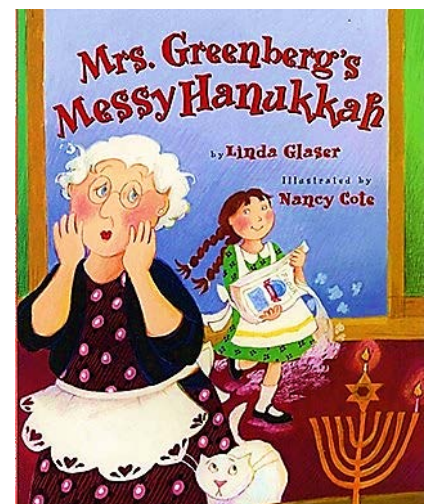
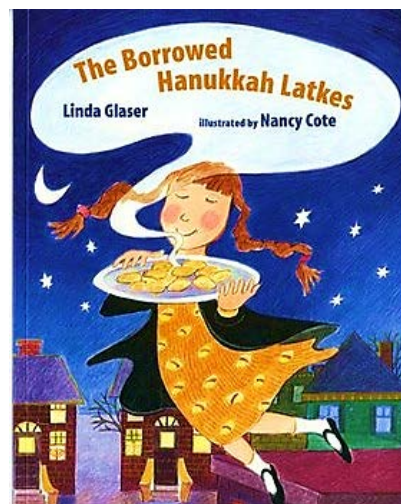


The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah

By Linda Glaser

Program Focus

Age group:	Ages 4-6
Time frame:	45-60 minutes
Central values:	Sharing rituals from generation to generation (L'dor v'dor) Honoring elders (K'vod Zekanim)



Synopsis

In *The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes*, Rachel's mother invites their neighbor for dinner on Hanukkah, but the woman really doesn't want to be a bother.

In *Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah*, Rachel visits her neighbor, Mrs. Greenberg, while her parents are busy running errands. Making latkes together, Mrs. Greenberg is exhausted and Rachel is worried about the terrible mess!

Both of these delightful stories minimize gifts as a key component of Hanukkah and instead focus on the importance of sharing this joyous celebration with others.

Goals

- Bring the values above to life
- Send families home with the knowledge and tools to continue to live these values as a part of daily life
- Engage parents & children in building relationships with local seniors and encourage them to share with relatives living farther away

Submitted by

Iris Koller, Syracuse, NY: iriskoller@gmail.com

Plan in advance

Prepare the Location

Possible Locations

- Assisted living or well-elderly community
- Senior lunch program site
- A parallel program to a synagogue or community senior group meeting
- Room with a space for storytelling on the floor and with tables to fit both families and seniors.

Advanced Preparations

1. For whichever site you choose, meet with the staff prior to the event so they understand your goals. Collaboratively plan the best time of day and how the staff can best promote the event to their participants. Ensure them that any seniors who want to attend the story time portion of the program are welcome. Discuss who will be providing food and paper goods, etc.
2. Work with site staff prior to the event to help set up.
3. Set out a sign-in sheet with markers and name tags.

Prepare Hanukkah Party

Materials

- Cookies, latkes, fruit
- Pitchers of juice and water
- Cups
- Napkins
- Plates
- Eating utensils



Introduce with an activity

Hanukkah Songs

Intro Words

Welcome, all! Please sign in and make name tags for yourselves. I'd like to direct you over to the reading space and I encourage you to chat with others as we wait for all to arrive. Introduce yourselves and share a bit about your family – where you live, how old your children are, etc. Let's sing some songs to start the day because singing makes me smile. I hope that, as you learn the songs, you will sing them with me.

Shalom Chaverim

Shalom Chaverim, Shalom Chaverim

Shalom, shalom

Bru'chim Haba'yim, Bru'chim Haba'yim,

Shalom, Shalom.

Welcome my friends, Welcome my friends,

Welcome, Welcome

So glad you're here, so glad you're here,

Welcome, Shalom.



Friend Discussion

You know, I have many friends. Some of them are young, like you; and some are older, like my neighbor across the street who has many grandchildren. Sometimes I help him take care of his yard because as he gets older, it is harder for him to do. I know you have young friends, for I can see you all making friends with each other. Do you have older friends, too? Do you have a neighbor you like to visit with your mom or dad? How about your grandma or grandpa?" (Allow the children/parents to share for 3-5 minutes). Maybe next time you see your friends you can share these songs with them. Shalom Chaverim can be a nice way to welcome them when they visit your house. Let's sing it one more time and then we will learn another one!

Hanukkah, Hanukkah

(melody can be found here)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7aP8-JIHok>

OR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWZgDXfMt-E>

Hanukkah, Hanukkah,

Happy holiday! (big smiles)

Hanukkah, Hanukkah,

Sing and dance all day! (dance, wiggling hips)

Hanukkah, Hanukkah,

Spin the dreidel round!

Spin, spin, spin, (spin around, hands clasped above heads like a dreidel for the “spins”)

Spin, spin, spin,

Spin the dreidel round!

I'm a Little Latke

(To the tune of “I'm a Little Teapot”)

By Iris Petroff Koller

I'm a little latke,

Round and brown

Plop me in the frying pan

Then turn me down.

When you hear me sizzle

Then, I'm done!

Eat me up,

Oh, yum, yum, yum!



Read the story

Intro Words

Wasn't that fun! I love Hanukkah and eating latkes on the holiday. Today, I have a story for you about a little girl named Rachel who also loves latkes and celebrating Hanukkah. Rachel and her parents are friends with one of their neighbors, an older woman named Mrs. Greenberg. Just like some of you have older friends, Rachel does, too! Let's all settle down so we can hear all about it.

Encourage Participation

Children should be able to respond to questions of anticipation, such as “Oh dear; who do you think is going to clean up the mess?” or “What do you think Rachel’s mother will say when she sees that Rachel asked Mrs. Greenberg to make latkes?” (from *Mrs. Greenberg’s Messy Hanukkah*) or “Where do you think Rachel’s family might get what they need?” (from *The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes*)

Younger children can be engaged if you ask things about some of the pictures. Point out the ingredients of the latkes, count the guests, etc. Ask “What do you think might happen next?” as the story pattern begins to repeat.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you go to visit your neighbors? What do you do when you visit one of your older neighbors or they come to visit you?
2. What do you do when you visit your grandparents or when they visit you?
3. Mrs. Greenberg’s family doesn’t live near her anymore; I wonder if she likes it when Rachel visits since she can’t see her own grandchildren... what do you think?



Follow Up activities and resources

Party with the Seniors

Intro Words

Many older people choose to live here with their friends. But, many of them miss seeing their own children and grandchildren. I am sure they liked seeing all of us here today. I think that maybe, just maybe, they would like us to have a snack with us and sing the songs we learned. Let's go see if we can help set up for the snack and then we can invite them in! It is so nice when we can bring smiles to other people!

Directions

1. Have children and parents set up tables with cups, napkins, pitchers of juice and water, and plates of the snack that were planned.
2. As all are setting up, encourage parents to facilitate conversation across the generations by asking questions about family, where they live, etc.
3. Have the parents and children at the door to welcome their "senior guests" into the room. Ensure the tables are a mix of seniors, children, and parents.
4. Once everyone is done with their snack, ask the children and parents to be proper hosts to their guests by picking up the tables.
5. Ask the parents and children to come up front so that they can sing the songs they had learned earlier. Sit down in front of the group so you can lead them in singing the 3 songs.



Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

Before families leave, let parents know of upcoming events and that you will be sending them some links to articles, upcoming events in the Jewish community, future PJ events, and links to where they might be able to find more Jewish music for little ones

Talk about ways they can continue to build relationships with elderly relatives and neighbors. Talk about setting up webcams if grandparents are far away. Set regular times when they can video-read a story to their grandchildren and have conversations. Suggest that they and their children invite an elderly neighbor over for a snack or meal on a regular basis and consider offering to help them by grocery shopping, sweeping a doorway clear of snow, etc.

You can share some of the following information with parents.

PJ Library Hanukkah page

<http://www.pjlibrary.org/parents-and-families/reading-tips-and-resources/jewish-holidays/hanukkah.aspx>

Hanukkah Blessings and recordings

http://urj.org/feeds/?syspage=article&item_id=3256

http://www.interfaithfamily.com/holidays/hanukkah_and_christmas/Lighting_the_Hanukkah_Menorah.shtml

Respecting the Elderly

http://www.hillel.org/about/news/2008/sep/lsj_respectingelderly_17september2008.htm

Teaching Children about Caring for Others

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/practices/Ethics/Caring_For_Others/Ethical_Behavior/Concepts_and_Ideas/Derekh_Eretz/Teaching_Your_Children.shtml