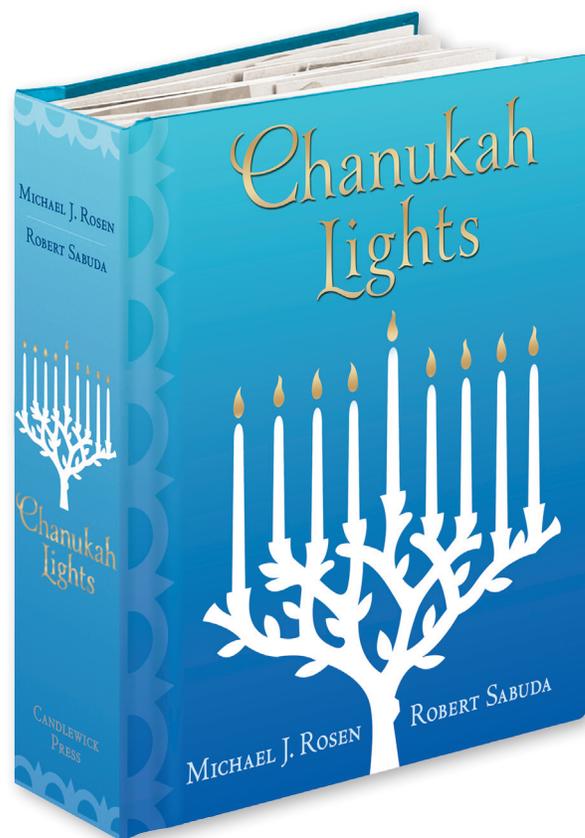


Chanukah Lights

From a pop-up master and an acclaimed poet and author comes a gloriously original celebration of the true spirit of Chanukah.



Open this beautiful gift book and follow the Festival of Lights through place and time—from the temple where Jewish freedom was first fought to a shtetl in Russia; from a refugee ship bound for the New World to an Israeli kibbutz. Inspired by Michael J. Rosen's reverent poem, Robert Sabuda's striking pop-ups depict each night's menorah in a different scene, using imagery such as desert tents, pushcart lanterns, olive trees, and a final panorama of skyscrapers. Sure to be a treasured family heirloom, this stunning collaboration showcases the spirit and resilience of a people in search of home.



ON SALE SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

HC: 978-0-7636-5533-4

\$34.99 (\$40.00 CAN)

Age 5 and up

Michael J. Rosen has written and edited some ninety books for children and adults, including the critically acclaimed *The Cuckoo's Haiku and Other Birding Poems*. His books have won many awards, among them the National Jewish Book Award, the inaugural Once Upon a World Children's Book Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance, and three Ohioana Book Awards. He lives in Glenford, Ohio.

Robert Sabuda is the creator of many best-selling pop-up books, including *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, *America the Beautiful*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. He is also the cocreator, with Matthew Reinhart, of the *Encyclopedia Prehistorica* and *Encyclopedia Mythologica* series. He lives in New York City.



CANDLEWICK PRESS
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Chanukah Lights

Dear Readers,

In 1996, Robert Sabuda and I—and our editor, Liz Bicknell—first envisioned this book you are now holding. And after fifteen years, we are overjoyed to have had the chance to create it together.

Robert and I mulled over several ideas, but found ourselves asking two key questions: What, uniquely, could his paper engineering offer to a Chanukah book? And what, uniquely, could I write about a holiday whose story of Judas Maccabeus and the desecration of the Temple by the Syrians—whose modern traditions of frying latkes, lighting candles, or giving presents—had been told time and again?

We quickly found ourselves examining the origins of the festival:

- ♦ The “stage” of Chanukah is set at the end of a battle that historians often cite as the first “war” over religious freedom. The Festival of Lights is a recognition of the permanence of one burning lamp, but, moreover, it’s a recognition of the persistence of the Jewish faith.
- ♦ As a people, Jews have no zeal for celebrating death or conquest. *Spiritual* victories, however, are celebrated. The miracle of the oil is a spiritual victory.
- ♦ Jews are painfully aware that G-d has time to grant olive oil a little divine “extender,” but none to prevent enslavement, deaths, or persecution. Doesn’t the light of history make a focus on the miracle of the oil seem trivial?

So what is the holiday’s significance that we *can* highlight? What is the enduring theme? It’s this: Chanukah celebrates the fact that throughout the ages, under a variety of oppressive regimes and amid much hate-fueled zealotry, the Jewish people persisted in rededicating themselves to their faith. It could be said that the history of the Jews centers on making peace with larger cultures while maintaining a separate identity.

The lights of the menorah are not meant to provide illumination. They aren’t meant to see by; they are to be seen themselves . . . by those in the house, and by all those passing by.

Robert and I therefore created a book of eight spreads, one for each night of Chanukah, a book that moves through place and time. Each page is a window into history, a window where a menorah is shining. Beginning with the desecration of the Temple, we show this journey in the Diaspora, in the persistence of Jewish people to light the candles and remember the miracle of the olive oil and the presence of G-d in their lives, even as they searched for a homeland, fled hostile countries, voyaged to the unknown New World, and rebuilt communities as immigrants in lands where Hebrew had never before been heard.

So our story is the celebration of this enduring spirit that yet lights menorahs across the earth.

It’s our hope that *Chanukah Lights* will be a blessing or grace that your family might add to its holiday traditions.

— MICHAEL J. ROSEN

