



# HANUKKAH, OH HANUKKAH

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*The joyful and beloved Hanukkah song comes to life in this book for the very young.*

The inspiring story and spirit of *Hanukkah* naturally invite singing—whether that singing blends with the blessings recited when kindling the *Hanukkah* candles or with any number of sweet *Hanukkah* melodies cherished by children and adults. *Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah* is one of the most familiar and cheerful of these songs, and it teaches as it entertains, mentioning many aspects of Jewish celebration.

## “WE’LL ALL DANCE THE HORA”

The *hora* is an upbeat circle dance that originates from a Romanian tradition. Rarely is there a Jewish celebration without the *hora*, which is the national dance of the State of Israel. Most commonly, the *hora* is danced at weddings, and festivals, as well as during holidays.

## “DREIDELS TO PLAY WITH...”

Dreidel is the Yiddish word for a four-sided spinning top used in a popular *Hanukkah* game. On each side of the top are the Hebrew letters *nun*, *gimel*, *hay*, and *shin*, standing for the words “*Nes gadol haya sham*”—“A great miracle happened there.” In Israel, the *dreidel*’s *shin* is replaced by *pe* for the word “*po*,” meaning “here”—since in Israel one would say, “A great miracle happened here.” *Dreidel* can be played with any number of items, such as peanuts, candy, or pennies.

## “LATKES TO EAT...”

Latkes are pancakes, traditionally eaten on *Hanukkah* and generally made from potatoes, fried in oil and symbolic of the miracle of the Temple oil that should have lasted only one day, but did so for eight.

## THE HANUKKAH MENORAH

*Hanukkiah*—often called a “*Hanukkah menorah*”—is the Hebrew name for the candelabrum lighted on *Hanukkah*. In the *hanukkiah*, there is a ninth candle-holder for the *shamash*, the helper/servant candle used to light the other eight candles. Near the end of this book, you’ll see an illustration with a different candelabrum—one with seven lighted candles. It is a menorah of this type that stood in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. Today, this menorah is commonly seen in Israel: it appears on coins and stamps and is the emblem of the modern State of Israel. Point out the differences in these candelabra to your children, helping them count the holders in each one and explaining how each is used. Pj

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