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## December • 2016

## Issue 10 40th Year

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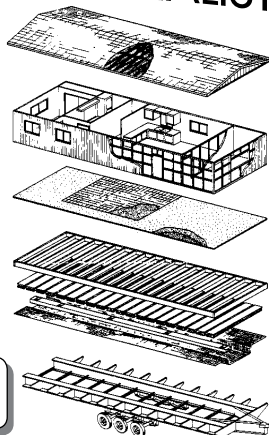
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# December Birthdays

---

- 1 Vincent Baselj  
Denise Foster
- 2 Debbie Ziegler
- 3 Bob Fletcher
- 4 Sharon Mosher  
Madeleine Souliere
- 5 Charlie Mason
- 6 Robert Arcand  
Bernie Lake  
Joanna Proulx  
Lucy Russell  
Alice Summers
- 7 Mike Surano  
Norma Surano
- 8 Harriet Dray  
Lou Lowery  
Bryan Marshman
- 9 Dorraine Beleno  
Eileen Kennedy
- 11 Steve Groh  
Michael Jariz
- 12 Susan Berton
- 13 Jean Cahill  
John Cushing  
Mary Major  
Celine Noblit  
Roger Quandt



- 14 Lois Bruzek  
Susan Delorme
- 15 Ellen Fletcher  
Augie Sperandio  
Emmeline Walton
- 16 Phil Blye  
Noella Gallant  
Paul Piche  
Dorothy Wade
- 18 Scott Small
- 19 Fred Large  
Larry Wallace
- 20 Bert Chouinard  
Jennifer Hovey  
Thersa Stephens
- 21 Howard Chesley
- 22 Louie Renfro
- 24 Fred Colman  
Emily Lacey
- 25 Ray Meagher  
Carol Szumita
- 26 Mac Gillis  
Ron Gurney
- 28 Al Noel
- 29 Lucy Nadon
- 30 Ronnie Burman  
Sarah Jaros
- 31 Linda MacKenzie



# December Anniversaries

---

- |    |                       |      |
|----|-----------------------|------|
| 7  | Harold & Mary Parr    | 1973 |
| 9  | Guy & Ruth Sproule    | 1977 |
| 10 | Roger & Kathy Chasse  | 1976 |
| 11 | Doug & Jean Griffiths | 1981 |
| 13 | Al & Sara Noel        | 1969 |
| 20 | John & Debra Gregoire | 2014 |





## **Park Yard Sale (Saturday, January 7th) and White Elephant Sale (Saturday, January 28th)**

---

**O**ur Park-wide yard sale is being held on Saturday, January 7, 2017. Anyone who wishes to join in can participate by having their own yard sale. The sale will be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

THERE WILL BE **NO** TRASH PICK UP ON THAT DAY.

Any treasures left over can be donated to the Park White Elephant Sale being held on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

Your treasures can be left in the maintenance shop any Tuesday or Thursday between 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## **Arboretum Caretaker 2016**

*From Lois Bircher*

---

**R**anch Mobile Park since 1957, the place to be for Snowbirds, Visitors and Ranchers calling it "Home."

In June, when nearby ABC Pest Control came to give advice for our Arboretum plantings, their representative, John Drago, claimed us to be "unique." He said he'd been observing our Arboretum for a number of years. As he has traveled his entire Pinellas County territory, he has never found another mobile home park like ours. He realized keeping our Arboretum beautiful requires much effort and saw the use of bags of Peat Moss, Mulch and Pine Straw.

I explained when Snowbirds like the Canadian McCartneys, Marilyn and Charlie, and Paradines, Keith and Ken leave, we have summer volunteer workers. Some do a lot. Others, like VW cars, handle small tasks. Coming to our rescue in 2016:

Bob Hebblewhite

Duke Clark

Patty Richards

Katherine Birchmore

Chuck House

Huguette DeFresne

Janet Maxwell

Mike Higbie

Barbara Brylka

Recently, Russell Attili returned to trim and paint. Of course, Carl Dyrbala still gives us advice, especially for our flowering trees and his White Bird of Paradise.

Thanks to all Volunteer Workers. We would not have the Arboretum without You!

**Thank You!**



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## Peanut Butter Chocolate Eclair Cake

- 1 box Chocolate Graham Crackers
  - 3 (3-1/2 oz.) boxes of Vanilla Instant Pudding
  - 3-1/2 cups Milk
  - 1 cup Peanut Butter
  - 1 (8 oz) Cool Whip
  - 1 can Chocolate Frosting
1. Spray the bottom of a 9x13" pan with cooking spray.
  2. Line the bottom of the pan with whole graham crackers.
  3. In a bowl, using an electric mixer, mix the pudding, milk & peanut butter, on medium speed for 2 minutes.
  4. Fold in the Cool Whip.
  5. Pour 1/2 over the graham crackers.
  6. Place another layer of graham crackers on top of the pudding mix.
  7. Pour the remaining 1/2 of the pudding mix over the crackers.
  8. Cover with the third layer of graham crackers.
  9. Heat the container of frosting, uncovered, in the microwave for 1 minute.
  10. Pour over the top of the cake.
  11. Refrigerate for at least 12 hours before serving.

## **The Old Coot and Old Cars Do Mix**


*By: Merlin Lessler*

I don't get it! Why, Chrysler, GM and Ford don't produce replicas of the 1950's cars. Imagine the stampede to the showroom if a 1957 Chevy Impala convertible was introduced. Those sleek, classic lines, those bold colors, and that chrome. Mounted on a new chassis with rack and pinion steering, disc brakes, high efficiency engine and all the safety features of today's automobiles. And yes, blue tooth and other electronic nonsense we can't live without.

I know I'd beat a path to the Ford dealer's showroom to purchase a facsimile of my first car. A 1953 Ford convertible. Mine cost \$60 and had more Bondo than metal, but I'd re-mortgage my house to get the modern version of it. Those corporate automobile giants just don't get it. They hire high priced designers to craft an appealing body style while sitting on the copyrights and patents of the most fabulous and desired cars ever produced. Heck, I'd even pony up for my 1973, yellow Pinto station wagon with fake wood paneling on the sides. Ugly? Dorky? Oh yes, but fabulous by today's car standards where it's hard to tell the difference between an expensive Mercedes sedan and a budget practical, Toyota Camry. Bland and boring is in, style and class is out.

And, I don't get it when it comes to other manufacturers either. The appliance makers for instance. They need to dig into their dusty old files and bring back some of those items. A washing machine that let's you open the top in mid cycle to toss in those two items you just found under the bed. One that's not "locked" for your protection. How about a dryer that

*...continued on page 10*



doesn't have an "Economy" setting, purported to save energy. But, how can it? It takes a fixed amount of heat to dry an article of clothing. Heat + Time = Dry. Lower the heat and you have to increase the time. Ala, same amount of energy used.

It would be nice to buy an electric space heater that you could lean over a little bit so you could direct the heat. But, oh no! Tilt today's model and it shuts off. Many mechanical products have "new age" features, designed to satisfy the nanny state bureaucrats, not to provide convenience or user satisfaction.

I guess I'm drifting again - back to "the day." It's an affliction a lot of old coots suffer from. How can we not? Ladders covered with safety stickers, plugs that won't go into an outlet unless they are turned the right way, lawn mowers that can't be pulled backwards without chewing up a rubber safety guard, and then leave clumps of grass behind as it mows. Everything you touch is encumbered with unwanted and awkward to use features. It's so bad that even people in their 30's are wishing for the good old days. It's an untreatable disease; it's called "premature old cootism" and it's spreading rapidly.

## 12 Facts About December

---

**D**ecember is known around the world as a family time of celebration honoring cultures, religions and traditions that have been with humanity for hundreds of years. See below for a mix of the weird and wonderful facts about this magical month!

1. An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny.
2. The name December comes from the Latin decem for "ten," as it was the 10th month of the Roman Calendar.
3. The term Yuletide comes from a Norse tradition of cutting and burning a tree to bring in the Winter Solstice. This was to last through 12 days - later known as the 12 days of Christmas.
4. December 12th is Poinsettia Day.
5. Saint Nickolas, who would eventually be called Santa Claus, was originally the patron saint of children, thieves and pawnbrokers!
6. December 28th is considered by some to be the unluckiest day of the year.
7. The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that are dyed green!
8. Spiders and spider webs are considered good luck on Christmas.
9. Common decorations on a Christmas tree each have their specific meanings. Candles - the light of the world, the Star at the top is a reminder of the first Christmas night and Candy Canes are to represent the Shepherd's cane.
10. "Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas - it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!
11. In 1647 Oliver Cromwell, English Puritan leader, banned the festivities of Christmas for being seen as immoral on such a holy day. Anyone who was seen celebrating was arrested! The ban was lifted in 1660.
12. An ancient legend states that forest animals can speak in human language on Christmas Eve!



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## December Facts

The 12th month of the year brings us Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year's Eve.

December is the last month in the Gregorian calendar. Its name is based on the Latin term for ten. In the Roman calendar, December was the tenth month until the addition of January and February at the beginning of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere December has the shortest daylight hours and marks the beginning of winter. December provides the longest days in the Southern Hemisphere, as it is the beginning of summer. December is a month home to many religious holidays

### **Below are some fun facts about December.**

1. The birthstone of December is turquoise.
2. Zodiac signs for December are Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 - January 19).
3. The birth flower of December is the narcissus.
4. World's AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1st.
5. December 3 - International Day of the Disabled Person.
6. Universal Human Rights Month.
7. National read a New Book Month.
8. In December, Nobel Prizes are awarded.
9. On December 4, 1791, The Observer newspaper (the first Sunday Newspaper) was first published in Britain.
10. Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25th.
11. On December 7, 1941, the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese planes which killed more than 2,300 Americans.
12. On December 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed.
13. Kwanzaa is celebrated on December 26 - January 1 every year.
14. National Stress Free Family Holiday Month.
15. December 27th is National Chocolate Day.
16. On December 29, 1862, the bowling ball was invented.
17. Poinsettia Day is on December 12th.



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## Winter Folklore and Verse

---

Deep snow in winter; tall grain in summer ~ Estonian proverb  
Visits should be short. like a winter's day.

A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm ~ English proverb

Summer comes with a bound; winter comes yawning.

Onion skins very thin, milk winter coming in.



## The Winter Solstice

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**In 2016, winter begins on December 21, 5:44 a.m. EDT.**

Winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight during the whole year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it always occurs around December 21 or 22. (In the Southern Hemisphere, it is around June 20 or 21).

The word solstice comes from the Latin words for "sun" and "to stand still." In the Northern Hemisphere, as summer advances to winter, the points on the horizon where the Sun rises and sets advance southward each day; the high point in the Sun's daily path across the sky, which occurs at local noon, also moves southward each day.

At the winter solstice, the Sun's path has reached its southernmost position. the next day, the path will advance northward. However, a few days before and after the winter solstice, the change is so slight that the Sun's path seems to stay the same, or stand still. The Sun is directly overhead at "high noon" on Winter Solstice at the latitude called the Tropic of Capricorn.

**Question: Why is there such a time lag between the shortest day of the year (shortest amount of daylight hours) and the lowest average daily temperature of the year?**

**Answer:** This is the shortest day of the year, meaning the one in which we experience the least amount of daylight in 24 hours; it is also the time when the Sun reaches its southernmost point in the sky. Although this part of Earth is cooling, its great thermal mass still retains some heat from the summer and fall. As the gradual cooling process continues over the next two months, temperatures will continue to fall, and the coldest temperatures will be recorded. The same pattern holds true for the summer solstice in June, as the year's highest temperatures are recorded later, in July and August.

**Question: Was Stonehenge built to celebrate the winter solstice?**

**Answer:** That's one theory. Stonehenge was constructed in several phases over a period of many centuries. Due to the alignment of the stones, experts acknowledge that the design appears to correspond with the use of the solstices and possibly other solar and lunar astronomical events in some fashion. There are several theories as to why the structure was built, including that the area was used as a temple to worship the Sun; as a royal burial ground; and/or as a type of astronomical observatory. However, because none of these theories has been proven correct as yet, the true reason (or reasons) for Stonehenge remains a mystery.

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# DECEMBER • 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>JANUARY 2017</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>		
<p>6:30p Vespers 7p Bid Euchre</p> <p>4</p>	<p>9a Walkercise 9:30a Bowling 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH 6p Decorate Clubhouse</p> <p>5</p>	<p>9:30a Shu 10a Line 1p Triple 6p Mark mas Show</p>
<p>6:30p Vespers 7p Bid Euchre</p> <p>11</p>	<p>9:30a Bowling 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH</p> <p>12</p>	<p>9a Dance 9:30a Shu 10a Line 1p Triple 7p Winte</p>
	9a Walkercise	
<p>6:30p Vespers 7p Bid Euchre</p> <p>18</p>	<p>9:30a Bowling 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH 5p Golden Agers</p> <p>19</p>	<p>8a Pancal 9:30a Shu 10a Line 1p Triple</p>
	9a Walkercise	
<p>1p Christmas Dinner</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Office Closed 9:30a Bowling 10a Aquacise 5p Poker @ HH</p> <p>26</p>	<p>9:30a Shu 10a Line 1p Triple</p>
Christmas Day		



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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div>1</div> <div>10a Golf 10a Pool Club Mtg 1p Dominos 5p Poker @ HH 6:30p Bingo</div> <div>9a Walkercise</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10a Aquacise 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 6:30p Bunco</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9a MiniPutt 10a Shuffle Fun Day 7p Court Whist</div>
<div>6</div> <div>uffle Dancing Play Ralston Christ- v</div>	<div>7</div> <div>7:30a Koffee Klatch 9a Hobby Club 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 7p Cards/Euchre</div> <div>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</div>	<div>8</div> <div>10a Golf 1p Dominos 5p Poker @ HH 6:30p Bingo Bill of Rights Day</div> <div>9a Walkercise</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10a Aquacise 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 6:30p Bunco</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9a MiniPutt 9:30a Shuffle 1p Chinese Auction</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Club Mtg uffle Dance Play r Dance</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7:30a Koffee Klatch 9a Hobby Club 10a Annual Mtg 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 7p Cards/Euchre</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Bill of Rights Day 10a Golf 1p Dominos 5p Poker @ HH 6:30p Bingo</div> <div>9a Walkercise</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10a Aquacise 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 6:30p Bunco</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9a MiniPutt 9:30a Shuffle 7p Court Whist</div>
<div>20</div> <div>ake Breakfast uffle Dancing Play</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Winter Begins 7:30a Koffee Klatch 9a Hobby Club 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 7p Cards/Euchre</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10a Golf 1p Dominos 5p Poker @ HH 6:30p Bingo</div> <div>9a Walkercise</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10a Aquacise 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 6:30p Bunco</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9a MiniPutt 9:30a Shuffle</div> <div>Christmas Eve</div>
<div>27</div> <div>uffle Dancing Play</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7:30a Koffee Klatch 9a Hobby Club 10a Aquacise 12:30p Nickle Bingo 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 7p Cards/Euchre</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10a Golf 1p Dominos 5p Poker @ HH 6:30p Bingo</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10a Aquacise 6:15p Triple Play &amp; Cribbage 6:30p Bunco</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9a MiniPutt 9:30a Shuffle 8:30p NYE Dance</div> <div>New Year's Eve</div>
9a Walkercise				



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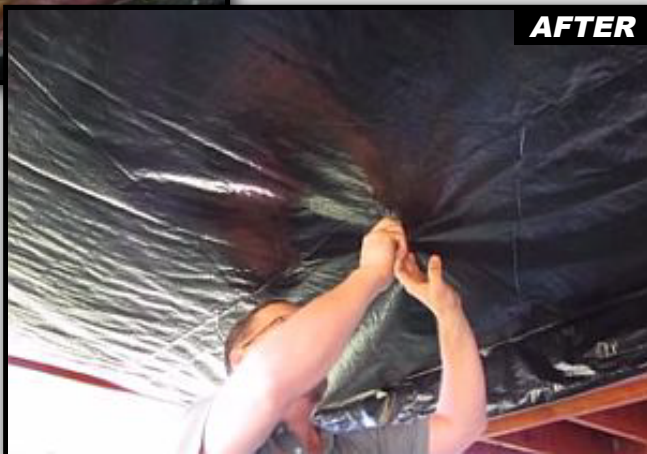
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## 10 Things You Might Not Know About December Holidays

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1. The traditional Christmas plant we call a poinsettia was known by the Aztecs as cuetlaxochiti. Its current name came from the first U.S. envoy to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, who noticed the plant being used for holiday celebrations and sent a few north to the United States in the 1820s.
2. Hanukkah, based on the Jewish calendar, is a wandering holiday. This year, the eight-day celebration begins at sunset December 24 and ends on January 1, 2017.
3. Rudolph, who now resides at the North Pole, was born in Chicago in 1939. The Montgomery Ward department store chain assigned as copy writer, Robert May, to compose a Christmas poem that could be distributed to customers nationwide. He wrote "Rollo, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," but execs didn't like the name. They vetoed Reginald too. May's third name, Rudolph, was accepted, and the poem was shared with millions of customers.
4. Kwanzaa, which is observed December 26 through January 1, is a nonreligious holiday that celebrates African-American culture. The week long event highlights seven principles, including Nia, which is Swahili for "purpose." That's where actress, Nia Long, got her name.
5. Abraham Lincoln's youngest son, Thomas, nicknamed Tad, was known as a sensitive youngster. On Christmas 1864, Tad, then 10, took the spirit of the season to heart and invited some street urchins into the White House for a meal. The cooks refused to feed the kids until Tad took up the issue with the President, who ordered that the children be fed.
6. Among the holiday traditions on a decline are tinsel and spray cans of fake snow. Already declared dead are aluminum trees, which became uncool when they were denounced on TV's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."
7. Boxing Day is a weird holiday. No one is sure when it started or how it got its name. Celebrated in many British-influenced lands, Boxing Day is traditionally the day after Christmas. It may be an offshoot of St. Stephen's Day, which is what the Irish call it. In Canada and England, it has turned into a shopping frenzy like America's Black Friday. The "box" in Boxing Day may be the donation bins of the Anglican church that were opened for the poor on December 26. Or the name may come from the boxed presents that British aristocrats gave to the help the day after Christmas.
8. The Christmas tradition of kissing someone under the mistletoe took on a decidedly Chicago bent in 1975. Mayor Richard Daley was fiercely protective of his family. Responding to criticism that he funneled city business to a company that employed his son, he responded, "There's a mistletoe hanging from my coattail."
9. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the nativity scene part of the Christmas tradition. In 1223, he organized a live creche to emphasize Jesus's humble beginnings in poverty.
10. We were all told that the poem "The Night Before Christmas" was written by Clement Clarke Moore, a Manhattan scholar. But the facts are squishier. For starters, the poem was first published as "A Visit From St. Nicholas." For another thing, Moore may not have written it. Literary sleuth, Donald Foster, investigated the Christmas poem and concluded

*Continued on page 24*

that Moore was lying. Foster thinks the author was amateur poet Henry Livingston Jr. of Poughkeepsie, NY. Foster says the poem bears the style, outlook and cultural references of Livingston, not Moore. Moore didn't claim ownership until 1844, 19 years after the poem's anonymous appearance in a Troy, NY newspaper. By that time, Livingston was dead. Before coming forward as the author, Moore wrote to the Troy Times Herald asking whether anyone remembered the poem's author. The answer came in the form of a letter from a man who might have known was dead and gone.

### **How Do You Say December In:**

Spanish: diciembre

Italian: Dicembre

French: decembre

German: Dezember

Polish: grudnia

Latin: augustus



## **Fun Toy Facts**

---

"LEGO is the world's No. 1 tire manufacturer." They produce 306 million tiny tires a year. The word "toy" comes from an Old English word meaning "toof."

It takes 63 feet of wire to make a Slinky.

Slinky was invented in 1945 by Marine Engineer, Neil Tollotson.

On Sesame Street, Bert's fish were named Lyle and Talbot, presumably after the actor Lyle Talbot.

The name "Crayola" means "Oil Chalk" in French from the combination of "craie" (chalk) and "oleagineuse" (oily).

All G.I. Joe 12-inch action figures have a scar on their right cheek. They also have an inverted thumbnail on the inside of their left thumb in honor of a production error made years ago.

G.I. Joe was inspired by a TV show called "The Lieutenant" which was created by Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek. The star was Gary Lockwood, who would later guest star on Star Trek. Lockwood's character's middle name was "Tiberius" which was also James Kirk's middle name. Some guests stars on The Lieutenant also included future Star Trek cast members Leonard Nimoy (Spock), Nichelle Nichols (Uhura), and Majel Barrett (Computer voice and several other characters as well as Gene Roddenberry's wife).

The first video arcade game was Pong, introduced by Atari in 1972.

The yo-yo is believed to be the second-oldest toy in the world. The name yo-yo comes from a Filipino expression meaning "come come." The Yo-Yo originated as a weapon in the Philippine Islands during the sixteenth century. In 1985, Astronaut David Griggs used a Duncan Imperial Yo-Yo on live TV from the deck of the Space Shuttle.

Dolls are considered to be the oldest toys in history.

Tinkertoys were invented with Charles Pajean was watching some kids play with pencils, sticks and empty spools of thread.

Hasbro introduced a toy in 1962 called "Flubber"(tied to the movie "Son of Flubber"). It

*Continued on page 27*





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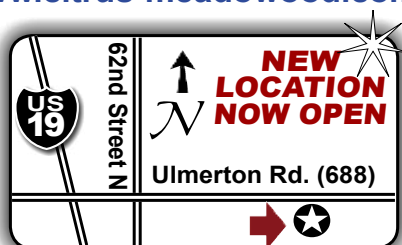
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## **9 Things You Might Not Know About a Christmas Carol**

---

1. Dickens was inspired to write A Christmas Carol in 1843 after he spoke at a charity night to raise money for the Manchester Athenaeum in England - an institution dedicated to "Advancement and diffusion of knowledge." The 31-year-old spoke alongside the young Benjamin Disraeli, who would later become prime minister of Great Britain. After their talk, Dickens went on a long nocturnal walk later and had the idea for his "little Christmas book."
2. He started the story in October 1843 and wrote obsessively for six weeks. As Dickens wrote, he wept, laughed, and wandered around London at night "when all sober folks had gone to bed." He finished the novella at the end of November so it could be published in time for Christmas. A Christmas Carol hit the shops on December 17, 1843, and sold out in three days.
3. Dickens was the first famous writer to give public readings of his work - and his first reading was A Christmas Carol. The reading took place in front of a crowd of 2000 people in the town hall of Birmingham, England, 10 years after the book was published. Dickens opened the reading by saying, "Ladies and gentlemen - I have said that I bear an old love towards Birmingham and Birmingham men; let me amend a small omission, and add Birmingham women too. This ring I wear on my finger now is an old Birmingham gift, and if by rubbing it I could raise the spirit that was obedient to Aladdin's ring, I heartily assure you that my first instruction to that genius on the spot should be to place himself at Birmingham's disposal in the best of causes. I now have the pleasure of reading to you tonight A Christmas Carol in four staves."
4. Rather than simply read extracts from his stories, Dickens loved to perform them - so he created a special version of A Christmas Carol for exactly that purpose. He tore the pages out of an original book, and stuck them into a new, large leafed, blank paged book. then he filleted the text, cutting out descriptive scenes to create a performance script. He added stage directions for himself all over the text. Such an annotated copy is called a prompt copy.
5. There is one extant copy of A Christmas Carol created by Dickens himself and it is owned by the Berg Collection of English and American literature at the New York Public Library (NYPL).
6. Dickens visited America twice for reading tours. During the second tour - which took place at Christmastime in 1867 - he used the prompt copy at the NYPL, once at a Steinway piano hall, and once at a church in Brooklyn. People camped out in the snow to be sure of a ticket. By opening time, the line was a mile long. The second tour earned him £19,000 - about £1.4 million in today's money, and far more than he was earning from the royalties of his books.

*Continued on page 28*

7. When he was 32, Mark Twain listened to one of the then-55-year-old Dickens' New York performances. He described the writer's entrance thus:

*Promptly at 8 p.m., unannounced, and without waiting for any stamping or clapping of hands to call him out, a tall, "spry," (if I may say it), thin-legged old gentleman, gotten up regardless of expense, especially as to shirt-front and diamonds, with a bright red flower in his button-hole, gray beard and moustache, bald head, and with side hair brushed fiercely and tempestuously forward, as if its owner were sweeping down before a gale of wind, the very Dickens came! He did not emerge upon the stage - that is rather too deliberate a word - he strode.*

Twain's review was not favorable. "There is no heart," he said. "No feeling - it is nothing but glittering frostwork." Bah Humbug!

8. On reading days, Dickens would drink two tablespoons of rum mixed with cream for breakfast, a pint of champagne for tea and, half an hour before he went on stage, he would knock back a sherry with a raw egg beaten into it. During the interval of his reading he would sip beef tea, and at bedtime he'd have a bowl of soup.

9. Just as Dickens' first public reading was of A Christmas Carol, so was his last. The author had decided to retire from readings because his health was failing, and his final performance took place at St. James' Hall in Piccadilly on March 15, 1870. His son recorded his last words to the audience. "... from these garish lights I vanish now for evermore, with one heartfelt, grateful, respectful, and affectionate farewell."

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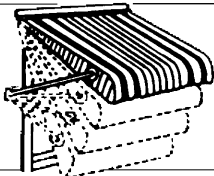


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## Seeing Santa Claus

---

A grandmother took her grandson to the shopping mall in December to see Santa Claus. The young boy was very excited to sit on Santa's lap. "Now, little boy," Santa said, "tell Santa what you want for Christmas."

In a very loud voice, the boy said, "I want a NINTENDO, and a NEW BIKE, and some BOOKS, and—"

"You don't have to shout," Santa chuckled. "Santa isn't hard of hearing."

The boy leaned forward and whispered, "No, but my grandma is."



## Wrong answer

---

A man was being sentenced in a California court for shooting and eating a condor—an endangered species. Looking for mercy, the defendant made a passionate speech.

"I'm truly sorry, your honor," he said. "I just moved here and I don't have a job, and I was hungry and cold. I'd never seen a bird like that, and I had no idea it was endangered. I've never done anything like this before, and I'll certainly never do it again."



The judge gave him probation, telling him not to let it happen again. Then he said: "I'm curious. What does a condor taste like?"

"Oh, kind of like a cross between a whooping crane and a spotted owl."

## Reduced sentence

---

A criminal with a long record of transgressions was on trial for his latest crime. The jury found him guilty on 33 counts, and the judge sentenced him to 189 years in prison. Realizing that even with time off for good behavior he would be more than 100 years old when he was finally released, the prisoner burst into tears.

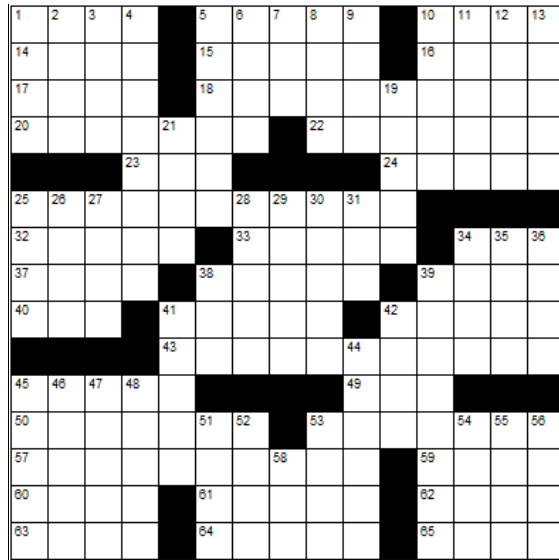
Touched by this display of remorse, the judge paused to reconsider. "I didn't mean to be so severe," she said. "Thinking it over, I can see that I've imposed an extremely harsh sentence. So you don't have to serve the whole time."

The prisoner beamed with new hope until the judge leaned toward him. "Just do as much as you can."



## ACROSS

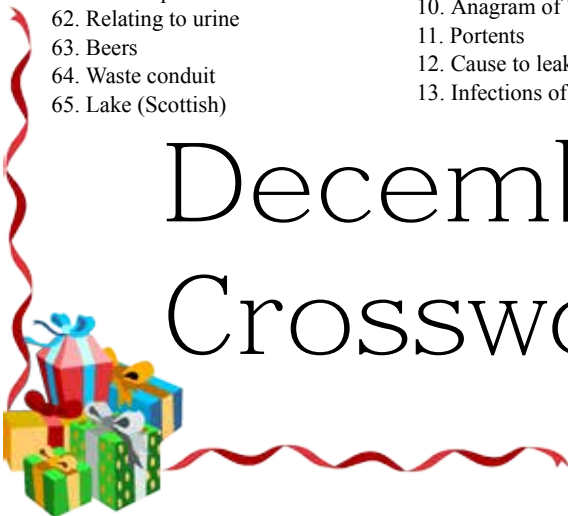
1. On-line journal
5. Rhinoceros
10. Gangs
14. Former Italian currency
15. A red fluorescent dye
16. Send forth
17. A Freudian stage
18. Totally
20. Vixen
22. Hypodermic
23. L
24. Donkeys
25. Class chums
32. Held on tightly
33. Japanese cartoon art
34. Beer
37. Not yours
38. Inscribed pillar
39. Make unclear
40. Damp
41. Villain
42. Communion table
43. Self-restraining
45. A long-legged S. American bird
49. Dawn goddess
50. Windfall
53. Detective (slang)
57. Noble
59. Greek cheese
60. Actors in a show
61. Give a speech
62. Relating to urine
63. Beers
64. Waste conduit
65. Lake (Scottish)



## DOWN

1. Ho-hum
2. Connects two points
3. By mouth
4. Square-rigged sailing ships
5. Summon to return
6. Owl sound
7. Belief
8. Bites
9. Unique
10. Anagram of "Smite"
11. Portents
12. Cause to leak
13. Infections of the eye
19. Delete
21. Blockage
25. Flat-bottomed boat
26. Hint
27. Offended
28. Married partners
29. Concerning (archaic)
30. Diacritical mark
31. An uncle
34. Countertenor
35. Hawaiian feast
36. Makes a mistake
38. Bro or sis
39. Happy
41. Lose consciousness
42. "Smallest" particle
44. Spay
45. Hemp
46. Small goat antelope
47. Licoricelike flavor
48. Sail supports
51. Animal menageries
52. Unit of land
53. Way in
54. Protagonist
55. Ear-related
56. Every single one
58. Uncooked

# December Crossword





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## The smell of hate

---

A teacher decided to play a game with her class. She told each child to bring in a plastic bag containing a few potatoes and to give each potato the name of a person that the child didn't like. The number of potatoes that the children put in their plastic bag would depend on the number of people they don't like.

The next day some children had two potatoes, some had three, and some had five potatoes or more. The teacher then told the children to carry the potatoes with them wherever they went for a week.

Days passed, and the children started to complain about the unpleasant smell let out by the rotten potatoes. Also the children with five or more potatoes complained because they had to carry heavier bags. The children were relieved when the game finally ended.



Then the teacher told them the meaning of the game: "This is what happens when you carry hatred for somebody inside your heart. The stench of it spreads everywhere, and you carry it with you wherever you go. If you can't tolerate the smell of rotten potatoes for just one week, can you imagine what is it like to have the stench of hatred in your heart for a lifetime?"

## The elephant's teeth

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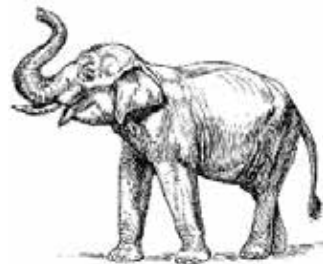
One day a hungry mouse in the jungle found a small nut. He tried to bite into it, but its shell was too hard and thick. Irritated, the mouse said, "Why did the gods give me such tiny teeth?"

Suddenly he heard the voice of a god from far above. "Mouse, go out and look at all the animals in the jungle. If you find one whose teeth you like, I'll give them to you."

Overjoyed, the mouse ran through the jungle, looking for the biggest teeth he could find. He looked at many animals but didn't find any teeth he liked until he spotted an elephant. Envious of the beast's thick tusks, he wandered over and asked, "Sir, are you happy with those big, long teeth?"

The elephant answered: "Friend, these are just for show. I can't use them to chew food as you do. At least you don't have to bear the weight of these huge teeth."

Hearing this, the mouse realized he was better off having tiny teeth and went off to find his nut again.



## Did you know that December is also...

**Buckwheat Month.** Designated the “December Grain of the Month” by the Whole Grains Council, buckwheat contains higher levels of zinc, copper, and manganese than other cereal grains, along with a very high level of protein. It’s used in soba noodles, crepes, blintzes, pancakes, and other delicious foods.

**National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.** This holiday season, make sure to plan for a safe way home, especially if your plans involve alcohol. If someone you know is drinking, don’t let that person get behind the wheel. Remember, too, that just because you’re driving sober, others on the road may not be. Always buckle up, drive with caution, and call 911 to report a suspected drunken driver.

**Safe Toys and Gifts Month.** Prevent Blindness America has declared December Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month, encouraging gift-givers to consider whether the toys they plan on giving suit the age and individual skills and abilities of the child who will receive them—especially for children under age 3.



**Universal Human Rights Month.** This month commemorates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948. Driven by the human tragedy of World War II, this document represents the first global expression of human rights.



**National Handwashing Awareness Week, Dec. 4-10.** Remember these four principles of hand awareness to stay healthy: Wash your hands when they’re dirty and before eating; don’t cough into your hands; don’t sneeze into your hands; and avoid putting your fingers into your eyes, nose, or mouth.

**Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, Dec. 5-9.** Promoting greater understanding of the importance of mobility and transportation so older adults can remain active in the community by shopping, working, or volunteering—with the confidence that lack of transportation options will not strand them at home.

**Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 5-11.** Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is an annual program dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take an interest in computer science. CSEdWeek is held in recognition of the birthday of computing pioneer Adm. Grace Murray Hopper (December 9, 1906).



**Kwanzaa, Dec. 26-Jan. 1.** A weeklong celebration held in the United States and in other nations honoring African heritage in African-American culture, culminating in feasts and gift giving. Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–67.



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Japanese Garden Art and Craft Show. Dec. 9-10, 9am-3pm. Artists wanted \$10 per table. Please call Charlotte 727-531-3651.

CARPOR SALE: Sat. Dec. 3rd, 8am-1pm. Park Royale MHP, 10611 66th St. N. Look for balloons.

CRAFT FAIR: Dec. 3rd 9-1. Southwind MHP 795 County Road 1, Palm Harbor.

Craft Fair Sunday Dec 4th Noon to 4PM. Down Yonder 7001 142nd Ave N, Largo.

CRAFT SALE: Saturday, December 3rd, 2016, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Sugar Creek MHP @ Clubhouse, 10265 Ulmerton Road, Largo (Behind Pier One Store). Bake Sale and Lunch. Tables \$10.00. Call Sally 727-584-4204

Palm Hill Ccountry Club Bazaar, Craft & Bake Sale. Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 8:30-1:00. North Clubhouse - 401 8th Ave. SW, Largo

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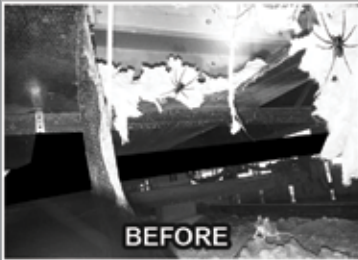
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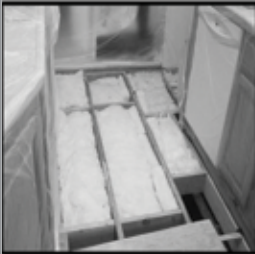


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## Monthly Mania: It Pays (Up to \$100) To Patronize the Advertisers in Your Newsletter

**THOUSANDS** manufactured home residents have won over **\$135,000** since our contest began. It's simple to play ... when you patronize a current advertiser, ask for a Monthly Mania ticket (or a reasonable facsimile) and fill it out completely. Put the ticket in our Monthly Mania drop box in your community or mail your paid receipt to us at **Monthly Media • PO Box 1023 • Venice, FL 34284**. That's all you do. At the end of the month the Publishers will pick up the tickets and hold a drawing. If your ticket is drawn, we mail you a check.




(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). **This month's cash winners are:**

Carol Conner.....	\$100	AMS, Inc.	Pauline Fowlston.....	\$5	Debbie's Salon
Pat Silva.....	\$10	Royal Enterprises	Dorothy Haller.....	\$5	Heller's Mobile Home Washing
Jean Solana.....	\$10	Velocity Air Conditioning, Inc.	Laura Schwanger.....	\$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.
Thomas Habel.....	\$10	Dunedin Plumbing, Inc.	Ken Cox.....	\$5	Imperial Electric
Daney Larocque.....	\$10	Boss Electric Corp.	Judy Perszyk.....	\$5	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Ron Paul.....	\$10	Bill The Carpet Guy	Margaret Taylor.....	\$5	Boss Electric Corp.
Carol Christensen.....	\$10	Air & Energy	Nancy Valentyn.....	\$5	Imperial Electric
Richard Gilbert.....	\$10	Imperial Electric	Gail Lewis.....	\$5	Buggin Out Pest Control
Judith Basco.....	\$10	Air Masters of Pinellas	Chris Eckhart.....	\$5	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Gloria Finch.....	\$10	O.E. Wilson	Lillian Papelian.....	\$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.
Carol Bysina.....	\$10	All Weather Enterprises, Inc.	Bob Post.....	\$5	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Jean Cahill.....	\$10	Century Awnings	Maurice Dufault.....	\$5	Heller's Mobile Home Washing
Theresa Hazlett.....	\$10	Wyngarden Mobile Home Washing	Earlene Hildebrand.....	\$5	Buggin Out Pest Control
Beverly Harris.....	\$10	AMS, Inc.	Susan Vermeersch.....	\$5	Bob's Appliance Repair
Norma Miller.....	\$5	Heller's Mobile Home Washing	Lawrence Yannotti.....	\$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.
Russell Brice.....	\$5	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners	Roy Martin.....	\$5	Perfect Repair & Construction, Inc.
Beth Tourtellotte.....	\$5	Bill The Carpet Guy	Raymond Bachara.....	\$5	Recreational Golf Carts
Mildred Wynn.....	\$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.	Connie Beaver.....	\$5	Kathy's Cleaning
Peggy Mount.....	\$5	Air Masters of Pinellas	Marge Murray.....	\$5	Mobile Home Depot
Joan C. Athey.....	\$5	Battleline Termite & Pest Control	Thelma Payne.....	\$5	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Florence Ballard.....	\$5	Boss Electric Corp.	Shirley Spencer.....	\$5	Bob's Mobile Home Washing
Claudia Dell.....	\$5	Sunset Appliance Service	Gloria Dille.....	\$5	Sunset Appliance Service
Walt Koszrzewski.....	\$5	Haseney Electrical Services, Inc.	Bill McGill.....	\$5	Heller's Mobile Home Washing
Sandra Moran.....	\$5	Citrus Meadowood Homes of Florida	Sharon Rop.....	\$5	Bill The Carpet Guy

• Limit of one ticket per visit • Advertiser may have up to 4 winners per month • Advertiser must have bill paid current to qualify • No purchase necessary • Contest void where prohibited by law • Green tickets available at participating Monthly Media advertisers.

## You can't miss these December holidays

The celebrations and holidays of December come from many different countries and cultures. Here's a guide to what your friends and neighbors are up to this month:

- Hanukkah, Dec. 24-Jan. 1. Hanukkah marks the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem following the Jews' victory in the Maccabean Revolt in 165 B.C. According to the Talmud, the Jews had only enough olive oil to keep the eternal flame in the Temple burning for a single day—but miraculously, the oil continued to burn for eight days, during which time the Jews were able to produce and consecrate fresh oil for the flame. The eight-day Jewish holiday begins at sundown. Hanukkah is observed by the lighting of a nine-branched candelabrum, called a menorah. One candle is lit each of the eight nights, with a central candle lit each night to light the others.
- 
- Christmas, Dec. 25. This Christian holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus, sometime between the years 7 and 2 B.C. The word "Christmas" comes from "Christ's Mass," a phrase first recorded in old English in 1038. Christmas began to be observed with feasts and celebrations in the Middle Ages—the online encyclopedia Wikipedia notes that King Richard II of England hosted a Christmas feast in 1377, with 28 oxen and 300 sheep eaten. The colonial Puritans of New England disapproved of Christmas celebrations, banning them during the 17th century. But other colonists observed the day with Christmas trees and nativity scenes. President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law making Christmas a federal holiday in 1870.
- 
- Kwanzaa, Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. A seven-day celebration of African heritage and culture, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by activist Maulana Karenga to provide African-Americans with a holiday that emphasized their shared history and experience. The name Kwanzaa derives from "matunda yakwanza," a Swahili phrase meaning "first fruits." Houses are decorated with African art and colorful cloth, and seven candles are placed in the kinara, a candleholder. The central candle in the kinara is black, with three red candles on the left and four green candles on the right. The candles represent the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa, which are contemplated each day as one is lit: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.
- 



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