

100% Merry!



A NOTE FROM JULES

Happy holidays to everyone! Christmas is such a special time of year for me, as it marks a time for reflection, remembering, and looking forward to the future. When I was young, my Dad and I would always go out to look for that very special Christmas tree to cut down. I remember being close to my Dad and spending time looking for just the right tree. Dad would cut it down and then we would head home to put it up. Mom was always waiting and the house was always warm and inviting and smelled of all those wonderful baking smells, as she was preparing all of her cookies, candy, and, oh yes, her famous caramel corn! What a wonderful time and wonderful memories! My wish for all of you this season is that you can make your special memories come alive and make new memories for years to come!

P.S. See you in 2008!

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TPS

Real Brief

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POP QUIZ: December Celebrations Around the World

December is full of holidays... Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice. In the spirit of the holidays, here's a short true/false quiz to test your knowledge of the various holidays celebrated around the world in December.

____1. The menorah, a candleholder with places for nine candles, is a traditional symbol of Kwanzaa.

____2. People have celebrated Christmas on December 25 since the year A.D. 354. Before that time, it was usually celebrated on January 6.

____3. The word Yule came from the aboriginal Scandinavians for their Winter Solstice festival.

____4. Mistletoe and holly are Christmas symbols that originated in Italy.

____5. The dates for Kwanzaa change from year to year. They are always between the end of November and the end of December.

____6. Pastorales, or shepherd plays, are often associated with the celebration of Las Posadas.

____7. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev.

____8. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Macabees over the Syrians some 2,300 years ago.

____9. Las Posadas starts on December 16.

____10. Blue, red, and green are the traditional colors of Kwanzaa.

The correct answers are:
1. F, 2. T, 3. T, 4. F, 5. F,
6. T, 7. T, 8. T, 9. T, 10. F

Thanks for making 2007 a great year!
It's been an exciting year for TPS. You never know what will happen when you take that leap of faith and strike out on your own. It's the support of special people like you that has made this adventure worthwhile.
Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!



December Drinks for the Whole Family

I love holiday get togethers! No matter what holiday you celebrate in December, I have two drinks for you that capture the fun, festive spirit of the season. And, even better yet, they're non-alcoholic...so everyone at your party can enjoy these creative and colorful holiday concoctions.

CHEERS!

Jolly Christmas Cran Cosmo

1/2 cup lemon-lime soda, well chilled

1/2 cup cranberry juice, well chilled
Juice of 1 lime

In a shaker fill with ingredients, add ice, and shake. Pour into a martini glass. Garnish with lime slice and fresh cranberries.

Winter Snow Punch

1 (46 ounce) can Hi-C Hula Punch, thoroughly chilled

2 pints vanilla ice cream, softened

2 cups Sprite, chilled

In punch bowl, combine Hi-C Hula Punch, Sprite and ice cream. Stir until well blended and chill.



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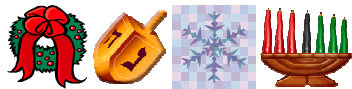
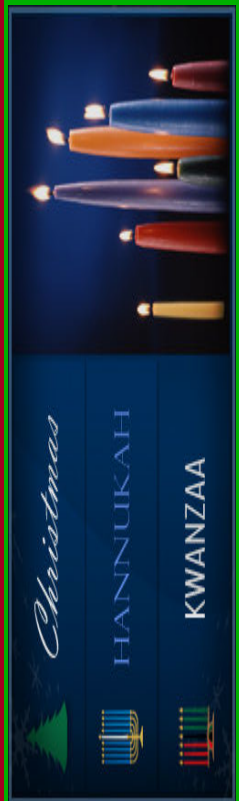
*TPS will be closed for the holidays
on the following dates:*

Christmas - Mon., Dec. 24 through Wed., Dec. 26

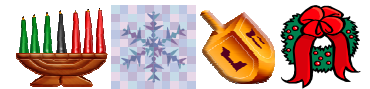
New Year's - Mon., Dec. 31 through Wed., Jan. 2

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

Remember, this season is about giving, not getting. So let's give the things that mean the most - hugs, friendship, kind words, warm meals, and anything we can do to those who have less than we do. In other words, give love: not just in December, but all year long.



Festive Fun



Special Days in December

- 1 World Aids Awareness Day
- 2 National Fritters Day
- 3 National Roof over Your Head Day
- 4 Santas' List Day – last chance to get on the "Good" list
- 5 Bathtub Party Day
- 6 St. Nicholas Day
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 National Brownie Day
- 9 National Pastry Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 11 National Noodle Ring Day
- 12 Poinsettia Day
- 13 Ice Cream Day
- 14 National Bouillabaisse Day
- 15 National Lemon Cupcake Day
- 16 National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

- 17 National Maple Syrup Day
- 18 National Roast Suckling Pig Day
- 19 Oatmeal Muffin Day
- 20 Eid-UI-Adha (date varies)
- 20 Go Caroling Day
- 21 Humbug Day
- 22 National Date Nut Bread Day
- 23 Roots Day
- 24 National Chocolate Day
- 24 National Chocolate Day
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day
- 27 National Fruitcake Day
- 28 Card Playing Day
- 29 Pepper Pot Day
- 30 National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

(from holidayinsights.com)

Holiday Word Origins

HANUKKAH, BEGINS DECEMBER 5

Hanukkah comes from the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration" because it marks the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem.

YULE, DECEMBER 21

The word *Yule* came from the aboriginal Scandinavians for their Winter Solstice festival.

CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 25

The word *Christmas* is strictly a Roman Catholic word and is a contraction of Christ's Mass.

KWANZAA, DECEMBER 26

The word *Kwanzaa* is derived from Swahili words meaning "first fruits of the harvest," and the holiday includes many elements of traditional African harvest celebrations.