



ARTS AND CULTURE MONTHLY INSPIRATION December, 2024

To the Arts and Culture Chair, just in case you need a little inspiration today...

"Art and Culture are not just frills but crucial elements of human life"

Daniel Libeskind's quote highlights the significance of art and culture in human existence. It emphasizes that they are not mere luxuries or superficial additions to life but rather fundamental and essential aspects of our being. Art and culture play vital roles in shaping our identities, fostering connections and enriching our experiences, making them indispensable components of a fulfilling and meaningful life.

DECEMBER SUGGESTIONS:

World Choral Day is December 8. Join a local choir or organize a choral event in your community



Celebrate the season by exploring diverse holiday traditions from around the world.

CHRISTMAS is celebrated by Christians to commemorate the birth of Jesus and has been adopted as a secular family holiday by people of all faiths. Traditions include attending a Christmas day or midnight religious service, decorating homes with trees and wreaths and singing traditional folk carols. Families gather for festive meals. Children hang stockings for Santa to fill with gifts. Clubs could support celebrations for those in need such as nursing homes, senior centers or homeless shelters.

HANUKKAH. The Hebrew word Chanukah, means "dedication." Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day wintertime celebration of the rededication of the holy temple in Jerusalem. It is celebrated in late November through January with activities including a nightly menorah lighting, scripture reading, special prayers, and, eating traditional Hanukkah foods.

DONGZHI is the Chinese celebration of winter's arrival. Celebrations include the worship of heaven and family ancestors, singing folk songs and eating the most traditional Chinese food – dumplings!

KWANZAA is the week-long holiday honoring African American heritage and affirming family and social values. Each of the 7 days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of its seven principles: unity, self-determination, responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. The seven symbols are: fruits, vegetables, nuts, a straw mat, candles, corn, gifts and a communal cup.

LOS POSADAS (The Inns) is a nine-day celebration in many Latin American countries and communities in America that re-enacts the journey of the Christian holy family to Bethlehem and is symbolic of the victory of good over evil. Each night, families and friends create a procession that walks to different homes and at each stop ask for “posada” (lodging.) The hosts, typically, refuse at first and then let the people in where everyone sings, prays and eats traditional Mexican foods. The night ends with the breaking open of a pinata.

DEWALI is the Hindu festival of lights. It symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness. The festival brings unique traditions in each region but all celebrate with lights, feasting, and prayer. Cities and temples host spectacular firework displays.

OMISOKA is the Japanese New Year celebration. It is a day to complete important activities. Many do a thorough house cleaning and take a long bath in order to bring in the new year “fresh.” Large Buddhist bonsho bells, found in temples throughout Japan, are struck to ring out the old year, once for each of the 108 earthly temptations believed to cause human suffering. People visit the temples to worship, make resolutions and pray for good luck. It is customary to eat noodles on *Omisoka* as a symbol of crossing over from one year to the next and living a long life, like a long noodle!



In our colorful world, filled with a vibrant mosaic of cultures, cultural awareness is our guide to understanding the rich tapestry of traditions, beliefs, and behaviors that define us. It may be the secret ingredient to thrive!

CONTEST DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

By January 25- ARTS, CRAFTS & WRITING

- Student Art Competition
- Member Craft Competition
- Georgia Writing Contests

By February 1- PHOTOGRAPHY

- The World in Pictures
- Living the Volunteer Spirit

