

## HOW TO MAKE HOME DIPPED CANDLES

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please note that the following information comes from World Over Magazine, published by the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York. If using any or all of this material, please credit World Over and the Board of Jewish Education.)

With the start of Hanukkah, windows in Jewish homes throughout the world will be enhanced by the glow of Hanukkah Menorahs. The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York's World Over Magazine offers some background on the traditions of lighting the Menorah.

Each year, on the 25th of Kislev on the Jewish calendar, the Menorah or Hanukkiah is brought out, polished and cleaned, and placed on the window sill for the neighborhood to see. As twilight approaches and the first stars appear, Jews around the world say blessings and light the first candle. Hanukkah has then officially begun.

On each of the next seven nights, the number of candles lit is increased by one, kindled right to left, so that at the end of the holiday, eight candles, plus the Shammash, stand aflame. The Shammash is a "helper" candle which stands above the rest, either in the center or to one side of the Menorah - and is used to kindle the flame of the other candles.

The lighting of the Menorah commemorates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem by Judah Maccabee and his followers, who, against over-whelming odds, fought to practice their religious beliefs. The Hanukkah Menorah is the most important symbol of Hanukkah. Originally, Hanukkiot were oil candlesticks of all shapes. Eventually, however, the familiar shape of eight branches plus a Shammash became popular.

Although the original Menorahs were kindled with oil and wicks, today's candles are the more familiar source of light. The lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah, which is such a treat for children, will be even more of a treat when the candles are homemade. This candle-dipping recipe, which parents and children can make together, also comes from the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York's World Over Magazine.

For the candle-dipping you will need:  
paraffin  
cotton string or store-bought candle wicks  
newspaper  
cooking pot  
tall tin can (should fit comfortably in pot)  
fork  
scissors

1. Candle dipping can be messy. Spread newspaper around where you will be working.

2. Fill the can about 2/3 full with water and place it in the pot. Fill the pot about 1/2 full with water and put over medium heat.

3. As the water in the pot and can begins to boil, add chunks of paraffin to the can until it is nearly full. Wax is lighter than water, and as it melts, it will form a layer on top of the water.

4. For candle-dipping, the melted wax must be at just the right temperature - not too hot, or the wax will slide off the wick; not too cool, or the wax will be too thick for dipping. You'll have to find the right temperature by trial and error. In general, turn the heat down to a low setting once the wax has melted, or else turn it off. (If you turn the heat off, make sure the wax does not begin to thicken).

5. Cut a piece of cotton string or wicking material at least twice as long as the can is high, and weave it between the prongs of a fork, leaving the ends dangling.

6. Holding the fork handle, dip the dangling wicks into the can until they touch bottom. As the wicks pass through the layer of molten wax, the wax will be deposited on them. Pull the wicks out of the can and wait for the wax to harden. Be sure to keep the two wicks separated.

7. Continue to dip, always letting the wax harden between dippings. After a few dippings, the wicks may need to be straightened, but as the wax builds up, the candles will become quite stiff and straight on their own. Dip the wicks quickly in and out of the wax until the candles are the thickness you want. It takes many dippings - sometimes fifty - before the candle

is fat. (You may speed up the process by filling a tall pitcher with cold water and alternately dipping the candles between the wax and the water).

8. When the candles are complete, they will have the connecting wick between them. Snip the loop with a scissors and trim the wicks to about half-an-inch.

The Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, a member agency of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, is the world's largest central agency for Jewish education. It conducts a broad range of city-wide and regional educational and cultural programs aimed at improving the scope and quality of Jewish education for youths and adults. Serving some 110,000 children in 660 Jewish schools, and thousands of others through a variety of programs, BJE provides leadership and service to the Greater New York Jewish community. Alvin Hellerstein of Manhattan is president and Dr. Alvin I. Schiff of Oceanside serves as executive vice president.

### PERCY WANTS PALESTINIAN SOLUTION

WASH. (WNS) -- Sen. Charles Percy (R.Ill.), who is scheduled to become chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when the new Congress organizes in January, said here that peace in the Middle East requires a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Answering questions at a press conference in the Capitol, Percy also reiterated his long standing opposition to Premier Menachem Begin's settlement policies on the West Bank which, he said, have not "been conducive to the peace process." He predicted that the Reagan Administration will give peace in the Middle East "a very high order of priority."

However, he said he has not discussed the incoming Administration's position which he said would become clear during the confirmation hearings before his committee for the new Secretary of State and Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asian Affairs. "I don't have any insight as to what their next step

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