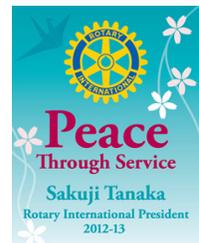




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Saying Merry Christmas in different languages:

Spanish: Feliz Navidad / **German:** Froehliche Weihnachten / **French:** Joyeux Noel
Danish: Gladelig Jul / **Hawaiian:** Mele Kalikimaka / **Icelandic:** Gledileg Jol
Italian: Buone Feste Natalizie / **Portuguese:** Feliz Natal / **Swahili:** Krismasi Njema
Thai: Sawat Dee Wan Kritsamas / **Pig Latin:** Errymay ristmaskay

Merry Christmas from the Rotary Club of West El Paso



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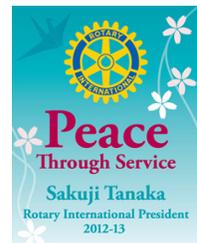
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President's Message (*The Holiday Season – Around the World*)

(Source of information: www.holidaysmart.com; www.sheknows.com)

Christmas (observed December 25) is celebrated by millions of people all over the world. For Christians, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and is observed on December 25th or among Eastern Orthodox, January 6th. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made it a federal holiday making it a secular celebration that many non-practicing Christians celebrate as a family holiday. It is a holiday that is based on traditions, for Christians many traditions are faith based while others have their own traditions. Though many people celebrate Christmas in different ways, Christmas is a universal holiday with many universal traditions that brings people and families together in the spirit of giving and spending time with the ones they love.

Christmas in Alaska - Traditions are similar to the rest of the United States, but there are a few unique differences that make an Alaskan Christmas special. For example, children go caroling with a long pole topped by a colored star. Songs sung in the home often include the Aleut words “Gristuusaaq suu'uuq,” which means “Christ is born.” The closing words, “Mnogaya leta,” means, “God grant you many years.” Treats may include cookies, doughnuts, and cake, as well as fish pie called piruk and smoked salmon.

Kwanzaa (beginning December 26) is an African American celebration of traditional African values of family, community, commerce and self-improvement. Based on the Nguzo Saba (7 guiding principles), one for each of the 7 days of the observance

Chanukkah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights, is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs, such as elaborate gift-giving and decoration. It is ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on our calendar.

Boxing Day is celebrated December 26 the day after Christmas Day in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. It was traditionally a day to give a box to those who have worked hard for you throughout the year. Many churches or businesses placed boxes for coins to be placed for year end gifts. Many countries now have Boxing Week to sell excess Christmas inventory at reduced prices.

Christmas, in France, is called Noel. And though there are many similarities to Christmas in the U.S., you'll find a number of key differences. A figure called Pere Noel, father of Christmas, makes home visits with gifts. On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by a fireplace that will be filled with the gifts. In the morning, they awake to find fruits, nuts and small toys. Nearly every home has a Nativity Scene, which serves as the focal point of decoration and celebration, just as the Christmas tree does in U.S. homes.

Ta Chiu in Hong Kong -Those in Hong Kong pray to the gods and ghosts of their ancestors asking that they will fulfill wishes for the next year. Priests read aloud the names of every person living at the celebration and attach a list of names to a paper horse and set it on fire. The smoke carries the names up to the gods and the living will be remembered.



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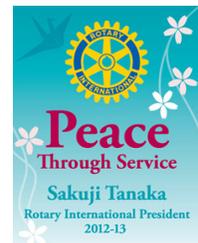


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St. Lucia Day in Sweden, honors a third-century saint on December 13, when girls dress up as "Lucia brides" and wear long white gowns and red sashes — a tradition that dates back to the 18th century. The attire is accompanied with a wreath of burning candles on their heads. The girls wake up their families by singing songs and offering coffee, and a traditional bun, called St. Lucia's bun and made from saffron, is commonly eaten on this day.

New Year's Eve in Ecuador - In this South American country, a family dresses up a straw man representing the old year. Family members make a will for the straw man that lists all of their faults. At midnight, they burn the straw man in hopes their own faults disappear too.

Italy -The tradition of the Nativity scene hails from Italy, where artisans hand-carve these beautiful sets which people display in their homes. Churches also feature beautiful Nativity crèches throughout the holiday season, which people enjoy visiting especially on Christmas Eve. A strict fast is observed on the day before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve a traditional seven fish dinner is served. Children hang up their stockings on January 6 for a visit from La Befana, who according to legend, chose not to visit the Baby Jesus on the night of His birth. Regretting her choice, she has been looking for Him ever since. The Italian version of Father Christmas, La Befana travels the world on her broomstick leaving presents in the stockings of good children and coal for those who were naughty.

In Ethiopia the celebration of Christmas, called Ganna and celebrated on January 7, is a solemn religious holiday with the primary activity being a long mass followed by a special feast. Gifts are not traditionally exchanged. During the church service, everyone receives a lighted candle that they carry around the church three times. Men and women stand apart and the service lasts up to three hours. Afterwards, the traditional Christmas meal is served with doro wat, a spicy stew, and injera, a sourdough pancake bread that is used in place of silverware in Ethiopian cuisine. The rest of the day is spent singing, dancing, playing games and feasting with family and friends.

In Japan, Omisoka, or New Year's Eve, is the second most important holiday of the year, following New Year's Day, the start of a new beginning. Japanese families gather for a late dinner around 11 p.m., and at midnight, many make visits to a shrine or temple. In many homes, there is a cast bell that is struck 108 times, symbolizing desires believed to cause human suffering.

Finland - On Christmas Eve, the Finnish visit relatives in the afternoon, followed by a trip to the cemetery to remember the dead. Candles are left burning on the gravestones of family members and ancestors. Finnish children can expect a personal visit from Santa on Christmas Eve, when a male relative or friend will dress up and bring gifts to the house. After Santa leaves, the Christmas feast is served with salted ham, potatoes, veggies and lots of homemade biscuits and buns. And no Finnish Christmas is complete without an after-dinner visit to the sauna.

In Argentina, Christmas occurs during summertime and no Christmas celebration is complete without a barbecue and fireworks. The extended family gathers on Christmas Eve for a big party that lasts all night long. At midnight, gifts are exchanged. Children also anticipate the coming of the Three Kings on January 6. They leave their clogs out beside their beds to be filled with candies and small toys.

The Christmas Eve festivities in the Ukraine are known as Sviata Vechera, which means "Holy Supper." The celebration begins when the first evening star is sighted in the night sky. In farming communities, the household head brings in a sheaf of wheat which symbolizes the wheat crops of Ukraine. It is called "didukh," which translates to "grandfather spirit." In homes within the city, a few stalks of wheat may be used to decorate the table.



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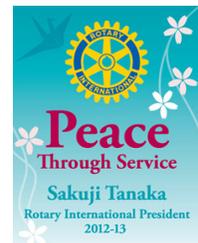


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Proposed Club Officer's & Directors for 2013 -2014

Officers

President: Joanne Latimer
President-Elect: Gail Gale
Vice-President: Doug Borrett
Secretary: Rick Lobello
Treasurer: Damon Crossland
Sgt-at-Arms: Kristi Albers
Past President: Carey Beamesderfer

Directors

International Services/Grants: Chava Gonzalez
Club Services: Carol Lewis
New Generations- Youth Exchange: Lorraine Huit
Interact: Annette Graves / **EarlyAct:** Yvonne Ruiz
Rotaract: Francis Reyes
Rotary Foundation: Gerri Wootten
Literacy: Damon Crossland
Membership: LuAnn Wieland
Public Relations: Annette Sanders
Parade Committee: Jason Shaffer
Golf Committee: Kristi Albers & Carol Lewis
Newsletter: Beate Burdett

Help Wanted!! – I want your help to identify service projects for this club. As you know, the primary focus of Rotary and this club is Service Above Self, and Doing Good in the World. I can do more and so can you! – Do it for the community, for the kids – for each other. Just do it!! I want some physical (hands on) participation by everyone in the club. The more you give of yourself, **and your time**, the more rewarding Rotary will be to you. I challenge you to get the ball rolling. We should have at least one service project every month. Help me identify one – or two, then take the lead to make it happen. **Why?** - because that is what Rotary is all about, so **Why not?**

Carey Beamesderfer – President, Rotary Club of West El Paso

Holiday Inn - Our room and meal contract with the Holiday Inn is being renewed for a term of one year, beginning January 7, 2013.

Club Meetings – There will not be a club meeting on Monday, December 24 or Monday, December 31 due to the holidays.

Local Clubs, President's & their Meeting Times:

[El Paso "Downtown Rotary Club"](#) - (Pres - Deborah Falknor) Meetings Thursday at Noon at The El Paso Community Foundation -333 North Oregon Street -1st Floor
[The Sunrise Rotary Club of El Paso](#) - (Pres - Regina Gines) Meetings Wed at 7:00am Holiday Inn Sunland Park
[Rotary Club of El Paso Franklin Mountains](#) - (Pres - Jackie Caton) Meetings Thursday at 6:00pm El Paso Community College - Transmountain Campus
[Rotary Club of East El Paso](#) - (Pres - Joe Nebhan) Meetings Tuesday at Noon at Chihua's Restaurant
[Northeast El Paso Rotary Club](#) - (Pres - Jose Amezcua) Meetings on Friday at Noon at Golden Corral on Transmountain Road
[Rotary Club of El Paso - Vista Hills](#) - (Pres - Hugo Noriega) Meetings on Wed at Noon at Vista Hills Country Club
[Camino Real Club](#) - (Pres - Juan Villalba) Meetings Wednesday at 6:30pm at Camino Real Hotel
[Anthony Club](#) - Meetings Thursday at Noon at Das Lagos Country Club



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