

Volume 22 Issue 11

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December 2024

November Birthdays And Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS			
APT#	NAME	DATE	
504	GILDA DE LA CALLE	3-DEC	
610	RITA HOBERMAN	5-DEC	
2502	SAMANTHA HARLAP	8-DEC	
902	JAVIER CARCACHE	10-DEC	
601	FRANK HUGHLEY	13-DEC	
1904	JASON HARDI	15-DEC	
205	OKSANA ROMANIUK	18-DEC	
1707	SOFIYA SORKIN	19-DEC	
2006	JOANA PETROVA	19-DEC	
912	CAITLIN POLIZANO	23-DEC	
711	MEYER KESLASSY	28-DEC	
1710	YEFIM PLOTKIN	28-DEC	
1007	KLAVDIA KRUGOLETS	29-DEC	
401	RAFAEL DE VARONA	31-DEC	



ANNIVERSARIES

1804	JACQUELINE & HERMAN HIRSCH	20-DEC
1107	ZORAIDA & JUAN ROMERO	20-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 rededicated 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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WRAP IT UP!

Have you noticed that wrapping a gift can cost more than the gift itself? There are some ways to cut the cost of gift–wrapping. Try these tips this holiday season!

- Brown paper bags can be decorated with stamps, markers, or paint. Tie the top with yarn or raffia. Use white trash bags to wrap large or oddly shaped presents. Check your local newspaper office to see if they sell "ends" from the newsprint paper. You can decorate the paper in many different ways.
- □ Make the wrapping part of the present itself. Wrap a gift of clothing in a pretty scarf and tie it with a hair ribbon. A purse or small bag could hold another smaller gift. Use a tablecloth or towel to wrap up a gift. Check thrift shops for old tins, hatboxes, or fabric remnants that would make great gift containers. Baskets make great gift holders.
- Use curling ribbon instead of other bows or ribbon. It is cheaper and can give a wrapped gift a very festive look. Make tags by cutting up holiday cards from the year before. Simply cut around an image from the front and write on the back. Punch a hole in one corner and thread curling ribbon through it. Tie it on your package for a nice touch.



Finally, buy your wrapping paper for next year at the after Christmas sales this year. You can save up to 75% off. Place it in a plastic bag to keep it clean and dry.



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