

# Happy Chanukah!



Throughout Chanukah, we will be sharing ideas to enhance your celebrations. As you light candles this week, we hope you will add meaning to each night by

- \*Reading Chanukah reflections shared by congregants
- \*Adding light and hope to the world by supporting worthy organizations
- \*Dancing and singing to inspired Chanukah songs

We hope you will enjoy this season as much as we do.

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## Reflect

### **The Smell of Potato Latkes**, by Hugh Morgenbesser

My dad was one of four kids who all lived very close to my paternal grandparents in Canarsie, Brooklyn. So when I was growing up, Jewish holidays all included big gatherings at my grandparents' house. There was lots of food. There were a bunch of cousins, my aunts and uncles, and other neighbors and relatives who I don't even remember, and loads and loads of food. This included Passover, the High Holy Days, and always a special gathering for Chanukah too.

I vividly remember the lighting of the candles, seeing my cousins and family, receiving some gifts from my grandparents—chocolate *gelt* coins—and even some spinning of the dreidel. And as an adult, in the years that I fry up some fresh potato latkes in my house, all it takes is a moment to inhale the smell of those fried potato latkes, and the images of being a child at my grandparents at Chanukah comes right back to me.

### **Contemplations on Chanukah 2020**, by Jane Sloven

In a year with challenges beyond any that we have ever experienced or could even imagine, our holiday cycle continues with the same consistency it brought to the lives of our ancestors. Chanukah brings light into our homes during this dark and cold season. Chanukah reminds us of the miracles that led our ancestors from slavery to freedom, from oppression to liberation, and from darkness into light.

There will be an end to this particular suffering. While we would all prefer that this was not our reality, it has brought new awareness to many of us. An inevitable response to close encounters with the fragility of life is a more intimate relationship with the preciousness of life. Many of us have become more grateful for the love that sustains us, the friendships that enliven us, and the natural beauty that surrounds us.

*May the lights of Chanukah illuminate the miracles in our lives. May they kindle love and compassion in our hearts. May they remind us that resilience and perseverance are our inheritance.*

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# Kindle

## **GREATER PORTLAND FAMILY PROMISE**

Greater Portland Family Promise (GFPF), an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, is dedicated to helping homeless and low-income families in the Greater Portland area achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Through their shelter program, they provide housing, meals, case management and community for children and their families experiencing homelessness. Through their housing stabilization program, they help families to maintain their housing by assisting with food, personal care and household needs, and other key resources and supports. Our congregation has supported GFPF for years with gifts of space, volunteers, and gift cards. Please continue to support them as they adapt to address the unique needs and circumstances of the pandemic.

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## Rejoice



A sweet version of the classic Maot Tzor.

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