

# CARDINAL TIMES

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022



## BAKE COOKIES DAY

by Savannah Chaffin & Violet Fraire



**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 1/4 cups Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup coarsely chopped nuts, if desired

**Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookies**

**HOW TO MAKE IT**

1. Heat oven to 375°F. In small bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
2. In large bowl, beat softened butter and sugars with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon about 1 minute or until fluffy, scraping side of bowl occasionally.
3. Beat in egg and vanilla until smooth. Stir in flour mixture just until blended (dough will be stiff). Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.
4. Onto ungreased cookie sheets, drop dough by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart.
5. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown (centers will be soft). Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheet to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes. Store covered in airtight container.



National Bake Cookies Day is a special day recognized on December 18th to celebrate the art of baking delicious homemade cookies. Whether you are a baking enthusiast or a complete novice, this ultimate guide will provide you with everything you need to know about baking delicious cookies at home. From the basics of cookie dough preparation to the expert techniques to make sure your cookies come out perfectly every time, This guide will help you master the art of baking cookies. With a few simple tips, you can make sure that your cookies come out tasting just as delicious as those from a professional bakery. So, grab your apron and preheat your oven - it's time to celebrate National Bake Cookies Day with some delicious homemade cookies!



# DIY GIFTS

by Zaynee Ipson



## DIY Reindeer

Need a fun gift to give to your friends? Mason Jar Reindeer are the perfect DIY gifts you can give to anyone. For your Reindeer you will need: a mason jar, hot cocoa mix, googly eyes, brown pipe cleaners, hot glue, and small red pom-poms.

**Step 1)** Pour your hot cocoa mix into the mason jar and secure the lid on tight.

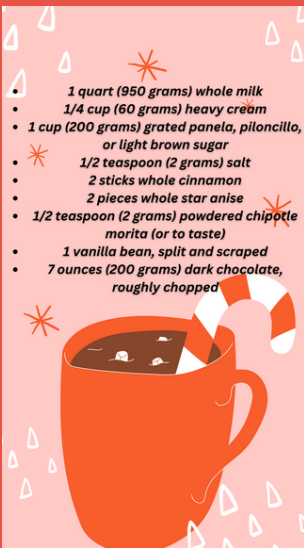
**Step 2)** Hot glue the googly eyes to the mason jar for the eyes of your reindeer.

**Step 3)** Hot glue a red pom-pom below your googly eyes as a nose for your reindeer.

**Step 4)** Take your pipe cleaners and bend them to look like antlers.

**Step 5)** Glue the antlers to the top of your mason jar.

Now you have an easy and cute gift to give to your friends.



# ORIGIN OF HOT CHOCOLATE

by Aaron Resendiz & Ryder Brungardt

Hot chocolate all started in the country of Mexico. Made by the Mayan as early as 500 BC., the Mayans were drinking chocolate made from ground-up cocoa seeds mixed with water cornmeal and chili pepper. Over the years, hot chocolate started becoming a very popular drink. While coffee shops started becoming more trendy in different countries, they started serving hot chocolate as one of their menu choices. Hot Chocolate would also be touted for various health benefits. It was used as a special beverage and a cure for stomach and liver disease up to the 19th century, and is also considered a gentler alternative to its cousin, black coffee. This popular drink choice is now widely used in coffee shops, coffee vending machines, fast food places, and stores.

# CHRISTMAS TRENDS

by Mario Hernandez

December is our favorite month of the year. Christmas season is unmatched, and the activities that go with it are just as spectacular! Such as gingerbread houses, Christmas lights, ugly sweaters, and much more. There is endless fun for everyone!

As we look back at our month in review on our social media pages, we also look back on our year-in-review with our Turpin Spotify Wrapped! We showed our pride by singing our hearts out with tunes like our Turpin Fight Song, the National Anthem, The Hey Song, Oklahoma, and Go Big Red!

We also presented some of our favorite Christmas movies that would make an amazing holiday movie marathon! *Elf*, *Home Alone*, and *It's a Spongebob Christmas* are all great films that we recommend watching.





# HANUKKAH



by Traite Sponaugle & Daniel Barr

Hanukkah, or also known as Chanukah, is an eight day celebration starting on December 18th and ending December 26th. Hanukkah, which means “dedication,” commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C of the second temple of Jerusalem. According to legend, Jews had risen up against their Greek Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.

This holiday also celebrates a miracle that happened during the rededication of the Second Temple.

Having only enough untainted olive oil to keep the menorah’s candles burning for one day the candles remained lit for eight days. Jewish people celebrate by lighting the menorah, one candle each night, until all of the candles are burning. During these days people will exchange gifts, play with four-sided spin tops called dreidels, and enjoy eating fried food such as potato pancakes and jam filled donuts. Hanukkah has become a very popular celebration mainly because it overlaps or falls near Christmas.

## ORIGIN OF GINGERBREAD HOUSES



by Alex Trejo & Blake Johnson



*"They would light the candles and put gingerbread on the tree and the children would be brought in."*

It's that time of year when you can smell the warm cookies baking in the oven, hot chocolate being served, and the sense of Christmas spirit flowing in the air. This is the time of year when we can finally have fun building and decorating tasty activities such as a gingerbread house. While building this tasty treat, have you ever stopped and pondered the origin of the gingerbread house and why so many of us have created this tradition during Christmas?

Starting out as a religious activity by Protestantism, a form of Christianity studied in Germany in the 16th century, the gingerbread house was symbolized as a love token for parties, particularly weddings to spread luck and prosperity to the newlyweds and was distributed to all the guests to enjoy. It wasn't until the 17 century when the gingerbread house rose in popularity. The reason for this is when Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm, otherwise known as “The Brothers Grimm,” wrote the story “Hansel and Gretel.” Brother and sister, Hansel and Gretel, stumble upon a house in the woods made of gingerbread, cake, and candy where a witch dwells. This fairytale made the gingerbread house popular in its time, but it is believed that the story of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are credited with popularizing the Christmas Tree and incorporating gingerbread into Christmas.

## NEW YEAR'S

by Abby Buller & Shelbi Moses

New Year's Eve is the last day of the year on December 31st. This is one of the largest global celebrations. In most countries, this day is celebrated by dancing, eating, making resolutions, and even watching fireworks. The celebrations last until past midnight into the new year! One of the most famous traditions in the United States is the dropping of the giant ball in New York City. This event has taken place almost every year since 1907. Millions of people all over the country watch the ball drop when the time strikes midnight.

Did you know some countries celebrate New Year on different days?

- Thailand celebrates it from April 13th-15th.
- Ethiopia celebrates it on September 12th.
- Israel celebrates it from September 15th-17th.
- China celebrates it on January 22nd.

Have a happy New Year!



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# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CARDINAL TIMES!

