

- **Forestgate Community Theatre Auditions for "Fiddler on the Roof,"** Nov. 27, 29, & Dec. 1, by appointment only. Roles available for children, teens, and adults. Appointments & info: 216-3192 or visit www.forestgatetheatre.org.
- **Western Museum of Mining & Industry Steam Power & Progress, through Dec.** This new exhibit on the historic development of the steam engine features the museum's seldom-seen collection of unique scale models. Regular museum admissions apply (\$8 Adults, \$7 AAA/Military, \$6 Seniors/Students, \$4 Children 3-12). The museum is located at 225 North Gate Blvd at 1-25 Exit 156A. Info: visit www.wmmi.org, email info@wmmi.org, or call 488-0880.
- **Holiday Boutique and Bazaar, Sat., Dec. 1,** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Peter's Catholic School Gymnasium, 124 First St., Monument. More than 30 vendors, gift wrapping, photos with St. Nick, bake sale, and more. Free parking and admission. Info: email information @petertherock.org or visit www.petertherock.org.
- **Monument Small Town Christmas, Sat., Dec. 1,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., downtown Monument. This day is full of holiday activities including a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, holiday craft activities at the Old Town Hall, reindeer, miniature donkeys, carolers, and hayrides. Hand-painted banners by renowned local artists will be on display. Look for merchant special events and refreshments throughout historic downtown Monument. Info: Vicki Mynhier at 460-4179 or email vmynhier@townofmonument.net, or www.monumentmerchants.com.
- **Kiwanis' 7th Annual North Pole at Tri-Lakes Arts and Crafts Fair, Sat., Dec. 1,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Grace Best School, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Browse hundreds of handcrafted items perfect for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Local school music groups will perform at 1 p.m. both days, followed by a visit from Santa. Admission is non-perishable canned and dry goods that will benefit Tri-Lakes Cares. Patrick Quinlan, 488-8111 or 303-725-1717.
- **Palmer Lake Yule Log Pot Luck Dinner, Tue., Dec. 4,** 6 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Circle. Please bring a potluck dish to share and place settings for your family. Info: 481-2953.
- **Hammerstadt & Wendy Woo Benefit Concert for Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA), Fri., Dec. 7,** 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m., 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Advance tickets: \$12 TLCA members/\$15 non-members; at the door: \$15 TLCA members/\$18 non-members. Info: 481-0475 or info@trilakesarts.org.
- **Tri-Lakes Community Nutcracker, Sat., Dec. 8,** two performances: 1 p.m. & 6 p.m., The da Vinci Academy, 1335 Bridle Oaks Lane, Colorado Springs. Info: 234-5400 or email danceartacad@gmail.com.
- **11th Annual Tri-Lakes Community Christmas Handbell Concert, Sat., Dec. 8,** 7 p.m., Monument Community Presbyterian Church, 238 Third St., Monument. This free holiday concert features handbell choirs, organ, flute, brass, and other community artists. Info: Betty Jenik, 488-3853 or ljenik@comcast.net.
- **Annual Palmer Lake Yule Log Hunt, Sun., Dec. 9,** 1 p.m., Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent.

Trek up the mountain in search of the Yule Log. Hunt participants should arrive 11 a.m.-noon. The winner will ride the Yule Log back to town and get the first cup of wassail. Non-hunters can stay warm indoors with carols and stories. Info: 481-2953.

- **Black Rose Acoustic Society Christmas Concert And Holiday Pot Luck, Fri., Dec. 14,** potluck starts at 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m., Black Forest Community Center, 12530 Black Forest Rd. at Shoup Road. Bring your own favorite food to share, beverages and other necessities provided. Music by Adam Guardino, Phil Volan and Joleen Bell, and The Sister Brothers (Dick Carlson, Charlie Hall, and Marianne Danahey). Cost: \$7 general, \$4 BRAS members, \$5 nonmember students. Info: Joe Maio, 528-6119, or email jrmtn@comcast.net, or visit www.blackroseacoustic.org.
- **Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA) Resident Artists Opening Reception, Fri., Dec. 14,** 6-8 p.m., 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake. Celebrate the opening of this year's resident artists' exhibition which runs Dec. 11 to Jan. 5, noon-4 p.m. Info: 481-0475 or info@trilakesarts.org.
- **Tri-Lakes Music Association Holiday Concert, Fri., Dec. 21,** 7 p.m. & Sat., Dec. 22, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Rd. All proceeds go to Tri-Lakes Cares and two \$500 college scholarships. Info: Bob Manning, 232-4114, or e-mail rwgmanning@comcast.net.
- **Christmas in the Pines, Sat., Dec. 22,** 6-8 p.m., The Church at Woodmoor, 18195 Furrow Rd., Monument. Bluegrass music by One More River, carol sing-along, mulled cider and hot chocolate, cookies, crafts. Info: 488-3200 or www.thechurchatwoodmoor.com.

Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call 488-3455, or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest. The OCN editorial board has established a policy that we do not knowingly print letters that have appeared in substantially the same form elsewhere. Please identify your submission as a letter to the editor and include your full name, home address, and day and evening phone numbers. A limit of 300 words is recommended. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and accuracy. Send your letter to editor@ocn.me or mail to Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132-1742. In response to problems receiving e-mail, if you send your letter by e-mail, we will send an e-mail acknowledgement. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please call Susan Hindman at 481-8511 to confirm that we have received your letter.

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**The Rabbi's Corner
Halloween**

By Oswald Garagorry

The nation in general, has just celebrated Halloween; with a few exceptions where alternative gatherings have been held to avoid calling them "Halloween" celebrations. Yet in most cases the history of this holiday is ignored. So let's analyze its origin. Halloween is derived from a pagan religion practiced by the Celts of Gaul (modern day France), who celebrated the end of each year on October 31; marking Nov. 1 as the beginning of the New Year. They called this religious festival "Samain," a Celtic word meaning the "end of summer." The Celtic religion of Gallia worshipped over 400 gods (*Harry Tichenor, Von Hoffmann Press, Inc. Germany, 1918, p. 239*).

The iconic Jack-o-Lantern is a symbolic representation of hollowed-out oak trees where social undesirables were burned alive inside. Roman emperors, Tiberius and later on Claudius both forbade human sacrifices as part of religious worship (*Encyclopedia Britannica 1986, "Ancient European Religions" vol. 18, p. 895*). In the ninth century a.d. the Catholic Church found a way to deal with (work around) Samain. They did so not by exposing its true pagan origins, but by creating an alternative which could be celebrated at the same time as the traditional Samain celebrations. Their alternative established a Christian religious ceremony on Nov. 1, honoring all those who died during that year. This is where the origin for the name of Halloween was derived; it is a combination of the Church's "All Hallows Eve" ceremony.

And so the practice of disguising oneself as a ghost, to trick the spirits who were trying to find people to inhabit, was born. Their thinking was that by disguising themselves as ghosts, they could deceive the spirits so the ghosts would not know who they were trying to get into. Then, dressed as ghosts they would go around knocking on doors for things to eat (trick or treat). In doing so, they were agreeing with the false pagan premise. Thus, with the spread of Christianity this man-made alternative became even more celebrated than the original pagan ritual (*Encyclopedia Americana International Edition 1988, Grolier vol. 13, p. 725*).

The Scottish and English brought this practice to America where it is so successful that even the witches complain: "It saddens Wiccans to see what has been made of one of our holiest holiday celebrations." (*"Real Witches Offended," O'Donnell-Weese, "Up The Creek", Oct. 28th 1988, p. 2*). From a marketing standpoint, Halloween is second only to Christmas, the largest marketed celebration in the United States.

Just as the Catholic Church created Halloween as an alternative, many Protestant denominations and sincere believers have involved themselves in manufacturing their own alternative to Halloween. "Harvest" parties with more innocent "dress-up disguises" frequently take place on October 31.

So we have the Samain alternative, Halloween, and the Halloween alternative—Whatever your church did to avoid calling it Halloween. Why would you authenticate the false by making an alternative to it? In the entire Bible there is no place for Samain, Halloween, or whatever alternative can be manufactured.

Shalom to you.

Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. 1691 Woodmoor Drive Monument



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