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A Newsletter for the Residents of The Mar Del Plata Condominium

November 2021

**Mar Del Plata**  
**Condominium Assoc., Inc.**  
 6423 Collins Avenue  
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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Hello everyone! Amazingly, we, once again, find ourselves bracing for the Holiday Season. I am sure everyone looks forward to spending vast amounts of money, putting on extra pounds, and battling the lines at the airports, as well as combating the infamous supply chain to find gifts for our family and friends. I know I do!

Regarding the “supply chain,” Mar del Plata is experiencing a lack of materials such as paint, fixtures, etc., to complete some of our smaller projects. Everything we need to complete the work is on order. Along with the rest of the world, we will have to persevere. Still, that hasn’t stopped us from continuously upgrading the building. We’ve replaced sections of sprinklers piping in the lobby level and repaired several fence poles facing the backyard. We’ve also begun building additional wooden racks for the growing number of surfboards and kayaks.

Perseverance is another relevant word to employ when it comes to dealing with Miami Beach’s Building Department. As expected, things have toughened or tightened up a lot more since last we did the forty-year recertification. It didn’t catch us by surprise—we knew this would happen. The firms we’ve hired are working step by step through the city’s demands, and hopefully, the concrete process will begin soon. Fortunately, we’ve contracted excellent partners to see us through this rigmarole.

The week before last, we had some nasty rainstorms, coupled with King Tides that flooded the lower parking garage. Not a good situation. However, people like William Vergara and others on our staff tackled the problem upon arrival, even before most of us had woken up. This is called dedication. This is called commitment. These are the terrific people who work for us.

One last excellent piece of news. Beginning sometime in the middle of December, the sand on the beach behind us will be replenished. You can never have too much sand!

Until next time have a wonderful Thanksgiving, folks!

# 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 Matitياهو, 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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# Sweet Potato Casserole

## Ingredients

- 5 sweet potatoes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9x13" baking dish.
2. Bake sweet potatoes 35 minutes in oven, or until they begin to soften. Cool slightly, peel, and mash.
3. In a large bowl, mix potatoes, salt, 1/4 cup butter, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, sugar, and heavy cream. Transfer to the baking dish.
4. In a medium bowl, combine 1/4 cup butter, flour, brown sugar, and chopped pecans. Mix with a pastry blender or your fingers to the consistency of coarse meal. Sprinkle over the sweet potato mixture.
5. Bake 30 minutes, until topping is crisp and lightly browned.



Commissioner  
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# CINNAMON TOAST COCONUT CRUNCH

This simple crowd-pleaser is great for your holiday's signature cocktail, and all are available for delivery at LiquorSplit.



**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1½ oz. Hard Truth Cinnamon Vodka
  - 1½ oz. Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum
  - 1½ oz. Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum Cream
- Cinnamon & sugar, for rim

**CRAFT:**

1. Rim coupe or martini glass with cinnamon sugar, and set aside.
2. Add all Hard Truths to ice-filled bar shaker. Cover, and shake to chill.
3. Strain into prepared glass. Enjoy!

Single servings, add equal parts (one to two ounces each) of Hard Truth Cinnamon Vodka, Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum, and Hard Truth Toasted Coconut Rum Cream to an ice-filled bar shaker, cover and shake to chill, then strain into your favorite martini glass. If desired, garnish with a sprinkle of cinnamon. For a party pour, mix one bottle of each Hard Truth into to a serving vessel, and mix well. Serve chilled.

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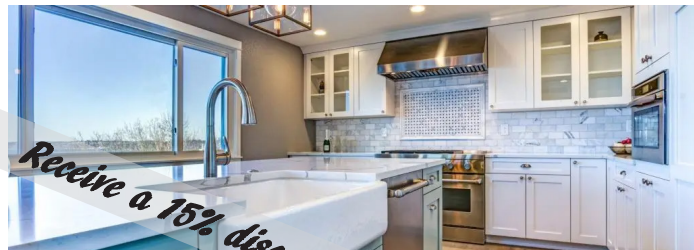
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