

## Yusuhara a Home from Home: 21. A Multicultural Holiday

**Stephen Woodard**

In previous newsletters I have spoken about what the meaning of Christmas is and why it is important to so many people. With the recent lifting of restrictions for entering Japan there will be significantly more people visiting Japan than in recent years, some perhaps may even find their way to Kochi. So it's important to remember that not everyone celebrates Christmas but the holiday period is just as important to them.

This period from early December to the start of January is commonly known as the festive season. Festive meaning decorating, gathering with loved ones, and having parties. Included in this is the Christian holiday Christmas, the Jewish holiday Hanukkah, the African-American holiday Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. These are celebrated for religious reasons and cultural reasons. It's interesting to see people are all celebrating this season in diverse ways. I wish you all an awesome holiday (irrespective of your backgrounds!) and a wonderful new year!

