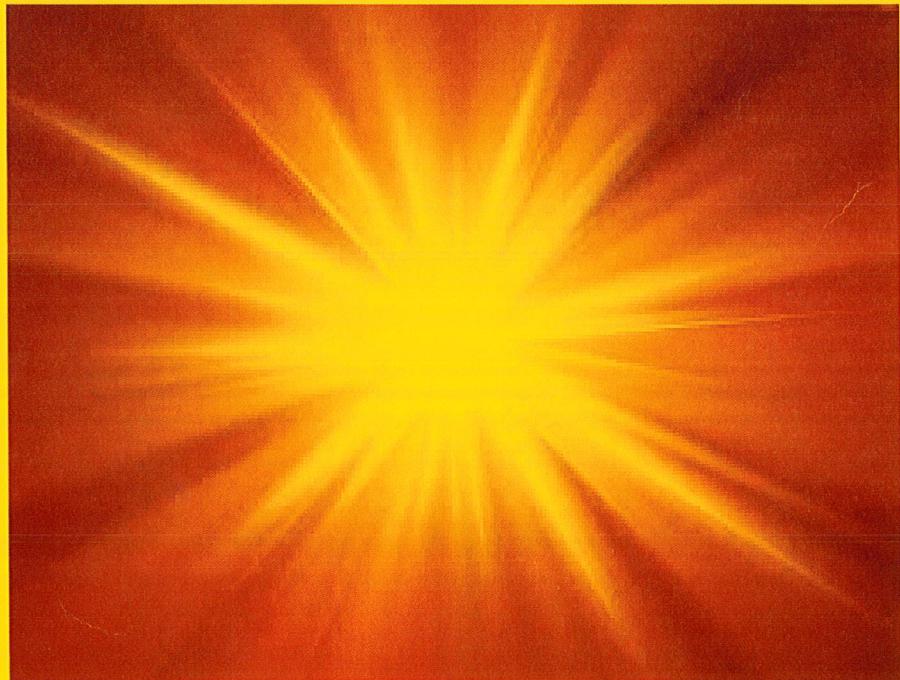


.....and there was light



And God said,

"Let there be light,"

and there was light.

5<sup>th</sup> grade, fall 2016

Rebecca



*Imagine the word 'Light'*

*Write in the lightened box whatever comes to your mind.*

Happiness Candle Light

"וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אֹור וַיְהִי אֹור"

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Genesis 1:3

Explore the text. How many times can you find the word 'light?' 5

According to Midrash bereshit Rabah, each one is in honor of:

1. Breshit book - that "light up" our eyes to see and understand creation.
2. Shmot book - that Bnei Israel came out of darkness into light.
3. Vayikra book - Add light to our vision so that we can see the way with its laws
4. Bamidbar book - Separation between the generation that was born in the dark (Egypt) and stayed in the dessert, and the generation that was born in the light (freedom) and entered the Promised Land.
5. Dvarim book - Review of all the lights in the other books and the light of Moses's legacy.

"וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי מְאֻרָת בָּרוּךְ יְהָוָה בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין הַלְּילָה וְכֵן  
לְאַתָּת וְלִמְזָעֲדִים וְלִמְזָמִים וְשָׁנִים:"

"And God said, 'Let there be luminaries in the expanse of the heavens, to separate between the day and between the night, and they shall be for signs and for appointed seasons and for days and years.'

Genesis 1;

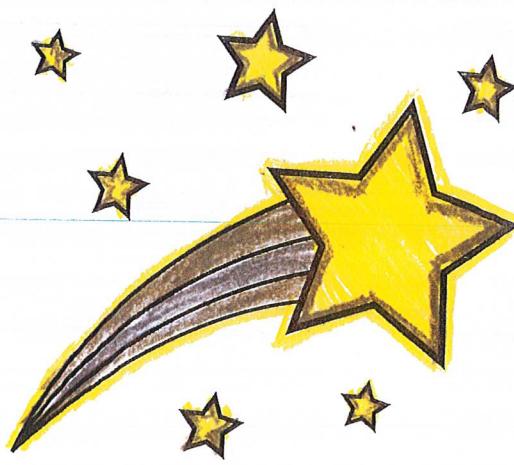
What happened to the first light? Why was it needed to create the luminaries?

The Midrash tells us:

The first light was very bright and God wrapped himself with it like a coat. One could not even see a thing because of the dazzling brightness, so God stored it somewhere and it will be available to us why the Masaya will come.

We call it 'OR HAGANUZ' אור הגן צ

Another Midrash says that Adam and Eve could see the whole world through this first light, including the future. Some scholars says that this light is hidden in the Torah.



"זכור אור ובזירא חֹשֶׁךְ"

"Who forms light and creates darkness?"

Isaiah 45; 7

The Rambam explains:

The prophet Isaiah refers light to something that God formed.  
The darkness was there when the light was not. The Rambam  
says that there is nothing positive in the darkness and  
that it does not exist by itself, but only when there was  
no light.

The Kabala explains:

The darkness helps the light shows us the good of the light.  
Sometimes, if you dim the light, you can see different  
shades, and things look more clear. The light is God.  
when He shows Himself to us, and darkness is God.  
when He hides from us but still teaches us new ideas.

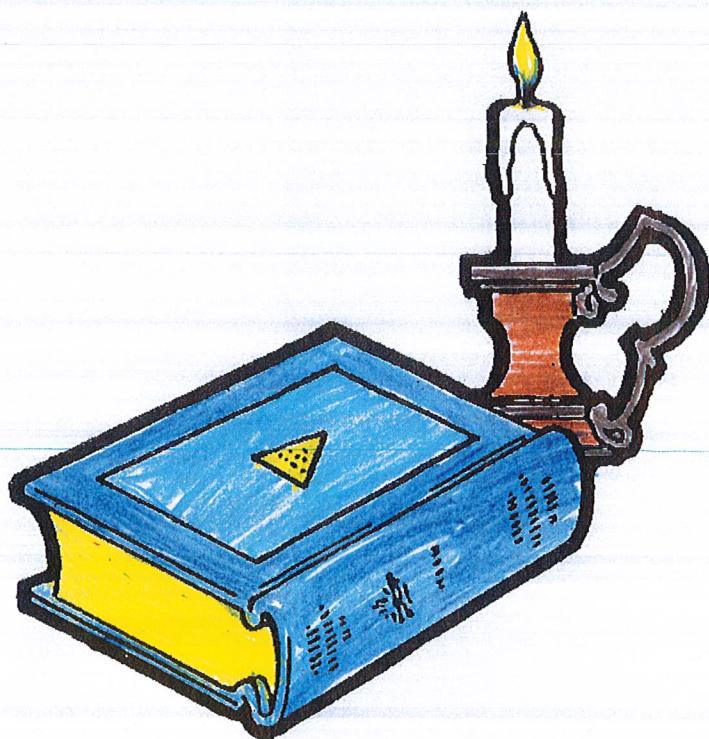
אָוֹרְיִילְתָּא

The Torah is called Oraita in Aramaic.

King Solomon says:

"The Torah is a light and a candle is a Mitzvah"

The candle represents all the Mitzvot that we physically do in order to express the light that comes from the Torah.



When we use the word **Light**, we mean:

"וְהִאר עֵינֵינו בְתּוֹרַתך" (תפילה)

Give us the wisdom to understand your Torah.

"יִאָר ה' פְנֵיו אֲלֵיך וַיַּחֲנֵד" (ספר במדבר, ברכת כהנים)

May the Lord "light his face you" - like you and favor you.

"בְנֵי אֹור וּבְנֵי חֹשֶׁך" (מגילות ים המלח)

Sons of light and sons of darkness - The good and the bad guys

"אֹור יְרוֹק" ו"אֹור אֲדוֹם"

Green light - Go ahead, Permission Red light - Stop, not allowed

שנת אור

A light year - far far away - the distance that the light travels in one year.

ללכת לאורו של מישחו

Follow someone's light - follow his guidance, teachings

Out like a light

You fell asleep quickly

The light of your life

The love of your life

Shed some light on it

Make it clear, explain it to be understandable

There is a light in the end of the tunnel

There is hope in the end of the road.

The end of a difficult task (relief)

First see the light of day

To be born, to become into being.

A leading light

An important or respected person. Someone who shows an example for others.

# The sun light

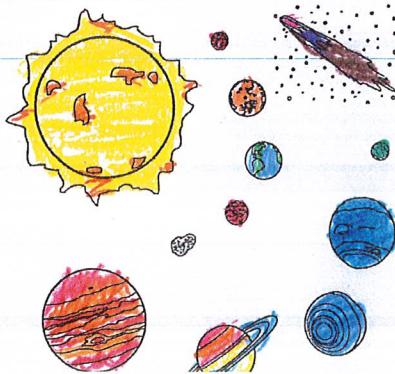
Our planet turns around on its axis. This phenomenon causes the switch from light to darkness approximately every 12 hours. When the land we are standing on faces the sun or is turned to the other side. (Day and Night.)

The planet also circles the sun in an elliptical orbit creating a year. The tilt of the Earth creates the seasons. When our region tilts away from the sun, it is winter and the nights are longer than the days. When our region tilts toward the sun, it is summer and the days are longer than the nights.

In the ancient world, the people thought that the days became shorter because of them and their behavior.

In many cultures, people developed ceremonies, parties, and rituals to call the sun back to scare the darkness away.

The seasonal change from darkness to light intrigued new hope for new life, for growth, for love, and for reintegration in the circle of life. The longest day of the year is June 21 and the shortest day is December 21.



# Aurora

## The Northern Lights



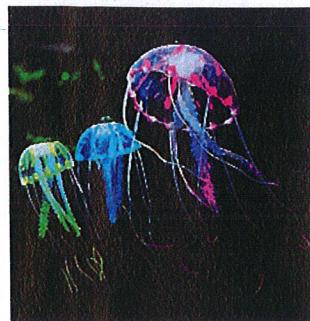
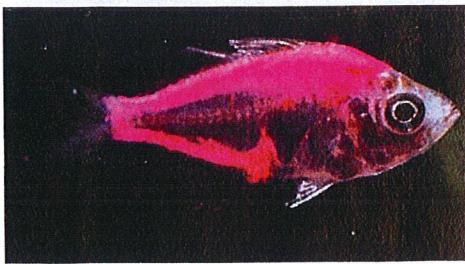
The Northern Lights are colorful storms that happen in the sky around the top of the northern hemisphere. Because the brilliant lights are caused by electrons from solar winds being attracted to the Earth's magnetic field, the best place to see the Northern Lights is near the North Pole. When these charged electrons mix with the gasses in the air, they make green, purple, red, or blue light sections in the sky that look like a sunrise. This appearance gives the Northern Lights its other name of Aurora Borealis. Aurora is from the Roman god of the dawn and Borea from the Greek name for the north wind. Although it looks like a sunrise, the best time to see the lights is in the early spring when daylight hours are short and nights are long. The effect of these scientific reactions often makes it appear as if God is creating a laser show in the dark sky to brighten our spirits.

# Light from creatures



Light is used by many creatures for a variety of purposes.

Sea creatures, some land bugs and some mushrooms emit light. Some use light to communicate in the dark, while others use it to defend themselves or attack others. When hunting, many organisms use light that they produce to attract other creatures in order to catch them for food. Other animals shine light away from their bodies so they can distract predators long enough to get away and to disappear into the dark. Light can even be used as a part of mating. For example, male fireflies have a unique sparkle rate and "talk" to the females by sparkling at them. All throughout nature, light plays an important role in survival. From communication to defence, light is a vital aspect of many organisms' lives.



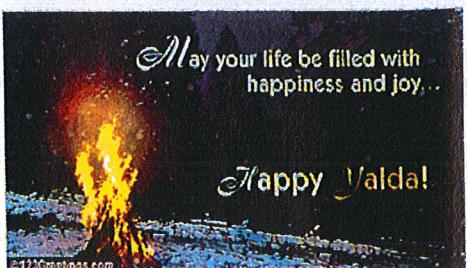
# Celebrations of light around the world

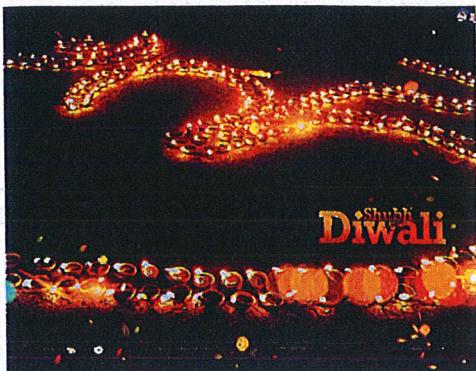


Persia - Iran

Shabe-e-Yalda (written on the line)

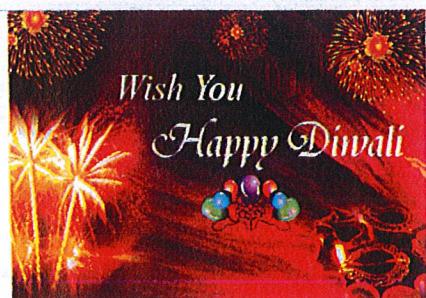
It is a festival celebrated on the longest night of the year - the winter solstice. In older days, it was intended to protect people from evil during that long night. People were advised to stay awake and gather in the safety of friends and family sharing the last remaining fruits from the summer. Nowdays, people gather together to eat, drink, and read poetry until after midnight. Fruits and nuts are eaten, and pomegranates and watermelons are particularly significant. The red color in these fruit symbolizes the blush colors of dawn and the glow of life.





## India

Diwali- This festival of lights is an ancient Hindu festival celebrated in autumn every year. Diwali is the biggest and the brightest festival in India. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Light is significant in Hinduism because it signifies goodness. It is celebrated for five continuous days, and the third day is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or "Festival of lights." On this day, people light candles and oil lamps all around their houses and colorful fireworks are used.



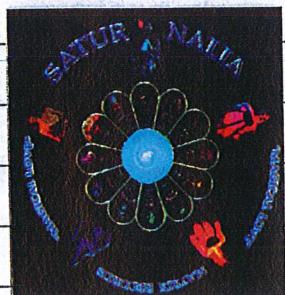
## Japan

In ancient Japan the winter solstice was believed to be the time when the Sun goddess Amateras emerged from her cave. The Shinto people celebrate the time the yin side of the sun ends and the yang side of the sun begins. This makes the days longer than the nights. Yin and yang are two opposite forces that complete each other.



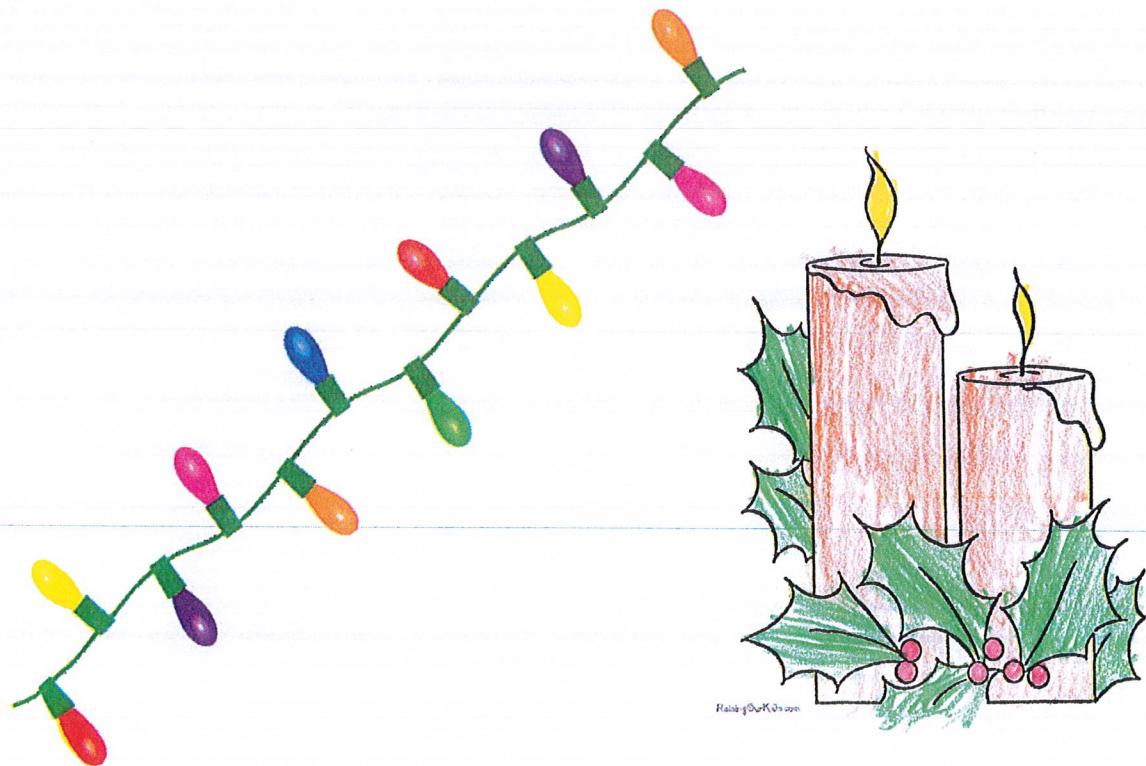
## Ancient Rome

In Rome the feast of light was named Saturnalia. Saturn was the god of agriculture and harvest. It seemed that Saturn would suddenly disappear in the winter, and the people would honor his altars with lighted candles. The celebration was near the shortest day of the year in honor of the birth of a new light that was called, "The beginning of the year of the sun."



# Christmas

Christmas, a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated on December 25, the winter solstice. December 25th was chosen to match with Roman celebration - "the birthday of the Sun." Christmas lights on trees and houses symbolize the light Jesus brings into the dark world and reminds Christians they are supposed to share the light of Christ with others.



# Hanukkah

In the Talmud there is a Midrash about the first man Adam, who noticed that the days were getting shorter and the darkness was taking over. Adam thought that his sins were the reason for the world going backward and turning into chaos again. Adam tried to repent for eight days by fasting and praying until he noticed that the days were getting longer again. Once he understood that this was the way the world goes, he set an eight-day holiday to thank God and celebrate it.

In the Mishnah, we can find another reason for the light festival. Hanukkah was the ending time of the olives harvest. In the time of the Bible, (during the first temple) people would celebrate it with candles lit with olive oil.

Along with the miracle of the little jar in the second Temple, which had enough oil to light the Menorah for one day but lasted eight days, we thank God for all the miracles in the battles with the Greeks and inside the Temple.



So why don't we call it "the festival of oil"? Why "light"?

According to the Talmud, all of the thirty-six candles that we light during the days of Hanukkah expose some of the light from creation.

That light from creation was hidden by God in the Torah. In every generation, there are 36 righteous people who guard this light and nourish it. (These precious people are the "Tamed vay tzadikim.") During the eight days of Hanukkah, this wonderful light shows up and lights our world.

Therefore, we may not use this light for our own purpose. And so we have the Hanukkah holiday - the festival of light in honor of miracles that happened long ago. In honor of happy events that are still happening, and in honor of the days to come, when light will win over darkness.



*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.*

*Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.*

*It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us.*

*We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous,  
talented and fabulous?*

*Actually, who are you not to be?*

*You are a child of God.*

*Your playing small does not serve the world.*

*There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other  
people won't feel insecure around you.*

*We were born to make manifest the glory of  
God that is within us.*

*It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.*

*And as we let our own light shine,  
we unconsciously give other people  
permission to do the same.*

*As we are liberated from our own fear,  
Our presence automatically liberates others.*

—Marianne Williamson

צרייך שכל איש ידע ויבין, שבתוכה תוכו דולק נר,  
וain נרו שלו כנר חברו, וain איש שאינו לו נר.  
צרייך שכל איש ידע ויבין, שעליינו לעמל ולגלות  
את אור הנר ברבים, ולהדליקו לאבוקה גדולה  
ולהאיר את העולם כולו.

### הרבעון

*Everyone should know and understand,  
that deep inside of him, a candle is burning  
And no candles are the same,  
and there is no man without a candle.  
And everyone should know and understand,  
That one must strive to reveal his candlelight in public  
And light a big torch,  
And illuminate the entire world.*







# BORNBLUM

## JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

*Morah Hershkovitz  
Mrs. VanGunda  
Morah Almalem*