

OCTAGON *Tribune*



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A Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of the Octagon Towers Condominium

December 2019

OCTAGON TOWERS CONDOMINIUM

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OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 7:00am - 12:00pm
Tuesdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Wed. and Fri. 8:00am - 1:00pm
Thursdays 3:00pm - 7:00pm



Happy Holidays!

Tis' The Season To Be Jolly

The Holiday spirit certainly has all of us here on the Octagon staff feeling pretty happy and jolly. Here's hoping the spirit has caught you as well. From all of us to all of you, have a very Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Tips for a healthy & safe live Christmas tree:

- Leave the tree outside or in the garage for a few days before bringing inside to decorate.
- Make a fresh cut across the bottom, about 1" above base, so your tree can drink easily.
- Make a preservative: mix a quart of water with 1/2-cup of corn syrup and a tsp. of bleach.
- After a few days in the preservative, bring the tree inside and place it in a location away from direct sunlight and other heat sources (such as heating ducts, wood stoves and fireplaces.)
- Remember to add water to the reservoir daily.



Did You Know?: Kwanzaa Trivia

- Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days from December 26 to January 1.
- Kwanzaa (Swahili for "fresh fruits") is based on an African harvest festival.
- Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga, a professor of black studies at California State University at Long Beach, in 1966.
- The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green.
- The seven principles of Kwanzaa are unity (umoya), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani).
- The karamu, or feast, held on Dec. 31, is one of the high points of the seven days of Kwanzaa. Food, music, and dance are part of the karamu.
- Kwanzaa is now celebrated all over the world, especially in the U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean.
- Kwanzaa is a nonreligious holiday.

What is Chanukah?

In 2nd century BCE, in an effort to pull Jews away from Judaism and adopt the Greek culture – Hellenism, the Syrian-Greek regime of Antiochus outlawed aspects of Jewish observance, including the study of Torah, which began to decay the foundation



of Jewish life and practice. In response, a band of Jewish settlers took to the hills of Judea in a revolt against this threat to Jewish life. Led by Matityahu, and later his son Judah the Maccabee, this small band of devout Jews led guerrilla warfare against the Syrian army. Antiochus sent thousands of well-armed troops to crush the rebellion, but the Maccabees succeeded in driving the foreigners from their land. Jewish fighters entered Jerusalem in December, 164 BCE.

The Holy Temple was in shambles, defiled and desecrated by foreign soldiers. They cleansed the Temple and re-dedicated it on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. When it came time to re-light the Menorah, they searched the entire Temple, but only one small jar of oil bearing the pure seal of the High Priest could be found. Miraculously, the small jar of oil burned for eight days, until a new supply of oil could be brought. From then on, Jews have observed a holiday for eight days in honor of this historic victory and the miracle of the oil.

Today, the observance of Chanukah, meaning “dedication” features the lighting of a special Chanukah menorah with eight branches (plus a helper candle), adding one new candle each night. Other customs include spinning the dreidel (a top with Hebrew letters on the sides), eating “oily” foods like potato latkes (pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and giving Chanukah gelt (coins) to children.



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Miami Beach Experts

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Recipe for Latkes



- 4 medium potatoes
- 1 medium onion
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup matzah meal (flour or bread crumbs can be substituted)
- salt and black pepper to taste
- vegetable oil

Shred the potatoes, onion and bell pepper into a large bowl. Press out all excess liquid. Add eggs and parsley and mix well. Add matzah meal gradually while mixing until the batter is doughy, not too dry. (you may not need the whole amount, depending on how well you drained the veggies). Add a few dashes of salt and black pepper. Heat about 1/2 inch of oil to a medium heat. Form the batter into thin patties about the size of your palm. Fry batter in oil. Be patient: this takes time, and too much flipping will burn the outside without cooking the inside. Flip when the bottom is golden brown. Place finished latkes on paper towels to drain. Eat hot with sour cream or applesauce.

If you'd like to try something a little different, add some bell peppers, carrots, celery, or other vegetables to the batter to make veggie latkes!



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District 5



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