

Jewish community celebrates Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights

December 29, 2024



Del Norte and Curry counties don't have a large Jewish Community but residents of both Brookings and Crescent City were on hand at St. Timothy's Church last Saturday to celebrate Night four of the eight Night Hanukkah event.

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the Maccabean revolt length. Antiochus IV of the Seleucid Empire, in the 2nd Century BCE. Antioch had previously outlawed the practice of Judaism.

The festival is observed by lighting the Menorah, which has nine branches. Each night for eight nights, a candle is lit. The ninth candle is called the schmash which lights all the candles. The significance of the eight night duration was the limited oil in the lamps of the Second Temple endured for an unexpected length.

Hanukah is a joyous event with those attending singing songs, eating delicious latkes (potato pancakes) and spinning the dreidel.

After the meal and games, the Jews discussed the small population of World Jewery.

There are about 15.2 million Jews around the globe. 40 p

ercent live in Israel. Another 40 percent, about six million live in the in USA, with greater New York having a population of one million Los Angeles has about 500,000. Other Jewish centers include Miami and Philadelphia. The rest of the globe's Jews are scattered around Canada. Australia and Europe.

Those celebrating Hanukkah in Brookings all agreed Jews must be united and help one another.