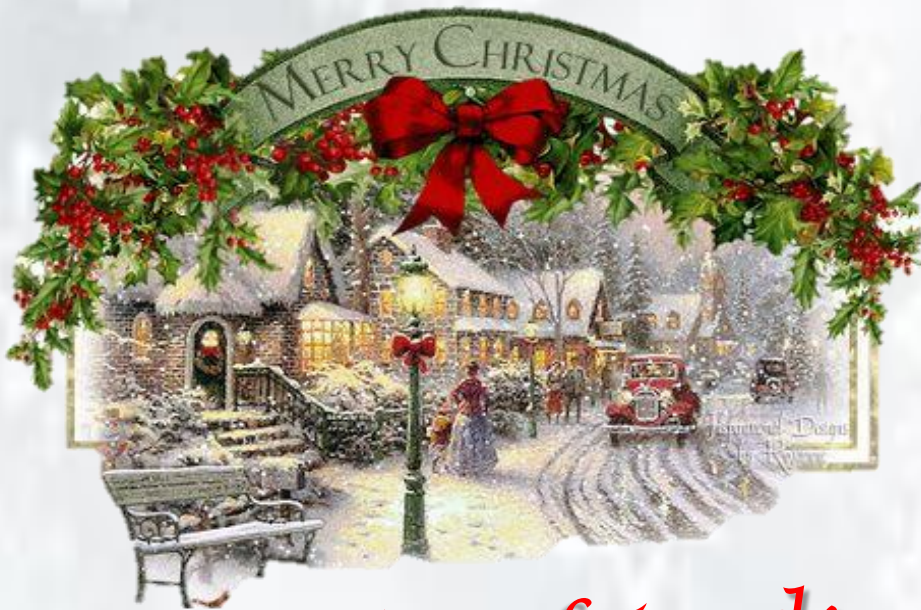




SEASON'S GREETING FROM THE KENSINGTON BOD

During this holiday season let us take time to reflect on the past year and enjoy the presence of the season with our family and friends!

The KOA Board wishes all of our families the warmest tidings during the holiday season!



family & friends



"If you want to experience the true meaning of the holidays, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return."



"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

Helen Keller

A few ~ Christmas Traditions Around The World or Perhaps Right Here in Kensington



Is Menorah in the Bible? The menorah is first mentioned in the biblical book of Exodus (25:3140), according to which the design of the lamp was revealed to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.

What is a dreidel? ... The Hebrew letters inscribed on a dreidel are a Nun, Gimel, Hey or Chai, and Shin. The letters form an acronym for the Hebrew saying Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, which can be translated to "a great miracle happened there," referring to the miracle which Hanukkah is centered around.



Why Christmas is called bada din? Bada Din Christmas is also known as 'bada din' in India. This means 'the big day'. Father Christmas comes to visit the children in India, he is also known as Christmas Baba in Hindi. • He delivers his presents on a horse and cart. It is said that before Christmas was also named as Roman Festival in India, people used to give gifts to each other in this beautiful occasion. When gradually Christian civilization began to flourish in India, they started to celebrate this festival as Bada Din.

Las Posadas A wonderful **Mexican Christmas Tradition**, las posadas literally translates in English as "the inns" or "the lodgings". It symbolizes the Biblical journey of Mary and Joseph as they searched for shelter in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. The nine-day celebration lasts from December 16 to Christmas Eve (Noche Buena or "Holy Night").

The ritual most especially includes a colorful pageant of kids (the "pilgrims" or peregrinos) -- costumed as Joseph, Mary, angels, shepherds and the Three Wise Men -- who travel to a designated home where Las Posadas will be celebrated. Upon arrival, the hosts or "innkeepers" meet the procession at the door for an exchange of lyrics from the traditional Pidiendo Posada:



Jwaye Nwel



MERRY CHRISTMAS Christmas in Haiti, Reveillon: Christmas Eve is often the day most celebrated in Haiti and Reveillon is an important part of the Haitian culture on this day. "Reveillon" comes from the French word "réveil" which means "waking" and is a time to celebrate the awakening of Christ with a feast. Many people attend late-night church services on Christmas Eve, and this feast is often enjoyed after church with friends and family into the early hours of the morning.

Traditional foods can include rice with djon djon (Haitian mushrooms), rice and beans, chicken creole, fried accra, goat, pineapple upside down cake or orange cake. This feast can last the entire night as people dance and sing in celebration. Christmas Day is often a quieter day. Many Christians attend a special Christmas church service and time is spent with friends and family.

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

- **Umoja** (Unity) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race
- **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination)
- **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility)
- **Ujamaa** (Cooperative Economics)
- **Nia** (Purpose)
- **Kuumba** (Creativity)
- **Imani** (Faith)

*What is the real meaning of **Kwanzaa**? Kwanzaa is a Swahili word that means "first" and signifies the first fruits of the harvest. From December 26 to January 1, many people of African descent in America-celebrate*



RUMOR HAS IT
DASHER GAINED A FEW
IN THE OFFSEASON



The REAL Night Before Christmas (By Parents)

Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.

Instructions were studied and we were inspired,
in hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required."

The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, while Dad and I
faced the evening with dread: a kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's
townhouse to boot! And now, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a
toot!

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat— let no parts be
missing or parts incomplete!

Too late for last-minute returns or replacement; if we can't get it
right, it goes straight to the basement! When what to my worrying
eyes should appear but 50 sheets of directions
concise, but not clear!

With each part numbered and every slot named, so if we failed,
only we could be blamed. More rapid than eagles the parts then
fell out, all over the carpet they were scattered about.

"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there! Slide on the seats
and staple the stair! Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."
"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact that all the toy dealers
had indeed made a pact to keep parents busy all Christmas Eve
night with "assembly required" till morning's first light.

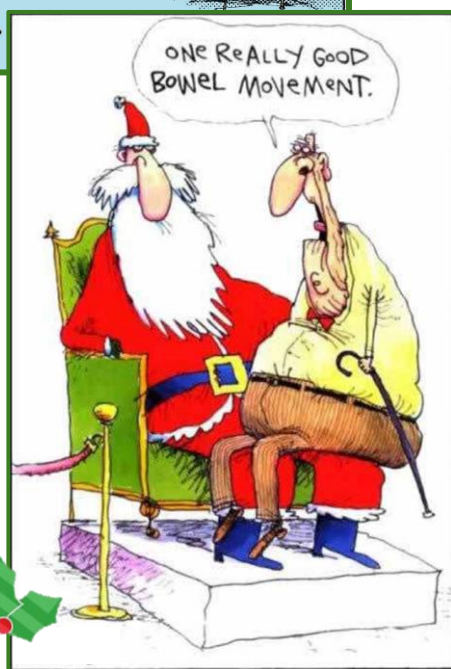
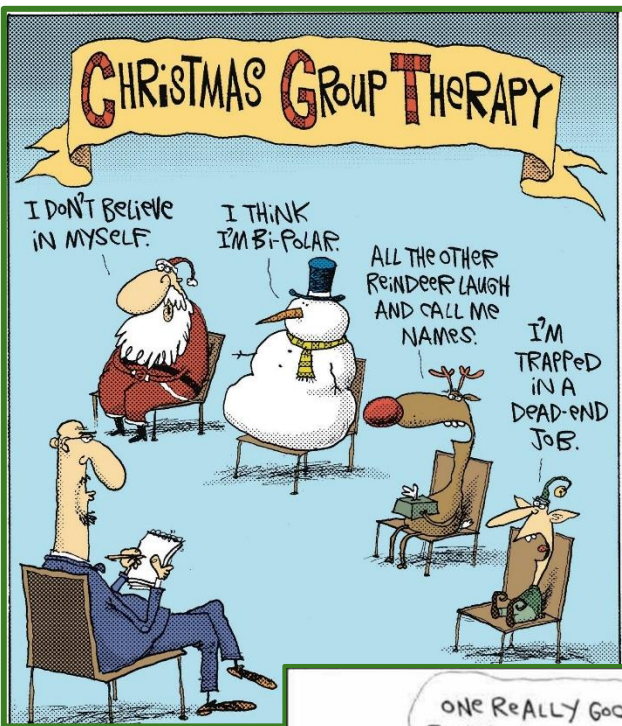
We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work, till our eyes
they went blurry; our fingers all hurt.

The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin before we attached
the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest, we fell into bed
for a well-deserved rest. But I said to my husband just
before I passed out
"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.

Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring, and not run to the store
for one single thing! We did it! We did it! The toys are all set for the
perfect, most magical, Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland and sweet repose I gratefully went, though
I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded
I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!



BAH
HUM
BUG

