

Havdalah plus Chanukah candlelighting, 12/20/25 -- Virginia Spatz

Slide 1: Welcome! 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.

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.

Music: *Nigun Ytzirah*, Deborah Sacks Mintz

Slide 2:

CHaNuKah *chet-nun-kaf* = "dedicate"

Music: I will dedicate myself / אֶחֱנָה עַצְמִי | *ehchenokh* atzmi*

-- R' Koach Braruch 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?

LYRICS (not in slides) "אֶחֱנֹךְ עַצְמִי / *ehchenokh** atzmi*," R' Koach Baruch Frazier

“Ehchenoch atzmi - I will dedicate myself to transformation”

<https://soundcloud.com/koachfrazier/ehchenoch-atzmi>

I will dedicate myself to transformation
I will dedicate myself to be brave
I will dedicate myself to be joyous
I will dedicate
Ehchenoch atzmi
I will dedicate myself to liberation
I will dedicate myself to the truth
I will dedicate myself to keep on learning
I will dedicate
Ehchenoch atzmi
I will dedicate myself to self reflection
I will dedicate myself to solidarity
I will dedicate myself to resting my body
I will dedicate

Slide 3 -- Before recognizing Chanukah, we first separate from Shabbat

The havdalah text shared here, using nonbinary language for God, is adapted from *Siddur Dvar Hadash* (inclusivesiddur.com).

NOTE: Nonbinary Hebrew Project (NBHP) sometimes adds syllables to existing Hebrew expressions. brin solomon's *Siddur Dvar Hadash* 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.

Slide 4 -- Havdalah: Adaptation from *Siddur Dvar Hadash*

-- בָּרוּכָה אָתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים בָּרוּא תְּפִירָה הַגְּפָן: **DRINK**
Berukheh ateh YHVH Eloheinu hei ha'olamim bore'at p'eri hagafen.

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

-- בָּרוּכָה אָתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים בָּרוּא מִינֵּי בָשָׂמִים: **SPICES**
Berukheh ateh YHVH Eloheinu hei ha'olamim bore'at minei vesamim.

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

-- בָּרוּכָה אָתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים בָּרוּא מֵאֹרֶרֶת הַאֲשָׁר: **FLAME**
Berukheh ateh YHVH Eloheinu hei ha'olamim bore'at m'orei ha'eish.

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

Slide 5 -- Havdalah continued (*Siddur Dvar Hadash*, adapted)

-- בָּרוּכָה אָתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים
הַמְבָדֵילָה בֵּין קָדֵשׁ לְחַלָּ, בֵּין אָוֹר לְחַשָּׁךְ *
בֵּין יוֹם הַשְׁבִּיעִי לְשַׁבָּת יְמֵי הַמְעָשָׂה:
בָּרוּכָה אָתָּה יְהוָה הַמְבָדֵילָה בֵּין קָדֵשׁ לְחַלָּ:

*Berukheh ateh YHVH Eloheinu hei ha'olamim
hamavdileh bein qódesh ləħol. bein or ləħóshekh *
bein yom hashəv'i ləshéishet yəmei hama'aseh.
Berukheh ateh YHVH hamavdileh bein qódesh ləħol.*

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]"

Slide 6

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, offer 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

Slide 7

אור זרע לצדיק ולישרוי-לב שמחה

Or zaruah 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

Slide 8 -- Chanukah Blessings: Kindling and Miracles

ברוך אתה ייְהוָה מלך/רום העולם אשר קדשו במצוותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה (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

ברוך אתה ייְהוָה מלך/רום העולם שעשוה נסים לאבותינו ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמננו הזה (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*)

<https://nonbinaryhebrew.com/uses/tags/blessings-candlelighting>

Slide 9 -- 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)

Slide 10 -- Blessings of Darkness and Light!!

More about Hinenu at hinenubaltimore.org

Teachers/Leaders/Resources shared tonight:

Deborah Sacks Mintz. deborahsacksmintz.com, Bandcamp, Freegal
Nigun Anthology III, 2019. Transcontinental Music Publications
Nonbinary Hebrew Project. nonbinaryhebrew.com
Siddur Dvar Hadash, brin solomon. inclusiveiddur.com
Rena Branson. RenaBranson.com, Bandcamp, and SoundCloud
R' Yael Levy. Directing the Heart Through Jewish Mindfulness. awayin.org
R' David Shneyer. rsa.fau.edu (Jewish Music Archives)
R' Koach Baruch Frazier. SoundCloud and rabbikoach.com
Virginia Avniel Spatz. songeveryday.org and songeveryday@gmail.com

<https://soundcloud.com/koachfrazier/ehchenoch-atzmi>

<https://rsa.fau.edu/album/36569>

<https://nonbinaryhebrew.com/uses/tags/blessings-candlelighting>