

Decembe 2017

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**Merry Christmas - Happy Holidays
Happy New Year**

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and those who have helped to shape our business. It's been quite a year for us all! We hope that 2018 will be just as memorable for you, your colleagues and your loved ones. We look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Cheers to the New Year! Wishing you a Happy Holiday season from the team at East Coast Partners Grp / Air Safe Hitches



MERRY CHRISTMAS WISHES 2017

- *A little smile, a word of cheer, a bit of love from someone near, a little gift from one held dear, best wishes for the coming year.*
- *May you find hope and peace this joyous season and may the coming year be your most successful year yet.*
- *'Tis the season for good food, family, friends, presents and fellowship. May yours be filled with each this season and throughout the year.*

- *May your spirit be renewed during this joyous season with the love of the family and friends that you care about most.*
- *Here's to hoping that you find happiness, peace, and good will this holiday season and throughout the coming New Year. May your Christmas sparkle and shine. Celebrate this holiday like a child. Have a great Christmas.*
- *Take nothing for granted and be thankful that you have such great family and friends to spend this joyous season with. Wishing you a delightful holiday season.*
- *Take a few moments this season to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and what makes it so magical and joyous.*
- *This holiday season, try to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and share the meaning with the ones that are closest to you. Fill your heart with the warmth that is the closeness of your family, friends and loved ones this holiday season and forever.*
- *Even though we don't see or talk to each other too often, I wish you nothing but the best this season and for the coming New Year.*
- *Don't dwell on the past too much. Use this time of year to reflect on the good things in life that mean the most to you.*
- *Smile often, love always and good things will find a way to enter your life to give you a true sense of happiness.*
- *May your inner child come out this holiday season so you may truly enjoy and appreciate the small things in life that so often get overlooked.*

Decorating the RV for the Christmas Holidays

Submitted by a friend

RV Tips and Advice -- Decorating your RV for the Christmas Holidays. Full time RVer gives tips for how make spending the holidays in your recreational vehicle festive.

There's a pan of gingerbread baking in my RV oven. It smells wonderful. It smells like Christmas!

That mug of candy canes on my desk? I occasionally nibble on one and I sometimes use one to stir my tea. But mainly I sniff them. There's something rejuvenating about peppermint. And, they smell like Christmas!

That huge candle on my bathroom vanity, the one with cinnamon sticks and red berries in it - it has the best scent you can imagine. It smells like Christmas!

I decorate for all my senses. Our RV home is small. I have neither the room to display nor to store boxes and boxes of holiday decorations. I've learned to compensate by involving my senses of smell, taste, touch, and hearing as well as vision.

Here are some hints and things I've learned about decorating a small home (but they will work for those of you with large homes, too) ?

- Use your holiday decorations. Our regular cloth placemats and napkins are put away and we use the Christmas ones. (If they get spaghetti sauce on them, so what?) And those pretty candles - they get lit and burned.
- Let your holiday festoons do double or triple duty - such as that gingerbread that not only smells like Christmas but tastes like it, too. Or, those candy canes that smell, taste, and look like Christmas.
- Look beyond an item's intended purpose. Our puppy received an adorable stuffed reindeer toy for a Christmas gift. It has a nubby fur body, velvet antlers, and a brightly colored knitted scarf. It sits on our window valance, adding a whimsical touch.
- Keep tradition. Although we've never had a fireplace, I can't remember a Christmas when we didn't hang stockings. Last year, we pinned them to the curtains. This year, we screwed small cup hooks to the underside of the overhead cabinets and the stockings hang in a row at the foot of our bed.
- Have a focal point. I have a small quilt draped over the curtain opposite the front door. When you open the door and look in our trailer, it is the first thing you see - bold, colorful, and dramatic.
- Take advantage of small wall spaces. I don't have room to hang large paintings. Instead, I use tree ornaments as wall hangings. In the tiniest of spaces, I hang a single ornament. In the somewhat larger areas, I make a grouping of several ornaments that have something in common - such as three Santas, or a small collection of brass ornaments.
- Use free decorations. A basket of evergreen branches (trimmings picked up at a tree lot) and pinecones (picked from our yard) tied with a red ribbon looks festive on the counter. The cat loves to play in them. When she bruises the needles, the fragrance oils are released and the room is lightly scented with pine.
- Decorate with things meant to disappear. My centerpiece is a container of seasonal fruit and candy. Family and friends are encouraged to help themselves to these goodies. I replenish it with different treats throughout the season.
- Create a mood. We fill our home with seasonal music - carols, fun childhood favorites, and new renditions by country artists. I answer the phone with, "Merry Christmas!" And sometimes, in the dark of evening, we just stand watching the twinkling of tiny lights on our 10-inch tall Christmas tree and think about why it is that we celebrate Christmas in the first place.



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How They Forecast a Cold Winter

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter of 2011/12 was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked.

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'

Hanukkah 2017: When Does It Start, Why Is It Celebrated & Everything Else To Know

When does Hanukkah 2017 begin? The Jewish holiday is finally here, so we rounded up everything you need to know about the eight-day celebration!

The holiday season is upon us, which means millions of Jewish people will begin celebrating Hanukkah! Since the eight day period is determined by the Hebrew calendar, it doesn't land on the exact same day each year. So when does Hanukkah 2017 begin? The holiday will start the evening of today, **Dec. 12**, and end the evening of **Dec. 20**. So now that you know when it'll be happening, here's a roundup of things you should know about the religious tradition:

What is Hanukkah? Also known as Chanukah, the holiday is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights." The Hebrew word Chanukah means "dedication" which is aptly named because the tradition celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire.

How did it begin and why is it celebrated? In the second century BCE, the Syrian-Greeks tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek cultures and beliefs. A small band of Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated their army, drove the Greeks away, and reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. When they tried to light the Temple's Menorah, they found a single pot of olive oil, which was expected to last only one day. The single day supply ended up lasting for eight days, and to commemorate the miracle, the Hanukkah festival was created, and is still celebrated across the globe today.

How do you celebrate it? There's a lot more to the holiday than lighting a menorah each night. While that's definitely a large part of the holiday, special prayers and fried foods are also incorporated into the celebration.

The menorah holds nine candles, one of which is called the *shamash*, which is used to light the remaining eight flames. One flame is lit on the first night, an additional flame is lit on the second night, and by the eighth night all candles are kindled. Special blessings are recited before the lighting of the menorah, and traditional songs are sung afterward.

Foods are typically fried in oil in reference to the oil involved in the Hanukkah miracle. Potato pancakes, also known as *latkes*, are a staple, and usually garnished with applesauce or sour cream. Jelly-filled donuts are also a favorite.

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