

SHAMASH NIGHT Event Kit

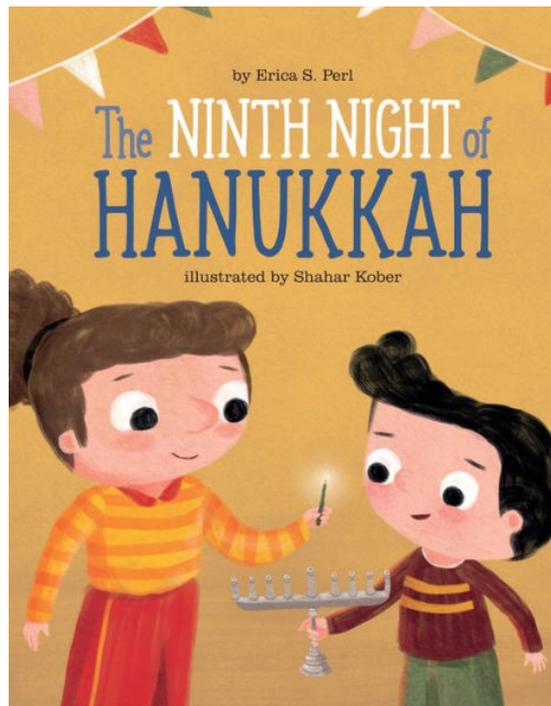


The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: A Shamash Night Event Kit

ABOUT THE BOOK & GUIDE

During Hanukkah, candles are lit to symbolize each of the eight nights of the celebration. But in a Hanukkah menorah, there is a ninth candle: the shamash. This “helper” candle is used to light all of the others.

In the picture book, Max and Rachel’s family moves into a new apartment right before Hanukkah and cannot find the box with their menorah and other cherished holiday objects. Their new neighbors pitch in with creative ways to help them celebrate. Max and Rachel are inspired to invite all of the neighbors over to show their appreciation and share their traditions. They name this impromptu event the Ninth Night of Hanukkah or “Shamash Night.”



By Erica S. Perl

Illustrated by Shahar Kober

Published by Sterling Children's Books

ISBN-13: 9781454940883

Age Range: 3 - Adult

“Like the shamash, individual people have the power to spark change and brighten the lives of those around them. That’s why Hanukkah is the perfect time for all of us to show appreciation for those who help us, help others, and help heal the world.” —Author Erica S. Perl

This Event Kit, invites families, synagogues, community centers, schools, and libraries to hold their own Shamash Night event. With a read-aloud, discussion, and activities, you can help children (and the whole community) make connections between giving and receiving help, and demonstrate the ways in which individuals make a community stronger and more vibrant.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Erica S. Perl is the author of many books for children, including **All Three Stooges** (National Jewish Book Award, Sydney Taylor Award Silver Medal), **When Life Gives You OJ** (Sydney Taylor Award Notable), and **Goatlocks and the Three Bears**. She lives in Washington, DC, with her family. Learn more about her on Twitter @ericaperl or at ericaperl.com.

Shahar Kober is a freelance illustrator and art director who lives in Israel. He graduated from Shenkar College of Design in 2005. He illustrates children's books, and contributes illustrations to newspapers, magazines, websites, and animation projects. You can find him at skober.com.

PRONUNCIATION

The word shamash is Hebrew and is pronounced “shah-MAHsh.” The Yiddish word shammes, which is what many families use, is pronounced “SHAH-miss.”

PLANNING YOUR SHAMASH NIGHT

“Oh, what a wonderful book! Erica Perl’s miraculous pen has crafted a story of kindness, creativity, cooperation, and community, complete with latkes, jelly donuts, chocolate gelt—and pizza! What more could a reader want? I am sure this book will inspire many, many families to celebrate the new tradition of Shamash Night for many years to come.”

—Lesléa Newman, National Jewish Book Award Winner

For families: This kit works for a celebration with just your immediate family to reflect on Helpers or, as in the book, a gathering with Jewish and non-Jewish family, friends, and/or community members. If you have non-Jewish guests, consider how you will share not only this new Shamash Night tradition, but your family’s Hanukkah traditions as well.

For schools and public libraries: Even if you have few Jewish students or patrons, this Event Kit is for you. According to Kirkus, The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH is “as useful on a community-helper shelf as in the holiday collection.” This kit will walk you through the cultural and religious aspects of the story. Consider, though, partnering with a Jewish community

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member. Can you contact your local synagogue, Jewish community group, or Interfaith group to find someone to hold the event with?

For synagogues or Jewish community groups: If you are thinking about opening the event to a broader community (as the family in the story does), consider contacting your public library. The library is always looking for book-centered cultural events and seeking community partners. The library may be able to provide a venue or hosting platform, marketing, or other connections. Call and ask for the Youth Services Librarian.

For virtual events: We offer many ways to hold an engaging online event on Pages 8-9.

NOTE: Author Erica S. Perl may be available to speak at your community event virtually. [Inquire through her website.](#)

SHARING THE EVENT

Public Event Poster

If this event is for the public, print out the event poster (page 10), add your date, time, and location, and duplicate it to advertise the event. If you prefer to adapt the poster in your design software, you can find a JPEG of the poster design at bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah or CuriousCityDPW.com. The fonts on the poster are Lunchbox Slab and Alegreya.

Public Event Copy

If you list your events in print or online, here is some text that may assist you:

SHAMASH NIGHT

Hanukkah is the perfect time for all of us to appreciate those who help us, help others, and help heal the world. In the picture book *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH* by Erica S. Perl and illustrated by Shahar Kober (Sterling Books), a family extends their Hanukkah to thank their new neighbors for making their upside-down Hanukkah special. They name the impromptu celebration “Shamash Night” after the ninth candle in the menorah—the one that helps light all of the other candles. Who lights the way for you? Join us to explore Hanukkah traditions and to thank the Helpers in all of our lives.

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Online Event Images

Visit bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah or CuriousCityDPW.com find invitation images for social media or email.

Inviting People to Your Home?

Look for paper invitation card templates (page 11-14) to make handmade invitations.

DECORATE

The family hangs homemade pennant flags for their Shamash Night celebration. We have borrowed their idea and colors and spelled “Shamash Night” across a spread of pennants. You can download the pennant PDF at bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah or CuriousCityDPW.com.

READ ALOUD

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH has dialogue from all four family members, the neighbors in their new apartment building, and the narrator. Consider involving others in a Readers’ Theater version of the story (pages 15-20) with different readers playing the roles. This format would be especially compelling if you are holding the event online.

BLESSING

After reading The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH, Rabbis Danny Zemel, Josh Beraha, and Stephanie Crawley of Temple Micah in Washington, DC, wrote a blessing for helpers. Consider sharing the blessing in Hebrew (with transliteration) and English (page 21) at your event.

DISCUSS & EXPLORE

How can you use the new tradition of Shamash Night and this picture book to open up the age-old traditions of Hanukkah to the larger community?

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“In the box, Max and Rachel found their family menorah, Hanukkah candles, Dad’s lucky latke pan, dreidels and gelt, wrapping paper, and Aunt Edith’s recipe for jelly donuts.”

—The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH
.....

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: A Shamash Night Event Kit

Author Erica Perl offers a brief cultural guide to explore the book with readers (pages 22-23). Feel free to copy any of these descriptions for signs, handouts, or other shared text at your event.

If you celebrate Hanukkah and are inviting non-Jewish members of your community to Shamash Night, think about asking each member of your family to talk about a favorite Hanukkah tradition. Consider sharing your menorah, dreidel, or other favorite objects to deepen your guests' understanding.

If you are holding the event at a public library, consider asking a Jewish community member to bring their collection of objects that represent their Hanukkah traditions to share.

ACTIVITY: CHAIN OF HELPERS

The shamash candle is the “helper” candle that lights the eight candles on the eight nights of Hanukkah. Newly moved into their building, Max and Rachel’s family relied on the helpers in their building to make each night like Hanukkah.



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“Thank You to Erica Perl for giving us a special night to say, ‘thank you’ to those who help make our lives brighter. This clever and charming book honors children’s creativity and resourcefulness. What a miracle it would be if we all showed our appreciation for the diverse lives of the community that surrounds and uplifts us. Like the Shammes candle, may we reach out and share our light. From now on my family will be celebrating the Ninth Night!”

— Richard Michelson, National Jewish Book Award Winner
.....

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: A Shamash Night Event Kit

Make the transition from the read-aloud to an exploration of Hanukkah traditions to a discussion of helpers with text like this:

SAMPLE SCRIPT:

The Jewish people say blessings and light candles each night of Hanukkah. We/They start by lighting one candle—using the shamash, or helper candle—the first night, and we/they add one additional candle each night until all the candles are lit on the eighth and final night of the holiday...

Like the shamash, individual people have the power to spark change and brighten the lives of those around them. That's why Hanukkah is the perfect time for all of us to show appreciation for those who help us, help others, and help heal the world. Who helps you?

You can invite everyone to brainstorm a list of helpers in their day-to-day life—this can include neighbors (like in the book), but also librarians, teachers, babysitters, dog walkers, crossing guards, postal workers, trash collectors, and newspaper deliverers. Consider asking them about people who help the world as well. Who heals the world?

Print the Shamash Candle Activity (page 24) for each of your readers. The activity features a row of eight menorah candles with the ninth or shamash candle lit in the middle. Each candle has room for your readers to write a helper on it. An accordion fold and a cut allow the eight paper candles to stand on a surface side by side as a reminder of shamash or the power of helping. Consider making this activity last throughout Hanukkah. Have your readers color the flame of a candle and write down a helper's name on it on each of the eight nights.

ACTIVITY: THANK YOU NOTES

Once readers have made a chain of helpers, they may want to personally thank one or more of them. A card template (pages 11-14) invites the reader to draw or collage a candle on the cover and write a personal message inside. One face of the inside of the card reads, "During Hanukkah, the shamash candle gives light to all the other candles. We are thankful to you because, like the shamash candle, your light helps to brighten our days." Readers can be

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encouraged to mail or drop-off these special notes of appreciation—on their own or with anything else you wish to add (elbow bumps and baked goods are nice ideas).

START A HOME TRADITION

Each community celebration of Shamash Night, whether at a public library or a synagogue, could inspire Shamash Night traditions at home. An event take-away sheet (page 25) invites readers to download an event kit for home use.

SHARING SHAMASH NIGHT

If you share the book, Shamash Night event on social media, consider using the hashtag **#ShamashNight**. You are also welcome to use **#NinthNightofHanukkah**.

SHAMASH NIGHT ON ZOOM

We hope that some Hanukkah in the not-so-distant future, we will all be able to celebrate community in person. While we are still social distancing, here are some ideas for Shamash Night online:

- **Images:** Use the online event images available at bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah or CuriousCityDPW.com to create an email invitation.
- **Read Aloud:** Prepare for a read aloud of The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH. Be prepared to show the book fully on your screen. Using the Readers' Theater script (pages 15-20) with or without other readers will allow you to read the book while a companion turns the pages for the online audience.
- **Traditions:** Like the family in the book, find a way to share the cherished objects and traditions of Hanukkah onscreen. If you are a family or synagogue, show your menorah to talk about the significance of the eight nights of Hanukkah represented by the eight candles. Make sure, of course, to show the shamash candle. If you are a public librarian, invite a family to show their menorah and speak from their home.

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Remember that there is a Chat function on Zoom and other platforms. That location may be a good place to add additional information and links.

- **Speak of the Helpers:** Whether you speak of Helpers in a general way (for events with the public) or tell each person on the call how they help you (for events with families and friends), the sample script (page 7) will help. Depending on your time, invite people to use the Chat to say who their Helpers are or use the Raise Your Hand function to invite them to speak on screen.
- **Activities:** Share a link to the Chain of Helpers and Thank You Card activity templates on bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah to encourage people to acknowledge and thank their helpers. Consider making a sample to show attendees.
- **Blessing:** Can you close with a blessing? Find the Shamash Night blessing on page 21.



SHAMASH NIGHT

Join us!



Image © Shahr Kober



For an event that honors
the helpers in our lives.

SHAMASH NIGHT Cards



Thank You Cards

The picture book *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH* invites readers to consider the people who, like the shamash candle, bring light into our lives or into the world.

Who helps you in your day-to-day life? This can include neighbors (like in the book), but also librarians, teachers, babysitters, dog walkers, crossing guards, postal workers, trash collectors, and more? Who helps the broader community or world? Take the time to say "thank you" with a Shamash Night card.

- 1) Print out the foldable Thank You Card template.
- 2) Fold the template on the dotted line with the blank side of the paper folded inside the card.
- 3) Consider drawing or collaging a candle on the front cover.
- 4) Add a special message inside.
- 5) Mail or drop off these special notes of appreciation—on their own or with anything else you wish to add (elbow bumps and baked goods are nice ideas).

Find more card templates at:
bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah

Invitation Cards

Whether you are a family, library, school, synagogue, or community group, the spirit of Shamash Night is the same. This new celebration invites us to honor those who help us, help others, and help heal the world.

If you are inviting people into your space, we have created two foldable invitation templates using illustrations from *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH*. Find more tools and ideas to celebrate Shamash Night (including email and social media invitation images) at:
bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah

"Thank You to author Erica Perl for giving us a special night to say, 'thank you' to those who help make our lives brighter...What a miracle it would be if we all showed our appreciation for the diverse lives of the community that surrounds and uplifts us. Like the Shammes candle, may we reach out and share our light. From now on my family will be celebrating the Ninth Night!"

— Richard Michelson, National Jewish Book Award Winner

During Hanukkah, the shamash candle gives light to all the other candles. We are thankful to you because, like the shamash candle, your light helps to brighten our days.

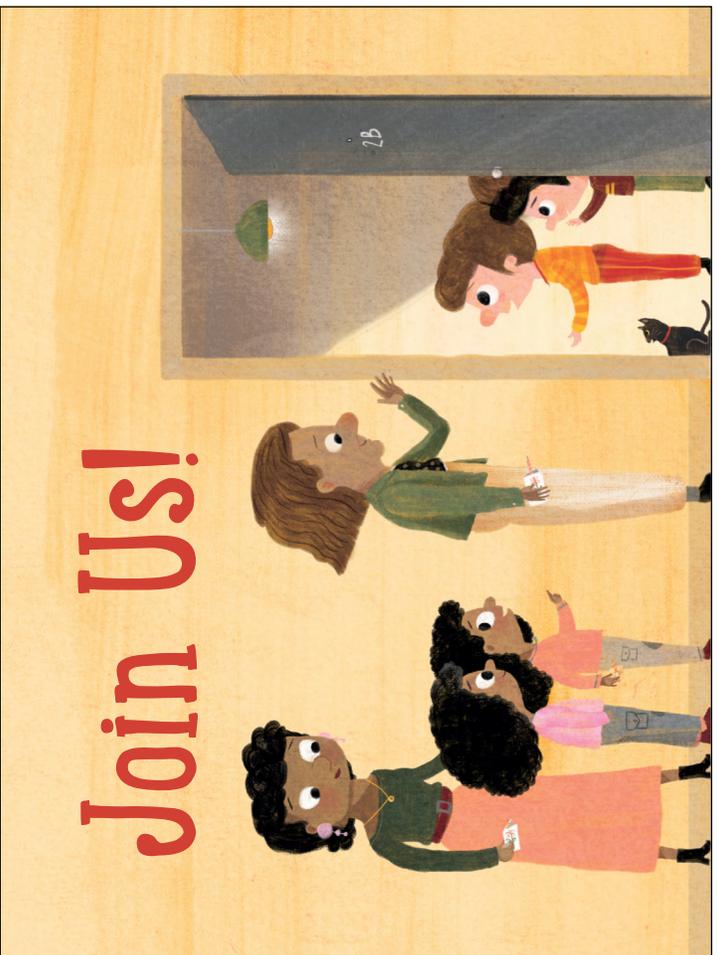
The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH

This card was inspired by reading the picture book

by Erica S. Perl and illustrated by Shahar Kober

(Sterling Children's Books). Image © Shahar Kober

bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah



SHAMASH NIGHT

During Hanukkah, the shamash candle gives light to all the other candles. On this "ninth night" of Hanukkah we would like to thank the people who brighten our days.

This celebration is inspired by the picture book

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH

by Erica S. Perl and illustrated by Shahar Kober
(Sterling Children's Books). Image © Shahar Kober

bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah



isn't it?

SHAMASH NIGHT

During Hanukkah, the shamash candle gives light to all the other candles. On this "ninth night" of Hanukkah we would like to thank the people who brighten our days.

This celebration is inspired by the picture book

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH

by Erica S. Perl and illustrated by Shahar Kober
(Sterling Children's Books). Image © Shahar Kober

bit.ly/9thNighttHanukkah

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

ABOUT THE BOOK

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH

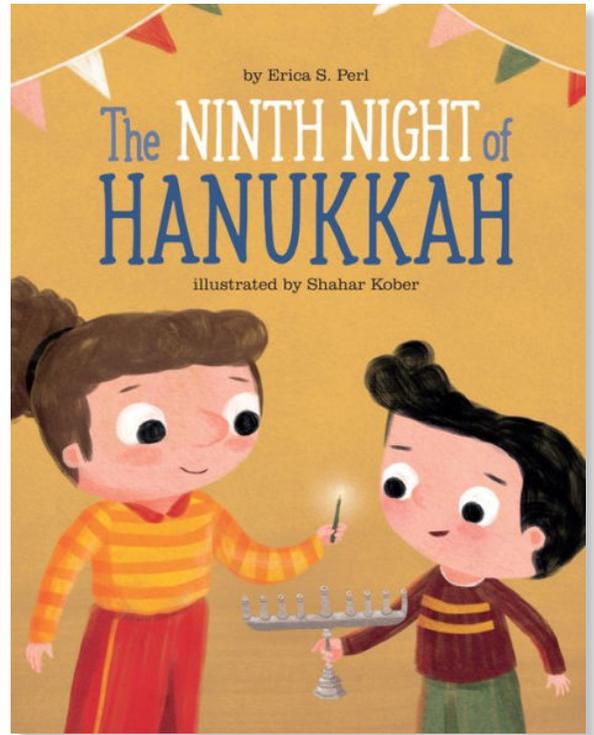
By Erica S. Perl

Illustrated by Shahar Kober

Published by Sterling Children's Books

ISBN: 9781454940883

Max and Rachel's family moves into a new apartment right before Hanukkah and cannot find the box with their menorah and other cherished holiday objects. Their new neighbors pitch in with creative ways to help them celebrate. Max and Rachel are inspired to invite all of the neighbors over to show their appreciation and share their traditions. They name this impromptu event the Ninth Night of Hanukkah or "Shamash Night."



.....



CAST

- 1) Narrator
- 2) Mom
- 3) Dad
- 4) Max
- 5) Rachel
- 6) Mrs. Mendez
- 7) Joe, the Super
- 8) Mr. Patel
- 9) Watson Twins
- 10) Dr. Lee
- 11) Delivery Person

NOTE: This is not an exact copy of the picture book's text. Some visual cues and dialogue breaks have been added for readability.

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

SPREAD 1

Narrator: On the first night of Hanukkah, Mom couldn't find the menorah.

Dad: Special delivery!

Narrator:said Dad, arriving with pizza. Max and Rachel looked at each other.

Max: No menorah?

Rachel: No latkes?

Mom: It's just for tonight. I'm sure we'll find our Hanukkah things tomorrow.

Narrator: Exhausted from unpacking, the family sat down to dinner in their new apartment. It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 2

Narrator: On the second night, the missing menorah still hadn't turned up.

Max: Should we go to the store?

Rachel: No, we'll find it soon. Besides, I have an idea for tonight.

Narrator: Rachel made a beautiful menorah. Max helped her decorate it. But when it came time to light the candles, Mom realized she packed them with the menorah.

SPREAD 3

Max: Now should we go to the store?

Narrator: Mom checked her watch and shook her head.

Mom: Everything's probably closed by now.

Narrator: Max and Rachel convinced Mom to let them ask one neighbor. They knocked on 2C, right next door, and explained the situation to Mrs. Mendez.

Mrs. Mendez: Would these birthday candles work?

Rachel: Maybe.

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

SPREAD 4

Narrator: Dad lit the shamash. Max and Rachel each used it to light a candle. Then Max and Rachel both got presents. It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 5

Narrator: On the third night, Dad offered to make latkes. He just needed to find his lucky latke pan. As Dad searched through box after box, Max followed his nose downstairs. To 1B, where he met Joe, the super.

Joe, the Super: Welcome to the building. Need anything? Let me know.

Max: Anything?

Narrator:....asked Max, eyeing the steaming platter of french fries. Joe happily shared. It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 6

Narrator: On the fourth night, Max said...

Max: Let's play dreidel!

Rachel: One problem: no dreidel.

Dad: I'm beginning to think one of our boxes got lost.

Narrator: So, Mom called the moving company. And Max and Rachel set out to find a dreidel. The Watson twins, who lived upstairs in 3B, didn't have one. But they did have a toy that could spin and spin.

Watson Twins: Our hula hoop! Want to try?

Narrator: It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 7

Narrator: On the fifth night, Max and Rachel figured out a way to play dreidel. They built one, using a spare cardboard box and an umbrella! Which meant they needed gelt.

Mr. Patel: No chocolate coins, but I do have chocolate chips.

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

Narrator: ...said Mr. Patel, in 4A. It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 8

Narrator: On the sixth night, Rachel wanted to have a Hanukkah sing-along. But Mom's guitar hadn't arrived yet.

Watson Twins: Gigi has one!

Narrator:....shouted the Watson twins, running up to 5C. It turned out they were almost right: Gigi had a ukulele. Mom taught Gigi the chords to "Rock of Ages," and everyone sang. It was nice . . .but it didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 9

Narrator: On the seventh night, Max and Rachel discovered they were missing something else.

Rachel: How do you wrap a present without wrapping paper?

Narrator: On their way outside, they saw Dr. Lee reading in the lobby. When they asked him where to buy wrapping paper, he handed them *the comics*.

Dr. Lee: Try using these.

Narrator: So, they did. It was nice . . . but it still didn't feel quite like Hanukkah.

SPREAD 10

Narrator: On the eighth night, Max realized what their Hanukkah needed: jelly donuts! It took knocking on several doors, but finally Max got his jelly. From the twins' mom in 3B. Just not in donut form.

Rachel: That was nice . . .

Narrator: ...said Rachel, as they walked downstairs. Max took a big bite of the peanut butter and jelly sandwich and finished her thought...

Max: Mmuht it mmuhsn't feel quite like Hummukkuh.

SPREAD 11

Narrator: The next morning, there was a knock at the door.

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

Delivery Person: Special delivery!

Narrator: Only this time, it wasn't Dad or pizza. And it wasn't the long-lost box.

Mom: My guitar! Let's have a Hanukkah sing-along tonight.

Rachel: But, last night was the eighth night. It won't be Hanukkah anymore.

Max: Maybe it should be. Nine candles, nine nights.

Narrator: Rachel's eyes lit up. She whispered to Max.

SPREAD 12

Narrator: Max whispered back, and together they developed a plan. With a box of candles and a box of crayons, they set it in motion. That evening, Max and Rachel waited. And waited.

Max: Maybe this isn't going to work.

Rachel: It'll work.

Narrator:....said Rachel, sounding more confident than she felt.

SPREAD 13

Narrator: Just then, there was a knock at the door. And another. And another. Max and Rachel thanked all of their neighbors for coming. Then they explained the reason for their Shamash Night celebration.

Max: For eight nights of Hanukkah, the shamash helps light all the other candles.

Rachel: Like all of you helped us. So, we wanted to say thanks—to the shamash and to you.

Narrator: Just then, a voice called out from the back of the line of guests.

Delivery Person: Special delivery!

SPREAD 14

Mom: The missing box!

Dad: Now that's what I call a miracle!

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: Readers' Theater

Narrator: In the box, Max and Rachel found their family menorah, Hanukkah candles, Dad's lucky latke pan, dreidels and gelt, wrapping paper, and Aunt Edith's recipe for jelly donuts.

SPREAD 15

Narrator: So, on the ninth night in their new home, Max and Rachel and their new friends talked and laughed, ate and played games, sang and danced by the light of many candles. It was nice. Really, REALLY nice. And best of all, it felt exactly like Hanukkah.

All: The end!

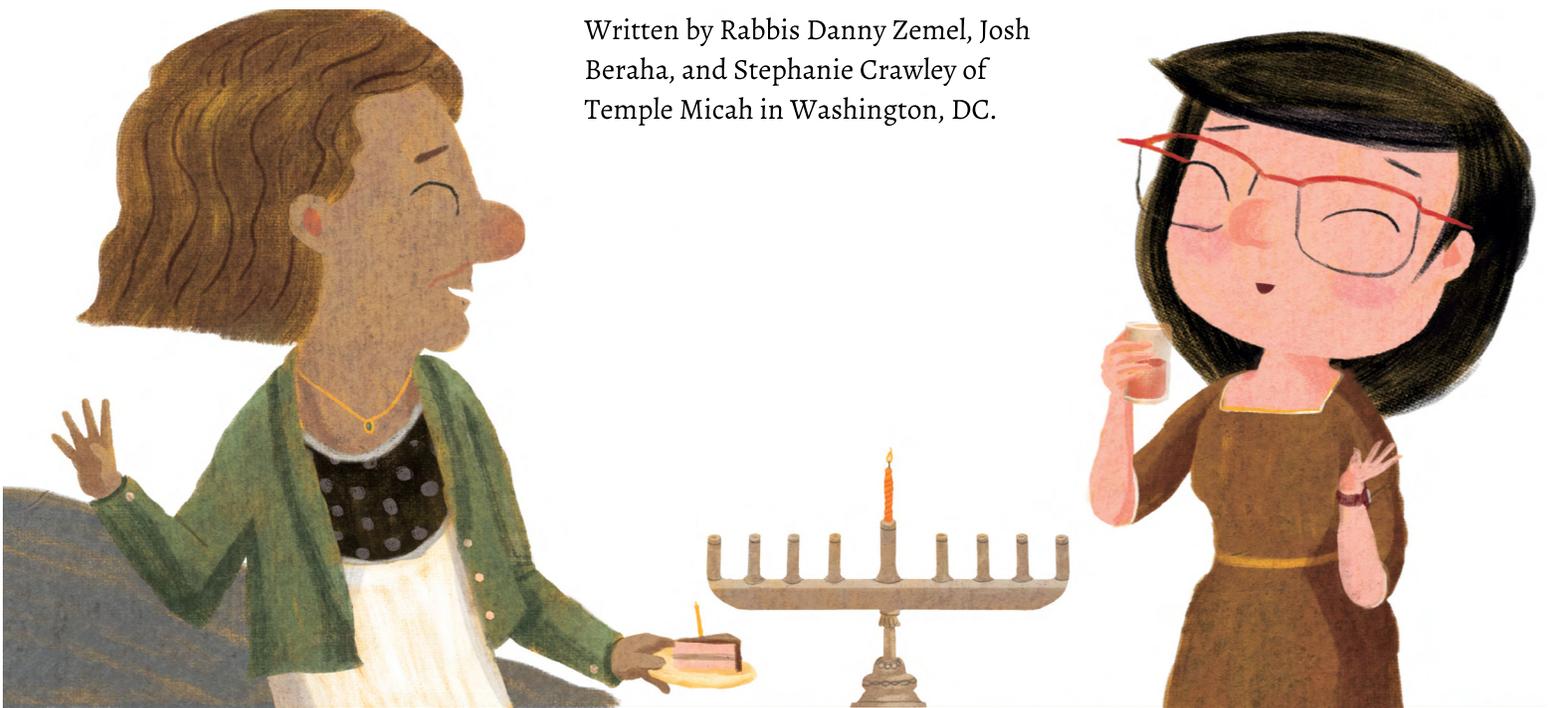
SHAMASH NIGHT Blessing

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמַדְלִיקִים נֵר שְׁמָשִׁים, שְׁמַחֲזִקִים אוֹתָנוּ בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'madlikim ner shamashim, she'm'chazkim o'tanu ba'zman hazeh.

Praise to you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who sanctifies us through the light symbolizing the shamash/helpers, who strengthen us in our daily lives.

Written by Rabbis Danny Zemel, Josh Beraha, and Stephanie Crawley of Temple Micah in Washington, DC.



For engagement with the picture book *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH* by Erica S. Perl and illustrated by Shahr Kober (Sterling Children's Books). Image © Shahr Kober. bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: A Cultural Guide

About this Guide

Are the traditions of the Jewish faith new to you? Here, author Erica S. Perl explains the Hanukkah customs and cherished objects of the family depicted in her picture book *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH* (Sterling Children's Books).

Hanukkah, Menorah, and Candles

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, commemorates the victory of a small, ragtag band of Maccabean soldiers over the far more powerful Greek/Syrian forces of King Antiochus in the year 165 B.C.E. The legend is that after the Maccabees regained control of the defiled and damaged Temple, there was only enough lamp oil for one night, and yet—miraculously—it burned for eight nights. For this reason, we say blessings and light candles each night of Hanukkah. We start by lighting one candle—using the *shamash**, or helper candle—the first night, and we add one additional candle each night until all the candles are lit on the eighth and final night of the holiday.

**The word shamash is Hebrew and is pronounced "shah-MAHsh." The Yiddish word shammes, which is what many families (including my own) use, is pronounced "SHAH-miss."*



The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH: A Cultural Guide

Latkes and Jelly Donuts

Because the story of Hanukkah involves an oil lamp, many traditional Hanukkah foods are cooked in oil. A favorite is latkes, or grated potato pancakes. These are typically served with sour cream or applesauce. Another Hanukkah food is sufganiot, or jelly donuts. Fried in oil, then dusted with powdered sugar, these are popular in Israel and all over the world.

Presents

Hanukkah is often mistakenly thought of as the Jewish version of Christmas. There is actually no connection between the two holidays. Many Hanukkah celebrations do involve presents, but they are often small gifts. Jewish families also practice tzedakah by making charitable gifts and donating their time around Hanukkah (volunteering at soup kitchens on Christmas Day, for example, and organizing winter coat drives for needy children and families).

Dreidels and Gelt

Dreidels are a kind of top, used to play a simple betting game. Each of the four sides of the dreidel has a specific Hebrew character: Nun, Gimel, Hay, and Shin (or Pay, in Israel... keep reading to understand why!). These each represent the first letter in a sentence: Nes Gadol Haya Sham (Po), which means A great miracle happened there (here). See? In Israel, it's "here" because that's where the miracle is said to have happened. Before every turn, the players put a piece of gelt (foil-wrapped chocolate coins) in the center pile. Then, a player spins the dreidel and the letter it lands on determines the result. Nun (נ), the player gets nothing. Gimel (ג), the player gets everything in the center pile. Hay (ה), the player gets half of the center pile. Shin (ש), the player has to put one more piece of gelt into the center pile. Then, everyone puts in one more piece of gelt, and the next player takes a spin, and so on around the circle. If you run out of gelt, you're out. The game ends when there is one player left.

Mom's Guitar and Aunt Edith's Recipe

The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH involves starting an exciting new tradition. There are many cherished Hanukkah traditions, like using holiday recipes that came from beloved relatives and getting together for candle-lighting, stories, and sing-alongs. Some favorite Hanukkah songs include *I Had a Little Dreidel*, and *Rock of Ages (Ma'o tzur)*.

The shamash candle is the "helper" candle that lights the other eight candles in the menorah. Like the shamash, people have the power to brighten the lives of others and spark change. That's why Hanukkah is the perfect time for all of us to show appreciation for those who help us, help others, and help heal the world.

Who helps you?

- 1) Write a name of someone who helps you, lights up your days, or sparks change on each of the candles below.
- 2) Draw the flame on each candle with a crayon.
- 3) Fold the paper like a fan, using the candle lines as your fold lines.
- 4) With the paper folded, ask for help to cut out the top of the candle, the wick, and the flame.
- 5) Unfold and display your candles in honor of helpers.



the shamash candle

Learn about Shamash Night in the picture book
The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH (Sterling Books).

Thank you for attending our Shamash Night event! If you would like to hold your own Shamash Night, you can find ideas and templates at: bit.ly/9thNightHanukkah



This event was inspired by the book *The NINTH NIGHT of HANUKKAH* by Erica S. Perl & illustrated by Shahar Kober (Sterling Children's Books). Image © Shahar Kober

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