

TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS OF HANUKKAH

Another name for Hanukkah is “Festival of Lights.” This name comes from the lighting of an eight-branch candleholder called a *hanukkiyah*. On each day of Hanukkah, the family lights a new candle, until all eight are lit on the last night. The candles are tall enough to burn for at least thirty minutes. While the candles are burning, family members are to refrain from work. No mourning or fasting is allowed during the eight days of Hanukkah. Most families exchange gifts during the eight days.

Hanukkah Game

A favorite game of children to play on Hanukkah is Driedel. Here is how to play the game: Each player starts with an equal number of coins, nuts, raisins, or candies. Each player puts one of these into the middle, or kitty. One person at a time spins the driedel. The driedel is like a four-sided die with Hebrew letters instead of numbers.



נ

(nun) means the player does nothing.

ג

(gimmel) means the player gets everything in the kitty.

ה

(hay) means the player takes half the kitty (or half plus one if there is an odd number in the kitty).

ש

(shin) means the player must add something to the kitty.

When nothing is left in the middle, everyone must add something. When a player is out of coins, nuts, raisins, or candies, he or she is out of the game. When one person has won everything from the other players, the game is over.

Hanukkah Menu

The Hanukkah menu often includes foods fried in oil (as a reminder of the miracle of the oil). Among the Hanukkah foods are potato latkes (a kind of pancake) and doughnuts. Here is a sample Hanukkah menu:

- Butternut Squash Soup
- Israeli Salad (cucumbers, tomatoes, scallion, green peppers)
- Pan-Glazed Applies with Old-Fashioned Potato Latkes or Cauliflower Pancakes
- Broiled Ginger Salmon
- Jelly Doughnuts
- Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce
- Rosettes (a flaky pastry)
- Fresh Fruit: Mandarin oranges

Activities

1. Find out when Hanukkah will be celebrated this year. When does it begin? When does it end?
2. Interview a Jewish friend about how he or she celebrates Hanukkah.

DOROTHY DAY AND PACIFISM

Dorothy Day Timeline

1897	Born in Brooklyn, New York.
1917	Went to jail for demonstrating for women's suffrage outside the White House.
1927	Gave birth to a daughter. Became Catholic.
1933	Founded the Catholic Worker Movement with Peter Maurin.
1935	Established a house of hospitality in New York City to assist the needy and downtrodden.
1936	Declared that she and <i>The Catholic Worker</i> newspaper were pacifist in response to the Spanish Civil War.
1940s	Took a pacifist stand during World War II.
1950s	Led protests against compulsory air-raid drills in New York, saying they fostered a "war mentality."
1952	Published her autobiography, <i>The Long Loneliness</i> .
1960s	Was jailed for protesting the Viet Nam War.
1965	Influenced the bishops of Vatican II to include conscientious objection as a valid Christian response to war.
1973	Went to jail for protesting alongside Caesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers.
1980	Died.

Dorothy Day Quotations on Pacifism

- "Followers of Christ should not kill their brothers and sisters. . . . We believe that Christ went beyond natural ethics and the Old Dispensation in this matter of force and war and taught nonviolence as a way of life."
- "We do not have faith in God if we depend upon the Atom Bomb."
- (After the attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941) "We are still pacifists. Our manifesto is the Sermon on the Mount. . . . Speaking for our conscientious objectors, we will not participate in armed warfare or in making munitions, or buy government bonds to promote it. It has become too late in human history to tolerate wars which none can win. . . . All wars are, by their very nature, evil and destructive."