



STREET DECORATION *New year's Eve*

Christmas Carols

Christmas tree

Christmas in Greece

SANTA CLAUS

Seasonal Goblins

Christmas weather and holiday of people

Traditional Greek customs for a Happy New Year

CHRISTMAS FOOD Christmas holidays

CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!! CHRISTMAS DAY

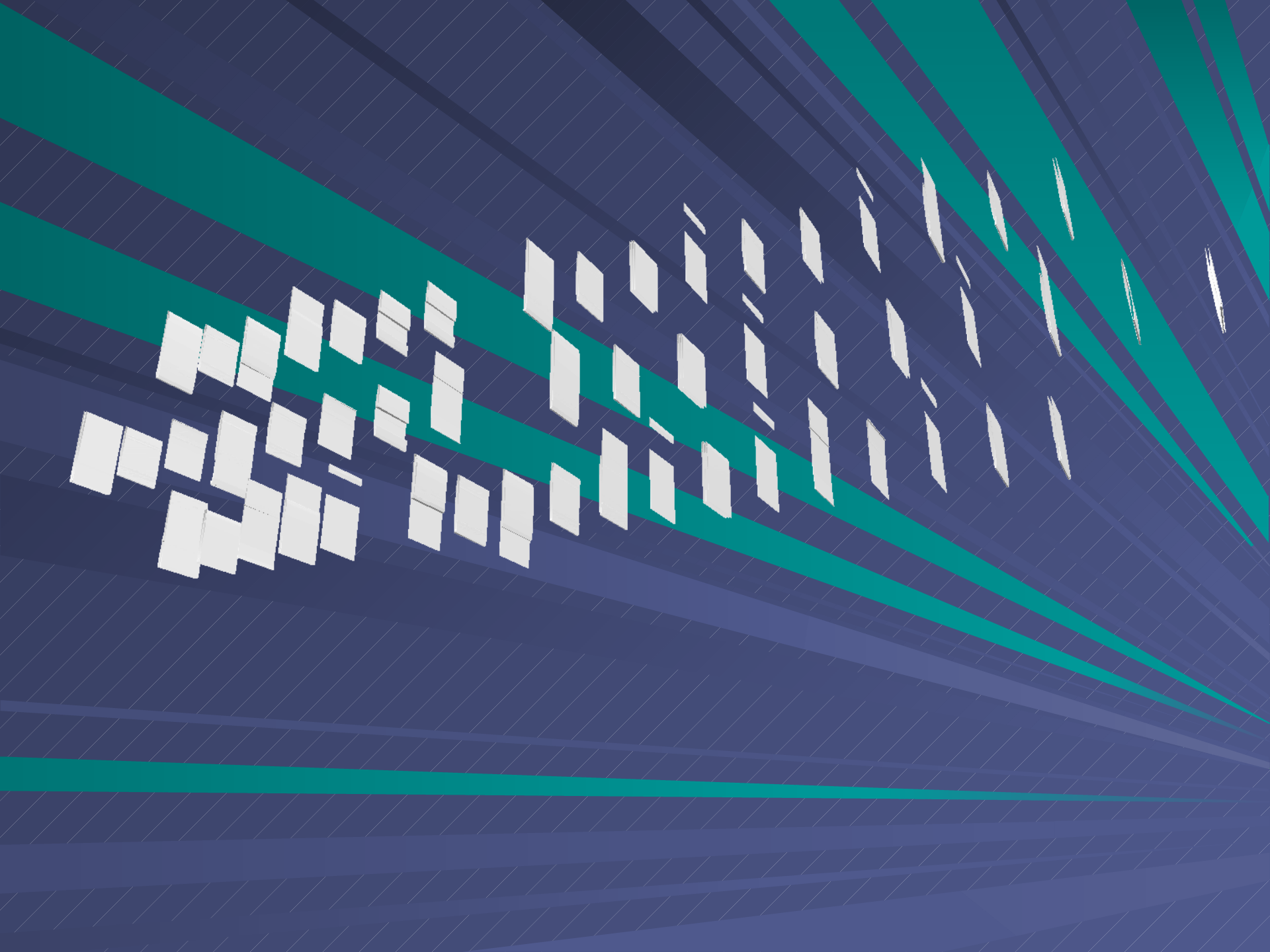
Chris Verikios

Christmas Carols

Carols are traditional songs which are sung before celebrations especially on Eve New Year and Epiphany. Carols include a description of celebration and special wishes for the landlord and landlady. They group themselves together and get houses ,shops or public places with musical instruments or with a metallic triangle.

People usually give them money or melomacarona or kourabiedes and wish them Merry Christmas or Happy New Year. It is unlucky for somebody not to open the door to people who sing the carols.





CHRISTMAS FOOD

In Greece , at Christmas , we eat :

- ❖ Christ's bread: It is a sweet bread with sesame.
- ❖ Kourabiedes: They are cookies covered with white sugar.
- ❖ Melomakarona: They are biscuit like candies with honey and sometimes they are covered with nuts.

We also eat:

- ❖ Stuffed turkey: It is turkey with chestnut.
- ❖ Pumpkin pie: It is a big pie stuffed with sliced pumpkin.



George Dimos

Seasonal Goblins

Tradition

Goblins (kalikantzari in Greek) are creatures like small devils who live in a cave in the earth and axe the tree which supports the earth so that the world disappears.

Every Christmas they get to the earth's surface to tease people and play havoc. During this time the tree 'recovers'.

They break into homes and steal food , candies and mess around the house. In order to avoid them, people leave the fireplace full of wood so that the fire doesn't stop burning (they are very afraid of fire).

On 6th January, goblins move back to their dwellings.

Images : Goblins

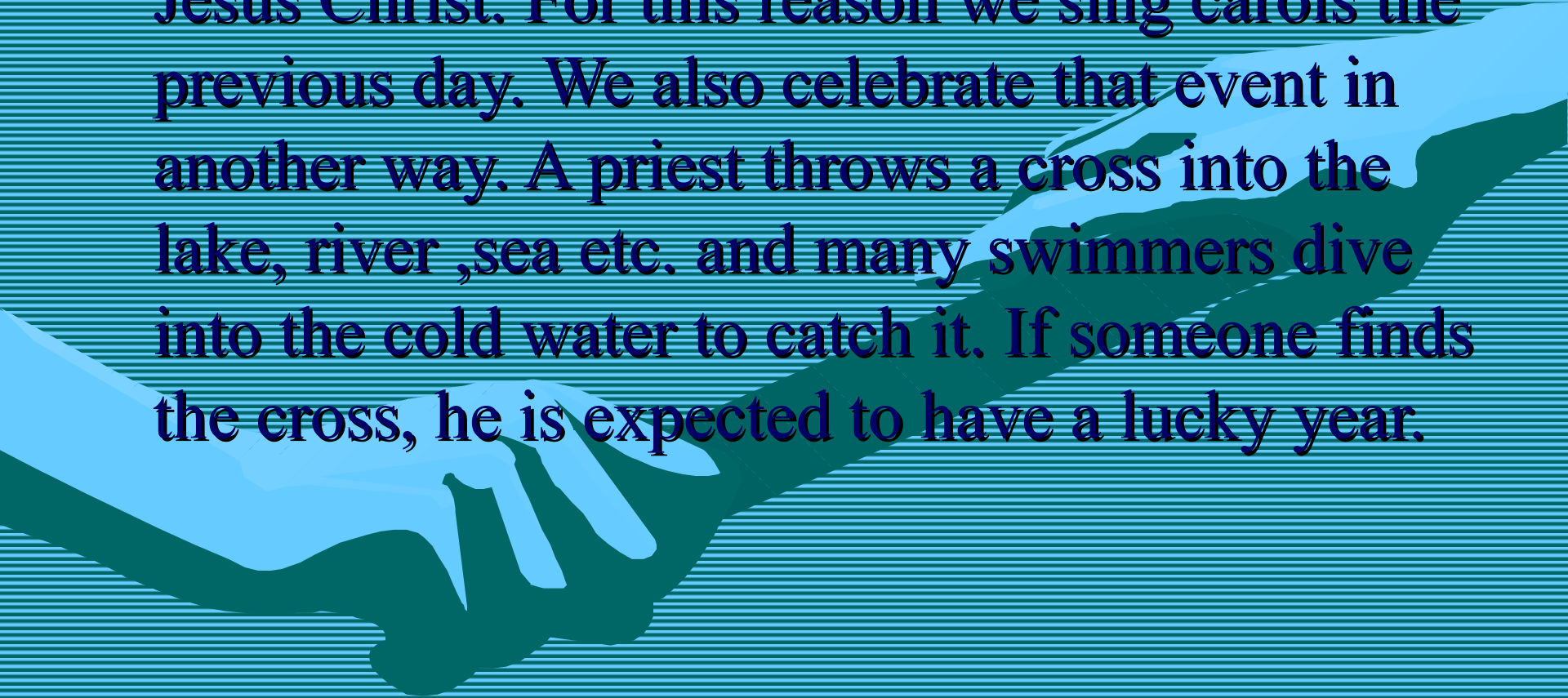


Philip Machos

- Presentation : The Celebration of Epiphany (6th January)

The Celebration of Epiphany

- On Epiphany, we Celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. For this reason we sing carols the previous day. We also celebrate that event in another way. A priest throws a cross into the lake, river ,sea etc. and many swimmers dive into the cold water to catch it. If someone finds the cross, he is expected to have a lucky year.



Images



Nick Katsikis

Christmas tree

One of our customs is the decoration of Christmas tree every year. We usually decorate with variety of balls and other decorates items. Further more we exchange gifts and send greetings cards. Here in Greece other people to decorate a traditional ship with lights and tinsels, in the place of Christmas tree, because Greece is a country with a very close contact with the sea. In older people used to decorate only Christmas ships. In the middle of the 19th century, this tradition changed and we have been decorating Christmas trees since them.





Vaggelis Kontonikolaou

Christmas in Greece

In Greece we go to church on Christmas day. In some churches the mass starts in the morning. There is an icon representing the birth of Jesus Christ at the entrance of the church. On New Year's Day we go to church to commemorate St Basil as well as to get blessed for the New Year. On 6(st) January, people go to church to attend the baptism of St John. The priest blesses the water and drops the Holy Cross in it. If the area where we live is close to the sea, the whole ceremony takes place by the sea and young people dive into it to catch the cross. The one gets to the cross first, is considered blessed. Otherwise, priests use a tank. At the end of the ceremony, people leave the church, holding a glass of holy water, given by the priest.



Eugenie Makridi



Christmas holidays



- **In Greece, at Christmas schools close on 21(st)December until 7(st) January. By that time the shops are open more hours during the week and stay open over the weekends, on Christmas day and day and 2(nd) after the New Year's Day are closed.**



George Markomichelakis

Street decorations

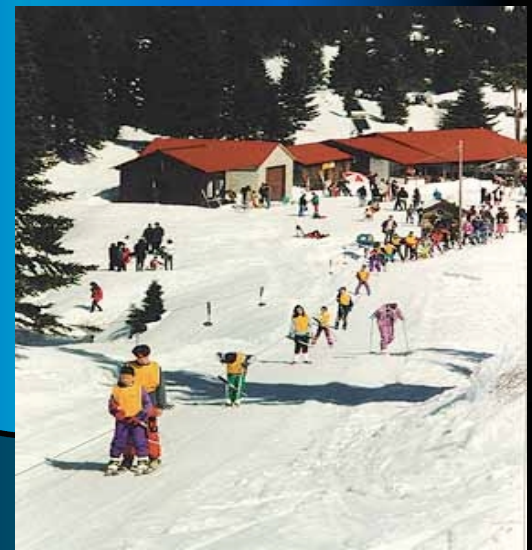
- ◆ In Greece roads are full of lights wishing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .We also decorate trees with lights .Decorating starts at the beginning of December



Constantinos Brakoulis

Christmas weather and holiday

- At Christmas, the weather is cold and here in Greece it snows and rains a lot. Despite the fact that the weather is cold, many people go skiing. Many kids play with the snow . Here, in Greece we don't always have white Christmas .



John Petrakis

New year's Eve



- Every year on New Year's Eve, people in Greece visit relatives. All together they eat the traditional stuffed turkey. When the clock strikes 12 all exchange kisses, wishes and the gifts which are under the Christmas tree .After that, they eat vassilopita. Finally they play pocker , black Jack or other cards games.



Steven Revinthis

Santa Claus.

In Greece, Santa Claus is the representation of St Nicolas and St Basil the great. St Nicholas is the protector of the poor and the children. St Basil the great is connected with the pie which contained a coin to be found by people who were very poor. He also built many foundations for poor and homeless people, for the sick, generally the people who suffered.



Bill Sarantakos

Traditional Greek customs for a Happy New Year

1)Pomegranate: The pomegranate is considered to be the symbol of affluence and wealth .In many places in Greece people ‘break’ the pomegranate in the morning of the first day of the year, making the following wish:
Let our house have as many happy moments as the seeds of the pomegranate.

2)“kremmyda”(the big onion). This tradition has its roots in ancient Greece. Our ancestors is believed to makes evil go away protecting the people and their fortune. Ancient Greeks were impressed by its exceptional tolerance and freshness since it can grow and flourish even in difficult ground or out of the ground. T hey had also noticed that it was used in medicine with excellent results. The big onion easily became the symbol of the rebirth of the year .I t symbolized the continuation of the house, and it’s the shield against every misfortune .It fills people with hope and expectations. We usually hang it in front of our doors or from our ceilings.
Wishes for your happiest and luckiest year ever!

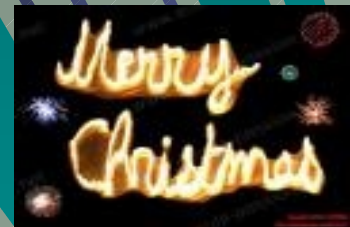
GREEK	ENGLISH
Kala hristujena	Merry Christmas
Eftihismenos o neos hronos	Happy New Year
Kali hronia	Happy New Year

CATHERINE TSAMOURI





CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!!



Christmas is the perfect opportunity to offer gifts to your family or to your friends. In Greece, at Christmas we often exchange presents at the first day of the year or on Christmas day (25 of December)!!! But all the people really like the day when Santa Close give us a lot of presents and makes children happy!!!! The presents that we always offer are: toys, sweets, board games, Christmas cards etc...

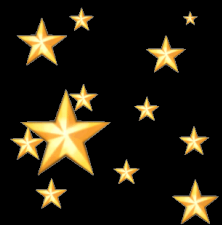
One of the most popular traditions all over the world is: to put the gifts under the Christmas tree so that, the family find them the next day!! I think that all the people like the magical, Christmas spirit and the wonderful presents!!!!!! MERRY

CHRISTMAS!!!!

THE END!!!



Aida Christopoulou



CHRISTMAS DAY



Christmas is a national celebration and a national holiday. Everybody celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. People are very happy at Christmas because all the streets and the houses are decorated with wonderful ornaments. In Greece many years ago there were no Christmas trees. They used to decorate a ship or make lights in the shape of a ship. It is a tradition to celebrate Christmas with your family ! Unlike most of the other countries we give presents on the first of January and not on Christmas day.

