

**WEIRD HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

There are hundreds of holiday traditions around the globe, many of which you've probably never heard of. These are the top most unexpected, random, weird, awesome holiday traditions from around the world.

**Night of the Radishes - Oaxaca, MX**

The Mexican state of Oaxaca presents the most impressive display of carved vegetables in the world. The miniature exhibits depict the Nativity scene and other events from folklore. Originally, the tradition was done by shopkeepers who wanted to entice people into their stores.

**SantaCon - Big Cities Worldwide**

What began as a nonsensical gathering of San Franciscans dressed as Santa Claus, has become a worldwide pub crawl. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014, the official website describes it as "a conventions of santas - groups of men and women dressed as Santa."

**Spider Webs for Good Luck - Ukraine**

The Ukrainian tradition of adding spider webs to the Christmas tree is odd, until you learn about the legend. In a nutshell: a poor widow lived with her children in a cold, damp hut. Her children had their sights set on a young Evergreen tree growing outside as their future Christmas tree. But they had nothing to decorate the tree. The woman cried herself to sleep that night, but the household spiders took note of her despair, and covered the tree in their intricate webs. In the morning, the sun hit the tree, which shimmered in silver and gold thread. From that day on, the widow never wanted for anything again.

**KFC - Japan**

Fried chicken on Christmas Eve sounds like a good idea. Sure, but why KFC? Christmas isn't a national holiday in Japan, so it must be something about the "Americanness" of the meal. That and good marketing that goes back to the 1970s.

**Roller Skating to Mass En Masse - Venezuela**

Besides waking to firecrackers in the wee hours of the morning, residents of the city of Caracas get up, pull out their roller skates, and take off for mass. Many streets are closed to traffic and whole families wheel their way into the church pews.

**Krampus - Austria, Germany, Hungary**

For the good children, there is Santa Claus. For the bad, there is Krampus, a beast-like creature who shows up in order to punish the ill behaved. Krampus has roots in Germanic folklore. Today, young people dress up as Krampus and roam the streets in Austria, Romania, Bavaria and other Balkan countries to frighten young children.

[www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Monday - Thursday - 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM**  
**Friday - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Holiday Hours**

**Friday, December 22nd - Closing at 1:00 PM**  
**Monday, December 25th - Closed**  
**Friday, December 29th - Closing at 1:00 PM**  
**Monday, January 1st - Closed**

**We hope everyone has safe and happy holiday season!**

**Board of Directors Election 2017**

Serving as a volunteer on your credit union board of directors is a great way to participate in the democracy that makes us different and unique from other financial institutions. A credit union director has a great deal of responsibility requiring serious candidates with the qualifications to serve effectively.

If you are a member in good standing with VITAL Federal Credit Union, and meet the required criteria we invite you to apply for one of the two board positions open. Please contact your local branch for a copy of the application and return a completed copy to the address on the application by December 21, 2017.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Larry Lloyd - Vice Chariman**  
**Veronica Moriarty - Secretary**  
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