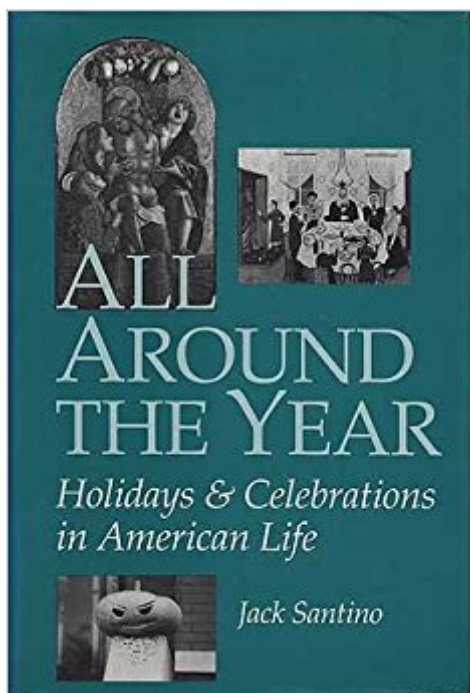


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All Around The Year: Holidays And Celebrations In American Life



Synopsis

Whether decorating Easter trees, observing the New Year's Eve ritual of the Hungry Hog Society, or celebrating Wagner's birthday by incinerating a model of Valhalla on an outdoor barbecue to the closing strains of "Götterdämmerung," Americans combine the traditional and the offbeat as they create new holidays and celebrate old ones. In *All Around the Year*, Jack Santino guides the reader through a variety of holidays, festivals, and life-cycle rituals and celebrations. Drawing from history, anthropology, popular culture, and folklore, Santino shows the intricate relationships between holidays and the roles of celebrations and rituals in people's lives. He combines scholarship, field research, and personal reminiscence in this highly readable account of a subject that constitutes a major dimension of our social lives. Nearly fifty illustrations depict holiday symbols and decorations both traditional and contemporary, from greeting cards to wreath-bedecked cars to restaurant menus. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this serious evaluation of the effect of holidays on American life, Santino pores over the solemn and funny means people use to celebrate throughout the year. He probes the history of American religious and secular holidays and the impact of such celebrations and traditions upon family life. The meaning of symbols and the ongoing creation of new ones makes for an interesting, stimulating discussion. Denise Perry Donavin

"Pores over the solemn and funny means people use to celebrate throughout the year... The meaning of symbols and the ongoing creation of new ones makes for an interesting, stimulating discussion." -- Booklist --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Santino's book is an excellent broad spectrum analysis on the cultural interpretations behind the holidays that we celebrate. The level of detail the author goes into regarding not only the holidays, but the seasons surrounding them is quite in-depth. I enjoyed this book not only because it was a required textbook for a course I was taking, but also because of how informative the book was overall.

I know the author, but can honestly say that I would give this a 5-star rating in any case. It is well-written and offers interesting details about our traditional celebrations. As I teacher, I have often referred to it. Highly recommended.

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