

בס"ד. מוצאי י"ט כסלו, יום הבהיר, ר"ה לחסידות, ה'תשפ"ג – שנת הקהל

**To the families of *Anash* שיחיו of the community at the EU - Brussels
And virtual community at Sichos.online**

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Reminders for the *Yom Tov* of *Chanukah* and *Hey Teves* 5783 – *Shnas Hakhel*

With best wishes for a Happy *Chanukah*, and may we merit, **this year**, to see the lighting of the *Menorah* in the third *Bais Hamikdosh*!!

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Please post this on the refrigerator or in a central location.

* Experience has shown that it is best if both husband and wife (and children...) review this each day thoroughly so that miscommunications and last-minute panics can be avoided, and *Yom Tov* can truly be celebrated joyfully.

* All the sources are in the Hebrew section of the Reminders.

* **Important note:** It has been stressed many times that these are “Reminders” to be able to see things “at a glance” and they are **not** a compilation of *Halocho*.

Since there several *Halochois* that require elaboration, the format of the “Reminders” has been kept, and the additional details are included at the end of this document, in the “Laws and customs by Rabbi Leshes”, with his permission (they are all also available on the above website).

What to prepare before *Chanukah* begins:

1. **Menorahs (*Chanukiot*):** Also for the children (from the age of *Chinuch*). If one has a *Menorah* (*Chanukiah*) with branches, the branches should be shaped **diagonally** according to the *Rambam*, and not in a semi-circle as shown on - *lehavdil* - the Arch of Titus. See a video on this subject on sichosonline.org.
[Link: <http://theonlinerabbi.com/sichosonline/kislev-preparing-chanukah/>]
2. **Olive Oil:** *Mehudar* with a reliable *Hechsher*. Ensure that it is not an imitation.
3. **Wicks:** (preferably) made from cotton.
4. **Shamoshim:** Made of beeswax. Ensure that there is a longer *Shamosh* for Friday. Many packages of *Shamoshim* will have one or two *Shamoshim* that are longer than the others to be used for the Friday lighting.
5. **Candles:** For the children’s *Menorahs* and longer ones for the Friday lighting.
6. **Matches.**
7. **Coins/money:** To give *Chanukah Gelt* to the children each night of *Chanukah* (including for *Shabbos*, to be given on *Erev Shabbos* or Sunday.)
8. [(For the inner meaning of) ***Chanukah* “presents”** for the children – see *Sefer Hasichos* 5747 pages 177-179.]
9. **Ingredients for *Latkes* etc.:** Have available the necessary ingredients to make *latkes* and/or doughnuts. (Flour, Eggs, Potatoes, Oil, Jam, etc.). Some also have the custom to eat dairy food to remember the miracle that occurred thanks to the dairy that Yehudit fed the enemy.
10. ***Dreidels*.**
11. Arrange which **public menorah lighting** the family will attend.
12. ***Mivtza Chanukah:*** Arrange when and where the family will go on *Mivtza Chanukah*.

During Chanukah:

1. **Tachanun:** Tachanun is not recited from *Mincha*, *Erev Chanukah*, until the end of *Chanukah*.
2. **V'al Hanissim:**
 - a. We add *V'al Hanissim* in the *Amidah* and in *Birchas Hamazon*.
 - b. One does not skip *V'al Hanissim* in order to answer *Kedusha* or *Modim*.
 - c. **If one forgot V'al Hanissim in the Amidah:** If one remembers before saying the word "Hashem" of "*Hatov Shimcha Ulcho Noe Lehoidos*", he goes back to say *V'al Hanissim*, but if one already said the word "Hashem", he does not go back. [Some opinions say, that towards the end of the *Amidah*, before the second "*Yihyu Lerotzon*" one says: "בימי מתתיהו...". And, of course if he forgot this, he does not repeat the *Amidah*].
 - d. **If one forgot V'al Hanissim in Birchas Hamazon:**
If one remembers before saying "Hashem" of the *Bracha* "*Al Ho'oretz V'al Hamozoin*", he goes back to say *V'al Hanissim*. However, if one remembers after saying the word "ה'", then, before saying "הרחמן הוא יעשה לנו ניסים כמו שעשה לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה, בימי מתתיהו וכו'".
(On *Shabbos*, it is added after "הרחמן הוא יחילנו וכו'"; On *Rosh Chodesh* (as this year), it is added after "הרחמן הוא יחדש וכו'").
3. **Hallel:** In *Shacharis* we add the complete *Hallel*. [An *Ovail* (mourner) *davens* for the *Omud* as usual, however, at *Hallel* someone else takes him over, and when the recitation of *Hallel* is completed the *Ovail* goes back to the *Omud* and says the *Chatzi Kadish* and continues the *Davening*].
4. **Tzedaka:** It is customary to add in the giving of *Tzedaka* on *Chanukah*.
5. **Chanukah Gelt:**
 - a. It is proper to give *Chanukah gelt* to one's children (even if they are adults or married) each night of *Chanukah*.
 - b. On the (fourth or) fifth night, more is given.
 - c. For *Shabbos*, it is given on *Erev Shabbos* or on Sunday.
 - d. We also give *Chanukah Gelt* on *Motzoei Shabbos*. Those who are careful not to handle money on *Motzoei Shabbos* should talk about the *Chanukah Gelt* and give it on Sunday morning.
6. [(For the inner meaning of) *Chanukah "presents"* for the children – see *Sefer Hasichos* 5747 pages 177-179.]
7. **"Latkes Evening":** The *Rabbeim* would make a *Farbrengen* with their families one of the nights of *Chanukah*, and it was called a "לאטקעס ארוענט".
8. **Dreidel:** It is customary to play with a *Dreidel*.
9. **Farbrengen:** Participate in *Chassidische Farbrengens*.
10. On *Chanukah* we add in *Seuda* (meals) and *Simcha* (joy).
11. **Mivtza Chanukah:** We go at every opportunity possible on *Mivtza Chanukah*.

Candle Lighting (At Home):

1. **Place:**
 - a. The *Menorah* is placed on a chair (or a low table etc.) so that the flame should be higher than 3 *Tefachim*, 24 cm. (approx. 10 inches) and lower than 10 *Tefachim*, 80 cm. (approx. 32 inches).
 - b. It is placed in the doorway opposite the *Mezuzah*. (The *Roshei Teivos* of "מזווה ימין חנוכה שמאל" spell "*Moshiach*.")
 - c. We are not particular that the candles should face a specific direction.
 - d. Only if possible, and is **safe** - children should light in the doorway of their bedroom.
 - e. **NEVER LEAVE CANDLES UNATTENDED!!**

2. Time of Lighting:

- a. We light *the Menorah* between *Mincha* and *Ma'ariv* (right after *Shkiah* (sundown), besides for *Friday* and *Shabbos* - see below.)
- b. If it is already after nightfall and one did not yet light candles, they should be lit after *Ma'ariv*. (To illustrate: There were many times during *Chanukah* when the *Rebbe* would return from the *Ohel*, daven *Mincha* and *Ma'ariv*, and only then go home to light candles.)
- c. Those who are going to eat (supper or Chanukah party etc.) in someone else's home, should light candles in their own home (preferably at the right time. Otherwise they should do it when they get home).

3. How it is Done:

- a. One should wear his *Gartel* when lighting candles, but may wear the weekday hat and jacket.
- b. When preparing the *Menorah*, you place the wicks on the right side of the *Menorah*, and add one more each night from right to left. When **lighting** the flames, we begin with the newest candle first, and go from left to right.
- c. The *Shamosh* should be higher than the rest of the flames.
- d. The *Rabbeim* would not use fresh wicks each night (rather changed them as necessary.)
- e. On the first night, three *Brochois* are recited (להדליק נר, שעשה ניסים, שהחיינו). On all subsequent nights, two *Brochois* are said (שעשה ניסים, להדליק נר).
- f. One starts lighting the flames after he finished recited all the *Brochois*.
- g. Only after **all** the flames are lit, one starts singing *Haneiros Halolu*.
- h. It is customary to sit by the flames for half an hour (besides for Friday – see below). The *Rebbe Rashab* would study *Torah* next to the *Menorah* being careful to do so in a way that was permissible (not benefitting from the light of the *Chanukah* candles.)
- i. The flames should burn for at least 50 minutes. If the flame goes out before this time, it should be rekindled without a *Bracha*.

4. While the candles are burning:

- a. Women should not do any work, such as sewing, weaving, washing clothes and ironing. After the 50 minutes it is permissible, but not where the flames are visible.
- b. After lighting the candles, the *Menorah* may not be moved for 50 minutes. After that, it may be moved even if the flames are still burning.

[Candle Lighting in Shul:

- a. Arrange the time of *Mincha* so that the lighting will take place after *Plag haMincha* (see local calendar).
- b. Lighting in *Shul* is done during *Mincha*, after קדיש תקבל and before עלינו לשבח.
- c. One who says the *Brachos* in *Shul* may then recite the *Brachos* again in his own home. On the first night, however, he should recite *Shehecheyanu* again at home only if others are also being *yotzei* from his lighting.
- d. The candles should burn during *Shacharis* and *Ma'ariv* as well (but no *Brocho* is said.)]

Erev Shabbos, Shabbos, and Motzoei Shabbos:

On Erev Shabbos:

1. **Planning:** In many places in the world, this is a very short Friday. Therefore, *Mincha* in shul should be scheduled at an **earlier** time (with *Hodu* and *Posach Eliyohu*), to give enough time for the lighting of the *Menorah* in *Shul* and be able to get home in time before *Shabbos*, and light the *Menorah*. **However**, remember that the *Chanukah* candles may not be lit in *Shul* before *Plag Hamincha* (see local calendar).
2. The order is: *Mincha*, *Chanukah* candles, and then *Shabbos* candles.

3. Ensure that the Chanukah candles (at home) are lit enough in advance of the time of Shabbos candle lighting so the Shabbos candles are not lit late.
4. If it is late, and one did not yet *Daven Mincha*, he should first light Chanukah candles and then *Daven Mincha*.
5. Prepare enough oil in the *Chanukia* so that the flames will burn for 50 minutes *after Shekiah*.
6. Use a longer *Shamosh* than usual. Many packages of *Shamoshim* will have one or two *Shamoshim* that are bigger than the others. They are for Friday evening.
7. Ascertain that (at least one of) the candles of the children's *Menorah* will burn for 50 minutes after *Shekia*.
8. We do not sit by the candles for half an hour like on the other days.
9. **On Shabbos, it is forbidden to move the chair on which the Menorah rests, even after the flames have gone out.** Therefore, if it is necessary to move it, (because the place where the *Menorah* is situated needs to be used, then): If the *Menorah* is on a tray, then *before Shabbos* a *Challah* or expensive cup that will be eaten or used on *Shabbos* should be placed on the tray. Then the tray becomes a *בסיס לאיסור ולהיתר* and it may be moved **once the flames have extinguished**. If the *Menorah* is placed directly on the chair, then the *Challah* or cup are placed on the chair, and the chair may be moved once the flames have extinguished. For more details on this situation, contact your local Rabbi.

The Davening of Shabbos Chanukah:

This year, *Rosh Chodesh Teves* occurs on *Shabbos* (and Sunday) therefore:

1. We add in the *davening* and in *Birchas Hamazon*: **Yaale Veyovo** (in addition to *V'al Hanissim*). In *Bentching* we also add a **Horachamon** (for *Rosh Chodesh*).
2. In *Shacharis*: After *Halel* (and *Veavrohom Zokain*) we say *Kadish Tiskabel, Shir Shel Yom, Borchy Nafshi*.
3. We take out **THREE** *Sifrei Torah*:
 - a. In the **first one** we read the *Parsha (Miketz)*. Six people are called up and therefore we combine *Shishi* and *Shvii* into one *Aliya*.
 - b. (We place the second *Sefer Torah* on the *Bimah* and) we perform *Hagboho* on the first *Sefer Torah*.
 - c. In the **second Sefer Torah** we call up *Shvii* and we read the *Parsha of Rosh Chodesh*. It is found in *Parsha Pinchas* and we start from *Uveyom Hashabbos*.
 - d. We place the **third Sefer Torah** on the *Bimah* next to the second *Sefer Torah*. We recite *Kadish* and perform *Hagboho* on the *second Sefer Torah*. [The one who is holding the first *Sefer Torah* remains seated].
 - e. *Maftir* is then read in the third *Sefer Torah* (only *ביום השישי*).
 - f. The *Haftorah* is as follows: We read the *Haftorah of Roni Vesimchi*, then we add the first and last *Posuk* of the *Haftorah of Shabbos Rosh Chodesh* and then we add the first and last *Posuk* of the *Haftorah of Mochor Chodesh*.
 - g. *Ov Horachamim* is not recited.
 - h. In *Musaf* we say *Ato Yotzarto* and we add *V'al Hanisim*. [If one mistakenly said *תקנת שבת* but he remembered before he finished the *Amidah*, he returns to *אתה יצרת*. However, if he finished the *Amidah*, he has to repeat it correctly by saying *אתה יצרת*].

Mincha:

1. We read the beginning of *Parshas Vayigash* in the *Torah*.
2. In the *Amidah* we add *Yaale Veyovo* and *V'al Hanissim*.
3. We do not recite *Tzidkoscho*.

On Motzoei Shabbos:

1. **In Shul:** *Ma'ariv* [we add *Ato Chonantonu, Yaale Veyovo* and *V'al Hanisim*], *Vihi Noam* and *Veato Kodosh*, Candle lighting (before *Aleinu* as usual) and then *Havdalah*.
2. **At Home:** *Havdalah*, Candle lighting, ויתן לך.

Sunday – second day of Rosh Chodesh Teves:

1. Don't forget to add in the *Davening* and in *Bentching* the additions for *Rosh Chodesh*.
2. [Also on *Chanukah* a mourner does not *Daven* at the *Omud* on *Rosh Chodesh*.]
3. **Shacharis:** After *Hallel* (like *Chanukah*), we recite (*Veavrohom Zokain, etc.*) *Kadish Tiskabel*. (We do **not** recite *Bais Yakov*, rather we start from) *Shir Shel Yom. Borch Nafshi*.
4. **Krias Hatorah:** We take out **two** *Sifrei Torah*:
 - a. The **first** one is for *Rosh Chodesh*. Three *Aliyos* (*Cohen* until רביעית ההין *Levi* until ונסכה *Yisroel* from ובראשי הדשכם). The second *Sefer Torah* is placed on the *Bimah* and no *Kadish* is recited and *Hagboho* is performed on the first *Sefer Torah*.
 - b. Then we read in the **second** *Sefer Torah*, one *Aliya* for *Chanukah* (ביום השביעי). After the *Aliya* for *Chanukah* (**no need** to put the first *Sefer Torah* on the *Bimah*), we recite *Chatzi Kadish*. Then *Hagboho* is performed on the second *Sefer Torah*. [The one who is holding the first *Sefer Torah* remains seated].
 - c. *Ashrei Uvo Letzion. Yehalelu. Tefillin* of *Rabenu Tam* (*Sheish Zechiros*). *Chatzi Kadish. Musaf* like every *Rosh Chodesh* and we add *V'al Hanissim*.

On Zos Chanukah (the last day of Chanukah):

1. If a gathering is made during the day of *Zos Chanukah*, *Chanukah* candles should be lit **without a Brocho**.
2. The night after *Chanukah*, we say *Tachanun* in *Krias shma sheal Hamito* (before going to sleep).

רמז יפה לחנוכה: נ'ג'ה'ש' בגימטריא משיח. נ'ג'ה'פ' בגימטריא מנחם.

Sunday - Hey Teves:

- This is the day of “*Didan Notzach*” when the federal court ruled regarding the *Sforim* (books) and manuscripts of the *Rabeim*, and that a *Rebbe* is “**The Ultimate Truth**”.
- This day should be utilized to **buy** *Sforim*, to **learn** in the *Sforim*, encourage **sales** on *Sforim* etc.

May we merit, **this year**, to see the lighting of the *Menorah* in the third *Bais Hamikdosh*!!

Wishing you a most joyous Chodesh Kislev, and luminous Chanuka in the Bais Hamikdosh Hashlishi!

Rabbi Levi Y. Garelik

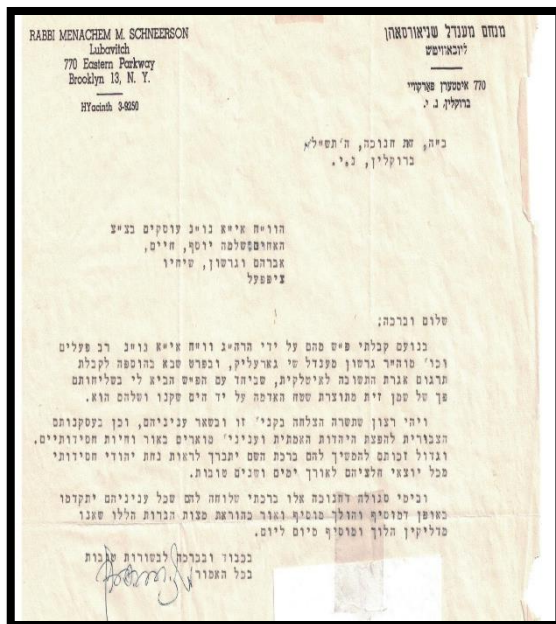
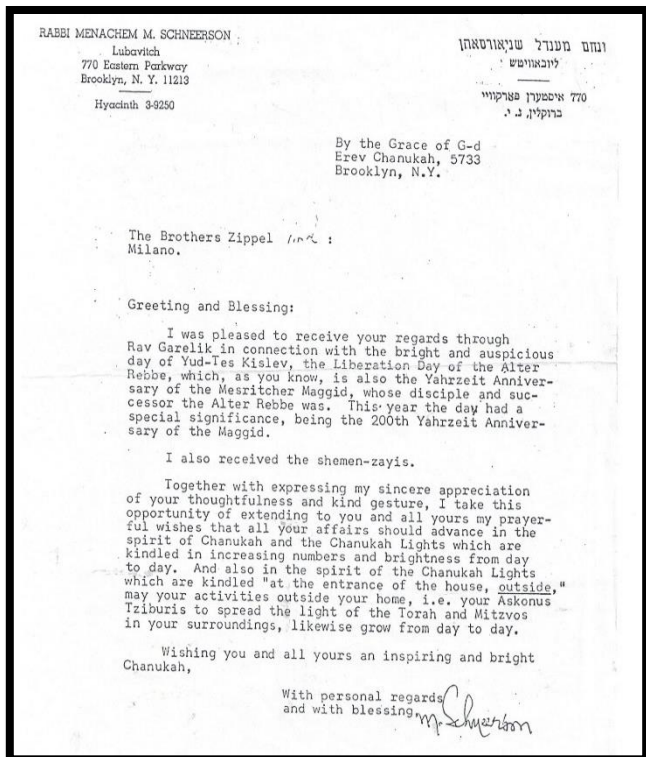
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Per the many inquiries:

Our family merited to provide the *Shemen Zayis* for the Rebbe for many years. Following are two (of the several) letters that we merited to receive where the Rebbe acknowledged this. Also, for a period of time the olive oil was crushed from olives that grew on the property of the illustrious Zippel family. When that property was sold, the olives were derived from the property of Lubavitch in Pieve di Camaiore (in Tuscany).

Here are two letters from the Rebbe:





בס"ד Laws and Customs of Chanukah

For the year 5783 – Shnas Hakhel

According to Minhag Chabad

All times listed are for Melbourne only

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🌀 HAKHEL

The Greeks waged a spiritual battle against the Jews, attempting to stamp out the *Torah* and its *Mitzvos*. Chazal countered this by enacting *Chanukah* observances of a spiritual nature, and they instituted that these be fulfilled in as public a manner as possible (*Pirsumei Nissa*). The Rebbe explains that this mirrors the idea of *Hakhel*, whose purpose is also to unite men, women and children in as public a manner as possible, with the aim of fostering greater observance of *Torah* and *Mitzvos*. Therefore, *Chanukah* is an especially opportune time to arrange public *Hakhel* gatherings.

🌀 MENORAH LIGHTING: WHO?

All men light the *Menorah*. Boys are also trained to do so from a young age.

Women are obligated to light the *Menorah*. Practically, a married woman fulfils her obligation through her husband's lighting, and a girl fulfils her obligation through her father's lighting. Therefore, they should be present when the *Menorah* is lit, and they should have in mind to fulfil their obligation. Even very young girls should be present when the *Menorah* is lit. For this reason, the *Menorah* lighting should be scheduled at a time when everyone can be present. [Nevertheless, they have still fulfilled their obligation even if not present.]

In the following circumstances, a woman should recite the *Brochos* and light the *Menorah* herself:

- An unmarried woman who does not permanently live with her father. [This includes seminary girls.]
- A woman who is temporarily away from her family home and husband/father, and she is not guesting with someone who is lighting the *Menorah*; e.g. she is in a hotel, hospital, or own home.
- A woman who remains at home, but her husband/father is away overnight.

When a woman is temporarily away from her family home and husband/father, but she is guesting with a host who is lighting the *Menorah*, she automatically fulfils her obligation

through her father's/husband's lighting at the family home, unless:

- It is daytime in her time-zone when her husband/father lights *Menorah*.
- Her husband/father is away from the family home and lighting elsewhere.

In these two cases, the woman should participate in her host's lighting by sharing in the expenses of the oil and wicks, and she should also be present when the *Menorah* is kindled.

🌀 MENORAH LIGHTING: VENUE

One must light at home (where he usually eats and sleeps) and nowhere else. Even if eating out that night, one must still light the *Menorah* at home.

If one is away from home the entire night, he should light at the place where he is lodging. If he is still there the following night, he may light there as well, even if he intends to relocate later during the night.

One should avoid crossing the International Dateline during *Chanukah*. Similarly, one should avoid travel plans that prevent him from lodging overnight in a dwelling. One who finds himself in such a situation should consult a *Rov*.

🌀 MENORAH LIGHTING: WHERE?

The *Menorah* is situated at a doorway, on the side opposite the *Mezuzah*. If there is no *Mezuzah*, such as in a hotel, the *Menorah* is placed at the right side of the door. [If the *Menorah* was placed on the wrong side, one has still fulfilled his obligation.]

The *Menorah* should be placed within the actual doorway, as close to the doorpost as possible. [If this is not feasible, it should at least be placed within a *Tefach* (8cm) of the doorway.] It does not matter if the flames span north-south or east-west.

It is preferable to use the doorway of the room where one eats, as opposed to the doorway of the room where one sleeps.

Although it is preferable for the head of the household to light at the main eating area, nevertheless, each child should light at the entrance to his personal bedroom, unless there are safety concerns.

When more than one person lights at the same venue, each set of flames should be noticeably distinct from the others. In practice, this is easily accomplished when everyone uses a separate *Menorah*. However, when two people improvise by sharing the same *Menorah* (e.g. during the first nights of *Chanukah*), or by not using a *Menorah* at all, there should be a clear gap between each set of flames.

The *Menorah* is situated so that the flames are anywhere between 3 *Tefachim* (24cm) and 10 *Tefachim* (80cm) from the floor. If the *Menorah* is placed lower or higher, it is still acceptable (unless the flames are higher than twenty *Amos* – 9.6 metres). Similarly, a large *Menorah* which is taller than 10 *Tefachim* may be used even in the first instance.

The *Menorah* must not be situated in a place where there is a strong possibility that it will be extinguished, e.g. by winds or vandals.

Those in a *Yeshivah* dormitory, seminary or at an overnight camp should follow the instructions of their *Hanholo*.

🌀 PREPARING THE MENORAH

Ideally, a nice *Menorah* should be used.

The Rebbe discouraged the use of *Menorahs* with round branches. Instead, one uses either a *Menorah* with diagonal (or square-shaped) branches, or one with no branches at all.

The *Menorah* must be designed so that all the flames are in a straight line and at the same height. The flames should not be too close together, as they need to appear noticeably distinct. [Furthermore, wax candles need to be sufficiently spaced so that the heat of the flames do not melt the wax of the adjacent candles.] One should be especially attentive to this when improvising without a *Menorah*.

Each day of *Chanukah*, the *Menorah* is prepared in advance, so that it is ready at the appropriate time.

On the first night, one prepares the lamp at the extreme right. On the second night and thereafter, one adds the lamp to the immediate left of the others, preparing the lamps from right to left.

The *Shamosh* is situated higher than the other flames.

One *Shamosh* is sufficient for multiple *Menorahs* when they are right next to each other, but not when they are situated in different parts of the room.

🕯️ THE WICKS

Wicks are preferably made of cotton or linen. [If these are unavailable, the wicks may be made of any material.]

Sefer Minhagim records both the practice to replace the wicks every day, as well as the custom not to do so, being that used wicks are easier to kindle. [According to the latter custom, the newly-added lamp is prepared with the wick that was lit first on the previous night.] The *Friediker Rebbe* was not particular about replacing the wicks each night.

🕯️ THE FUEL

Ideally, olive oil is used to fuel the flames, and a beeswax candle for the *Shamosh*. [If these are not available, one should use a type of oil or wax candle that burns a clear flame. If this is not possible, any type of oil or (single-wick) wax candle may be used.]

The *Menorah* may be prepared with oil remaining from the previous night.

Before kindling, one ensures that the *Menorah* has sufficient fuel to last the required duration – at least 50 minutes in total, and at least 30 minutes after *Tzeis Hakochavim* (whichever is longer).

Some candles manufactured for *Chanukah* typically burn for only half-hour. If these are lit before *Tzeis Hakochavim*, one would not be able to recite the *Brochos*. Furthermore, even if lighting after *Tzeis Hakochavim*, such candles tend to burn for less than half-hour in a warm environment. Therefore, longer lasting candles should be used. This should be kept in mind when distributing candles for *Mivtzoim*. [When necessary, there is room to be lenient for a child under *Bar Mitzvah* who is unaware that the candles are burning less than they should.]

If one realized after lighting that there is insufficient oil, he should not merely add more oil. Instead, he must extinguish the flames, add more oil, and then relight the flames without the *Brochos*.

🕯️ MENORAH LIGHTING: WHEN?

Ideally, the *Menorah* is lit just after sunset, between *Mincha* and *Maariv*.

If that is not possible, one should light as soon as possible after that time. [Technically, one may light all night, until dawn. However, if very late, one should arrange for other people to be awake and present for the *Menorah* lighting.]

Davening with a *Minyan*, as well as *Mivtzoim* activities, take precedence to lighting *Menorah* at the ideal time.

When lighting after *Tzeis Hakochavim*, one *davens Maariv* first, unless there is no *Minyan* scheduled until later, or unless he **regularly davens** with a *Minyan* that is scheduled later.

If one cannot light the *Menorah* at night, he may also light any time after *Plag Hamincha*. [In this case, one will need to use additional oil, enough to last until half-hour after *Tzeis Hakochavim*.]

One may not light before *Plag Hamincha*. If he did so, he must relight at the correct time, and recite the *Brochos* again.

🕯️ BEFORE LIGHTING

Once the sun sets, one may not perform any activity that might distract him from lighting the *Menorah*. Therefore, one may not eat more than 57 grams of bread, drink alcoholic beverages, perform work, or even study *Torah*.

Similarly, one should not begin these activities within the half-hour period prior to sunset, unless he appoints a *Shomer* (guardian) to remind him to light the *Menorah* at sunset. Nevertheless, one may learn during this time.

If, for whatever reason, one began these activities within the half-hour period prior to sunset, he may continue until sunset. At that time, he must immediately stop whatever he is doing.

One may begin these activities **before** the half-hour period prior to sunset and continue until sunset. [Technically, he may continue even after sunset and light the *Menorah* afterwards. Nevertheless, it is commendable to stop as soon as the sun sets in order to light the *Menorah*.]

One may not take a nap within the half-hour period before sunset, or afterwards, until he lights the *Menorah*.

All the above applies to all men and women, even if he or she will discharge their obligation through watching or participating in someone else's lighting of the *Menorah*. [Nevertheless, when necessary, there is room to be lenient for those who are not actually lighting the *Menorah* themselves.]

🕯️ MENORAH LIGHTING: HOW?

One does not wear *Shabbos* clothing, but wears a hat, jacket and *Gartel*.

Before making the *Brochos*, one lights the *Shamosh*. While making the *Brochos* and lighting the flames, the *Shamosh* is held in the right (i.e. dominant) hand.

On the first night, three *Brochos* are said. On the following nights, only two *Brochos* are recited, as *Shehecheyanu* is omitted.

One must recite the *Brochos* and kindle the flames whilst standing unsupported, without leaning on anything. If this is not possible, or after the fact, the *Mitzvah* is fulfilled even if sitting.

After one **completely** finishes reciting all of the *Brochos*, the flames are lit without delay, from left to right.

One may not speak between the *Brochos* and the conclusion of lighting the *Menorah*. [If one did speak, he does not repeat the *Brochos*, unless he said something totally unrelated to the lighting of the *Menorah*, and he did so before kindling even one flame.]

Although the *Menorah* is not supposed to be moved once lit, one may move it a *Tefach* or two if this is necessary to facilitate its lighting, and then return it to its original position. (This may be practically relevant for someone who is infirm and cannot reach the *Menorah*.)

Haneiros Halolu is sung after all the flames are completely lit and the *Shamosh* is set down.

🕯️ AFTER LIGHTING

One should sit by the *Menorah* for at least half-hour, and utilize the time for learning, or for *Chanukah* inspiration.

The flames must burn at least 50 minutes in total, and at least 30 minutes after *Tzeis Hakochavim* (whichever is longer).

If a flame extinguished during this time, it is appropriate to relight it (without reciting the *Brochos*).

During this time, the *Chanukah* flames may not be used for any purpose. This includes using a flame to light another *Chanukah* flame or the *Shamosh*.

Similarly, benefit may not be derived from any of the light generated by the flames. This is one of the reasons why the *Shamosh* flame is placed higher than the other flames, in order that any inadvertent benefit may be attributed to the *Shamosh*. Nevertheless, one should not rely on the *Shamosh*, and instead ensure that the room is well-lit.

The *Menorah* should not be moved during this time.

It is customary for women to refrain from any labour (i.e. sewing, knitting, laundering or ironing) during this time. It is also preferable to avoid leaving the house to go shopping, or the like. However, many are lenient with regards to cooking and cleaning.

After the flames have burned for the required amount of time, the *Menorah* may be moved, even if the flames are still burning. Similarly, at this time, women may perform labour outside the view of the burning flames.

Even after the minimum time frame has passed, it is still inappropriate to derive benefit from the flames or to extinguish them (unless leaving them unattended would create a safety hazard).

During *Chanukah*, the *Menorah* should not be used for any other purpose. Similarly, after the *Menorah* flames are extinguished, the leftover wicks and fuel should not be discarded or used for other purposes. Instead, it should be kept until the last day of *Chanukah* (see section entitled “*Zos Chanukah*”).

🕯️ SHULE MENORAH

The *Shule Menorah* is situated at the southern side of the *Shule*, with the flames spanning east-west.

The *Shule Menorah* should be easily visible to the entire *Shule*. It is therefore placed higher than 10 *Tefachim* (80cm).

Except for *Motzei Shabbos*, the *Shule Menorah* is lit at *Mincha* time. *Mincha* is scheduled so that the *Menorah* will be lit after *Plag Hamincha*, but before sunset.

The *Shule Menorah* is prepared before *Mincha* so as not to disturb anyone's concentration during *Mincha*. Just as with a personal *Menorah*, it must be prepared with enough fuel to burn until at least half-hour after *Tzeis Hakochavim*.

At the end of *Mincha*, right before *Aleinu*, one of the congregants recites the *Brochos* and lights the *Menorah* (whilst facing south). Afterwards, all present sing *Haneiros Halolu*, followed by *Aleinu*.

On the first night of *Chanukah*, the *Shule Menorah* should not be lit by an *Ovel* (within 12 months of a parent's passing or within 30 days of a spouse, child or sibling's passing).

One does not fulfil his obligation with the *Menorah* that is lit in *Shule*. Even the one who kindles the *Menorah* in *Shule* must relight at home, with the *Brochos*. [On the first night, he does not repeat

Shehecheyanu, unless he is also lighting on behalf of others who have not yet fulfilled their obligation.]

Throughout the 24 hours of each *Chanukah* day, the flames of the *Shule Menorah* (including the *Shamosh*) remain lit whenever people are present in the *Shule*, as long as there are no safety concerns. At the very least, the flames should remain lit during the times of *davening*. [If the flames need to be relit during the course of the 24 hours, they are lit with a *Shamosh*, but without reciting the *Brochos*.]

🕯️ PUBLIC MENORAH

A major emphasis of *Chanukah* is *Pirumei Nissa*. This includes *Menorah* lightings in the most public places possible, and events which promote the spirit of *Chanukah*. One should participate in these activities and help ensure their success, even if this requires postponing one's personal *Menorah* lighting to a later hour.

The flames of the public *Menorah* must be no taller than twenty *Amos* (9.6 metres) from the ground.

The public *Menorah* should not be situated in a place where there is a strong possibility that it will be extinguished, e.g. by winds or vandals.

Since it is ideal for the *Brochos* to be recited when kindling a public *Menorah*, the lighting should be scheduled after *Plag Hamincha*, and the *Menorah* should have enough fuel to burn at least half-hour after *Tzeis Hakochavim*, just as with a personal *Menorah*. [Otherwise, the public *Menorah* should still be lit, but without the *Brochos*.]

The *Brochos* are recited when burning a liquid or solid fuel – as opposed to gas, butane, propane or electricity.

The *Brochos* are recited only by the one who is lighting the *Menorah*. [On the first night, he recites *Shehecheyanu* – even if he already recited it beforehand for the *Shule Menorah* or at home.] The audience should be forewarned not to recite the *Brochos* along with him, but rather, just to answer *Omein*.

The flames should be lit without moving the lamps out of place.

Just as in *Shule*, one does not fulfil his obligation by attending (or lighting) a public *Menorah*. The participants should be made aware of this. [Even the one who kindles the public *Menorah* must relight at home, with the *Brochos*. On the first night, he does not repeat

Shehecheyanu, unless he is also lighting on behalf of others who have not yet fulfilled their obligation.]

If non-Jews are present, the opportunity should be utilized to raise awareness about *Sheva Mitzvos Bnei Noach*.

🕯️ MIVTZOIM

One should begin making *Mivtzoim* arrangements prior to *Chanukah*.

A *Menorah* should be lit in every Jewish household. Preferably, every man and boy lights his own *Menorah*. When there are no men in the household, at least one woman should light.

One should reach out to those in hospitals, old-age homes and prisons.

When the person lighting the *Menorah* does not know the *Brochos*, one may prompt him word by word, or recite the *Brochos* on his or her behalf. [In the latter instance, if one will still need to fulfil the *Mitzvah* himself at a later time, he should have in mind to be *Moitzie* the listeners but not himself.]

Shehecheyanu is said the first time one fulfils the *Mitzvah*, even if it is after the first day of *Chanukah*.

When visiting a hospital or old age home, one should be mindful as to whether it is a place where the *Brochos* may be recited. If not, the *Menorah* should be lit without the *Brochos*.

Gatherings should be arranged for adults and children, especially for those not yet familiar with *Chanukah*. The opportunity should be utilized to rejoice with them; to teach about *Chanukah*; to share words of *Torah*; to light the *Menorah*; and to distribute *Tzedakah* and *Chanukah Gelt*. This year, these gatherings are imbued with the added dimension of *Hakhel*.

Where possible, these gatherings should be scheduled to allow the *Menorah* to be lit after *Plag Hamincha*, so that the *Brochos* will be recited. If this is not practical, the *Menorah* should still be lit, but without the *Brochos*.

When distributing doughnuts, latkes or other food on *Mivtzoim*, one should ensure that the appropriate *Brochos* are made for each food item.

🕯️ TACHNUN & V'AL HANISSIM

Tachnun is not recited from *Mincha* of *Erev Chanukah* until after *Chanukah*.

V'al Hanissim is recited in each *Shmoneh Esrei* of *Chanukah*. [One should not

intentionally skip *V'al Hanissim* to recite *Kedushah* or *Modim* with the *Minyan*.]

If one forgot *V'al Hanissim* at the appropriate place in *Shmoneh Esrei*, he may recite it before saying *Hashem's* name at the end of that *Brocho*. After that point, he does not recite it.

V'al Hanissim is recited each time one *bentches* during *Chanukah*. If one forgot *V'al Hanissim* at the appropriate place in *bentching*, he may recite it before saying *Hashem's* name at the end of that *Brocho*. After that point, he may recite it as a *Horachamon*, as per the *Nusach* printed in the *Siddur*.

HALLEL

Full *Hallel* is recited each day of *Chanukah*, right after *Shmoneh Esrei*. If the *Chazzan* is a mourner (for a parent) during the first eleven months, someone else takes over for *Hallel*, but not for the *Kaddish* which follows.

One must recite *Hallel* whilst standing unsupported. If this is not possible, or after the fact, the *Mitzvah* is fulfilled even if sitting.

One may not interrupt full *Hallel* other than for those things that one may respond to during the *Brochos* of *Krias Shema*. [E.g. If the *Chazzan* recites *Kaddish*, one answers *Omein Yehei Shmei* etc, and *Omein* to *d'amiran b'olmo*. One also answers *Borchu* and *Omein* when the *Brochos* are recited before and after an *Aliyah*, and may also recite the *Brochos* if he is called up for an *Aliyah*.]

It is preferable to recite *Hallel* with the *Minyan*. If one is not up to the *Minyan*, this creates a dilemma; on the one hand it is appropriate to recite *Hallel* with the congregation, and on the other hand, it is appropriate that one should *daven* in the correct order. One should therefore make a point of being up to the *Minyan* when *Hallel* is recited.

After *Hallel*, the *Chazzan* recites only half *Kaddish*. [If he mistakenly said *Tiskabel*, he should not repeat it after *U'vo L'tziyon*.]

If one forgot to recite *Hallel*, he should recite it with a *Brocho* as soon as he remembers, unless the sun already set.

If one mistakenly recited half-*Hallel*, he must repeat the entire *Hallel* (without a *Brocho*).

CHANUKAH CUSTOMS

The days of *Chanukah* should be utilized to give extra *Tzedakah* and to learn

additional *Torah*. Children should also be encouraged in this regard.

One may not fast on *Chanukah* – not even a *Chosson* or *Kallah* on the day of their *Chuppah*, or for a *Yahrzeit*.

It is customary to eat foods fried in oil, such as *Latkes* and doughnuts, to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

It is also customary to eat dairy foods, and cheese specifically, to commemorate the miracle of *Yehudis*.

It is customary to eat special meals to celebrate the miracles of *Chanukah* and the reinauguration of the *Beis Hamikdash*. These meals are regarded as a *Seudas Mitzvah* if they are accompanied by song and praise for the miracles *Hashem* wrought, or when their purpose is to publicize the miracle of *Chanukah* and enhance the observance of its *Mitzvos*.

On one of the nights of *Chanukah*, the *Rebbeim* of *Chabad* would conduct a *Farbrenge* of sorts for their family members (both men and women), which was referred to as "Latkes evening". The stories related at these gatherings included several that were repeated every single *Chanukah*.

The days of *Chanukah* should be utilized to arrange and/or participate in family, school, workplace and communal *Chanukah* gatherings. The purpose of these gatherings is to tell the story and spread the message of *Chanukah*, along with the lessons derived from it. This year, being a year of *Hakhel*, is an especially opportune time to do so.

One gives *Chanukah Gelt* to his or her spouse and children (whether minors or adults) each day of *Chanukah*, with a special addition (double or triple) on the fourth or fifth night of *Chanukah*. [For *Shabbos*, one gives *Chanukah Gelt* either the day before or after. One who is stringent about handling money on *Motzei Shabbos* should refrain from giving *Chanukah Gelt* until Sunday.] One should also give *Chanukah Gelt* to his students.

It is appropriate for children to give *Chanukah Gelt* to each other.

There is no source for giving *Chanukah* gifts other than *Gelt*. [If one nevertheless does so, he should bear in mind that gifts may not be given on *Shabbos* unless they are used on *Shabbos* itself.]

It is customary to play *Dreidel*. One should not play for money (unless the initial understanding is that all "wins" will be returned).

It goes without saying that gambling or playing-cards is not in the spirit of *Chanukah*, and is in fact a desecration. The *Kedushas Levi* writes that each playing-card contains tremendous impurity of the unmentionable type.

THIRD DAY OF CHANUKAH

The third day of *Chanukah* (Tuesday night and Wednesday) marks the *Alter Rebbe's* release from his second imprisonment (in 5561). Although his second incarceration was less severe than the first, his release is still regarded as a greater victory for *Chassidus* than the liberation on *Yud-Tes Kislev* two years earlier – the first libel had been aimed primarily against the *Alter Rebbe*, whereas the second libel was directed against the teachings of *Chassidus* and the *Chassidic* way of life. [According to some versions, the liberation occurred on the fifth day of *Chanukah*.]

EREV SHABBOS CHANUKAH

When possible, public *Menorah* lightings should still be conducted after *Plag Hamincha*, despite the busy hour.

The *Minyan* for *Mincha* is scheduled earlier than usual, to allow time for the *Menorah* at home to be lit after *Mincha*. Nevertheless, *Mincha* should be late enough for the *Shule Menorah* to be lit after *Plag Hamincha*.

One should endeavour to *daven Mincha* with a *Minyan* before lighting *Menorah*. [If this is not possible, it is preferable to *daven* with a *Minyan* after lighting the *Menorah* than to *daven* without a *Minyan* before lighting the *Menorah*.]

The *Menorah* at home is lit just before the *Shabbos* candles are lit. The lighting of the *Menorah* should be scheduled so that it does not interfere with the lighting time for the *Shabbos* candles.

Being that the *Menorah* is lit on *Erev Shabbos* earlier than usual, one should ensure that there is enough fuel for the flames to burn for half-hour after *Tzeis Hako'avim*. Similarly, a longer-lasting *Shamosh* should be used.

On *Erev Shabbos*, one need not sit next to the flames for half-hour.

The *Menorah* should be situated so that its flames are not fanned or extinguished by the opening or closing of any doors or windows, or by people passing by.

Everything beneath a lit *Menorah* becomes a "*Bossis L'Issur*" on *Shabbos*, and may not be moved. If the place

where the *Menorah* is situated needs to be used, one can prevent the chair or table from becoming a *Bossis L'Issur* by placing a *Challah* or bottle of wine on it from sunset until *Tzeis Hakoachavim*.

Similarly, one may place the *Menorah* on a tray which is not designated exclusively for use with a candelabra or candlesticks, and place a *Challah* or bottle of wine on the tray from sunset until *Tzeis Hakoachavim*.

In both of these situations, the chair or tray – along with all of its contents – may be moved on *Shabbos*, but only **once** the location is **actually** needed. The chair or tray may **not** be moved simply for the sake of protecting the *Menorah*.

The chair or tray should be moved carefully, as the *Menorah* itself cannot be directly handled. Were the *Menorah* to fall whilst being moved, one would not be able to catch it or support it directly with his hands. Furthermore, if the flames are still burning, and they are fuelled by oil, one must be careful that the liquid doesn't rise or fall and cause the flame to become bigger or smaller.

Another option: The *Menorah* (as well as the *Bossis* beneath it) may be moved by a non-Jew – but only if one had in mind (and preferably verbalized) at the onset of *Shabbos* that a non-Jew would move it after the flames extinguished.

☞ SHABBOS CHANUKAH

Haneiros Halolu should not be sung on *Shabbos*. However, one may sing the ending (i.e. *Al Nissecha*).

Shabbos Chanukah this year is also the first day of *Rosh Chodesh*. Throughout *davening*, one should remember to recite *Ya'aleh Veyavo*.

If one forgot *Ya'aleh Veyavo* in *davening*, or is unsure whether he recited it:

- At *Maariv*, one does not correct his omission.
- At *Shacharis* and *Mincha*, if he realized before saying *Hashem's* name at the end of *Hamachazir Shechinasoi L'tziyon*, he goes back. If he remembered between the conclusion of that *Brocho* and *Modim*, he recites it at that point, without going back. If he remembers any time after that point, but before he began reciting (the second) *Yih'yu L'ratzon*, he returns to the beginning of *Retzei*. If he remembered only afterwards, he must repeat the entire *Shmoneh Esrei*.

- If one forgot *Ya'aleh Veyavo* during *Shacharis* and only realized after *Musaf*, he does not repeat *Shacharis*.
- If one forgot *Ya'aleh Veyavo* during *Mincha*, and only realized after the *Zman Tefillah* has passed, he must recite an additional *Shmoneh Esrei* during *Maariv*, as compensation. *Atah Chonantanu* is recited only the first time. If one mistakenly said it only the second time, he must repeat *Shmoneh Esrei* a third time without it. However, if one mistakenly said *Atah Chonantanu* both times, or not at all, he does need to recite *Shmoneh Esrei* a third time.
- When repeating *Shmoneh Esrei*, one should wait the span of time to walk four *Amos* (approx. two metres), and preferably, one should recite words of supplication between them].

During *bentching*, one should remember to recite *V'al Hanissim*, *Retzei* and *Ya'aleh Veyavo*. One should recite both the *Horachamon* for *Shabbos* as well as for *Rosh Chodesh*.

If one forgot *Retzei* or *Ya'aleh Veyavo* in *bentching*:

- If he remembered before saying *Hashem's* name at *Bonei Yerushalayim*, he goes back.
- If he remembered after that, but before beginning the next *Brocho*, he recites the extra *Brocho* as printed in the *Bentcher*.
- If one already began even the first word (*Boruch*) of the next *Brocho*, one must *bentch* again for omitting *Retzei*, but not for omitting *Ya'aleh Veyavo*.
- When one forgot *Retzei* and *bentches* again, he need not repeat *V'al Hanissim* if he already recited it the first time, but he should still repeat *Ya'aleh Veyavo*.

Three *Sifrei Torah* are taken out for *Krias Hatorah*. Then, the *Chanukah Haftorah* is read, followed by the first and last *Possuk* of the *Rosh Chodesh Haftorah*, followed by the first and last *Possuk* of the *Mochor Chodesh Haftorah*.

Av Harachamim and *Tzidkosecha* are not recited.

For *Musaf*, one davens *Atoh Yatzarta*. [If one neglected to do so, but remembered before he began reciting (the second) *Yih'yu L'ratzon* at the end of *Shmoneh Esrei*, he returns to *Atoh Yatzarta*. If he remembered only afterwards, he must repeat the entire *Shmoneh Esrei*.]

It is customary to eat something special in honour of *Rosh Chodesh*, distinct from

the special foods that one eats in honour of *Shabbos* and *Chanukah*.

☞ MOTZEI SHABBOS & SUNDAY

Maariv should be davened promptly.

Motzei Shabbos and Sunday is the second day of *Rosh Chodesh*. Throughout *davening*, one should recite *Ya'aleh Veyavo*. During *bentching*, one should recite *Ya'aleh Veyavo*, as well as the *Horachamon* for *Rosh Chodesh*.

[See previous section for one who forgot, or is unsure, whether he recited *Ya'aleh Veyavo* in *davening* or *bentching*. If one forgot *Ya'aleh Veyavo* during *Mincha* on the second day of *Rosh Chodesh*, and only realized after the *Zman Tefillah* has passed, he recites *Shmoneh Esrei* twice during *Maariv*, but does not recite *Ya'aleh Veyavo* in either.]

The *Shule Menorah* is lit and *Haneiros Halolu* is sung right before *Aleinu*. [See section entitled "*Shule Menorah*" for more details.] As usual, *Havdallah* in *Shule* is not recited until *Maariv* is completely finished.

One should go home quickly, in order to light the *Menorah* as soon as possible.

At home, *Havdallah* is recited first, followed by *Menorah* lighting, *Haneiros Halolu* and *V'Yiten Lecho*.

Although one normally recites half-*Hallel* on *Rosh Chodesh*, full *Hallel* is recited when it falls on *Chanukah*.

Two *Sifrei Torah* are taken out for *Krias Hatorah*, with the first three *Aliyos* for *Rosh Chodesh*, and the fourth for *Chanukah*.

It is customary to eat something special in honour of *Rosh Chodesh*, distinct from the foods eaten in honour of *Chanukah*.

☞ ZOS CHANUKAH (MONDAY)

The last night and day of *Chanukah* is known as *Zos Chanukah*. It is an opportune time to participate in a *Chassidische Farbrenge*.

The wicks and oils remaining from the *Menorah* are gathered together and burned on the last day of *Chanukah*. [This does not apply to the wicks or oil that were not used at all, such as any oil remaining in the flask.] No benefit should be derived from this fire.

If one began a meal before sunset, he recites *Al Hanissim* even when *bentching* after *Tzeis Hakoachavim*, as long as he did not yet *daven Maariv*.

