

Volume 17 Issue 11

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December Birthdays And Anniversaries BIRTHDAYS

APT#	NAME	DATE
610	Rita Hoberman	5-Dec
201	Enrique Herrera	6-Dec
1704	Dora Goldfarb	8-Dec
902	Javier Carcache	10-Dec
601	Frank Hughley	13-Dec
1707	Sofiya Sorkin	19-Dec
312	Luciana Goncalves	21-Dec
912	Caitlin Polizano	23-Dec
710	Marcos Echt	23-Dec
1604	Gloria Seaman	26-Dec
711	Meyer Keslassy	28-Dec
1710	Yefim Plotkin	28-Dec
1007	Klavdia Krugolets	29-Dec



ANNIVERSARIES

1804	Jacqueline & Herman Hirsch	20-Dec
1107	Zoraida & Juan Romero	20-Dec
201	Saray&Enrique Herrera	31-Dec
1401	Izabella & Arkadiy Uvaydov	16-Dec

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 Matitiyahu, 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.

Recipe for Latkes

- 4 medium potatoes
- 1 medium onion
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup matzah meal
- 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.



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Snowball Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate mini morsels
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts
- Powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375° F. Beat butter, sugar, vanilla extract and salt in large mixer bowl until creamy. Grad-

ually beat in flour; stir in morsels and nuts.

Shape level tablespoons of dough into 1 1/4-inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until cookies are set and lightly browned. Remove from oven. Sift powdered sugar over hot cookies on baking sheets.

Cool on baking sheets for 10 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Sprinkle with additional powdered sugar, if desired.

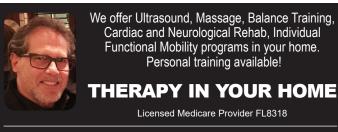
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