

The Schmooze Stories with a Yiddish Twist

HANUKKAH FROM A (ADAM SANDLER) TO Z (“ZAYDE”)

by
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Syosset, New York

Hanukkah begins on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, and ends on the evening of Dec. 14. Here's an alphabetical guide to the holiday:

A (ADAM SANDLER)

Adam Sandler updated his beloved “Chanukah Song” for the 4th time. The lyrics are below if you want to sing along.

Put on your yarmlike, here comes Chanukah
So much fun-ukah to celebrate Chanukah.

Chanukkah is the Festival of Lights,
Instead of one day of presents, we have eight crazy nights.

When you feel like the only kid in town without a Christmas tree,
Here's the fourth list of people who are Jewish, just like Jesus, Olaf,
Punky Brewster, Scott Rudin, and me!

Joseph Gordon-Levitt enjoys eating kugel
So does Stan Lee, Jake Gyllenhaal, and the two guys who founded
Google

Adam Levine wears a Jewish star
So does Drake and Seth Rogen
Goldberg has a gold yarmulke to match the belt he won from Hulk Hogan

We got Scarlett Johansson, talk about a Kosher crush

And if you need a higher voice to turn you on, how about Geddy Lee from Rush?

We may not have a cartoon with a reindeer that can talk
But we also don't have polio, thanks to Dr Jonas Salk (smart Jew!)

Put on your yarmulke, it's time for Chanukah
Harry Potter and his magic wand-ukah, celebrate Chanukah

Jared from Subway: God dammit, a Jew
But guess who's Jewish and can fix him? Loveline's Dr. Drew (get on it doc!)

Princess Leia cuts the challah with Queen Elsa from Frozen
David Beckham is the king of soccer studs and also a quarter chosen

Ron Jeremy is fully Jewish and so is his foot-long buddy
Shia LaBeouf is half a Jew but 100 percent nutty

It's cool that Santa Claus who makes Christmas so merry
But we get two jolly fat guys: ice cream's Ben & Jerry (both Jewish)

From New York to Iran-ukah, get up and celebrate Chanukah
Don't mess with us, oh Chanukah, let's all get along for Chanukah
So drink your Jaegerbomb-ukah and smoke your medical-chron-ukah
If you really, really wan-ukah, have a happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy, happy Chanukah.

A Appeal of Chanukah

Barbara Klaus ("A Holiday Made for a Meshuggener") wrote, "To me, the total appeal of Chanukah was the fact that children who, on 357 days a year, were given the scientific admonition, "Don't play with matches. You'll wet your bed" - i.e., become pyromaniacs - were allowed to handle something with a flame at the end of it!)...If the Maccabbees could come back today - and stumble into the Chanukah shopping lists, the electric and Lucite menorahs, the one-gift-per-night traditions - they just might shrug their shoulders and mumble, "Meshugge." (Source: Newsday)

B (book)

"The Eighth Menorah" by Lauren L. Wohl (from PJ Library)

C (chocolate coins)

chocolate coins popped up around 1920 or so. Why coins? Besides being delicious (“batamt”), chocolate coins combine the two main edicts of all Jewish parents: Be careful with money, and eat, eat, look how thin you look.

(colored candles)

Mixed colored candles of small red, green, blue, and yellow Chanukah candles may be placed in the Menorah.

D (Designated gift giver)

In order to prevent massive greed overdoses, Anita Diamant (“The Red Tent”) adopted a sort of “designated gift-giver role.” Each night only one person is responsible for giving the presents.

Dreidel

Children play different kinds of games with the dreidel, or top, during this festival. There is a story about the dreidel, also called a “sevivon.” It was used in ancient times when the Jewish people were forbidden to assemble to pray. So when they met together, they pretended that they were playing with the top.

E (Eighth night of Hanukkah)

On the eighth night of Hanukkah, my true love gave me:

- . 8 Alka-Seltzer
- 7 Noodle kugels
- 6 pickled herrings
- 5 bowls of chicken soup
- 4 potato latkes
- 3 pounds of corned beef
- 2 kosher pickles...and
- lox, bagels and some cream cheese

The Eight Nights of Hanukkah

On the first night of Chanukah, my Jewish mother said,
“You’d better lose some weight or you’ll be dead.

On the second night of Chanukah, my mother said to me,
better lose some weight or you’ll be dead.

On the third night of Chanukah, my mother said to me,
Taste my sugar cookies, here’s your chocolate dreidel, have a
few more latkes, but you’d better lose weight or you’ll be dead.

On the fifth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me,

YOU'RE GETTING FAT!...

On the sixth night of Chanukah, my mother said to me,
Don't you like the doughnuts?

On the seventh night of Chanukah my mother said to me,
Take another Brownie, YOU'RE GETTING FAT.....

F (Frank, Anne)

Anne Frank, who celebrated Hanukkah in the attic ("boydem") of a house in Amsterdam, wrote in her diary for Dec. 7, 1942:

"We just gave each other a few little presents and then we lit the candles, we only had them alight for ten minutes."

G (Gelt)

"Chanukah gelt" is a Jewish custom rooted in the Talmud. The custom arose to give gifts of money during Chanukah so that someone who needed extra money for Chanukah candles could receive it in the form of Chanukah gelt. In some families today, the giving of Chanukah gelt has been augmented by a "new" tradition of Chanukah "tzedakah," charitable giving.

Gift ("matone")

How to buy a Chanukah gift for your man:

Tickets to a football ("fusbai") game. Few men will appreciate receiving tickets to "A Retrospective of 19th Century Quilts." Everyone knows why.

H Hanukkah Haul

Jenny Zimmerman usually got presents on all 8 nights.

Night 1. A gift she really wanted.

Night 2. A gift she thought was okay.

Night 3. Something her mom wanted her to have, like a book.

Night 4. Stationery.

Night 5. Underwear ("untervesh").

Night 6. One of those pens that writes 15 colors.

Night 7. Socks.

Night 8. Something so meager that Jenny was happy that Hanukah was finally over.

Hanukkah UPDATED

"The cellphone only had enough battery for one day, but it lasted eight days."

I Inaugural Record

On Dec. 15, 1998, the Mayer Kaplan JCC in Skokie, IL, set the inaugural world's record for largest number of dreidels to be spun at one time. More than 200 people were needed to set the record.

J Jewish Personal Ad

JEWISH BUSINESSMAN, 49, manufacturers Hanukkah candles, Yahrzeit candle and Sabbath candles. Seeks non-smoker. POB 787.

J Joke

Did you hear about Hillary's latest attempt to endear herself to New York Jews? She went to a service, and, on Hanukkah, lit the candles on the menorah, blew them out and made a wish.

K "Kashes" (Yiddish for "questions")

Child (to parents): "I just got a Hanukkah card from someone I don't even know. Do I have to reciprocate?"

Parent: "Yes, You're required to send a card within ten days. Otherwise, you can be imprisoned pursuant to the Hallmark Profits Enhancement Act.

Child (to parents)

"My birthday falls right on the first day of Hanukkah, and I always get shortchanged. Do I have any legal recourse?"

Parent: "You suffer from Badly Timed Birthday Syndrome. Fortunately, last year's Anti-Discrimination and Mental Health Care Reform Bill included the Birthday Rehabilitation Act. It allows you to petition any federal judge to modify your birthday by no more than 30 days."

"Khaneke"

Leo Rosten ("Hooray for Yiddish") wrote that one of the many spellings for Hanukkah is "khaneke."

L Latkes

Latkes are a traditional food consumed during Hanukkah. Most are fried in oil, symbolic of the oil that lasted 8 days.

M Menorah

A nine-branch candelabra whose candles are lit by a "shamash" or service candle. An unusual Hanukkah menorah can be made from a distributor cap for an eight-cylinder car. Hanukkah candles fit perfectly

into the nine holes. Maybe you can get an old one from a gas station.

N "Narishkayt" (Yiddish for "foolishness")

A young mother was about to light the eighth Hanukkah candle. "Do you know what's happening?" she asked her 10-year-old son. "Yes," said the youngster. "Liberace's coming."

P Publicizing the miracle

Lauren L. Wohl ("The Eighth Menorah") says that we should publicize menorah by placing it in the window where people can admire it. In addition, she says, "this shares the beauty of the Festival of Lights with the world."

R Riddle

"What has Popeye to do with Hanukkah?"

Answer: "His girlfriend's name is Olive Oyl!"

S Santashmanta

The explanation Jewish children get for when they celebrate Chanukkah while the rest of humanity celebrates Christmas.

Spelling of the holiday

Some people prefer to spell the holiday, "Hanukkah." Others think it's like string cheese. Some people peel it off, Some bite it, and some like the cheddar/mozzarella combo.

T Talmud

The Talmud devoted a scant two pages to Chanukah, while dedicating an entire volume to Purim.

U U Have to Laugh

Rabbi Barry Schechter mailed the following card a few years back:
"Hanukkah: Holiday for persons of Jewish descent to celebrate not having to drag a dirty dead pine tree into their nice clean living room."
Now he's got a "hobn humor"--sense of humor!

W Who was Judah Macabee?

According to Shimon Apisdorf, this is a description of Judah Maccabee:
"Close your eyes and picture Arnold Schwarzenegger: His Uzi has just jammed, he's got one arm in a sling, he's about to take on 300 bad guys all at once--an he's wearing a yarmulka. That's who Judah

Maccabee was!”

White House

10-year-old Yadid Frydman Orlow from White Plains, New York, wrote to President Obama thanking him for inviting his parents to a Hanukkah reception last year. He queried why they were holding a reception considering the small percentage of Jews in the U. S.

Obama responded to the boy by explaining that Jewish traditions and values have inspired American leaders and helped move the country forward. The President added, “Repairing the world will never be easy, but your enthusiasm and your questions give me confidence that our future is in good hands.”

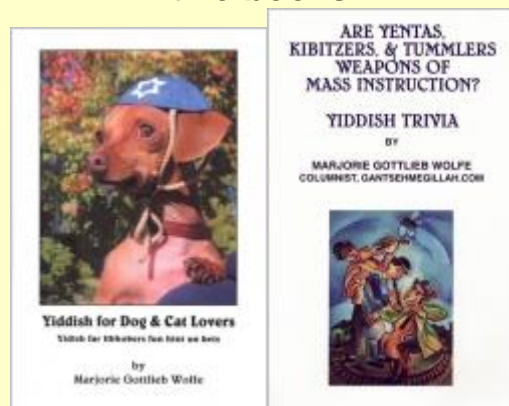
Z “Zayde” (Yiddish for “Grandfather”)

Twelve-year-old Sammy labored for many days to build a chair for his grandfather, and finally, on Chanukah, he presented it as a gift. But, when the boy’s grandfather sat on the chair, he found that the seat was far too high. “Oh, Zayde,” cried Sammy in disappointment, “I made the chair too high!” “No, you didn’t,” said the grandfather gently. “It’s just that the table is too low.

Search for Stories Beginning with the Letter

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Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction?
Yiddish**

Trivia." To order a copy, go to her
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