

# Celebrating Hanukkah 2024

This year, Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 25 and ends in the evening on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.



[Source](#)

## What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah, spelled חנוכה in Hebrew, refers to “the Festival of Lights”. [Source](#)

- Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of Kislev, which is the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar. Because the Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar cycle, the dates of Hanukkah change each year. Typically, the holiday falls between late November and mid-December. [Source](#)
- Hanukkah themes include liberation from oppression, religious freedom, divine miracles, human action and courage. [Source](#)

## How is Hanukkah celebrated?

- During Hanukkah, observers light a candleholder called hanukkiyah, (also referred to as the Hanukkah menorah). [Source](#)
- The menorah holds nine candles—one for each night, plus an extra candle called the shamash, which is used to light the other candles. [Source](#)
- On the first night of Hanukkah, there are usually only two candles on your hanukkiyah: the shamash (helper candle), and the first night's candle. Each night, add a new candle before lighting. Now, here's the tricky part: candles are placed in the menorah from *right to left* but candles are lit from *left to right*. "Left to right, that's how you light!"

- Also every night 2 blessings are said over the candles but on the first night we also add a third blessing [Source](#).
- During these moments, observers recite special blessings and prayers, sing songs, and play dreidel to commemorate the miracles that occurred more than 2,000 years ago. [Source](#).

## Nonreligious traditions of Hanukkah

- Hanukkah also includes nonreligious traditions such as festive meals, songs, games, and gifts for children. Popular treats include potato pancakes (latkes), doughnuts (sufganiyot), and other foods fried in oil, which commemorate the miracle of the oil. [Source](#)

[8 things about Hanukkah in 60 seconds](#) | CBC Kids News

[Hanukkah you always wanted to know](#) | CBC Kids News

[Hanukkah](#) | Mayim Bialik

## Community Events

[Jewish Comedy Festival Presents Menorah Maddness](#) (December 26)

## Holland Bloorview Resources

- The Jewish ERG was established at Holland Bloorview in December 2023. We envision this group as a platform for education, resilience building, and community-driven support, both within and outside the ERG framework. It is designed to be a safe space for members of the Jewish community and a source of positivity and empowerment. For more information, contact: [JewishERG@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:JewishERG@hollandbloorview.ca)
- [Discrimination, Racism and Harassment Reporting Process \(HB Connect\)](#) - An independent and confidential process is available for reporting workplace discrimination, racism, and harassment.

# Hanukkah sameach!

This resource was co-created with the Jewish ERG and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Anti-Racism Office (IDEAA). If you have any comments or would like to suggest additional resources, please e-mail [ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca)

