

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Bee Dieu and Aaron Campbell
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

AaronPC joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Aaron

AaronPC: Hi BJ, Emily, and Bee.

EmilyW: hi

BJB2: so, is this the Holiday Party session?

BJB2 knows that Bee is an excellent chef

AaronPC: Good.. some gourmet food sounds delicious about now.

BeeD: Hello Aaron

AaronPC: Hi

BeeD: You exaggerate BJ....far from excellent...but I love cooking so the dishes usually come out right

BeeD: What is cooking for X-mas? How do you usually celebrate it?

AaronPC: Well....each year is different for us.

BeeD: no traditions?

AaronPC: This time we'll be out of town at a wedding.

AaronPC: So we'll celebrate on Friday.

BeeD: a wedding on X-mas day?

AaronPC: Usually presents in the morning and a nice meal later in the day.

AaronPC: Well, here in Japan....most people work on X-mas as it is pretty meaningless.

AaronPC: Being a Buddhist country and all.

AaronPC: But people get into the commercial side of it with lights and Santa.

AaronPC: They find it romantic.

BJB2: interesting, Aaron. Sedat had a discussion with his students in Turkey...

BeeD: Rudolf's students described it well <http://www.tawawa.org/miejournal/>

BeeD listens to BJ

BJB2: about the Gift of the Magi. The students felt that no person would actually do something so selfless and romantic as get rid of their most treasured possessions

BJB2: for love

AaronPC: Interesting

BJB2: I was wondering if this is a generational thing?

BJB2 feels sad if it is

BeeD agrees with BJ

AaronPC feels old if it is

BJB2 wonders how Em feels about that? The Gift of the Magi is the story of a man who sells his pocket watch to buy a gift of combs for his wife

BJB2: and the wife sells her hair to buy a watch chain for her husband

EmilyW: about what?

BJB2: about love that is so deep that a person will sell their most treasured possession to buy a gift for someone they love

EmilyW: no thoughts

BeeD: I am not attached to material things at all...I would EVEN give my computer if I thought the person I loved needed it ...lol

AaronPC: Love is most important, isn't it?

BJB2 . o O (I would have to think a reallllllly long time about that one)

BeeD: Absolutely

EmilyW: I would never give my computer away

BeeD: lol

AaronPC: So what are the rest of you up to this Christmas?

AaronPC: Any special plans?

BJB2: we don't have any unusual plans....we'll be home and the kids will come over (son in law, daughter and grandson)

BJB2: the holidays seem to have come at amazing speed this year...I'm still mentally around October

AaronPC knows the feeling well

BeeD: I'm going to the countryside...as usual...Most of my family will be there ...two of my brothers with their wives and children, my parents and we have it according to Polish tradition my parents have kept...so it's been like this for the last 52 years of my life...lol

BJB2: tradition is nice. The older I get the more I appreciate it

AaronPC: Wow! That's some tradition for you.

BeeD: In Poland X-mas is celebrated on X-mas Eve

BeeD: on 24th

BeeD: no meat...just fish and vegetables

BeeD: we should sit at table when the first star comes up in the sky

BJB2: interesting, considering that Poland is a land-locked country. How did the fish tradition come about?

BeeD: it's not land locked...there is the Baltic sea

BJB2: ahhh. Thanks

BeeD: and there are rivers

BeeD: and lakes

AaronPC: So you stay away from meat on the 24th?

BeeD: yessir...just like at Easter...no meat on Friday or Saturday

AaronPC: interesting indeed. And it's summer too - warm weather.

BJB2 remembers when the school cafeteria always had fish on Fridays

BeeD: In Brazil it is difficult to wait until the first star to sit down for dinner...as it is summer saving time and the sun is out until 8:30 pm...so the little kids get anxious

BeeD: and hungry

AaronPC: lol

BeeD: so Santa Claus arrives around 7pm

BeeD: with some gifts for the little ones before diner...I have been Santa for the past 4 years

AaronPC: That makes sense - keeps everyone happy.

BeeD: sweating under a red woolen outfit my sister in law brought from Switzerland...lol

BJB2 chuckles. Poor you!

BeeD: fortunately this lasts only about 15 minutes...the kids have to tell me how well they did at school and sing something or recite a poem

BJB2: sounds like a lot of fun

BeeD: after which photographs are taken and each kid gets one gift...and while they are not looking I depart quickly, take a shower and come back quickly for the beginning of diner

BJB2: Emily, does your family have any holiday traditions?

AaronPC laughs

AaronPC: Santa Bee.

BeeD: I do not think we will have it this year as the youngest child is 6 and she has already looked me square in the eye and asked me why I was not there when Santa came last time

BeeD: so I think she suspects some monkey business...lol

AaronPC: lol

BJB2: I'm Jewish and Hubby is Methodist...so we light the Hanukkah candles and have a Christmas tree...best of both worlds

BeeD: wonderful

BJB2 grins...those little ones are too smart too early!

EmilyW: I don't celebrate Christmas, I celebrate Chanukah

BeeD: it's the Festival of Lights

BJB2 . o O (and she knows how to spell it better than I do too!)

BeeD: Hanukkah

EmilyW: the spelling is always an issue

EmilyW: different spellings

BJB2 nods

BeeD: what do you do for Hanukkah?

EmilyW: I didn't know you were Jewish BJ

BeeD: Are there any special dishes?

BJB2: Chanukah starts on the 25th this year, I think

BeeD: or traditions?

EmilyW: we light the candles every night

AaronPC: for 12 days?

BJB2: 8

EmilyW: my family comes over one night

EmilyW: and we have latkes

EmilyW: potato pancakes

EmilyW: sometimes we play dreidel

BJB2: Chanukah was never a major Jewish holiday, but competition with Christmas has made it much more visible

EmilyW: my family alternates with who picks the colors of the candles and who lights them

BJB2: the traditions involve the children so it's a family affair which is nice

EmilyW: when I was younger I used to get a present every night

EmilyW: now I don't

BJB2: . o O (Chanukah gelt?)

EmilyW: now I just get money

EmilyW: or gift certificates

BJB2: often real money, but sometimes includes foil wrapped chocolate coins

EmilyW: chocolate coins= Chanukah gelt

EmilyW: gelt means money

BJB2: wonders if Aaron has to leave for school soon?

BeeD: Before the wigilia (X-mas supper in Polish) starts, my parents share the oplatek (sacred wafer) with the whole family

AaronPC: yes.....and it's dark and snowy and icy and freezing.

BJB2: where does the sacred wafer come from?

BeeD: wafer

BJB2: brrr...be safe and warm, Aaron

BeeD: like the one we get at communion

BJB2: nods

AaronPC: thanks

BeeD: Hey...I have just learnt Dekita won in its category

BJB2: cheers for Bee...congratulations!

BeeD: amazing

EmilyW: category for what?

BeeD: Thanks BJ

AaronPC: who woulda thunk it?

BJB2: send me information so I can put that in the January newsletter

BeeD: and thanks Aaron

BJB2: congrats to you too, Aaron

AaronPC: thanks

BJB2 throws confetti in celebration

BeeD: Apparently the awards ceremony was broadcast at Worldbridges

BeeD: at 14 GMT

BJB2: yes, they were talking about it this morning at webheads

BeeD: I was away in the countryside....disconnected...got back now and checking my mail

BJB2 nods

BJB2: if worldbridges has an archived file, please include that in the info you send, Bee

BeeD: I have no idea of what went on

BeeD: Who was there at the ceremony BJ?

BJB2: I don't know...didn't listen to the broadcast

BJB2: we were out shopping

BeeD: I know Daf's and Graham's blog were nominated

BJB2 . o O (groceries)

BJB2: yes

BJB2 looks at the worldbridges site

BeeD: must check James Farmer's site

BeeD: not much there...just the results

BJB2: it's really slow to load

BeeD: I'm happy Anne Davis got it

BJB2: what did she submit, Bee?

BeeD: Edublog insights was nominated for best teacher blog

BJB2: Is Anne Davis the same person as Anne P. Davis who is a member of TI?

BeeD: Here is the shortlist and results in each category: <http://incsub.org/awards/the-edublog-awards-2005/>

AaronPC: that's the one

BJB2 . o O (Georgia State University)

BeeD: Yes

BeeD: Great teacher

BJB2: she hasn't been logged in since last January!

BJB2 . o O (probably too busy)

BeeD: She was one of our guest speakers for the Evo session last year

BJB2: cool

BJB2: all the talk about food has made me hungry!

BeeD: Aaron..I was telling BJ that I think we will interrupt Blogstreams in January

BJB2 goes to fix dinner. Happy holidays, everyone...whatever holiday you celebrate!

BeeD: Happy X-mas BJ and Emily...thanks for everything!

BJB2: I removed all the January Blogstreams from the Jan calendar already

BeeD: thanks

AaronPC: Enjoy BJ!

BJB2 hugs warmly...take care.

AaronPC: Happy holidays