



*Happy Chanukah!*

# Chanukah

Jewish

[haa-nuh-kuh](#) 

Chanukah, which means dedication, celebrates the successful revolt that happened over 2,000 years ago against an oppressive regime that limited the rights of Jewish people and took over the Jews' sacred Temple. When The Temple was re-taken and re-dedicated, a small amount of oil was expected to burn for a short time, but instead it burned for eight days, which is why Chanukah lasts eight days. While a minor holy day, Chanukah has evolved in importance in America in response to the similar timing of the major Christian holiday, Christmas.

## Date

- Chanukah starts on the 25th day of Kislev and is based on the Hebrew calendar.
- Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown.
- Dates may vary depending on observance.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

A greeting of "Happy Chanukah" is appropriate.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- On the first night of Chanukah especially, and throughout the holiday, food fried in oil is eaten. People often share meals with family and friends and play a game with a spinning top called a dreidel.
- A candelabra, known as a Chanukah menorah, is lit in the evenings after sundown.
- Chanukah has several common spellings: Chanukah, Chanukkah, Hanukah, and Hanukkah. All are acceptable.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- Some observers of Judaism follow kosher rules of eating.
- Meat and dairy are not eaten together.
- Pork and seafood are not eaten.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Since this is considered by many American Jews a minor Holy Day, no accommodations are needed.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages Jewish](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Hanukkah](#)
- [Kosher Eating](#)

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This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).