We understand that how we gather looks different these days. Whether you are coming together in person or online, PJ Library will continue to provide content to connect with your community. Inside you’ll find ways to:

- Use Jewish text in everyday occurrences
- Make meaningful connections to families through Jewish values
- Enrich learning experiences for all ages

For more information on this initiative, check us out online at www.pjlibrary.org/organizations

To receive these resources in your inbox, share your contact information with us at www.pjlibrary.org/resource-reg
Larry’s Latkes

Written by: Jenna Waldman
Illustrated by: Ben Whitehouse

Everyone loves Larry’s latkes — they’re the best latkes in town. But this year he wants to make them even more special, so he experiments with some new flavors. As he soon learns, trying new things is a good thing to do, but sometimes you just shouldn’t mess with success!

These are the Days of Miracle and Wonder

There are many miracles associated with Hanukkah — the story of the oil lasting for 8 days, the Maccabees defeating Antiochus and his army, and in this story, Larry’s friends banding together to make sure that they have enough latkes to celebrate the holiday. As your community prepares to celebrate Hanukkah this year, invite people to share stories of the small and large miracles they have witnessed in the past year. You could have a “story slam” style event, an online sharing circle, or integrate stories into your Hanukkah Shabbat gathering.

Lots More than Latkes

Larry and his friends celebrate Hanukkah with latkes, but there are many other oil-rich foods that people around the world enjoy to commemorate that miracle. In India you might enjoy dosas. In Israel sufganiyot are popular. Bimuelos are a perfect treat this time of year in parts of South America. If your community is comfortable eating together and sharing food, have a Hanukkah treat potluck and encourage people to bring their favorite fried foods. If you’re looking for more ideas, check out some recipes here: pjfor.me/more-hanukkah-recipes

Out with the Old?

Traditions are important, but we’re always adapting to new circumstances. The past nearly 2 years has certainly shown us that we can reimagine old practices to fit with our current conditions. If it’s not possible to celebrate Hanukkah with your community as you normally do, take the festivities outside, no matter the weather (if you’re in a colder climate, just have folks bundle up!). Mask up and come together to celebrate the Festival of Lights by hanging twinkling lights in a dedicated outdoor space, creating paper bag lanterns, playing flashlight tag, and lighting sparklers. Set the scene for more time spent outside together. What a great way to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah.

This year brings another opportunity to experience the mash up of Hanukkah and Thanksgiving in the US. As families may be gathering for both occasions, it’s a great opportunity for them to explore the way DEDICATION is connected to the two holidays. Ask folks to share on your social media pages what they’re thankful for about Hanukkah or something that they consider a miracle of Thanksgiving. You could use the hashtag #HanukkatHaHodaa.

For all things Hanukkah: pjlibrary.org/hanukkah
For our podcast version of the Hanukkah story: pjfor.me/HanukkahPod
For more great Hanukkah recipes: pjfor.me/hanukkah-recipes
For a latke recipe just like Larry’s: pjfor.me/veggie-latkes