

# HISTORY



## Roundtable est. 2017

{meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Public Library}

### December's Topic: Holidays

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm **\*\*not the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month this time\*\***

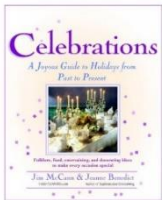
Register at [www.greenwoodlibrary.us](http://www.greenwoodlibrary.us) or by calling 317-885-5036.

More info and handout at [www.greenwoodlibrary.us/historyroundtable](http://www.greenwoodlibrary.us/historyroundtable).

Read. Watch. Listen. Discuss. Read *any* non-fiction book, watch a documentary, and/or listen to a podcast pertaining to holidays from around the world. Once you've read/watched/listened to the item, come to the roundtable prepared to summarize your choice for all the participants. Possible resources include (but are not limited to) –

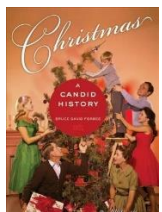
### Books:

Find numerous (and short) books on holidays from around the world, including Diwali, Easter, Valentine's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Ramadan, in our Children's Department's Holiday Books collection on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.



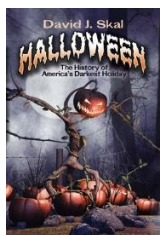
**[Celebrations: A Joyous Guide to Holidays from Past to Present](#) by Jim McCann – 394.26 MCC**

Presenting a year of special party ideas, holiday traditions, and festivities, this guide provides a variety of information, lore, customs, and suggestions for food, entertaining, and decorating with both a historical and contemporary theme.



**[Christmas: A Candid History](#) by Bruce David Forbes – 394.2663 FOR**

In a fascinating, concise tour through history, the book tells the story of Christmas—from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and to its mind-boggling transformation through modern consumerism.



**[Halloween: The History of America's Darkest Holiday](http://www.hoopladigital.com) by David J. Skal – available on [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com)\***

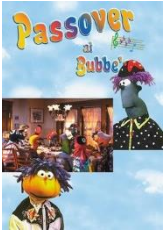
Acclaimed cultural critic David J. Skal explores one of America's most perplexingly popular holidays in this original mix of personal anecdotes and social analysis. Skal traces Halloween's evolution from its dark Celtic history and quaint, small-scale celebrations to its emergence as mammoth seasonal marketing event.



## [The Pagan Mysteries of Halloween: Celebrating the Dark Half of the Year](#) by Jean Markale – 394.2 MAR

A comprehensive examination of the rituals and philosophies of the Celtic holiday of Samhain--the inspiration for Halloween--presents the true meaning of the ancient holiday and shows how contemporary observances still faithfully reflect the rituals of pagan ancestors.

### Documentaries:



#### [Passover at Bubble's](#) – available on [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com)\*

While these delightful characters help Bubbe prepare for her annual Seder, they are surprised by a talking Haggadah and are magically whisked back to Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs. There, they personally experience the trials of captivity and ultimately, a triumphant escape to freedom.

### Podcasts:



#### [A Brief History of Trick-or-Treating](#) – Stuff You Missed in History Class

<http://tinyurl.com/ycnhx5ly>

Before children went door-to-door, Celts kept out evil spirits during the festival of Samhain. Halloween evolved over time, but trick-or-treating didn't emerge until the 20th century.

#### [How the First Thanksgiving Worked](#) – Stuff You Missed in History Class

<http://tinyurl.com/y9tft8j2>

Nowadays, Thanksgiving has become an official holiday, complete with its own trappings of tradition and mythology. But how much of the conventional Thanksgiving story is true?

#### [The Krampus and Friends Holiday Special, Part 1](#) – Stuff You Missed in History Class

<http://tinyurl.com/y78z4mc8>

Krampus has become really popular in recent years, but there are many holiday characters from various cultures around the world that all have fascinating histories. For example, Italy's La Befana and the Netherlands version of St. Nick, Sinterklaas.

#### [Maccabean Revolt](#) – Stuff You Missed in History Class

<http://tinyurl.com/y8m5ddb7>

The uprising of the Maccabees against the Seleucid Empire during the Hellenistic period is an integral part of the Hanukkah story. After the restoration of Jewish religious freedom, the Maccabees started another revolt to obtain total independence.

#### [What Was Saturnalia?](#) – Stuff You Missed in History Class

<http://tinyurl.com/ya68k9m4>

Winter solstice celebrations predate Christmas and trace back into antiquity. Saturnalia was one of these ancient traditions, and it was very different from the celebration we recognize as Christmas today.

\*=requires GPL Evergreen Indiana card