

Welcome! Glad you're here.

## Hinenu Havdalah and Chanukah Lighting

SEVENTH CANDLE --- Dec 20, 2025 / Rosh Hodesh Tevet 5786

We'll get started after  
folks have a few  
moments to arrive.

Music: "*Nigun Y'tzilah*"  
Deborah Sacks Mintz

Text of these slides is also available as a separate doc  
and will be pasted into chat.

Let me know of any access issues I might address.

CHaNuKah *chet-nun-kaf* = “dedicate”

Music:

"I will  
dedicate  
myself

אֶחֱנֹךְ  
עֲצָמִי

*ehchenokh\**  
*atzmi*"

-- R' Koach Baruch Frazier, 2024

\* *kaf* also transliterated with “ch.”  
Lyrics in chat.

The Jewish calendar places Chanukah's 7th night at the thin sliver of a new moon, bringing the festival's final days from Kislev into the new month of Tevet.

As it happens this year, the earth is also reaching maximum tilt away from the sun, at tomorrow's winter solstice; our days will stop shrinking and start to grow longer.

Also, this year: we come to Chanukah's 7th candle as we separate from Shabbat.

At this moment of multiple transitions, what resources can we gather --from Shabbat the prior days of Chanukah, and the sacred darkness around us-- to help us move through the changes ahead? What dedications can guide us through all we'll face?

# Before recognizing Chanukah, we first separate from Shabbat

The havdalah text shared here, using nonbinary language for God, is adapted from *Siddur Dvar Ḥadash* ([inclusivesiddur.com](http://inclusivesiddur.com)).

NOTE: Nonbinary Hebrew Project (NBHP) sometimes adds syllables to existing Hebrew expressions. brin solomon's *Siddur Dvar Ḥadash* seeks to preserve common (Ashkenazi) prayer rhythms and musical settings and so adapts the NBHP system.

This version uses “YHVH” for the unpronounced name of God, while brin uses another substitute. Reading options for “YHVH” include:

"YAH" [found in Psalms].

"Adonai [Lord].

"HaShem [the Name]."

Reciting the letters, "yud-hey-vav-hey" or using another name for the divine, like "*Shekhinah*," instead.

# Havdalah: Adaptation from *Siddur Dvar H'adash*

DRINK

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חֵי הָעוֹלָמִים בּוֹרְאֵת פְּרֵי הַגָּפֶן:

*Bərūkheh ateh YHVH Elohéinu hei ha'olamim borə'at pəri hagáfen.*

Blessed are You, KINDLER our God, Life of endless worlds, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

SPICES

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חֵי הָעוֹלָמִים בּוֹרְאֵת מִיְנֵי בְשָׂמִים:

*Bərūkheh ateh YHVH Elohéinu hei ha'olamim borə'at minei vesamin.*

Blessed are You, KINDLER our God, Life of endless worlds, Creator of types of spices.

FLAME

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חֵי הָעוֹלָמִים בּוֹרְאֵת מְאוּרֵי הָאֵשׁ:

*Bərūkheh ateh YHVH Elohéinu hei ha'olamim borə'at mə'orei ha'eish.*

Blessed are You, KINDLER our God, Life of endless worlds, Creator of the flames of fire.

# Havdalah continued (*Siddur Dvar H'adash*, adapted)

## SEPARATION

*Bərukheh ateh YHVH Elohéinu hei ha'olamim  
hamavdileh bein qódeshe ləḥol, bein or ləḥóshekh \*  
bein yom hashəvi'i ləshéishet yəmei hama'aseh.  
Bərukheh ateh YHVH hamavdileh bein qódeshe ləḥol.*

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הַעוֹלָמִים  
הַמְבַדִּילָה בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל, בֵּין אוֹר לְחֹשֶׁךְ \*  
בֵּין יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לְשִׁשֶּׁת יָמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה:  
בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה הַמְבַדִּילָה בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל:

Blessed are You, KINDLER, our God, Life of endless worlds,  
Who separates between Holy and worldly, between light and darkness,\*  
between the seventh day and the six days of work.  
Blessed are You, KINDLER, Who separates between Holy and worldly.

\* some add:  
*"bein Yisra'eil la'amim [between Yisrael and other nations]"*

In many weeks, the “worldly” six days -- with all that seems to demand action -- pull us quickly away from Shabbat’s rest and joy. But, as Rena Branson teaches below, joy and rest are revolutionary, too, and should not be so quickly dismissed. On this special evening, shifting away from Shabbat sets us up to welcome Chanukah. And our Chanukah lighting, bringing us into the last, fullest days of the festival and into the new month, offers another chance to pause, reflect, and share a little more joy and rest:

... I do think joy and rest can be revolutionary. They are both core to the practice of Shabbat, which has become a lifeline for me—taking one day each week to turn off my phone and computer, nap, sing, eat, dance while I pray, and sync back up with the rhythms of the earth and of community. Living how I believe we were meant to live, in praise and delight, in harmony with all the other wonders of creation.

...Jewish tradition teaches that Shabbat is *me’ein olam haba*, a taste of the world to come. We need these tastes of future worlds in order to sustain our efforts here and now, but the ability to keep working is not the only reason why it’s good to rest and enjoy ourselves—that’s a capitalist mentality. It’s good to thrive because that is what we are designed to do, together. The more of us thrive, the more of us thrive.

Thriving is not the same as avoiding discomfort or being complacent, which is a form of death. Thriving is being truly alive, which means bursting through whatever confines our life force....

--excerpted from the introduction to "We Are Liberation," on Rena's "In Doing & In Dreaming" album, fall 2025

אור זרע לצדיק ולישרי לב שמחה

*Or zarua la-tzadik u'lishrei-lev simchah.*

Light is sown through acts of justice.  
Joy, as we direct our hearts toward good.

– Ps. 97:11. Translation: R' Yael Levy, A Way In: Jewish Mindfulness

This verse is associated Chanukah and with Shabbat, a good one to help us shift from Shabbat rest and joy into our dedications to Chanukah's spirit of resistance, protective darkness and light sown in hope of better things ahead.

Music: "Ohr Zaruah." David Shneyer, from 1996 Psalm Songs from Rock Creek



# Chanukah Blessings: Kindling and Miracles

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ/רוּחַ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה (1)  
*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh/Ruach haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel chanukah*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our Divine, Sovereign/Spirit of the universe, who makes us holy through Your mitzvot and commands us to light the Chanukah candles

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ/רוּחַ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמֶן הַזֶּה (2)  
*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh/Ruach haolam sh'asa nisim lavoteinu v'imoteinu ba'yamim hahem bazman hazeh*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our Divine, Sovereign/Spirit of the universe, who made miracles for our ancestors in their time [and for us] in this time

Same text used on other nights of this Hinenu Chanukah series. No changes to the text here, except that the transliteration above uses “kh” for *kaf*, and “ch” for *chet*, to keep the letters distinct, and spells the festival name with a final “h” (for that *hey*)



# What can we carry forward? What more can we sow?

Come let's dance in the streets / We are liberation  
We're gonna sing till everyone's free / We are liberation  
And in the light of our joy / All the empires will crumble  
And in the light of our joy / All the prison walls will tumble  
And in the light of our love / We will let the tears flow  
And in the light of our love / We will heal

*Or zarua latzadik / Ul'yishrei lev simcha (3X) / Yanainai...*

Come let's nap in our sheets / We are liberation  
We're gonna rest till everyone's free / We are liberation  
And in the light of our ease / All the empires will crumble  
And in the light of our ease / All the prison walls will tumble  
And in the light of our love / We will let the tears flow  
And in the light of our love / We will heal

– Rena Branson, “We Are Liberation.” In *Doing & In Dreaming*, 2025 (Bandcamp)

# Blessings of Darkness and Light!!

More about Hinenu at [hinenubaltimore.org](http://hinenubaltimore.org)

Deborah Sacks Mintz. [deborahsacksmintz.com](http://deborahsacksmintz.com), Bandcamp, Freegal Nigun Anthology III, 2019. Transcontinental Music Publications

Nonbinary Hebrew Project. [nonbinaryhebrew.com](http://nonbinaryhebrew.com)

*Siddur Dvar H'adash*, brin solomon. [inclusivesiddur.com](http://inclusivesiddur.com)

Rena Branson. [RenaBranson.com](http://RenaBranson.com), Bandcamp, and SoundCloud

R' Yael Levy. Directing the Heart Through Jewish Mindfulness. [awayin.org](http://awayin.org)

R' David Shneyer. [AmKolel.org](http://AmKolel.org), [rsa.fau.edu](http://rsa.fau.edu) (Jewish Music Archives)

R' Koach Baruch Frazier. SoundCloud and [rabbikoach.com](http://rabbikoach.com)

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