



# MULTI-CULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

January 2024



## Gantan-Sai (Japan and Shinto)

Jan 1- It is also referred to as Shogatu, the Shinto New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.

## Lohri (Shikh and Hindu)

Jan13- Bonfires are lit to mark the change from the decrease to the increase of the sun.



## Lohri (Shikh and Hindu)

Jan 14- The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. The days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.



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## Thaipusam Cavadee (India and Mauritius)

Jan25- It is celebrated by Hindus of Tamil origin in the honour of Kartikeya, Granter of Wishes, and the second son of Shiva.

Devotees with their tongues, cheeks and body pierced with needles, hooks and skewers, dance their way trance-like to the temple carrying the 'Cavadee'- a wooden arch covered with flowers with a pot of milk at each end of its base.

## Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) (Jewish)

Jan25- This day celebrates Judaism's roots in the natural world. It is a holiday and known as the New Year for trees. Special meals include eating the seven fruits of the land- wheat, barley, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives and dates.

