

# Happy Holidays

December is here with its many holidays and celebrations of joy around the world by many cultures.

The most celebrated occasion here in the US is Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our Savior. But, we should not forget or disrespect other religions and cultures who have come here, like our ancestors, so they could be free to practice their own beliefs. It is the melding of these cultures that make the US the great country it is.

**Kwanzaa** is a festive, non-religious celebration, founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, during which African Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage. It begins December 26 and lasts for seven days. Each day



focuses on one of seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

**Chanukah** (Hanukkah) also known as the **Festival of Lights**, is an eight-day Jewish holiday, beginning on December 22nd, this year commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.


After the forces of Antiochus IV had been driven from the Temple, the Maccabees discovered that almost all of the ritual olive oil had been profaned. They found only a single container that was still sealed by the High Priest, with enough oil to keep the menorah in the Temple lit for a single day. They used this, and miraculously, that oil burned

for eight days (the time it took to have new oil pressed and made ready).

**Bodhi Day** is celebrated by Buddhists. This recalls the date when Buddha attained enlightenment. (Dec. 8th)

Eid-UI-Adha (a.k.a. the *Feast of Sacrifice* or *Day of Sacrifice*) celebrated on Dec. 8th this year. A duty of each Muslim, as described in the Five Pillars of Islam, is to go on Hajj - the annual pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) - at least once during their lifetime. The Hajj consists of several ceremonies, meant to symbolize the essential concepts of the Islamic faith, and to commemorate the trials of prophet Abraham and his family.

To everyone, I wish peace, prosperity and happiness in the coming year.



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### POP, WATER, ICE & COFFEE

Soda pop and bottled water are available in the refrigerator for 50¢ each and ice, for \$1.50 per bag is available in the ice case outside. Place in the box on the west wall inside the hall.

### DONATE YOUR PENNIES

There is a bucket in the North Hall for collecting your spare pennies. At the end of the season we will roll the pennies and donate them to the Apache Junction Food Bank. Last season we donated \$69 in pennies.

### ALUMINUM CANS

Save your aluminum cans and put them in the collection container in the North Hall. The cans will be donated to the Order of the Amaranth for their diabetes philanthropic project. All income from the recycling of the cans will go to diabetes research. Nothing is withheld for expenses or salaries. Please do not put garbage in this can.

### MEALS

Unless you are advised differently always bring your own table service and glasses/cups to meals and ice cream Socials.

St. Nicholas is another name for Santa Claus. The real St. Nicholas was a man named Hagios Nikolas, who lived in about A.D. 300. Nikolas was known for giving gifts to needy people.

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6:30 PM Ice Cream Social 6:30 PM Billiards 7:00 PM Card Bingo	7:30 AM Men's Coffee 8:30 AM Coffee & Donuts 9:00 AM Shuffling 11:00 AM Water Aerobics 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Billiards	7:30 AM Men's Coffee 9:00 AM Shuffling 9:30 AM Exercise 9:30 AM Tennis 11:00 AM Water Aerobics 1:00 PM Cards 6:30 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Cribbage	7:30 AM Men's Coffee 9:00 AM Shuffling 9:00 AM Create & Chat 11:00 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Pinochle	7:30 AM Men's Coffee 9:00 AM Shuffling 9:30 AM Exercise 9:30 AM Tennis 11:00 AM Water Aerobics 1:00 PM Cards 6:30 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Line Dancing Class	7:30 AM Men's Coffee 9:00 AM Shuffling 11:00 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Poker 6:30 PM Friday Night Gambling	9:00 AM Shuffling 9:30 AM Exercise 9:30 AM Tennis 10:00 AM Schwann's Delivery 6:30 PM Billiards

**NOTE: ALL TABLE GAMES ARE IN THE CARD HALL EXCEPT CARD BINGO**

**JANUARY 2009 SPECIAL EVENTS**

Jan. 3	8:30 AM	Pancake & Sausage Breakfast (Sign Up)
Jan. 5	8:30 AM	Activities Meeting With Complimentary Coffee & Donuts
Jan. 6	5:30 PM	Potluck (Sign Up)
Jan. 10	11:30 AM	Potluck Salad Lunch, Fashion Show and Clothing Sale
Jan. 12	9:30 AM	Pinochle tournament (Sign Up)
Jan. 13	12:00 PM	Soup Lunch (Sign Up)
Jan. 15	11:00 AM	Ladies Lunch Out (Sign Up)
Jan. 16	5:30 PM	Pizza Party (Sign Up)
Jan. 20	5:30 PM	Potluck (Sign Up)
Jan. 23	5:30 PM	Arizona Opry (Sign Up & Pre-Pay)
Jan. 28	9:30 AM	Fabric Painting Class (Sign Up)
Jan. 29	12:00 PM	Soup Lunch (Sign Up)
Jan. 31	1:00 PM	Jam Session

**CHECK THE BIG CALENDAR IN THE HALL FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE**



We will publish a residents' directory for the 2008-2009 season. All information is optional and will help us so we can keep in touch with each other during the summer. Please fill in the form below and turn it into the Activity Office as soon as possible. If you do not submit a form, even if you were listed last season, we will assume that you do not want to be listed or did not return. The directory will not be distributed outside of the park.

**DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Space \_\_\_\_\_ Park Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS**

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION**

His Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and day only)

Her Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and day only)

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month, day and year)