Sephardic Hanukkah

For links to videos of the candle lighting ceremony and the songs check out our website Hanukkah page at:
http://sephardifederationpbc.org/hanukah/

The following blessings are said before the lights or the Shamash are lit, both in the synagogue and at home. After the first night, each succeeding light is set to the left of those of the preceding evening and lit from left to right.
The Sephardi custom is to use an independent light to light all the others, with the Shamash being lit last.

Barukh atah, Adonai Elo-einu, melekh a-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tsiyano l'adlik ner hanukkah.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light.

Barukh atah, Adonai Elo-einu, melekh a-olam, she-asah nisim la-avoteinu bayamim ha-em baz'man azeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, Who performed miracles for our fathers, in those days at this season.

On the first night add:

Barukh atah, Adonai Elo-einu, melekh a-olam, she-eḥeyanu v'kiy'yanu v'giy'yanu laz'man azeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, King of the Universe, Who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season.

We kindle these lights because of the miracles and the redemption, for the mighty deeds and the deliverances, for the wonders and the solace, which You performed for our fathers in those days at this time through Your holy priests. These lights are sacred all eight days of Hanukkah. We are not permitted to make use of them but only to look at them, in order to offer thanks to Your Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your deliverances.
A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House; of David.
I will extol thee, O LORD, for You have raised me up, and have not suffered my enemies to rejoice over me.
O LORD my God, I cried unto Thee, and You didst heal me;
O LORD, You brought up my soul from the nether-world; You did keep me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
Sing praise unto the LORD, O ye His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name.
For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a life-time; weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.
Now I had said in my security: 'I shall never be moved.'
You established, O LORD, in Thy favor my mountain as a stronghold-- You hid Your face; I was frightened.
Unto You, O LORD, did I call, and unto the LORD I made supplication:
What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise You? shall it declare Your truth?

When lighting the candles at home, the pizmon Maoz Tzur is sung:

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O Fortress, Rock of my salvation, unto thee it is becoming to give praise:
let my house of prayer be restored, and I will there offer thee thanksgivings
when thou shalt have prepared a slaughter of the blaspheming foe,
I will complete with song and psalm the dedication of the altar.

The Greeks were gathered against me in the days of the Hasmoneans; they broke down the walls of my towers, and defiled all the oils; but from one of the last remaining flasks a miracle was wrought for thy beloved, and the wise men appointed these eight days for song and praises.
"Ocho Kandelikas (Eight Little Candles)"
Words: Flory Jagoda
Sung in Ladino

Ocho kandelas para mi, Ocho kandelas para mi
Una kandelika, dos kandelikas
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi
Muchas fiestas vo fazer, Muchas fiestas vo fazer
Los pastelikos vo kumer, Los pastelikos vo kumer
Una kandelika, dos kandelikas
Tres kandelikas, cuatro kandelikas
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

Siete Hijos Tiene Hanna
This song is about Hannah And Her Seven Sons as told in II Maccabees, of seven brothers who were seized along with their mother by Antiochus, at the start of the religious persecutions that lead to the revolt culminating in Hanukah. They were commanded to prove their obedience to the king by partaking of swine's flesh. The brothers defiantly refused to do so, they were executed after being put to frightful tortures. When the king appealed to the mother to spare the youngest child's life by prevailing upon him to comply, she urged the child instead to follow in the path of his brothers, and she herself died shortly thereafter.

Siete hijos tiene Hanna
Hanna la buena guidia
Los mando a yamar el rey
A todos siete en un dia

Ven aqui hijo de Hanna
Hanna la buena guidia
Te dare la mi corona
Asente en la mi siya

Yo no quiero tu corona
Ni me asento en la tu siya
Yo no piedo mi Ley Santa
No entro en la falsia

Hanna has seven sons
Hanna the good Jewess
The king ordered them to come
All seven of them in one day

Come here son of Hanna
Hanna the good Jewess
I will give you my crown
And you’ll sit down on my throne

I do not want your crown
Nor will I sit on your throne
I will not forsake my Holy Law
Nor enter into falsehood