



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It's no coincidence that so many religious and cultural celebrations occur in December.

The winter solstice falls in December around the 22nd and has always been one of the most important events of all cultures.

The early Europeans celebrated the longest night and rebirth of the sun by slaughtering all livestock that could not survive the winter and feasting well into January. Most ancient pagan cultures celebrated in similar ways.

The Jewish celebration Chanukah (or Hanukah,) the Festival of Lights, falls between the middle of November and early January celebrates their victory over the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil

that burned for eight days.

In the fourth century the Church decided that Christians needed a holiday during the solstice period to compete with the pagans and Jews. They Selected December 25th for the Feast of the Nativity. In the ninth century it was made a full-fledged holiday, but was not considered as important as Good Friday or Easter.

Until the late 18th century Christmas was seen by Christians as a time for excessive drinking, eating, fighting and caroling for money. When Oliver Cromwell took control of England in 1645 he considered this manner of celebrating the birth of Christ to be blasphemous and banned it. Decorations were forbidden as was the cooking of meat. When Puritans migrated to the new colonies in America they took

this belief with them and festivities were forbidden in Boston until 1681.

By the late 18th century the holiday began to return to favor. In 1870 the US Congress made Christmas a federal holiday.

Christmas combines pre-Christian pagan and modern traditions and the primary modern tradition, the giving of gifts, has turned it into a major influence on our economy. It has become a shopping blitz that now begins right after Halloween when the stores put up their Christmas display.

Winter solstice holidays include; Buddhist, Celtic, Chinese, Christian, Germanic, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan and Neo-Pagan, Andean, Pastafarian, Polynesian, Persian, Roman, Secular and Slavic.

Let us remember that we are a

There is so much good in the worst of us,
and so much bad in the best of us,
that it hardly becomes any of us
to talk about the rest of us.

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 \$58 in pennies.

ALUMINUM CANS

Save your aluminum cans and put them in the collection containers by 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 these containers.

MEALS

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

COMPUTER

The computer in the Library is available for anyone to use. Internet access is available through our park Wi-Fi system. Please do not make any configuration to the hardware or software without my approval. The computer is for personal use only and must not be used for any

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR December 2009

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

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

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

- Dec. 1 5:30 PM Potluck (Sign Up)
- Dec. 7 8:30 AM Activity Meeting with Complimentary Coffee and Donuts
- Dec. 10 8:30 AM Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast (Sign Up)
- Dec. 15 5:30 PM Potluck (Sign Up)
- Dec. 17 10:00 AM Ladies Day Out (Sign Up)
- Dec. 21 4:30 PM Wine & Cheese Party & Ornament Exchange (Sign Up & Ticket Req'd)
- Dec. 24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Party & hors d'oeuvres
- Dec. 25 1:00 PM Christmas Dinner (Sign Up)
- Dec. 31 6:00 PM New Year's Eve Party with Baked Potato Bar (Sign Up)

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





We will publish a residents' directory for the 2009-2010 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.

PARK INFO.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Space _____

Park Phone No: _____

HOME ADDRESS

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone No: _____

Cell Phone No: _____

Cell Phone No: _____

EMAIL

Email Address: _____

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION

His Name: _____ Birthday: _____ (Month and day only)

Her Name: _____ Birthday: _____ (Month and day only)