

# NEWS

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## Enjoy Holidays: Reflect, Recharge, Celebrate

By Jeff Thomas

Editor's note: With much appreciation for the author of this article, we also remember another holiday—New Year's Day, celebrated throughout the world—that reflects the birth of Jesus 2026 years ago. For short film versions, see The Shepherd (https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683594365) and The Messengers (https://watch.thechosen.tv/ video/184683594463).

The holiday season is a time of joy, reflection, and unity, marked by diverse celebrations that hold profound significance for millions of people worldwide. Across cultures and religions, the holidays remind us of the values that unite humanity: love, gratitude, and hope. Beyond their

religious or cultural roots, they offer an opportunity to connect with loved ones, recharge, and prepare

for the coming year.

Religious Celebrations and Their Significance

The holidays are steeped in religious traditions that offer spiritual guidance and meaning.

Christmas, celebrated by Christians, commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, emphasizing themes of goodwill, generosity, and divine love. For many, the nativity story and traditions like midnight Mass and Advent are reminders of faith and hope. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights,

celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the menorah's oil lasting eight days. This holiday symbolizes resilience and divine intervention, with traditions like lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and enjoying foods fried in oil. Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration honoring

African heritage and culture, is rooted in the principles of unity, self-determination, and collective responsibility. Founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa encourages reflection on shared values and the importance of community. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are significant

Islamic holidays. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, while Eid al-Adha commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.



These holidays emphasize charity, gratitude,

Diwali, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, is the Festival of Lights that signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

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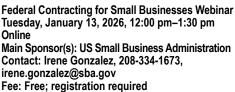
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Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-smallbusinesses-tickets-1977729716822 SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar Thursday, January 15, 2026, 10:00 am-11:00 am

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network-Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free workshop webinar at https://www.sba.gov/event/77580 Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs

For more info contact

Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

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