Well, it’s that time of year again, the holiday season! A time for gatherings and fellowship and a time for good cheer. As Molossia is a family nation, these traditions are important to us, and we thus place great emphasis on family gatherings. So, as other activities wane in December, Christmas and other holidays celebrations reign supreme. This month we will celebrate Christmas around the National Christmas Tree in Government House, and then Boxing Day (with accompanying shepherd's pie) the day after. And, like most, we will count down the minutes to the new year (even though our official new year celebration is also Chinese New Year). And of course we will be sending out our annual Christmas Cards again this year. So join us in this season of merriment and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Nevada Day Doings

Nevada Day is an important holiday in the State of Nevada, celebrating the state’s admission to the Union on 31 October 1864. The annual holiday is held on the last Friday of each October and the days surrounding it are filled with Nevada-centric activities. As Molossia is located within and surrounded by the state and because we are of course Nevadans as well as Molossians, we always join in to the celebrations. This year was a very special one, as 2014 is the 150th anniversary of Nevada’s statehood. Festivities began on the evening of 28 October as The President, First Lady, First Daughter Kaylin and her beau Nick attended the fourth annual Governor’s Banquet, held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. The evenings activities included dinner, speakers expounding on the greatness of the Silver State, an auction and of course a meet and greet with Nevada’s Governor, Brian Sandoval. In addition to meeting the Governor, His Excellency and The First Lady were themselves the center of attention, being somewhat well-known local celebrities. It was an excellent evening and a fine time was had by all.

Saturday, 1 November was the day of the annual Nevada Day Parade, an event in which The President and First Family participate every year. The day began with a pancake breakfast at the Nevada Governor’s Mansion, after which The First Family gathered to appear in the parade. Included were The President, The First Lady, First Daughter Alexis, First Daughter Kaylin and M. Nick, future First Son-In-Law. On this eighth appearance in the parade, His Excellency and the First Family rode in a maroon convertible. The parade route stretches for about 1.2 Imperial Nortons (1.2 km) through the middle of Carson City, the state capital of Nevada. Along the route several reviewing stands are set up, with announcers introducing each parade entry. As the President passed the spectators, many called out, wanting to know where Molossia is located. His Excellency and the First Lady responded and the good humored crowd generally took it in stride that there was a sovereign nation right down the road from them, inside their own state. Afterward, the First Family attended an annual chili feed in Carson City, where they were approached for photo-ops with several fans of our nation. This wrapped up the day. A fine time was
Esperanto, Molossia’s Second Language

15 December is Zamenhof Day, the birthday of the creator of Esperanto. Esperanto is an international auxiliary language, created in 1897 as a way to ease communication between speakers of different languages. It is not designed to replace existing languages, but instead as a bridge between languages. Esperanto is easily learned and has simple grammar rules. A variety of prefixes and suffixes help to add new words to the existing vocabulary, as needed. Esperanto is currently spoken by 100,000 to 2,000,000 people worldwide, with perhaps 1,000 native speakers.

Here in Molossia Esperanto is our second language. It was adopted as such many years ago, and shows up in various aspects of our culture, such as the name of our money, the Valora (which means valuable). We continually try to expand the use of Esperanto in Molossia. On Zamenhof Day we will engage in games to improve our knowledge of the language and make it a bigger part of our lives and culture.

Esperanto, La Dua Lingvo de Molossia

15 Decembro estas Zamehof tago, la naskiĝtagon de la kreinto de esperanto. Esperanto estas internacia helplingvo, kreita en 1897 kiel maniero de malpezi inter parolantoj de malsamaj lingvoj. Gi ja ne celas anstataŭi ekzistantajn lingvojn, sed anstataŭe kiel ponto inter lingvoj, Esperanto estas facile lernebla kaj ĝi havas simplan gramatikon reguojn. Vario de prefiksoj kaj sufiksoj helpi aldoni novajn vortojn al la ekzistanta vortstoko, drajvo. Esperanto estas nuntempe parolata de 100.000 al 2.000.000 homoj tutmonde, kun eble 1.000 denaskaj parolantoj.

Tie en Molossia Esperanto estas nia dua lingvo. Estis adoptita kiel tia antaŭ multaj jaroj, kaj ĝi montras supren en diversaj aspektoj de nia kulturo, kiel ekzemple la nomo de nia mono, la Valora. Ni konstante provas ekspansigi la uzo de Esperanto en Molossia. Sur Zamenhofa Tago ni partopreni en ludoj por plibonigi nian scion de la lingvo kaj ĝi ĝi ĝin pli granda parto de niaj vivoj kaj kulturo.
The countdown to Christmas has begun! December has arrived and the holiday season is in full swing! Hopefully everyone was able to spend time with their friends and family for Thanksgiving or are making plans for Christmas. Family and friends are so important. Some people have family that lives far away or family that they don't get along with. Some people don't have much family at all. The holidays are a time that everyone should try to put those differences aside for the greater good and be thankful that we have each other. Here in Molossia we have a bountiful family. A never ending parade of cousins and aunts and uncles. Always someone to talk to or to do something with. If you don't have much family then it is important to be close to friends. Look around and think about your friends. Think about who doesn't have very much family and see if you can invite them to be with you during the holidays. Even better than a present underneath the tree, someone that is there for you is a gift that lasts a lifetime. Who can you give that gift to?

Merry Christmas!

~Adrianne