

# חנוכה Chanukah

## ***Ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh, In those days, at this time***

*A kavannah to be read before opening gifts on Chanukah*

We gather to light candles and enjoy ourselves by their glow, commemorating the miracles and triumphs of Chanukah. Grateful for our blessings of prosperity and abundance, we give presents to one another as tokens of our appreciation and love.

Before we pull at ribbons and tear the wrapping paper, we pause to let the memory of the pain and oppression of our ancestors—“in those days”, *ba-yamim ha-heim*—remind us of the ongoing pain and oppression throughout the developing world—“at this time,” *ba-z'man ha-zeh*.

We remember those who lack sustenance, let alone bounty. We recall our obligation to leverage our gifts—the gifts of freedom, empowerment and influence—to aid those in need in the developing world. We commit to give of our abundance—our time, our money and our influence—to fight for the rights of those in need. May we, as our ancestors did in those times, find triumph in our endeavors and not rest until our vision has been achieved and bounty is shared in our days.



**American Jewish World Service (AJWS)** is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people, while promoting the values and responsibilities of global citizenship within the Jewish community.