



**The
December
2020
Issue**

**What is in
this issue:**

**Classic
Christmas
Movies**

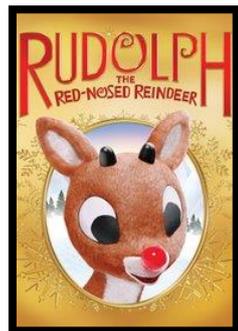
**Other
Winter
Festivals**



The Greatest Time of Year!

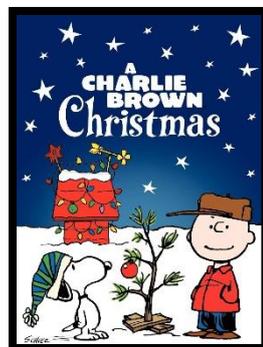
American Christmas Classics

My Recommendations:



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)

This film tells the story of **Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer** using his famous song. It was made by **Rankin/Bass Productions** who used a special stop motion animation called "**Animagic.**" This style is from Japan!



A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

This film is about **Charlie Brown** trying to find the true meaning of Christmas with the help of **Snoopy** and the **Peanuts**. It is my mother's favorite, so she watches it every year!



Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town (1970)

This film tells the life story of **Santa Claus** and explains Christmas traditions using the famous song "**Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town.**" It is made by the same company as Rudolph, so it has the same unique animation.



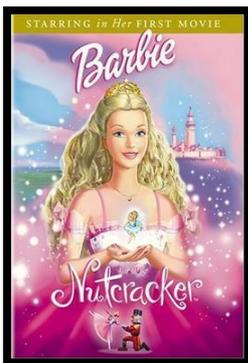
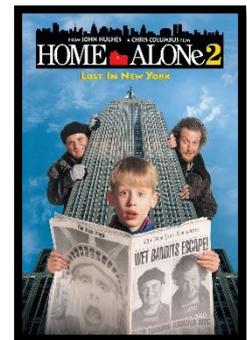
Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983) & The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

These films are based on the famous story **A Christmas Carol** by **Charles Dickens**. **Mickey** and the **Muppets** make this old classic more fun and colorful!



Home Alone (1990) & Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992)

These films are about a boy named **Kevin** who is forgotten by his family and then must stop two clumsy burglars, **Harry and Marv**.

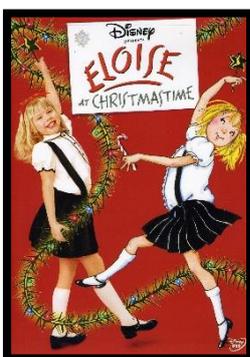
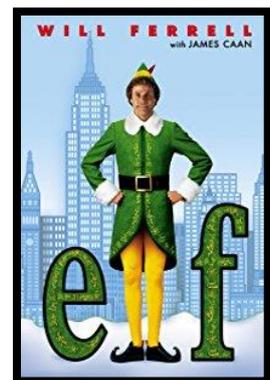


Barbie in the Nutcracker (2001)

This film is the famous story of **The Nutcracker and the Mouse King** by **E.T.A. Hoffmann** and **The Nutcracker** ballet by **Tchaikovsky**. It is Barbie's first **CGI** movie!

Elf (2003)

This film is about a man who was raised as a **Christmas elf with Santa Claus** but then goes to find his real father in **New York City**. It is so funny and full of cheer!



Eloise at Christmastime (2003)

This film is about **Kay Thompson's** famous children's book character named **Eloise** who lives in the **Plaza Hotel in New York City**. Eloise is so clever, giving, and energetic. I love her!

PRAY FOR PEACE ON EARTH!



Other Winter Festivals

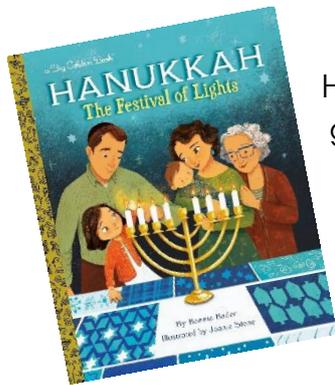
Traditions Beyond Christmas

Hanukkah: Festival of Lights



Hanukkah is an **eight-day Jewish** holiday that celebrates the **Temple of Jerusalem** in the **2nd century BCE**. The days change a little every year, but this year is from **December 10-18, 2020**. Many Hanukkah words are in **Hebrew** because that is the special language in **Judaism**. Every night of Hanukkah, families light one candle on the special candle holder called the **menorah**. On the last night, all eight candles are lit together with the special ninth middle candle. It represents **light** during the dark winter. **Oil** was important in the original Hanukkah story because it helped light the Temple's candles. There was only enough oil for one night but, amazingly, the candles burned for eight days! So today many special Hanukkah foods are made with oil. **Latkes** are a type of potato pancake. **Sufganiyot** are jelly doughnut balls.

There are many special **prayers and songs** that families say together. They also exchange gifts at night and play games. "**Hanukkah gelt**," or chocolate coins in gold wrapping are given to children. A **dreidel** is a spinning top with Hebrew letters on it. It is a fun game for children that helps them learn.



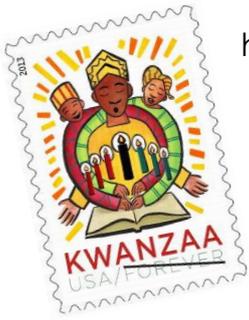
Hanukkah has never been one of the main Jewish holidays. However, because it is always near Christmastime and has gift giving, many **American Jews** made the holiday very popular. The Jewish country of **Israel** also helped, of course. They wanted to share their culture and light with the world! This light is very important because Jews have been **discriminated against** for a long time, especially during **World War II**.

Kwanzaa: Festival of the First Fruits



Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration of **Black/African American** culture from **December 6th to January 1st** every year. It ends with giving gifts and eating a big meal together. It was created by **Dr. Maulana Karenga** in **1966** in **California** in the U.S.A. Many Kwanzaa words are in the East African language of **Swahili**.





Each of the seven days focuses on a special **principle** and has a **candle**. The candle holder is called the **kinara**. There is one **black**, three **red**, and three **green** candles which represent **the people, the struggle, and the future**. People often wear colorful African clothing like **kente, kaftans, and dashiki** and decorate with African art. They also eat fruits and other African dishes, sing, dance, and give **homemade gifts**.

Originally, Dr. Karenga wanted **Black people** to celebrate Kwanzaa which has **African roots**, not Christmas with European roots. However, nowadays, people celebrate both. Kwanzaa has spread beyond the U.S. and is now celebrated in many countries by people with African **heritage**. Black people have a painful history in the U.S. and still face **discrimination** all over the world. **#BlackLivesMatter**



Chinese Lunar New Year



Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday in China and celebrates a new year in the traditional **Chinese calendar**. It is called the **Spring Festival** in Chinese. The festival in **January or February** every year. This new year will begin on **February 12, 2021**. It is about **one to two weeks** long! Versions of this festival are celebrated in many countries with **Chinese traditions** or people with **Chinese roots**. For example, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, the United States, and France

The Chinese calendar has a cycle of twelve years and twelve animals called the **Chinese Zodiac**. The order is: **rat/mouse, ox/cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat/ram/sheep, monkey, rooster/bird, dog, and pig/boar**. This system is still popular all over Asia, like in Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam.

In China, people travel home to be with their families and eat a **reunion dinner** together on **Chinese New Year's Eve**. Children receive little red envelopes of money. Many people wear **red** because it is the **lucky** color. People clean their house and hang red paper decorations. Chinese restaurants all over the world often have special parties with **lion dances** and **martial arts performances** to share their culture. Many **Chinatowns** have fun **parades** too! Sometimes there are **fireworks** but that can be dangerous.

In **2020**, many Chinese and **Asian people** faced **discrimination** because the **Coronavirus pandemic** started in China. However, this is a world problem that we all must solve together!



—2021—

END ALL DISCRIMINATION NOW!

