

## Are Christmas Traditions Fading Away?

*By Cindy Peters*

Christmas traditions have been enjoyed by one and all for hundreds of years. Yet Millennials live quite different lives compared to previous generations. Some traditions are no longer welcomed by the youth and to many seem like obligations or burdens. Here are a few that are now Humbug to many:

Every year I have enjoyed writing and receiving beautiful Christmas Cards. I must admit that they ultimately end up in the trash. But it was a nice way of catching up with those dear friends and relatives. Now with social media that is more the norm of Christmas Cheer and catching up.

Mandatory gifts for the whole family is expensive and tricky. We have a small family, but it still gets to be a bit much. So many families are open to other ideas.

Mistletoe is a Greek tradition with kissing under the mistletoe which started during Saturnalia which was a forerunner festival to Christmas. Kissing with COVID – are you flipping kidding me?

Then we come to sitting on Santa's Lap. We have two granddaughters. When they were young granddaughter Aspine loved to cuddle with Santa and tell him all her Christmas wishes. However, granddaughter Mikaila would scream her head off and she thought Santa was the scariest creature on earth! The internet tells me that current helicopter parents prefer not to let their offspring feel too comfortable on a stranger's lap!

Millennials are minimalist and rampant spending on others is out. They might not all be cheap. With the unsteady economy and COVID it might be wise to focus on something else than massive spending and going in debt.

Traditional Christmas Music is taking a back seat as modern artist are creating their own Christmas Tunes to share with the world.

Then we come to Christmas sitcoms and Hallmark Movies. Many young people are opting for other choices on streaming services.

Do you recall hours of slaving away with the perfect Christmas meal and décor only to be devoured and destroyed in less than an hour with some chipped plates? Well, many folks are opting for less formal meals, dinnerware, and clothing. The youth go out to eat, or now with COVID, such services as Door Dash are popular to deliver meals.

Visiting multiple relatives and friends at Christmas had become stressful for many families. Now, with COVID it is limited in many places to just one's household.

There is a legend that door-to-door caroling began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century England. It began when a girl went missing and people went door to door caroling with good intentions of finding her. I know this is an ongoing tradition at Windsor Gardens and many churches. I am doubtful much of this will be happening this year.

Then we come to the dreaded fruit cake. Thank goodness that is one tradition that is leaving us. Whoever liked fruit cake anyway?

Lest we forget, there are many cultures and religions that do not celebrate Christmas so their traditions may be lost and found as well.

These are just to mention a few traditions that may be lost and later found. Like Tevye on "Fiddler on the Roof", who yelled out, "TRADITION!" and felt it was very important. I too feel tradition is important and many traditions should be cherished and kept. Guess what, you millennials, many traditions will never be lost!