

## Happy Thanksgiving Day!

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November 25, 2010

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It is a privilege for me to be here in Australia and share with you some thoughts on Thanksgiving in the USA!

Where it is now well into the autumn season, awaiting the first snowfall of the soon coming winter .....and Thanksgiving is at this time offered to God for the Blessings received throughout the year; symbolized very well by the harvest time and the bounty that had been provided by God for our continued wellbeing.

It is thought by some that Thanksgiving is a Uniquely American Celebration. It's been reported that an American student was once asked: Do other nations celebrate Thanksgiving also? His answer was, "Of course not, because other nations have nothing to be grateful for". Well, that American surely has some things yet to learn. As we all do in one way or another.

Thanksgiving, has been on the slow cycle in the learning curve of life throughout human history. It did not come about very quickly at all..... In colonial America the first Thanksgiving Day was declared in 1621 at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts by the Pilgrims together with their friends, the surrounding Indian Tribe that helped them survive their first winter in the new world. The Thanksgiving Day was not often repeated in the years to come and in a few decades there was record of atrocities against Indians that would continue until after World War Two in one way or another.

Like a coin there are two sides to every issue. Indeed America itself can be looked at in this way from its earliest colonial past. There were the Pilgrims and the Puritans; and what were the differences? Pilgrims were at an earlier time also Puritans but their theology evolved after their Journey to The Dutch Netherlands where they came to disagree with the Puritan theology the Dutch followed. The Pilgrims were inclusive and broadminded while the Puritans were exclusive, religiously intolerant, Salvation and all that came with it were for their sake alone. Knowledge of this history gives root to the understanding of there being two America's..... One "an America that could be, should be and would be better" and of "another America that is just what it is". The America "that is just what it is" with all of its good and bad colliding together has still always been challenged in the search for what it could be, should be and would hopefully become in time.

Thanksgiving has had a profound impact on America's development. Before landing in 1620 there was dissent between the Pilgrims and other Puritan passengers on board the Mayflower. On board they agreed to sign the Mayflower Compact which dedicated themselves to a model of Government based on the Congregational Church of the Pilgrims. It is believed that a covenant with God was made in the declaration of Thanksgiving, it being the first important act of this new Governing body. The sacrifices they made to arrive at this first thanksgiving were enormous. Facing starvation the first winter without food, they rationed their grain seeds and all food to survive as a Colony; vowing that after winter the first act would be to build the House of Worship, then build a school and only after that would they help each other to build their own homes. Close to ½ of the population died that winter because they refused to eat the grain they had saved for sowing in the spring.

About 160 years after the first Thanksgiving had been practically forgotten; Colonial America in 1776 re-invented itself as a republic and brought forth the greatest democratic change in history since the

enactment of the Magna Carter in 1215. There was universal feeling among those at that time that a Divine Providence afforded them Victory over the most powerful nation on Earth and a Day of Thanksgiving was officially declared by America's First President George Washington. Again, the following years saw that this thanksgiving was also to be forgotten and America tramped its way through the mediocrity and violence of slavery for another 80 years until violence broke out in Civil War and each side lost up to 30,000 soldiers per day in numerous battles. At that time The President, Abraham Lincoln declared for America an official Day of Thanksgiving; for America's survival of this tragic war and it has continually been observed every year since that time..... Thanksgiving has probably helped America avoid several civil wars since then. In the midst of world crisis in 1941 it finally became an official National Holiday.

Thanksgiving is not just a holiday or just a day off work from work..... It can best be described; as a Holy Day..... That has a majestic feeling to it. Not a day that is celebrated in a church; but a day that is celebrated in the Home with family, friends and often a stranger, there is always room at the table. It is a day of deep Joy that is felt by everyone, practiced by everyone, enjoyed by everyone. It is inclusive and exudes love to all. Cultural, racial, religious or international differences do not diminish the experience of Thanksgiving in the USA. It is as if the clock stops, or the world itself stops just for a day to give thanks for the many, good, true and beautiful things in life.

There is a sense of something eternal about Thanksgiving Celebration itself. Way beyond the borders of any nation alone..... Thanksgiving is also traditionally and officially observed in Canada, United Kingdom, India, Japan, China, Korea, Mexico, Malaysia and Brazil. Not widely known is the fact that Governor General Jeffries established the third Saturday of each May as Thanksgiving Day in Australia about 5 years ago. Records of Thanksgiving ceremonies at harvest time go back to the dawn of Humanity. It is this feeling of Gratitude that nurtures the spirit to live in balance with all the other challenges that life provides us with. The difficulties we find in our need to feed, clothe and shelter ourselves in a safe and just social environment.

Thanksgiving makes things possible!... Thanksgiving makes great things possible!

I have to ask myself more often did I count my Blessings today or give time to think about some wonderful thing I saw someone do. Thanksgiving is a hard thing to come by. It is not an automatic thing. It is the result of choices that we must purposely make. It is something we must give ourselves and cannot be given to us. It is what can make us Divinely Human.

In summary, my hope and wish is that in time Thanksgiving will be a recognized World Holiday. It has been officially recognized by smaller societies for over 5,000 years and also officially recognized in several nations at present. Thanksgiving is an expression of Human Nature at its very best. We need a World Thanksgiving Day.

God Bless You and Your Families,

Douglas Moriarty  
FFWPU USA/Australia

Happy Thanksgiving!

**It must be noted this year 2013 on this Thanksgiving especially, that the Pilgrims established their Thanksgiving on the examples of the Old Testament where Joyful Celebrations of Gratitude and Thankfulness were given to the Lord.**

## **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

**Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

By Elizabeth Jenkins



Why is this Thanksgiving different from all other Thanksgivings? This year, it overlaps with the first night of Hanukkah, a coincidence that won't happen again for another 70,000 years. To help you celebrate the occasion known as Thanksgivingukkah, we asked home decorating

experts for their advice on how to blend your Turkey Day feast with the Festival of Lights. Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

Janelle Loevner, owner of Anthem in San Francisco, and Hilary Sessions, head curator of Chairish, created different table settings for Glo. For the easiest version, they suggest separating the two holidays by decorating a Thanksgiving table, enjoying the meal and then clearing it during the inevitable break between dinner and dessert. While your guests watch football (or enjoy a game of dreidel), move the menorah and dessert plates from the buffet to the dining table. I love the idea of building excitement for the Hanukkah celebration, especially if there are kids involved, says Loevner.



### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

Stacks of dishes, mixed materials like rocky quartz and smooth crystal candleholders help create a stunning display for the second act of the holiday evening. The warm wood of the sideboard keeps the display cozy rather than cold. SHOP NOW: Crystal candleholder, \$69 (pair), casa.com; Brayden sideboard, \$1,499, potterybarn.com; Small quartz votive holder, \$235, chairish.com Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

Since traditional Thanksgiving colors are orange and brown and Hanukkah's colors are blue and silver, it can be tricky to use them together. Instead, Loevner recommends skipping bright saturated hues in favor of neutrals such as white, tan and gray. I would also lean more

toward metallic materials, natural fabrics and organic objects, says Loevner, who cleverly combined brass candlesticks, blue-gray stemware and gold and copper plates alongside a centerpiece of pumpkins and gourds in one table setting. Share this on Facebook?

### **Thanksgivingukkah**

Mixing and matching textures will keep the table feeling lively rather than stuffy. SHOP NOW: Hammered brass candlestick, \$160 (pair), chairish.com; Smoky black wine goblet, \$48 (set of 4), chairish.com; JL Coquet Khazard gold charger, \$350, chairish.com Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

If Hanukkah means more to your family than Thanksgiving and you want your table to reflect that, try for an elegant tablescape with the menorah prominently displayed. In this set-up, Loevner and Sessions selected hemstitch linen placemats and a runner and napkins with a paisley design. On each salad plate they placed a single pear—a nod to the fall harvest. Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

Symbolic objects—like the menorah and pears—are subtle but still meaningful. SHOP NOW: Lighting by Design Gifts, \$72, macys.com; Hemstitch linen napkins, \$36, potterybarn.com; Red paisley table runner, \$70, williams-sonoma.com Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

By simply changing the runner, candlesticks or centerpiece, you can transform the table and give it a fresh look. For the second night of Hanukkah and those that follow, Loevner and Sessions suggest putting away the cornucopia and opting instead for a vase filled with fresh flowers. Share this on Facebook?

### **Best Tips For Celebrating Thanksgivingukkah**

While fresh blue hydrangeas may not be available everywhere, faux ones are. Tuck them into a vase filled with water and no one will be the wiser. Silver pears, placed on a stack of dishes, keep the display interesting rather than solely functional. SHOP NOW: Faux hydrangea stem, \$12, target.com; William Yeoward vase, \$150, bloomingdales.com; Decorative pear, \$34, bellacor.com To shop more of this holiday look, visit the Anthem sale happening on Chairish.com NEXT ON GLO: 10 Must-Dos For a Saner Holiday

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