



Apotex

Jewish Home for the Aged

Resident & Caregiver Newsletter December 2020

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We are excited to launch this new format for the newsletter for residents and caregivers in the Apotex.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide Apotex residents and caregivers information and

updates about programs, special events and other initiatives taking place around the centre. The newsletter will be published every 1-2 months and will be available throughout the home.

A Chanukah message from Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Haber

"Oh, Chanukah, Oh, Chanukah/ Come light the menorah /Let's have a party / We'll all dance the hora / Gather round the table, we'll give you a treat / Sevivonim to play with and lakes to eat / And while we are playing / The candles are burning low / One for each night, they shed a sweet light /To remind us of days long ago / One for each night, they shed a sweet light / To remind us of days long ago."

Most of us, who are aware of Chanukah, associate the miracle with the cruse of oil that lasted eight days instead of one; but the story is more complex than that. More than twenty-one centuries ago, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Hellenized Syrians), who sought to forcefully Hellenize (impose Greek culture and beliefs on) the people of Israel. Against all odds, a small band of faithful Jews defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of God.

Continued...A Chanukah message from Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey Haber,

When Maccabees, the Jewish warriors who won, sought to light the Temple's menorah (the seven branched candelabrum), they found only a single cruse of olive oil had escaped contamination by the Greeks; miraculously, the one-day supply burned for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of purity. That is the story most of us know and tell.

But, the first miracle was not the cruse of oil; it was instead, the military victory over the powerful Hellenizing forces. Originally, that was the miracle celebrated. But later, when the Romans occupied the Holy Land, such celebration could be interpreted as sedition that would bring the wrath of Rome upon the people of Israel. So the Rabbis of the era perpetuated the oil story to divert attention away from the military uprising to the religious miracle associated with the Temple. The ploy worked, for Jews are still here today but there are no ancient Romans. Indeed, it worked so well that this is the common story we tell.

And therein lies the third miracle: the power of the word over the sword. By emphasizing the rededication of the Temple over the military victory, the Rabbis were able to use the words of the story to prevent accusations of sedition and treason and thus saved countless lives. Instead, Chanukah became a holiday that commemorates religious freedom.

In a world fraught with religious intolerance, the holiday has a powerful message for us: that peace is readily attainable if we can learn to live in a pluralistic environment that allows various expressions of religion to co-exist side by side, rather than imposing one uniform belief on all. After all, just as God made a diverse humanity, so did God give us different pathways to seek God out--and that makes the world a more interesting place in which to live. Regardless of which route we follow, religion is meant to bring us recognition of the One Creator of all and that what God wants is peace on earth and good will toward all.

Happy Chanukah,
Rabbi Geoff Haber, Director
Baycrest Spiritual Care Dept.



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Happy Chanukah!



Apotex Chanukah Events and Services

Chanukah begins the evening of Thursday, December 10, 2020 and ends on the evening of Friday December 18, 2020.

Chanukah Candle Lighting and Dining:

- ◆ Every dining room will have an electric Menorah and staff will help residents in saying the blessings.
- ◆ There will be pre-recorded candle lighting services on Channel 988 and YouTube.
- ◆ The Chef is preparing delicious Chanukah-themed meals, which will include tasty latkes and Sufganyot.

Other Special Chanukah Programming (Speak with your Therapeutic Recreation staff for more info)

- There will be a fun Chanukah cart on each floor with goodies, cards from children at Bialik, word games and activities while music plays!
- Chanukah-themed art programs.
- Chanukah-themed Museum on Wheels Program.
- Virtual musical performances, latke making, special videos made by children at local Hebrew day schools - available on YouTube and Baycrest Channel 988

Fun facts about Chanukah:

Israelis devour 24 million sufganiyot during the eight-day holiday – adding up to 10.8 billion calories.

Tradition holds that kids used to meet up in secret to learn Torah, but if a Greek soldier happened upon their meeting they would pretend to be gambling with their dreidels.

Chanukah made its first appearance at the White House in 1951, when Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion gave Harry Truman a menorah as a gift.

Apotex COVID Updates



We continue to take all necessary measures to keep you and everyone at Baycrest safe.

Baycrest is committed to communicating with you about COVID-19.

As of November 26, 2020, Apotex COVID positive cases:

Apotex 7 E/I—1 case
2 Apotex staff

Effective November 30th, all Baycrest staff in a client-facing role and all caregivers must be tested for COVID-19 once per week. All other staff continue to be tested every two weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your unit manager (see directory below). You or your caregivers may also email:

Apotex Team Directory

Simon Akinsulie	Executive Director	Ext. 6804
Lisa Marcovici	Director of Care	Ext. 3349
Cyrelle Muskat	Director, Quality, Systems & Wellness	Ext. 3659
Marilene Antonio (interim)	Apotex 2 Manager	Ext. 2566
Tejas Patel	Apotex 3 Manager	Ext. 6238
Homaira Haqdad (interim)	Apotex 4 Manager	Ext. 6348
Homaira Haqdad	Apotex 5 Manager	Ext. 6348
Selvi Krishnadasan	Apotex 6 Manager	Ext. 2482
Marilene Antonio	Apotex 7 Manager	Ext. 3195
Zarna Patel	Food Services Manager	Ext. 6658

News from the Therapeutic Recreation

The Therapeutic Recreation team continues to provide safe 1:1 and small group programming. The TRs also have smart TVs, iPads and other technology, which can be used by residents for enjoyment. Please speak with your TR staff if you have any questions or would like to borrow some supplies.

Apotex TR Staff Directory:

Apotex 2 - Janice Ocampo (ext.2313) and Jessica Baker (ext.5879)

Apotex 3 - Jenypher Ashby (ext.5490) and Janice Ocampo (ext.2313)

Apotex 4 - Jackie Reale (ext.2543) and Keeley Dougherty (ext.3885)

Apotex 5 - Sabina Ntim (ext.5169) and Keeley Dougherty (ext.3885)

Apotex 6 - Paula Carcamo (ext.5430) and Hayley Rosen (ext.5602)

Apotex 7 - Kelly Rose (ext.3162) and Shari Fremeth-Tepper (ext.2207)



Baycrest

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