

Cookbook

Christmas in the tropics - a blend of ethnic customs

BY JOAN KINGSBURY
Christmas in the tropics! Warm sun, sandy beaches, bathing suits and shorts. This is what the Christmas season is like in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Suzane Wenk-Wolff's hometown.

Suzie, who's family still resides in Sao Paulo, moved to the United States with her husband, Kai, vice-president of operations at Offset Paperback, about a year

and a half ago. Since Sao Paulo has many Italian and German people living there, Christmas customs are a blending of several ethnic groups.

Typically, the large Christmas dinner is eaten at midnight, when Christmas Eve becomes Christmas Day. Many people serve ham decorated with cherries, cloves and peaches. Potato salad is a favorite, often molded in a loaf pan,

then decorated with shrimp. A whole fish, baked and artfully served, is also a feature of the Christmas table.

Farofa, a dish made by browning dry Farina in a pan, then adding sliced bacon, black olives, parsley, onions, plums and mashed hard boiled eggs is found on every table. Suzie says this is good served with gravy. Those who serve ham make a chicken pie to serve while those choosing turkey serve a shrimp pie.

Panetone, a bread made with raisins and candied fruits, is an Italian bread that graces every table. For dessert German cakes, apple pie or chocolate mousse are served.

Santa Claus does come on Christmas Eve and the children open their gifts then. While the children are out of the room, parents spread gifts under the tree. Then with a ringing of bells signaling that Santa has come and gone, the little ones happily rush in to open their gifts.

The ringing in of the New Year is also special with parties celebrating the occasion. Parties are large, often with as many as 300 guests invited.

Suzie says costume parties, which are a popular New Year's Eve tradition, are loads of fun.

Suzie says that she enjoys life in the United States. The Wenk-Wolff's have two sons Luis, 3½ and Patrick age 2. Both boys speak Portuguese and German while Luis also speaks English. Both Suzie and Kai are fluent in languages. Suzie speaks English, Portuguese, German, French, Italian and Spanish while Kai speaks English, German, Portuguese and French. The boys babysitter, Luiza Leite, also resides with the Wenk-Wolffs.

If you would like to treat your family to some tropical treats for Christmas this year Suzie suggests three recipes, Panetone, Salpicao Tropical and Sweet Milk Caramel. Salpicao Tropical is an extremely popular salad while Sweet Milk Caramel is simply made by boiling sweetened condensed milk in the can then allowing it to cool. Suzie says this is delicious served with white cheese.

PANETONE
¼ c. sugar
1 T. yeast, heaping
¾ c. warm water
3 egg yolks
½ t. vanilla



Suzane Went-Wolff and Luiza Leite

1 t. grated lime rind
1 t. salt
¾ c. flour
½ c. butter or margarine, room temp.
two thirds c. raisins, seedless
one third c. candied fruit
2 T. butter, melted

Dissolve one teaspoon sugar in warm water with yeast; mix, let rest 10 minutes. Put egg yolks (beaten) into vanilla and mix with lime rind, salt and remaining sugar. Put two cups of flour into the mixture, beat

well. Little by little adding flour ¼ cup at a time, add remaining flour. Mix well.

Flour a board, knead dough for 10 minutes on floured board until smooth and elastic. Put in a greased bowl and let rest until double in bulk about 1 hour. Punch the dough down, mix in raisins and candied fruits by hand, kneading the fruit in.

Grease a 3-pound coffee can. Put dough inside can, cover with a towel and let rise 45 minutes. Brush with melted butter.

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees, this is very important since oven must be hot when Panetone is put in the oven. Place Panetone in the oven, lower the temperature to 325 degrees. Bake for 45 minutes. Brush with melted butter. If top darkens too fast, cover with aluminum foil.

After removing from the oven brush again with melted butter, cool. **SALPICAO TROPICAL**
2 pineapples, cut in half
3 oz. plums, chopped
2 cans tuna

1½ oz. raisins
1½ oz. peanuts or nuts
1 c. mayonnaise
1 T. Karo syrup
2 T. mustard

Remove pineapple from shell, leaving shell intact. Cut up pineapple fruit, add to chopped plums, tuna, raisins, nuts. Mix with mayonnaise and Karo syrup and mustard. Put salad into pineapple shell. Decorate as desired.

SWEET MILK CARAMEL
1 can sweetened condensed milk
boiling water

Bring water to a boil on the stove. Make sure that the boiling water is covering the can. Boil the can for 1½ hours without opening it. Remove the can from the boiling water and let stand until cool. This is very important since the can will explode if opened when warm. Best if boiled at night, then opened the next morning. This makes the milk into a caramel. Suzie says this tastes delicious served with white cheese.

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What's Cookin'!

DALLAS SCHOOLS
Dec. 15-22
WEDNESDAY--Baked macaroni-cheese or peanut butter-jelly sandwich w-cheese stick, carrot stick, chilled pears, milk. Bonus: Baked soft pretzel.
THURSDAY--Dallas Christmas Dinner--Roast turkey w-giblet gravy, bread dressing, whipped potatoes, cherry red cranapple gelatin salad, ice cream cup, milk.
FRIDAY--Breaded fish on roll w-cheese stick or baked pizza (2 slices), cole slaw, orange wedge, milk.
MONDAY--Meatball hoagie or hot dog on roll w-celery stick, buttered macaroni, green beans, cherry gelatin, milk.
TUESDAY--Oven roast pork or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, whipped potatoes w-gravy, rosy applesauce, milk. Bonus: Sugar donut.
WEDNESDAY--Chicken noodle soup w-vegetables, Italian hogie w-lettuce-tomato, or ham-cheese sandwich, fresh fruit, milk. Bonus: Baked brownie.

RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY PLAYSCHOOL
Dec. 16-21
WEDNESDAY--Tuna sandwich, chips, carrots, fruit, apple juice.
THURSDAY--Macaroni-cheese, mixed vegetables, jello, milk.
FRIDAY--Egg salad sandwich, chips, carrots, cookies, milk.
MONDAY--Hot dogs, yellow beans, sliced potatoes, fruit, milk.
TUESDAY--Beef-a-roni, bread-butter, pudding, milk.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOLS
Dec. 15-24
Junior High & Elementary
WEDNESDAY--Meatball hoagie, corn chips, green beans, pudding, milk.
THURSDAY--Christmas dinner--Turkey-gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, cranberry sauce, Parker House roll-butter, ice cream, milk.
FRIDAY--Batter dipped fish on bun, tartar sauce, potato puffs, cabbage salad, pineapple tidbits, milk.
MONDAY--Toasted cheese sandwich, tomato rice soup-saltines, applesauce, donut, milk.
TUESDAY--Taco's w-trimmings, corn, peaches, milk.
WEDNESDAY--Beef stew over noodles, pickled beets, Parker House roll-butter, fruited jello, milk.
THURSDAY--Pizza or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, potato chips, carrot-celery sticks, Christmas treat, milk.
FRIDAY--Merry Christmas.

Senior High
WEDNESDAY--Meatball or deli hoagie, corn chips, green beans, fruited jello, milk.
THURSDAY--Christmas dinner--Turkey-gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, Parker House roll-butter, ice cream, milk.
FRIDAY--Batter dipped fish on bun, tartar sauce, potato puffs, cabbage salad, pineapple tidbits, milk.
MONDAY--Ham patti of pork bar-b-q on bun w-relish, cheese squares, French fries or small salad, pears, milk.
TUESDAY--Hoagie w-trimmings, tomato rice soup-saltines, apple, milk.
WEDNESDAY--Burrito w-chili, Johnny cake, peaches, milk.
THURSDAY--Pizza or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, potato chips, carrot-celery sticks, Christmas treat, milk.
FRIDAY--Merry Christmas.

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