An Explosive New Year

The new year is celebrated all around the world, and its arrival is most often heralded with fireworks. Why are fireworks associated with ringing in the new year all over the globe? It turns out they are part of a larger story and much more than just a loud and raucous display of joy and revelry. This story begins with their invention in China.

China is very proud of its Four Great Inventions: the compass, papermaking, printing, and gunpowder. Like so many important inventions, gunpowder was discovered by accident. In the ninth century, Chinese alchemists searching for the elixir of immortality instead discovered the formula for gunpowder. It was, of course, eventually adapted for use in warfare, but other uses were discovered more immediately, such as in the development of flares and eventually fireworks.

While the emperor may have been treated to elaborate and spectacular fireworks shows, fireworks were not all fun and games. They served another important purpose: when fireworks exploded at the beginning of each new year, they were believed to frighten away evil spirits, banish bad luck, and bring good fortune. From these superstitious beginnings, fireworks have become a mainstay of new year traditions around the world.

There may be no better time to watch a fireworks display than on the Chinese New Year, which falls on January 28. Beijing and Hong Kong often vie for the most amazing displays, which may mean—if ancient superstitions are true—that these two cities will enjoy the greatest luck. In the Chinese zodiac, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, an animal that, thanks to its relentless crowing, is considered adept at shooing away evil spirits. It is also the year of Fire, so be on the lookout for greater, more elaborate, and more powerful fireworks displays.
Manager’s Corner

As the weather turns colder and the snow and ice comes along, please be sure not to walk outside if the walkways and streets have not been plowed yet. It’s good practice to keep curtains drawn, and blinds down to keep your apartments warm.

Reminders

• **IMPORTANT!** -Residents should *NOT* open or hold the door at building 1 for any reason! All guests, aides, workers, etc., are to always come thru the main door and sign in at security at all times.

• Rents are due by the 5th of every month.

• Please be courteous to the building staff as they are to you. They work very hard to help all residents. Kindness counts!

• Only **STAFF** should be operating any electronic devices owned by (Federation Plaza) in the common areas of the building (Rec Room, Dining Room, Lobby, Promenade), that means that no resident should be working the projector or turning the TV’s on, off, or changing the channels at any time or for any reason.

The staff here at Jewish Federation Plaza wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year

*Ann Marie Bass-Site Manager*
Upcoming Events

- Creating a Resident’s Bill of Rights with Jeanne Burstein
- Trader Joes
- Life Long Learning
- Religious Services
- Floral Design Workshop
- Plaza Men’s Club
- Seeing Eye Puppy Visit
- Meditation & Relaxation
- Rt 10 Shopping
- Move Today & Walking Club
- Choral Group
- Hirschhorn: Norman Rockwell by Judy Ebright
- Barnabas Health
- Our Stories
- Livingston & Shorthills Malls
- Book Club
- Gamefest
- Short Group
- Singing Workers
- Rabbi Study Group
- Walmart Kearney

See calendar for dates and times of all events.

Happy January Birthday

Jan 01  Ruth Palin
Jan 01  Toby Rosenstein
Jan 03  Susan Schwitzer
Jan 07  Miriam G. Lateiner
Jan 07  Barbara Spierer
Jan 08  Linda Israel
Jan 20  Mary Castro
Jan 25  Stuart Burglass
Jan 25  Edward Schwartz
Jan 26  Sondra Lang
Jan 29  Gary Prager

December Birthday party entertainment featuring Carol Erickson and Jim Ramundo.
THE STROLLER’S PERFORM FOR JCHC RESIDENTS

A fitting holiday gift from the Strollers Community Theatre founded grateful seniors flocking to the Jewish Federation Plaza in West Orange. Seniors from B’nai B’rith Federation House and Village Apartments in South Orange, NJ, as well as many from Jewish Federation Plaza, filled every seat in their recreation room.

For all the seniors who enjoyed this treat by the Strollers, we say Thank You! It was a bright spot that lit up our holidays.
Immigration Station

Three large ships waited in New York harbor on January 1, 1892, for the official opening of the Ellis Island Immigration Station. On that first day, hundreds of immigrants entered America. The very first person to be processed was 17-year-old Annie Moore, from Cork, Ireland. It is estimated that between 1900 and 1914 (the peak years of the station’s operation), up to 11,000 people passed through Ellis Island every day. It has been estimated that 40 percent of all Americans can trace their lineage back to Ellis Island. For this reason, Ellis Island was made a National Park in 1965 and designated an Immigration Museum in 1990. Today, visitors to the island are invited to search a database to discover whether their ancestors were part of the great surge of immigrants passing through the center’s halls between 1892 and 1924. The list of famous names who passed through Ellis Island is astounding; it includes composer Irving Berlin, bodybuilder Charles Atlas, Hollywood starlet Claudette Colbert, psychologist Sigmund Freud, and silent movie star Charlie Chaplin.

Isn’t That Peculiar?

January 10, Peculiar People Day, is the time to appreciate the weirdness that often comes with genius. Ben Franklin, American founding father and inventor, would give himself an “air bath” each morning, standing in front of an open window in his birthday suit. Less known, but no less peculiar, is Dr. Yoshiro Nakamatsu, inventor of the floppy disk in 1952. He developed most of his greatest ideas while underwater, depriving the brain of oxygen, when he believed the greatest inspiration would strike. Just before nearly drowning, he would write his idea on waterproof paper. Inventor Thomas Edison interviewed assistants by making them eat a bowl of soup in front of him. Those caught salting the soup before tasting it were dismissed, as Edison believed they started out with too many assumptions and were unfit for inventing. The next time you do something peculiar, remind yourself and everyone around you that it is a habit born of your great genius.
Greetings from the Tenants Association

My New Year’s Resolutions:

I will be respectful and not talk while the Shabbat candles are being lit, and/or a religious activity is taking place. I will listen carefully and quietly while announcements are being read at dinner in the dining room.

I will not wear any perfumes or other scented products that might cause distress for any of my friends or neighbors, especially those with allergies or breathing problems.

I will turn out the lights when I leave the laundry or recycling rooms, even for a few minutes.

I will be courteous and as helpful as I can when entering or leaving the elevators. I will move back to let people get off, and will move to the rear of the elevator when getting on.

I will thank all who work here for their services, caring, and patience. I will appreciate all the residents who volunteer and help to make our lives better.

I will smile at least 50 times a day, and say “thank you” 100 times a day.

My New Year’s wish is that my friends and neighbors join me in these resolutions and add many more to the list.

Yours Truly,

Joan Bender

President
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To: Saul Blazer
From: Rhoda Morris

To: Joan Bender
From: Rhoda Morris

From: Millie Podnos
To: Dolores Lederman

From: Rhoda Morris

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To: Ilse Frank
From: Millie Podnos

From: Miriam Lateiner

From: Rhoda Morris

From: Ed Esther Schwartz

From: Rachelle Chriss

From: Dolores Lederman

From: Helen Mandel

From: Marlene Hyatt

From: Marlene Mankoff

From: Helen Mandel

CONDOLENCE

To: The Wilon Family on the loss of their mother
From: Aunt Foshy.

To: The Wenzelberg Family on the loss of Ruth Ford
From: Aunt Foshy.

To: Marion Brod
From: May Berenson

To: Florence Widelitz on the loss of her sister.
From: Irene Goldberg

Dolores Lederman
Shirley Cruset.
THANK YOU

To:
All Plaza Residents
I am happy to be back here among you all.

From:
Millie Podnos

DECEMBER LIBRARY DONATIONS

George Aptecker
Alyce Atkins
Ed Schwartz
Florence Widelitz

All are welcome to visit with Otter the Seeing Eye Puppy.

Kid’s Cookies n’ Concerts featured Hanukkah by Iris Berman School.

Plaza Hanukkah Party
# JANUARY 2017 PLAZA Calendar

Program Location Code
1. Recreation Room
2. Promenade
3. Dining Room
Note: Location is subject to change

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Hanukkah, 8th Day New Year’s Day</td>
<td>2 Office &amp; Dining Room Closed</td>
<td>3 11:00 EXERCISE 1:00 Creating A Resident’s Bill of Rights with Jeanne Burstein 2:00 CURRENT EVENTS 1</td>
<td>4 10:45 Essex Green &amp; Kmart 11:00 Move Today &amp; Walking Club 12:15 Life-Long Learning 1:30 CHORAL GROUP 1 3:00 Floral Design Workshop 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>5 10:45 Trader Joe’s Florham Park 11:00 Exercise 2 3:00 Plaza Men’s Club 1 6:30 TA Board Meeting 1</td>
<td>6 9:00 SHOPRITE 10:00 SHOPRITE 1:00 ONEG SHABBAT 3</td>
<td>7 9:00 SHABBAT SERVICE 1 11:00 KIDDUSH 3 7:00 MOVIE 1</td>
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<td>8 11:00 BRLUNCH 3 2:00 MOVIE 1</td>
<td>9 10:15 TOWN BUS 11:30 TAI CHI 2 6:00 LIBRARY 2 6:45 Life-Long Learning 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>10 10:45 Rt 10 Shopping &amp; Farmers Market 11:00 EXERCISE 1:00 Seeing Eye Puppy Visit 2 2:00 CURRENT EVENTS 1 6:30 Meditation &amp; Relaxation 1</td>
<td>11 11:30 Montclair Art Museum 11:00 Move Today &amp; Walking Club 12:15 Life-Long Learning 1:30 CHORAL GROUP 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>12 10:45 IHOP &amp; Menlo Park Mall 11:00 Exercise 2:00 Hirschhorn: Judy Ebright presents Norman Rockwell 6:45 Tenant Association General Meeting 3</td>
<td>13 9:00 SHOPRITE 10:00 SHOPRITE 1:00 ONEG SHABBAT 3</td>
<td>14 9:00 SHABBAT SERVICE 1 11:00 KIDDUSH 3 7:00 MOVIE 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 11:00 BRLUNCH 3 2:00 MOVIE 1</td>
<td>16 Martin Luther King Office &amp; Dining Room Closed</td>
<td>17 11:00 EXERCISE 1:00 Barnabas Health 2:00 CURRENT EVENTS 1</td>
<td>18 10:15 Walmart in Kearny 11:00 Move Today &amp; Walking Club 12:15 Life-Long Learning 1:30 CHORAL GROUP 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>19 11:00 Red Lobster Rt 46 11:00 Exercise 2:00 Our Stories 7:00 Book Club 1</td>
<td>20 Inauguration Day 9:00 SHOPRITE 10:00 SHOPRITE 1:00 ONEG SHABBAT 3</td>
<td>21 9:00 SHABBAT SERVICE 1 11:00 KIDDUSH 3 7:00 MOVIE 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 11:00 BRLUNCH 3 2:00 MOVIE 1 Gamefest after Movie 2</td>
<td>23 10:15 Rt 22 Shopping, Christmas Tree Shop 10:15 TOWN BUS 11:30 TAI CHI 2 6:00 LIBRARY 2 6:45 Life-Long Learning 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>24 11:00 EXERCISE 2:00 CURRENT EVENTS 1 6:30 Meditation &amp; Relaxation 1</td>
<td>25 10:00 Kean Art Gallery 11:00 Move Today &amp; Walking Club 12:15 Life-Long Learning 1:30 CHORAL GROUP 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>26 10:45 Paramus Park 11:00 Exercise 2:00 Short Story Group featuring Pearl Kaufman 1</td>
<td>27 9:00 SHOPRITE 10:00 SHOPRITE 1:00 ONEG SHABBAT 3</td>
<td>28 9:00 SHABBAT SERVICE 1 11:00 KIDDUSH 3 2:30 “Singing Workers” Dr. Saul Broudy 1 7:00 MOVIE 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 11:00 BRLUNCH 3 2:00 MOVIE 1</td>
<td>30 10:15 TOWN BUS 10:45 Willowbrook Mall 11:30 TAI CHI 2 6:00 LIBRARY 2 6:45 Life-Long Learning 1 7:15 BINGO 3</td>
<td>31 11:00 EXERCISE 2:00 CURRENT EVENTS 1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
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