

## The Kids' Table

by

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### Gen X Holidays

It's a magical day, coming but once a year. The excitement slowly builds to an almost overwhelming crescendo of joy and happiness. All are equally delighted when it is finally here: 22 September, this writer's birthday.

Or perhaps I'm overstating the case. I've been told that the cut off age for loving one's birthday is usually 21, the last one that matters. The remaining birthdays are to be tolerated until one's photo is displayed on The Today Show to mark the 100th. It's a sad state of affairs when one is expected to endure rather than to celebrate each passing year. The singing of "Happy Birthday" and making a wish on a candle are special events that can only be done once a year. You would look silly doing so any other time of the year.

This brought to mind all the Gen X events that have now taken on an almost sacred status over the past few years. Here is a smattering of our SIG's special days.

**Festivus:** Yes, we stole this from Seinfeld. While this is a new event, it was building for a long time. The three activities of Festivus are the airing of the grievances, the feats of strength, and the dance around the metal pole. It can be viewed as a healthy event because it's good to vent and involves athletics. Next year people may begin to train for Festivus with the same effort as one trains for a marathon.

**Rowdy Holidays:** The Gen X group has a boisterous reputation. We forgo martinis for Guinness on St. Patrick's Day. We forgo martinis for margaritas on Cinco de Mayo. Member creativity can be witnessed in our many Halloween costumes, occasionally on the cover of the MAAM.

**Martini Parties:** This is where we forgo other beverages for the ever popular martini. Our mascot Benigni, the orange plastic martini glass, certainly approves.

ZooLights: It's the zoo without the animals! The first stop is the gift shop where we don funny hats for a photo. Then it's off to the tall trees covered in lights for a choreographed show. That's followed by a quick visit to the snack shop for hot beverages before making our way to the rock exhibit. It wouldn't be December without ZooLights.

Anyone's 40th Birthday: The Gen Xers happily recognize and celebrate any and all birthdays. As our most elder Gen Xers are now 40, we get together to celebrate en masse this wonderful transition. Last year we celebrated in Las Vegas. This year we may visit Rocky Point. As always, I'm happy to attend any pre and post 40th birthday celebration.

SIG Birthday: The Phoenix Gen X group was born November 2001. We unofficially celebrate its birthday at each and every event.

The Fourth of July at the AG: The two events invariably go hand in hand. It's another birthday, another party. One nice thing about the AG is checking in with the other Gen Xers around the country. Many of us know each other through the Gen X list on yahoo, the place where we share event ideas and encourage the formation of local groups. At the next AG, we'll have our own SIG shirts!

This coming year will certainly be filled with celebration, merriment, and mirth. Future holidays may include Scary Bad Date Day, Songburst Day, and Autumnal Equinox Day. Our February events include Gen X party crashers at Burger Madness (February 12) and an evening of Thai Food, Air Hockey and video games. (February 21). Gen X, often.