

44 WAYS TO CONNECT WITH ISRAEL AND SPREAD LIGHT THIS CHANUKAH

(one idea for each candle lit over Chanukah)

The story of Chanukah teaches us the power of perseverance in the face of all odds. In this current time with so much darkness upon us, we must remember the light that God put in every Jew. Chanukah reminds us of how bright that light can shine.

May the miracle of Chanukah and the lights of our menorahs spark a fire that ignites us individually and as a commUNITY to remember who we are and proudly honor our heritage. May we unite together to bring more light into the world.

While Jews around the world will be enjoying the holiday, there will be thousands of modern day Maccabim (our holy, brave and precious IDF soldiers) who will be on duty protecting Israel. This Chanukah let's unite and light up the world in honor of Israel, our chayalim, the hostages and all of Am Yisrael.

1. The 1st candle of Chanukah represents heroism. On the first night of Chanukah light a yellow candle to show support for the speedy return of all the hostages and the safety of our security forces. Take a photo of your menorah with the yellow candle and share the picture with the hashtag: #lightsofhope
2. Sgt. First Class Yosef Malachi Guedalia, a member of the Duvdevan commando unit was killed in action on Sunday, October 8th near Kfar Aza. His family and friends have requested that Am Yisrael participate in Operation Spread the Light, Share a Smile in his memory. Yosef was born on Chanukah and he brought much light to the world. Let's honor his memory by doing the same. In Yosef's memory, spread as much light as possible this Chanukah.
3. When lighting your Chanukah candles, say a prayer for the State of Israel, the IDF soldiers and for the remaining captives.
4. Contact your government officials daily to tell them to free the hostages.
5. If your government officials have publicly stated that they stand with Israel thank them for standing with Israel.
6. If your government officials do not yet stand with Israel meet, call or e-mail them to explain why they should be standing with Israel.
7. Be sure to attend a public menorah lighting ceremony.
8. Following any public menorah lighting ceremony say a prayer dedicated to the safety of our brothers and sisters in Israel followed by the singing of Acheinu and Am Yisrael Chai.
9. Write and send Chanukah cards to IDF soldiers and children in Israel.
10. Invite a chaya or someone in your community who recently returned from Israel to talk about their experience in the army and/or in visiting Israel now.
11. Call, video or Zoom with family and friends in Israel to wish them a happy Chanukah. Let them know that they are in your thoughts and prayers.
12. When setting your table over Chanukah be sure to leave an empty seat for a hostage.
13. If your synagogue does not already do so, encourage them to have a seat or a row of seats with Israeli flags on them until all the hostages have returned to Israel.
14. Attend a rally in support for Israel.
15. Practice Jewish unity.
16. Dress openly Jewish.
17. Dedicate the time when the candles are lit to Israel related activities and activism.
18. Thank the politicians, influencers and people of goodwill who are standing with Israel.
19. Act with pride and passion for Judaism and Israel.
20. Gather family friends and colleagues together to brainstorm things not on this list that we can all do for Israel and be sure to share them with us at info@areyvut.org.
21. Call out antisemitism.
22. Be active in support of Israel on social media.
23. Support those businesses that have been public about standing with and in supporting Israel.
24. If you still do business with a business or company that is outspoken against Israel use Chanukah as a time to explain to them why you will no longer do business with them.
25. Buy and serve Israeli products at your Chanukah celebrations.
26. Create an Israeli playlist and listen to the songs together with your family and friends.
27. Listen to songs from your favorite Israeli artist.
28. Host an Israel sing along.
29. Host an Israeli dance event in your community.
30. Watch an Israeli themed tv show or movie.
31. Learn about the founding of the State of Israel through the many videos of Toldot Yisrael at <https://www.youtube.com/@ToldotYisrael/videos>.
32. Organize an Israel themed family art activity. For example, paint your miracles or blue and white candle making.
33. Make homemade donuts and latkes together with your family and friends. Bring them to an Israeli family in your community. Alternatively, sell them to raise money to give out Chanukah packages and donuts to soldiers in Israel.
34. Attend a lecture, shiur, Jewish or Israel related event.
35. Attend a Chanukah boutique or event where all proceeds collected will support Israel and/or Israeli vendors.
36. Wear blue and white throughout Chanukah to show your support for Israel.
37. Support Israeli nonprofits and encourage your family, friends and colleagues to follow your lead and give charity to an Israeli organization or agency that is helping Israel.
38. Organize a toy drive at your school or local workplace. Send the toys to Israel and have them sent out to displaced Israeli children for Chanukah.
39. In lieu of giving gifts to your family this year select a different Israel cause each night and donate to them. If you are not sure where to give make a donation to the Daily Giving Israel Emergency Fund at <https://dailygiving.org/israelemergencyfund/>.
40. Sponsor a Chanukah dinner for soldiers who will be spending the festival on their bases.
41. Host a Chanukah themed night of song, inspiration and unity.
42. In the merit of a speedy recovery for the injured and for the safety of our soldiers share a Torah insight with a friend or family member.
43. Understand what a blessing and privilege it is to call yourself a Jew and take that responsibility seriously daily.
44. End every e-mail, phone call and conversation with Am Yisrael Chai.