

Greenwich Sentinel

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The Story of One of The Most Famous Poems in the World

BY BETH BARHYDT

For many in Greenwich and around the world, treasured holiday traditions include a bedtime story that begins, "Twas the night before Christmas," on Christmas Eve.

Most believe it was penned by Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863). According to the Library of Congress American Memory project, Moore wrote the tale on Christmas Eve, 1822, while traveling to his Chelsea-district home from Greenwich Village, where he picked up the last of many turkeys that his family donated each holiday season.

Moore created the poem, *A Visit from St. Nicholas* (now known as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*), to read to his own six children that evening. His vision was likely heavily influenced by the vivid description of St. Nicholas by his friend, Washington Irving, in *A History of New York* (1809). Irving, the son of a Presbyterian minister and author of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle* wrote a fanciful account of how St. Nicholas came in a dream to Dutch explorers who were scouting a location for New Amsterdam, now Manhattan.

Yes, the founding of New York City, in Irving's account, was divinely inspired by St. Nicholas.

Moore would have been influenced as well by his prominent father, Benjamin Moore, who served as the Episcopal bishop of New York, taking part in the inauguration of George Washington as the nation's first president.

The poem was first published anonymously in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper on Dec. 23, 1823. (see the original clipping on page 7).

A graduate of Columbia University, Clement Moore was a scholar of Hebrew and a professor of Oriental and Greek literature at the General Theological Seminary in Manhattan.

His light-hearted poem was originally not meant for publication which may be why it was published anonymously, likely without Moore



And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—

"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Happy holidays from our Sentinel family to yours. May your holiday be filled with warmth and joy.

even knowing it was submitted.

His poem has come into the homes and hearts of millions across the world. On Christmas Eve, in our home, our holiday tradition will most certainly include this bedtime story.

After attending our church's Christmas eve service, everyone will open one present. The contents of these presents is never a surprise—always new Christmas pajamas, washed and ready to wear.

Then there will be hot cocoa while we sit by the fire and listen. One wife, two children, two dogs. Quiet. Then Peter will begin to read this brief but magical tale.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled

all snug in their beds; While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave a lustre of midday to objects below, When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick, I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

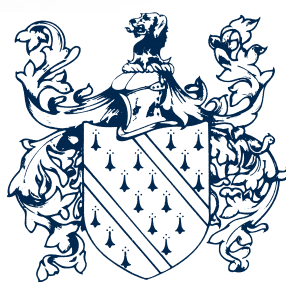
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the housetop the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,



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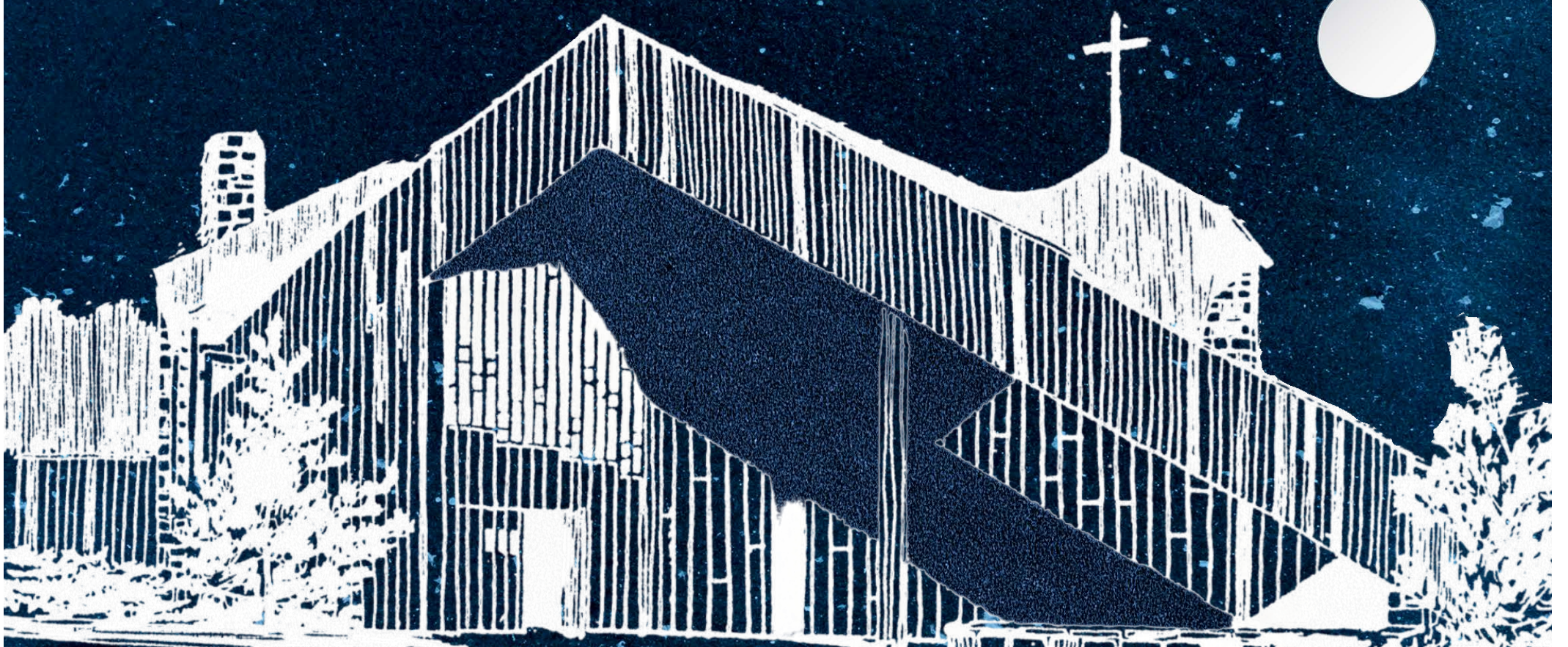
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COLUMN: ON MY WATCH

A Joyful Christmas Cake Tour of Selected Bakeries Across Town

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

So, growing up, my favorite near-Christmas birthday cake was a Zebra Cake or Ice Box Cake as the old folks called it. Made with super thin chocolate "Famous Wafers" cookies standing tall in whipped cream, but, alas, Nabisco no longer makes those "Wafers!" So, I went in search of other Christmas cake choices in bakeries across town. And what to my wandering eyes should appear but Baklava, that delicious Middle East layered pastry, filled with chopped nuts, and sweetened with honey. Found in a new Moroccan bakery called "Armour" located a couple of doors down from the silversmith on West Putnam Avenue.

I was introduced to Baklava when my son worked in Abu Dhabi years ago and took me to a birthday-Christmas dinner atop the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. But now, thanks to Moroccan baker Imad Foujroune and baking wife, Eman Karroumi from Fez, site of the original family Armour bakery, they have been offering us over the last year a host of selections. Beside those Baklava squares - 8-10 squares would feed half a dozen guests at \$14 - there are those delectable pastry wraps: Mhancha made of almond and apricot, and Briwats with almond and rosewater.

Piled high behind their counter is a grand assortment of breads: fresh baguettes, sourdough, white wheat bread, and Turkish soft bread, plus individual Moroccan pizzas!

But there are also German pastry holiday treats found at the Black Forest Pastry Shop on Lewis Street, circa 1982. Their Chocolate Mousse "Merry Christmas" Buche de Noel yule log is a standout. "It's a chocolate cake with chocolate mousse filling and chocolate decorations," tells general manager Matthew Edwards. But he reminds "You must put your order in by December 20." Its size feeds "about 8-10 (at a price of \$64.95)



Amour Bakery owner Imad Foujroune surrounded by Moroccan breads and cookies. Photo by Anne W. Semmes

with a larger version feeding 10-12."

Another "very" popular version has a mocha buttercream flavor. "So, that's going to be a vanilla sponge cake with mocha buttercream rolled inside and then mocha buttercream decorations on the outside."

But don't forget that classic German holiday treat, Christmas Stollen, notes Edwards. "It's a sweet bread with butter, cinnamon, marzipan, with some marinated fruits inside. So, you get that nice almond flavor... Then we coat the outside with cinnamon sugar and powdered sugar. We do the large (feeds 8-10 at \$49.95), the medium, and the small."

Moving down Greenwich Avenue, the St. Moritz Bakery may have the oldest pastry footprint in town with its origins in 1939. And inside was found the most impressive, grandest Gingerbread House cake ever seen, surely capable of feeding a small army at \$150, with a small and medium size available. Here too is found a Buche de Noel with

And inside was found the most impressive, grandest Gingerbread House cake ever seen, surely capable of feeding a small army at \$150.

chocolate buttercream (and either raspberry or apricot jam filling) with a large size feeding 8-12 for \$46.50.

But also memorable was that centerpiece large chocolate sleigh with a price of \$52.50.

Next stop was Raphael's Bakery - the hot new family-run, young family's destination on Mason Street. Crowded in with their superior pastries was a sizeable Buche de Noel at \$75, with individual Buche de Noels available for \$9 each! A Christmas takeaway!

Last stop was at one of my

favorite bakeries, DiMare, nearly 50-years running Italian Pastry Shop in the Riverside shopping center. And there serving for decades as manager was dear Kim in her colorful pastry costume. She introduced me to their eye-popping Red Velvet Gift Box Cake (\$34.95), sure to grace a Christmas table, but then the eye grabbed on a magnificent tray filled with Chocolate Fudge Cupcakes crowned with poinsettias! Three dollars a piece! A piece de resistance! So, happy Christmas cake feasting and Merry Christmas to all!

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Luminist Painter Peter Arguimbau Shares New Works In "Holiday Show"

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

Art lovers recently filled the backcountry Red Barn Studio of luminist painter Peter Arguimbau's recent "Holiday Show - Reception & Book Signing" on December 5. While sipping offered wine and savoring tasty edibles, they found marine paintings, landscapes, and portraits on display. Seen also at this Christmastide paintings was an "Annunciation" and winged angels. And atop a table were copies of Arguimbau's book, "Rembrandt's Lost Secret" that tells the story of his lifelong pursuit to rediscover the mix of oils used by such mas-

es," he told, "and then doing the final draft once I have a collage of the information that I need. But a mature painting usually takes about a month to six weeks, and that's if I'm doing a commission or something special."

Arguimbau now has two commissions scheduled, he said. "They're portraits of military figures." Arguimbau's portraits range from dogs, to horses, to angels.

To exhibit his work Arguimbau has ongoing shows in Greenwich and elsewhere. "I had a show at the Union League Club in New York last fall," he told,

"But a mature painting usually takes about a month to six weeks."

ter painters as Rembrandt and Rubins.

"I'm up to about 300 books that I've sold," shared Arguimbau after the show. And eight paintings he reported sold. So how long does it take to create those paintings? "A lot of it is building up the composition with sketch-

"It's right by Grand Central." And in summer, "I'll have something maybe in Newport," where he has a gallery. But for Greenwich art enthusiasts his next show is scheduled for Mother's Day. To learn more about visit info@Arguimbau.Art.com



Peter Arguimbau in his Red Barn medium-rich studio at his recent "Holiday Show." Photo by Bob Capazzo.



Welcoming Wreath at Peter Arguimbau's Red Barn Studio. Photo by Bob Capazzo.



"Southport, CT" Photo by Bob Capazzo.

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Newspaper Magic

In 1897, newspaper magic happened. An eight-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, wrote a simple three-sentence letter to *The New York Sun* newspaper asking if Santa exists. Her father suggested she write: "Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'" The power of the fourth estate. What transpired has become legend. The editor who wrote the response, Francis Pharcellus Church, who had been a war correspondent during the Civil War, used it as an opportunity to not just say whether Santa exists or not, but to highlight the importance of faith and believing in something larger than yourself.

It is difficult to imagine what Francis Church must have experienced as a war correspondent and how this affected him afterwards. The Civil War ravaged our country; more than 600,000 Americans died. It was, at times, brother fighting brother as our country tore itself apart. During the four-year conflict there was extreme suffering, and we can assume that Church saw this and that it left an imprint on him. At its conclusion, the South's infrastructure was destroyed and the long, hard process of Reconstruction began. Many felt that society was broken as a result and that there was a collective loss of faith. When Virginia's letter came in, Church must have jumped at the opportunity to craft such a brilliant reply—a reply asserting that if there were no Santa, "The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished."

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

Newspapers are an interesting thing. You have the opportunity to make an impact. Church's editorial appeared on page seven of *The Sun*, below a piece on the "chainless bicycle." You would not think it would have gotten much notice, but it did. It was read and the magic began. Today, it is the most reproduced editorial, in part or whole, in the English language. It words and phrasing are both quick-paced and soothing. We like to imagine Church wrote it quickly, in a fit of a passion. "Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

We do not begin to believe our editorials are as impactful as Church's most famous one. However, we do have faith. We have faith not just in our paper (and faith that you are reading the editorials), but in our community and our neighbors. We believe that Santa abounds in Greenwich in large ways and small. We saw it first hand when we witnessed the children from Christ Church Nursery School donating toys to Neighbor-to-Neighbor. Neighbor to Neighbor, in turn, held a holiday "toy store" where more than 200 Greenwich families were invited to "shop" for their children for the holidays at no cost. Thanks to the generosity of many civic groups, businesses and others, these children will know holiday cheer.

At the heart of Church's editorial is a question: *how can you believe in something, have faith in something that you cannot see and when others tell you it does not exist?* To the doubters and naysayers, he responds, "Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding."

As you gather next week with family and friends, as the race to the holidays concludes with the actual holiday itself, we hope that everyone will take a moment to avoid the "skepticism of a skeptical age" and look for what we, as a community, can hold up with pride as meaningful accomplishments. For us, it will be the ringing of the chimes at Tod's Point, not heard for decades, serenading all in honor of Emily Fedorko and her love of music. A big thank you to the Greenwich Point Conservancy, Chris Franco, and Pam and Joe Fedorko for "Emily's Chimes".

It is this effort, and many others, that need faith and belief to be made real.

Yes, there is a Santa Claus.

Editorial Page



Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Originally published in the *New York Sun* in 1897.

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? VIRGINIA O'HANLON. 115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured

by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world

are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Vicious Attack Prompts Greenwich Residents to step in to help Beloved Waiter

By STEPHEN JANIS AND TAYA GRAHAM

The last thing Greenwich restaurant worker John Montoya remembers on the evening of November 3rd is sitting in a car in Stamford waiting for a friend.

The popular waiter who worked at the Putnam Restaurant for decades has vague recollections of two young men approaching his vehicle, but after that, nothing.

"It was terrible," he told *The Sentinel*. "I can't remember much because it happened so quickly."

Police told Montoya they believe that two young men approached his car and began beating him unprovoked. The attackers left him unconscious and profusely bleeding. They took his wallet and left him for dead.

But for Montoya, the worst thing was the severe injuries that continue to plague him still.

He had multiple contusions, lacerations above the eye, and a severe concussion. The lingering pain and cognitive impairment continue to make it difficult for him to function.

"I'm trying to work right now but it's very hard."

But work he must because Montoya does

not have health insurance. Looming over him is a roughly \$60,000 bill from Stamford Hospital that he is struggling to pay.

However the beloved restaurant worker is not alone. That's because Greenwich residents who appreciate his service to the community are stepping up.

One of them is Laurence Allen and his wife Michelle.

"Last week my wife and I were having lunch at Putnam restaurant. We just noticed he was talking slowly, and we asked how he was feeling," said Allen.

The Allen family, who are known for their charitable work focused on treating addiction, were stunned to learn of the attack on Montoya and the ongoing maladies it caused.

So they both decided to start a fundraiser to pay off the thousands in medical bills Montoya has incurred. Allen says, he hopes the effort will raise roughly \$100,000 to cover the additional expenses throughout what will be a lengthy recovery process.

"He has grown up with our family over the years, he is a very nice man, very much a gentleman," Allen said.

Allen's work on a fundraiser is just one way he is trying to help; He has also



been in touch with Stamford Hospital Foundation, who he says has already started to forgive part of the bill. Montoya says he is appreciative of Allen's help.

"He is a very good man."

For now, Montoya says he continues to work despite the pain and ongoing struggles with headaches and cognitive issues. He hopes further treatment will help him become healthy again so he can continue to serve the customers he loves.

"It's going to take time to get back to normal."

Stamford police said the case was still open and there are no suspects at this time.

Link to donate to John Montoya's medical bills <https://www.givesendgo.com/GE8U8>

LETTER

DTC Chair's Distortion Of "Facts" On BOE Are Not Helpful

I was disappointed to read my former BOE colleague and current DTC Chair Christina Downey's version of the current membership controversy on the BOE published in last week's *Greenwich Free Press*. Given the lawsuits and hurt-feelings on all sides, I can understand the temptation to latch on to a version of events that better suits personal biases. Yet since Ms. Downey's sequence is not only false but also calls into question my own integrity, I have no choice but to correct the record.

Here are the five "facts" of Ms. Downey's article with appropriate corrections:

1. Ms. Downey claims that upon learning of the vacancy, we, the members of the BOE consulted the town attorney and were not told of any timeline restrictions. This is true.

2. The board did indeed interview six candidates as Ms. Downey writes. In fact, as part of a good faith effort, fellow BOE member Cody Kittle and I conducted separate individual conversations with Ms. Behette at the request of the Democrats on the board. After these additional conversations, I personally communicated to my Democrat colleagues that Ms. Behette was a non-starter for the Republican caucus. Alternately, I urged a compromise around one of the five other candidates, each of whom a majority of the Republican caucus

found acceptable.

3. Ms. Downey writes that I and the three Republican members did not agree on a first choice of the six candidates. This is correct, we all had our favorites. Ms. Downey omits that we were all in universal agreement – and quite clear -- that Ms. Behette was our unanimous last choice and a non-starter. Why? Because we knew she was not intending to be a good faith member of our caucus but rather would act as a fifth vote for the Democrats. At the time, I referred to that as a "railroad" and I still stand by the claim.

4. Ms. Downey claims that at the October 17th BOE meeting my caucus intentionally disrupted the meeting and devised a scheme where "a member" left abruptly. This is simply untruthful. I had to leave the meeting due to an important and sudden personal matter. Ms. Downey knows this, and I told her that I expect a public apology. To accuse me of playing politics and intentionally shirking board business (even if she did not use my name) is beyond the pale.

5. On October 21st, First Selectmen Camillo did indeed post an agenda to appoint a member, as he is legally allowed to do after 30 days. He posted the meeting because it was becoming clear that the Democrat BOE caucus was showing little intention to compromise and was instead moving forward with Ms. Behette's

appointment, against the wishes of the Republican BOE caucus. This prompted the BOE "emergency" meeting where the four Democrats quickly appointed Ms. Behette. If you watch the tape, you will note I urge them not to vote but instead consider a compromise solution on one of the other five candidates.

The original sin here is not First Selectmen Camillo's involvement, but the BOE's inability to find common ground on an acceptable member to the Republican caucus. Perhaps it could be argued that if there were no compromise choices available, we would have been at a legitimate stalemate. However, there were Republican candidates who went through the interview process who would have garnered bipartisan support and allowed the board to move forward in a collegial manner. Sadly, instead of a compromise solution, my Democrat colleagues chose to push forward the only candidate of the six that our caucus did not want.

One may dislike the structure of the BOE – with its stipulation of four Republican and four Democrat members. Yet given these rules it is appropriate to apply a certain level of deference to the party with the vacancy. Not absolute deference, but at least some. The optimal outcome in this case was to settle on a candidate that the Republicans could support and whom would have

had at least some support from the Democrats on the board. That option was there for the taking. The three members of my caucus did not say, "we must have this candidate" rather we said, "anyone but that candidate". Unfortunately, the Democrats picked that one anyway.

Deference has been the tradition in other past BOE vacancies. Perhaps this notion seems quaint amidst the current high level of divisiveness in our town politics, but it is still the right thing to do. Partisans may say, "too bad Mike – you guys did not have the votes." I do not believe it should not be this way at the local level on a board intended to have equal bi-partisan representation.

First Selectmen Camillo did not get involved after thirty days like he could have because he too was hoping we could work this out ourselves as a Board. In fact, I still think we can. There is nothing stopping us from reaching a sensible compromise here that returns the appropriate balance to the board, admits errors, puts all court matter behind us, and allows us to move on. Public misrepresentations of the facts only make fulfilling such a goal harder to achieve.

Michael-Joseph Mercanti-
Anthony, BOE Member

The original clipping from the Troy Sentinel newspaper of A Visit from St. Nicholas.

We know not to whom we are indebted for the following description of that unwearied patron of children—that homely, but delightful personification of parental kindness—SANTÉ CLAUS, his costume and his equipage, as he goes about visiting the fire-sides of this happy land, laden with Christmas bounties; but, from whomsoever it may have come, we give thanks for it. There is, to our apprehension, a spirit of cordial goodness in it, a playfulness of fancy, and a benevolent alacrity to enter into the feelings and promote the simple pleasures of children, which are altogether charming. We hope our little patrons, both lads and lasses, will accept it as proof of our unfeigned good will toward them—as a token of our warmest wish that they may have many a merry Christmas; that they may long retain their beautiful relish for those unbought, homebred joys, which derive their flavor from filial piety and fraternal love, and which they may be assured are the least alloyed that time can furnish them; and that they may never part with that simplicity of character, which is their own fairest ornament, and for the sake of which they have been pronounced, by authority which none can gainsay, the types of such as shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.

For the Sentinel.

ACCOUNT OF A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter—
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer,
and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and
Blitzen;
"To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the
sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys—and St. Nicholas
too:
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a
bound:
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his
foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and
soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his
pack:
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how
merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the
snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of
jelly:
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his
work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a
jirk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a
whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle:
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of
sight—
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

The Future of Education is Adaptability

By Emily Raudenbush Gum

Human-scale education—it's a phrase that almost feels redundant. Should we really have to specify that the education we are after is designed for the cultivation of people? As a school leader, I would argue that too much of what happens in schools is driven by a different set of design standards. Sometimes that means we reduce our expectations of who we actually know kids to be: complex and plagued by setbacks but extraordinary in their capacities and growth. If you haven't recently been utterly taken aback by the creativity and synthetic thinking of a child (of any age), then I encourage you to slow down and listen with this intent to one of the children in your life. Or, it could mean that we don't plan ahead for the setbacks that are inevitable. Have you ever met a person who didn't experience some ups and downs in their lives? Of course not! Why would we allow schools to not take this into account? As just one example, think of a report card that tallies to an overall cumulative GPA. No wonder we are stressing out our kids. The system has no capacity to acknowledge even one bad term for a student and set it to the side, capturing only that kid at their best. I hope my point is beginning to be clear: we need schools that continually ask themselves whether what they are doing is great for the overall cultivation of children as we know them in all of their wonderful complexity. We need schools that are adaptive to any evidence that they are not living up to this ideal. To accomplish this, we need to acknowledge that schools lose too much of their humanity when they are not designed to be human-scale.

The tools that have come from the work of "design thinking"—whether through Stanford's Design School or elsewhere in management

thinking—have very little to do with aesthetics and everything to do with intentionality. When it comes to school transformation, perhaps the key missing component is humility. I don't mean to sound harsh. School leaders and teachers are among the most selfless and generous members of our communities. But as institutions, schools struggle with adaptability. We move slowly and prefer what has worked before. At the institutional level, I think it is fair to describe this as a lack of humility. We believe that what we have is awesome or at least good enough and aren't willing to name the problems and challenges and set realistic expectations for change.

Let's be precise in our thinking about this. Design standards are not design constraints. All good design has constraints: budget, time, place, and so on. To design is to be realistic about constraints while remaining focused on the best possible instantiation of those design standards. Design standards name the values of our mission. Every institution has design standards; and you get what you design for. Schools are complex social ecosystems and there are expectations for student behaviour, hallway etiquette, eating together, the role of the arts and beauty, sportsmanship, models of authority, just to name a few. All of these components are outside of the core competency of schools: teaching content and skills for academic development. It would be a mistake to pretend

that these design standards are somehow secondary. Instead, we need to accept that they are primary, as all of the excellent work around school culture and the social-emotional learning of children has done.

So, what is the core design standard of human-scale education? The answer is quite simple; children are interacting with adults who know them well and champion their success. Schools, in their most basic form, are intergenerational communities rooted in a place and organized around a mission. We call that mission education because we believe that humans have an incredible capacity to live up to the dignity of that term, educate: to be called and nourished forth. Herein is the design constraint. What does it really mean for a child to be deeply known and believed in?

Teachers are mentors. Consider the research findings of late around what sets apart the super achievers in global education: Finland, Estonia, and so on. One observation that emerged has to do with the phenomenon of looping. Looping happens when students are with teachers for multiple years in a row. As Adam Grant put this in a recent New York Times article, "Instead of specializing just in their subjects, teachers also get to specialize in their students. Their role evolves from instructor to coach and mentor." I lead a relatively small high school of 330 students. Schools like ours have felt the pressure of larger schools to ensure that every teacher is singular in their

specific area of competence to ensure student test outcomes, and this collegiate model of differentiated excellence does have its clear benefits. However, research lends itself to the belief that it is possible to have tremendous academic outcomes for students and also strive for comprehensive and integrated thriving. For this more robust outcome, which our school has striven after for 175 years, schools need design standards which ensure students of all ages are known and championed, and that takes mentors in human-scale, adaptable schools.

As technologies arise, Artificial Intelligence tutors not least, it is crucial that we stay focused on the design standards that will lead to the outcomes that we want for our children. We want our kids to do their very best and be acknowledged for it across many areas of life, and we want the structures around our kids to make sure that things are going well for them and that challenges are addressed. These outcomes are best addressed by design standards that take seriously how wonderfully complex people are. When we do this, we might be challenged to find that the future of education is not grand and complexified but is instead interpersonal, adaptable, and human-scale.

Emily Raudenbush Gum is the 12th Head of School at The Frederick Gunn School in Washington, CT, celebrating its 175th year.

Christmas Cards - Then and Now

By Patricia Chadwick

Wikipedia may not be "Gospel;" however, I support it faithfully with an annual donation at this time of year, because it is an excellent and instantaneous resource. I find it of particular value when I'm researching matters of history. According to Wikipedia, "the first known Christmas card was sent by Michael Maier to James I of England and his son Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales in 1611." The card read: "A greeting on the birthday of the Sacred King, to the most worshipful and energetic lord and most eminent James, King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Defender of the true faith, with a gesture of joyful celebration of the Birthday of the Lord, in most joy and fortune, we enter into the new auspicious year 1612." That first Christmas card was handmade with painstaking care.

By the mid-nineteenth century, Christmas cards had become a commercial enterprise. Examples of what they probably looked like can be gleaned from children's Christmas books, the kind that those of us who are of a certain age had the pleasure of reading when we were between the ages of six and perhaps twelve. Ornately dressed Victorian ladies in horsedrawn carriages brought the tidings: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Other depictions included stylized family scenes, with elegant borders of holly or wreaths. Neither Baby Jesus nor the Holy Family tended to be the centerpiece of the pictorial display—reference to them served as decoration embedded into the margins. Other popular themes included rosy-faced, cherubic-looking children carrying flowers and dressed as though to be "seen and not heard."

By the early twentieth century, Saint Nicholas—in his varied forms, both religious and secular—became an increasingly appealing subject for Christmas cards. Humor and even cynicism crept their way into popularity, making the production and sale of Christmas cards a highly commercialized and profitable industry in Europe and the United States. The onset of World War I, followed by the Second World War, was a boon to the industry as millions of people across the world sent messages

For hours in the evening, after the children had gone to bed, my mother and I would sit side by side at the dining room table. She would address, in her exquisite handwriting, envelope after envelope, while I would inscribed a personalized note to each recipient.

of hope (and humor) from the homeland to the troops in far off and dangerous places.

I was in my early twenties when I began to send out Christmas cards, specifically buying them by the box but with a variety of themes—Christmas depictions for my religious friends, and an array of secular cards for the rest. By the time I was married with children, I was sending out hundreds of cards and was lucky enough to secure the services of my mother whose penmanship was the envy, not only of my husband, but of everyone who was fortunate enough to be the recipient of her correspondence. Every year she would come for a full week's visit shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. For hours in the evening, after the children had gone to bed, she and I would sit side by side at the dining room table. She would address by hand envelope after envelope, while I inscribed a personalized note to each recipient, then inserted the card into the envelope and sealed it, with the final responsibility being the selection of the correct stamp—religious, secular or Jewish. With Christmas music playing in the background, we mostly worked in silence, although on more than a few occasions, my mother, in her strong chest voice, would join the altos of whatever choir group was singing.

Sadly there came a day when my mother could no longer make the three-hour drive nor dedicate hours to the art of addressing envelopes, although her fine cursive handwriting remained with her until the age of ninety. I then faced the reality of resorting to the services of a printer. That did not, however, remove the obligation to write a personalized note on each of the now close to 500 cards I sent out. Selecting the appropriate stamp for each recipient was less a challenge and more a delight. Let me pause to give a shout out to the

oft-maligned United States Postal Service. They may not always deliver your Christmas cards as promptly as you might wish; they may even lose some. But when it comes to the issue of celebrating holidays, historical events, flora and fauna, and a host of people worth honoring, that branch of the Federal Government, in my opinion, has been more creative than any other government department.

With the advent of digital photography came an entirely new wave of Christmas/Holiday communication. Entire stories could be told in pictorial fashion and could be mailed out with barely the touch of the human hand. Rare was the intimacy of a handwritten, personalized note, but at least one could use one's imagination to create a tale—a happy wedding, a successful fishing excursion, a new baby or a new puppy—and on and on. And truth be told, I have come to look forward to cards crammed with the family's story conveyed with happy scenes and new generations. There is, however, one form of Christmas/Holiday card that I find a disappointment. It's easy to spot and fortunately, there are few of them. In the upper right hand corner of the envelope is a red postage meter stamp and the address is a stick-on label. I can sense what's coming—inside is a card, perhaps with a picture of a couple printed on the inside, but more often with a non-descript, non-denominational greeting, and the names of the senders in print below. Untouched by human hands and produced from last year's list (and the year before that and before that), the card and its detached missive give the feeling that something has been ticked off the "to do" list. May I have gone to my just reward before I am ever found to be guilty of such Christmas card etiquette malfeasance.

In the last year or two, the Email Christmas card has made

its debut and before I lose all my friends by insulting that form of communication, let me hasten to say that just four days ago, I received the most joyfully uplifting E version of a Christmas card. There had been illness in the family, and it was with trepidation that I clicked on the email. The picture was indeed worth more than a thousand words—a healthy, intact family, and a letter that shared all the good news. The only disappointment is that I won't get to add it to all the other cards I have received. As an aside, I keep my Christmas cards in a large white wicker basket, and at some point in the spring, generally after Easter, I go through all of them one more time, before allowing them to be recycled—minus a few that a keep forever. Of course I could print it out, but isn't that defeating the purpose of a card that is ecologically pure?

By some measures, I could be dubbed a luddite. I revel in the undeniably "old-fashioned" tradition of handwritten Christmas card messages and enjoy sharing family news with friends, some of whom I don't get a chance to see for years on end. Adjusting to the modern, the post-modern, and the neo-modern versions of sharing Christmas/Holiday cards has taken time, but I've come around. And for sure, communication is so much better than no communication. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Patricia Chadwick is a businesswoman and an author. Her second memoir, *Breaking Glass*, with the subtitle: *Tales from the Witch of Wall Street*, came out on May 14, 2024. It tells of her "growing up" and succeeding in what was then the all-male bastion called Wall Street. Her second book is a sequel to her first *Memoir, Little Sister*, the story of her childhood in a religious community-turned-cult. www.patriciachadwick.com

Sales of Bibles are Booming: Have You Read the Good Book?



By MAREK ZABRISKIE

It can easily be argued that the Bible is the greatest book ever put in human hands. The Wall Street Journal reports that sales of Bibles are booming, propelled by first-time buyers and new versions.

According to the WSJ, the 22% jump in Bible sales this year is due to rising anxiety, a search for hope, and highly focused marketing and designs. Hallelujah! This is a bright spot for 2024.

"People are experiencing anxiety themselves, or they're worried for their children and grandchildren," said Jeff Crosby, president of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. "It's related to artificial intelligence, election cycles... and all of that feeds a desire for assurance that we're going to be OK."

According to the WSJ, Cely Vazquez, a 28-year-old artist and influencer who has appeared on the reality TV show "Love Island USA," recently bought her first Bible - one from the "She Reads Truth" line at Barnes & Noble.

Vazquez told the WSJ, "I've had Bibles that my mom gave me, but I felt I needed my own to start my own journey, that it symbolized a walk with

God," she said. "I felt like something was missing. It's a combination of where we are in the world, general anxiety and the sense that meaning and comfort can be found in the Bible."

If you're feeling like Vazquez is and the millions who have recently bought a Bible, we invite you to participate in The Bible Challenge at Christ Church Greenwich. We are urging everyone in Greenwich to make a Spiritual New Year's Resolution for 2025.

Studies show that the most effective way to develop a stronger faith and a clearer understanding of God and a closer relationship with God is by regular reading of Scripture. If you give 10 minutes or more a day to God by quietly and prayerfully reading Scripture, God can transform your life.

But reading the Bible from cover to cover proves futile for most beginners. Most never make it past the book of Leviticus, which is the third book in the Bible, due to its long boring ancient dietary codes that no longer seem applicable to most people and seem to offer no wisdom for daily living.

In 2011, I developed two reading plans to help people read through the entire Bible or the entire New Testament in a year. The first takes 30 minutes a day. The second takes only 10 minutes a day. Since then, over a million people have used one of my reading plans to read through the Bible

You will never regret taking time to read the Bible for it will help your keep your head and your heart in the right place and prepare your for eternity with God. I hope that you will accept The Bible Challenge as together we seek to lead more faithful, spiritual healthy, calm and ethical lives.

successfully.

If you are interested in doing so, please email me directly at: mzabriskie@christchurchgreenwich.org, and I will help you do this. It's one of my favorite activities in the world, because a person who engages in daily Bible reading falls in love with God and becomes more patient, kind, wise, thoughtful, generous, forgiving, loving and moves through life with greater faith, hope and charity.

Reading the Bible daily helps us to become better spouses, parents, children, siblings, friends, Christians, citizens, and members of our community. I have never met a person who regretted having read the Bible or the New Testament in its entirety.

Here's the what Bible says about itself: "I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your Word (Psalm 119:15-16). "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"...my heart stands in awe of your words. I rejoice at your Word like one

who finds a great spoil" (Psalm 119: 161-162).

"Indeed, the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17)

And here's what others have said about the Bible: "The more you read the Bible, the more you meditate on it, the more you will be astonished by it." - Charles Spurgeon. "It is a mistake to look to the Bible to close a discussion; the Bible seeks to open one." - the Rev. William Sloane Coffin

"When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, 'It is talking to me and about me.'" - Soren Kierkegaard. "The Word of God well understood and religiously

obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select just a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than the whole Bible can make a whole Christian." - A.W. Tozier

So, email me if you would like to read the Bible or the New Testament in a year, and I will help you accomplish this spiritual goal in 2025. We sell Bibles at the Dogwood Book Store and Gift Shop at Christ Church Greenwich. Our staff will be glad to help you select a Bible.

You will never regret taking time to read the Bible for it will help your keep your head and your heart in the right place and prepare your for eternity with God. I hope that you will accept The Bible Challenge as together we seek to lead more faithful, spiritual healthy, calm and ethical lives.

The Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie has helped over one million people read the entire Bible or New Testament, Proverbs and Psalms in a Year. He is the editor of The Bible Challenge series published by Forward Movement

COLUMN



By ICY FRANTZ

Not long ago, I was texting with our daughter who spent the semester with NOLS in New Zealand.

The program is divided into three sections, and she had completed the first and was back at basecamp and on the grid for a short time, so we had the chance to catch up. She wanted to see pictures of our pets, so I ran around the house capturing them on my iPhone. She wanted to know - what's new and so I filled her in - turns out, not much!

We took advantage of the fleeing opportunity to connect, Facetime and texting, right up until she was on her way back out and she typed, "Going now."

Silence.

I thought of this when I learned that a good friend's son had died. Not so much the experience that our daughter is lucky to be a part of, but more those words.

Going now.

My friend's son was smart and funny, affectionate and loving. And he struggled.

Isn't that usually the case...people are not an either/or, but an and.

Over the years, my friend and I had talked about his struggles, and we talked about his achievements. My own children have had their struggles and they have had their achievements. Truth is, most children experience both.

The struggles can be social or academic or emotional or medical. All the same, they make navigating life all the more difficult; they strip the joy from a perfectly beautiful day. And we pray that these struggles are temporary - a phase that our children will eventually grow out of or a short chapter in their life that will create a more resilient and empathetic, caring adult. We need the struggles to be temporary because it is just too painful to imagine it any other way.

I remember my friend's son this past summer. With his girlfriend, gathering things - a towel, a book, some snacks to take to the beach on a warm afternoon. His car, a sporty Jeep with the top down, was parked in the driveway. On his way out, he grabbed his flip-flops and sunglasses and opened the door to leave, so carefree and so cheerful.

Going now.

What if we could turn back the clock, just a couple of days, and change the outcome. Or maybe retreat even further.

What did we miss? What could we have done differently?

The years, months, days, and hours are examined and assessed - every detail and every moment - until the present comes charging back, a ruthless reality that can't be ignored.

On April 26th, 2002, our son died. I had spent the day at the hairdresser. I didn't know that I would no longer be able to kiss him, rock him, climb into his crib and lie next to him. I would have made a different choice.

He died in the middle of the night. I was

holding him and he was struggling to breathe. I searched his eyes. I cried. Sometimes death takes a while. A breath and then nothing and then a gasp and then a breath and then silence.

Going now.

But where are they going? Do they just slip through an open door, leaving their physical body behind, off the grid for eternity? It's hard to fathom - one moment they are here and then they are not.

I have to believe that the destination is somewhere wonderful, where struggles are no longer. And they are watching us. They know that they are loved. And that they are missed.

And if they could, they would take us in their arms and let us know - you will always be my mom.

What do we do when we don't get the chance to say goodbye? When there are no Facetimes or texts, no special send offs - I love you, I love you madly, I love you always.

We are left to our own devices. And a wishing. A wanting. A needing. To hear one last word. To have one last exchange. One last smile and twinkle in the eye. We would trade anything for just one last.

When it comes to the loss of a child, no words will ever suffice, because the only words we want to hear is: this must be some horrible mistake. This must be a very cruel joke. The normal order of life events is thrown off kilter. And the thought of living without... is absolutely beyond our understanding. How do we learn to keep going when the last thing we want to do is keep going, without?

But we keep going. We lean into our community and let them love us. If we are lucky enough to have other children, we hold them tight. Desperate, we scream and cry and talk to ourselves and to them, to God. And we look for ways to live this very altered life - a life we didn't want - hoping the world knows just how much their lives mattered.

And we look for signs - anything that will assure us that they are okay. And that our physical bond is still very much alive. A rainbow at the end of a stormy day, a shared song that randomly plays on the radio, or a bird that sits perched on our windowpane and then flies away.

Going now.

But why all this now, in the bright lights of the holiday season?

Because it can be difficult this time of year for those who have experienced loss and for those who are struggling.

And because it speaks to what is important.

I learned an important lesson from my friend - to love unconditionally, to meet our children where they are, even if that is different from where we want them to be, who we want them to be. To support and cherish. "Love Matters."

The world has a way of valuing and measuring the wrong qualities. Sometimes, I do as well.

So, this holiday season, take the connection, the spontaneous moments, the snuggles on the family room couch and the

Going Now

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extra time at bedtime draped over a book. Because truly, that is the merry and the magic this time of year...everything else can wait.
RIP CSC

Icy Frantz, The Icing on the Cake, icy@icyfrantz.net

Round Hill Community Church invites you to:

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24th
4:00 pm
Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Nursery care available

roundhillcommunitychurch.org

**395 Round Hill Road
Greenwich CT 06831**

COLUMN

Lighting Up Winter Nights

By URLING SEARLE

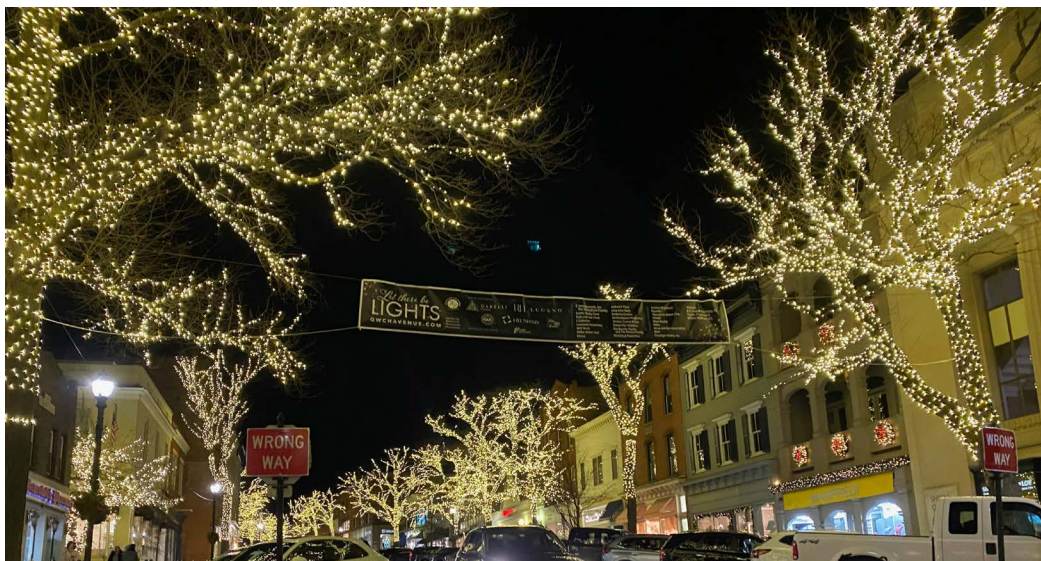
As we approach the winter solstice with the shortest day of the year, it can take some time to adjust to the early hour darkness. My mother's birthday often fell on this day and with a twinkle in her eye, she would note that it was the longest night of the year, the very best night for celebration.

The twinkling lights that arise as the holiday season approaches never fail to lift one's spirits. Our business districts sparkle and glow with lights that bring warmth and beauty to where we shop and dine throughout town, inviting one to stroll and connect with friends and passersby. The branches of the mature trees of Greenwich Avenue are glowing for a dazzling display. In many parts of town large twinkling snowflakes brings sparkle and a touch of magic. We must thank both local businesses and residents whose contributions make these festive light shows possible.

You may look forward to the moment each year when you first see that your neighbor has once again strewn warm white lights around their spruce tree, or perhaps you favor the colored lights on another nearby balsam tree. You may have planted a tree in your front yard that you enjoy adorning with lights in celebration of the season and to welcome family home. Whether it be on the branches of an oak, maple or cherry tree or along the edges of an evergreen, their illumination brightens many a winter's night.

Our mature sidewalk trees make the splendid downtown light shows possible and their proper care is critical in ensuring they remain healthy and able to host these significant displays. The town has safety protocols in place and safe practices are necessary when lighting outdoor trees at home. When purchasing lights look for a UL mark for outdoor use to ensure they have received rigorous safety testing. Use a surge protector

The twinkling lights that arise as the holiday season approaches never fail to lift one's spirits. Our business districts sparkle and glow with lights that bring warmth and beauty to where we shop and dine throughout town.



Greenwich Avenue sparkles

and the rule of three, stringing no more than three strings to an extension cord approved for outdoor use, and the electrical load your lights will put on it. Inspect your lights annually and set a timer to turn them off before the household is asleep.

Deciduous trees must have all lights removed from branches before any spring growth begins. This may happen earlier than one might expect so plan to remove all lights by the end of February as the town does.

As you go about your holiday preparations with all the inescapable errands, take a moment to appreciate living in a community that cares for its mature street trees that bring sparkle and warmth to this most special time of the year. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy, a local non-profit, is fortunate to partner with the town in planting over 500 trees each year and strives to preserve and protect the health of our urban tree forest.

Marcia O'Kane Steps Down as Greenwich Chamber of Commerce President and CEO



Marcia O'Kane at last year's Annual Awards event at McArdle's Floral and Garden Design. Sentinel Photograph.

Marcia O'Kane has announced her resignation as president and CEO of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce after more than 13 years in the role, marking the end of a tenure defined by innovation

and community engagement.

In a letter to Chamber members, O'Kane reflected on her accomplishments, including overseeing more than 300 events, 150 After Six networking programs, and 120 radio shows. She also spearheaded the creation of initiatives like the Women Who Matter series and played a critical role in supporting businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has been a privilege to serve our local business community through these and many other milestones," O'Kane wrote. "Every day during my tenure, I have worked passionately to show everyone that our Chamber matters."

Under O'Kane's leadership, the Chamber saw significant growth, including the addition of hundreds of new members and numerous sold-out programs. Her focus on advocacy and

networking has left a lasting impact on the local business community.

"Marcia O'Kane's leadership over the years has been nothing short of transformative for the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce and the broader community," said Emily Newcamp, board treasurer of the Chamber. "Her passion, drive, and unwavering commitment to connecting businesses and supporting local growth have left an indelible mark. Marcia guided the Chamber through challenges that no other executive director has faced, and her dedication helped it thrive during times when many similar organizations struggled. She will be greatly missed, and her shoes will be tough to fill. We are deeply grateful for her service."

O'Kane stated she is stepping down to pursue her own entrepreneurial ventures but expressed

gratitude for her time with the Chamber.

"I am immensely grateful to have served in this leadership position in our wonderful town of Greenwich," she said. "Any success is shared with you, our members."

O'Kane, a longtime Riverside resident, joined the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce in 2010 after a career that included roles as director of finance and administration at the nonprofit Person-to-Person and vice president at Fairfield County Bank. Before that, she served as the executive director of the Stamford Senior Center.

Jeff Weber, chairman of the Chamber board, praised O'Kane's contributions during her appointment in 2010, calling her a catalyst for engagement and growth within the organization.

The Chamber has not yet announced plans for selecting O'Kane's successor.

Greenwich News: In Brief, Your Quick Read to What is Happening in Town

POLICE & FIRE

Cos Cob Patrol Delivers Joy

The Cos Cob Fire Police Patrol is hosting its annual "Operation Santa" fundraiser on December 14-15, 21-22, and 24. Santa and the Grinch will deliver pre-wrapped gifts throughout Greenwich, escorted by the Patrol's fire truck. To participate, visit the CCFPP website, email sfranks@ccfpp.org, or call 203-979-6076.

Badges Battle for Community Pride

The Battle of the Badges hockey game between local first responders and the Greenwich Fire Department takes place on December 27 at the Greenwich Skating Club. The game starts at 7:30 p.m., with food trucks and raffles available.

Firefighters Save Glenville Home

On December 16, Greenwich firefighters responded to a roof fire at a 2.5-story home in Glenville. Crews contained the blaze to the attic, preventing further damage and saving much of the structure and its contents. The cause is under investigation by the Greenwich Fire Marshal's Office.

FROM TOWN HALL

Havemeyer Plan Deadline Extended

The deadline for redevelopment proposals for the Havemeyer Building in Greenwich has been extended to December 20. Built in 1894 and currently housing the Board of Education, the deteriorating structure requires restoration and repurposing. The town seeks proposals that preserve its historic architecture, provide community uses, and address parking needs.

Snow Sculptors Compete for Glory

Greenwich Parks and Recreation has announced the 13th Annual Snow Sculpture Contest, open to residents from the first snowfall through March 7, 2025. Participants must submit a photo of their snow sculpture online, with eligibility restricted to residents 18 or older, though parents can submit entries for minors. Winners will be announced on March 10, 2025.

Scholarships Support Greenwich Youth

The Greenwich Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to help local children access camps and recreational programs. Donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations support its efforts to promote youth development through physical and mental activities. Information on how to contribute is available by visiting <https://www.towngreenwichprfoundation.org/>

Affordable Housing Project Moves Forward

The Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission approved an 8-30g affordable housing project on Mason Street and Greenwich Avenue, with conditions. The project includes two residential buildings with 75 units total, of which 24 are designated as affordable condominiums. Key conditions include size comparability between affordable and market-rate units, equitable unit distribution, and the removal of retail components except for pre-existing uses at 405 Greenwich Avenue.

Selectmen Debate Cos Cob Safety

At the November 26 Greenwich Board of Selectmen meeting, the proposal for a four-way stop at the intersection of Valley Road, River Road Extension, and Scofield Street in Cos Cob was reviewed again, citing 21 crashes since 2016, including pedestrian incidents. The plan includes removing three parking spaces to improve visibility and adding warning signage, though concerns remain about its impact on local businesses and parking. Alternatives like rapid flashing beacons are being considered but face cost

and feasibility challenges.

Byram Rink Project Advances Design

The Planning & Zoning Commission granted preliminary approval for a new ice rink in Byram, allowing the project to proceed with design and budgeting, but final approval remains pending further review. Plans include constructing a new 40,000-square-foot rink on Strazza Field and replacing the current Dorothy Hamill Rink with a baseball field after demolition. A site walk and community outreach are required as part of the conditions for moving forward.

AROUND TOWN

Recycle Holiday Lights with Ease

The Holly Hill Resource Facility is accepting old holiday lights and electronics for recycling. No appointment is needed; items can be dropped off at the electronics area near the yard waste section. Hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pumpkin Composting Diverts Landfill Waste

The Holly Hill Resource Facility in Greenwich has collected 6.4 tons of pumpkins and gourds this season for composting. The effort diverted over 12,800 pounds of organic material from landfills. Residents can continue recycling pumpkins at the facility during operating hours.

DEEP Warns of Winter Bears

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) advises using bird feeders cautiously during winter, as black bears may still be active in mild weather. Feeders should only be used on the coldest days, with small amounts of feed to avoid attracting bears. Planting native vegetation in spring is recommended as a long-term, natural solution to support birds.

Veterinary Hospital Approved for Greenwich

Greenwich's Planning & Zoning Commission has approved the conversion of a 14,500-square-foot building at 100 Putnam Green into a veterinary hospital operated by Nightingale Veterinary Partners. The facility will include a surgery center and an eye clinic, with services provided by four doctors and 20 employees during weekday hours. Overnight stays will be limited to medically necessary cases, and the building had previously been vacant.

Menorah Lighting Celebrates Hanukkah Joy

The town of Greenwich and Chabad of Greenwich will hold their annual menorah lighting and Hanukkah celebration on January 1 at 4 p.m. A 12-foot menorah will be displayed at the corner of Arch Street and Greenwich Avenue, with Israeli musician Noam performing. The event is free and open to the public, with partial road closures approved to manage traffic.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Bruce Museum Seeks Bilingual Docents

The Bruce Museum is accepting applications for its volunteer docent program starting in January. The museum seeks bilingual English-Spanish volunteers to lead science programs for pre-K to grade 12 students and assist with tours and school visits. Interested applicants should email Kathleen Holko at kholko@brucemuseum.org.

Holiday Wreaths Brighten Greenwich Homes

Meals-on-Wheels Inc. of Greenwich and the Green Fingers Garden Club created and distributed 80 holiday wreaths to homebound seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others in need. Meals-on-Wheels provides meals and support to Greenwich residents and is seeking volunteers and donations.

For more information, contact them at mealsonwheelsgreenwich@outlook.com or 203-869-1312.

Chabad Proposes Modernization and Greenery

Chabad of Greenwich has proposed renovations for its property at 38 Field Point Avenue, including modernizing the 1957 structure and reconfiguring the interior to add offices, a library, a lounge, a kitchen, and a ritual bath. The plan also includes replacing three trees with 19 new ones, planting 186 shrubs, and installing hundreds of perennials to enhance the site's landscaping. The proposal, which requires Planning & Zoning Commission approval, aims to address space constraints after the organization outgrew its previous locations.

Beam-Signing Marks Clubhouse Progress

The Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich held a beam-signing ceremony as part of its clubhouse expansion and renovation project. Participants wrote their names and messages on a structural beam, now part of the future gymnasium's frame. The renovated clubhouse will include new spaces for sports, fitness, academics, and community events.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Greenwich Residents Deliver Pet Supplies

Greenwich residents Gavin and Olivia Spraker delivered pet food to residents of public housing in partnership with the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary. The initiative aims to support pet owners facing economic challenges by providing essential supplies. This effort was part of the sanctuary's mission to honor the memory of Catherine Hubbard and her love for animals.

GCDS Receives STEM Expansion Grant

Greenwich High School students Eva Barber, Tyler Bell, and Edward Puskar organized a Photos with Santa fundraiser at the American Legion building in Glenville, raising \$986 for their initiative, Gains for Guyana. The project, inspired by a conversation Barber had with an Uber driver, has collected nearly \$2,000 toward a \$10,000 goal through GoFundMe.

SCHOOLS

Students Raise Funds for Guyana

Greenwich Country Day School received a \$500,000 grant from Endless Impact. The funds will support faculty recruitment, STEM program expansion, and independent mentored research opportunities.

Eagle Hill Students Shine in Concert

The Eagle Hill Chorus held their Winter Concert, performing a selection of seasonal songs, Broadway pieces, and popular hits. After weeks of preparation, the students showcased their work to an audience of parents and guests. The event concluded with a reception featuring refreshments and artwork by Ms. Jupiter's students.

Western Middle Fields Reopen

Western Middle School's athletic fields reopened after an eight-year closure due to soil contamination discovered in 2016. The fields underwent extensive environmental remediation, including the removal of over 35,000 tons of contaminated soil and the construction of a new synthetic turf sports complex. The upgraded facilities will now support physical education classes, sports teams, and school events.

SPORTS

Greenwich Girls Basketball Dominates Rivals

Greenwich High School's girls basketball team has started the 2024-2025 season strong with decisive wins over Hillhouse (51-20) and Bassick (43-8), showcasing their depth, teamwork, and leadership from senior captains Kate Baxendale and Alyssa Gath. Freshman Zuri Faison and junior Madi Utzinger have emerged as key contributors, while coach Megan Wax praises the team's collaborative spirit and focus on reaching their full potential this year.

Sacred Heart Tops GCDS in Thriller

Sacred Heart Greenwich secured a narrow 42-40 victory over Greenwich Country Day School in an intense FAA matchup, fueled by a fourth-quarter comeback led by senior captains Eva Wilkerson and Jadamarie Henry. Despite Sacred Heart's rebuilding year after graduating key players, their strong teamwork and defensive resilience kept their undefeated start intact, while GCDS showed promise in their new gymnasium, led by captains Brianna McDermott and Lara Young.

Brunswick Ice Hockey Starts Strong

The Brunswick School ice hockey team has started the season with an impressive 4-0-1 record, scoring 29 goals in five games while conceding only 13. Dominant performances, including a 7-2 victory over Kent and a high-scoring 9-6 win against Phillips Exeter, have showcased the Bruins' offensive firepower and strong goaltending from Dylan Lee-Stack and LJ Bylow.

Bruins Wrestling Stands Out Again

Brunswick School's wrestling team showcased its strength with a third-place finish at the Bearcat Brawl, highlighted by standout performances from Paul Kesmodal, Alec Harned, and Jack Degl, among others. The Bruins followed this with a dominant 81-0 victory over Marvelwood, continuing their tradition of excellence under legendary coach Tim Ostrye, who has led the program to 35 FAA titles and 15 Western New England championships.

GA Basketball Wins First Game

Greenwich Academy's basketball team secured its first win of the season with a dominant 53-35 victory over Rye Country Day School, showcasing standout performances from junior Mallory Walker (19 points, 15 rebounds) and captain Mirabel Rodgers. Under coach Jordan Griffith, the Gators are poised for a competitive season with strong leadership, improved team chemistry, and contributions from both experienced players and promising freshmen.

ACROSS CT

CT Hunting Guide Available Online



The 2025 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide is now available online on the DEEP website. A downloadable PDF version is also provided for mobile access in the field. Hunters and trappers should use the online guide to stay updated on regulation changes. <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/2025-connecticut-hunting-and-trapping-guide>

State Forgives Millions in Medical Debt

Governor Ned Lamont announced a program to forgive medical debt for nearly 23,000 Connecticut residents in partnership with the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt. Using \$100,000 from the state's American Rescue Plan Act funds, the initiative eliminated \$30 million in qualifying medical debt by negotiating with providers and collection agencies. Residents will receive automatic notification of debt forgiveness by mail, with further rounds of relief planned using an additional \$6.5 million in allocated funding.

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COLUMN

Chanukah & The Spirit of the Maccabees



By RABBI MITCHELL HURVITZ

The celebration of Chanukah was essential for the Halutzim – the early Zionist pioneers. And our Festival of Lights continues to resonate strongly with all Zionists. The struggle to create, maintain, and secure Israel is a modern Maccabee story. And Chanukah commemorates our successful struggle for Jewish self-determination and self-defense. The initial fighters for Israel's independence were called the "Children of the Maccabees" (at contemporary national ceremonies, IDF soldiers are still often referred to in the same way). The JNF stamp (pictured above) exemplified the interwoven connection between the

Maccabees and the Zionists. Israeli historian Dr. Haggai Ben Arzi wrote a book entitled The Maccabees. He noted that the family leading the rebellion against the Greeks was called the Hasmoneans, and only Judah was called the "Macabee." Judah was the military commander who, for six years (until his battlefield death), led the war against the Greeks. It would take 19 more years until the Greeks withdrew from the Land of Israel and the Jews once more obtained their autonomous freedom. The decades-long struggle of Judah, his family, and his followers foreshadowed the battle and the high cost of the Jewish people to re-establish and keep secure the modern Jewish State of Israel. One early Zionist pioneer was Hannah Senesh. Raised as an assimilated Hungarian Jew, she chose to leave for Palestine in 1939. She volunteered for parachute training in 1943 and, in 1944, jumped behind enemy Nazi lines in Hungary to try and help the Allies advance and save Jewish lives. Tragically, the Nazis captured and tortured Hannah to coerce her

Chanukah commemorates our successful struggle for Jewish self-determination and self-defense.

to reveal the cipher codes to her transmitter. She refused to break, and the Nazis executed Hannah at the age of twenty-three. Hannah wrote in her journal until the last day of her life, and her writings are Jewish literary treasures. One poem excerpt: "On Chanukah, we light our lights...our will continues unbroken by any power as we have carried our Torah from place to place; from it, we draw strength and spirit. Though we wandered in confusion through desperate wastelands, we knew with God there was no abandonment. We, the descendants of these people, still know of no despair. So, we shall continue to fight as the lights of this Menorah call us forward. Fear not, people of Israel; the dream is yet to come." Hannah was the modern-day Maccabee who kept Israel safe, secure, and free like her fellow Jewish warriors then and now. May we all consecrate our lives in the spirit of the Maccabees with loyalty to our faith and the Jewish People. Shabbat Shalom! Temple Shalom's Senior Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz is a scholar, teacher, community activist and preacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich area and beyond. A frequent guest speaker at synagogues and churches, study groups, community institutions and universities, he is a charismatic personality who engages individuals and stimulates hearts and minds. His teachings can be found in Greenwich Sentinel and in other local and national publications.

COLUMN

The Subtle and Not So Subtle Art of Hope



By KATE NOONAN

Advent is a season of Hope; a time when the world waits with anticipation for the birth of Christ. As children at Christmas we hoped for the gifts on our Christmas list. My sister and I laid tucked in our beds on Christmas Eve with our ears tuned to hear the far away ring of the bells from Santa's sleigh. Additionally, my siblings and I were pretty sure Santa needed and would enjoy the milk and cookies left to fortify him when he arrived with our gifts. In my home another telltale sign Santa had arrived was when we saw the candy canes on the tree. We adored all these rituals waiting with joy and sleeping with one eye open. The hope of children in the Christmas season embodies the playful and boundless qualities of youth. The season is magical. We,

as adults, already know the promise of the risen Lord. The anticipation and celebration of the birth of Christ is the precursor for the greatest gift ever received; our eternal salvation, an event which far supersedes any magical story. This then begs the question: how come as adults our hope is not as playful and boundless? It would stand to reason our faith would be enough to keep us buoyed through any of the tribulations in our lives. Yet, hope and faith are not that formulaic. Hope and faith need to be cared for and tended to; these tenets are actionable. We are beings who oftentimes need to act our way into better thinking. There were plenty of times in my life my faith has waned and hope seemed lost. The greatest gift I received during these dark times is when others said they would believe for me. Not only were they holding hope for a brighter outcome than I could imagine, it was their faith and hope that carried me, reopening the door of my belief. Just knowing I was cared for was the subtle

Yet, hope and faith are not that formulaic. Hope and faith need to be cared for and tended to; these tenets are actionable. We are beings who oftentimes need to act our way into better thinking.

way faith and hope were reinvigorated in my heart and soul. I've had the privilege of offering this gentle support to others. I believe for them and that simple gesture paves the way for miracles. In these simple exchanges we love each other closer to wholeness, closer to God. If you need less subtle ways to spread love this holiday season there are a myriad of opportunities locally. If you haven't yet please contribute to our local food pantries or donate toys to those in need. Our seniors at Nathaniel Witherell or Parsonage Cottage would enjoy a visit or a card. Your actions are a channel for those hoping for support and reminds others we are truly blessed by one another's loving actions. St. Paul reminds us of these same themes in 1 Corinthians 13:13: So faith, hope, and love remain, these three; and the greatest of these is love. My wish for you as you transform the world around you into the magic of the season is that you also begin to feel a subtle and fulfilling connection to your faith. May a quick trip down the Avenue bathed in the Christmas lights be the impetus reminding you our world is truly astounding. Give away some hope and faith allowing your love to make the world shine a little brighter as we await the biggest blessing of all. Kate Noonan Pastoral Associate St. Ignatius Loyola NYC Retreat master YDS '18

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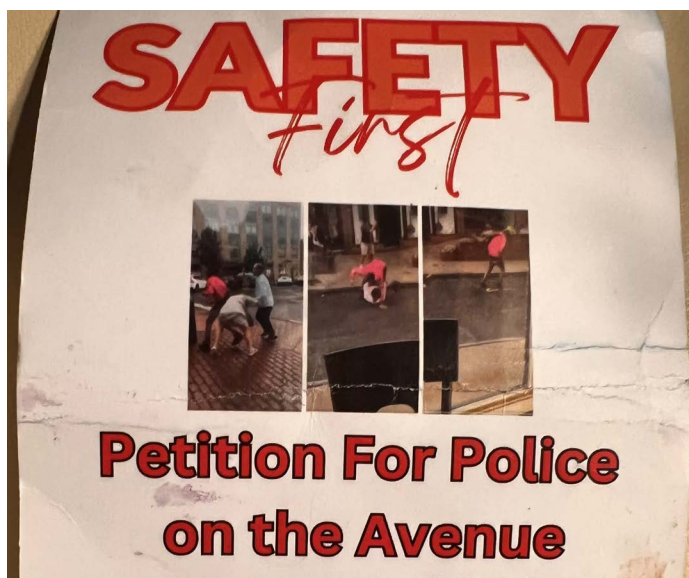
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Petition Seeks to Bring Police back to Avenue Intersections



Petition circulated on Greenwich Avenue

BY STEPHEN JANIS

Along the seasonally festive avenue crowded with holiday shoppers this past weekend, a group of residents urged passersby to sign a petition to bring back something absent for 4 years: police officers directing traffic.

The petitioners, who describe themselves as “Safety First” advocates, told The Sentinel they had garnered 500 signatures Sunday afternoon.

The group wants to restore the uniquely Greenwich tradition of stationing officers at several of the town’s busiest intersections to guide traffic. The policy was abandoned in 2020.

But the practice of having officers directing pedestrians and sometimes remonstrating a stray motorist or hurried shopper who failed to heed their instructions remains popular, they argued.

“We’ve been very busy,” said one of the organizers.

The petitioners are not alone in hoping officials will bring back officers to the town’s main thoroughfare. Longtime business owners said the officers added an element of community and character to the avenue which has been missing.

But it’s not clear that town leaders are prepared to restore police officers to the traffic posts.

Police Chief Jim Heavey told The Sentinel removing officers from traffic duty was the result of staffing challenges and a successful shift in policing strategies.

Although he has statistics to back it up, the emotional issue is firmly rooted in those who want the officers back.

“It’s ridiculous you can’t cross the street and people don’t feel secure walking around with their nice things,” said Michale Pappa, owner of Michelangelo’s, a popular gift shop that has been serving residents for 45 years.

“I would say 90 percent if not 100 percent of my customers want them back.”

Margo O’Brien, Chief Operating Officer of Diane’s Books, another local retailer that has been on the avenue for decades, says she worries about her 85-year-old mother Diane. The business’s namesake and owner walks to work and often encounters aggressive drivers.

“I’ve walked to the store with her and people screech to a halt,” she said, describing how motorists often ignore the crosswalks since officers departed.

“I miss that old friendly

feeling in Greenwich of having somebody there, a public servant,” she added.

Part of the issue residents and business owners say, is the often confusing and sometimes precarious balancing act between vehicle traffic and pedestrians. Crosswalks have been narrowed to slow motorists, town officials say, but heavy traffic on the Avenue means drivers can be aggressive.

“There are near misses everyday, they never stop at the stop signs,” said a woman who answered the phone at a business adjacent to a crosswalk who did not wish to be identified.

“I am so frightened for the people walking down the street.”

Chief Heavey went on to explain that the reallocation of officers allowed the department to deploy officers to a specialized patrol unit that targets retail crime.

“Instead of having officers stand in a white circle 8 hours a day, we have a bike unit that can respond downtown when needed,” Heavey explained.

The unit, known as ORCA or Organized Criminal Retail Association, includes half a dozen officers who ride electric bikes and patrol downtown. The strategy shift allows for a more proactive approach to curbing downtown crime. It has led to multiple arrests for shoplifting, identity theft, and fraudulent returns.

“It’s just not a practical thing to have an officer stand in the circle and not be able to leave when he or she could address real emergencies,” Heavey added.

Heavey says ORCA has made roughly 125 arrests this year, including thwarting a shoplifting ring that tried to obtain cash by returning large amounts of stolen merchandise to a popular local retailer.

He attributes this success to having officers focused on responding to crimes in progress and working more closely with retailers.

“It’s a better use of the resources.”

But the filers handed out on the avenue disagreed. They touted an increase in crime and a threat to pedestrian safety since the officers were taken off traffic duty.

“The absence of stationary police on the Avenue has increased shoplifting, and burglaries, and are forcing merchants to hire costly private security,” the flier proclaimed.

The Greatest Capitalist Who Ever Lived: Tom Watson Jr. and His Epic Story

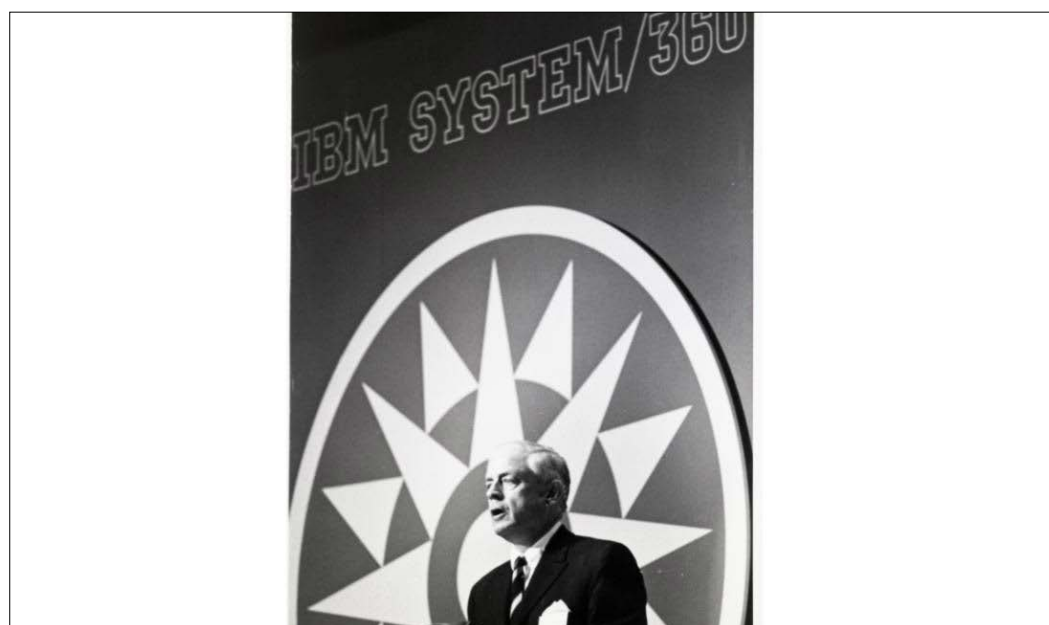
BY JIM DEAN

The Retired Men’s Association lecture on December 11 was by Marc Wortman and was titled “The Greatest Capitalist Who Ever Lived: Tom Watson Jr. and the Epic Story of How He Created the Digital Age.” Watson was a transformative figure in American business history, earning the title of “the greatest capitalist who ever lived” from Fortune magazine. Born in 1914, the same year his father, Thomas Watson Sr., took over a struggling conglomerate that would eventually become International Business Machines (IBM), Watson Jr.’s path to leadership was far from straightforward.

Wortman co-authored his biography of Watson Jr. with Ralph Watson McElvenny, Watson Jr.’s eldest grandson. Their goal was to preserve Watson’s legacy beyond the association with IBM’s Jeopardy-playing computer and to examine the leadership lessons that could be learned from his career.

As a young man, Watson Jr. rebelled against his father’s expectations and the prospect of joining IBM. He was a self-described ne’er-do-well, troublemaker, and juvenile delinquent, managing to get expelled from three prep schools despite his father’s wealth and influence. His antics included pouring skunk oil into a school furnace, rendering the building uninhabitable.

Meanwhile Watson Sr. built IBM into a successful company centered around electromechanical tabulators and sorters - sophisticated machines that processed data using punch cards. These devices proved invaluable for compiling censuses, managing inventories, and handling business data. The creation of the Social Security system in 1935 catapulted IBM to new heights, as its machines were perfectly suited for managing the vast amounts of employee income and withholding information. During World War II, IBM’s tabulators played a crucial role in military operations, tracking munitions, casualties, and performing complex calculations for navigation. The machines’ ability to rapidly process data



Thomas J. Watson, Jr. announcing the debut of the IBM System/360 computer.

Watson Jr.’s story is not just about business success, it’s about personal transformation and the ability to overcome a difficult relationship with a domineering father.

made them indispensable on the battlefield and foreshadowed their importance in the postwar business world.

Despite his earlier resistance, Watson Jr. eventually joined IBM and, through a series of critical decisions, transformed it into the dominant technology company of the 1960s and beyond. This presentation focused on four key decision points that showcase Watson Jr.’s exceptional leadership and decision-making skills.

Watson Jr.’s impact extended beyond the business world. He was instrumental in shaping the modern Brown University and lived his entire life in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he raised six children.

Watson Jr.’s story is not just about business success, it’s about personal transformation and the ability to overcome a difficult relationship with a domineering father. Thomas Watson Sr. was a formidable figure, a personality cult leader at IBM with a vast ego and tremendous optimism about the company’s future. He groomed his sons to take over the business, often in ways that today might seem overbearing, such as having the 12-year-old Watson Jr. address IBM’s adult sales force. The contrast between Watson Jr.’s early rebelliousness and his later business acumen makes his story particularly compelling. It suggests that even those who struggle in their youth can, with the right opportunities and personal

growth, become exceptional leaders.

Watson Jr. pushed for electronic calculators while his father said no more than five computers will ever be sold. In 1956, at age 41, Watson Jr became the CEO and within three months his father passed away. Junior reorganized IBM utilizing and involving the employees of IBM versus his father’s very dominating style. In 1961, he again made changes as his computers became more in demand. In 1964 he made the huge decision that IBM must produce an IBM computer that was compatible with a variety of printers, peripherals, software, etc. and work for all industries. This was the birth of the IBM System/360. It almost bankrupted the company, costing five billion dollars which would be 150 billion in today’s dollars. It took a few years to get off the ground, but became a tremendous success.

Watson Sr. had wanted his younger son Dick to be a leader in the business. Eventually, Watson Jr. had to make a decision. His beloved brother Dick was excellent as a salesman but was not effective as the head of engineering and manufacturing. Junior had to decide between his brother and IBM. He chose IBM and fired his brother, which was extremely difficult. T. Vincent Learson was given the job and was the driving force in the development of the highly successful IBM System/360, which was said to be one of the top three products of all time behind

the Model T car and the Boeing 707 jet.

Watson Jr.’s leadership coincided with a pivotal moment in technological history - the transition from mechanical to electronic computing. His ability to guide IBM through this seismic shift was crucial to the company’s dominance in the emerging computer industry. This transition laid the groundwork for the digital age we now inhabit, making Watson Jr.’s story not just a tale of personal and business success, but a key chapter in the history of modern technology.

The talk can be viewed by going to the RMA website at <https://greenwichrma.org>, and clicking on “Speakers.”

The RMA’s upcoming presentation, “From Intuition to Insight: A Journey in Street Photography” by Jean-Marc Bara, is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Please note that this and all future RMA presentations will be held at Christ Church Greenwich, 254 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, in Parish Hall.

This presentation will feature a curated selection of Jean-Marc Bara’s street photography, exploring the question, “Why do I like this photo?” Through this lens, he will discuss the relationship between a photographer’s personality and visual style, the ways our brains interpret images, and practical tips for those curious about trying this rewarding hobby. Designed to engage both the eyes



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COLUMN

By JUSTIN CRISP

My cousin Benji and his wife, Erika, had their first child when I was sixteen years old. My parents, my sister, and I went to the hospital to see them, along with basically every other member of my extended family. We all packed into the hospital room to see this little kid, named Sawyer. I had never held a baby before, so when it came my turn, I asked for instructions. Someone responded, "Hold him like a football!" Readers should know: I was never much of an athlete. I played video games, the piano, and Henry Higgins in the school musical—not football. So when I picked Sawyer up, I extended my arms straight ahead, parallel with the ground. There were audible gasps, and, fortunately, someone ran up behind the baby and grabbed his head as it fell limp at his neck. "But this is how I would hold a football!" I exclaimed. The room boomed with laughter.

When we quieted down, my mom helped to nestle baby Sawyer in the crook of my arm, and

Sawyer, unfazed, just looked up at me, with that look babies have. I was transfixed. And then he went to sleep. I may not have known what to do with this little baby, but he knew exactly what to do with me.

Next week, millions of Christians will make the ritual journey to meet another little baby, the one in whom shepherds and angels said God dwelt: Jesus. You know the story, whether from the Bible or a Christmas pageant or Linus in A Charlie Brown Christmas. Mary and Joseph traveled to Joseph's ancestral town of Bethlehem to be enrolled for a census called by Caesar Augustus. Mary, pregnant, gave birth while they're there. It's likely they were staying with some of Joseph's relatives. (The Greek word we translate "inn," as in "there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7), can mean "guestroom.") The likely meaning of this famous verse is that there was no room in the guestroom in Joseph's relatives' house, presumably because other family members had also come to

Nazareth for the census, and that's how Mary and Joseph ended up bunking with the animals.)

Angels appeared to shepherds living nearby and announced to them that the Messiah—whom God promised would make good all his promises to his people—had been born in Bethlehem: "a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). And those shepherds went and crowded into an already crowded house, and they told Mary and Joseph what the angels told them. "And all who heard it," Joseph's relatives presumably among them, "were amazed at what the shepherds told them" (Luke 2:18).

The original Greek for "amazed" really means that their minds were blown—like the little emoji on our phones that lobs off the cranium above the eyebrows and replaces it with a mushroom cloud. No wonder. The shepherds said this little baby was the Savior of the world. They thought this little 7 pounds, 8 ounces bundle of fat and skin and burps and gurgles was the Lord of the heaven and earth, the

one who said "Let there be light" in Genesis 1, and of whom the Psalmist says, "Clouds and thick darkness surround him" (Psalm 97:2).

The God of the universe made himself a little baby. That's the claim. And it's crazy. Even they thought so. "The minds of everyone who heard it were blown," it says—everyone's except Mary's. "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19).

It's become somewhat fashionable among Biblical scholars to dismiss the stories of Jesus' birth in the gospels of Matthew and Luke as myths. They point out that the Matthew and Luke date the events to different periods; that Luke says Joseph and Mary are originally from Nazareth, but Matthew says they're originally from Bethlehem; that the earliest gospel, Mark, doesn't include any story of Jesus' birth; and so on. And all that's true. The accounts don't line up perfectly. And they make outrageous claims about angels and saviors.

But I'm enamored of an idea

had by a relatively obscure German New Testament scholar named Joachim Gnika. What if these stories, with all their contradictions and hazy memories, were family tradition?

What if these stories were what Mary and Joseph passed on, and passed down, about how Jesus' birth took place? What if Mary really did treasure all those words and ponder them in her heart? What if she pondered them when she saw her little baby grow up and turn water into wine? What if she pondered them when she heard about him walking on water, and healing the paralytic? What if she pondered them when she heard he'd been arrested? What if she pondered them when she saw him die? What if she pondered them when his friends came and found her and told her they'd seen him alive? What if she pondered them when they told her he'd gone again to be with someone he called "Father"? What if she pondered them as she lay dying, hoping to see him again? What if she pondered them to the end, and after she

died, her son's friends thought it appropriate to write them down and make them public? What if they thought it was right to give them to us to do with them the same as Mary did: to treasure them and ponder them in our hearts?

Don't worry if you have questions about it all. Everyone else did too. But the little baby whose story we recount wants to change your life. This Christmas, his story will once again be handed to you. And it doesn't matter if you don't know what to do with him. He knows exactly what to do with you.

The Reverend Dr. Justin E. Crisp is a husband, dad, music lover, and priest. He serves as the priest in charge of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and lives with his wife, Jewelle, their pug, Val, and (soon!) their daughter, Beatrice, on the St. Barnabas hilltop in backcountry. He also teaches Anglican history and theology at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

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www.htchurch.com

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BAPTIST

First Baptist Church
10 Northfield St., 203-869-7988
www.firstbaptistgreenwich.com

Sunday Servings: 11:30am, Facebook Live or for Devotion: 11-11:25am (Dial in 701-802-5355, Access code 360922).

Greenwich Baptist Church

10 Indian Rock Ln; 203-869-2807
www.greenwichbaptist.org

Worship: Sun, 11am (in person and online through Facebook & YouTube). Children Sunday School: 9:30am, ages 9-14y. Adult Bible Study: Sun, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall. Prayer Gathering: Wed, 7pm, Pastor's Office or virtual on Google Meets.

CATHOLIC

Sacred Heart Church
95 Henry St.; 203-531-8730
www.sacredheartgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Fri, 7am (in the Chapel); Saturday Vigil, 4pm (in Church); Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confessions: Sat, 3-3:30pm or by appointment. Divine Mercy Prayer Group: Wed, 7-9pm. Prayer Group: Thu, 4-5pm, in the Chapel, 38 Gold St, All are welcome. Ministry to the Homebound: if you, or someone you know, is homebound and would like a priest visit you, call the Rectory at 203-531-8730. Stations of the Cross: All Fridays during Lent, 6:30pm, in the Church, All are welcome. *Christmas Eve Masses - Dec. 24: 4pm, in the Church [Livestream] & 10pm, in the Church. Christmas Day Masses: 7:30 & 10am, in the Church. New Year's Eve Celebration Vigil Mass - Dec. 31: 5:30pm, in the Church. New Year's Day Masses - Jan. 1: 9am & 12:15pm, in the Church.*

St. Catherine of Siena & St. Agnes
4 Riverside Ave; 203-637-3661
www.stc-sta.org

* All Masses at St. Catherine of Siena Church are in-person and livestreamed (View our Livestream and recordings here: <https://events.locallive.tv/worship/stc-sta>)

Masses: Saturday, 3-4pm - Confessions (Specific dates confirmed weekly in bulletin.) Vigil Mass, 5pm. Sunday: 7:30am, 9am (Family Mass), 10:30am (Traditional Mass), 5pm (Teen Mass), all at St. Catherine's Church). Masses in other Languages: French Mass - 2nd Sunday of the month, 11am. Italian Mass - 3rd Sunday of the month, both at St. Catherine's Chapel. Spanish Mass, 6:30pm, St. Catherine's Church. Daily/Weekdays: Mon, Tue, Thu & Friday: 7am - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Church; 5:15pm - Daily Mass, St. Catherine's Chapel. Tuesdays: Rosary, 6pm, St. Catherine's Chapel. Wednesdays: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30am-4pm, St. Catherine's Church. Ongoing: Food & Essentials Drive for Neighbor to Neighbor (there will be a car or SUV with an open trunk in the parking lot across from St. Catherine's church on Tuesdays, 9-11am. Join Music Ministries for choir rehearsals - Traditional, Contemporary, Teen, Cherub, Family Mass Choir - contact Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides at music.director@stc-sta.org with questions. Walking with Purpose: Thursdays, through March 28, 10-11:30am (off Feb. 15 & March 14), stc-sta.org/walking-with-purpose. New Day Bereavement: starts March 5 (There's no cost and you need not be a member of the Parish of St. Catherine and St. Agnes or even Catholic, you just need to be registered. If inter ested, please contact Parish Partners at (203-637-3661, ext. 375). *Christmas Eve Masses - Dec. 24: FAMILY VIGIL MASS, 5PM, (ST. CATH.); VIGIL MASS, 5PM, (ST. AGNES CHAPEL & ST. CATH. CAMPUS); VIGIL MASS, 5PM, (LUCEY PARISH HALL);*

VIGIL MASS IN SPANISH, 5PM, (GYMNASIUM); SOLEMN MASS, 9PM, (ST. CATH.). CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - DEC. 25: 7:30, 9 & 10:30AM, (ST. CATH.). MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY: DEC. 31, 5:15PM & JAN. 1, 12:10PM, (ST. CATH.).

St. Mary Church
178 Greenwich Ave.; 203-869-9393
www.stmarygreenwich.org

Public Mass: Sun: 9, 10:30am, 12:15 & 5:15pm. Sat Vigils: 4 & 7pm (Spanish). Daily: Mon-Fri, 12:05pm (Church doors will open from 10am-3pm). Confessions (English): Tue: 7-8pm; Sat: 3-3:45pm. Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Fri of the month: 12:30-5pm. *Christmas Eve Masses - Dec. 24: Youth and Cherub Choirs, 4pm, in the Church; Organ and Cantor, 4pm, in the Chapel; Spanish Mass, 5pm, St. Catherine; Organ and Cantor, 5:30pm, in the Church; Solemn Vigil, 10pm. CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - DEC. 25: No Music, 9am; Solemn with Choir, 10:30am; With Organ and Cantor, 12:15pm. New Year's Eve Masses - Dec 31: Daily Mass, 12:05pm; Vigil for Solemnity of Mary, 5:30pm. Solemnity of Mary - Jan. 1, 2025: Holy Day of Obligation, 12:05pm.*

St. Michael the Archangel
469 North St.; 203-869-5421
www.stmichaelgreenwich.com

Mass: Mon-Fri: 7:30 & 9am. Sat: 9am & 5pm. Sun: 7:30, 8:30, 9:45am, 12 & 5pm. Confession: Sat: 4:15-4:45pm; Wed: 9:30-11am & 6:30-8pm. Eucharistic Adoration: Wed, 9:30am-8pm. New Day Bereavement Program: through Nov. 17, Thu, 7-8:30pm & through Nov. 30 (skipping Nov. 23), Wed, 4-5:30pm, 203-869-5421. *Manger Set Up/Tree Lighting: Saturday, Dec. 21, 6:15pm. Pageant/Nativity Mass: Sunday, Dec. 22, 9:45am. Christmas Eve Masses - Dec. 24: 4pm, 5pm (St. Timothy), 6pm & 9pm. CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - DEC. 25: 8AM, 10AM & 12PM. MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY: DEC. 31, 5:15PM.*

St. Timothy Chapel
1034 North St.; 203-869-5421

Mass: Sat: 4pm (Vigil Mass). Sun: 11am. *Christmas Eve Mass - Dec. 24: 5pm.*

St. Paul Church
84 Sherwood Ave.; 203-531-8741
www.stpaulgreenwich.org

Mass: Mon-Thu: 9am; Sat: 4pm (Vigil); Sun: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am. Confession: Sat, 3-3:45pm. Mass on Holy Days: Vigil: 5:30pm, 9am & 12:15pm. Visit the website for information regarding the Bereavement Group (twice monthly) and weekly volunteer opportunities at the Don Bosco Kitchen and Food Pantry with the St. Paul Mercy Volunteers. All masses are available via livestream through the website. Evenings For Married Couples: 1st Thurs of every month, 7:30pm. *Christmas Eve - Dec. 24: Christmas Carol concert, 3pm; Mass, 4pm & 10pm. Nativity of Our Lord Masses - Dec. 25: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30am.*

St. Roch Church
10 St. Roch Ave; 203-869-4176
www.strochchurch.com

Mass: (Reservations and/or for viewing via live streaming): Mon-Fri: 7:30pm; Sat: 5pm; Sun: 7:30am (Concelebrated for Previously Scheduled 9:30am Mass Intentions), 10:30am, 12pm (Spanish). Mass Intentions: consult the bulletin for time. *Christmas Eve Masses - Dec. 24: 4pm (Bilingual). Christmas Day Masses - Dec. 25: 7:30am, 10:30am & 12pm.*

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist
11 Park Pl; 203-869-1555
christiansciencect.org/greenwich

Sundays: 10:30am. Sunday School: for students up to 20yrs, 10:30am, Wed. 7:30, testimonies of healing - call in for all services 203-680-9095 code 520520. Reading Room, 333 Greenwich Ave. 203-869-2503, M-F, 11-3, some Saturdays. Bibles and children's books for sale.

COMMUNITY

First Church of Round Hill
464 Round Hill Rd; 203-629-3876
www.firstchurchofroundhill.com

In-person worship: Sundays, 10am. *Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols - Dec. 24, 5:30pm.*

Round Hill Community Church
395 Round Hill Rd; 203-869-1091
www.roundhillcommunitychurch.org

Weekly Sunday Worship services in the Sanctuary at 10am or online at roundhillcommunitychurch.org anytime. Children's Worship (grades K-5) meets during the 10 am service. Please call the Church Office or visit the website for the most up-to-date information, events, and schedules. Tools for Aging Well, 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 11am-12pm, Sanctuary. *Round Hill Art & Craft Studio: Mondays, 1-4pm. Christmas Pageant: Dec 15, 10am. Christmas Eve Worship - Dec. 24: 4pm.*

CONGREGATIONAL

The First Congregational Church
108 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-1791
www.fcc.org

Worship: In-Person & Virtual: Sundays, 10am. Live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook, and broadcast on WGCH (1490 AM). Connect during the week: Friday: Friday Email Blast (sign up by calling the church office); Church school before worship most Sundays, 9am for preschoolers through grade 6. Online programming available via Zoom. A joyful community diverse in spiritual backgrounds and beliefs. *Christmas Eve Services - Dec. 24: Children's Service, 10am; Family Service, 3pm; Community Candlelight Carol Sing, 5pm; Festival Candlelight Carol Sing, 6pm; Candlelight Service with Communion, 9pm.*

North Greenwich Congregational
606 Riversville Rd; 203-869-7763
(Instagram photos and videos @ [north_greenwich_church](https://www.instagram.com/north_greenwich_church))

Worship Service: Sun, 10:30am, in person.

Second Congregational Church
139 E Putnam Ave; 203-869-9311
www.2cc.org

Sunday worship: 8:30 & 10:30am. Children's Chapel during worship 10:30am worship. *Teddy Bear Story Hour at Coffee for Good: Saturday, Dec. 21, 8am. Christmas Eve Worship: Tuesday, Dec. 24: Family Service, 3:30pm; Festival Service, 6:30pm & Candlelight Service, 11pm.*

EPISCOPAL

Anglican Church of the Advent
606 Riversville Rd; 203-861-2432
facebook.com/greenwichanglican

Service: Sun, 9am, Holy Eucharist. Sunday School during academic year.

Christ Church Greenwich
254 E. Putnam Ave; 203-869-6600
www.christchurchgreenwich.org

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 8am, In-person only, Chapel. Messy Church Eucharist: every Sun, 9am, In-person only, Parish Hall. Holy Eucharist: 10am, In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary, Children's Chapel during the service. Choral Evensong or Sung Compline: In-person or livestream, 5pm. Wednesdays: Preach and Teach Eucharist (new time for this midweek service), 12:15pm. In-person only Chapel. Thursdays: Choral Evensong, 6:30pm. In-person or livestream, Main Sanctuary. *Youth Confirmation: Sundays, Sept. 15 - June 7, 11:15am-12:15pm. The Disciples of Christ in Community: Tuesdays, Sept. 17 - Nov. 19, 7-8:30pm. Sunday, Dec. 22: Worship, 8am; Annual Christmas Nativity Pageant, 10am; Pageant Reception, 11am; Carols by Candlelight, 5pm. Christmas Eve - Dec. 24: Young Family Holy Eucharist, 12pm; Family Holy Eucharist, 3pm; Holy Eucharist II, 5pm; Alumni Choir Prelude, 9:30pm; Holy Eucharist I, 10pm. Christmas Day - Dec. 25: Holy Eucharist II, 11am.*

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
954 Lake Ave.; 203-661-5526
www.stbarnabasgreenwich.org

Holy Eucharist: Sundays, 10am (in person & livestreamed). *Join us as we celebrate all the new beginnings brought by the fall in the company of one another and of our Lord. Every Sunday features joyful preaching by our clergy, Father Justin and Rev. Phoebe, beautiful music by our director of music, Marnus Greyling, and the St. Barnabas Choir, and a warm welcome for kids and parents.*

Our exciting Sunday School programs for kids take place every Sunday during the 10am service: Children's Church for kids 4-8 years old, and YC (Youth Church) for those 9+. Children are also always welcome in church, and childcare is provided all morning in our nursery. Come kick off your fall in faith. Visit us in person, on our website, and on social media (Instagram: @st.barnabasgreenwich). Small church feel - Big church experience.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
200 Riverside Ave.; 203-637-2447
www.stpaulsriverside.org

Worship: Sundays, 10:15am (in person and streaming). Coffee hour immediately following worship service in Selleck Hall. Sunday School (including frolic Fatih class for toddlers 2+) in the Children's Chapel downstairs - drop-off starts at 10am. Ongoing: Neighbor-to-Neighbor food drive box by office door. Pick-up is every Thursday morning. *Christmas Eve - Dec. 24: Pageant, 3:30pm; Candlelight Service - Music Prelude, 6pm, Service, 6:30pm. Christmas Day - Dec. 25: Service, 10am. Sunday, Dec. 29: Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:15am.*

St. Saviour's Episcopal Church
350 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-2262
www.saintsaviours.org

In-person Service: Sundays, 10am.

JEWISH

Chabad Lubavitch of Greenwich
75 Mason St.; 203-629-9059
www.chabadgreenwich.org

Please visit our website for details on Shabbat services, classes, programs and more. Judaism 101 for Moms: Thursdays, 9:20am. Kabbala & Challah: Thursdays, 9:15am, \$20 p/class.

Congregation Shir Ami

One W. Putnam Ave; 203-274-5376
www.congregationshiram.org

All services, programs and celebrations are available online via Zoom. Kabbalat Shabbat: Fridays, 7-8:30pm, First Presbyterian Church. Soul Spa - Torah Study: Saturdays, 10-11:30am, on Zoom. *Chanukah Live: Friday, Dec. 27, 6pm, Round Hill Community Church.*

Greenwich Reform Synagogue
92 Orchard St.; 203-629-0018
www.grs.org

Join Rabbi Gerson and Cantor Rubin every Friday, 6pm for Shabbat Services, and once a month for Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm. All in person services are also live streamed on Zoom. *Pre-Chanukah Tot & Family Dinner & Services: Friday, Dec. 20, 5:15pm, RSVP for dinner by calling GRS at 203-629-0018 or emailing Info@GRS.org.*

Temple Shalom

300 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-7191
www.templeshalom.com

Services - In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am. *Itsy Bitsy Playgroup: Fall Session: Fridays, Sept. 6-Nov. 22, 9:15am. Toy Drive: through Dec. 31. Shop Chanukah Essentials Through the Sisterhood Gift Shop: Monday, Dec. 23, 11am-2pm.*

LUTHERAN

St. Paul Lutheran Church
286 Delavan Ave.; 203-531-8466
www.firstpaul.com

Sunday Divine Service: 9am. Sunday Bible Study: 10:30am. Wednesday Dinner: 5:30pm. Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30pm.

METHODIST

Diamond Hill United Methodist
521 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-2395
www.diamondhillumc.com

In-person & Online Worship Service every Sunday, 10am, followed by a time of Fellowship. Wednesday Noonday Prayer & Wednesday Evening Bible Study. (Details at diamondhill.com).

First United Methodist Church
59 E. Putnam Ave.; 203-629-9584
www.fumcgreenwich.com

Sunday Worship, 9:30am (except the last Sunday of the month at 10:30am). Virtual Daily Gathering: Mon-Fri, 3pm,

Zoom. Talking with Your Hands: Mon, 3pm. Reading this World as a Christian: Tue, 3pm. Back to Rock - music with Mr. Bruce: Tue, 3pm, via Zoom. Reading the Shape of Scripture: Wed, 3pm, via Zoom. Spring Bible Study: Thu, 3pm, via Zoom. Tea & Talk: Fri 3pm, via Zoom.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
42 Lake Ave.; 203-661-3099

Worship via teleconference: Sun, 11am and until further notice (Dial-in number: 425-436-6380, Access code: 612220).

NONDENOMINATIONAL

Dineletown Community Church
376 Stanwich Rd., at Barnstable Lane

Sunday Service: 10:30am. Philip Antinone - Chaplain.

Revive Church
90 Harding Rd., Old Greenwich (Old Greenwich Civic Center)
www.myrevive.org

Worship Service: Sun, 10am, Holiday Inn 980 Hope St, Stamford. Online Sermons available on Facebook (facebook.com/myrevivechurchgreenwich) and on Youtube. All groups are online. Direct any prayer needs to the prayer chain at 203-536-2686 or revivecfm@gmail.com.

Stanwich Church

202 Taconic Rd.; 203-661-4420
www.stanwichchurch.org

Sunday Morning Worship Service: 9am & 10:45am. *Kids Ministry for grades 5 and under, and Student Ministry for grades 6 and above, are offered. Live stream and recorded media are available at stanwichchurch.org. We'd love to meet you here! Christmas Eve Services - Dec. 24: 3, 5 & 7pm. Join us for a traditional Lessons and Carols candlelight service with the whole family. Nursery care is available for ages 4 and under at all services. The 5pm service will be live streamed.*

Center for Spiritual Development, NSAC

293 Sound Beach Ave; 203-637-4615
www.Center4SpiritualDev.org

Sunday Service (hybrid: in-person & virtually on zoom): 7pm. Virtual Children's Lyceum (ages 5-14): 3rd Sunday of the month, 10-10:40am. Healing Service: 3rd Thursday of the month, 7-7:30pm. (Email Albertsonpcc@gmail.com for registration and Zoom Links).

Trinity Church

5 River Rd.; 203-618-0808
www.trinitychurch.life

In-Person Services: Sun., 9:45am, Hyatt Regency Greenwich, 1800 E. Putnam Ave., Old Greenwich; 10am, Trinity Westchester, 2111 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont, NY; 11am, Saxe Middle School, New Canaan. *Trinity Kids Greenwich - Christmas Choir: through Dec. 24. Blood Drive: Friday, Jan. 3, 8am-1pm.*

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church
1 W. Putnam Ave.; 203-869-8686
www.fpcg.org

Worship: Sundays, 10am. *Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 22.*

Grace Church of Greenwich
89 Maple Ave.
203-861-7555
www.gracechurchgreenwich.com

Worship: Sundays, 8:45am, 10:45am & 4:30pm, Woman's Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Ave. Bible Studies and Sunday School meet in person. All are welcome. *Lessons & Carols Service: Sunday, Dec. 22, 8:45 & 10:45am. Christmas Eve Services - Dec. 24: 3 & 4:30pm.*

Living Hope Community Church
38 West End Ave; 203-637-3669
www.LivingHopect.org



Christ Church Greenwich

254 East Putnam Ave., Greenwich
In-person or livestream on our website
christchurchgreenwich.org



• Sunday, Dec. 22

- 8am Worship Service (The Chapel)
(No Messy Church today)
- 10am Annual Christmas Nativity Pageant and Holy Eucharist
- 11am Pageant Reception (Parish Hall)
- 5pm Carols by Candlelight
Sung by the combined choirs of Christ Church Greenwich
Wine & Cheese Reception to follow in the Parish Hall

• Christmas Eve

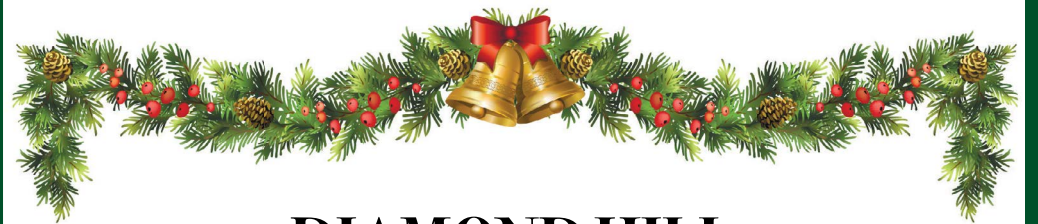
Tuesday, Dec 24

- 12pm Young Family Holy Eucharist
- 3pm Family Holy Eucharist
Sung by the St. Cecilia Choir of Girls and the Christ Church Boys Choir
- 5 pm Holy Eucharist II
Sung by the Christ Church Singers
- 9:30pm Alumni Choir Prelude
- 10pm Holy Eucharist I
Sung by the Alumni Choir
Champagne Reception to follow

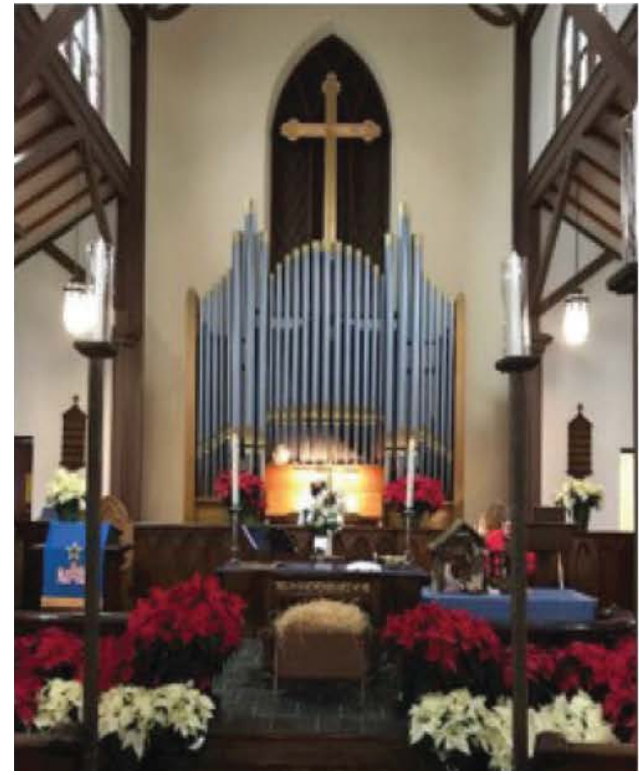
• Christmas Day

Wednesday, Dec 25

- 11:00 am Holy Eucharist II
Celebrant & Preacher Rev. Tim Hamlin
Music Sung by Richard Lippold



DIAMOND HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”
Romans 15:1

**Pre-Christmas Service
on December 22nd
at Noon**

Please worship with us.



diamondhillumc.com



CHRISTMAS EVE

Services

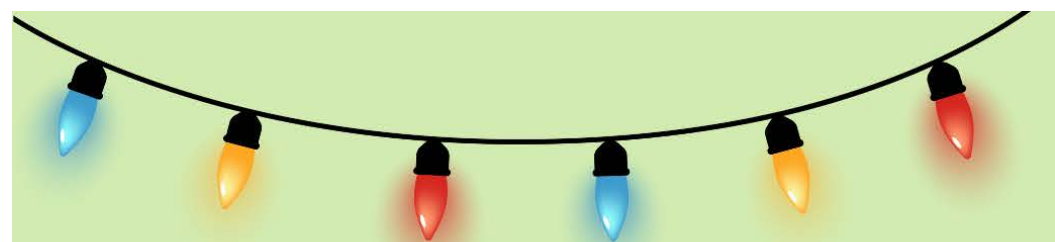


DEC 24TH 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM

**Unwrap the
Christian faith
together**

Alpha Begins Wednesday January 8th 2025 | 7 PM - 9 PM
Wondering if there's more at the bottom of the stocking?

**Stanwich
CHURCH**
202 TACONIC RD.
GREENWICH, CT
stanwichchurch.org

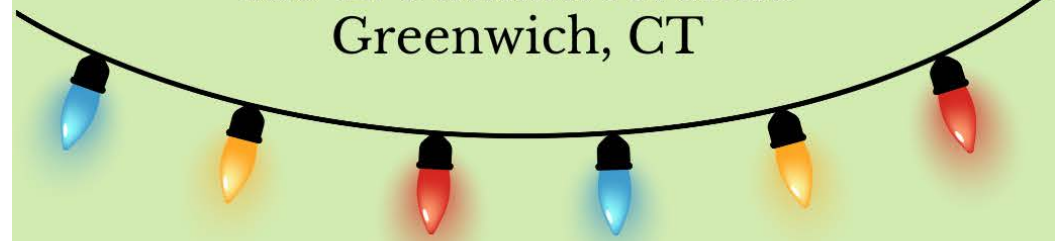


Christmas Eve at Second Congregational Church

**Family Service at 3:30 p.m.
Festival Service at 6:30 p.m.
Candelight Worship
at 11:00 p.m.**

2CC.ORG

**SECOND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF GREENWICH**
139 E. Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

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 Brenda • Ron
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 June • Judy • Amy • Tina
 Maria R. • Lisa • Ryan • Maria B.
 Anthony C. • Alexa • Steven M. • Pam
 Paulette • Will • Damiano • Jack
 Jamie • Mike • Karina • Julio
 Emma • Miranda • Steven V. • Jose
 Patricia E. • Nick A. • Victoria • Ayisha
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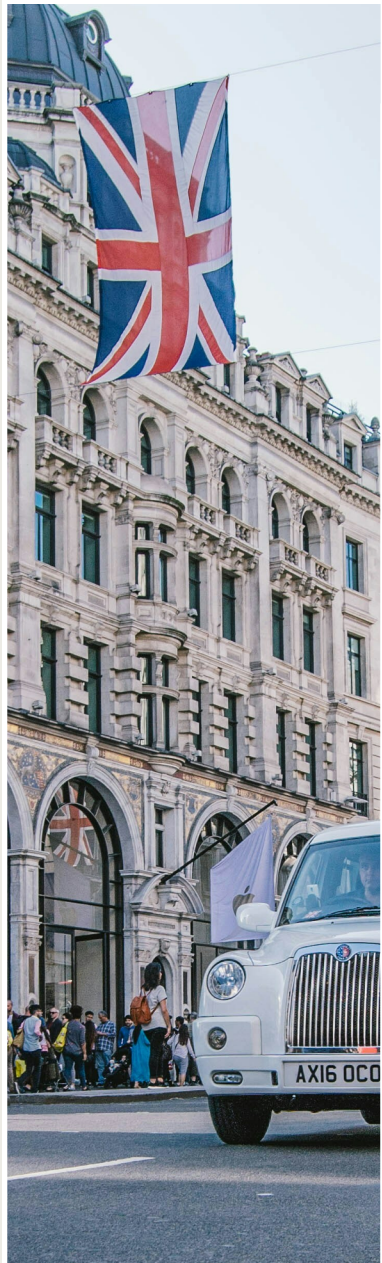
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1. Data based on closed and recorded buyer and/or seller transaction sides of homes sold for \$1 million or more as reported by affiliates of the U.S. Coldwell Banker franchise system for the calendar year of 2023. USD\$. 2. As of 12/31/2023. 3. Ace Metrix Scores 2012-2023, Real Estate Category. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2024 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.

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Greenwich High Football Champs Greenwich High football team defeats West Haven, 14-0, to capture the CIAC Class LL Tournament championship



Members of the Greenwich High School varsity football team gather around the trophy after the team captured the CIAC Class LL championship by defeating West Haven, 14-0, in the title game. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.

BY DAVID FIERRO

The old sports adage, "defense wins championships," certainly held true for the Greenwich High School football team, which registered two straight shutouts and allowed only six points in three postseason games on its journey to capturing what it had been chasing all season – the CIAC Class LL Tournament championship.

Oh yes, a productive running game also helped the cause and the Cardinals amassed plenty of yards on the ground in Saturday's Class LL final against West Haven, thanks to hard-running senior quarterback M.J. D'Angelo, who spent the evening at Central Connecticut State's Arute Field, running around, away and through the Blue Devils' defense.

Another dominant defensive effort and D'Angelo's running keyed third-seeded Greenwich's 14-0 victory over fifth-seeded West Haven in the title game of the Class LL Tournament before a big crowd at frigid Arute Field. The win capped an 11-2 season for the Cardinals and gave them their second state championship in three seasons.

Greenwich also won the Class LL title in 2022, defeating Fairfield Prep in the final and in 2018 GHS topped New Canaan for the state championship, so that's three state titles in seven seasons for the Cards.

Coached by Anthony Morello, the Cardinals avenged one of their two losses of the season when they shut out Staples, also by a 14-0 score, in the semifinal-round of the Class LL playoffs. Greenwich's other regular season loss came when it was upset by Wilton, but Morello's squad mostly excelled since that setback.

"All I kept hearing all season since

the midway point was Wilton this and Wilton that, Greenwich lost to Wilton and man oh man, what are people saying now about this team?" Morello said. "It just goes to show football is a funny game and one loss should not define you. Especially in the regular season."

"It's the playoffs that define you and this team showed that when their backs were against the wall and it was do-or-die, they decided to do and they did it together as a team," Morello continued. "A total team win this entire playoff run and today was no exception."

On a cold night suitable for running the football, D'Angelo anchored Greenwich's ground attack. The senior quad-captain ran the ball effectively throughout the season, but was called upon to do even more since junior running back Hector Lopez, the Cardinals' leading rusher with more than 1,200 yards during the squad's 2024 campaign, left Saturdays' state title game with a high ankle sprain with 2:47 left in the first quarter. Lopez was injured while being tackled on a running play.

"Unbelievable, what an amazing kid," Morello said of D'Angelo. "It was an absolute delight to coach him. He was not your prototypical Greenwich quarterback, he didn't throw for 200, 300 yards per game, but he has one of the biggest hearts I've ever coached. He's totally selfless, he put his body on the line week in and week out, never wavered and always believed in himself and his teammates. The end result is so gratifying for me as a coach to watch him celebrate with his teammates. An amazing performance today."

Protected well when he dropped



Alex Kvaratskhelia punts the ball for Greenwich versus West Haven. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.

back to pass and supported when he ran the ball by offensive linemen Peter Vomvolakis, Colin Falla, Frank Kingsley, Richie McMurray, Henry Wahl and Mickey Petrone Jr., D'Angelo rushed for an impressive 202 yards on 18 carries to lead Greenwich's offense in this championship showdown.

"I'm feeling overwhelmed and blessed," said D'Angelo who scored both of Greenwich's touchdowns against West Haven. "I kind of spoke this into existence throughout my four years here. Everybody wrote me off, I didn't write back though, I'm just happy to be a part of it. All credit to the O-line, the O-line played a great game and I'm happy to be a part of it."

Following a scoreless first quarter, the Cards reached the end zone 19 seconds into the second quarter, courtesy of D'Angelo. A well-executed fake handoff to junior running back Jack Kelly sent the Blue Devils'

"We came out here with a fresh mindset, a hungry mindset, and we fought, fought, fought and came out on top."

defense toward Kelly and D'Angelo broke loose through the left side of the line and sprinted down the left sideline for a 58-yard touchdown run. Senior placekicker Julian Ravina split the uprights with his point-after kick, giving GHS a 7-0 lead on West Haven with 11:41 left in the second quarter.

"I had to listen to my coaches, they were screaming at me to pull the ball," D'Angelo said of his first touchdown run. "They know how to win games and championships, so I just listened to them and the rest was history."

Prior to Greenwich scoring on its fourth possession, West Haven was forced to punt on its first four possessions, a theme that played out throughout the game for coach Rich Boshea's Blue Devils. Seniors Kyle Ebanks and Max Marek registered key tackles on the defensive line in the opening quarter, sparking the Cardinals defense to a strong start. Ebanks, Marek, junior Jacob Mobley, sophomore Andy Stedem and Vomvolakis helped pace the defensive line.

Led by senior Noah Steele, senior captain Jack Carroll, senior Guy Germain, senior Chase Inesta and junior Nico Galinda, Greenwich's secondary provided excellent coverage throughout the championship matchup, making it challenging for

Blue Devils senior quarterback/captain Nick Conlan to connect with his wide receivers. Conlan completed 17 of 34 passes for 179 yards and was intercepted by Steele.

"We had the same mentality as we did last week – play as hard as you can and play as aggressive as you can," said Vomvolakis, a quad-captain, who will continue his football career next year at the United States Naval Academy. "We had the same game plan. Our corners played great, our safeties played great, D-line, linebackers, everybody played great. It was a team effort and that's why we won today."

Said Ebanks: "We schemed, countless hours in the film room, we knew what was coming. We just played our game. Coach called great plays, we executed and that's the result, a shutout. It was a great team effort. All of us, we were a unit."

With Lopez sidelined after leaving the game late in the first quarter, Kelly and D'Angelo carried the ball the remainder of the game. Kelly finished with 68 rushing yards on 18 carries and ignited a second-quarter drive that saw the Cardinals move past the Blue Devils' 30-yard line. However, the drive was halted by West Haven at the 25-yard line and the Blue Devils

Please turn to page B6



Jack Carroll, left and Nico Galindo knock the ball loose from a West Haven receiver during the championship game of the CIAC Class LL Tournament final at Central Connecticut State University. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.



Greenwich High School varsity football head coach Anthony Morello addresses the team in the locker room at the CIAC Class LL Tournament championship. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.

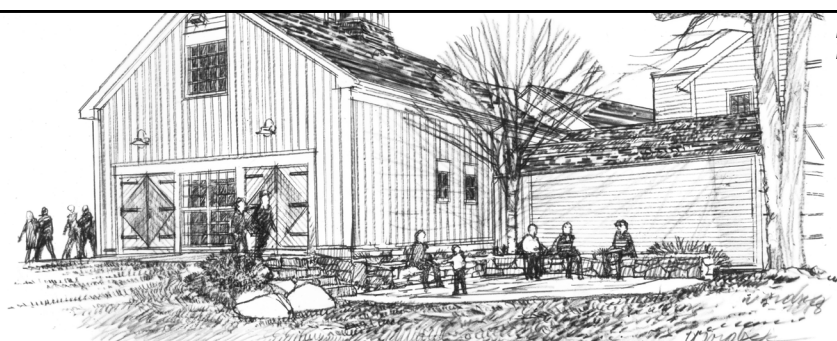


Greenwich High School senior quarterback M.J. D'Angelo carries the ball for a big gain during the Cardinals' CIAC Class LL final against West Haven High School. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.



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SPORTS

Sacred Heart Greenwich edges Greenwich Country Day School in final seconds in back-and-forth FAA basketball battle

By DAVID FIERRO

As the highly intense, early-season basketball game between Sacred Heart Greenwich and Greenwich Country Day School clearly illustrated, the Fairchester Athletic Association should be as competitive as ever this season.

A group of formidable teams should contend for the FAA Tournament title and two of them were in action on Dec. 11 at Greenwich Country Day School's brand new gymnasium held inside the Donvan Mitchell Family Athletic Center, as the Tigers of Greenwich Country Day hosted the Tigers of Sacred Heart Greenwich.

Close throughout, Greenwich Country Day School held the lead the majority of the first three quarters of play, but the fourth quarter belonged to defending FAA Tournament champion Sacred Heart Greenwich, which made enough plays down the stretch to earn its third straight win to start the new season.

Senior guard/captain Eva Wilkerson and senior guard Aisha Hassan scored 10 points apiece, while senior forward/captain Jadamarie Henry and sophomore guard Emma Matthews totaled eight and nine points, respectively, leading Sacred Heart to a come-from-behind 42-40 win over Greenwich Country Day, before a big crowd at the Donovan Mitchell Family Athletic Center.

The Tigers of Sacred Heart led 9-8 after the first quarter and the FAA neighborhood rivals entered halftime in a 19-19 tie. GCDS opened a 33-24 lead following three quarters by outscoring SHG, 14-5, in the third quarter, but Sacred Heart used an 18-7 advantage during the fourth quarter to pull out the two-point triumph.

"I think we came in almost too amped up for this one," Sacred Heart coach Ayo Hart said. "We knew it was a big FAA game, we knew there was going to be a big crowd and I think our girls were trying to do a little too much too soon, so we had a lot of turnovers that really caught up to us. I told the girls at halftime we were lucky to be tied. I was really proud of how the last five minutes we locked in and finished the game."

Sacred Heart Greenwich is coming off a 2023-2024 season that saw it capture the FAA Tournament championship by defeating St. Luke's School in the final, 68-43. Also last season, Sacred Heart was undefeated during the regular season in the FAA, while winning the league's regular season title and advanced to the championship game of the NEPSAC Class A Tournament, where as the No. 2 seed it lost to third-seeded Kent School in the tournament's semifinal round.

Greenwich Country Day School was paced by 12 points from senior captain/guard Brianna McDermott and 10 points from senior forward/captain Lara Young. The matchup marked Greenwich Country Day's first game in its impressive, brand new gymnasium.

"It was a fantastic game from beginning to end, the energy was

there," GCDS coach Elisha Brown said. "Defensively, we did our job. We were prepared for these moments and we really locked in on our defensive aspect. Now the offense has to flow a little bit more."

With the score tied at 40-40, Henry scored the game-winning basket for Sacred Heart. Hassan sent a pass to Henry, who was positioned in the low post. Using the backboard, Henry banked in her shot from close in, giving SHG a 42-40 lead with 20 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Sacred Heart then got a key stop on Greenwich Country Day's ensuing possession to hold on for the hard-fought two-point win.

"Aisha gave me such a good pass," Henry said of her go-ahead basket in the game's final 20 seconds. "It was definitely super intense, I definitely was a little nervous, but when it counts you have to focus in and do what's best for you and best for the team and the program."

Wilkerson converted two foul shots to tie the score at 40-40 with 1:22 left to play in the final quarter. The Tigers of GCDS headed into the fourth quarter with a nine-point advantage (33-24). Four straight points by the Tigers of SHG cut GCDS' edge to 33-28. O'Neill then swished a 3-pointer from the left corner, putting the hosts up, 36-28.

Henry scored in the low post, then Lucianna Parrotta nailed a 3-pointer, bringing Sacred Heart to within 36-33 midway through the fourth quarter. Grabbing an offensive rebound, Wilkerson scored on a putback in traffic while being fouled, trimming Sacred Heart's deficit to 36-35 with 2:38 to go in the final quarter. Wilkerson then swished her ensuing free throw, knotting the score at 36-36.

"It was definitely a rough start offensively, we weren't making the shots that we normally make, but I think our defense - we kept getting steals and I think defense converted to our offense," Wilkerson said. "In the second half we came back stronger."

Wilkerson crashed the offensive and defensive backboards hard throughout, gathering key rebounds on both ends of the court for the victors.

"When the shot goes up you have to rebound and play for each other, I really wanted this team win," Wilkerson noted.

"Eva hit the floor a lot was sacrificing her body, rebounding and getting us another possession - and those possessions were huge," Hart said.

Points were hard to come by for both teams in the first quarter, as the game was scoreless until Young made a layup at the four-minute mark. A 3-pointer from the left corner by Matthews gave SHG a 7-6 edge in the final minute of the opening quarter. Young scored on a layup off a pass from McDermott for Greenwich Country Day, which trailed 9-8 following the first quarter.

"It was a fantastic game from beginning to end, the energy was there," Brown said. "Defensively, we did our job. We were prepared for these moments and we really



Eva Wilkerson of Sacred Heart Greenwich, center, takes a shot under the basket while being tightly defended by Mia McCauliffe-Grant (to her left) and Brianna McDermott (No. 1) of Greenwich Country Day during the fourth quarter of an FAA basketball game on Dec. 11, 2024, at Greenwich Country Day School. To the left is Jadamarie Henry of Sacred Heart. Wilkerson made a basket on the play for the Tigers, who earned a 42-40 comeback win. Photo: David Fierro



Aisha Hassan of Sacred Heart drives to the basket while being pursued by Brianna McDermott of Greenwich Country Day during an FAA varsity basketball game at Greenwich Country Day School's new gymnasium. Sacred Heart won, 42-40.

locked in on our defensive aspect. Now the offense has to flow a little bit more."

Guard Jennaly Rodriguez's 3-pointer gave the home team an 11-9 lead early in the second quarter and after Sacred Heart tied the score with a basket, McDermott converted a 3-pointer, giving GCDS a 14-11 advantage. After the first half concluded in a 19-19 deadlock, Greenwich Country Day started the second half strong on its way to taking a nine-point lead.

"I think that we had energy and intensity from the beginning, but we had difficulty keeping our composure and settling down," Sacred Heart senior guard Mackenzie Gillen, also one of the team's captains. "By the end when we got into an intense situation we really locked and were able to come out with a win."

Ferry made a runner in the

lane, McCauliffe-Grant scored off a strong low post move, putting the Tigers of GCDS ahead, 27-21. A basket by O'Neill made it 29-21 in favor of GCDS at the 3:40 mark of the third quarter. After free throws from Young and McDermott gave GCDS its biggest lead at 33-21, SHG scored the final three points of the third quarter, making it 33-24, before staging a fourth-quarter comeback.

"GCDS is great, they play great offense, they move the ball well and they keep their positive energy," Hart said. "They are going to be a contender this year."

McDermott, who reached the 1,000 career point plateau as a junior last season, Young, Ferry and McCauliffe-Grant are Greenwich Country Day's captains.

"I'm super pumped for them and what they give," Brown said of her GCDS captains. "Bri is a

vocal leader, she dictates on the floor - with actions and words. Nina leads by example. She did a great job of getting back so much today and slowing down their transition. Mia is our young leader. She is getting to the basket more and doing a lot more. Lara is going to be a spark. We have some freshmen who are going to do some big things."

Among some of Sacred Heart's outstanding contributors from last season's FAA championship squad were Payton Sfreddo, Madison Hart, Victoria Hart, Olivia Leahy and Maddie Hooper. Sfreddo reached the 1,000 career point plateau a season ago.

"I'm feeling good about the team, it's a pretty new team since we graduated five seniors last year," Gillen said. "But I think that we already have great chemistry and we're doing a great job on and off the court. It's great being

a captain, I love being able to lead this team on and off the court."

Sacred Heart is back in action, hosting FAA foe School of the Holy Child today (Dec. 14) at 1 p.m. Greenwich Country Day is currently competing in the Berkshire School Classic.

"I think we have really high potential," Wilkerson noted. "We have strong new players and I think that we're only going to get better from here and there is so much potential individually and as a team."

Said Henry: "We have a lot of new girls for the team, it's definitely kind of a rebuilding year, but we're just as strong as we were last year - a lot of new talent. As the games go on and practices go on, we continue to build chemistry and get to know each other on and off the court with our personalities and our skills."



Jennaly Rodriguez of Greenwich Country Day School, left, dribbles toward the basket while being defended by Lucianna Parrotta of Sacred Heart Greenwich in varsity basketball action at Greenwich Country Day School. Photo: David Fierro



Lucianna Parrotta of Sacred Heart Greenwich looks to pass the ball while being guarded by Brianna McDermott of GCDS on Dec. 11, 2024, at Greenwich Country Day School. Photo: David Fierro

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- Alumni Bible Challenge (For those who have completed The Bible Challenge)

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FRIDAY, DEC. 20

6:30 p.m.
Kid's Night Out: Kid's Stay, Parents Play! YMCA of Greenwich. Drop off begins at 6:15. greenwichymca.org/events.

8 p.m.
The Rob Mathes Holiday Concert. The Performing Arts Center-Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase, NY. Dec. 20, 21, 8pm & Dec. 22, 3pm. artscenter.org/events/the-rob-mathes-holiday-concert

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

8 a.m.
Teddy Bear Story Hour With Jenny. Coffee for Good, 49 Maple Ave. 2cc.org

9:30 a.m.
Yoga @ the Library With Laura DeLongis Barnes. Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. Register. 203-637-1066 x15. judys@perrotlibrary.org

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Art And Nature Workshop For Children - Winter Solstice Painting. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$65, GBC Member; \$75, Non-member. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

12 p.m.
Colonial Holidays: Make a "Scherenschnitte" Holiday Card in the Time Travelers KidStudio.

Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Christmas in Cos Cob: A Holiday Tour of the Bush-Holley House. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Dec. 21, 22, 28 & 29. Reservations required. greenwichhistory.org/events

1 p.m.
Science Solvers: Ice Age (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 22. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.
Exhibitions Highlights Tours. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. Through Dec. 28. brucemuseum.org

5 p.m.
Holiday Happenings & Movie Night: games, activities, and a special screening of "Elf." Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center, 449 Pemberwick Rd. \$12 per person. Wear your favorite holiday pajamas. greenwichct.gov/2327/Holiday-Happenings-Movie-Night

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Christmas in Cos Cob: A Holiday Tour of the Bush-Holley House. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Dec. 22, 28 & 29. Reser-

ations required. greenwichhistory.org/events

MONDAY, DEC. 23

10 a.m.
Holiday Centerpiece Workshop With Call Me Marigold. Greenwich Botanical Center, 130 Bible St. \$120, GBC Member; \$150, Non-member. greenwichbotanicalcenter.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

10 a.m.
'Perrot Walks' - walk through Binney Park. Meet at Perrot Memorial Library, 90 Sound Beach Ave. Free. 203-637-1066 x15. perrotlibrary.org

10 & 11 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings: Cozy Mittens (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. brucemuseum.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

12, 1:30 & 3 p.m.
Christmas in Cos Cob: A Holiday Tour of the Bush-Holley House. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. Dec. 28 & 29. Reservations required. greenwichhistory.org/events

1 p.m.
Art Adventures: Wishing Stars (Ages 4 & up). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Sunday, Dec. 15. brucemuseum.org

2 p.m.
Exhibitions Highlights Tours. Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. Through Dec. 28. brucemuseum.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 31

10 & 11 a.m.
Bruce Beginnings: Countdown (Ages 2 1/2-5). Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr. Free with admission. No reservations required. Also held Wednesday, Dec. 18. brucemuseum.org

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1

11 a.m.
New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge benefiting Abilis. Compo Beach, 50 Compo Beach Road, Westport. abilis.us/polarplunge

7 - 9 p.m.
Astronomical Society of Greenwich: Bowman Observatory Public Nights. Bowman Observatory, on the grounds of the Julian Curtiss School. Free. GreenwichStars@Gmail.com. astrogreenwich.org

FRIDAY, JAN. 3

10:30 a.m.
Voices Center of Resilience: Mindful Moment Meditation. Online. Free. Register. voicescenter.org

1:30 p.m.
First Friday Concert Series: The Joe Corsello Trio. Greenwich Arts Council, 299 Greenwich Ave. greenwichartsCouncil.org

SATURDAY, JAN. 4

9 a.m.
Meet for Coffee at the Bruce with Sandy Weiner, Chief Love Officer at Last First Date. Bruce Museum. brucemuseum.org

12 p.m.
Colonial Crafts: Write with a Quill and Ink in the Time Travelers KidStudio. Greenwich Historical Society, 47 Strickland Rd. greenwichhistory.org/events

SUNDAY, JAN. 5

2 p.m.
Fred Elser First Sunday Science: Ecological Consequences of Light Pollution. Innis Arden Cottage, Tod's Point. Free. No park pass needed. brucemuseum.org

THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 24

The 16th Annual Greenwich Reindeer Festival & Santa's Workshop. Sam Bridge Nursery & Greenhouses, 437 North St. Fridays, 12-6pm; Saturdays, 9am-6pm; Closed Sundays; Christmas Eve, 9am-3pm. Through Dec. 24. greenwichreindeer-festival.com

SUNDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 13, 2025

8 - 11 a.m.
Safe Roads Sunday program at Tod's Point. Traffic will be restricted on the road leading to the Point to allow walkers, joggers and cyclists to enjoy a traffic-free loop that starts and ends at the entrance to the main parking lots. friendsofgreenwichpoint.org

MONDAY - FRIDAY

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Arch Street Homework Heroes - Free after school tutoring (6th-12th grade). Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. info@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

TUESDAYS:

10 a.m.
Beginner Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA members, \$30; nonmembers, \$35. New players welcome. (Register by Monday, 6pm). 203-524-8032. greenwichymca.org

5 - 7 p.m.
Lighthouse, a Program of Kids In Crisis: LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting. On Zoom. Free. Open to all LGBTQ Youth & allies. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/light-house

WEDNESDAYS:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Appetizers:

- Shrimp Cocktail \$14.95
- Seafood Salad \$14.95
- Clams Casino \$18.95
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- Shrimp Dumplings \$14.95
- Stuffed Mushrooms \$10.95
- Fried Calamari \$13.95
- Steamed Mussels \$15.95
- Eggplant Rollatini \$10.95

Entrees:

- Shrimp Scampi over Linguini \$24.95
- Chicken Florentine Ravioli \$21.95
- Served with pesto cream sauce and sundried tomatoes
- 6 oz. Twin Lobster Tails served with baked potato & vegetables \$51.95
- Grilled Salmon served with rice & vegetables topped with lobster cream sauce \$26.95
- Rosemary Lemon Chicken served with asparagus & roasted potatoes \$22.95
- Lobster Ravioli served with shrimp in a roasted red pepper cream sauce \$28.95
- 14 oz New York Strip served with roasted potatoes, vegetables & fried onions \$31.95
- 7oz Grilled Filet Mignon \$31.95
- Served with garlic mashed potatoes, sautéed spinach, and port wine sauce
- Stuffed Sole served with rice, vegetables, and lobster cream sauce \$24.95
- Stuffed Shrimp served with rice, vegetables, and lobster cream sauce \$24.95

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Greenwich Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

"Tools for Aging Well" (2nd Wednesday of the Month). Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Relaxed Duplicate Bridge with The Perfectly Polite Bridge Group. YMCA of Greenwich, 50 East Putnam Ave. Members, \$10; nonmembers, \$12. New players welcome. (Register by Tue). 203-524-8032. greenwichymca.org

12 - 2 p.m.

Waste Free Greenwich's Food Scrap Recycle Program: Drop off scraps at Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Rd. roundhillcommunitychurch.org/news/composting-at-rhcc

12:15 p.m.

Greenwich Rotary Club Weekly Lunch Meeting. Putnam Cottage, 243 East Putnam Ave. RSVP. 203-832-3654. sheila.goggin@cbmoves.com. greenwichrotary.org

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Arch Street Teen Center High School Support Group for boys: Stress, Success, and Teenage Setbacks - moderated by Executive Director Kyle Silver. 100 Arch St. Register. Kyle@archstreet.org. archstreet.org

6:30 p.m.

NAMI-CAN (Child and Adolescent Network) Online Support Group - for parents and primary caregivers of children & adolescents, under age 21, with behavioral and emotional issues. Free. namisouthwestct.org/online-support

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Aging Well - an informal conversation about different aspects of aging well. Round Hill Community Church, 395 Round Hill Road. Free & open to all. 203-869-1091. roundhillcommunitychurch.org

THURSDAYS:

8 a.m. & 4 p.m.

Tai Chi Basic Moves. First Congregational Church of Greenwich, 108 Sound Beach Ave. Registration required. Tuition is paid as a donation made directly by the participant to abilis, Neighbor to Neighbor, or the First Congregational Church. experiencetaichi.org

3 - 7 p.m.

Arch Street After School Programming (All Ages) - every Thursday starting Feb. 22. Arch Street Teen Center, 100 Arch St. archstreet.org

5 - 7 p.m.

Kids In Crisis Lighthouse LGBTQ Youth Group Meeting - open to all LGBTQ youth in middle & high school. Wilton Historical Society, 224 Danbury Rd, Wilton. Free. 203-661-1911. lighthouse@kidsincrisis.org. kidsincrisis.org/get-help/light-house

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Book Exchange - choose from a huge selection of books. Holly Hill Recycling Center. Free, or, donate books. (Open every Fri & Sat. books4everyone.org

GREENWICH LIBRARIES greenwichlibrary.org

Friday, Dec. 20

10 a.m.
Storytime. Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

3 p.m.

Innovator-in-Residence: Kinetic Art Using Robotics. Innovation Lab. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

4 p.m.

Super Secret Present Craft Club (Registration Required). Children's Constellation Room.

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Eddie the Eagle." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

Saturday, Dec. 21

10:30 a.m.
Music with Tom Weber. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

11 a.m.

Hooked On Crochet. Teen Common.

11 a.m.

Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csheerman@greenwichlibrary.org.

1 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-12). Children's Constellation Room.

2 p.m.

Chess for All with Ian. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

Monday, Dec. 23

11:30 a.m.
Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.

5 p.m.

Holiday Pajama Party. Byram Shubert Library Community Room.

5 p.m.

Meditation & Breathing with Gail. On Zoom.

6 p.m.

Broadway on a Budget Holiday Webinar.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

1 p.m.

All Libraries Close Early.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

All Libraries Closed.

Thursday, Dec. 26

11 a.m.

Technology Help. Learning Lab.

11:30 a.m.

Qi Gong. Online.

Friday, Dec. 27

3 p.m.

Innovator-in-Residence: Getting Started with 3D Printing. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

Saturday, Dec. 28

10 a.m.

Blooming Beginnings!: Art, Movement & Mindfulness (ages 3-5). Children's Constellation Room.

11 a.m.

Technology Help. Learning Lab. 203-625-6560. csheerman@greenwichlibrary.org.

Monday, Dec. 30

11:30 a.m.

Blood Pressure Screening. Community Room #5.

7 p.m.

All Libraries Close at 7pm.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

11:30 a.m.

Noon Year's Eve. Marx Family Black Box Theater.

5 p.m.

All Libraries Close at 5pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

All Libraries Closed.

Thursday, Jan. 2

11 a.m.

Technology Help. Learning Lab.

11:30 a.m.

Qi Gong. Online.

Friday, Jan. 3

9:30 a.m.

Senior Chinese Book Discussion Group. Online (WeChat). ywang@greenwichlibrary.org.

10 a.m.

Storytime (in the Stacks). Cos Cob Library Turret. 203-622-6883.

3 p.m.

Innovator-in-Residence: Controlling Motors with an Arduino Microcontroller. 203-622-7979. innovationlab@greenwichlibrary.org

7 p.m.

Friends Friday Films: "Twisters." Berkley Theater. cgibbs@greenwichlibrary.org.

Saturday, Jan. 4

10 a.m.

Satur-yay! Storytime. Children's Constellation Room. 203-622-7940. children@greenwichlibrary.org

10:30 a.m.

Hatha Yoga for Adults with Inger. Byram Shubert Library Community Room. 203-531-0426.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL greenwichhospital.org/events 888-305-9253

Saturday, Jan. 4

9 a.m.

CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Monday, Jan. 6

6 p.m.

CPR Friends & Family (Infant/Child). 38 Volunteer Ln. \$65. For discount information call 888-305-9253.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

12 p.m.

Talk: Time Equals Brain: Recognizing Stroke Symptoms. Greenwich Hospital. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

12:30 p.m.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group - for people with Parkinson's, their families and caregivers. 260 Long Ridge Road, Stamford. Free.

6 p.m.

Talk: Dupuytren's Contracture: A Hand Condition. Greenwich Hospital. Free.

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR ntngreenwich.org

Everyday, all day

• 24/7 Food Drive Collection site at North Greenwich Congregational Church, 606 Riversville Road. The weatherproof bin is located outside of the Parish Hall.

• Greenwich Reform Synagogue, 92 Orchard St., Cos Cob.

Tuesdays, 9 - 11 a.m.

Food Drive (drive-thru) at St. Catherine of Siena's parking area across the street from the rectory entrance, 4 Riverside Ave. (Non-perishable foods, personal care products, large sized diapers (5 & 6) and pull-ups, and knit hats (hand knit or store bought).

Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Food Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church parking lot, 200 Riverside Ave.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE RedCrossBlood.org

Friday, Dec. 20

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Village of Mamaroneck, 1 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck, NY.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stamford Church of Christ SEE TIMES 1264 High Ridge Road Stamford.

Saturday, Dec. 21

8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Union Baptist Church, 805 Newfield Avenue, Stamford.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

American Red Cross, 40 Saw Mill River Road, Upper Level 3, Hawthorne, NY.

Sunday, Dec. 22

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Monday, Dec. 23

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian

Field Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 26

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 28

8 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, 1527 Bedford Street, Stamford.

Sunday, Dec. 29

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Monday, Dec. 30

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Stamford, 1101 Bedford St., Stamford.

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

United Church of Rowayton, 210 Rowayton Ave., Norwalk.

Thursday, Jan. 2

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Stamford Hotel, 700 East Main Street, Stamford.

Friday, Jan. 3

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Trinity Church, 5 River Road, Cos Cob.

Sunday, Jan. 5

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greenwich Blood Donation Center, 99 Indian Field Rd.

TOWN MEETINGS greenwichct.gov/calendar

Thursday, Dec. 26

10 a.m.

Cancelled: Board of Selectmen Meeting In Person at Town Hall and Virtual via Zoom.

Friday, Dec. 27

12 p.m.

RTM closes at noon.

Monday, Dec. 30

6:30 p.m.

Cancelled: Board of Health Regular Meeting.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

4 p.m.

Labor Contracts Committee Meeting. Gisborne Room.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

12:30 p.m.

Nathaniel Witherell Quality of Life Committee Meeting.

Thursday, Jan. 9

7 p.m.

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting. Zoom Webinar.

7 p.m.

Budget Overview Committee Meeting. Mazza Room.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Kids In Crisis' An Après Ski Soirée The Loading Dock 375 Fairfield Ave, Stamford. kidsincrisis.org/sub/events

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

YWCA Greenwich's Women Who Inspire Awards. Greenwich Country Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/2025-women-who-inspire-awards

Saturday, April 26, 2025

6 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity 40th Anniversary Gala. Hyatt Regency Greenwich. habitatfc.org

Thursday, May 1, 2025

• YWCA Greenwich's Old Bags Luncheon 20th Anniversary. Belle Haven Club. ywcagreenwich.org/events/old-bags-luncheon-20th-anniversary

• Greenwich Arts Council's "Art to the Avenue." greenwichartscouncil.org

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Breast Cancer Alliance 5K Run/Walk. breastcanceralliance.org

Our Neighboring Towns

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

7 p.m.

Live Music: Cydney Chase. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford, NY. Free admission. 914-234-6704. bedfordplayhouse.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

10:30 a.m.

Shark Diving Santa. The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, 10 N. Water St., Norwalk. maritime-aquarium.org

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Wendy Kerner: A Harp and the Holidays. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

MONDAY, DEC. 23

11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Vivace String Ensemble. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

12:30 p.m.

Prelude String Ensemble. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

2 p.m.

African Dance Workshop. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

2 p.m.

A Hanukkah with Mazel Puppet Show. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

12 p.m.

Minecraft Competition. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 31

11 a.m.

Countdown to Noon Celebration. Stepping Stones Museum for Children - Mathews Park, 303 West Ave, Norwalk. steppingstonesmuseum.org

11 a.m.

Noon Year's Eve Party. Ferguson Main Library, Stamford. Free. Register. fergusonlibrary.org

12:30 p.m.

Community Celebration of Kwanzaa. Ferguson Library - South End Branch, Stamford. Free. fergusonlibrary.org



Christmas Tree Pickup and Recycling

Greenwich Scout Troop 35 will pick up your Christmas tree and recycle it for you. Just leave your tree outside your front door and let Troop 35 do



Members of the Greenwich High School varsity football team gather around the trophy after the team captured the CIAC Class LL championship by defeating West Haven, 14-0, in the title game. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.

GREENWICH HIGH FOOTBALL CHAMPS Continued from Page B1

moved the ball past midfield with hopes of tying the score just before halftime.

Yet Steele kept the Cards in front, leaping high in the air to intercept a pass by Conlan that was intended for senior wide receiver Thompson Tahmayn. Steele intercepted the pass at the West Haven 5-yard line.

"The receiver ran a post and I saw the ball beautifully, I know the quarterback likes to chuck it up and it hit off his helmet," Steele said of his interception.

Indeed, defensive coordinator Bryan Hocter's defense was in sync the whole game, preventing West Haven's offense to get into a rhythm.

Greenwich was victorious against West Haven during the regular season, 24-6.

"We played them Week 1 and we kind of had them shut out until the end," said junior Santi Parra, who along with sophomore Justin Carroll, propelled the Cardinals' linebacker corps. "We were all locked in and this is what we played for."

"My teammates and coaches helped me throughout the season and we prevailed at the end," Parra continued. "We got what we wanted and it feels amazing."

As was the case in the Class LL semifinals against Staples, GHS won the field

position battle versus West Haven due to the standout punting of Alex Kvaratskhelia. A senior, Kvaratskhelia consistently pinned the Blue Devils deep into their own territory behind his booming, well-placed punts that covered more than 40 yards each time.

His punt late in the fourth quarter put West Haven on its own 11-yard line and after Greenwich forced another punt, it took over at the Blue Devils' 35. D'Angelo soon capped the Cards' short drive, running into the left side of the end zone from 2 yards out and giving Greenwich a 14-0 advantage four seconds into the fourth quarter.

For the game, Greenwich totaled 299 rushing yards, 202 of which were from D'Angelo.

"I called the same play like six times in a row in the third

quarter," Morello said. "We were running M.J. left, right, forwards and backwards. In games like this you have to have your most dependable guys with the ball in their hands and he was. I'm proud of him."

Leading 14-0, Greenwich's defense took it from there. Conlan continued to face pressure when he dropped back to pass and West Haven's running attack totaled just over 30 yards for the game, with senior Coryon Harris receiving the bulk of the carries. Sophomore defensive lineman Andy Stedem recorded a fourth quarter sack for the Cardinals, who consistently put West Haven in third down and challenging situations.

"As a defense we were coming off a great performance against Staples, but our huge mentality during the week was

we are never satisfied, stay humble," said Marek, a quad-captain. "We came out here with a fresh mindset, a hungry mindset and we fought, fought, fought and came out on top."

Said Steele: "Great coaching, give it all back to the coaches and the player's ability to take with the coaching. We have great coaches, we have great plays designed, we predict what they are going to do and we do it better. We are on top of the world. We put in the effort for 365 days and this is the greatest feeling ever."

Greenwich faced some adversity this season, as it was dealt losses by Wilton and Staples. Like championship teams though, the Cardinals responded to the adverse times by correcting their mistakes of the past, resulting in a 2024 championship season

to remember.

"It feels amazing, all the hard work and dedication the guys put into this team - to see it all come together on one night, is an amazing feeling," Marek noted. "It's been such an amazing ride with Greenwich football and to come out on top is an amazing feeling."

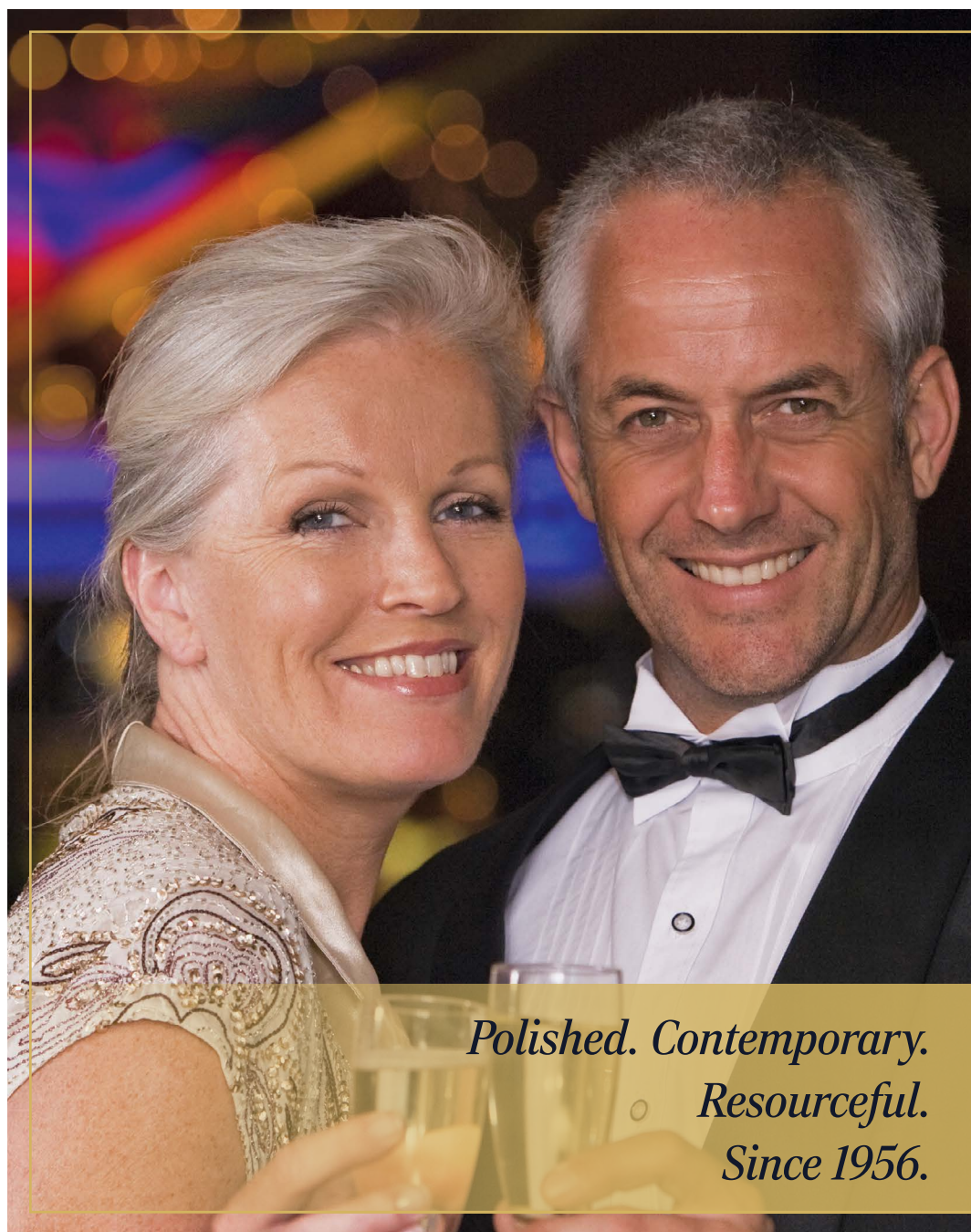
"Being able to be back in a state championship is a dream come true," said Vomvolakis, also a member of Greenwich's 2022 state championship squad. "We knew we had to work hard this week, we couldn't let up. We played a great team today. We never doubted ourselves, we might have been a little nervous, but we never showed doubt. That's what we did today, we played as hard as we could and showed as much effort as we could."



Greenwich's Jacob Mobley and Chase Inesta combine on a tackle vs. West Haven. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.



Greenwich center Peter Vomvolakis gets ready for a play. Photo by Ben Harper/Chaos Crew Media.



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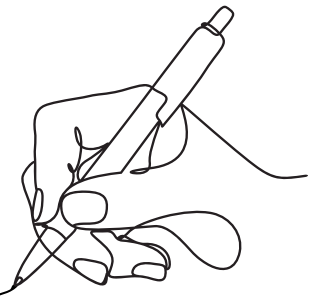
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Sentinel Literary Competition



The December Challenge **New Year, Same Me: Resolutions We'll Never Keep** (COMPETITION #12)

Prompt:

Write a humorous take on New Year's resolutions that are destined to fail OR ones that are so specific they could only work for you. Think about the absurd promises we make to ourselves and how they unravel by January 2nd.

Examples:

"This year, I vow to limit myself to one Netflix binge per week. Unless the show has more than three seasons, in which case it's still technically one binge."

"I'm giving up carbs. Except for bagels, pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and anything that comes with a croissant. So, basically, I'm giving up toast."

"I promise to stop procrastinating... starting tomorrow."

How to Enter:


Submitting your entry is easy! Craft your clever response to this month's prompt, then visit www.greenwichsentinel.com/sentinel-writing-competition/ to submit it.

Multiple entries are welcome, and pseudonyms are accepted — giving you the freedom to be as inventive as you like.


The deadline is Friday, December 27, 2024.

The winner receives \$100, with second and third place taking home \$50 and \$25, respectively.






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Sudoku for Kids

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THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER II IN WHICH Tigger Comes to the Forest and Has Breakfast

Winnie-the-pooh woke up suddenly in the middle of the night and listened. Then he got out of bed, and lit his candle, and stumped across the room to see if anybody was trying to get into his honey-cupboard, and they weren't, so he stumped back again, blew out his candle, and got into bed. Then he heard the noise again.

"Is that you, Piglet?" he said.

But it wasn't.

"Come in, Christopher Robin," he said.

But Christopher Robin didn't.

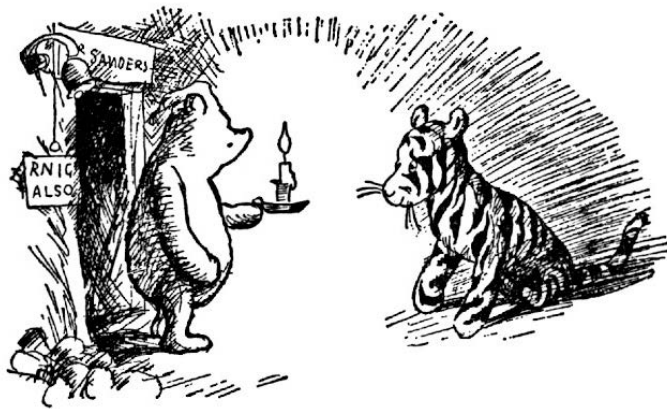
"Tell me about it tomorrow, Eeyore," said Pooh sleepily.

But the noise went on.

"Worraworraworraworraworra," said Whatever-it-was, and Pooh found that he wasn't asleep after all.

"What can it be?" he thought. "There are lots of noises in the Forest, but this is a different one. It isn't a growl, and it isn't a purr, and it isn't a bark, and it isn't the noise-you-make-before-beginning-a-piece-of-poetry, but it's a noise of some kind, made by a strange animal. And he's making it outside my door. So I shall get up and ask him not to do it."

He got out of bed and opened his front door.



"Hallo!" said Pooh, in case there was anything outside.

"Hallo!" said Whatever-it-was.

"Oh!" said Pooh. "Hallo!"

"Hallo!"

"Oh, *there* you are!" said Pooh. "Hallo!"

"Hallo!" said the Strange Animal, wondering how long this was going on.

Pooh was just going to say "Hallo!" for the fourth time when he thought that he wouldn't, so he said: "Who is it?" instead.

"Me," said a voice.

"Oh!" said Pooh. "Well, come here."

So Whatever-it-was came here, and in the light of the candle he and Pooh looked at each other.

"I'm Pooh," said Pooh.

"I'm Tigger," said Tigger.

"Oh!" said Pooh, for he had never seen an animal like this before. "Does Christopher Robin know about you?"

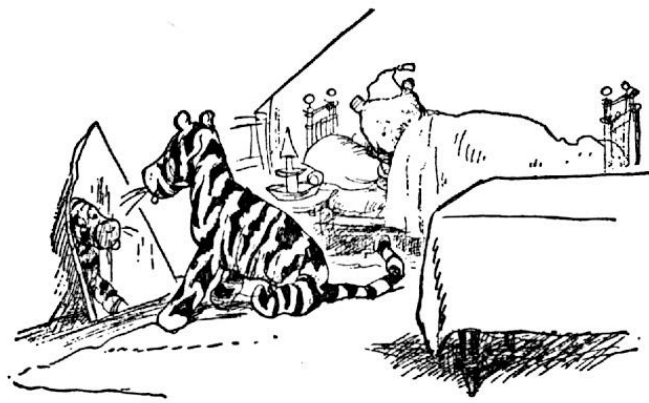
"Of course he does," said Tigger.

"Well," said Pooh, "it's the middle of the night, which is a good time for going to sleep. And tomorrow morning we'll have some honey for breakfast. Do Tiggers like honey?"

"They like everything," said Tigger cheerfully.

"Then if they like going to sleep on the floor, I'll go back to bed," said Pooh, "and we'll do things in the morning. Good night." And he got back into bed and went fast asleep.

When he awoke in the morning, the first thing he saw was Tigger, sitting in front of the glass and looking at himself.



"Hallo!" said Pooh.

"Hallo!" said Tigger. "I've found somebody just like me. I thought I was the only one of them."

Pooh got out of bed, and began to explain what a looking-glass was, but just as he was getting to the interesting part, Tigger said:

"Excuse me a moment, but there's something climbing up your table," and with one loud Worraworraworraworraworra he jumped at the end of the tablecloth, pulled it to the ground, wrapped himself up in it three times, rolled to the other end of the room, and, after a terrible struggle, got his head into the daylight again, and said cheerfully: "Have I won?"

"That's my tablecloth," said Pooh, as he began to unwind Tigger.

"I wondered what it was," said Tigger.

"It goes on the table and you put things on it."

"Then why did it try to bite me when I wasn't looking?"

"I don't *think* it did," said Pooh.

"It tried," said Tigger, "but I was too quick for it."



Pooh put the cloth back on the table, and he put a large honey-pot on the cloth, and they sat down to breakfast. And as soon as they sat down, Tigger took a large mouthful of honey ... and he looked up at the ceiling with his head on one side, and made exploring noises with his tongue and considering noises, and what-have-we-got-here noises ... and then he said in a very decided voice:

"Tiggers don't like honey."

"Oh!" said Pooh, and tried to make it sound Sad and Regretful. "I thought they liked everything."

"Everything except honey," said Tigger.

Pooh felt rather pleased about this, and said that, as soon as he had finished his own breakfast, he would take Tigger round to Piglet's house, and Tigger could try some of Piglet's haycorns.

"Thank you, Pooh," said Tigger, "because haycorns is really what Tiggers like best."

So after breakfast they went round to see Piglet, and Pooh explained as they went that Piglet was a Very Small Animal who didn't like bouncing, and asked Tigger not to be too Bouncy just at first. And Tigger, who had been hiding behind trees and jumping out on Pooh's shadow when it wasn't looking, said that Tiggers were only bouncy before breakfast, and that as soon as they had had a few haycorns they became Quiet and Refined. So by and by they knocked at the door of Piglet's house.

"Hallo, Pooh," said Piglet.

"Hallo, Piglet. This is Tigger."

"Oh, is it?" said Piglet, and he edged round to the other side of the table. "I thought Tiggers were smaller than that."

"Not the big ones," said Tigger.

"They like haycorns," said Pooh, "so that's what we've come for, because poor Tigger hasn't had any breakfast yet."

Piglet pushed the bowl of haycorns towards Tigger, and said: "Help yourself," and then he got close up to Pooh and felt much braver, and said, "So you're Tigger? Well, well!" in a careless sort of voice. But Tigger said nothing because his mouth was full of haycorns....

After a long munching noise he said:

"Ee-ers o i a-ors."

And when Pooh and Piglet said "What?" he said "Skoos ee," and went outside for a moment.

When he came back he said firmly:

"Tiggers don't like haycorns."

"But you said they liked everything except honey," said Pooh.

"Everything except honey and haycorns," explained Tigger.

When he heard this Pooh said, "Oh, I see!" and Piglet, who was rather glad that Tiggers didn't like haycorns, said, "What about thistles?"

"Thistles," said Tigger, "is what Tiggers like best."

"Then let's go along and see Eeyore," said Piglet.



So the three of them went; and after they had walked and walked and walked, they came to the part of the Forest where Eeyore was.

"Hallo, Eeyore!" said Pooh. "This is Tigger."

"What is?" said Eeyore.

"This," explained Pooh and Piglet together, and Tigger smiled his happiest smile and said nothing.

Eeyore walked all round Tigger one way, and then turned and walked all round him the other way.

"What did you say it was?" he asked.

"Tigger."

"Ah!" said Eeyore.

"He's just come," explained Piglet.

"Ah!" said Eeyore again.

He thought for a long time and then said:

"When is he going?"

Pooh explained to Eeyore that Tigger was a great friend of Christopher Robin's, who had come to stay in the Forest, and Piglet

explained to Tigger that he mustn't mind what Eeyore said because he was always gloomy; and Eeyore explained to Piglet that, on the contrary, he was feeling particularly cheerful this morning; and Tigger explained to anybody who was listening that he hadn't had any breakfast yet.

"I knew there was something," said Pooh. "Tiggers always eat thistles, so that was why we came to see you, Eeyore."

"Don't mention it, Pooh."

"Oh, Eeyore, I didn't mean that I didn't want to see you—"

"Quite—quite. But your new stripy friend—naturally, he wants his breakfast. What did you say his name was?"

"Tigger."

"Then come this way, Tigger."

Eeyore led the way to the most thistly-looking patch of thistles that ever was, and waved a hoof at it.

"A little patch I was keeping for my birthday," he said; "but, after all, what are birthdays? Here today and gone tomorrow. Help yourself, Tigger."

Tigger thanked him and looked a little anxiously at Pooh.

"Are these really thistles?" he whispered.

"Yes," said Pooh.

"What Tiggers like best?"

"That's right," said Pooh.

"I see," said Tigger.

So he took a large mouthful, and he gave a large crunch.

"Ow!" said Tigger.

He sat down and put his paw in his mouth.



"What's the matter?" asked Pooh.

"Hot!" mumbled Tigger.

"Your friend," said Eeyore, "appears to have bitten on a bee."

Pooh's friend stopped shaking his head to get the prickles out, and explained that Tiggers didn't like thistles.

"Then why bend a perfectly good one?" asked Eeyore.

"But you said," began Pooh—"you said that Tiggers liked everything except honey and haycorns."

"And thistles," said Tigger, who was now running round in circles with his tongue hanging out.

Pooh looked at him sadly.

"What are we going to do?" he asked Piglet.

Piglet knew the answer to that, and he said at once that they must go and see Christopher Robin.

"You'll find him with Kanga," said Eeyore. He came close to Pooh, and said in a loud whisper:

"Could you ask your friend to do his exercises somewhere else? I shall be having lunch directly, and don't want it bounced on just before I begin. A trifling matter, and fussy of me, but we all have our little ways."

Pooh nodded solemnly and called to Tigger.

"Come along and we'll go and see Kanga. She's sure to have lots of breakfast for you."

Tigger finished his last circle and came up to Pooh and Piglet.

"Hot!" he explained with a large and friendly smile. "Come on!" and he rushed off.

Pooh and Piglet walked slowly after him. And as they walked Piglet said nothing, because he couldn't think of anything, and Pooh said nothing, because he was thinking of a poem. And when he had thought of it he began:

What shall we do about poor little Tigger?

If he never eats nothing he'll never get bigger.

He doesn't like honey and haycorns and thistles

Because of the taste and because of the bristles.

And all the good things which an animal likes

Have the wrong sort of swallow or too many spikes.

"He's quite big enough anyhow," said Piglet.

"He isn't really very big."

"Well, he seems so."

Pooh was thoughtful when he heard this, and then he murmured to himself:

But whatever his weight in pounds, shillings, and ounces,

He always seems bigger because of his bounces.

"And that's the whole poem," he said. "Do you like it, Piglet?"

"All except the shillings," said Piglet. "I don't think they ought to be there."

"They wanted to come in after the pounds," explained Pooh, "so I let them. It is the best way to write poetry, letting things come."

"Oh, I didn't know," said Piglet.

Tigger had been bouncing in front of them all this time, turning round every now and then to ask, "Is this the way?"—and now at last they came in sight of Kanga's house, and there was Christopher Robin. Tigger rushed up to him.



"Oh, there you are, Tigger!" said Christopher Robin. "I knew you'd be somewhere."

"I've been finding things in the Forest," said Tigger importantly. "I've found a pooh and a piglet and an eeyore, but I can't find any breakfast."

Pooh and Piglet came up and hugged Christopher Robin, and explained what had been happening.

"Don't you know what Tiggers like?" asked Pooh.

"I expect if I thought very hard I

should," said Christopher Robin, "but I thought Tigger knew."

"I do," said Tigger. "Everything there is in the world except honey and haycorns and—what were those hot things called?"

"Thistles."

"Yes, and those."

"Oh, well then, Kanga can give you some breakfast."



But the more Tigger put his nose into this and his paw into that, the more things he found which Tiggers didn't like. And when he had found everything in the cupboard, and couldn't eat any of it, he said to Kanga, "What happens now?"

But Kanga and Christopher Robin and Piglet were all standing round Roo, watching him have his Extract of Malt. And Roo was saying, "Must I?" and Kanga was saying "Now, Roo dear, you remember what you promised."

"What is it?" whispered Tigger to Piglet.

"His Strengthening Medicine," said Piglet. "He hates it."

So Tigger came closer, and he leant over the back of Roo's chair, and suddenly he put out his tongue, and took one large gollop, and, with a sudden jump of surprise, Kanga said, "Oh!" and then clutched at the spoon again just as it was disappearing, and pulled it safely back out of Tigger's mouth. But the Extract of Malt had gone.



"Tigger dear!" said Kanga.

"He's taken my medicine, he's taken my medicine!" sang Roo happily, thinking it was a tremendous joke.

Then Tigger looked up at the ceiling, and closed his eyes, and his tongue went round and round his chops, in case he had left any outside, and a peaceful smile came over his face as he said, "So that's what Tiggers like!"

Which explains why he always lived at Kanga's house afterwards, and had Extract of Malt for breakfast, dinner, and tea. And sometimes, when Kanga thought he wanted strengthening, he had a spoonful or two of Roo's breakfast after meals as medicine.

"But I think," said Piglet to Pooh, "that he's been strengthened quite enough."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit

ACROSS

- 1 Piercing tools
- 5 Actress Dawber
- 8 They make (sound) waves at concerts
- 12 "Runny Babbit" author Silverstein
- 13 Invites for a visit
- 15 Tomb raider Croft
- 16 "Go big or go _!"
- 17 Writer Jong
- 18 Wide-eyed
- 19 Bartender's answer to "Which cocktails are served one hour after midnight?"
- 22 1 of 60 in an hr.
- 23 Lab eggs
- 24 "___ with it!" ("Talk!")
- 25 Red Cross course topic: Abbr.
- 27 Capital of New York
- 29 Water parted in Exodus
- 31 Bartender's answer to "Which cocktails are served two hours after midnight?"
- 35 "A ___ coincidence!"
- 36 Net sales?
- 37 "Knock it off!"
- 38 Computer memory

DOWN

- 40 Bartender's answer to "Which cocktails are served three hours after midnight?"
- 44 Rotate
- 46 Seattle b-ballers, once
- 49 Craving
- 50 OB-GYNs, e.g.
- 53 Armchair detective Wolfe
- 54 Bartender's answer to "Which cocktails are served four hours after midnight?"
- 59 Had some haggis
- 60 Creator of Kanga and Roo
- 61 Chinese "way"
- 62 Homer's neighbor
- 63 Grilling fuel
- 64 Word after "mon" or "Bon"

8

- ___ Jay Lerner (librettist)
- 9 Box for a young sorcerer
- 10 Sorcerer in "The Tempest"
- 11 Droop
- 13 Iron, e.g. ... or Iron Maiden's music genre
- 14 Type of fossil fuel
- 20 Hawaiian coffee region
- 21 Agenda part
- 22 Palindromic address
- 26 Hoarse sound
- 28 "Honest" prez
- 30 Private Instagram chats
- 32 Bit of matter
- 33 Name found in "smells a rat"
- 34 Actor Hemsworth

38

- French : elle :: English : ___
- 39 Punk offshoot
- 40 Cinnamon gum brand
- 41 Declare
- 42 The "A" in A.D.
- 43 Nap, in Nicaragua
- 44 Lucy's sister in "The Chronicles of Narnia"
- 45 Penned
- 47 Decisively defeat
- 48 "Same here!"
- 50 Office note
- 51 Stylish attire, in slang
- 52 Actress Ward
- 55 Little dog's bark
- 56 "The ___ of the Worlds"
- 57 Dana Bash's channel
- 58 Spike who said, "Power is knowing your past"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	C	S	V	E	T	S	R	A	W	R			
B	A	H	O	T	O	H	A	R	I	E	S		
S	P	O	U	T	S	N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E
T	U	N	E	R	A	H	A	C	A	I			
S	I	L	O	J	E	T	S	E	T	T	I	N	G
M	O	D	O	O	H	A	R	R	N	C	O		
U	N	I	O	N	J	O	B	E	I	D	E	R	
S	H	O	W	E	R	C	A	P					
N	A	C	H	O	T	E	U	T	O	N	I	C	
A	K	A	L	G	A	A	B	S	E	C	O		
P	I	P	E	D	R	E	A	M	S	G	W	E	N
A	M	E	S	R	R	S	M	I	L	D			
B	A	T	H	R	O	M	V	A	N	I	T	Y	
O	N	E	A	L	N	A	I	L	F	E	E		
N	E	T	S	E	T	A	L	E	A	T			

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Cocktail Hour by Daniel Bodily

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14	15			
16				17				18			
19			20				21				
22			23			24		25		26	
27			28				29		30		
31					32	33	34				
35				36				37			
38								39			
40	41							42	43		
44	45						46			47	48
49					50	51	52		53		
54				55	56			57	58		
59				60						61	
62				63						64	

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21–April 19
Mars retrograde has slowed your usual momentum, but this pause is a blessing in disguise. Use the coming days for reflection and recalibration rather than charging forward. The Gemini Full Moon on December 26 encourages you to speak candidly, but tread carefully—words carry weight. As the Sun settles into Capricorn on December 21, shift your focus to career ambitions and practical planning for the year ahead.

Taurus

April 20–May 20
Venus, your ruling planet, highlights your public image and professional aspirations this month. Opportunities arise, but patience will be key. The Full Moon on December 26 spotlights finances—take stock of your resources and set clear priorities. Avoid impulsive decisions during Mars retrograde. By December 21, Capricorn season encourages you to think long-term and broaden your horizons through learning or travel.

Gemini

May 21–June 20
A powerful Full Moon in your sign on December 26 pushes you to prioritize personal goals. Emotions may run high, so maintain balance in your relationships. Mercury's recent shift clears lingering communication issues, giving you clarity and focus. As Capricorn season begins on December 21, Capricorn turns to partnerships—personal or financial—where deeper connections and compromises will lead to growth.

Cancer

June 21–July 22
This season urges rest and reflection. Mars retrograde affects daily routines, so avoid overextending yourself. The Full Moon on December 26 illuminates matters you've been avoiding; address lingering tensions with care. Capricorn season begins on December 21, spotlighting relationships. Commit to open conversations with loved ones and work partners—you'll find harmony through understanding and compromise.

Leo

July 23–August 22
With Mars retrograde in your sign, energy levels may dip, but this slowdown allows you to reassess priorities. The Gemini Full Moon on December 26 highlights friendships and collaborative ventures; reconnect with your network and reassess group goals. Capricorn season, starting December 21, draws attention to health and habits. Small, consistent changes will yield big results.

Virgo

August 23–September 22
The Full Moon on December 26 brings career matters to the forefront, offering clarity on your professional trajectory. Use this energy to align your goals for the new year. Mars retrograde slows immediate progress, but patience will be rewarded. As Capricorn season begins on December 21, focus on creative pursuits and reconnect with what inspires you. Romance may also take a more prominent role.

Libra

September 23–October 22
Venus influences your long-term goals this month, and the Full Moon on December 26 encourages exploration. Expand your perspective through travel, education, or new experiences. Mars retrograde may challenge group dynamics, so stay mindful of conflicts. Capricorn season, beginning December 21, shifts attention to home and family. Use this time to create a supportive, peaceful environment.

Scorpio

October 23–November 21
The Full Moon on December 26 urges transparency in matters of shared finances and close partnerships. Avoid unnecessary tension by approaching issues with clarity and trust. Mars retrograde encourages restraint; wait until January for major decisions. As the Sun enters Capricorn on December 21, communication takes center stage. Organize your thoughts and express yourself clearly to move forward productively.

Sagittarius

November 22–December 21
This month brings relationships into focus. The Full Moon on December 26 highlights partnerships, revealing imbalances that need addressing. Mars retrograde urges caution—avoid hasty commitments. As Capricorn season begins on December 21, financial planning takes precedence. Organize your resources and set realistic goals to secure long-term stability.

Capricorn

December 22–January 19
The Sun enters your sign on December 21, ushering in a period of self-renewal and focus. The Full Moon on December 26 highlights your daily routines, encouraging you to establish habits that promote health and efficiency. Mars retrograde may slow workplace progress, but patience will ensure steady results. Use this time to clarify your intentions for the year ahead.

Aquarius

January 20–February 18
Venus enhances your natural charm this month, drawing opportunities for social and romantic connections. The Full Moon on December 26 encourages creative expression and leisure, reminding you to embrace joy. With Mars retrograde, resist the urge to push too hard—rest and recalibration are essential. Capricorn season, starting December 21, invites introspection and reflection as you prepare for new beginnings.

Pisces

February 19–March 20
The Full Moon on December 26 shines a light on family dynamics and home matters. Address unresolved issues with compassion to restore harmony. Mars retrograde may disrupt routines, so maintain flexibility and avoid overcommitments. Capricorn season, beginning December 21, emphasizes friendships and community; nurture connections with those who align with your values.

FAMILY TIME Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1. (K) Be a stage performer
- 4. Chances of winning
- 8. (K) Dylan, to Cole Sprouse
- 12. (K) Most common word in English
- 13. (K) Blood carrier
- 14. Business-person's helper
- 15. (K) Skinny, wiggling fish
- 16. (K) Water, in a Super Soaker
- 17. Challenge for a dry cleaner
- 18. (K) Amusement park spinners (2 words)
- 21. "Love ___ neighbor ..."
- 22. Uneven thing for gymnasts?
- 23. Pointless Olympic event?
- 25. Greenish-blue hue
- 27. Sticky, oozing stuff

DOWN

- 30. Beef cattle breed from a Southwest state (2 words)
- 33. (K) Flik in "A Bug's Life"
- 34. (K) Bit of pig speak
- 35. German river through Hamburg
- 36. "To thine ___ self be true"
- 37. (K) Held for a time
- 38. Every now and then
- 44. (K) Cow calls
- 45. (K) Space shuttle staff
- 46. (K) Shrieking reaction to a mouse sighting
- 48. Pro's opposite
- 49. Valuable cards in decks
- 50. (K) Ginger ___
- 51. Infamous Scottish loch
- 52. Put aboard
- 53. (K) Pesky insect

DOWN

- 1. (K) Consumed caramel-covered oysters
- 2. (K) Restaurant VIP
- 3. Old-time TV news service
- 4. Egg producer
- 5. (K) Prefix meaning "half"
- 6. (K) Lowers, as lighting
- 7. Mound made by a winter plow
- 8. Electrical weapon
- 9. (K) Attend to a counter spill
- 10. K-pop ___ (Korean celebrity)
- 11. (K) Parts of some sports courts
- 19. Flightless bird from South America
- 20. (K) Do this to curtains and pictures
- 23. In-flight announcement

24. (K) Handy signifier?

- 25. Type of trial or study
- 26. Not hither
- 27. Thin foil used in art (2 words)
- 28. (K) Shape of a globe
- 29. (K) Number before "Lift off!"
- 31. Some barnyard moms
- 32. (K) Recover from an injury
- 36. (K) Fertile bit of land in a desert
- 37. Hole for an anchor line
- 38. Yemen neighbor
- 39. (K) Holder for ice cream
- 40. (K) Beds in barracks
- 41. (K) Predatory dolphin
- 42. (K) Absolutely must have
- 43. (K) Shout
- 47. (K) Opener of a door or heart

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Metal core?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	S	T	S	O	P	C	A	N	E	
A	L	O	E	C	G	I	L	I	O	N	
P	O	L	L	A	R	T	E	R	N	E	
S	T	E	E	P	L	E	C	H	A	S	E
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P	A	T	T	E	R	N	R	E	P	E	L
S	H	O	L	E	S	A	D				
S	E	L	F	C	E	N	T	E	R	E	D
F	A	D	E	I	R	A	C	A	P	E	
I	N	O	N	S	I	C	K	N	E	E	
B	E	T	S	E	K	S	T	E	P		

Previous riddle answer:

Batman's hang-up?
44-A CAPE

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33				34			35			
36							37			
38	39	40				41	42			43
44					45			46		47
48					49			50		
51					52				53	

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 one who speaks (6)
- 2 it locks in locks (9)
- 3 unmapped (9)
- 4 not tied up (10)
- 5 dining linen (10)
- 6 it pivots on a fulcrum (5)
- 7 things on a to-do list (7)

SOLUTIONS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

LE	RAY	TAL	ESS	HAI
RSP	ECL	CHA	TET	TABL
RTL	VER	HER	KER	AN
ERR	DS	OTH	ED	UN

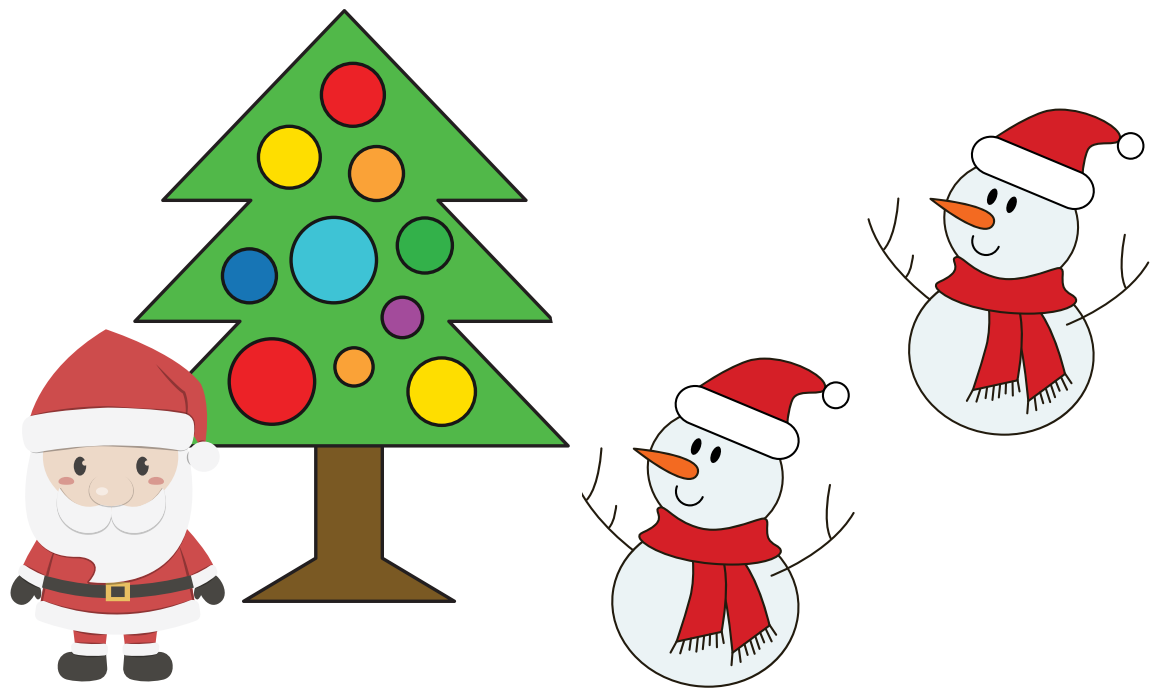
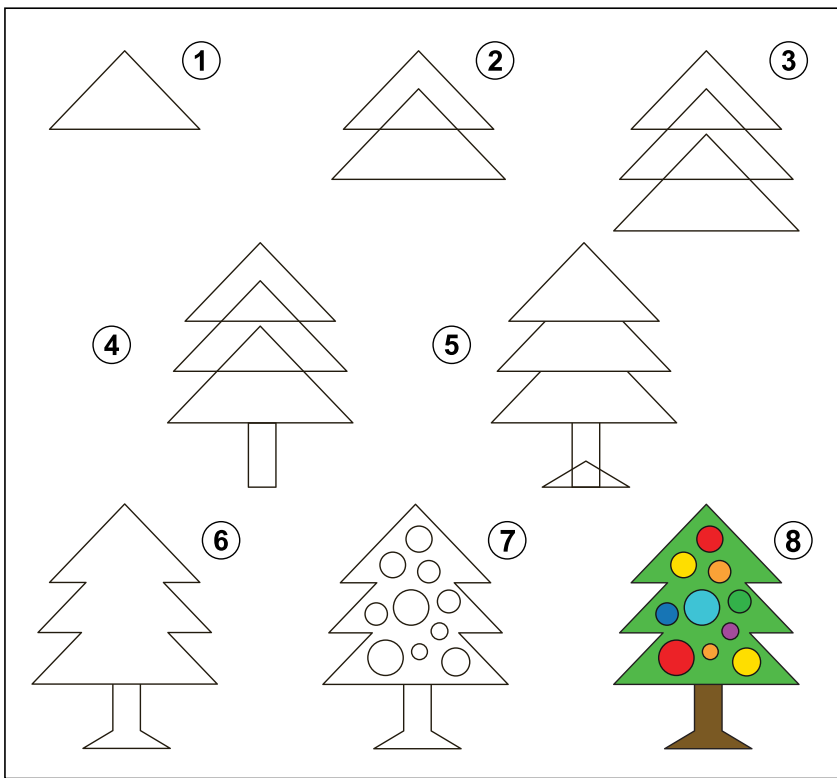
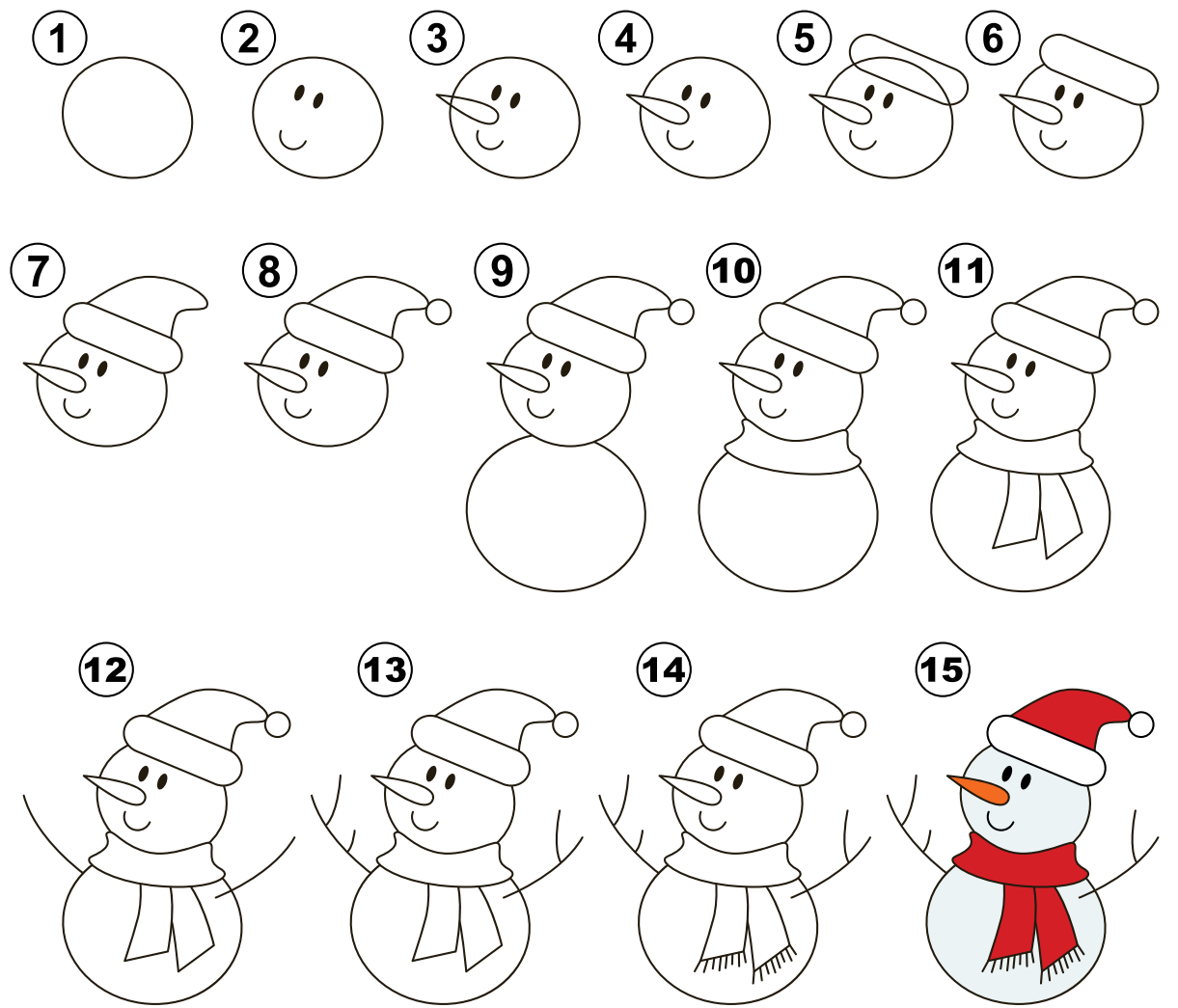
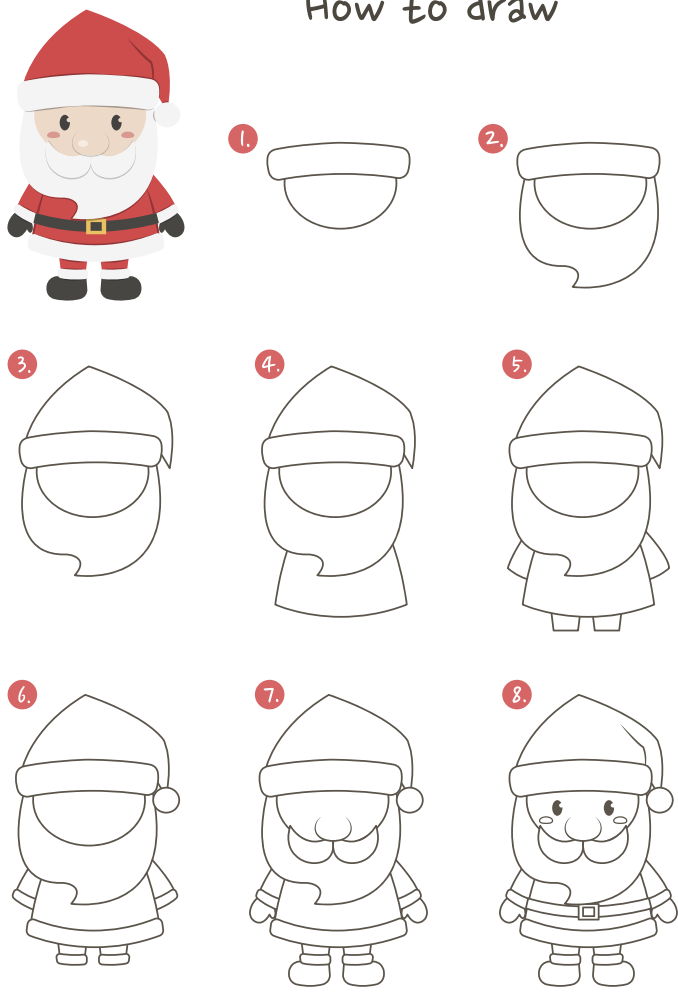
Previous Answers: 1. SECRET 2. MARSHIER 3. CLASP 4. SIMILARLY 5. LISTING 6. REACHING 7. INTERFERE

The answers to this week's puzzles can be found in next week's issue.

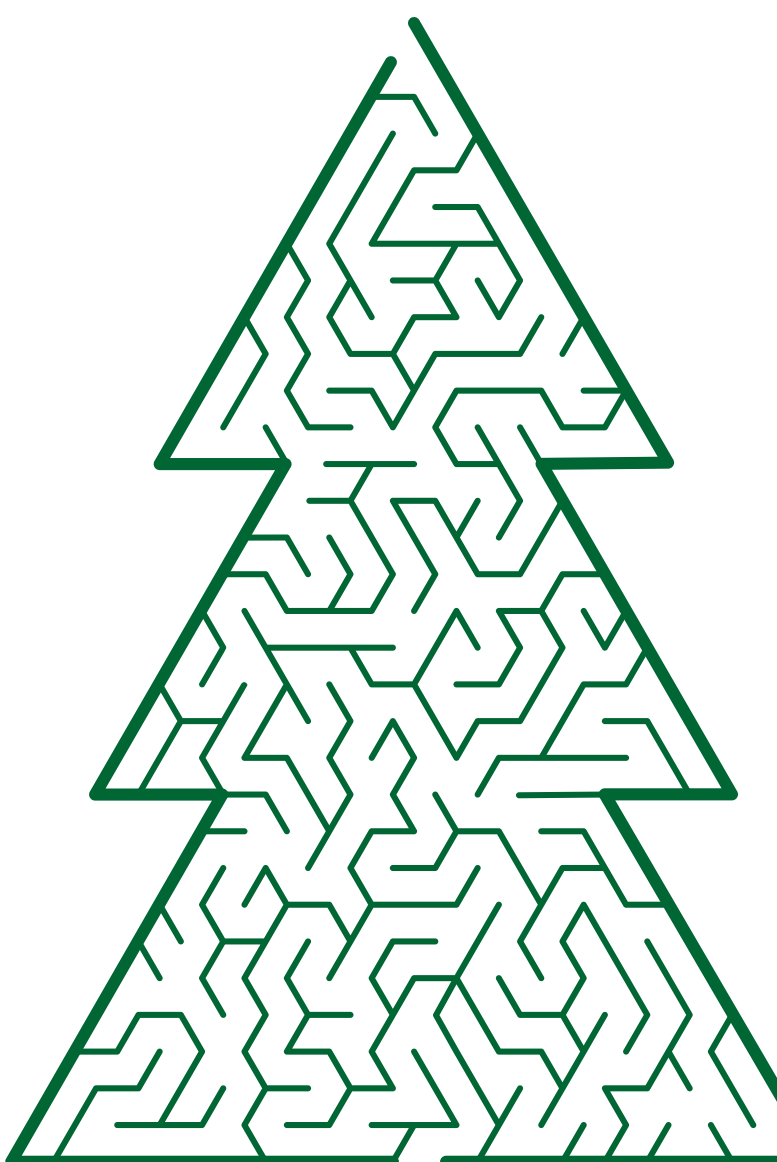
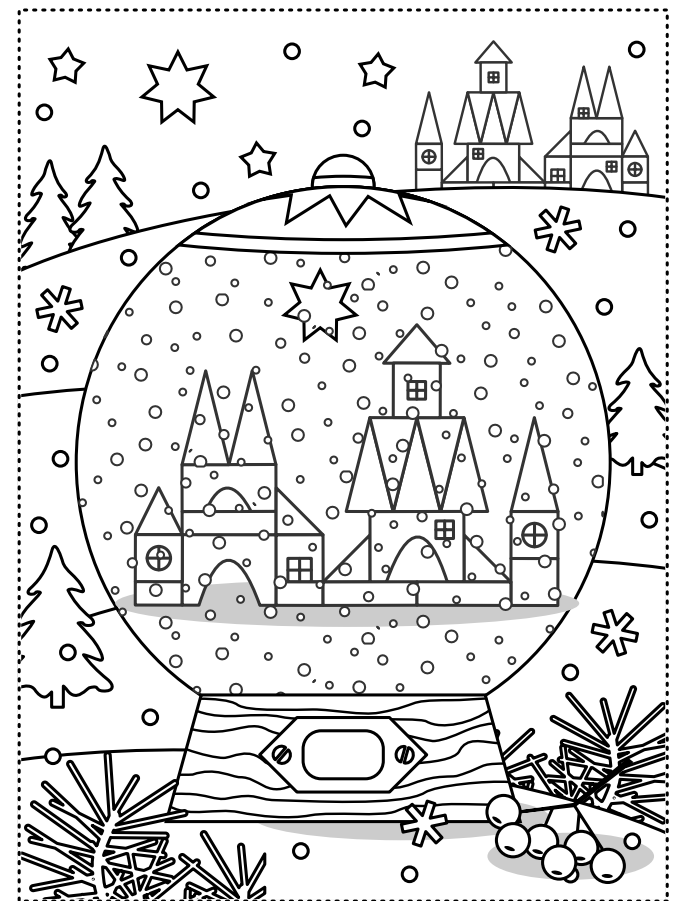
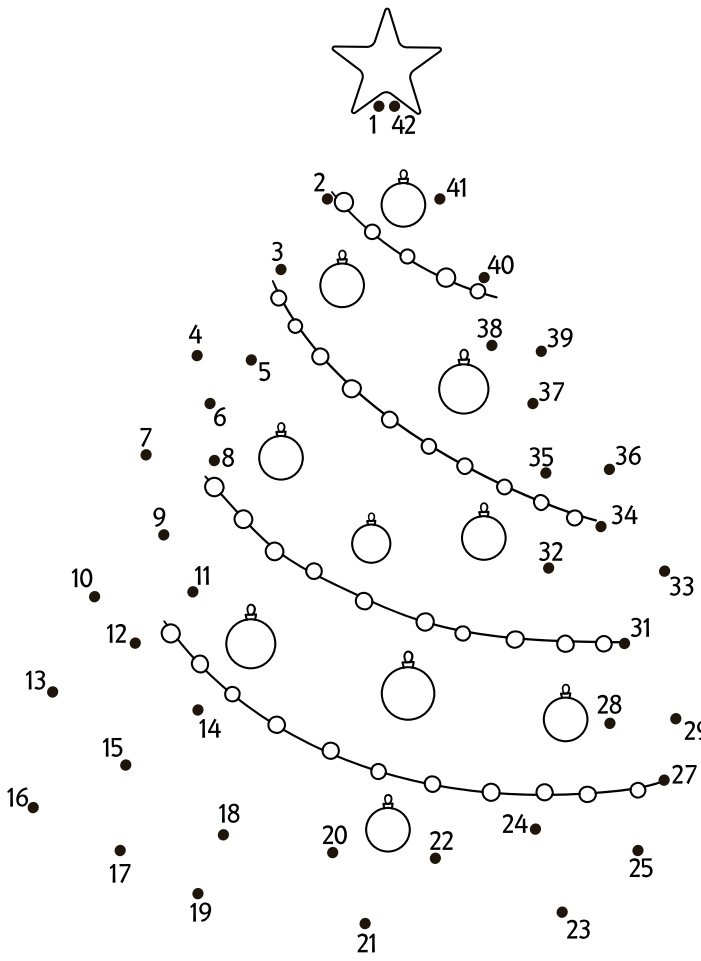
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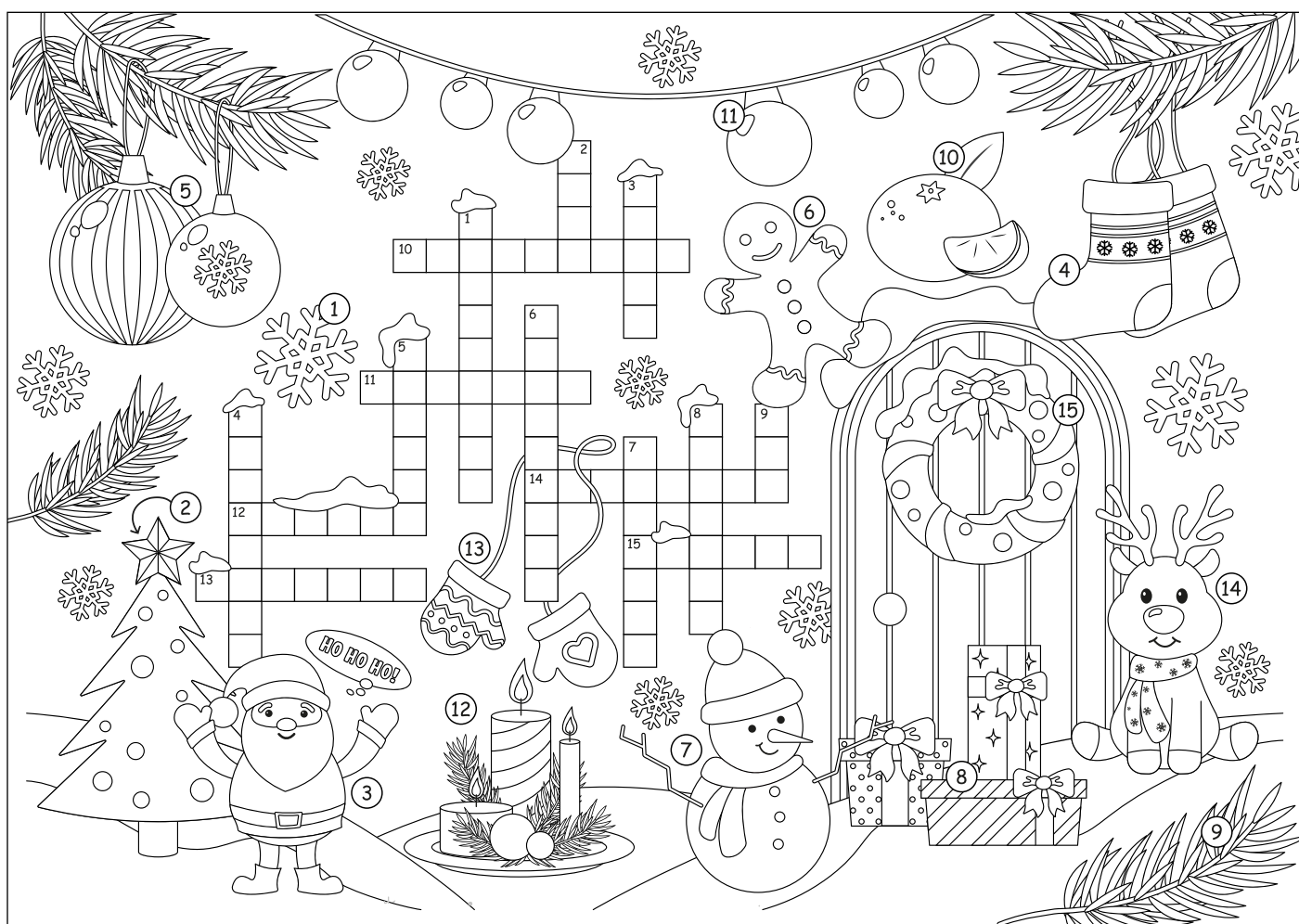
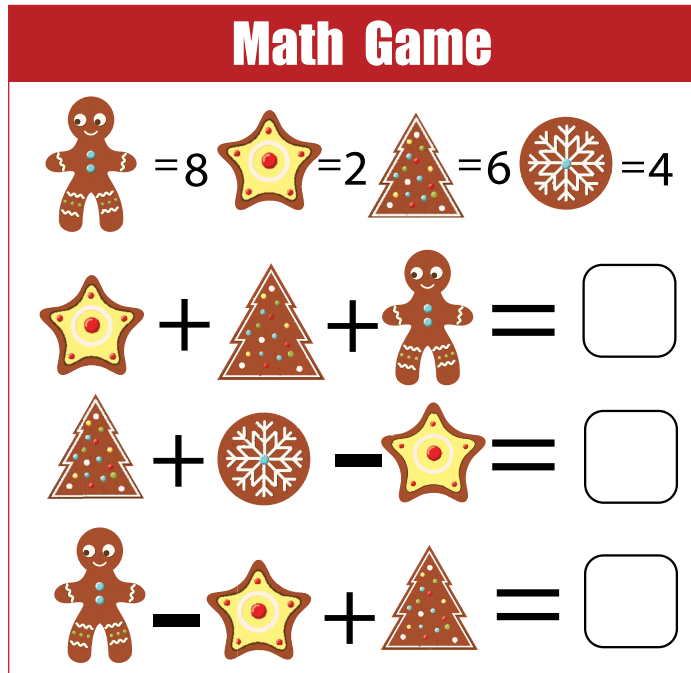
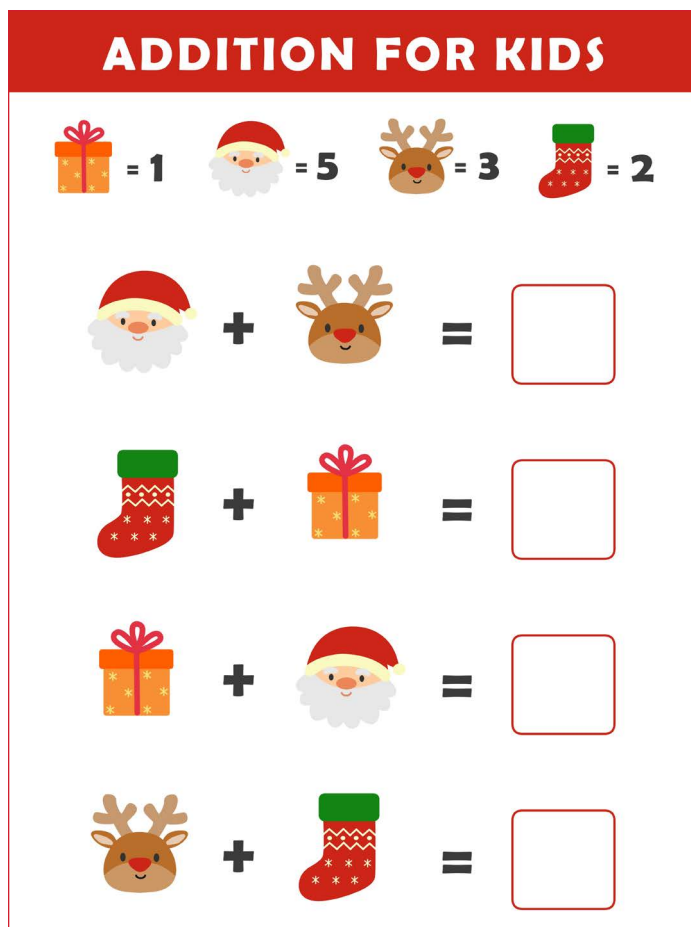
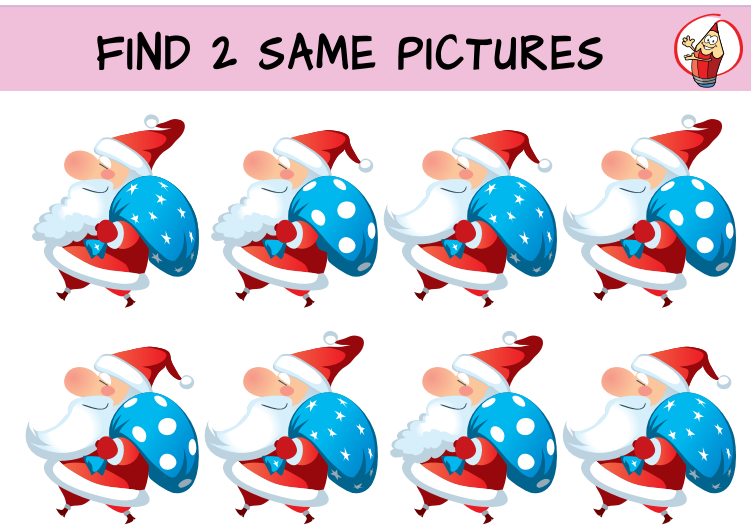
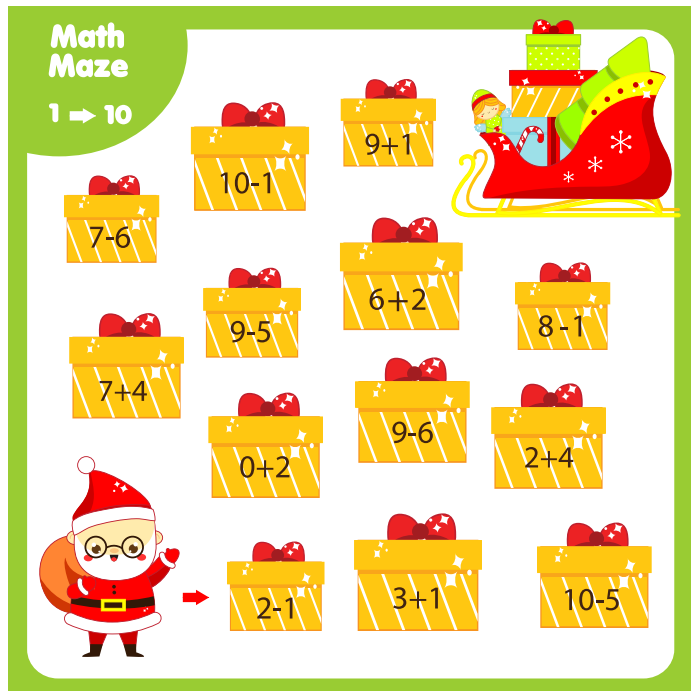
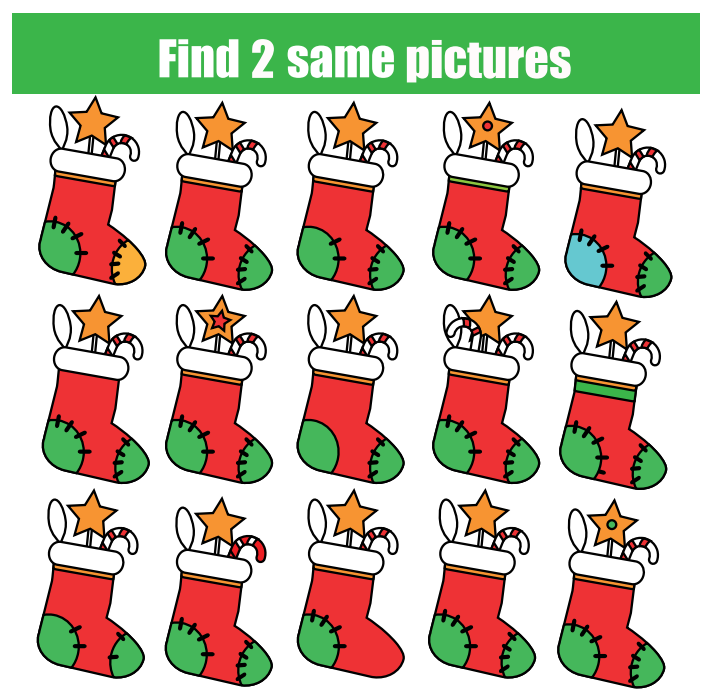
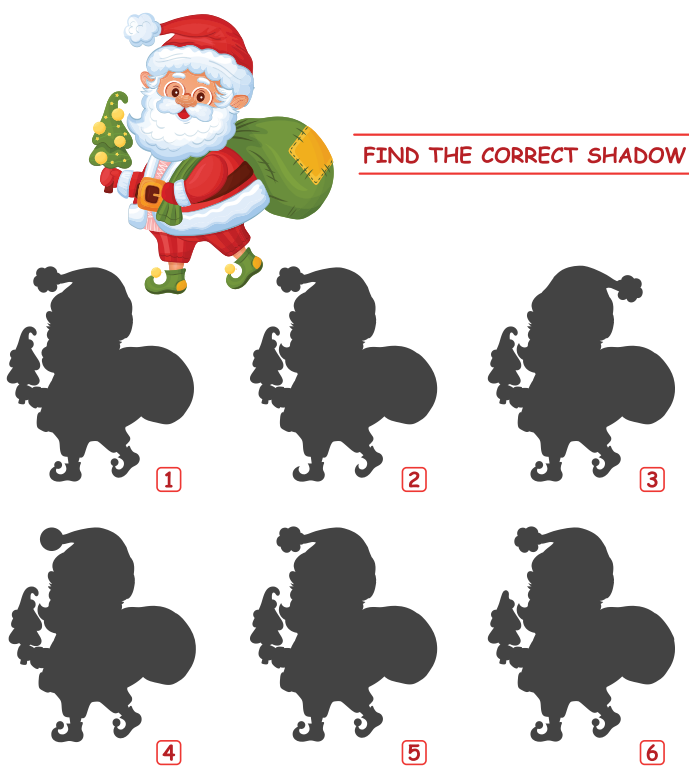
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After graduating among the top of his class at New York University School of Medicine,

Dr. Tepper trained at the renowned Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, NYU Langone Medical Center, completing his plastic surgery residency as well as fellowships in craniofacial reconstruction and pediatric plastic surgery.

Dr. Tepper lives in Greenwich, provides specialized care from Manhattan to Connecticut and consults worldwide. He is acclaimed for his role in the separation of conjoined twins Jadon and Anias McDonald, performing similar surgeries twice more in Brazil.



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The Sentinel Education Pages

COLUMN | WILDLY SUCCESSFUL: THE REINDEER

The Legendary Reindeer

BY JIM KNOX

From partridges to penguins, there are many animals associated with Christmas, yet one consistently flies to the top of the list. In fact, this animal and Christmas are virtually inseparable—forever linked in verse and lore. Providing the “horsepower” pulling Santa’s sleigh around the world each Christmas Eve, this animal has achieved unquestioned job security, as well as a place in our hearts for bringing the holiday with it on its travels.

The Reindeer, *Rangifer tarandus*, is both an actual living creature and a legendary beast representing all the magic of Christmas and the holiday season. Its mythic qualities such as flight, worldwide endurance, and uncanny navigational ability, are well known—so no need to go into the technical details here.

It is the other beast, the actual member of the deer family, that possesses nearly equally astounding qualities that impress even the most field-hardened biologists. Known worldwide as Reindeer, and as Caribou in North America, these creatures represent a superbly adapted super species comprising roughly 10 subspecies (taxonomists are hotly debating this one). Although we have minor tweaks to this finely-tuned design, the basic form and function across this super species is among nature’s finest.

With a very un-deer-like barrel-shaped body and short legs, the Reindeer’s form departs from the norm. It is this high mass to low surface area ratio that conserves vital heat in the planet’s most forbidding cold. Yet its adaptations for subpolar survival don’t end there. From head to hoof, the Reindeer is a marvel built for survival. Unlike nearly all members of the deer tribe, they possess a broad hair-covered nose which ensures no skin is exposed to frostbite-inducing wind. In fact, the nose is so well protected, the hairs



The Reindeer

A survivor of the planet’s most forbidding realm, the Reindeer teaches us that if we utilize our unique abilities and work together, our dreams can take flight!

extend deep inside the deer’s nostrils ensuring the searing cold can be baffled and filtered before it reaches the animal’s lungs.

The Reindeer’s eyes alone encompass a suite of amazing adaptations. With horizontal pupils, the Reindeer focuses on the horizon where both food and predators are found. They are among an elite class of mammals known to possess ultraviolet vision. With elevated

levels of ultraviolet light in the polar and subpolar regions due to the reflection of snow and ice, this is an invaluable trait. This enables them to detect life-sustaining lichens which absorb ultraviolet wavelengths of light. Similarly, they can detect the light spectrum signature of their main predator, the wolf, as wolf fur also absorbs ultraviolet light. Even more significantly, the Reindeer remains the only

known mammal whose eyes change color seasonally—from amber in summer to blue in winter. This reduces the amount of light reflected back out of the eye, which confers sharp vision even in the near dark conditions of the long Arctic winter.

While the Arctic is snow and ice-bound throughout most of the year, the brief Arctic summer results in massive thawing. With migrations that may take the Reindeer herds hundreds of miles, long water crossings are inevitable, and the Reindeer’s hollow hairs act as a life preserver, buoying their bulky bodies while their oversized paddle-like hooves drive them through the water at more than six miles per hour—faster than an Olympic swimmer’s 4.7 miles per hour! These same hollow hairs trap body heat and insulate the Reindeer so well, snow will not melt on its body. This in turn provides an additional layer of insulation.

The Reindeer’s unique antler configuration features a palmate “shovel” on the brow of one antler. This enables the animal to scrape snow away from lichens once its keen nose has detected their presence as much as two feet below the snow’s surface! Used in conjunction with the antler, the Reindeer’s broad hooves paw away ice to get to food. This is achieved by the seasonal growth of the hooves, which develop a prominent sharp outer edge in winter (aiding in traction) and a contracting center to protect the sensitive base of the hoof from sharp ice.

While these physical adaptations are extraordinary, it is the behavioral Reindeer which is an even more impressive beast. The Reindeer’s hardiness and resilience are legendary. Having worked with these creatures in conditions down to zero degrees Fahrenheit, I can assure you they are extremely comfortable in the cold. In fact, they thrive in much

colder conditions—possessing the highest temperature range tolerance of any known mammal. Withstanding temperatures from 65 below to 115 degrees Fahrenheit (there are captive herds in South Texas), these beasts can endure a temperature swing of nearly two hundred degrees!

Reindeer utilize the collective eyes, ears, and noses of the vast herd to detect danger and locate scarce resources on their long migrations. Though they can run at a startling 50 miles per hour—virtually flying along the ground—they conserve their energy and focus on the next step of their journey. In fact, the famous clicking of their hooves is an actual phenomenon. The tendons riding over the sesamoid bones in their feet produce a distinctive clicking sound which enables the herd to maintain forward progress and stick together even during whiteout blizzard conditions!

In the Reindeer we have a golden opportunity to incorporate some wild wisdom into our lives. Working together—and sticking together as a team—especially during tough times will see us through. Adjusting our vision to changing conditions, thereby detecting essential changes in our world will serve us well. Utilizing the collective strength of the group to advance the interest of all ensures everyone has something to contribute and can likewise benefit. Conserving our energy for those moments when it is needed most will enable us to conquer unforeseen challenges that lie ahead. As a survivor of the planet’s most forbidding realm the Reindeer teaches us that by utilizing our unique abilities and working together, our dreams can take flight!

Jim Knox is Curator of Education at Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo where he directs education and conservation initiatives to advance the protection of wildlife in Connecticut and beyond.



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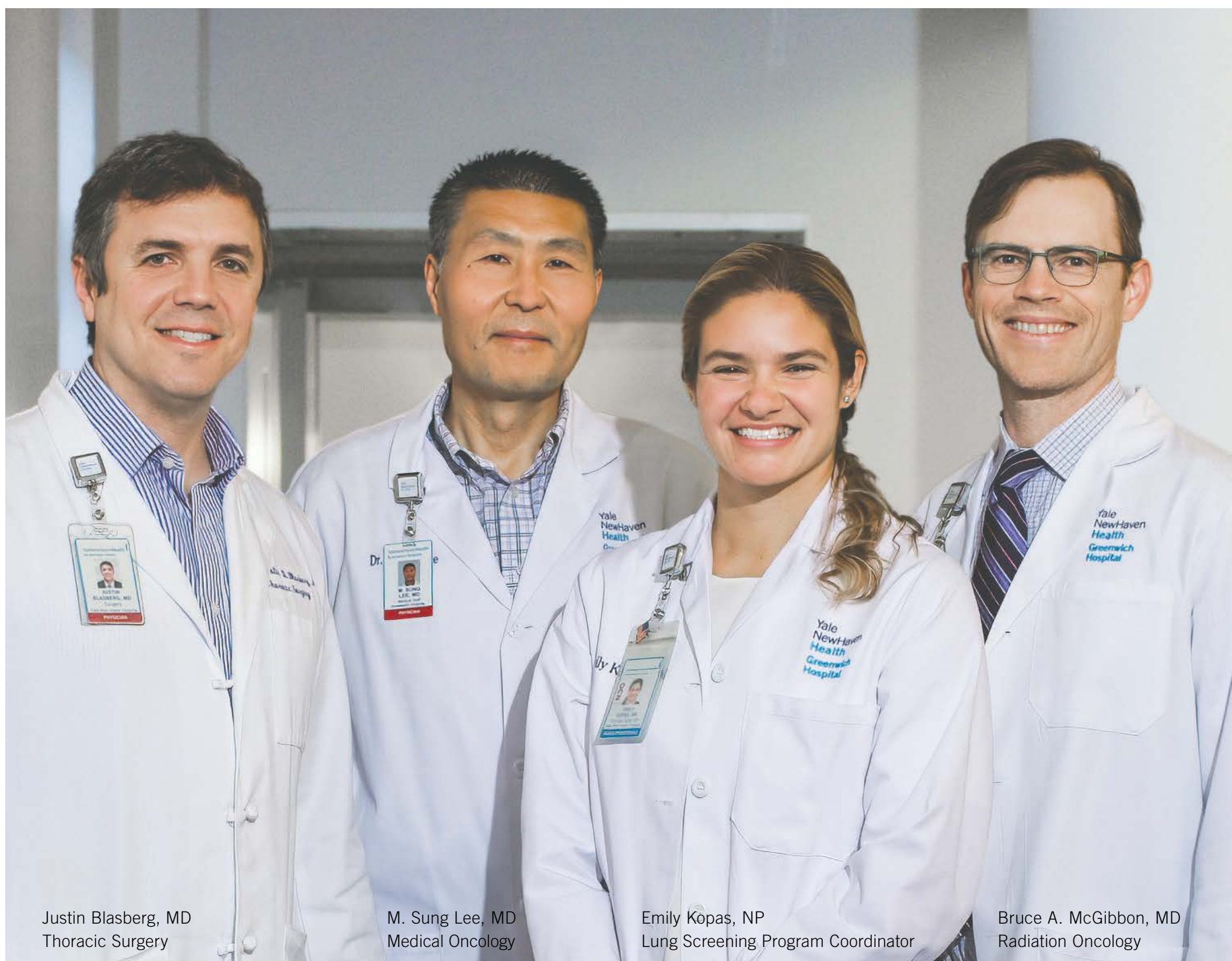
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Radiation Oncology

It takes our team of experts to tackle lung cancer. With the greatest of care.

Smilow Cancer Hospital is different. Here, our world-renowned lung cancer experts practice a team approach to treating lung and esophageal cancers. One that puts the patient at the very center of everything we do – from understanding your physical, mental, and emotional needs, to providing a highly personalized treatment plan. Our patients have direct access to genetic testing, tumor profiling, and clinical trials through Yale Cancer Center, Connecticut's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Our Center for Thoracic Cancers offers more services, expertise, and breakthrough science. No one is more capable of treating you with the greatest of care.

Specialty Services: Clinical Trials; Genetic Testing; Medical, Surgical and Radiation Oncology; Hematology; Oncology Pharmacy; Lab and Infusion Services; Lung Cancer Screening; Nutrition Counseling; Rehabilitation Therapy; Survivorship Planning; Palliative Care; Patient and Family Support

Information and appointments:

Lung cancer screening: 475-240-8322

Lung cancer specialist: 203-863-3700

Smilow Cancer Hospital – Greenwich

77 Lafayette Place

Smilow Cancer Hospital – Stamford

260 Long Ridge Road

YaleNewHavenHealth
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Yale CANCER CENTER
A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated
by the National Cancer Institute