

# Festivus exposed

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The Surveyor

Festivus was first introduced to the world Dec. 18, 1997, on an episode of "Seinfeld." Now the formerly fake holiday has become real and is celebrated by select groups of fun-loving people across the country, including right here in Colorado.

Festivus officially occurs on Dec. 23, but can be celebrated at any time around the traditional holidays. It is non-denominational and is perfect for those tired of the



commercialism of the Christmas season. In the "Seinfeld" episode the event was a family affair, but in real life it's developed into more of a friends-only, adults-only type of party. Christine Kovacs, owner of My Big Day, LLC in Loveland, threw her first Festivus party this November. I sat down with Kovacs to learn all about the holiday made popular by "Seinfeld."

According to the Kovacs there are some must-haves at a Festivus party. First there must be a Festivus pole — that's right — an undecorated aluminum pole to be displayed at the party. There also must be a Festivus dinner. Kovacs decided on a potluck style dinner, having each guest bring a dish to share. The dishes were labeled Damn Ham, Mean Greens, Sucky Side Dish, Stuff it! Stuffing, and so on and so

forth.

The most important part of any Festivus party, beside the booze, is the Airing of Grievances. In the "Seinfeld" show, the Airing of Grievances involved telling the other partygoers how they have disappointed you over the last year.

Kovacs decided on a twist. She created an Airing of Grievances box. Each partygoer was encouraged to write down several anonymous grievances and place them in the box. After dinner, the group passed out the grievances and read them aloud. "Some of them were hilarious. It was so fun because it was a witty group of people," said Kovacs.

At Kovacs' Festivus party grievances included things such as, "I wish my wife would stop buying her underwear in packs," and lots of complaints about bad drivers.

The party should also include Feats of Strength. This can be just about anything, from board games to thumb wrestling. If you can show off your "strength" in any way, then it qualifies.

Lastly, there must be a Festivus Miracle. "For instance, if someone who comes to the party who you weren't expecting, you can say, 'it's a Festivus miracle.' I mean, really, anything good that happens is a Festivus miracle," explained Kovacs.



Kovacs encourages people to make Festivus an annual tradition with friends. "It's something everyone will look forward to," said Kovacs.

If you'd like to throw your own Festivus party, there's a how-to book called "Festivus: The holiday for the rest of us," by Allen Salkin. Check out photos of Kovacs' Festivus party and find out more about My Big Day, LLC at [www.mybigdaycompany.com](http://www.mybigdaycompany.com).

## Holiday movies to check out at the Berthoud Community Library

*Scrooged*

*Christmas with the Kranks*

*It's a Wonderful Life*

*Deck the Halls*

*A Christmas Story*

*Bob the Builder: Bob's*

*White Christmas*

*The Christmas They Never Forgot*

*Shrek the Halls*

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

*Barbie in a Christmas Carol*

*The Polar Express*

*A Christmas of Enchantment*

*A Charlie Brown Christmas*

*Home Alone*



Saturday • December 5 • 10am - 4pm

- Face Painting & Door Prizes at Almosta
- Ice Sculpting
- Photos with Santa at the Mandolin Cafe
- Storytime with Mrs. Claus at Anthology
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides at Anthology
- Gift Wrapping & Hot Cider at Independence Gallery & Art of the Rockies
- Starving Artist Sale at Lincoln Gallery
- Caroling by Loveland Opera Theater Group
- Mural Dedication at Loveland Museum/Gallery
- Loveland Lights at the Library
- Roving Photographer - DJRImaging
- Live Music