

CREATING CHANUKAH TRADITIONS

(Try one of these or create your own)

In today's world, it is sometimes difficult to separate the commercialism of the holidays with the true spirit of Chanukah. Below are some ideas for you to consider so you might enrich your **Festival of Lights**.

1. Select a theme for each night. When lighting candles, do an appropriate activity relating to that theme:
 - a. Family: Share old pictures, stories, and traditions.
 - b. Miracles: Cut pictures out of magazines and make a collage of miracles.
 - c. Jerusalem: (Where the first Chanukah took place) Use picture books from the library to share Jerusalem of Gold pictures. Draw your own skyline.
 - d. Us: Celebrate the family, let each member tell others why they are special, make a card for every person.
 - e. Tzedakah: Decide as a family a special Tzedakah project you can do together and/or dedicate a night when "gift money" is used for "tzedakah gelt."
2. Put aside one can of food for each candle during Chanukah and donate them to a Food Shelf.
3. Celebrate Jewish tradition by selecting eight important Jewish items in your home (from cookbooks to candlesticks). Place each one near the chanukiah each night and share why it is important.
4. Give your child a "gift of love" each day of Chanukah (a thought, letter, special outing).
5. Write your own Chanukah songs, poems, or stories - keep them from year to year!
6. Because this is a holiday of light, eat one meal by candlelight.
7. Tradition tells us we should light one chanukiah for every family member. Let each member of your family have or make their own.
8. Keep an empty chanukiah next to your lit one in commemoration of those Jews who are not yet free to light their own.