelu haMaccabim.

*(repeat last three lines)*

## Yiddish *(Singable version)*

Oy Chanukah oy Chanukah,  
A yontif a sheiner,  
A lustiker a freylicher  
Nito noch a zeyner.

Alle nacht in dreydlech shpiln mir  
Zudik hesse latkes essen mir  
Geshvinder tsindt kinder  
di Chanukah lichtelech on.

Zol yeder bazunder bazingen dem vunder  
un tantzen freylech in kohn (2x)

## O CHANUKAH, O CHANUKAH *(Singable version)*

### English Version 1:

O Chanukah O Chanukah,  
Come light the menorah.  
Let's have a party,  
We'll all dance the hora.

Gather round the table, we'll give you a treat  
Dreydels to play with and 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 (2x)

### English Version 2:

O Chanukah, O Chanukah  
A time to remember.  
A joyful, jolly holiday that comes in December  
Every day for eight days, dreidels will spin,  
Crispy little latkes, tasty and thin.

And nightly, so brightly,  
The candles of Chanukah glow.  
One for each night,  
They shed a sweet light,  
To remind us of days long ago.

*(repeat last three lines)*

## AL HANISIM

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

## OCHO KANDELIKAS (Ladino)

1. Chanukah linda sta aki,  
ocho kandelas para mi (2x)

Chorus:

O --- Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,  
tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas sintyu  
kandelikas, sej kandelikas,  
siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

2. Muchas fiestas vo fazer,  
kon alegriyas y plazer (2x)

Chorus

3. Los pastelikos vo kumer,  
kon almendrikas y la myel (2x)

Chorus

## CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Chag yafeh kol kach  
Or chaviv, misaviv,  
Gil lyeled rach.

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
Sevion sov sov  
Sov sov sov, sov sov sov,  
Mah na'im vatov.

## HANEROT HALALU

Hanerot halalu, anu madlikin  
Al hanisim ve'al hanifla'ot  
Ve'al hateshu'ot, ve'al hamilchamot  
She'asita la'avoteinu  
Bayamim haheim bazman hazeh  
Al yedei kohanecha hak'doshim.

V'chol sh'monat yemei Chanukah (x2)  
Hanerot halalu, hanerot halalu kodesh heim.  
Ve'ain lanu reshut lehishtameish bahem  
Ela lir'otam bilvad  
Kedei lohodot ulehalleil leshimcha hagadol  
Al nissehcha ve'al yeshuatehcha  
Ve'al nifle'otehcha.

## IN HONOR OF THE MIRACLES

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.

## EIGHT CANDLES (Ladino)

1. Beautiful Chanukah is now here  
And eight candles for me appear.

Chorus:

Oh – one little, two little,  
Three little, four little candles;  
Five, six, seven little candles,  
Eight little candles for me.

2. Lots of parties for my leisure  
So much fun and so much pleasure.

Chorus

3. Dainty pastries for me to eat  
With almonds and honey so sweet.

Chorus

## CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
What a lovely holiday!  
Cheerful lights around us shine,  
Children have fun and play.

Chanukah, Chanukah,  
The dreidel spins and spins.  
Spin your top until it stops,  
Have a good time, see who wins

## THESE CANDLES

These Chanukah lights we kindle  
In honor of the miracles, the wonders  
And salvation wrought and wars  
You fought, for our fathers,  
In days of yore and in present time (x2)  
By the hands of Your holy priests.

And throughout Chanukah's eight days  
These lights, these lights shall be sacred:  
No right to make use of them have we  
Only to look at them and see,  
That Your great Name we may thank and praise  
For the miracles and salvation You brought  
And for Your wondrous deeds

## SEVIVON SOV SOV SOV

Sevion, sov sov sov  
chanukah hu chag tov

chanukah hu chag tov  
sevion, sov sov sov.

Sov na sov, ko vacho,  
nes gadol haya po/sham  
nes gadol haya po/sham  
sov na sov, ko vacho.

## MY DREIDEL

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

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,  
I made it out of clay  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel  
Now dreidel I shall play

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

Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,  
With a leg so short and thin,  
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,  
It drops and then I win.

## MI YEMALEL

Mi yemaleil g'vurot Yisrael?  
Otan mi yimneh?  
Hein bechol dor yakum hagibor  
Go-eil ha-am.

Sh'ma! Bayamim ha-heim  
Bazman hazeh,  
Maccabi moshi'a ufodeh.  
Uv-yameinu kol am Yisrael,  
Yit-acheid, yakum veyiga-eil.

## SPINNING TOP

Spinning top, spin spin spin,  
Chanukah is a great holiday.

Chanukah is a great holiday.  
Spinning top, spin spin spin,

Spin here and there,  
A great miracle happened here/there,  
A great miracle happened here/there  
Spinning top, spin spin spin.

## Ikh Bin A Kleyner Dreydl (Yiddish)

*Please note: Yiddish version does not match English version*

Ikh bin a kleyner dreydl,  
gemakht bin ikh fun blay.

Kumt lomir ale shpiln,  
in dreydl – eyns tsvey dray.  
Oy, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
Oy, drey zikh, dreydl, drey.  
To lomir ale shpiln,  
in dreydl eyns un tsvey.

Un ikh hob lib tsu tantsn,  
zikh dreyen in a rod

To lomir ale tantsn,  
a dreydl-karahod.  
Oy, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,  
oy, drey zikh, dreydl, drey.  
To lomir ale shpiln,  
in dreydl eyns un tsvey.

## SPINNING TOP

Who can recount the heroism of Israel?  
Who can count them?  
In every age, a hero or sage  
Shall come to our aid.

Hear! In those days  
And in our time,  
A Maccabee to rescue us arrives.  
And in our days, all of Israel  
Shall stand united and be redeemed.

*\*Alternative translation:*

In this time of year,  
In days of yore,  
Maccabees the Temple did restore  
And tonight our people, as we dream,  
Will arise, unite, and be redeemed.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Light one candle for the Maccabee children.  
Give 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.  
Light one candle for the wisdom to know  
when the peacemaker 's time is at hand.

Chorus:

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 love and our tears.

Light one candle for strength that we need  
to never become our own foe.  
Light one candle for those who are suffering  
the pain we learned so long ago.  
Light one candle for all we believe in,  
let anger not tear us apart.  
Light one candle to bind us together  
with peace as the song in our heart.

Chorus

What is the memory that's valued so highly  
that we keep alive in that flame.  
What's the commitment to those who have died  
when we cry out " They've not died in vain."  
We have come this far always believing  
that justice will somehow prevail.  
This is the burden and this is the promise  
and this is why we will not fail.

Chorus

## SVIVONI YARUTZ BAGIL

Svivoni yarutz bagil,  
Min ha'emek lagalil,  
Bein harim va'amakim  
Basadot hayerukim

Meyehuda lasharon  
Yitgalgel lo hasevimon  
Bein cramim ufardesim  
Sham ovdim vesasim

## NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER

*by Debbie Friedman*

Not by might and not by power,  
but by spirit alone shall we all live in peace. (2x)  
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!

## LOTS OF LATKES

*Sung in rounds:*

1. Lots of latkes, lots of latkes, lots of latkes,  
lots (let's all eat 'em up!)  
Repeat
2. S'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov,  
s'vivon sov sov, s'vivon sov sov  
Repeat
3. Maccabee Maccabee, Maccabee  
Maccabee, Maccabee Maccabee,  
Mac-mac-mac-mac-mac-mac mac!  
Repeat

## MY SPINNING TOP WILL SKIP GLEEFULLY

My spinning top will skip gleefully  
From the Emek to the Galilee  
'Twixt mountains and valleys  
Across the fields of green.

From Judah to the Sharon  
My spinning top will spin along  
'Twixt vineyards and orchards  
Where workers labor joyfully.

## BANU CHOSHECH LEGARESH

Banu choshech legaresh,  
beyadeinu or va'esh.  
Kol echad hu or katan,  
vechulanu or eitan.

Surah choshech, hal'ah sh'chor!  
Surah mipnei ha'or!

Tzil-tzil-tzil bapa'amonim,  
mi anachnu? - savivonim.  
Lanu regel achat,  
im nipol - gam lo nifchad.

Surah choshech, hal'ah sh'chor!  
Surah mipnei ha'or!

Anu shovavim g'dolim,  
alizim veholelim -  
ach ned'a yafeh me'od  
lesaper, lashir, lirkod.

Surah choshech, hal'ah sh'chor!  
Surah mipnei ha'or!

## WE CAME TO DRIVE AWAY THE DARKNESS

We came to drive away the darkness  
in our hands is light and fire.  
Everyone's a small light,  
and all of us are a firm light.

Fight darkness, further blackness!  
Fight because of the light!

Tzil-tzil-tzil in the bells,  
who are we? - spinning tops.  
We have one leg,  
if we fall - we still won't fear.

Fight darkness, further blackness!  
Fight because of the light!

We're big mischievous kids,  
merry and praise-giving -  
but we'll know very nicely  
to retell, to sing, to dance.

Fight darkness, further blackness!  
Fight because of the light!

For all the full links to these song words, their composers, audio clips and more, go to  
[www.jewishaustralia.com/chanukah-songsanddances.asp](http://www.jewishaustralia.com/chanukah-songsanddances.asp)

These song sheets were prepared by



[www.imageworks.com.au](http://www.imageworks.com.au)

for

**Jewish Australia**  
The gateway to **everything** Jewish in Australia

