

The New York Times
Opinion Pages

HIGHLIGHT

Ken Taub
Saint James, NY
December 1st, 2010

Most of us know very little about the history behind the Jewish festival of lights, so here we are, sticking a modest menorah in the window in a Gentile world, and so close to Christmas. In our time, this proximity leaves Hanukah a bit like a little duckling waddling on dry land next to the swan-like grace of the Christian holiday. There is no doubt about it: Christmas is beautiful, magical, and sometimes grand. Our holiday, not so much. That said, every time we light the Hanukah candles, every modern Hebrew gets to silently proclaim this: We are still here. And that may be the grandest thing of all.

[Recommend](#) Recommended by 24 Readers