

Dec 2006

Park Avenue

A Newsletter By and For Royal Park Residents

Royal Park Condominium Apartments, Inc. • 119 Royal Park Drive 1-A • Oakland Park, Florida 33309
RoyalParkOffice@AOL.com • T - (954) 739-6300 • F - (954) 731-4341



Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa – all festivals of light.

Happy Holidays to all, however you celebrate!

Inside This Issue...

- 3 Oakland Park Updates
- 4 Something to Ponder
- 4 Thank You!
- 5 Holiday Cheer
- 7 Jewish Apple Cake
- 7 Hanukkah
- 8 Helpful Hint
- 8 Mind, Body & Medicine
- 8 Soft Doggie Cookies
- 8 Kiswahili and Kwanzaa

Cost of Christmas: \$18,920

By MSN Money Staff

If Christmas feels a bit more expensive this year, you can blame it on the pear tree -- as well as the lords a-leaping, the ladies dancing and the drummers drumming.

The annual PNC Christmas Price Index, based on the cost of the items in "The 12 Days of Christmas," rose 3.1% this year, with the sharpest increase coming from the 44% jump in pear tree prices.

"Robust commercial construction is sparking landscapers' demand for ornamental trees, such as the species of pear used in the survey," said Jeff Kleintop, chief investment strategist for PNC Wealth Management, which creates the annual survey.

See Christmas on page 2

Goodbye 2006!

Harvey L. Ross, President

As we get ready to ring in the New Year 2007, let's not forget 2006. It's been a year to remember at Royal Park for the things that occurred as well as what didn't.

We painted the buildings; we painted the railings; we replaced roofs on a number of buildings; we blacktopped our roads; we got new equipment for our gyms; we replaced our old signs; we added a generator, fenced it in and put in hedges; a sidewalk was added to help the residents get to the canal pool; we worked on the entire sprinkler system as well as the general landscaping of our property. Other

jobs were completed, helping enhance the look of Royal Park.

What didn't occur...NO HURRICANES AND NO ASSESMENTS....what a great year!

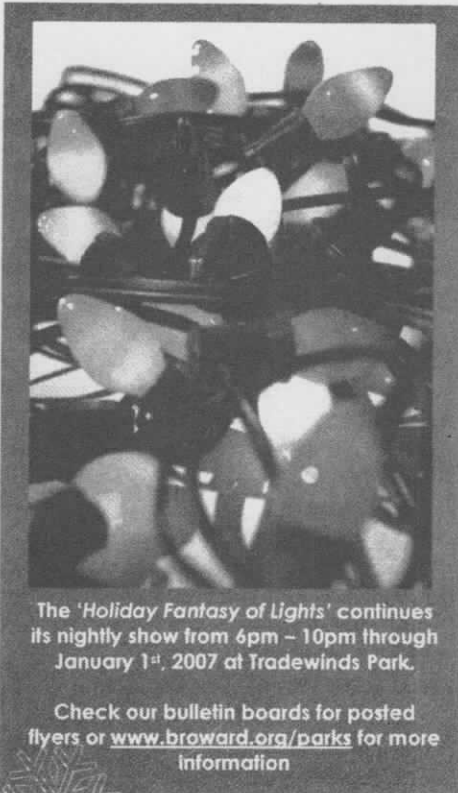
Here's hoping 2007 is as good a year with all residents working together to improve our property as well as our way of life at Royal Park.

Wishing all of you and your families an enjoyable and safe holiday as well as a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!!!

Thank You to all who contributed to the success of 'Park Avenue' in 2006! Looking forward to increased participation and continued success in 2007!



The price of the partridge, the pear tree and the rest of the '12 Days' goodies is up 3.1% this year, thanks to rising labor costs.



The 'Holiday Fantasy of Lights' continues its nightly show from 6pm - 10pm through January 1st, 2007 at Tradewinds Park.

Check our bulletin boards for posted flyers or www.broward.org/parks for more information

Cost of Christmas, from page 1

But it was low unemployment -- and, consequently, higher labor costs -- that really put the bite in the holidays this year.

"The Christmas Price Index reflects trends in the broader economy," said Kleintop. "After years of stagnation, wages for skilled workers, including the song's dancers and musicians, have increased as the labor market has tightened. Also, a decline in the housing market has dampened demand for luxury goods, such as gold rings."

According to the 22nd annual survey, the cost of "The 12 Days of Christmas" is \$18,920 in 2006, compared with \$18,349 in 2005. Gift prices mirrored the U.S. government's Consumer Price Index -- a widely used measure of

inflation calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor costs for dancers, drummers

The largest dollar increase this year came from rising labor costs, which exceeded the rate of inflation for the first time in years.

According to Philadanco, the Philadelphia Dance Company, the cost of nine ladies dancing was \$4,759, 4% more than in 2006. The women's wage increase outstripped those of their performing peers: The cost of lords a-leaping rose 3%, while the musicians -- the drummers drumming and the pipers piping -- earned 3.4% more than in 2005.

Maids a-milking, who are paid the minimum wage, were the only service providers not to see an increase this year. The federal minimum wage has been set at \$5.15 per hour since 1997. Inflation since 1996 has steadily eroded the purchasing power of the hourly minimum, which would be worth \$4.04 in 1996 dollars.

For the birds: Flat prices

The price of the partridge (as well as that of turtle doves, French hens, geese and swans) was flat this year, according to The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, as the cost of fuel to ship the birds leveled off. The avian exception was calling birds, which were purchased at a national pet store chain and increased 20%.

Gold rings also stayed constant this year despite a cost increase in the raw material -- gold -- because of softening demand for luxury goods.

"A slowing residential real estate market is making people feel less wealthy this year," said Kleintop. "Investors have been buying gold as an inflation hedge and prices per ounce remain much higher than last year," he added. "This may put pressure on profit margins at retail jewelers, who have not been able to pass along the increased cost to consumers."

PNC Christmas Price Index			
Item	2005	2006	% change
One partridge	\$15	\$15	flat
Pear tree	\$89.99	\$129.99	44.40%
Two turtle doves	\$40	\$40	flat
Three French hens	\$45	\$45	flat
Four calling birds	\$399.96	\$479.96	20.00%
Five gold rings	\$325	\$325	flat
Six geese a-laying	\$300	\$300	flat
Seven swans a-swimming	\$4,200	\$4,200	flat
Eight maids a-milking	\$41.20	\$41.20	flat
Nine ladies dancing	\$4,576.14	\$4,759.19	4.00%
10 lords a-leaping	\$4,039.08	\$4,160.25	3.00%
11 pipers piping	\$2,053.20	\$2,124	3.40%
12 drummers drumming	\$2,224.30	\$2,301	3.40%
Total Christmas Price Index	\$18,348.87	\$18,920.59	3.10%

This holiday season, very generous True Loves will pay more than ever before -- \$75,122 -- for all 364 items, up from \$72,608 in 2005. This 3.5% increase is substantially less than last year's 9.5% increase.



Quality
and Satisfaction
Guaranteed

A-1 ONE PRICE CLEANERS

Quality Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
Cleaners Since 1982



"Not Your Average Dry Cleaners"
"All Work Done on Premise"
"Top Quality Work at Fair and Competitive Prices"
"Give Us a Try - Your Satisfaction is our Guarantee"

Now we accept Master Card
VISA and Discover Card

No minimum sales amount
required!

Any Plain Garment Excluding
Silk and Linen Garments

\$3.79

Does not Require Pre-payment!
No limit!

**Bring us 6 items
and pay for only 5**

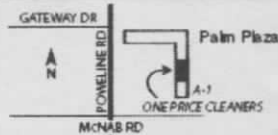
Only on Dry Cleaning Services
Must present this coupon
No quantity limit!
Expires Jan. 8th 2007 **RP**

"NEW STORE HOURS"
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

1422 South Powerline Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33069
a_1_cleaners@yahoo.com

(954) 973-6470

Not affiliated with any other One Price Cleaners



Across from Checkers Restaurant
on the east side of Powerline Road



Oakland Park Updates...

Bob O'Kon, Vice-President

Oakland Park **BARK PARK** has been completed, and now 'Open for Business'. A previously dismally visual and appearing site has been transformed into a well designed, attractive and attracting venue. On any given day, local citizens, and those from further away have congregated to enjoy time out with the family, which includes the whole family.

A new popular site for rest and relaxation, a host of frequent visitors ensure it receives lots of use. The other day I stopped by and *all* the parking spots were taken, and there were dogs of every breed, size and color.

ROYAL PALM PARK (across the street from our entrance) is nearly completed. The huge catch basins they buried to stop flooding at our entranceway have been hooked up and the sod replaced. Next to come will be the planting of several Royal Palm trees on both sides of the

street; extending out from our entranceway, leading all the way up to the little grove of Oaks next to the entrance of Easterlin Park. Additional Royal Palms will be planted starting at the entranceway of the parking lot, extending to the wetlands area.

Royal Park has received a Broward Beautiful Grant for \$9.466 (matching grant) as well as having received the Broward County Permit(s) to proceed. The project will start with the entranceway grant portion as soon as the Royal Palm trees are planted. This project will involve beautifying the entranceway on both sides of the drive with native plants and trees.

Many of the plantings currently there will be transplanted to bare spots where WILMA destroyed trees & foliage. Meanwhile, the "crowning touch" will be the reactivating of the fountain that used to be on the east side of the entranceway.

Useful News Items:

Emergency Contact Information on your driver's license: One can now have two (2) emergency contacts attached to a Florida driver's license,

In the event you are involved in an accident, the officer can enter your license number, obtaining up to two emergency contacts which will pop up, eliminating the need to search for relatives. Go to: www.hsmv.state.fl.us. Click on 'Emergency Contacts'; type in your DL number and DOB. You will be directed to type in the name of two (2) people, address and phone numbers. Hit the SAVE BUTTON, and then you are done.

See Oakland Park on page 5



Something to Ponder

Contributor: William E. Goodman

Many people will walk in and out of your life,
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head
To handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.
If someone betrays you once, it is his fault;
If he betrays you twice, it is your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;

Small minds discuss people.
He, who loses money, loses much;
He, who loses a friend, loses much more;
He, who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,
But beautiful old people are works of art.
Learn from the mistakes of others.

You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Friends, you and me...
You brought another friend...
And then there were 3...

We started our group...
Our circle of friends...
There is no beginning or end...
Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Royal Park – 2/2 Condo
Excellent Location – Penthouse
Overlooks Clubhouse, Main Pool
and Garden Courtyard

LIKE NEW! Asking \$205,000
Won't Last! Call NOW!
(954) 663-4816
email: royalpark@mbadesk.com

Tile • New Berber Carpet • Trane AC
• Customer Window Treatments •
New Rheem w/Heater • NEVER Rented

Thank You

Much Appreciation to all who contributed
to 'Park Avenue' this year – it could not
have been done without your help!!

- Harvey L. Ross
- Bob O'Kon
- Art Steiner
- Our Advertisers
- Naim Naqi
- Donald A. Palm
- Daniel Smith
- Building Reps & Volunteers
- Linda J. Humphreys & Office Staff
- William E. Goodman
- Mike Shegota

Looking forward to a 'New Year'; continuing to
expand Royal Park's communications efforts; and,
increased community participation.

Happy Holidays! - *Darren Q. Waaland, Editor*

We're Nosey!

We Want to KNOW
Your Business!



ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size ≈ 2 x 3.5	\$ 10.00
Quarter Page ≈ 2.125 x 5.5	\$ 15.00
One-Third Page	\$ 25.00
One-Half Page	\$ 35.00
Full Page	\$ 50.00

Classified Ad: Three Lines	\$ 7.00
Each additional line:	\$ 2.00
Maximum number of lines:	5
Maximum number of characters per line:	5

To place an advertisement, please contact:

Naim Naqi
(954) 574-6047

Deadline for advertisement submission:
25th of Month for publication in
the following month's newsletter.

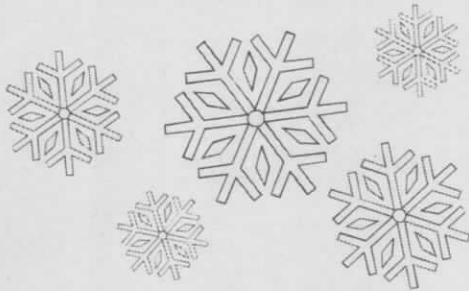
All Ads to be Emailed to:
RoyalParkAds@Hotmail.com

Oakland Park, from page 3

IRS Refund Checks Unclaimed:
The IRS is trying to deliver refund check to 95,746 taxpayers, totaling over \$92 million dollars.

On your computer, go to: www.sun-sentinel.com/irs. Enter your name, city where you live and zip code to search the list of names. If you find your name, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1954.

As the year draws to the end, I would like to thank our President Harvey Ross for the many hours and efforts he has put into running this very complex operation. We were very fortunate in our being able to recoup damage payments through our ALLSTATE insurance. As well, we are also the **only** condominium complex that I am aware of that did not have a special assessment during the past year, and yet, were able to initiate and complete many improvements, keeping Royal Park in a beautiful and up-scale condition.



Holiday Cheer!

Harvey L. Ross, President

As has been done in the past, there will be a Red Box in the office if anyone wishes to give a gift to the office and maintenance staff.

The total collected will be divided between them and I am sure greatly appreciative!



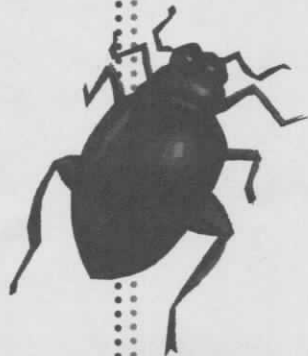
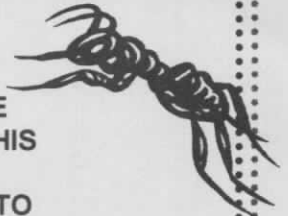
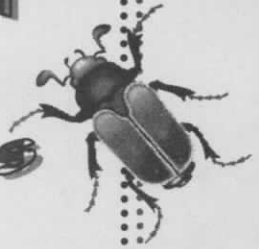
ATTENTION Royal Park Homeowners

IGUANA PEST CONTROL, INC. IS OFFERING ALL HOMEOWNERS PEST CONTROL FOR \$120.00 PER YEAR (\$10 PER MONTH), PAYABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH CONTRACT YEAR

Coverage Includes: Carpenter Ants; Sugar Ants; Pharaoh Ants; Fire Ants, and Pavement Ants. Also, Palmetto Bugs, Cockroaches, and Pantry Beetles.

MANY OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN THIS GREAT PROGRAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP TOO, THEN PLEASE CALL:

**IGUANA
PEST
CONTROL,
INC.**
954-783-3624



ROYAL PARK OWNERS AND INVESTORS

ARE YOU THINKING OF SELLING OR LEASING
YOUR APARTMENT IN ROYAL PARK?

IF THE ANSWER IS *YES*, THEN YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH...

HUGH P. SHARKEY



THE ROYAL PARK SALES AND LEASING SPECIALIST
RESIDENT • OWNER • REALTOR



HUGH P. SHARKEY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE TOP REAL ESTATE SALES PRODUCERS IN
ROYAL PARK FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS WITH OVER 400 TRANSACTIONS CLOSED.

APARTMENT PRICES ARE THE HIGHEST THEY HAVE BEEN IN REAL ESTATE HISTORY!

AS OF PRINTING DATE (10/23/06), THE HIGHEST PRICED

- 1 BEDROOM/1 BATHROOM UNIT WITH A SALE PRICE OF \$160,000
- 2 BEDROOM/2 BATHROOM UNIT WITH A SALE PRICE OF \$210,000

- ☑ LICENCED REAL ESTATE BROKER/ SALESMAN.
- ☑ MEMBER OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE BOARD OF REALTORS.
- ☑ FREE MARKET ANALYSIS (A REPORT OF THE RECENT SALES ACTIVITY)
- ☑ MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE (MLS)
- ☑ EXTENSIVE REFERENCES/ TESTIMONIALS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.
- ☑ COMPETITIVE COMMISION RATES.
- ☑ SPECIALIZED MARKETING/ ADVERTISING PACKAGES FOR YOUR APARTMENT.

CALL YOUR NEIGHBOR, HUGH P. SHARKEY OF *OLDFATHER + COMPANY*
REALTORS FOR A CONFIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS YOUR BEST OPTIONS.



OFFICE: 954-486-9915
DIRECT DESK LINE: 954-914-6053





Jewish Apple Cake

Contributor: William E. Goodman

- 5 TBSP Sugar
 - 2 tsp. Cinnamon
 - 4 med size apples (peeled and sliced)
- Mix items above and set aside.

- 2 cups sugar
 - 3 cups flour
 - 3 tsp. Baking powder
- Make a hole in the flour mix and add:

- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup OJ
- 1 cup oil
- 2 1/2 tsp. Vanilla

1. Mix slowly; then beat for 5 minutes.
2. Grease and flour tube pan.
3. Pour 1/2 the batter in pan, arrange 1/2 apple close together on top and pour remaining batter.
4. Top it with the other 1/2 of the apples. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. (Check with a toothpick).

Hanukkah: Festival of Lights

Contributor: Darren Q. Waaland, Editor



Hanukkah is also known as the festival of lights. It is the story of standing up for what you believe in. It reminds us not to remain silent in the face of oppression, and not to surrender our rights and identities.

This holiday lasts for 8 days. It serves as a memory to the end of the Greek rule over a Temple in Jerusalem. It's a victory of religious freedom. For each of the 8 days we light a candle on the menorah that brings a sense of "hope" into our homes.

The Menorah has 9 candle holders. Eight for the eight days & one for the Shamash (the helper), which stands taller than the others and off to the side. When we light the candles we also recite the blessings...

See Hanukkah on page 9

For Brakes & More

160 E. Prospect Road, Oakland Park

(One Block East Of Andrews Ave)

954-563-7254

FREE OIL, LUBE & FILTER WITH COMPLETE BRAKE JOB!

**CARS... FOREIGN & DOMESTIC... TRUCK, VANS AND MOTOR HOMES
STOP IN FOR THE BEST IN BRAKES**

Other Services Include: *New Radiators, Water pumps, Complete Front End Service, CV Joint Service, Shocks & Struts, Belts, Hoses, and Batteries & More!*

**Oil,
Lube & Filter**

\$15.99

Includes:

- Disposal Fee
- Free Safety Check
- Up to 5 Quarts of 10W30 for most cars
- Vans & Trucks extra

**Tire
Specials!**

FREE

...with purchase of 4 Tires

- Mount & Balance
- Valve Stems
- Rotation
- Every 6000 Miles!

Call for Prices

**Computerized 4
Wheel Alignment**

\$34.95

Most Cars & Vans

- Dual Rear Alignments available at additional cost
- FREE Front End Inspection
- 18-22" Wheels

**Fill Your Tires With
NITROGEN**

NITROGEN

Is The Way To GO!!!

- Save \$\$\$ on Fuel
- Tires Last Longer
- Increase Vehicle Safety
- Superior Vehicle Handling
- Maintain Proper Tire Inflation
- Decrease Wheel Corrosion

Helpful Hint...

Why not carry a flashlight with you when you walk your dog at night. This will enable you to see where to clean up after your pet; a way of showing respect for your neighbors.

I DO!!! - Harvev L. Ross



"Mind, Body & Medicine"

Contributor: William E. Goodman

Pets are good for our health?

The latest research shows that petting our dogs and cats may have several good effects in our bodies, including lowering blood pressure and reducing stress. Scientists don't know why this is but some theorize that the act of petting a cat or dog can release endorphins in the brain.

A study of 100 couples, half of whom had pets, showed that those with pets tended to have more contact with each other. Researchers hypothesized that people who have pets might be more social and reach out more than those without pets.

Source: *Phoenix Magazine*

Soft Doggie Cookies

Contributor: William E. Goodman

- ☑ 3 (2 1/2 oz. Jars of baby food; either beef or chicken
- ☑ 1/4 cup Dry milk powder
- ☑ 1/4 cup Wheat germ or cream of wheat

1. **Combine** all ingredients in bowl, mixing well.
2. Roll into small balls and place on well-greased cookie sheet.
3. Flatten slightly with a fork.
4. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 15 minutes until brown.
5. Cool on wire rack.
6. Refrigerate to keep fresh or freeze.

Great for older dogs with teeth problems!

For Sale By Owner

Royal Park 2/2
Sharp Unit • Great Condition • New Carpet
Light & Bright ~ View Overlooks Canal

Building 108 - 2H
Asking: \$190,000
Call: Roberto Santana
H: (787) 731-3307 or C: (787) 473-2944



Kiswahili and Kwanzaa

Origin of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration initiated by Dr. Karenga as both a way to celebrate the New Year and a reminder of the history of black communities in the United States. It is patterned on the African celebration of harvest during which tribute is paid to the ancestors and to God while at the same time praying for another benevolent year. The celebration has also become an opportunity for most African-American communities to teach younger generations about African culture, rituals and language. Kiswahili is the privileged language for the seven-day festivities.

Importance of Kiswahili

Kiswahili is the language privileged as the main means of communication of the rituals. The word itself, **Kwanzaa**, is the Kiswahili word for beginning. It comes from the verb *ku-anza*, that is, to begin. It indicates thus the firm determination of a community to begin a new year of commitment, hard work and fulfillment that require collective effort. The week of celebration is also an opportunity to highlight **seven principles** that serve as the *building blocks* of Ubiquity. They represent the aspiration and the goals each community sets itself collectively and its members individually. These seven principles are the following:

1. **Umoja (Unity)**. This is to strive for a principles and harmonious togetherness in the family, community, nation and world African community.

2. **Kijichagulia (self-Determination).** To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.
3. **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility).** To build and maintain our community together and makes our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and solve them together.
4. **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics).** To build our own businesses, control the economics of our own community and share in all its work and wealth.
5. **Nia (Purpose).** To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. **Kuumba (Creativity).** To do always as much as we can in the way we can in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.
7. **Imani (Faith).** To believe with all our heart in our Creator, our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa and Christmas

Kwanzaa is celebrated in many African-American communities in December. It has become one of the most visible celebrations beside Christmas and Hanukkah during the holiday season.



**Clean Air Is
Healthy Air**

AIR CONDITION PROBLEMS?

Minor Electrical Repairs
(Stove, Refrigerator, Etc.)

CALL DICK
(954) 485-5062

**Stop Leaks • Fungus •
Mildew Mold • Odor**

25 Years in Service

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Royal Park 2/2 ≈ \$187,500

1st Floor = Bldg 103

JOE • (954) 803-8308

New Carpet ◊ Storm Shutters
New Tile Counter Tops &
Back Splash ◊ Near Pool
Ceiling Fans ◊ Just Painted
New Bath Sinks & Cabinets



Hanukkah, from page 6

First Blessing

*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
asher kid-shanu bâ€ mitzvotav, ve-tsivanu le-
hadlik nair shel Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God and Ruler of the World, Who hallows us with mitzvot and commands us to light the lights of Hanukkah

Second Blessing

*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olim,
she-asa nisim la-avotainu bayamim hahem
bazman haze.*

Blessed are You, Adonai, our God and Ruler of the World, Who performed miracles for our ancestors in ancient times, at this season.

Shehechyanu

On the first night of Hanukkah we add the 'Shehechyanu' prayer, which expresses appreciation at reaching this occasion once again.

*Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam,
shehechyanu vâe kimanu v'higianu lazman
hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God and Ruler of the World, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this season.

The traditional miracle of this holiday is when the Maccabees, the victorious Jewish army, rededicated the temple in Jerusalem they only found enough oil to light the Eternal Light for one day. The oil lasted 8 days, and it was at this time only when they found more oil. During this holiday we eat foods cooked in oil such as Potato Latkas & Sufganiyot.