

*“These lights are sacred—
meant only to be seen, and to inspire
us with memories of wonders past
and also wonders present.”*

*Ha'nerot halalu...kodesh heym...
v'eyn la'nu reshut le'hish'tamesh baheym,
ela le'ro'tam beel'vad...
al neesaycha v'al nif'loh'te'cha...*

– TRADITIONAL SIDDUR



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

Founded in 1974,

Clal—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership is a think tank, leadership training institute, and resource center. Bringing Jewish insights to a wide American audience, Clal makes Jewish wisdom an accessible public resource. A leader in religious pluralism, Clal builds bridges across communities to encourage diversity and openness. Linking Jewish texts and tradition with innovative scholarship, Clal promotes Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life, reinvigorating communities and enhancing leadership development.

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Nurtures volunteer, professional and rabbinic leadership to build dynamic communities and helps people to re-imagine Jewish life.

Enhances Jewish participation in American civic and spiritual life.

*Why are
these candles
different
from all other
candles?*

The answer—
when it comes
to Hanukkah,
could change
your life.

Clal—

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Many Voices. Strong Communities. One People.



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

**The National Jewish Center
for Learning and Leadership**

STANDING IN THE GLOW of the Hanukkah candles, we are invited to see ourselves, each other, and the world in a different light. That's one of the gifts of Hanukkah we can all give ourselves and those we love—it's a gift almost as old as the holiday itself, and it really works!

WHILE HANUKKAH is called the "festival of lights," referring to the many candles kindled in celebration of the holiday, and in recollection of the original menorah whose lights burned longer than the Maccabees expected, these candles really are different from all other candles. They have no purpose for us other than to bask in their light, in their warmth, and in the story they evoke.

UNLIKE SHABBAT CANDLES, which were originally very much about having light to use on Friday night, Hanukkah candles are to be seen and enjoyed, not used. That is why we light an extra candle called the *shamash*, or "utility candle." By the light of the Hanukkah candles we see a heroic past and what is great and even heroic in ourselves and each other.



The Hebrew word for Inclusive

This Hanukkah especially, with many questions about the future of America, Israel and the Jewish people looming large for so many people, we need the vision that comes from looking at things in the light of our Hanukkah candles. We need to see possibility where most see none, envision options while most bemoan their absence.

Here's how:

CANDLE LIGHT softens hard edges, it warms and invites imagination. People come together and often, in a moment of quiet, see the very best in themselves and each other when gathered around an open flame.

THIS YEAR turn off the lights in the room and allow yourself to see by Hanukkah light, if only for a few minutes.

BY THE GLOW of the candles, think about a seemingly insurmountable challenge in your life, in the life of the Jewish people, or in the life of our nation. Then allow yourself to imagine a response and how you might contribute to it. That's what the Maccabees did when they dared to make light when others deemed it impossible, and we can do the same. That's what it means to see things in Hanukkah light.