HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING
HOW-TO KIT

Why Hanukkah? Maybe a memorable militant might, Macabean style. Or the myth of a jug of oil that lasted eight long nights against all odds. But we like the oldest reason for the season: lighting up eight long winter nights with friendly flames of connection, sparking justice, gifting hope, fying joy, and spreading love.

Whatever your why, here’s how: Don’t just light up your menorah - share the light! Be local and put your menorah in your window for all to see. Go global to get likes worldwide and supersize the celebration. Home to home, heart to heart, screen to screen, flame to flame: Spark Wonder Now. (then repeat 8x)

The Lab/Shul Ritual Team

1. SPARK

A spark: in the Presence of the Infinite, we treasure our sacred tradition as we ignite this Hanukkah light.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu ruach ha’olam
asher kidshanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu
l’hadlik ner shel Chanukah

2. WONDER

A breath: in the Presence of the Infinite, We celebrate the wonder of our ancestors’ survival, generation to generation, back then, right now.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu ruach ha’olam
she’asah nisim la’avo te’enu v’imote’enu
beyamim hahem baz’man hozeh

Insider Tip: Use this ancient pyro-technology to bring more meaning to the night. Let your eyes focus gently on one of the flames for at least 30 seconds. Count colors, be surprised. Can you meet the eyes of your ancestors inside this flame, across the generations?

3. NOW

A blessing: in the Presence of the Infinite, we pause with gratitude for the journeys that have brought us to the here and now.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu ruach ha’olam
she’he’cheyanu v’ki’manu, v’hi’gianu
laz’man hozeh

Insider Tip: Recite this blessing only for the first time you light this year. As you bask in the candlelight, take time to think of and share one gift you are grateful for from this past year, and one intention for the next. Honor the journey.

Be in this moment, light up the road ahead. Let there be life.

These original poetic translations, works in continual progress, reflect our sincere love for the ancient Hebrew poetry as well as our commitment to a more modern, mindful, gender-neutral, and abstract understanding of prayer. They were co-created by Lab/Shul’s Liturgy Task Force, led by Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie and Ezra Bookman, along with Shira Kline, Naomi Less and Rabbi Emily Cohen.

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www.labshul.org