



Assemblywoman

# Diana C. Richardson

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I trust that this newsletter finds you and your family well. Over the course of the year, my office has had the distinct opportunity to serve you. As you are aware, I have continued to work hard for you in Albany, while also connecting with you in regards to various issues and functions in the 43rd Assembly District. Additionally, we are moving further towards the New Year, and it is imperative that we recognize the deep meaning that special occasions hold for us. In lieu of this, I encourage everyone to continue to reflect on positive notions of family, prosperity and community.

We are also nearing Chanukah and for many in the Jewish community, this is an eight day holiday which begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev. It marks the miraculous victory of the Jews, led by the Maccabees, against Greek persecution and religious oppression. The celebration is also known as the Festival of Lights. It is observed by lighting candles on a unique candle stand known as a menorah. The typical nine-candle menorah has eight branches with a final additional raised branch in the middle. The extra light is called the shamash and is given a location above the rest. This light is available for practical use. The Hanukkah lights themselves are to be used only for meditating upon the festival. Also, everyone can look forward to Tu B'Shvat which starts January 30th. This occasion is also known as the "New Year for Trees" and is observed in Jewish communities throughout the world.

Furthermore, over the past year, we have had the privilege of spending time with our family and friends and more intimate occasions are imminent. In preparation for these moments, I want to share a few safety precautions you may utilize in order to prepare for upcoming festivities in the best possible way. It is my hope that through this newsletter, we can continue to strengthen a dialogue to encourage increased community activity and safety. I am committed to the continued monitoring of issues to provide solutions and maintain growth and prosperity and security in our neighborhood.

At your convenience, feel free to reach out to me at my office at (718) 771-3105 for any queries you may have. I wish you a joyous and prosperous holiday and appreciate your continued support!

## Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson Presents \$23,500 Check to the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, Inc.

Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson presented a check of \$23,500 in state funding to the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, Inc. (CHJCC). After the check presentation, Assemblywoman Richardson later took time to speak with Rabbi Eli Cohen about the extensive work that CHJCC has done and will continue to do for the betterment of the community.



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## A Taste of Crown Heights



Assemblywoman Richardson joined scores of community members, leaders and elected officials for a 'A Taste of Crown Heights,' during a K kosher food crawl. Families had the opportunity to delve into delectable spreads from various businesses in Crown Heights.

Numerous individuals were able to partake in this event, thanks to the sponsorship of various businesses including Toys for Hospitalized Children, COLlive.com and JMenu. Notable eats included bourbon from Eber's Wine & Liquor, coastal fish from Raskin's Fish and baked treats from Gombo's Bakery.

Additional restaurants and eateries included Empire Grill, Ess & Bentch, Gombo's Bakery, Hal's New York Seltzer, House of Glatt, JJ's Holy Cow, Koshertown, Mama Kitchen, Mendy's @ the JCM, Mermelstein's & Kohen Bros. Catering, Natural Treats Juice Bar, Noribar Sushi Lounge, Prime Avenue, Raskins Fish, Sushi Spot, Sweet Expressions, Table One Catering, Turk Catering.

## Safety Precautions You Can Take This Holiday Season

### Preparation and Cooking

Fifty percent of all apartment fires and one-quarter of the fires in private homes start in the kitchen. Most home cooking fires involve the stovetop portion of the range. One-third of these fires result from unattended cooking. The majority of fires and burns can be prevented during food preparation by taking safety precautions.

Follow these precautions when preparing the kitchen and cooking, especially for the Sabbath and holiday meals when there is increased activity in the kitchen:

- Stay in the kitchen—don't leave cooking food unattended.
- Wear tighter or snug-fitting sleeves. (Loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles.)
- Take extra precaution when handling boiling water.
- Cook at indicated temperature settings, rather than higher settings.
- Don't become distracted by attending to children or answering phone calls or doorbells.
- Create a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around your stove.
- Keep area clear of towels, papers or anything that could burn.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall, to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- Have a pot lid and container of baking soda handy to smother a pan fire. **DO NOT USE WATER.**
- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek medical attention.

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## Fire Safety Tips For Observances

**Fire Candle Safety.** More than 33 percent of candle fires occur when candles are left unattended. Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home are younger than 20 years of age, with most of the victims between the ages of five and nine. Burns and fires are the leading cause of death in the home for children and young adults. Holiday time means candles, matches and fire. When burning candles, make your home safer by:

- Using sturdy candleholders, with flame-protective non-combustible (glass or metal) shades or globes.
- Placing candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, blinds, kitchen cabinets and bedding.
- Placing candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.
- Securing hair and clothing, such as sleeves or aprons, from the flame when handling candles.
- Keeping candles, matches and lighters, including lit memorial containers and Chanukah menorahs, out of reach of children.