

MEANING

- “Dedication” or “festival of the lights.”
- Hanukkah recalls the story of the Maccabees, who recaptured and rededicated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem after it was plundered by foreign invaders in the second century B.C.E.

GREETINGS

- Chag Sameach (“A good holiday!” – Hebrew).
- Gut Yontif (“A good holiday!” - Yiddish).

WHEN

- Hebrew Calendar: 25 Kislev-3 Tevet.
- Western Calendar: November or December

COMMON PRACTICES

- Hanukkah is commemorated by lighting a menorah (also called a “hanukkiyah”) for 8 nights, starting with one candle, and adding one candle each night until the whole menorah of 8 candles is lit.
- A story associated with the holiday of Hanukkah tells that when the Maccabees rededicated the temple, they only had enough oil to keep the temple’s menorah lit for one night - yet miraculously, it lasted for 8 nights! Lighting the menorah over 8 nights is in honor of this tale.
- There is a custom to eat fried foods during Hanukkah to remember the miracle of the oil.
- Gifts are often given during Hanukkah, particularly to children.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Type of Calendar:

Hebrew (lunisolar)



Hanukkah

Hebrew

Haa·nuh·kuh



- On the Jewish calendar, Hanukkah is considered to be a minor holiday. Work is permitted, and there are no particular restrictions during this time.
- Hanukkah is the Jewish holiday that falls during the winter holiday “season,” and students, staff and faculty may celebrate by travelling to be with family and friends. However, the timing of Hanukkah varies on the Western calendar, it often begins as early as November. Instructors and supervisors should be sensitive to travel needs that may arise during this time.
- Students, staff, and faculty should be given the opportunity to reschedule any tests, exams or study or work activities that must be scheduled during Hanukkah if they are travelling to celebrate the holiday.

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