



**MEMORY LANE # 46 (EDITED)
FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHOMEDEY
CHANUKAH 1998 EDITION**

STRANGE CUSTOMS OF CHANUKAH AROUND THE WORLD

YEMEN: The children went from house to house, tins in hand, to collect wicks for the Menorah, chanting in Yemenite "O father Salim, give us a present." If they received wicks, fruit and candy, they would respond in Hebrew "sleep well". However, if they got nothing, they would shout in Yemenite, "you miser, may your wicks be as dry as your bones"

GERMANY: The last night of Chanukah was very special. All the left-over wicks and oil were lit in giant bonfires and everyone sang and danced around the fire until the small hours of the night.

ADEN: All the children wore blue clothing. Blue for the color of the heavens, the abode of the Holy One, who sent forth the Chanukah miracle.

SOUTHERN FRANCE: On the evening following the Shabbat of Chanukah, the Jews of Avignon opened casks of new wine. Parties would roam from place to place tasting the new wine and toasting the holiday.

ISRAEL: The fifth night of Chanukah has been called "The Black Fifth Night" after that fateful night during World War One when the Turks expelled all the Jews from Tel Aviv and Jaffa.

TUNIS: Women would especially commemorate the seventh day of Chanukah on which day the widow Judith is said to have performed her brave acts during the period of Syrian Greek dominance. In Tunis the women would come to the Synagogue and file past the Torah and kiss it as they passed, concurrently the men would complete the Talmudic study of Tractate Shabbat, containing the story of Chanukah.

(Yashor Koach to Fred Rudy for providing us all with these memorable historical moments, which some of us may still remember!)