

UW-Marathon County Library Restroom Reader

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MARATHON COUNTY

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There are several well known holidays that take place in December.
Here are a few that you may not be very familiar with...

December 7—Burning the Devil (La Quema del Diablo) Takes place in Guatemala and the men dress like devils and chase children through the street from the start of Advent until December 7. On this day, trash fires are lit in the streets of Guatemala City and other towns, and the devils' reign of terror comes to an end.



December 21—Doleing Day It was customary at one time in England for the poorer inhabitants of the parish to call on their wealthier neighbors and receive a gift or 'dole' of food or money. In return, they would give their benefactors a sprig of holly or mistletoe.



December 8—Hari-Kuyo (Festival of Broken Needles) A requiem service for needles held throughout Japan where needles are laid to rest. A three-tiered shrine is set up with cake and fruit on the top, tofu in the middle, and the bottom tier consists of thimbles and scissors. Broken and bent needles are then placed in the tofu and prayers of thanks are said for the needles' years of service.



December 15—Bill of Rights Day The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution of 1787 (the Bill of Rights) were ratified on December 15, 1791. This landmark document protected American citizens from specific abuses by their government and guaranteed such basic rights as the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press.



December 15—Dukang Festival A trade fair and festival held in Yichuan in the Henan province of China. This was the homeland of Dukang, who is supposed to have discovered alcoholic beverages 4,000 years ago. A Chinese folk tale tells of Dukan's beverages intoxicating the eight deities. His name has become synonymous with liquor.



December 31—Hogmanay In Scotland and the northern part of England, the last day of the year is known as Hogmanay. Scottish children, often wearing a sheet doubled up in front to form a huge pocket, used to call at the homes of the wealthy on this day and ask for their traditional gift of an oatmeal cake. They would call out "Hogmanay!" and recite traditional rhymes or sing songs in return.



December 21—Ysyakh This is a celebration of the midnight sun, observed in the Jatutsk region in the northeastern part of Russia.

The festivities include foot races, horse races, and often sled dog and reindeer races. Folk dancing and feasting—primarily on boiled beef and kumis, or fermented mare's milk—complete the celebration which goes on all night.



Remember, if you have any books checked out from the UWMC Library to return them before you leave for break!

Extended Final Exam Hours for Library!

Dec. 16 (7:45-9) Dec. 19 (3-9pm) Dec. 22 (8-4)
Dec. 17 (7:45-9) Dec. 20 (7:45-9) Dec. 23 (8-1)
Dec. 18 (10-3pm) Dec. 21 (7:45-9)

Learn more about these holidays and many more from **Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary** located in the UWMC Library's reference collection.