

Thanksgivukkah: Thanksgiving, Hannukah collide in calendar oddity



Students at the at the Owings Mills Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center dress up as dreidels as part of their Thanksgivukkah celebration. (Photo courtesy of Robin Rose-Samuels). Copyright 2013 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

SHARETHIS

Recommend 11 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

Tweet 3

g+1 0

Posted: 2:31 PM Last Updated: 1 hour and 4 minutes ago

By: Ron Snyder

Allison McFaul has the perfect Thanksgiving dinner planned for her family.

There will be turkey, stuffing cranberry sauce, gravy and latkes.

Latkes?

Welcome to the convergence of holidays for many families in Baltimore as Thanksgiving and Hanukkah (which starts at sundown Wednesday) will take place at the same time. Many Jewish families are preparing to merge the two holidays together; an occurrence that has not happened since 1888 and won't happen again for more than 75,000 years.

Many have simply turned into calling the event "Thanksgivukkah."

"Everything has been pushed up this year and has been really rushed," McFaul said. "It's crazy to have to get all of the Hanukkah shopping done before Black Friday. We have a multi-faith family, and my daughter is a Christmas baby. So, holidays are always jammed-packed, but this is definitely the case this year."

The quirk in the holiday schedule comes from the fact the Jewish calendar is lunar-based and does not flow in sync with the Gregorian calendar, said Barry Gittlen, a professor with the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

The Jewish calendar, which Gittlen said is too complicated to fully explain, also has leap months on occasion and can lead to holidays falling on various dates.

"The leap months are thrown in to try in part to mesh the holidays with the seasons," Gittlen said. "When you add the extra months, it can lead to great shifts in the holiday schedule."

Many members of the Jewish community don't even try to understand the intricacies of the calendar. Instead, they are just trying to have fun with the blended holiday schedule. That was the case Monday at the Owings Mills Jewish Community Center.

There, preschoolers at the Early Childhood Center put on a performance that highlighted the best of both holidays. Some kids were dressed in Pilgrim and Native American costumes; others as Maccabees and dreidels.

During the performance, they sang Thanksgiving and Hanukkah songs and

Buy Local Buy Maryland



What is Buy Local, Buy Maryland?

Buy Local, Buy Maryland is a customer savings club that features locally owned businesses. Card holders can save money by shopping in the stores featured in this exclusive program!

Watch Video

Advertisement

Special Reports



Baltimore police, gangs battle online

Inside the Baltimore Police Department's watch center is the hub from which city police can view hundreds of crime cameras, pull up street corners and follow suspicious activity sometimes in progress; fancy hardware increasingly complimenting witty software.

Watch Video



Police overtime bulks up salaries

ABC2 Investigators uncover Baltimore Police officers making huge amounts of overtime as the agency downplays the total amount spent on OT.

Watch Video



Berkshire insurance payments criticized

Scripps reviewed dozens of lawsuits and spoke with former insiders who all allege the companies that handle Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s asbestos and pollution claims, wrongfully delay or deny payment to cancer victims...

Top Stories

feasted on food that combined the best of both traditions, such as sweet potato latkes. There were also centerpieces for the table such as turkeys holding dreidels that were made by the kids.

School director Ilene Meister said the combining of the two holidays allowed for teachers to fully explain the true meaning of Hanukkah. While the holiday is usually linked with Christmas because of the closeness of the two on the calendar, Meister said Hanukkah actually has more in common with Thanksgiving.

"Both Hanukkah and Thanksgiving are about giving thanks," Meister said. "For Hanukkah it's about celebrating a win over religious persecution by the Maccabees [over the Syrian-Greek rulers of Jerusalem] followed by the rededication of the Temple. The Pilgrims came to America seeking religious freedom as well."

McFaul, whose 3-year-old daughter Amelia attends the preschool, said the unique holiday season has provided her child with an educational opportunity.

"They have had a chance to understand what each of the holidays is all about," McFaul said.

Kari Richmond agrees.

Richmond's 4-year-old twins Ella and Chloe also attend preschool at the JCC and said the holiday alignment has made for an interesting holiday season.

"It's been a little tricky," said Richmond, a teacher at Franklin Elementary School in Reisterstown. "But it is nice to have some separation between Hanukkah and Christmas and talk about how the holiday is more than just giving gifts."

Rabbi Gila Ruskin of Temple Adas Shalom in Havre de Grace also believes Hanukkah has more in common with Thanksgiving, but also points out how Hanukkah can also be compared to Christmas.

"Hanukkah and Christmas both deal with supernatural miracles," Ruskin said. "But, the idea of giving is really what Hanukkah is about."

Advertisement

rewritten, or redistributed.

PRINT

SHARETHIS

Comments

[Login](#) or [signup](#)

You must be logged in to comment

Type your comments here...

Post

▶ Live

No items at this time...



BPD lead in search for 29 y/o airman

29 year old Evan Curbeam seemingly vanished from the busy streets of Fells Point early Saturday morning.

Howard, church ink deal to treat runoff

Harford sheriff plans holiday patrols

Thanksgiving, Hannukah collide this year

1 shot in front of McDonald's in Essex

1 dead, 2 hurt in Ocean City church fire

[Get Local News »](#)

TOP STORIES TRENDING NOW

- Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving, Hannukah collide in calendar oddity
- Danny, 6-year-old teased: Band of elementary schoolmates rally around boy to stop teasing
- 2013 BLACK FRIDAY TV deals: HDTV, LED, Plasma for Samsung, Sharp and other brands
- Judge orders release of Newtown 911 recordings
- Teen Perspective 2News - November 2013
- Baltimore Weather Forecast
- Apple IOS 7 battery drain: how to fix it

Stay Connected

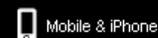
Watch Our Newscast
Streamed Live



* WEATHER ALERTS FOR YOUR EXACT LOCATION *



abc2news.com



news

Local
Weather
Traffic
National/World
Money
Sports

station links

Scam Alerts
Don't Waste Your Money
Bad Medicine
Teen Media
Team Bios
Autos for Sale

entertainment

Celebrity
Crosswords & Sudoku
Horoscopes
Movies
TV Listings

connect

Facebook
Mobile
Twitter

about us

Advertise With Us
Contact Us
EEO Public File Report
Partners
Privacy Policy
Station Jobs
FCC Public File



PRESERVATION
‡ **HALL** ‡
JAZZ BAND



Nov 29 - Dec 1 *Thanksgiving Weekend!*
JOSEPH MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL
BUY TICKETS NOW!



Scripps TV Station Group
©2013 The E.W. Scripps Co.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [EEO](#)

[More News and information from our local news partners](#)