Humanistic Blessings for Hanukkah

בְּרָכוֹת הוּמָנִסְטִיוֹת לחֲנֻכָּה

1) Lighting <u>H</u>anukkah Candles (Hadlaqat Nerot shel <u>H</u>anukkah) הַדְלַקַת נֵרוֹת שֵׁל חֲנֶכָּה (1

Na-aseh `et Hag ha-`Urim ha-zeh

נַעֲשֶׂה אֵת חַג הָאוּרִים הַזֶּה

hanukkah l'-herut u-l'-tsedeq l'-khulam,

חֲנֻכָּה לְחֵרוּת וּלְצֶדֶק לְכֻלָם,

Hanukkah shel shalom l'-khol amei ha-`Adamah. חֵנֶכָּה שֵׁל שָׁלוֹם לְכָל עָמֵי הָאֲדָמָה.

Let us make this Festival of Lights

a dedication to liberty and justice for all,

a Hanukkah of peace for all the peoples of the Earth.

Nahanokh `et atsme-nu l'-tiqqun ha-olam

נַחֲנוֹךְ אֵת עַצְמֵנוּ לְתִקּוּן הָעוֹלָם

ka-`asher niqqavets b'-tsavta`

כַּאֲשֶׁר נִקָּבֵץ בְּצַוְתָא

l'-hadliq nerot shel <u>H</u>anukkah.

לָהַדְלִיק נֵרוֹת שֵׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Let us dedicate ourselves to the betterment of the world as we gather together to light the candles of Hanukkah.

2) On Good Deeds (AI Ma'asim Tovim)

2) עַל מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים

N'-varekh `et `elleh she-qad'mu la-nu `asher asu ma'asim g'dolim

נְבָרֵךְ אֵת אֵלֶּה שֶׁקָדְמוּ לָנוּ אֲשֵׁר עָשׂוּ מַעֲשִׂים גִּדוֹלִים

she-nir`u k'-"nisim."

"שֶׁנַרְאוּ כְּ״נָסִים.

Na-'aseh ma'asim tovim ka-`elleh

נַעֲשֶׂה מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים כָּאֵלֶּה

ba-z'man ha-zeh u-v'-khol z'man.

בַּזְּמָן הַזֶּה וּבְכָל זְמָן.

Let us bless those who came before us who did great deeds that seemed like "miracles."

May we do such good deeds at this season and at all times.

3) For All That Has Enabled Us to Live (L'-Khol she-Heheya-nu)

3) לְכָל שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ

[Said on the first night only]

N'-varekh `et ha-tov

נְבָרֵךְ אֵת הַטּוֹב

`asher pagash-nu ba-olam

אֲשֶׁר פָּגַשְׁנוּ בָּעוֹלָם

she-he<u>h</u>eya-nu v'-qiyy'ma-nu,

שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ יבנוענו לגמו כגב

v'-higgi'a-nu la-z'man ha-zeh.

וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמָן הַזֶּה.

Let us bless the goodness that we have encountered in the world which has kept us alive and sustained us, and brought us to this moment.

`Amen. ["`Amen" literally means "agreed" or "so be it."]

ָאָמֵן.

[Light candles. The first candle is placed on right side of the m'norah, another one just to its left the next night, and so on until eight candles are lit on the eighth night.

The custom is to light the shammash candle before saying the blessings and then to use it to light the other candles starting with the candle farthest to the left and moving toward the right.

One also by custom puts one's menorah in a window so that it can be seen by passers-by.

On Shabbat, one lights <u>H</u>anukkah candles before those for Shabbat,

and before or after the Havdalah service marking the end of Shabbat.]

Hag Sameah - Gut Yontev - Happy Holiday - חַג שַׂמֶחַ - גוט יום טוב