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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR DECEMBER 2016

Friday, December 2, 4:53 PM

Friday, December 9, 4:53 PM

Friday, December 16, 4:55 PM

Friday, December 23, 4:58 PM

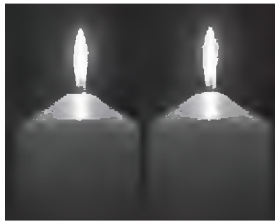
Saturday, December 24, 1st Chanukah candle, after 5:58 PM

Friday, December 30, 5:03 PM

(light Chanukah candles first)

Saturday, December 31, 8th

Chanukah candle, after 6:03 PM



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The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Other American Experiences

By Inbal Ozeri, Community Shlichah

So as you all know, I'm in my second year here, and last year for the first time, I saw all these Christian holidays as part of another religion that I shouldn't be part of because I am Jewish and Israeli and in Israel we don't celebrate these holidays.

Throughout my first year here though I realized that I might have gotten it all wrong, and that for most people it's just fun and simply represents nice American traditions, that are actually not even related to religion anymore. Even when I visited Christmas Town in McAdenville to see the lights last December, I actually met some Jews there. It's just beautiful and fun. No harm in that. I went there because my cousin came from Israel to visit me and so I felt I had to show her this, this is not for me – so it's okay. But after a while, I thought hey, this is for me too and I realized that's okay.

There happened to be one truck that was driving a lot of people and they were screaming "Merry Christmas" to everyone and my cousin, without even hesitating yelled back at them "Thank you,

but I'm Jewish!" Luckily they found it hilarious and so when they passed by us again they screamed "Merry Christmas! But she's Jewish!" and laughed with us about it.

Back to my contradictory feelings about the differences of American and Christian experiences, I asked a lot of people



Inbal enjoying her American experiences.

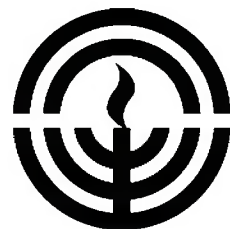
about those traditions they have, and most people that I asked, didn't even know how why and when it all started and how these are related to Jesus and the New Testament. I also realized that next year I will be back to my life in Israel where we don't have a majority of Christians and I might not have that opportunity ever again to experience Halloween, Thanksgiving, or see Christmas lights and hear the festive music of the holiday season.

So this year at Halloween, I carved pumpkins for the first time, I even put on a costume and went trick-or-treating with some families. It was not only a lot of fun but some people actually thought I was a kid and I got myself some candy. I want to thank the Kosofsky family for helping me to experience

all these American holidays these past few months and for reassuring me that my feelings of having an experience like that is just plain old fun and not to be taken too seriously.

With that being said, I'm definitely looking forward to Chanukah - how about you?

Happy Chanukah, everyone!✡



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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