

# AN ARRAY OF HOLIDAYS

Cultures around the world celebrate different holidays and traditions during the winter season

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Seventh grader Van Knudsen stands in the square of his family's home town of Tørring kommune Midtjylland municipality, in Denmark, watching a straw goat go up in flames. The goat is part of the celebration of Sankt Mortens Dag, a Danish holiday celebrating the end of the harvest season, on the Winter Equinox. Burning a goat is just a piece of the many holiday traditions Knudsen celebrates when he travels with his family to Denmark every winter season.

The winter season brings many holidays for students like Knudsen as well as people around the world.

While not many Trinity students celebrate Danish traditions such as Sankt Mortens Dag, many do celebrate Hanukkah, a celebration of the rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem. According to the First and Second books of Maccabees, the Jews had enough oil for the menorah in the temple for only one night, but miraculously it lasted for a length of eight nights. Senior Gabriel Steinberg said that one of the special parts of the holiday is that it's celebrated in Hebrew all over the world.

"So no matter where you are, like, if you go to Russia, ... they're going to know the same songs and the same tune in the same language, which is really, really cool," He said.

According to Steinberg, people will celebrate by eating fried foods such as latkes, which are potato pancakes, to signify miraculous oil supply. They will also play games with the dreidel, which is a 4-sided spinning top. He also said that decorations sometimes are put up, almost similar to Christmas lights.

"Some people do Hanukkah bushes with blue and white lights," Steinberg said. "Some peo-

ple have lights [that] we put lights up in the front of our house, the blue and white lights."

While for Christmas, people decorate with red and green, but for Hanukkah, people decorate with blue and white, which represent the colors of the Israeli flag. Unlike Hanukkah, which is celebrated at a different time every year, Kwanzaa is a holiday that is observed from December 26 through January 1. According to Social Science teacher Andrea Sockwell, who teaches World Religions, Kwanzaa was created by California professor Dr. Mulana Karenga.

The Watts Riots happened in August of 1965, and they were a series of riots following the arrest of a black motorist, charged with reckless driving. Karenga created the holiday in response to the unrest happening in Los Angeles in 1965. Its goal was to let African Americans grow closer to their heritage by partaking in traditions from different parts of Africa.

"[Kwanzaa] was supposed to give African Americans a chance to celebrate culture, things that made them unique," Sockwell said. "[Dr. Karenga] borrowed a bunch of dif-

ferent cultural things from all over Africa and incorporated those into Kwanzaa."

The word "kwanzaa" means "first," and Kwanzaa is a harvest festival, to honor the celebration of the first fruits of the harvest season. Kwanzaa is one of the newest winter holidays celebrated, created in the 1960s. However, one of the oldest holidays and traditions celebrated during the winter is the Lunar New Year, in countries like China, Korea, Vietnam, and many more.

Eighth grader Victoria Zhang celebrates the Lunar New Year in January with her family.

"It's something that I've been doing since I was really little," Zhang said. "My family has been celebrating every year since."

Zhang and her family celebrate the Lunar New Year with fireworks and parties with family and friends. They also put up fu, which are lanterns used for decoration. Zhang said she and her family eat a sticky rice pudding known as teng nueng and eat fish that represents luck for the new year.

Zhang isn't the only student on campus who celebrates Lunar New Year. It is celebrated in many countries, and by students all over campus. During the new year, countries all over the world celebrate the upcoming year of the lunar calendar, and have many cultural celebrations and festivals all over.

During the winter season, many students on campus partake in many celebrations with friends and family. Not only can these traditions be seen over campus, but they can also be seen around the world, with various traditions for even the same holiday in different countries. The world is full of diverse celebrations, and each culture has its own unique and beautiful way of celebrating the holidays.

"Different cultures celebrate different things," Sockwell said. "And each culture takes pieces that make it special for them, and assimilate that into their own celebration."

