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An Ancient Tradition Observed



(Dec. 15, 2009) The lighting of the *Menorah* in observance of the eight nights of *Hanukkah* commemorates the re-dedication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem that was destroyed in the Jewish Maccabean Revolt against the Roman Empire in the second century BCE.

The celebration - also known as Festival of Lights - is observed by the kindling of the lights of the *Menorah*, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a *shamash*, which in Hebrew means "servant" or "guard," is also lit each night for the purpose of supplying light to the others.

A tradition at Metro since 2007, observers gather at the stone blue *Menorah* in the 3rd floor lobby of the Metro Gateway building late in the afternoon for the traditional lighting and fellowship.

The *Menorah* was donated to Metro by Chabad, a Jewish service organization that supplies *Menorahs* to organizations or people wishing to observe the holiday, said DEO Stefan Chasnov, Human Resources, who leads the annual observance.

"Our late afternoon ceremonies demonstrate Metro's workforce diversity and provides special meaning to those observing the holiday," he said.

This year, the observance, made festive by a traditional *Dreidel* song and cookies, was joined by CEO Art Leahy and Deputy CEO Paul Taylor.



On the fourth day of Hanukkah, Jody Feerst Litvak shared a festive plate of traditional Hanukkah cookies, much to the delight of the dozen or so observers gathered for the lighting. The observance at Metro continues through Dec. 19, the 8th day of Hanukkah. The lighting takes place at 4 p.m. every afternoon. All are invited.

