



## **CHALYMPICS** ARE BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!

The **CHALYMPICS** is an 8 day long, 7 event series we partake in every year of Chanukah.

Every night, after we light the menorah, instead of opening presents, we set up a game, using inexpensive materials that are easily purchased or that are already lying around the house, and all the kids compete.

Like the real Olympics, we start off with a torch lighting ceremony, the winners stand on appropriate leveled chairs and receive their award at the end of each night, and of course we end the games with another torch lighting ceremony.

Through out the 8 days, we keep track of the winners on a giant score card and at the end of the **CHALYMPICS** there is a final champion who wins the ultimate prize...BRAGGING RIGHTS!

Onto the final and most vital piece of all this:

### **The events and their rules:**

These are the 7 events my children will be competing in this year. If some of these games are not suitable for your children, you can watch our videos from years past for some other ideas. You can also come up with your own games that are more appropriate for your family!

\*A few things to know:

- All games are based on 5 contestants. Adjust accordingly.
- Games are chosen specifically to avoid judges having to “choose” winners. This keeps emotions a little more at bay. We find that having to choose, who built the best menorah can cause more problems than ‘who replicated the menorah the fastest or who got the most blind tastes correct’. If you do choose to incorporate your own

games into the **CHALYMPICS** (which I do highly suggest because no one knows your family better than you!), I would suggest you keep this aspect of the games in mind.

# NOW, LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!!!

## EVENT #1

### OPENING CEREMONIES + LIVE MEMORY

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

The homemade torches

12 sets of identical prizes. (2 key chains, 2 silly patty's...)

24 aluminum 9x13 pans (or any size, you just want to make sure that the prizes fit fully underneath them)

For the opening ceremony, play Olympic music, and have the contestants line up in age order. Light the oldest ones torch and then he lights the persons next to him.

Continue until all torches are lit and then take a cermonious walk around the living room.

(Blow out torches and save for closing ceremony)

#### HOW TO PLAY:

Send the children out of the room.

Arrange the prizes on a large space on the floor, separating identical prizes, in a grid like pattern.

Cover each prize with an aluminum pan.

Call the children back into the room.

Now play memory....

Give each a child a chance to uncover two prizes. If the prizes are not the same, replace the pan over the prize and it is the next Childs turn.

When someone uncovers identical prizes they keep it.

Play until all prizes have been accounted for.

We like to end this game with a prize swap. No one can keep two prizes and they must trade. Sometimes they need our help to facilitate this but usually it goes smoothly since they are all equally small, 1 shekel prizes!

## EVENT #2

## BLINDFOLDED MUSICAL CHAIRS

I know. You're thinking this sounds dangerous. So I don't disagree. It also sounds hysterical to watch, so yay for me and Eli the judges. Really though, here is why the blindfold is genius. Without the blindfold the kids can see who to push and shove in order to grab a chair and who pushed and shoved them in order to grab a chair. With blindfolds on we are hoping to eliminate that element of the game. In addition to that, we think the blindfold will turn the game into a more even playing field age wise.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Chairs (i would start with 2 more than you actually need, to stretch out the length of the game)

A really fun playlist, that you can start and stop easily.

*We put together a fun upbeat playlist for you on Spotify to make things easier.*

*Click the link here to access it.*

[SPOTIFY MUSICAL CHAIRS PLAYLIST](#)

blindfolds (these can be anything from tickles to cute fun ones you can buy on amazon.

### HOW TO PLAY:

Send the players out of the room. Arrange 1 (or 2 depending how many people you are) range a long row of chairs alternating the direction of the chair every other one.

*(\*note to make the game funnier for the judges everyone, do NOT line the chairs up in rows.*

*Rather scatter them around the room so the contestants will have to work harder to memorize where they are.)*

Call the players back into the room.

Give them 15 seconds to look at and memorize the set up of the chairs.

Blindfold the players.

Start the music.

Every time the music stops players must find a seat.

Each time the music starts again, discreetly remove one chair.

Any player left standing when the music stops is out of the game.

(if you start the game with extra chairs, it will take a few rounds before anyone really gets out. I think that will build false confidence and make the game even funnier for us the judges.)

The last player with a chair is the winner!

## EVENT #3

## MISE EN PLACE RELAY

AKA, SOMEONE ELSE IS PREPPIN' DINNER TONIGHT!

(yes, this game is proudly borrowed from top chef)

Every year this event looks different. This is this years version.

On the menu: hamburgers, challah rolls for buns, pickles for the burgers

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

5 plastic cutting boards  
1 batch challah dough (divided)  
5 aluminum 9x13 pans, greased  
5 eggs, each one in a small bowl  
5 forks  
10 pickles (divided)  
5 plastic knives  
5 plastic bowls  
2&1/2 cups pf parsley (with stems)  
10 small plastic plates  
2&1/2 lbs. chopped meat (put 1/2 lb. of meat into 5 separate mixing bowls)  
5 tsp. salt (divided)  
2&1/2 tsp pepper (divided)  
(any other spices you use to flavor your hamburgers, just 5 small portions of each)  
5 large plastic plates

### HOW TO PLAY:

Cover your dining room table with plastic.

Set up five separate working stations.

Place a cutting board in the center of each one and one of each ingredient around the cutting board.

Place the ingredients in order of the relay clockwise starting from the bottom left corner of the cutting board.

To play the game each player has to complete each of the 4 parts of the race before moving onto the next part.

The player that completes all 4 challenges first wins.

### THIS YEARS CHALLENGES:

Make 2 challah rolls, place them in the given pan, crack & beat the egg, and coat the top of the roll

Cut up pickles and place in a bowl (if your kids like something else on their burgers, swap it with the pickles)

Separate the parsley leaves from the stems and cut up the leaves

Add parsley, salt and pepper to chopped meat and form 3 hamburger patties. Once the patties are formed and the pan the race is complete!

## EVENT #4

### LEGO MENORAH REPLICATION

This game is absolutely inspired by my recent trip to New York that I just took to photograph pictures for the upcoming cookbook. One night, on my way to dinner with my brother Benjamin, we wandered into the Lego store in Manhattan where they had a huge bin of Legos for shoppers to play with. Obviously Benjamin and I had to play, and that quickly turned into our own competition. We had a blast and I knew instantly that this had to be included in this year's **CHALYMPICS!**

We are choosing to play this game with Legos because we have accumulated many pieces over the years, however this game is easily played with magnetiles, plastic cups, building blocks even popsicle sticks!

#### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

1 already built menorah made out of whatever toy you are using.

(If you are using something like cups or popsicle sticks that can fall over easily, I suggest gluing the original menorah together so that it doesn't fall and break during the game)

Enough pieces for the child to replicate what you have made.

\*bonus: to make things a bit harder (which we are choosing to do, have extra unnecessary pieces mixed in so the child has to search for the correct pieces)

#### HOW TO PLAY:

Place the menorah in the middle of the table or the floor.

Set up a tray, bowl, baking sheet or tin pan at every station.

Place the necessary pieces to replicate the menorah exactly in the bowl.

(Add in the unnecessary pieces if you are choosing the bonus edition)

Call everyone into the room and place them at a station.

Everyone starts building at the same time and the person to finish first is the winner, second is second place and so forth.

#### VARIATIONS:

There are two ways to play this game. You can either set everyone up at their own stations and have them compete against each other OR if you don't have enough pieces to give to every child you can simply put a timer on and each player can go one by one and the player with the fastest time wins.

## EVENT #5

## WATERBOTTLE KNOCKDOWN

This game is a real winner. Its fun for the contestants, and really, even funnier for those around watching the contestants. So, even though only person officially wins, like I said, everyone is really a winner.

### OBJECT:

This is a timed event.

The player must use only the ball hanging from his head to knock over water bottles. Player to do this the fastest, wins!

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:

1 pair new stockings or tights (new being the keyword because no one wants to put only sticking on their head)

1 tennis ball

6-12 water bottles filled with different levels of water

Masking tape

### HOW TO PLAY:

Lay a swirly round about long "path" of masking tape on the floor of your playing area.

Be sure the path has a designated "start and end"

Arrange water bottles in varying amounts along the masking tape path.

Place tennis ball inside the stockings so that it rests where a foot would go.

Place the waist band of the stockings on 1 contestants heads like a hat.

The leg with the foot will hang down along the side of the contestants head.

Tie the other leg up in a series of knots so that its out of the way.

The play stands in the "start" position and when the judge scream go, the judge starts the clock and the player must follow the path and one by one use his head to swing the ball and knock down the water bottles.

(The bottles filled with more water will be more difficult to knock down.)

The player to knock down all the bottles the fastest is the winner!

## EVENT #6

## MARSHMALLOW ROCKET LAUNCH

This game is basically ski ball, only with marshmallows and a "rocket launcher" so, basically, best game ever!

OBJECT OF THE GAME:

To acquire there most points by shooting your marshmallows with the rocket launcher into the cut out holes!

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Paper “coffee” cups  
Rubber gloves  
Mini Marshmallows  
Cardboard or oak-tag  
Scissors  
Permanent marker

### PREP:

Use scissors to cut out 3 different sized holes from the cardboard or oak-tag.  
Using the marker, assign the biggest hole 5 points, the medium sized hole 7 points and the smallest hole 10 points.

Cut the bottom out of the paper cup so that it is now a tube.  
(you may want to double the cup so no one smushes it in all the excitement)  
Slide rubber glove onto the cup (sliding up the bottom), so that now the bottom of the cup where you cut out hard a rubber glove bottom.  
Tie the fingers together.

### HOW TO PLAY:

Place 1 marshmallow into the cup and using the fingers as the “launcher”, launch marshmallow.  
Give each player 1 minute to launch as many marshmallows as they can, accumulating as many points as they can.  
The player with the moist points, wins!

## **EVENT #7**

### **THE BLIND TASTE TEST + CLOSING CEREMONY**

Object of the game: To identify as many foods as possible by simply tasting them while blindfolded.

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

blindfold, or scarf  
a cookie sheet (to contain any spills)  
20 different foods that can fit into small bowls or cups  
20 small bowls or cups  
a kitchen towel

## HOW TO PLAY:

Send the kids out of the kitchen.

Place the cups on the cookie sheet and fill each one with as different edible product. (can be food, drink, snack, condiment, spice...)

Place a kitchen towel over the filled bowls so that no one can see whats underneath.

Call each child one at a time into the kitchen.

Cover their eyes with the blind and remove the kitchen towel.

Help them guide their hand into each bowl one at a time.

They must taste each item and identify it.

Only first answers are accepted to remind them to take their time.

The child that guesses the most right is the winner.

Examples of tasters: Ketchup, Mayo, Honey, Croutons, Salt, Chopped hard boiled egg, Chocolate chips, Captain crunch, Cut up string cheese, Butter, Cucumbers, Red sufganiya jelly, Lemon wedges, Pickles, Plain yogurt, Franks hot sauce, Soda, Peanut butter, Craisins, Pesto, Salad dressing...

## CLOSING CEREMONY

Tally up all the medals on the scoreboard.

The person with the most golds, is the overall winner, the person with the second most is the silver medal winner and so on and so forth.

Repeat the torch lighting ceremony only this time the overall winner goes first!

UNTIL NEXT YEAR, THE END.