

# *A secular humanistic festival of lights!*

OPENING SONG: **SHALOM CHAVERIM:** Greetings of Peace to Our Friends

*Sha-lom Chaverim, Shalom Cha-ver-im,  
Shalom, Shalom;  
La-hit ra-ot, la-hit ra ot,  
Sha-lom, Sha-lom*



READER:

Chanukah is the Festival of Lights, the holiday of *Narot*. In celebration, let us light the menorah, whose candles symbolize dedication, remembrance, and freedom.

READER

Chanukah is a Hebrew word which means "dedication." The word "dedicate" has several meanings that apply to our celebration of this holiday. Dedicate means "to set aside for religious purposes" and "to devote by giving special attention."

READER

*We set aside* the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev, on the Hebrew calendar, as the beginning of our eight day observance of Chanukah. It is a special time for togetherness, gifts, special food, and celebration.

READER

Dedicate also means to inscribe something as a mark of respect and remembrance.

CONGREGATION

At Chanukah we *remember* our brave ancestors and others who fought for religious and cultural freedom.

READER

Dedicate also means to commit oneself to a particular idea, to make a *promise* to oneself.

CONGREGATION

At Chanukah we make a promise to ourselves to work toward a world of peace.

READER

Chanukah is a Festival of Lights. *We give special attention* to these days by lighting the candles on the menorah each night. The candles communicate light, warmth, strength, vitality, triumph and vision.

CONGREGATION

We rejoice in our heritage that has given us the tradition of lighting Chanukah candles.

READER:

People have long kindled lights at this time of year in celebration of the winter solstice. They went forth, knowing that each day thereafter would bring more light from the sun. Winter would turn to spring, and the warmth of the sun would return in summer. They would harvest once more the fruits of their fields in fall until autumn would again give way to winter.

READER

Throughout the year, the sun comes up to awaken the farmers and shepherds, and the community. The energy from the sun helps the plants to grow. The light of the sun makes all life possible.

READER

We light the shamus for the **sun**, the greatest and most brilliant light, the source of all other light.

*(Lights the shamus)*

READER, THEN CONGREGATION:

*Baruch ha-or sheh-b'chol eh-chod.*

Blessed is the light in each of us.

*Baruch ha-or b'olam*

Blessed is the light that brings joy into the world.

*Baruch ha-or ha-atid*

Blessed is the light of the future.

*Baruch ha-or shel Chanukah*

Blessed is the light of Chanukah.

SONG:

Naase Shalom

"Let us make peace and friendship for all the world"

Na'ase shalom ba'olam

Na'ase shalom aleynu

V'al kol ha'olam

V'imru, imru shalom

Na'ase shalom

Na'ase shalom

Shalom aleynu

V'al kol ha'olam

READER

We light this candle for **Hope**.

*(Lights first candle)*

CONGREGATION

We will help ourselves and help each other to overcome the cold of the outside with the heat of our inner passions. Together, we can do what we cannot do alone.

READER

We light this candle for **Community**; both the community in which we live and the community of Humanistic Jews to which we belong. For Family and Friends and for the warmth of human relationships.

*(Lights second candle)*

READER

We light this candle for **Ourselves**; for each one of us, for the light within each of us, for the light within us that we share with others.

*(Lights third candle)*

READER: Where is our light?

CONGREGATION: Our light is within us.

READER: Where is our Hope?

CONGREGATION: Our hope is within us.

READER: Where is our strength?

CONGREGATION: Our strength is within us.

SONG *Ay-Foh O-Ree? Where is my light?*

*Where is my light?*

*My light is in me.*

*Where is my hope?*

*My hope is in me.*

*Where is my strength?*

*My strength is in me.*

*And in you, and in you.*

*Ayfo ori? Ori bee.*

*Ayfo tikvah tee?*

*Tikvah tee bee.*

*Ayfo ko chee?*

*Ko chee bee.*

*V'gam bach, v'gam bach.*

READER

At Chanukah we remember our brave ancestors who fought for religious and cultural freedom. The story of the Maccabees, a small group struggling against and overcoming the oppression of the larger Greek army, has stood as an inspiration to Jews and others throughout the world for over two thousand years.

READER

The victory won by the Maccabees was not to free their bodies from the threat of capture, but to keep free their minds and hearts, which are our most sacred temples.

READER

This candle is dedicated to **Courage**. Courage is the power to make fear become our servant and not our master. Courage is the adventure of going beyond our comfortable world to risk the insecurity of the unfamiliar. Courage is the search for respect, not agreement.

*(Lights the fourth candle)*

CONGREGATION

Courage refuses the unacceptable. Courage persists in trying. Courage resists surrender.

SONG: **Study War No More (Down by the riverside)**

Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside, down by the riverside  
Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside  
and study war no more.  
I ain't a-gonna study war no more. (3x)  
(repeat)  
Gonna shake hands around the world...

READER

This candle reminds us of the bright light of **Reason**, our unique glory. When we choose to think, we become rulers of our destiny. Reason gives us the freedom to see right from wrong. Responsibility allows us to use our freedom wisely.

*(Lights the fifth candle)*

CONGREGATION

May reason be the guiding light in the lives of all people.

SONG ***This little light of Mine***

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; (3x)*  
*Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*  
*All over the world....*  
*Everywhere I go....*  
*For the poor and hungry folk....*

READER

The next candle is dedicated to **Truth**, the splendid reward of reason. Truth opens our eyes to the beauty of life and shows us the way to fulfillment.

*(Lights the sixth candle)*

CONGREGATION

Truth thrives on openness and directness and seeks to make people strong.

READER

The next candle is dedicated to **Beauty**. Beauty fires the mind and inspires the heart. When the vast universe beckons to us to seek its truths, when we search out the secrets of life - we discover beauty.

*(Lights the seventh candle)*

CONGREGATION

May the glow of this candle inspire in us the spark of imagination, that we may find new beauty in life and in the world.

READER

The seventh candle burns for **Peace and Justice**. May all the peoples of the world learn to live together in peace and friendship. Let the day come when oppression, discrimination and prejudice will be put aside, and all the world filled with the spirit of unity.

*(Lights the eighth candle)*

CONGREGATION

Let us dedicate ourselves to helping to bring peace and freedom to the world. May our hopes become deeds; May our actions bring fulfillment. Justice is truth in action.

SONG: Light One Candle

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

*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 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

*(chorus)*

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!

*(chorus)*

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

#### READER

Let us take a moment to look at the flames of the candles and think of the light of goodness that shines in our hearts, the glow of love that brightens our lives, the shining traditions of our people, of the brightness of friendship and of the white light of peace on earth and in our hearts.

Let us be thankful for the opportunity to celebrate this holiday of Chanukah together. May we again enjoy its beauty and teaching next year, and every year, at this season.

#### CONGREGATION

We rejoice in our heritage that has given us the indomitable spirit, that has preserved our people and sustained us and brought us forward to this moment. **We are here!**