

Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat

A Chanukah Story by Naomi Howland

Sadie's Latkes

Sadie would have made latkes (say LOT-kuz) this way if she hadn't had a magic frying pan. This recipe makes about a dozen 3½" pancakes. You can double the recipe and have twice as many scrumptious latkes to eat. Be sure to have an adult help you.

3 large potatoes (about 1 pound)	½ teaspoon salt
2 eggs	⅛ teaspoon pepper
¼ cup finely chopped onion	3 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley	vegetable oil

1. Peel the potatoes and rinse them in cold water. Grate very fine. Place the grated potatoes in a colander and run cold water over them. (This will keep the potatoes from turning dark.) Using your hands, squeeze out all the water.
2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs. Add the onion, parsley, salt, pepper, and flour. Stir. Add grated potatoes and mix well.
3. Heat a small amount of oil to sizzling in a large frying pan. Drop pancake mixture by the soup- spoonful into oil and flatten slightly. Cook until golden brown underneath, turn, and cook on the other side till browned.
4. Eat while still tender but crisp! Latkes are traditionally served with applesauce and/or sour cream.

A Note

Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the fight for religious freedom by a small band of Jews in 165 B.C. After their victory, the Jews went to rekindle the Eternal Light in their Temple. There was only enough oil to burn for one day. Miraculously it burned for eight days, enough time for the Jews to make more oil and keep the Eternal Light burning.

Jews light candles in a *menorah* or *chanukiah* for eight nights as a reminder of those events. Foods cooked in oil, such as latkes and jelly doughnuts, also remind people of the miracle of Chanukah.

During Chanukah, games are played with a *dreidel*, a top with Hebrew letters written on its four sides. In Israel, the letters are *Nun, Gimel, He, Pe*, which stand for the sentence *Nes Gadol Hayah Po*, "A great miracle happened here." Outside of Israel, the letters are *Nun, Gimel, He, Shin*, which stand for "A great miracle happened there."

Tante means "aunt" in Yiddish. Sadie uses the word as a term of respect.

