

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

Phone Call Scam

Scammers posing as New Canaan police officers are calling residents and claiming their personal information is compromised. Authorities advise not to share information, hang up on suspicious calls, and report them to the police at (203) 594-3500.

Fire at West School

A fire broke out in the kiln room at West School in New Canaan, causing minor smoke and water damage. Firefighters responded quickly and extinguished the fire, and the cause is under investigation. Cleanup efforts are ongoing, and officials recommend keeping doors closed to prevent fire spread.

Holiday Fire Escape Plan

Create and practice a fire escape plan with your holiday guests, considering their specific needs, particularly for older adults or those with mobility challenges. Ensure smoke alarms are functional, identify two exits per room, and establish an outdoor meeting point. Practicing the plan helps everyone understand how to exit safely in under two minutes if a fire occurs.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Boucher Rink is Open

The Boucher Community Ice Rink in Waveny Park is now open for the season, operating weekly from Tuesday through Sunday. It offers skating lessons, rentals, and access for residents. More information is available at <https://ncrink.com/>.

YMCA Wins Inclusion Award



STAR Inc. named the New Canaan YMCA its 2024 Employer of the Year for its efforts in providing inclusive job opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Since 2021, the YMCA's employment initiative, supported by the Cioffi Family Special Needs Employment Fund, has hired seven individuals with special needs. Photo credit: New Canaan YMCA.

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Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

The Story of the World's Favorite Bedtime Tale

By BETH BARHYDT

For many in New Canaan and around the world, treasured holiday traditions include a bedtime story that begins, "Twas the night before Christmas," on Christmas Eve. We include it here in its entirety for you to read to your family on Christmas Eve if you would like.

While there is some disagreement over the authorship of this now famous poem, most believe it was penned by Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863).

According to the Library of Congress American Memory project, Moore wrote the tale 202 years ago, on Christmas Eve 1822, while traveling to his Chelsea-district home from Greenwich Village where he had picked up the 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 strongly influenced by the vivid description of St. Nicholas written by Moore's friend, Washington Irving, in *A History of New York* (1809).

Irving was the son of a Presbyterian minister and, more famously, the author of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*. He wrote a similarly enhanced account of the founding of New York City. In it he explained 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.

Clement Moore would have been influenced as well by his famous father, Benjamin Moore, who was the Episcopal minister of Trinity Church and 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 actually first published anonymously in the *Troy Sentinel* newspaper on Dec. 23, 1823.



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.

Moore portrayed St. Nicholas as arriving on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas Day. This small detail shifted focus away from stronger religious associations and created a more child-centric Christmas spirit.

His light-hearted poem was originally not meant for publication and was likely submitted without Moore even knowing. Moore did eventually acknowledge being the author, fifteen years later.

His little poem has found its way into the homes and hearts of millions across the world. On Christmas Eve, in our home, our holiday will most certainly include this story.

After 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 that very night.

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

Rams Gift Wrap Another Title Delivering 3-Peat in Last Week's Game

If Hollywood ever decides to make a high school football movie, they'll have to start in New Canaan. On Saturday, the Rams capped off their third straight championship season with a 35-21 win over Darien in the Class L state final at Arute Field. It wasn't just another victory for Lou Marinelli's squad—it was the kind of game that cements legacies and adds another layer to one of Connecticut's fiercest rivalries.

For New Canaan, the win wasn't just about talent—it was about resilience, precision, and finding ways to finish strong, even when the stakes were at their highest.

FOURTH-QUARTER HEROICS

Tied at 21 late in the third quarter, the Rams found themselves in unfamiliar territory: a real fight. Darien, fresh off a momentum-building semifinal win over Notre Dame-West Haven, had erased a 14-0 deficit and looked ready to flip the script on their Thanksgiving Day blowout loss to New Canaan.

Enter Luke Robinson. The senior quarterback, nicknamed "Cool Hand Luke" by Marinelli, once again lived up to his billing. With 10:15 left in the fourth, Robinson fired an 11-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jake Valente—his first touchdown of the season—giving the Rams a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

But Robinson wasn't done. Just three minutes later, he connected with Andrew Esposito for the knockout punch—a 69-yard highlight-reel play where Esposito spun past defenders and left the Blue Wave secondary



A tense moment in the New Canaan vs. Darien Class L state championship game as New Canaan quarterback Luke Robinson, donning the Rams' iconic red and black, stays poised in the pocket as Darien's defense closes in. | Photo by Bill Berg

chasing shadows. Esposito's second touchdown of the game put New Canaan up 35-21 and turned the final minutes into a victory lap.

ESPOSITO SHINES ON THE BIG STAGE

If this season was a coming-out party for Esposito, Saturday was his coronation. The junior receiver, named Connecticut High School Player of the Year by MaxPreps, finished the game with eight receptions for 119 yards and two touchdowns, adding 68 rushing yards and another score. He passed the 1,000-yard receiving mark for the season and tallied his 20th touchdown, cementing his place among the state's elite playmakers.

Esposito's ability to make game-changing plays, whether out of the Wildcat or on deep routes, epitomized New Canaan's versatility all season. "He's the kind of player who turns routine plays into jaw-dropping moments," said Marinelli, as reported by The Ruden Report.

ROBINSON'S MASTERCLASS

Robinson, meanwhile, added to his already impressive resume. The senior completed 17 of 24 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns, finishing the season with a remarkable 28-to-2 touchdown-to-interception ratio. In a program known for its great quarterbacks, Robinson has etched his name alongside legends like Drew Pyne and Matt Milano.

When the game was on the line, Robinson delivered. Whether standing tall against Darien's relentless pass rush or threading needles to his receivers, he was the steady hand New Canaan needed in the biggest moments.

DARIEN'S STRONG EFFORT FALLS SHORT

To their credit, the Blue Wave didn't go quietly. Quarterback Ben Rolapp, who struggled in the Turkey Bowl, bounced back with a 288-yard, two-touchdown performance. His connection with Thomas Herget, including a 65-yard score to open the second half, kept Darien in the game.

Herget finished with 139 receiving yards, while Kevin Roche added 105 yards of his own.

But Darien's defense couldn't find an answer for Esposito or Robinson in the final quarter. Coach Andy Grant acknowledged as much postgame, citing missed tackles and New Canaan's ability to make defenders miss in the open field.

LEGACY SECURED

The victory marked New Canaan's 15th state championship and 12th since 2001, a testament to Marinelli's enduring legacy. But this one felt special—not just because it came against their biggest rival in the 100th meeting, but because of the way this team came together.

"This group was a true team," Marinelli told reporters, emphasizing the camaraderie and collective effort that defined the season. From unsung heroes like Valente to superstars like Esposito and Robinson, the Rams epitomized what it means to play for each other.

WHAT'S NEXT?

With Esposito returning next season and Marinelli still at the helm, New Canaan's future looks just as bright as its past. For now, though, the Rams can savor a championship season capped by one of the most thrilling title games in recent memory.

In a rivalry that has seen its share of unforgettable moments, Saturday's game was another chapter in a story that keeps getting better. For New Canaan, the dynasty continues. For the rest of Connecticut football, the message is clear: the road to a championship still runs through Dunning Field.



Now May Be the Best Time to Sell!
Are you Ready? The Engel Team is!





Naughty or Nice List?



Stella you did such an amazing job making your scarecrow to enhance beautiful downtown New Canaan during Halloween that Santa has put you on the NICE list.



Lucy Toal is on the NICE list because she is incredibly helpful around the house. Lucy gets the mail, loves starting the dishwasher and cleans up even when it's someone else's mess. Lucy notices when someone needs some assistance and is quick to jump in and help. Lucy is honest and tells the truth even when it's hard.



Connor Toal is on the NICE list because he is a very honest and trustworthy boy. Even when it's hard. He can always be counted on to do the right thing. I often spot Connor expressing genuine gratitude for the little things in life.



Coco, Wyatt and Luke Umbdenstock are on the NICE for being the best helpers to mom and dad and trying to be their best selves every day!



Phoebe, Lily, Gavin, and Abby Brown are on the NICE list for being kind to your siblings and helping Mom & Dad around the house!



Margaret Ayoub is on the NICE list because she is my first grandchild.



Transitioning from your family home can be challenging, but moving to The Inn, Waveny's independent living community, can be a soft landing into a wonderful new chapter in your life.

The Inn is our supportive, intimate retirement community with spacious apartments, restaurant-style dining, extensive social, recreational, educational and wellness programs, and so much more.

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LIFECARE NETWORK



Naughty or Nice List?



The Staples Children are on the NICE list for Teddy's wisdom, Harold's kindness, and Beatrix's endless attempts to stay on the nice list!



Dear Santa, Vivianne's loving spirit and giggles earn her a spot on your NICE list this year! You can always count on Vivianne to lend a hand and help anyone out. Although there are times she teeters toward your naughty list, her big warm heart tips it! Her heart is enormous.



Dear Santa, Caroline's loving and joyful heart absolutely earns her a spot on your nice list! The patience and helpfulness she shows toward her ailing grandfather is truly endearing. Her spirit is up lifting. You can always count on Caroline to have her selfless heart in the right place.

To The Faculty
and Staff at
West Elementary

To the faculty and staff at West Elementary, You are on the NICE list this year! Thank you for your kindness, support, and for bringing joy to each of us everyday.

Happy Holidays!
Your Westy Students

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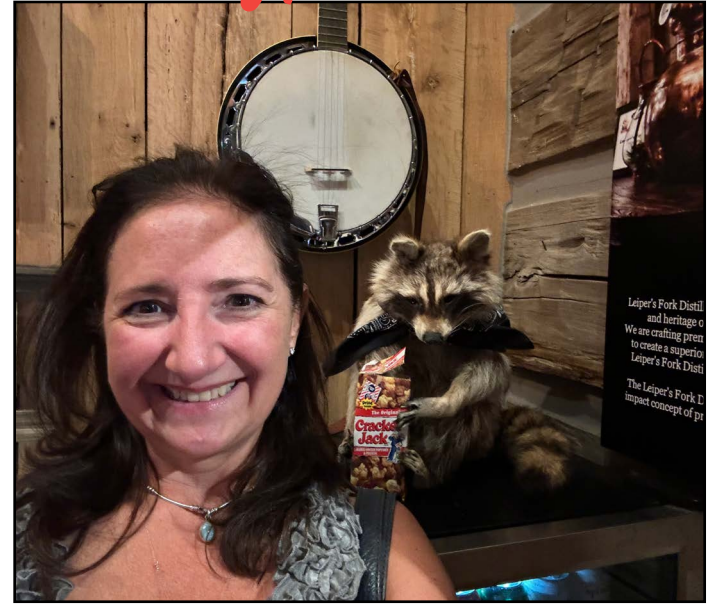
Naughty or Nice List?



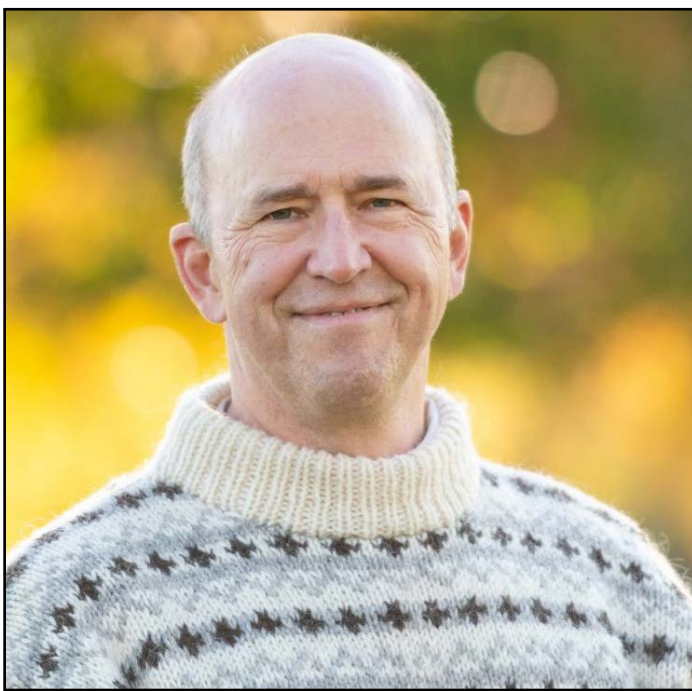
Dionna Carlson is on the NICE list for her steadfast leadership and dedication to New Canaan and for always showing up—whether it’s town meetings, school events, church events, community gatherings, ribbon cuttings, or the Sentinel coffees, her presence reflects her deep commitment to the people she serves and the town she calls home.



The New Canaan Playhouse and its amazing staff earn a well-deserved spot on the NICE List for bringing movie magic back to town. Thanks to Cinema Lab and its team, the beautifully restored Playhouse is once again a hub of entertainment and community joy. With its mix of modern comfort and historic charm, the Playhouse is where New Canaan comes together to share popcorn, laughter, and holiday cheer.



Maria Weingarten earns a well-deserved spot on the NICE List for her tireless dedication to New Canaan. As co-founder of CT169Strong, she’s been a champion for local zoning control, while her Texas-style chili and other amazing recipes have spiced up the Sentinel pages. Whether advocating for the community or sharing her kitchen talents, Maria brings warmth and purpose to everything she does.



John Kriz lands firmly on the NICE List for wearing more hats than most closets can hold—serving on Planning & Zoning, advocating for sustainability with Planet New Canaan, and contributing to the Exchange Club, all while still finding time to perfect his wine-making skills. Whether he’s championing smart development, tackling environmental initiatives, or sharing practical wisdom, John proves he’s a true community MVP!



Toddy Turrentine earns her place on the Nice List for her tireless dedication to New Canaan, from championing sustainability through the Swap Shop to advocating for children’s mental health services. A Sentinel reader, Toddy is quick to cheer us on when we’re doing well and nudge us when we need to do better—because she cares deeply about her community and its stories.



John Engel earns his spot on the NICE List for his sense of humor, his dedication to New Canaan and his deep love for the community. Being a leader in local real estate, serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission and as a member of the Rotary are just a few of the many, many ways that John works tirelessly to shape the town’s future. His weekly Sentinel real estate column is a favorite among readers, blending insight with wit, making him both an expert in the field and a storyteller we cherish.



Tucker Murphy easily earns her spot on the NICE List for showing up everywhere—whether running the show at Town Hall, championing local businesses, or keeping New Canaan running smoother than Santa’s sleigh. With her endless energy and community spirit, Tucker proves time and again that she’s the town’s ultimate elf.



Manfredi Jewels sparkles on the NICE List under the leadership of Roberto, Roberta, and Bianca Chiappelloni, who’ve made their boutique on Elm Street shine even brighter with a stunning expansion. Known for their dazzling jewelry and generous hearts, the Manfredi team gives back in a big way, including their support of ABC New Canaan. With style, sparkle, and a whole lot of community spirit, Manfredi proves they’re the crown jewel of New Canaan this season.



Waveny LifeCare Network lands on the NICE List for its unwavering commitment to serving New Canaan’s seniors with compassion and care. Under the leadership of Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., Waveny continues to set the standard for excellence in senior services, from independent living to specialized memory care. Russell’s brilliant and thoughtful columns in the Sentinel highlight not only his deep understanding of health care but also his vision for strengthening and educating the community. Whether through expert care or inspiring words, Waveny and its leadership make New Canaan a better, brighter place.

Best Bites: New Canaan



By PAUL REITANO

Paul Sullivan can eat an entire pizza. On its own, that's enough to get into my personal hall of fame - but as it turns out, Paul has accomplished much, much more. A journalist for decades - he had his own business column, "Wealth Matters" for The New York Times. He's also an accomplished author and has an exciting new endeavor, "The Company Of Dads." More on that later.

Me: Paul you wrote over 600 installments of your column for The New York Times. As a writer, and as a Paul, any advice for writing your own column?

Paul: Plan ahead. Never procrastinate.

Me: This was actually due yesterday. Tell me about your column.

Paul: It was the "Wealth Matters" column - the strategies and habits of the wealthiest people in America. What they were doing right, what they were sometimes doing wrong, and what could be learned from both.

Me: What did you discover about money that might be useful to New Canaanites?

Paul: In general, people are too reticent to talk to their children about money, and it almost always causes problems, ranging from misunderstandings to really detrimental stuff about what money can do. No parent in New Canaan would skip the "sex talk" with their kids, and you can't skip the "money talk" either. It's parental malpractice.

Me: What's "the talk," what am I telling them?

Paul: Talk with your kids about how much things cost - teach them basic personal finance. For years in town one of the toy stores sold a Barbie for exactly ten dollars. It was a perfect opportunity to teach kids the value of money, how much things cost in units of ten; what it meant to save and spend.

Me: My daughter is eight. The other day we were waiting for the school bus, and she told me she wants a Range Rover. What should I do?

Paul: Talk to her about how much things cost. In my column I once

interviewed a really successful investor - and he talked about the time he bought a new car. He sat his daughter down and talked about how much it really cost. Not just the price of the car, but the maintenance, the gas, the taxes.

Me: I hear you, but she specifically mentioned wanting an SE - she said the Discovery was too small. Am I doomed?

Paul: Look; kids are comparative by nature. They know when they go on playdates whose house is bigger or smaller. That becomes an amazing opportunity. As parents we freak out. We think our kids are going to feel this way or that, but use it as a teaching moment.

Me: What am I teaching them there?

Paul: That life is about choices, and your choices are valid as long as they are in line with what you want to achieve. If they want to be an elementary school teacher, that's fine - or a hedge fund manager that's fine, too. Those are two choices and opportunities that pay different amounts of money.

Me: One of your books is called "Clutch." What does it mean to be clutch?

Paul: To be clutch is the ability to do under pressure what you do under normal circumstances. People who say they do better under pressure - it's not true. Derek Jeter. If you look at the numbers, he wasn't better in October. He was consistent. He operated the same under extreme pressure as he did the rest of the year. That's clutch. Then you have someone like Alex Rodriguez. His performance fell off when the pressure was at its highest.

Me: What are some of the characteristics of being clutch?

Paul: Focus, discipline, adaptability, being present.

Me: Can I teach those things to my first grader? He's only 4 feet tall, but his Y-ball victories bring me great joy.

Paul: Great basketball players don't just practice one hundred free throws. They practice those free throws in the same context as a game - when they are gassed. The best athletes simulate the actual moment in their practice.

Me: So I need to simulate the Y-ball - get lots of other 1st graders over to my house to foul him repeatedly while he tries to make a layup?

Paul: Look; failure is part of getting

I always get the Crispy Baby Artichokes with the aioli, the Crunchy Cauliflower, and the Crispy Calamari. There is not one bland dish in that entire restaurant.

The 3AM pizza at Locali. San Marzano Tomatoes. Pepperoni. Calabrian Chili, Smoked Mozzarella, and Sliced Garlic. \$19. www.localipizzabar.com (203) 920-1440



good. I interviewed Tiger Woods for "Clutch" and he said, "I've failed more than anyone. I was failing in big moments when I was 8, 10. It's part of the road to success."

Me: What are you working on these days?

Paul: I created "The Company Of Dads." It's a community and forum, online and in person, for Lead Dads.

Me: What's a Lead Dad?

Paul: The guys who have taken the lead at home. It used to be that the train station in New Canaan was full of men going off to work with all the wives staying at home, but times have changed. The pandemic altered a lot of how we all live and work. The Company of Dads is a

place for guys to come together.

Me: Paul - your brain is large - but our time is short. What are you eating in New Canaan right now?

Paul: I love Locali. I'm a flavor guy.

Me: If I could just interrupt here - I'm also a flavor guy.

Paul: Well then you must love Locali. I always get the Crispy Baby Artichokes with the aioli, the Crunchy Cauliflower, and the Crispy Calamari. There is not one bland dish in that entire restaurant.

Me: Sounds like a very loud meal.

Paul: My absolute favorite there is the 3AM Pizza. It's pepperoni, Calabrian chili, smoked mozzarella, and garlic. It's got a little heat.

Me: Hypothetical. You've finished your entire pizza. Your daughter next to you has half her pizza left, but she's done. Do you finish that pizza?

Paul: Of course - you have to.

Me: You're a Lead Dad - and a smart one. See you at Locali.

Paul Reitano is television producer who lives in town with his patient wife and exasperated children. He's created and produced multiple TV series including Alaskan Bush People for the Discovery Channel - which ran for 14 seasons. These days he's making fancy sandwiches for his kids lunches and bemoaning why people only watch Tik Tok.

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2019 Château Trotte Vieille
\$99.99 95 Points, J. Dunnuck

Gorgeously pure notes of blue fruits, violets, spring flowers, and graphite emerge from the 2019 Château Trotte Vieille, a silky, concentrated, sensational Saint-Emilion. Clearly the finest vintage from this château I've

tasted, it's medium to full-bodied, has a layered, multi-dimensional mouthfeel, beautiful tannins, and a great finish. It's a "wow" wine in the vintage that can be drunk today or cellared for two decades. Bravo!



2015 Château Potensac
\$49.99 750ML
\$109.99 Magnum (1.5L)
88 Points, J. Dunnuck

The 2015 Potensac comes from vines near the northern edge of Saint-Estèphe and is 45% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 17% Cabernet Franc. It's a rock-solid, medium-

bodied, classic Potensac offering notes of black cherries, underbrush, violets and even a hint of peppery herbs. With medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and fine, nicely integrated tannin, it's a classic 2015 to drink over the coming 10 - 15 years.

130 Elm Street | New Canaan | 203 966 9571 | FrancosWine.com

New Canaan Sentinel

PUBLISHER

Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com

Elizabeth Barhydt

EDITORS & COPY EDITORS

Emma Barhydt, Peter Barhydt [editor-in-chief],
Liz Leamy, Caroll Melgar, Anne W. Semmes,
Robert Williamson, Cordelia Webb

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. Its words and phrasing are both quick-paced and soothing. We like to imagine Church wrote it quickly, in a fit of 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 New Canaan in large ways and small. We see it first hand when we see the Toys For Tots donations opportunities around town. Did you know that New Canaan High School students collected 300 toys in two days for children in Stamford that might not otherwise have a gift? Thanks to the generosity of the high school students and 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.

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

Yes, there is a Santa Claus.

Editorial Page



Merry
Christmas
happy New Year

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.

LETTER

To the Editor,

My great uncle, Lewis Van Rensselaer Smith, covered the second flight of the Wright Brothers for the

Norfolk Virginia Pilot. (As far as we know, there was no media coverage of the first flight.) His article appeared on the front page above the fold but

without a byline. It is still available on the web site of the Virginia Pilot. Today the language seems somewhat strange but he had to be

creative in this wholly novel subject.

William Hugh Murray

First Press Coverage

LETTER

To the Editor,

This year marks the 20th year that Lapham Community Center has assisted New Canaan residents with Medicare Part D enrollment, offering invaluable support and guidance through the process of evaluating and choosing a plan. This year's dedicated counselors - Dick Neville, Sally Campbell, Kim Campbell, Shean-Mei Sheu, Shannon Vallerie, and Kathy Collins - provided over 342 hours of service.

Our counselors met with

Big thank you to our Medicare volunteers

Medicare counseling may be the single most important service we provide, made possible by these dedicated volunteers. We are so very grateful for all their efforts!

400 residents, 146 of whom (36%) chose to change their Part D plan, leading to a combined savings of \$384,000.

Lapham Center and New

Canaan residents are fortunate to have extensively trained, volunteer Medicare counselors available year-round to answer questions and assist those new

to Medicare with navigating the enrollment process. To schedule an appointment, call Lapham at 203-594-3620.

Medicare counseling may be the single most important service we provide, made possible by these dedicated volunteers. We are so very grateful for all their efforts!

*Aggie Aspinwall, Director
Lapham Community Center
Senior Center of New Canaan,
Inc.*

December 16, 2024

LETTER

Fellow Community Members: Please Support Our Y

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the New Canaan YMCA Annual Campaign Committee, we are writing to ask our fellow community members to please join us in supporting our Y.

There's a special feeling when you walk through the doors of the Y. It's the feeling of togetherness and support. Every day, over 1,000 different community members visit the Y and they represent all ages, all abilities, different backgrounds, different needs, and different goals.

When we visit the Y, we're often there for a specific personal purpose: a program for our child, a yoga class, a swim, a game of pickleball with friends, etc. What we may not realize though are all the amazing things taking place throughout the facility at the same time.

Within the daily hustle and bustle of the Y, life-changing moments are happening every day, and donations make these incredible moments possible.

Within the daily hustle and bustle of the Y, life-changing moments are happening every day, and donations make these incredible moments possible.

Members of our community who are undergoing or who have recently completed treatment for cancer are coming to the Y as a part of its free Livestrong program. Through this program, they are regaining physical and emotional strength while making friendships and lasting bonds with fellow cancer survivors.

Children and adults with special needs have a home away from home at the Y in a welcoming and supportive environment. Through programs, events, and employment opportunities, individuals of all abilities are embraced and develop skills,

build confidence, and make lasting friendships.

Every day at the Y, our community's seniors are remaining socially connected and maintaining physical activity through specially designed classes, lectures, and monthly gatherings.

And throughout the entire facility and different programs, there are members who may be struggling financially, but are able to support their physical and mental health, stay connected with others, and have their children participate in programs thanks to the Y's financial assistance program, which provides over \$200,000

in assistance every year.

For 70 years, the Y has been the place where our community comes together. No matter our need, background, or stage in life, we can always count on the Y. And while our visits may fluctuate over the years, we know the Y will always be there for us when we need it.

Donations make this unwavering support and these amazing opportunities possible every day. Please consider a gift to the Y this year and join us in bringing our community together to be healthy, happy, connected, and supportive of one another.

Donations can be made online at www.newcanaanyymca.org/donate or by mail to New Canaan YMCA, 564 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840, Attn: Development Office.

*Respectfully,
Jessica Knowles, Rick Routhier,
Amy Zinser: 2024 New Canaan
YMCA Annual Campaign Chairs*

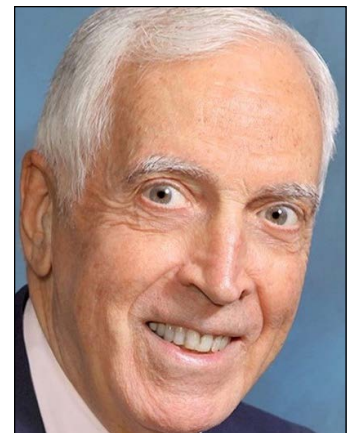
Naughty or Nice List?



Hoyt Livery, led by Santo and Lynda Silvestro, cruises onto the NICE List for always going the extra mile for New Canaan. From supporting community events to ensuring holiday travelers get where they need to go in style, Hoyt's fleet is as reliable as Santa's sleigh. Whether giving back through local charities or just helping the town shine brighter, the Silvestros prove that spreading cheer is part of the ride.

Steven and Leo Karl of Karl Chevrolet earn a well-deserved spot on the NICE List for always putting New Canaan in the driver's seat. From supporting countless local events and charities to Steve steering the town forward as Selectman, the Karl family proves that community spirit runs in their family—and their engines.

Keith Simpson, the maestro of landscapes, lands on the NICE List for his work on the Rotary and for transforming New Canaan into a wonderland. His enchanting restoration of the Bristow Bird Sanctuary has turned it into a festive haven for our feathered friends and nature lovers alike. As the creative force behind Keith Simpson Associates, Keith's designs sprinkle magic across our town, making picturesque scenes straight out of a snow globe. With a sleigh full of creativity and a heart committed to conservation, Keith ensures New Canaan's natural beauty shines bright, bringing joy to this holiday season.



Art Kean is on the NICE list because he is a hard worker and brings joy to all of his customers at Mobile. He brings a smile to everyone's face.

Fabricare earns a festive spot on the NICE List for helping New Canaan look its best—and keeping homes holiday-ready—all season long. Whether it's sparkling table linens, cozy winter coats, or special occasion wear, Fabricare's eco-friendly cleaning ensures everything shines brighter than the star on the tree. Their dedication to sustainability earned them the 2020 Aquarion Environmental Champion Award, proving they care about the planet as much as their customers do. With their home pickup and delivery, Fabricare makes it easy to celebrate the holidays keeping New Canaan green.

Tom Nissley earns a front-row seat on the NICE List for his sparkling theater reviews in the New Canaan Sentinel, where he brings the magic of the stage to life with wit, insight, and a true passion for the arts. Beyond his talents as a reviewer, Tom's dedication to preserving New Canaan's charm is unmatched—whether saving historic homes, serving on the board of the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society, or championing local preservation efforts. A true star in our town, Tom proves that storytelling, history, and community go hand in hand, keeping New Canaan as wonderful as ever.

Make safety your priority on the roads this holiday season.



If you or someone you know is struggling with drugs or alcohol, support is available.

- Contact Al-Anon or Alateen at 1-888-825-2666.
- For help with drug abuse, reach out to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Helpline at 1-800-662-4357.
- For additional resources and support, contact New Canaan Human Services at 203-594-3076.

The New Canaan Health and Human Services Commission wishes you a warm, safe, and joyful holiday season.

Make safety your priority on the roads this holiday season.

Thank You, New Canaan, for Making the Season Bright

The New Canaan Sentinel extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Naughty and Nice List submissions. Your spirited contributions and cheerful anecdotes made this holiday tradition a resounding success, bringing laughter and warmth to our community.

This week, we celebrate not just those featured in our pages, but everyone in New Canaan who went above and beyond to help neighbors, volunteer, get involved, and spread kindness. The stories you shared were a testament to the generosity and goodwill that make New Canaan such a special place to call home.

who earned a spot on the Nice List this year. Your compassion, thoughtfulness, and holiday cheer inspire us all to do better and be better.

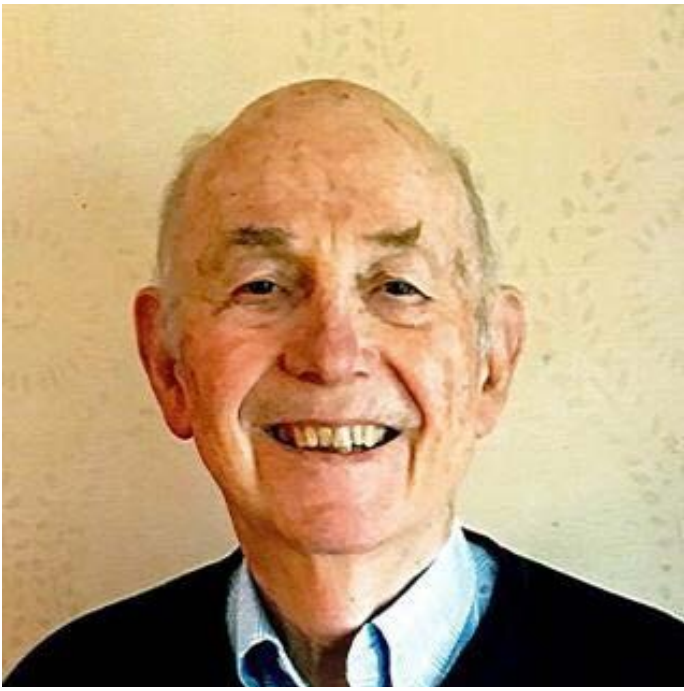
As we gather with loved ones to celebrate the season, the Sentinel wishes each of you a Merry Christmas filled with joy, love, and the spirit of giving. May your days be merry, your hearts full, and your stockings brimming with surprises.

From our Sentinel family to yours—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our next printed issue will arrive after the holidays on January 12. See you in the new year!

Congratulations to those

Obituaries



CHARLES DAVID WRIGHT

Charles David Wright of New Canaan, CT died peacefully at Bridges by EPOCH in Norwalk on Thursday morning, December 12, 2024. He was 86 years old.

Born on April 1, 1938, to Percy Charles Wright and Lylah Fisch Wright in Pittsburg, CA, he was predeceased by his brother and his sister, Richard and Janet Wright. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Deborah McCormick Wright, his son David and his wife Catherine Wang of Walnut Creek, CA, his daughter Eleanor of Brighton, MA, his granddaughters Keilah and Sophie Wright, and many loving family members and friends.

After graduating from Pittsburg High School, he attended UC Davis and UC Berkeley and served briefly in the US Marine Corps. His career path took him from Sacramento to Philadelphia where he worked for National Drug Company, a subsidiary of Richardson-Vicks, Chuck crisscrossed the globe, building relationships, collecting coins, dolls, flags and beer cans for his kids, and overseeing the company's Human Resources function throughout Latin America and the Far East. In the early '90s, Richardson-Vicks was absorbed by Procter & Gamble and Chuck stayed on to facilitate the transition before retiring from P&G in 1998. Too young to fully retire, he transitioned to the "search" side of the industry, joining Stanton Chase International, a boutique Global Retained Executive Search firm as its Managing Director of the New York Regional Operating Center. In December of 2021, Chuck retired and settled comfortably in his cherished role as Pop Pop.

A devoted husband and loving father, Pop Pop was always there to crack a joke or lend sage advice. A true believer in community, Chuck was eager to serve and did so via his involvement with local causes and institutions including the New Canaan Library, the New Canaan Inn (President), New Canaan Nature Center, the New Canaan Men's Club, and Waveny Care Center. Chuck was also a long-time member and served as President of the Country Club of New Canaan. His eternal optimism and "can-do" spirit surely helped shepherd these causes to new heights during his tenure.

Charlie cherished his many summers on Marthas Vinyard with his family where, if not on the golf course or grilling swordfish for dinner, he was likely to be leading clamming trips, waterskiing expeditions, or excursions to nearby islands on his beloved boat, the Bugdozer.

No account of Chuck's life would be complete without mentioning his gift for, and love of, music. Whether playing trombone in the New Canaan Town Band and marching down Main Street on Memorial Day, jamming with friends, dancing or just listening, if music was involved, he was in his element. Always the life of the party, he had a unique ability to warm up a room. From that first note at the piano, his fingers would effortlessly glide over the ivories, playing show tunes, Christmas carols, Beatles hits or jazz riffs. Nowhere was he more at home than on his piano bench.

Whether you called him Charles, Chuck, Charlie, Dad, or Pop Pop, if you know him at all your life was better for it.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a date to be determined, in summer 2025. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or to one of the New Canaan non-profits mentioned above.



ROBERT JAY FOGG

Robert Jay Fogg, 78, a lifelong Riverside resident, passed away on December 11, 2024. He was born April 30, 1946 in Greenwich, CT to the late Frank and Gladys Mead Fogg. Bob was predeceased by his parents; sister and brother-in-law, Fran and Ed Axelrod; and niece, Jennifer Axelrod. He is survived by his niece, Joy Axelrod; nephew, Greg (Hayley) Axelrod; 2 great-nieces; a great-nephew; many cousins and friends.

Bob graduated from Greenwich High School in 1964 and New Haven College in 1970, with a degree in Police

Administration and Science. He served in the U.S. Army as a LEG in the 82nd Airborne Division from 1965-1967, and was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 35 years. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by the USPS and was a member of the CT State Postal Workers Union. Bob was a long-time usher at Sacred Heart Church in Byram.

Bob was a lifelong baseball enthusiast. In his younger days, he took many car trips across the country, attending baseball games at famous stadiums, visiting relatives, and sightseeing. He also had a deep devotion and adoration for dogs. He lovingly cared for many neighborhood dogs and had frequent visits from his canine friends.



KIM FERRIS

Kim Ferris (née O'Keefe), a light in the lives of all she met, passed peacefully on December 10, 2024, after a 21-year battle with cancer. She is remembered by those who knew her best as someone who spread love, laughter, positivity, and above all, kindness to every person she met. Born on June 21, 1966, she will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Henry, children, Hank and Alison, her mother, Beverly Gore, lifelong friends and colleagues, and all those who were fortunate enough to cross her path. Born in the Bronx, Kim grew up in Mt. Kisco, NY, graduated from Fox Lane High School and received her bachelor's degree from Ohio Wesleyan. She spent most of her professional career with J.P. Morgan, where most recently she served as a Managing Director within the firm's Wealth Management and International Private Bank divisions. Her colleagues noted that her wit, passion, and care were felt by all those around her. Her family takes solace knowing the positive impact she had across so large an organization and the multitude of lives made better by her own. Among Kim's many achievements her family always came first, with the love and pride in her husband, children, and mother evident everywhere she went and on display for all she met. Her love of family stemmed from a kindness that few possess and even fewer still consistently lead with – always putting others before herself, offering a helping hand, or simply being someone to talk to. Kim will be remembered as more than just a daughter, wife, mother, friend, or co-worker, but as someone who was truly selfless in her pursuit of showing love and kindness to all those in her life and helping others find the same within their own. Months before she passed, she let her children know that instead of sadness, her life should be celebrated with love, joy, flowers, and the odd dash of champagne.



ROBERT DONALD FARLEY

Robert Donald Farley, 83, of Darien, CT, passed away peacefully on November 28, 2024, after a long illness.

Bob was born in Oneida, NY, on August 14, 1941, the eldest child of Donald and Marian Sawner Farley. He was raised in Clark Mills and Rome, NY. Bob attended high school at St. Aloysius Academy in Rome. He completed a degree in physics at Fordham University and subsequently earned a law degree from Georgetown University, where he was a member of the Law Review. Upon graduation from law school, he worked as an associate at Dewey Ballantine in New York City. Bob later served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps before returning to the private sector. His exceptional legal talents led to a distinguished career, working first for Esterline Corporation and then Dyson-Kissner-Moran Corporation, from which he retired in 2007.

Bob had a generous spirit and was always thinking of, providing support to and looking out for others. This applied to his direct and extended family, to whom he was deeply devoted, his co-workers, his friends and local charitable organizations. Bob positively impacted so many people with whom he interacted and will be remembered for his kindness, intelligence, humility, strength, integrity, and sense of humor.

Bob's greatest passion was music and he felt most at home while "tickling the ivories." An accomplished musician, he

played the piano from an early age, taking after his father, a lifelong saxophone player. Bob served as church organist during his high school and university years at parishes in New York and Washington, D.C. In his later years, he enjoyed performing at home on his Steinway grand for friends and family along with his cousin, Mike O'Rourke. Born with perfect pitch, Bob sang with choral groups throughout his life including, most recently, the Fairfield County Chorale.

He is survived by his son, Jonathan Farley of New York, NY, from his first marriage to Jennifer McCord; his sister, Jean Schumitz (John) of Locust Grove, VA; eight nieces and nephews; 17 great nieces and nephews; and many dear friends. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Lou Harrington, and his brother, Donald William Farley.

A remembrance gathering in honor of Bob will be held at Lawrence Funeral Home, 2119 Boston Post Road, Darien, CT, on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 10:30 am, followed by interment at Spring Grove Cemetery in Darien, CT.



LINDA ANDROS

Linda Andros died on December 12, 2024, at home surrounded by love with her family. She died following a short illness after a brave struggle.

The daughter of Plato and Florene Andros, she was born January 23, 1948 in Norman, Oklahoma. Her father was a professional football player in the early years of the National Football League and later worked in the oil industry, and her mother was a homemaker.

As a child Linda won prizes in piano competitions and was a skilled piano player and singer her entire life. She attended Principia College, The University of Oklahoma, and Indiana University before graduating from Hunter College in New York City. She lived in Munich, Germany for three years and four years in England. She sang in the New York City Opera chorus and was a cast member with travelling opera companies. With her musical background, she entered the business world, representing singers as an agent, and then joined Home Box Office in the early years of pay television. There she met her future husband, Bill Avery, and they shared 42 years of bliss. Her 20-year career at Home Box Office and Time Inc., culminated as vice-president in the Time-Warner magazine division. Upon retirement she took on leadership roles in her hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut as board chair of the New Canaan Nature Center, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and on civic committees. She was a certified yoga instructor and for many years played the piano and sang for the residents of local retirement homes and at Waveny in New Canaan. She was also a champion hands-on gardener whose work was highlighted in garden books. She leaves 25 years of rose and horticultural splendor at her home. Her faith was central to her understanding of life and even in her younger years had a profound sense of the Divine. Mostly, she cultivated love and joy wherever she went. She is survived by her husband, Bill; her sons Jonathan and Byron; her daughter-in-law Katie; her grandsons, Blake and Will; her brother, Vincent; her sisters-in-law Barbara Andros, Karen Avery, and Carol Avery; brother-in-law David Avery; and nieces Amber Andros, Ashley Jensen, Kate Avery, Michelle Avery King, Sara Avery Webb, Katie Avery; nephew David Avery; and step-sisters Beth Bagley and Sue Marcheschi. Funeral services will be held at St. Mark's church in New Canaan at 11 a.m. on January 18, 2025, with a reception to follow at Morrill Hall. In lieu of flowers please support the New Canaan Nature Center and St. Mark's Episcopal Church of New Canaan, CT.

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NEWS BRIEFING
CONTINUED From Page 1

Cross-Country Ride Honors Brother



Recently, New Canaan Rotary Club President Amy Gildea welcomed Mark Thorsheim and Winchelle Jean-Pierre. Mark Thorsheim spoke about his 61-day solo bike ride from Norwalk, CT, to Astoria, OR, raising \$140,000 for Career Resources Inc. in honor of his late brother, Chris. Career Resources, based in Bridgeport, supports individuals reentering society after incarceration and aims to reduce recidivism. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

New Canaan Mounted Troop Ceremony



On December 14, the New Canaan Mounted Troop held its semester review ceremony. The event marked the completion of the fall semester and recognized troopers who advanced in rank. Achievements were acknowledged during the ceremony. Photo credit: New Canaan Mounted Troop.

SCHOOLS

Students Donate to Toys for Tots



New Canaan High School students donated over \$3,500 worth of toys to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. The toys will benefit children in need across Fairfield County. Students and their families contributed to the effort. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

SLS Students Craft Donations



Freshmen World History students at St. Luke's School designed custom LEGO sets of ancient Egyptian monuments, including instructions with historical context. The sets will be packaged in LEGO-style boxes and donated to local holiday toy drives. Photo credit: St Luke's School.

Mouse-off at NCCS



The 2024 New Canaan Country School French Mousse-Off winners are Lucan (7th grade), Grayson and Hanna (8th grade), and Caroline (9th grade). Students were judged on taste, execution, and presentation. All Upper School French students participated, with entries evaluated anonymously using a rubric. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SPORTS

Class L Champions

On December 14th, New Canaan Football defeated Darien 35-21 to win its third consecutive CIAC Class L championship and reclaim the No. 1 ranking in Connecticut high school football. The Rams broke a fourth-quarter tie with two touchdowns while their defense shut down Darien's offense. New Canaan finished the season 12-1, earning its 15th state title and solidifying its place as one of the state's top programs. Photo credit: New Canaan Football.

ACROSS CT

Drone Sightings in CT

Mysterious drone sightings across the Northeast have led Senator Richard Blumenthal and other leaders to demand federal investigations due to safety and security concerns. Federal agencies report no evidence of malicious activity, stating the drones were lawfully operated. Officials are reviewing regulations as lawmakers call for further transparency and assessments.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BRIEFS

Fire Apparatus Maintenance

The New Canaan Fire Department received approval for a \$17,000 purchase order with Northeastern Fire Apparatus to cover annual repairs and maintenance of its vehicles and pumps. This annual service ensures the department's fleet remains fully operational.

Information Technology

The Board approved a \$54,621.15 contract with Total Communications to renew the annual Cisco SmartNet system, which supports municipal buildings, schools, and emergency services.

Blanket Purchase Order for Surveying

The Board approved a \$25,000 blanket purchase order with RKW Land Surveying for projects such as work at Douglas Road. Hiring a full-time surveyor was considered but deemed unnecessary due to current workload levels and advancements in surveying technology.

Reimbursement for Ice Rink Purchases

The Board approved a \$16,000 reimbursement to the New Canaan Ice Rink. This includes \$6,000 for light towers from the operating budget and \$10,000 for rink management services funded by a grant. The light towers are shared between the town and rink for year-round use.

Wastewater Treatment Building Improvements

Contracts totaling \$74,999.20 were approved for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Building. Vendors include RD Weis, Central Connecticut Acoustics, Darien Electric, and F&M Electric. These updates address wear and tear in the facility and are funded through the approved capital budget.

Gov Investment Compensation Program

A \$13,000 one-year contract with Gov Invest was approved to provide live compensation, comparison and data in similar towns. This tool updates data every six months, helping New Canaan remain competitive in hiring and negotiations.

Appointments and Reappointments

The Board approved several appointments and reappointments to town boards and commissions. Parks and Recreation Commission appointed David P. Shea and Brittany E. Singer for three-year terms. Health and Human Services appointed John K. Knight Jr. for a three-year term. The Audit Committee reappointed Bill Bradley for a three-year term. The Board of Finance reappointed Maria Weingarten and Chris LeBris, as Regular Members, for four-year terms ending November 15, 2028 (to be confirmed by Town Council). Planning and Zoning appointed Bill Pratt and Meghan Mensching, as Alternate Members, for two-year terms. The Historic District Commission appointed Scott Phillips for a four-year term. The Zoning Board of Appeals reappointed Luke Tasjian for a two-year term, Richard Carratu for a two-year term, Chad Buch, as an Alternate Member, for a two-year term, Cynthia for a two-year term, Jessica for a two-year term, and Alex Snyder for a two-year term. The Conservation Commission reappointed Ann Silvio for a two-year term. The Ethics Board reappointed John Fulkerson for a three-year term (to be confirmed by Town Council).

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How to Have a Merry Christmas

By REV MSGR. ROBERT KINNALLY

Christmas is now just days away, and we might be tempted to shift into panic mode with cries of "Wasn't Thanksgiving yesterday?!" or "Thank Heaven for Gift Cards" or "The Wise Men showed up late with their gifts, so why can't I?" Instead, I'm proposing an "All is calm, all is bright" alternative to these last few days before Christmas. The proposals are inspired by my recent worries about how our cell phones interrupt opportunities to notice God at work in the simple movements of life and in the hearts and faces of those God puts in front of us every day of our lives. This list is a challenge to fast from our cell phones in order to strengthen relationships, to wait in holy silence for Christ to enter deeply into our hearts, and reduce distractions from good prayer.

1. Make more room for God in your busy life. Create space in your heart for receiving the wonder of the Incarnation (God breaking into the world). Fast from what keeps you from prayer.

This list is a challenge to fast from our cell phones in order to strengthen relationships, to wait in holy silence for Christ to enter deeply into our hearts, and reduce distractions from good prayer.

Put your phone aside for a pre-determined amount of time each day and use the time for prayer, conversation, or rest.

2. Spend time daydreaming about God loving the world so much that he sent his Son to save us. Imagine God loving YOU.

3. Talk to one another. Have dinner as a family; put your phones in a basket in the next room. The first one to take his or her phone out of the basket has to do the dishes, take out the trash, and do one other unpopular household task.

4. Play board games often.

5. Bake cookies together and tell stories about your favorite Christmas.

6. Figure out who's lonely on your street, visit that person, bring them the cookies you baked, and let them tell their stories.

7. Invite someone outside your comfort zone to coffee or dinner.

8. Call someone you haven't talked to in a while, just listen, then put down your phone, pray for that person and all those in need.

9. Heal a wounded relationship with the help of Jesus.

10. Don't spend a lot of time shopping; instead, say prayers for friends and write them a card that tells them you prayed for them. You can't put a price on prayers said,

11. Have coffee with anyone who will go with you and share funny stories only.

12. If you shop, shop local – your chances of running into friends and neighbors and saying "Merry Christmas" increase tenfold.

13. Smile at strangers.

14. Invite friends or neighbors who haven't been to church in a while to come with you to Church with you at Christmas. Keep inviting them after Christmas.

15. Count your blessings. Thank God for everything – even the messy things in life.

16. Put down your phone and look up at the stars and the sky and imagine you're in peaceful Bethlehem the night Jesus was born.

17. Pray for peace.

I'm praying that you will have a blessed Christmas!

Father Rob Kinnally is the pastor of Saint Aloysius Catholic Church in New Canaan.

Worship Directory and Services

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT
www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

682 South Avenue 203.966.5849
www.ComeUntoChrist.org
Sunday Service: 12:00 PM

Congregational Church

23 Park Street 203.966.2651
office@godsacre.org
www.godsacre.org

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The 10:00 am service is also live streamed and recorded, the video replay will be available throughout the week. Church School is available on Sundays for children ages 3 through 7th grade each Sunday from September through mid-June.

Recurring Events:

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study

Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM: Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.

Upcoming Events:

December 24th at 11 PM: Experience a candlelight service featuring scripture, sermon, and music.

Communion will be served. Usher in Christmas morning surrounded by the peace of God's Acre.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaan

Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.

Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.org

Sunday Service: 10am in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website. Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open): Alcoholics Anonymous. Every Tuesday 8pm: Men's A.A.

Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM: Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

Upcoming Events:

December 22nd at 4:30 PM: Blue Christmas, A Service of Hope and Healing. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ms9hutuu>.

December 24th at 5 PM: Family Service & Pageant.

December 24th at 10 PM: A Service of Lessons & Carols. This Christmas Eve candlelight service will include communion.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
www.starcc.com
Service Schedule:

Saturday: Vigil for Sunday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded. Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

Last Monday of every month 7pm: Women's Praise & Worship Holy Hour

Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)

Saturday 8:30am: St. A's Healing Rosary Prayer Group

Upcoming Events:

December 24th: Christmas Eve Masses will be held at 4 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:30 PM, and 12 AM. Carols will begin at 11:30 PM.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org
www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; **9:00am:** Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; **10am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service.

Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am: Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.

Wednesday at 12:05pm: Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

Recurring Events:

First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.

First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

December 24th from 5-6 PM: The World's Greatest Christmas Pageant.

December 24th at 10 PM: Festival Holy Eucharist with Organ, Brass, and the St. Mark's Choir.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913
office@stmichaelslutheran.org
www.stmichaelslutheran.org

Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Recurring Events:

Thursday 12 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous

Upcoming Events:

December 24th at 4:30 PM: Christmas Eve mini-concert followed by a Christmas Eve worship service.

Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien

468 South Avenue 203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life

Join us **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.** at Saxe Middle School for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and refreshments are served following worship. Trinity also holds services in-person in Greenwich and Larchmont, and on livestream via YouTube on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.

Upcoming Events:

December 24th at 4 PM: The Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Saxe Middle School Auditorium.

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
office@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 am followed by coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events:

Now through the end of January: Coffee/Tea Food Drive. Drop your donation of any type of coffee or tea in the donation box in the Narthex to benefit the New Canaan Food Bank.

December 24th at 5 PM: Christmas Eve Service.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aH130_Syp_X0KdG

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>

Sunday School at 10:00am
Worship Service at 11:00am
Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:

December 21st at 2 PM: A family movie night. Please contact the CBC for the location.

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School,
11 Farm Road, New Canaan
203-966-7600

info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.

Join us **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

Upcoming Events:

December 24th: Holiday Jazz begins at 3:15pm, followed by a 4 pm service featuring scripture readings, the Children's Choir, carols, and a message from Senior Pastor Cliffe Knechtle. Nursery care will be available for children ages four years old and younger.

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT
203.966.2314
talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com
www.talmadgehill.org

Ministers: Rev. Carter Via and Rev. Cheryl Bundy **Sunday worship service at 10:00am** in person. All are welcome! We encourage everyone to stay for coffee hour after the service. Sunday School is every Sunday during the service and uses the Godly Play curriculum. Please reach out with any questions utilizing information listed above!

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study

First Saturday at 8am: Men's Group

Second Saturday at 10am: Women's Circle

Upcoming Events:

December 24th at 5 PM and 10 PM: Christmas Eve Service.

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd

info@chabadnewcanaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org

The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

We are about Judaism, not affiliation. Regardless of your background, and however you choose to define your level of Jewish observance or identity, the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center can add spirituality, joy, study, community and connection for you and your family. The programs of the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center are held in various locations, all located in New Canaan.

Upcoming Events:

December 29th at 3:30 PM: Celebrate the Festival of Lights with Chabad of New Canaan at our annual Menorah Lighting at historic God's Acre in downtown New Canaan. More information is available at <https://shorturl.at/KoffA>.

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903
203.322.1649

www.templestainaistamford.org

Service Schedule:

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom
2nd & 4th – 7:30pm

Recurring Events:

Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study

Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children

First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodot Halev Discussion Group

Temple Shalom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830
203-869-7191

www.templeshalom.com

Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.

Recurring Events:

Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcXU0EzZUM2VENEZmgYUT09#success>

Christmas 2024 at St. Mark's

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

- 5PM** The World's Greatest Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist
- 9:30PM** Prelude with Organ, Brass, Timpani, and the St. Mark's Choir
- 10PM** Festival Holy Eucharist with Organ, Brass, and the St. Mark's Choir

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

- 10AM** Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Baroque Ensemble with Ryland Angel, Tenor

All services will be live streamed on our website



St. Mark's
Episcopal Church
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

111 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT, 06840
Office 203.966.4515 • www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

*The Parish Family of St. Aloysius
wishes You and Yours
a Blessed Christmas and
Peace in the New Year*



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

- 4:00 PM In the Church, with Children's Pageant immediately following
- 4:00 PM Stapleton Hall
- 5:30 PM Church
- 7:30 PM Church
- Midnight Church ~ Carols with the Choir beginning at 11:30 PM

December 25th ~ Christmas Day

7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM, and 11:30 AM
in the Church

Please note: There is no Evening Mass on Christmas Day.

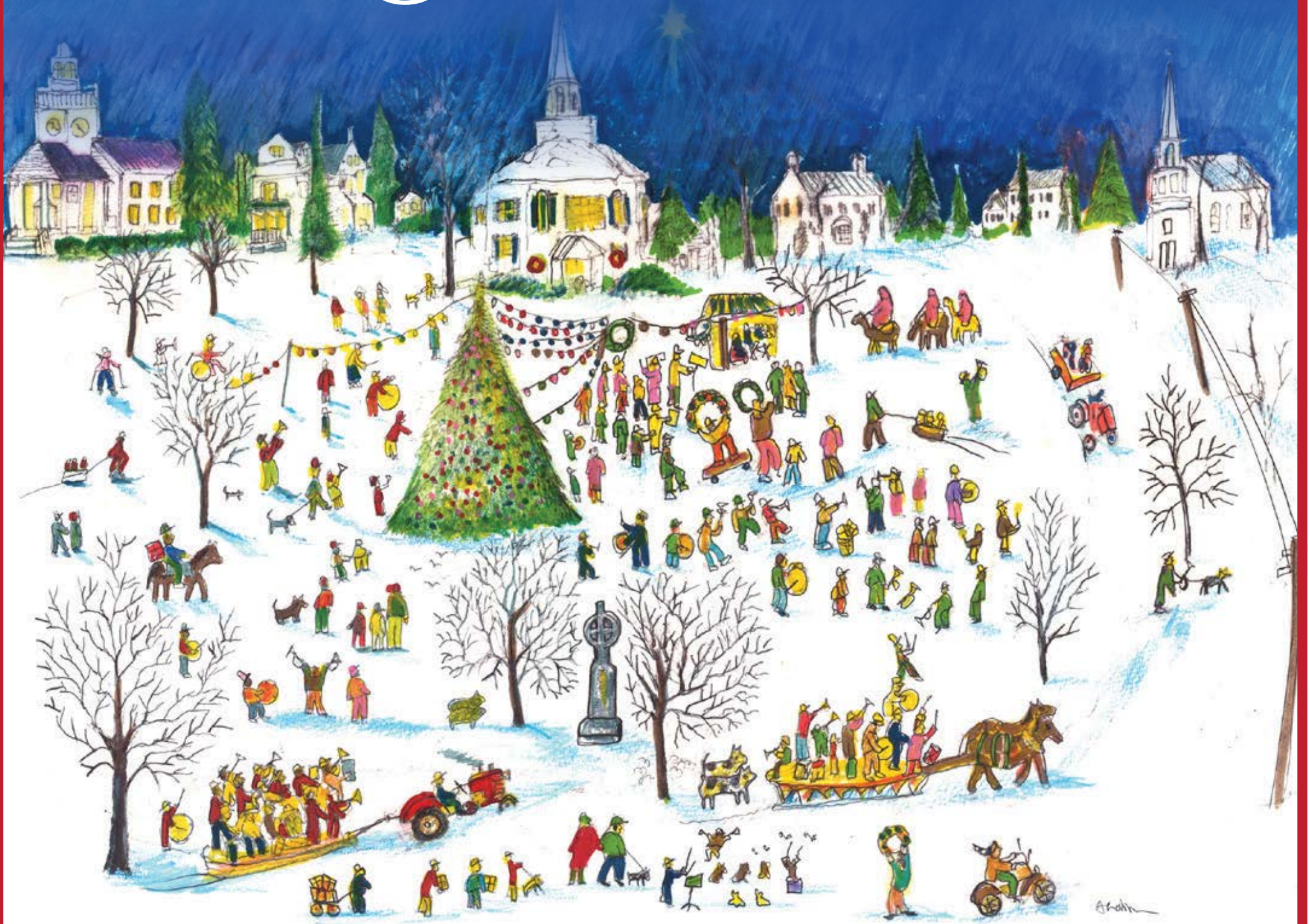
SAINT ALOYSIUS PARISH

Roman Catholic Church • Diocese of Bridgeport

21 Cherry Street, New Canaan, CT 06840

starcc.com

Christmas Eve on God's Acre



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm Family Service
with Nativity Pageant

6:00pm Worship Service

6:30pm Caroling on God's Acre

7:00pm Worship Service

11:00pm Candlelight Worship Service

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

 **The Congregational Church of New Canaan**

23 Park Street, New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 966-2651 www.godsacre.org

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTORS

Christa Kenin | Christa.Kenin@Elliman.com

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
289 Park Street C	\$2,055,000	3,274	\$627.67		4	4
73 Turner Hill Road	\$2,359,000	4,572	\$515.97	2.91	6	3
Gravel Island Road	\$2,499,000	4,183	\$597.42	2.00	4	3

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
133 Jelliff Mill Road	\$799,000	\$799,000	\$805,000	34	3	1	0.54
905 New Norwalk Road	\$825,000	\$825,000	\$775,000	17	3	1	0.42
238 Smith Ridge Road	\$999,000	\$899,000	\$925,000	69	3	2	1.16
124 South Avenue #124	\$1,295,000	\$1,295,000	\$1,295,000	141	2	3	
3 Maple Street #3	\$1,525,000	\$1,475,000	\$1,475,000	33	3	2	
226 Canoe Hill Road	\$1,799,000	\$1,799,000	\$1,678,000	31	4	2	2.89
533 Valley Road	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	\$3,995,000	3	5	6	2.23
583 Silvermine Road	\$4,595,000	\$4,295,000	\$4,295,000	81	5	6	2.38

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

Get Your Open Houses Into the MLS by Wednesday at Noon for a Listing Here

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
Gravel Island Road	\$2,499,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	William Pitt Sotheby's
107 Weed Street	\$3,997,000	SUN	1:00PM-3:00PM	Higgins Group

How Much Are Good Schools Really Worth?



BY JOHN ENGEL

"I'm fascinated by the art of decision-making, especially when it comes to where to live, where to go to college, and where to send your kids to school."

—Luke Skurman, Niche founder.

Real estate values correlate highly with school quality in this area. We spend a lot of time thinking about real estate values and about decision-making. But what about school quality, and is school ranking an influential factor on our housing market? It's easy, and frankly lazy, to focus entirely on national macroeconomic forces such as interest rates, inflation, the stock market, and unemployment. That data is easy to acquire but it does not explain much about the changing motivations for buying in towns like New Canaan. When it comes to real estate market reports in Fairfield County, we should be looking at the schools, taxes, quality of life, commute, and job market — and probably in that order. Since quality-of-life is difficult to measure and the commute and job market are different for everyone, I'm going to focus on how schools impact real estate values, where we get our data, and just how big an impact they have on housing prices.

Isaac Pariser's Berkeley study of 50,000 homes finds that school quality "has a significantly positive effect on both prices, rents, and price-rent ratios, indicating that school capitalization is greater in prices than rents" by 2.8 times. Why don't renters pay up?

We know 91% of buyers consider school zone boundaries, 31% of them rank schools as the third-most important factor, and 25% say schools were the deciding factor in their decision to buy. As a result, potential homebuyers are willing to pay 3-4% more for a one-standard-deviation increase in school quality. As a realtor, this feels true: all buyers are seduced by the promise of good schools, not just parents. While empty nesters do not directly benefit from buying into a "better" school zone, they factor it into their resale analysis. Pariser's study asks, Why does the "better school" rental market lag behind?

It has been my observation that buyers talk about the "investment" they are making, and there seems to be a bias that higher quality produces a higher return, while renters tend to talk about the "expense" of renting, and they value the convenience of short-term commitment. Finally, the study finds this difference between buyers and renters response is largest in more affordable homes and in response to elementary schools.

Given the fact that quality

schools cause buyers to pay up, where are they getting their information? Two lists dominate the discussion on school quality

Niche, founded in 2002 by students at Carnegie Mellon, quickly became one of the fastest growing companies in the nation and has been since 2013 a free website offering 130,000 school profiles and 140,000 reviews and ratings from students, parents, and alumni. The website has been visited 8 million times this month and dominates the ranking conversation nationally when it comes to schools below college level.

U.S. News & World Report, born in 1948 from the union of a newspaper and magazine, is now neither. They discovered back in 1983 that ranking colleges and universities was profitable, and now they rank cars, hospitals, and everything in between. But few franchises in higher education are as contentious as the *U.S. News* rankings. Over the decades, they've faced trouble with manipulated data and murky methodologies. I first learned of this on Malcolm Gladwell's June 8, 2023, podcast. In 2022, Columbia University cheated, rose in the rankings to #2, and promptly fell the next year to #18. Now Columbia (and 5.4% of all schools) has elected not to participate in the rankings, after which Columbia rose to #12 and had their second largest applicant pool and lowest acceptance rate (3.9%) in its history. This suggests to me that ranking isn't everything, public perception is hard to change, and rankings are largely inelastic.

So, what about public school districts? *U.S. News* doesn't rank them. Nor elementary schools. *U.S. News* top 200 public high schools in the nation contains no Connecticut schools, a glaring omission. In fact, only 27 states made the list. Their top 10 in Connecticut includes four local public schools: Darien, Weston, Greenwich, and Staples. New Canaan is unranked. Because they only look at Dept of Education data, I think the lack of a ranking has to do with only 72% of CT students taking AP tests. In the middle school category, Saxe Middle School is ranked #3 in Connecticut. The #1 school is exotic and tiny, The House of Arts, Letters and Science. Coming in #2 is Eastern Middle School from Greenwich's priciest neighborhood, Riverside. Rounding out the top 10 were Wilton, Fairfield, Darien, and Trumbull, with Stamford's Charter School at #12.

GreatSchools, a nonprofit founded in 1998, rates most Connecticut schools but doesn't rank them. And, most of the reviews are a few years old. Maybe that's why site traffic is a quarter that of Niche at two million per month. New Canaan schools all scored either 9 or 10 on a 10-point scale, as did all public schools in Darien, Westport, and Wilton. Greenwich fared worse, with five of 12 schools failing to achieve at least a 9 out

of 10.

How much are good schools worth? It's tough to find an apples-to-apples comparison but I compared towns adjacent to New Canaan with similar taxes, similar commute, and a rural feel. Wilton is rated A by Niche with A+ schools. Stamford is also rated A with B schools. The tax rate is 13% higher in North Stamford, so all things being equal, the price of a similar home should be 13% lower in North Stamford. Using median-price-per-foot compares houses of the same size. We found price-per-foot in Wilton is 22% higher than that of North Stamford, supporting the argument that school quality could account for a 9% difference. Looking at median sale price over the last 12 months, Wilton is

\$1,150,000 and North Stamford is \$1,001,500, a 15% difference and supporting Pariser's argument that school quality across a standard deviation of one will account for a 3%-4% difference in price.

Comparing Wilton with West Norwalk may be more accurate. They have nearly identical tax rates and commutes, and the median price per foot is nearly identical, \$338 in Norwalk vs. \$362 in Wilton. According to Niche, all of Norwalk is a B+ community with B+ schools, and that is less than a standard deviation from Wilton's A.

Notes from the Monday meeting: A tale of two cities: In Darien, there are only 14 houses for sale today, and only two of them are under \$4.5 million. There are four empty lots for sale, but they range

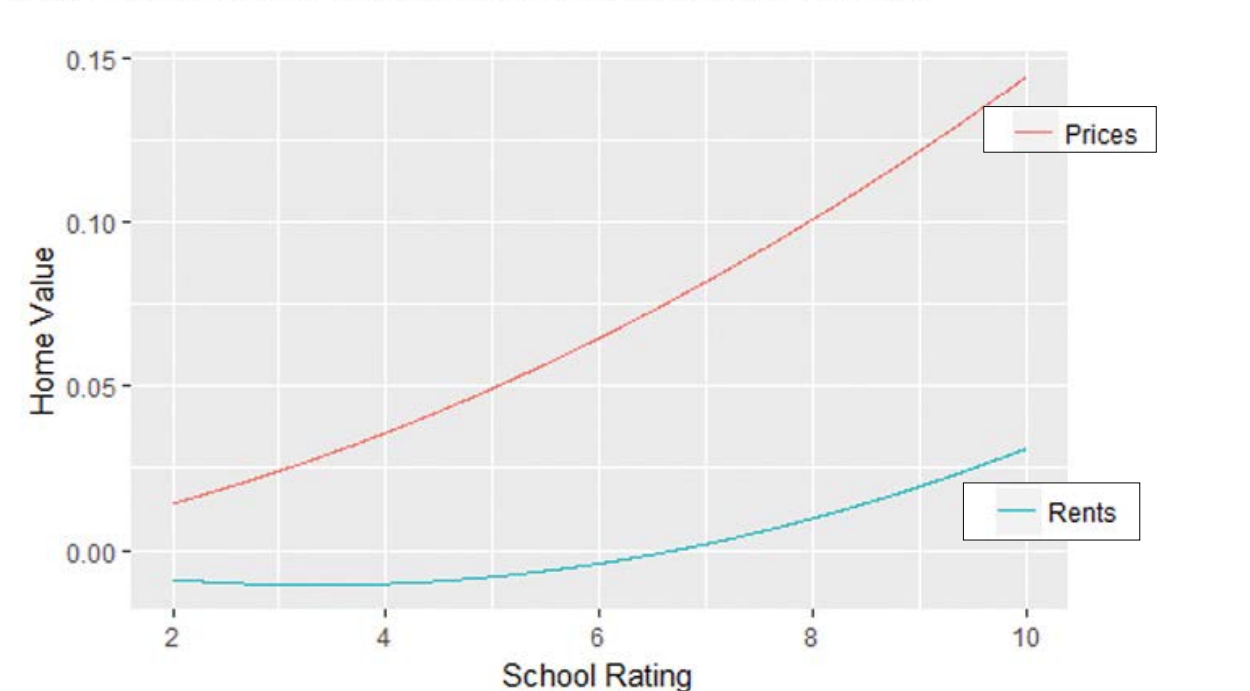
from \$4 million to \$5 million. New Canaan seems to have 35 houses for sale, and 21 of them can be purchased for less than \$4.5 million but seven of them are not built yet, bringing houses you can move into down to 28.

John Engel is a broker on The Engel Team with Douglas Elliman and he has holiday lights envy. As a young boy in New York City he learned that Christmas lights should be colorful and they should blink. Not so in my neighborhood, where 100 foot trees are professionally and tastefully decorated with cherry pickers, mostly white and they almost never blink. John decorated one small tree to blink colorfully, and Melissa vetoed that idea. His corner now looks like it belongs.



Schools boss Bryan Luizzi and Juan Soto, superstars.

Fig 3. Non-linear effects of Average School Quality



This is probably intuitive to many of us who moved to New Canaan because of the schools. Cite: https://econ.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/Pariser_Isaac_Thesis.pdf



WISHING YOU & YOURS A VERY
Merry Christmas
AND A STELLAR
New Year!

Thank you all for your incredible support, constant enthusiasm, eager patronage, constructive input and, ultimately, your belief in this special building at 93 Elm Street in the heart of New Canaan, Connecticut.

We feel blessed to be able to open it to you each day and look forward to many new exciting surprises in 2025.



VERY BEST WISHES,

Jesica *Nina*
Konrad *Alexis*
Alex

Jesica, Konrad, Nina, Alexis, Alex and all
The Playhouse and Cinema Lab team

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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Submit your events at:
[newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/](https://www.newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/)

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, January 6

Zoning Board of Appeals

7-8 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & via Zoom

Tuesday, January 7

Board of Selectmen

8:30-10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

December 20

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

8:30 – 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center
 Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

Afternoon Tea

3-4:30 PM at Grace Farms
 Gather with your friends, neighbors, and fellow community members for an afternoon of conversation over a delicious pot of ethically- and sustainably-sourced tea from Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, a public benefit LLC and a Certified B Corp. The lite fare menu includes a seasonal assortment of tasty English and Japanese-inspired bites created by the Grace Farms Culinary Team. Tickets are \$30/non-members, \$24/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/afternoon-tea-3/2024-12-20>.

December 21

New Canaan Santa Run 2024

7:30 AM at Waveny Park
 All ages and abilities are welcomed and encouraged to run or walk the 5K course or 1-mile course. The run will start & finish at the historic 'Castle'. The Santa Dash for kids will begin at 8:45 am, followed by the 5K at 9 am. For more information please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewCanaan/NewCanaanSantaRun>.

Town Farmer's Market - Final Day!

10 AM - 2 PM at Lumber Yard Lot, 224 Elm Street
 Stock up on your favorite holiday foods and gifts from your favorite vendors. There are many vendors with various local items available including specialty food, fresh meat, produce, soap, eggs, and honey!

Move with Grace Farms x lululemon | Jane

10:30 AM at Grace Farms
 Join Jane Krantz for a yoga class promising to be a fluid experience, centered on moving through transitions with grace & finding stability in order to move with freedom, awareness, and expression. Starting with grounding breathwork, Jane will guide you through movement that will ignite a little bit of heat and a lot of joy, ending in a restful savasana. Tickets are \$20/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/01902be6-e996-662b-932f-b2304f69lda5>.

Holiday Sing-along

3-3:45 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
 This program will include fun holiday songs, and everyone is welcome to sing along. Ideal for families with preschool and early elementary children. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/holiday-sing-along-115663>.

December 23

Woodcarving

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Join Dennis Taylor to explore this time honored craft. Dennis will help you learn to carve actual projects, explain basic wood cuts, tools and safety tips. Free event. For more information and to register, call the

Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

December 26

Open Arts Studio | Wintry Landscapes

10 AM- 12 PM at Grace Farms
 Play with the reflection of light through glass and trace the shadow lines to create a drawing or painting inspired by Grace Farms' winter landscape. For ages 4 – 11 with adult caregivers. Tickets are \$5/non-members, free for members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/open-arts-studio-wintery-landscapes/2024-12-26>.

SAVE THE DATE

December 27

NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION THIS WEEK IN OBSERVATION OF CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH.

Songs of the Season | Alita Moses

Day One
 3-4 PM at Grace Farms
 This performance features Brooklyn-based singer and songwriter Alita Moses. Moses is known for her soulful voice and remarkable versatility. She is a band leader, educator, and vocalist who earned a degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. More information is available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/songs-of-the-season-alita-moses/2024-12-27>.

December 28

Songs of the Season | Alita Moses

Day Two
 3-4 PM at Grace Farms
 This performance features Brooklyn-based singer and songwriter Alita Moses. Moses is known for her soulful voice and remarkable versatility. She is a band leader, educator, and vocalist who earned a degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. More information is available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/songs-of-the-season-alita-moses/2024-12-28>.

December 30

Woodcarving

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Join Dennis Taylor to explore this time honored craft. Dennis will help you learn to carve actual projects, explain basic wood cuts, tools and safety tips. Free event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

January 2

Arts at the Library: The Art of Calligraphy Course

2-3:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
 New Canaan Library is pleased to offer a new 8 session weekly course this winter in Calligraphy. Calligraphy is the art of fine hand lettering. In this class, you'll learn "chancery cursive script," which dates back to the 14th century and was created by scribes to develop a comfortable and aesthetically pleasing writing style. You must be present at the first class or your registration will be dropped. More information is available at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/introduction-chancery-calligraphy-adults-119073>.

January 3

NO COFFEE AND CONVERSATION THIS WEEK IN OBSERVATION OF NEW YEARS.

January 4

Yoga and Movement with Pilin Anice

10:30 AM- 12 PM at Grace Farms
 Step into the light-filled Court to experience an immersive, breath-centered yoga practice accompanied by live acoustics led by renowned mindfulness and wellness expert, Pilin Anice. This class is paired with a cup of tea for an enhanced whole body wellness experience. Tickets are \$22 and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/yoga-and-movement-with-pilin-anice-3/2025-01-04>.

January 6

Beginning Mahjongg - Session 1

9:30-11 AM at the Lapham Center
 Mahjongg is an ancient Chinese game that is

enjoying renewed popularity. Join Aggie to learn how to play this fun social game. The session is \$60/person. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Woodcarving

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Join Dennis Taylor to explore this time honored craft. Dennis will help you learn to carve actual projects, explain basic wood cuts, tools and safety tips. Free event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

January 7

Beginning Mahjongg - Session 1

9:30-11 AM at the Lapham Center
 Mahjongg is an ancient Chinese game that is enjoying renewed popularity. Join Aggie to learn how to play this fun social game. The session is \$60/person. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Art Gottlieb's History Discussions: The Court Marshal of Billy Mitchell

10-11 AM at the Lapham Center
 After serving with distinction in France during WW I, Billy Mitchell became an outspoken advocate of Air Power. He was Courts martialled in 1925 for insubordination after accusing military leaders of traitorous actions and a dereliction of effective leadership. To register please call 203-594-3620.

January 8

Meditation Class

9 AM at the Lapham Center
 Sign up for this free meditation class that recharges, settles and soothes, while enhancing the feeling of deep peace that occurs when the mind is silent. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Ellen Samai from New Canaan's Department of Health provides free in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. For more information please call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

French Films: Homage à Leslie Caron

1 PM at the Lapham Center
 Go and watch the french film, GIGI. Directed by Vicente Minnelli, Gigi holds a prominent position as one of the finest Leslie Caron films. This charming romantic comedy features Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jourdan in 1900 Paris.

Billiards for Everyone with Mike Bacon

2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
 If you're looking to have some free fun, learn to play pool, or just play a game, join Mike on Wednesdays. For more information please call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

January 9

Skating Lessons for Adults

12:15 PM at Boucher Community Ice Rink
 These group lessons for older adults will focus on mastering skating fundamentals in a relaxed, social setting. Instructors will work with each participant based on his or her skill and comfort level; all participants should be comfortable moving across the ice without support. The rink will be closed to other skaters during this time. Class size is limited to ten with a minimum of four students. Tickets are \$120 per session. For more information call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Ask the Attorney with Nedder and Associates, by appointment

2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
 An attorney from Nedder and Associates, LLC will be available for a free, private, fifteen-minute consultations to answer your legal or financial questions. Please call 203-594-3620 to schedule your appointment.

January 10

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

11 AM at the Lapham Center

Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. Free event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Winter Movie Classics

12 PM at the Lapham Center
 Attend a winter movie classic, Roman Holiday. A bored and sheltered princess escapes her guardians and falls in love with an American newsman in Rome. 1h 58m.

Afternoon Tea

3 PM at Grace Farms
 Join a traditional English Afternoon Tea service. Enjoy a pot of ethically- and sustainably-sourced tea, and a seasonal assortment of tasty English and Japanese-inspired bites created by Grace Farms Pastry Chef Leah Jones. Registration closes the Sunday before the event. Tickets are \$30/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/9109c140-da5c-72cd-3bb9-bf157745ef46>.

January 11

Introduction to Seed Starting

11 AM at Grace Farms
 Explore sustainable methods of starting plants from seeds. Learn the importance of saving, using, and exchanging your own seeds, as well as tips for optimal seed selection, equipment, and more. Tickets are \$20/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/019234f3-dfa6-adde-8781-abe432067c22>.

January 14

Art Gottlieb's History Discussions: Neville Chamberlain and Appeasement

10-11 AM at the Lapham Center
 As Prime Minister of Great Britain during the 1930's, Neville Chamberlain desperately hoped to avoid conflict with Nazi Germany. Remembered for his pre-war negotiations with Hitler, Chamberlain's tragic legacy is one of naïve appeasement. To register please call 203-594-3620.

January 15

Meditation Class

9 - 9:45 AM at the Lapham Center
 Sign up for this free meditation class that recharges, settles and soothes, while enhancing the feeling of deep peace that occurs when the mind is silent. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Take Action to Protect Your Online and Financial Security with Allison Donaldson

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Incidents of fraud and identity theft are on the rise. A helpful list of action items was created so you can implement now, in order to safeguard your personal and financial information. This is a free lunch and learn event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
 Ellen Samai from New Canaan's Department of Health provides free in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. For more information please call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

French Films: Homage à Leslie Caron

1 PM at the Lapham Center
 Go and watch the french film, An American in Paris. This film is an ode to love and the enchanting city of Paris. Directed by Vicente Minnelli, Leslie Caron and Gene Kelly perform magnificent dance sequences.

Billiards for Everyone with Mike Bacon

2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
 If you're looking to have some free fun, learn to play pool, or just play a game, join Mike on Wednesdays. For more information please call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

January 16

Life Reimagined

1 PM at the Lapham Center
 Purposeful living promotes happiness, better sleep, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer's and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand, LMSW, Director, New

Dec 20



A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

2 hr 20 min · Drama

R

10:45 AM

2:00 PM

4:30 PM



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

1 hr 50 min · Adventure

PG

10:30 AM

5:15 PM

8:00 PM

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Canaan's Human Services Department, and Robin Rockafellow, LCSW, will lead an informal and friendly group discussion of who we were, who we are, and the creative ways to explore our interests, abilities, knowledge, and activities in connection with the community around us. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Create Winter Mocktails

6:30 PM at Grace Farms
Create and sip your own tea-based mocktail with good-for-you ingredients inspired by Grace Farms Tea & Coffee. Tickets are \$22/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/01930cad-f9a1-5d5d-0bb8-f9a9eaeb63e>.

January 16

Winter Movie Classics
12 PM at the Lapham Center
Attend a winter movie classic, Arsenic and Old Lace. Mortimer Brewster, a Brooklyn writer of books on the futility of marriage, risks his reputation after he decides to tie the knot. Things grow complicated when he learns that his beloved maiden aunts Abby and Martha are serial murderers. 1h 58m.

January 22

Meditation Class
9 - 9:45 AM at the Lapham Center
Sign up for this free meditation class that recharges, settles and soothes, while enhancing the feeling of deep peace that occurs when the mind is silent. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
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French Films: Homage à Leslie Caron
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Go and watch the french film, Fanny. This film is an adaptation of the Marcel Pagnol stage trilogy Fanny, Marius and César. Set in Marseilles, Fanny is a complex love story starring Maurice Chevalier, Leslie Caron and Horst Buchholz.

Billiards for Everyone with Mike Bacon
2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
If you're looking to have some free fun, learn to play pool, or just play a game, join Mike on Wednesdays. For more information please call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

February 3

Beginning Mahjongg - Session 2
9:30-11 AM at the Lapham Center

Mahjongg is an ancient Chinese game that is enjoying renewed popularity. Join Aggie to learn how to play this fun social game. The session is \$60/person. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

February 4

Beginning Mahjongg - Session 2
9:30-11 AM at the Lapham Center
Mahjongg is an ancient Chinese game that is enjoying renewed popularity. Join Aggie to learn how to play this fun social game. The session is \$60/person. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

February 5

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide
10 AM - 3 PM at the Lapham Center
IRS trained and certified AARP Tax Counselors will provide free, income tax preparation on Wednesdays, February 5th through April 9th. There will be a focus on adults aged 50+ with a low to moderate income. AARP membership is NOT required. You can choose to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your taxes for you or provide guidance, so you can prepare them yourself. This program is by appointment only. Information about scheduling appointments will be available in mid-January. For more information, please call (203) 674-9336.

Winter Bingo with a Valentine's Theme
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Bingo and prizes with a Valentine's Day theme. Reserve your spot early by calling (203) 674-9336.

February 8

Pruning 101
11 AM at Grace Farms
Understanding when and how to prune is critical to the health of small trees and shrubs. Learn the basics of pruning, including proper tool use and care, in order to champion sustainable and eco-conscious values in gardening. Tickets are \$20/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/019234f3-dfa6-adde-8781-abe432067c22>.

February 14

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. Free event. For more information and to register, call the Lapham Center at 203-594-3620.

Afternoon Tea
3 PM at Grace Farms
Join a traditional English Afternoon Tea service. Enjoy a pot of ethically- and sustainably-sourced tea, and a seasonal assortment of tasty English and Japanese-inspired bites created by Grace Farms Pastry Chef Leah Jones. Registration closes the Sunday before the event. Tickets are \$30/person and available at <https://tickets.gracefarms.org/events/9109c140-da5c-72cd-3bb9-bf157745ef46>.

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February 21

Move with Grace Farms x lululemon | Yoga with Jane Krantz
10:30 AM at Grace Farms
Join instructor Jane Krantz for a fluid yoga class centered on moving through transitions with grace and finding stability in order to move with freedom, awareness, and expression. Starting with grounding breathwork, Jane will guide you through movement that will ignite a little bit of heat and a lot of joy, ending in a restful savasana. Tickets are \$20/non-members, \$16/members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/move-with-grace-farms-x-lululemon-yoga-with-jane-krantz-2>.

Opening Night- Terra Nova
7:30 PM at the Town Players of New Canaan
In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35/adults, \$30/seniors, and available at <https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/town-players-of-new-canaan/6683833d63f94a0e4061a23a/tickets#/productions-view>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, Dec. 20

Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 21

Union Baptist Church
805 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Monday, Dec. 23

Green's Farms Church
71 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT 06880
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 24

American Legion
60 County Road
Norwalk, CT 06851
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Greenwich Blood Donation Center

99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, Dec. 26

Strong Comstock Community Center
180 School Road
Wilton, CT 06897
9:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Westport Woman's Club
44 Imperial Ave
Westport, CT 06880

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Greenwich Blood Donation Center

99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 27
Norwalk Hospital
34 Maple Street
Norwalk, CT 06856
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 28
Archangels Greek Orthodox Church
1527 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905

8:00 AM - 1:15 PM
Monday, Dec. 30
Norfield Church
64 Norfield Road
Weston, CT 06883

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 31
First Presbyterian Church
1101 Bedford St
Stamford, CT 06905

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday, January 2
The Stamford Hotel
700 East Main Street
Stamford, CT 06901

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday, January 3
Trinity Church Cos Cob
5 River Road
Cos Cob, CT 06807

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday, January 6
United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Tuesday, January 7
Saint Mark's Church
111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

1:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Greenwich Blood Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Thursday, January 9
Greenwich Blood

Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday, January 10
Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Support Services & Meetings

December 20

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM- 1 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
In partnership with the Health Department of New Canaan, the library presents a suicide prevention QPR class. Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. This is a free event and registration is available at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-82870>.

January 13

Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Heart and Vascular Disease
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Dr. Argenziano will discuss current technology for less invasive treatment options, including minimally invasive surgery and catheterbased procedures. Also the importance of early diagnosis of coronary and valve disease, and the ease of testing, including calcium score, stress tests, and echocardiograms. For more information and to register please call 203-594-3620.

February 19

Transitioning from Hospital to Subacute Care: Key Questions and Essential Information
12 PM at the Lapham Center
Know what to expect, what questions to ask and what information to gather to ensure a smooth transition when being discharged from a hospital to a skilled nursing facility for rehab. This free lunch and learn will be presented by Kathy Collins, LMSW.

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Fridays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group
Saturdays at 9:15 AM
First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group
Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Group
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting
Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance) 165 South Avenue, New Canaan

Every Monday

AA Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

Adult Child AI-Anon Meeting
Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Church, Youth Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting
Tuesdays at 12 PM
St. Mark's Parish House, Conf. Room
111 Oenoke Ridge Rd., New Canaan

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan
AI-Anon Parent's & Newcomer's Mtg.
Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting.
Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
23 Park St, New Canaan

New Canaan Parent Support Group
7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

February 4

New York Philharmonic String Quartet
7:30 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
Attend the New York Philharmonic String Quartet in Ridgefield. The Quartet is comprised of four Principal musicians from the Orchestra: Concertmaster Frank Huang; Principal Second Violin Group Qianqian Li; Principal Viola Cynthia Phelps; and Principal Cello Carter Brey. Tickets are \$65 per person and available at <https://shorturl.at/UjTuS>.

Dec 21



A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
2 hr 20 min · Drama



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3
1 hr 50 min · Adventure

1:30 PM

4:30 PM

7:45 PM

11:00 AM

1:45 PM

5:00 PM

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.

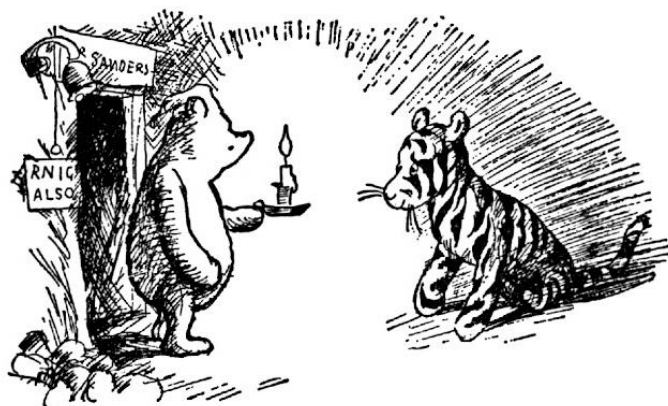
"Tell me about it tomorrow, Eeyore," said Pooh sleepily.

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 golollop, 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, 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!"

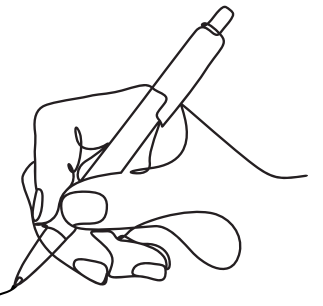
Which explains why he always lived at Kanga's house afterwards, and had Extract of Malt for breakfast, dinner, and tea. And sometimes, when Kanga thought he wanted strengthening, he had a spoonful or two of Roo's breakfast after meals as medicine.

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

Calling all sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and our very clever Sentinel readers!

Enter to Win Cash Prizes in our Contest!

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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SUDOKU

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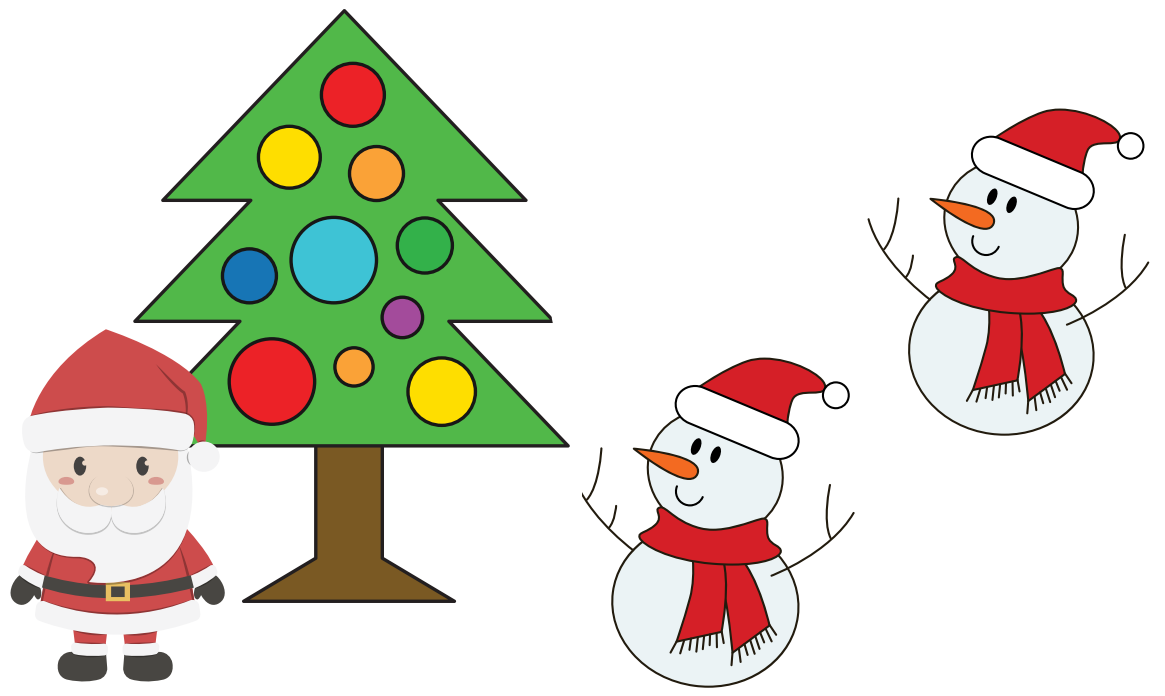
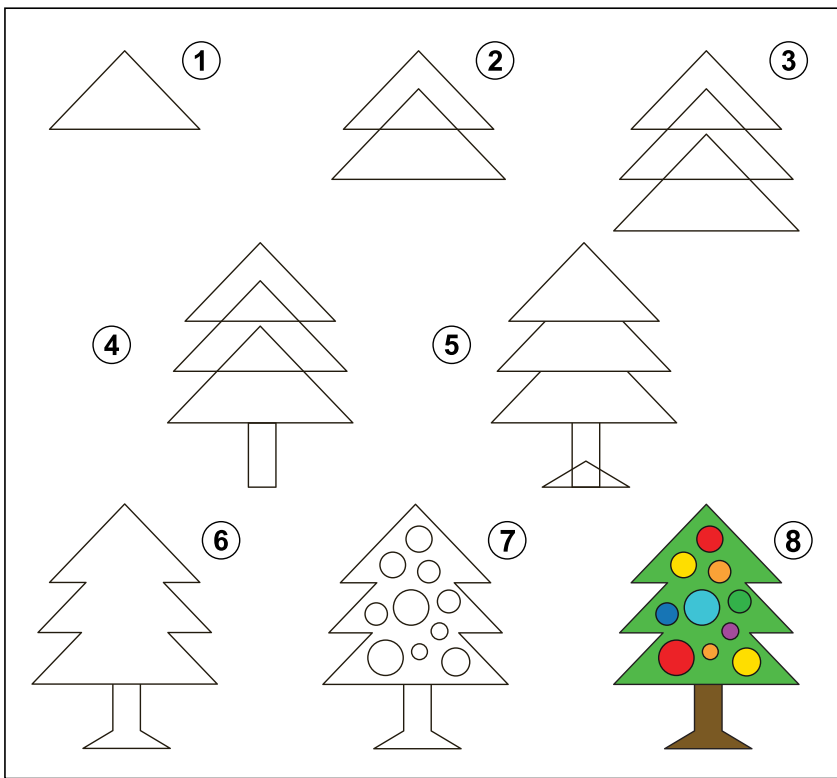
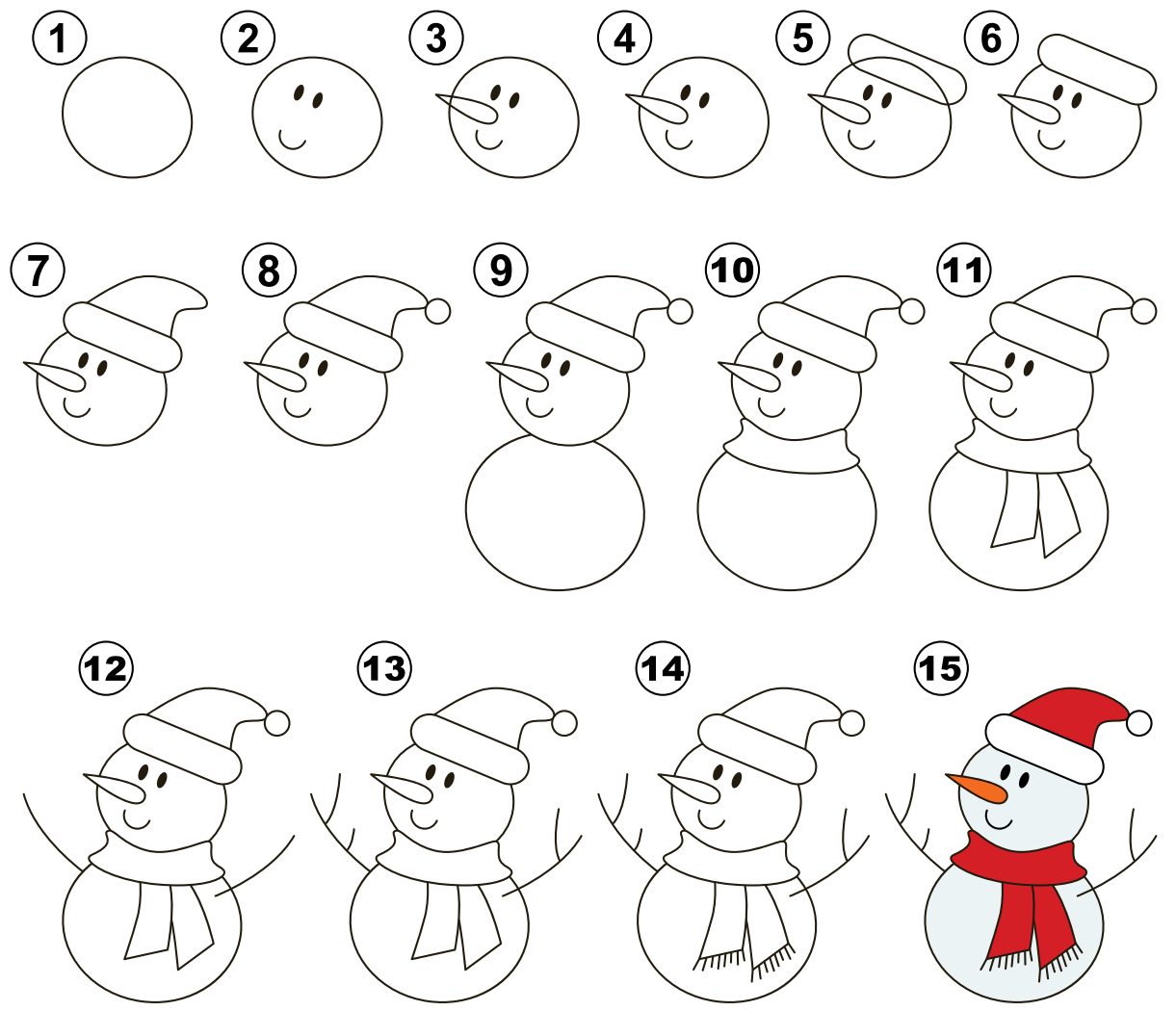
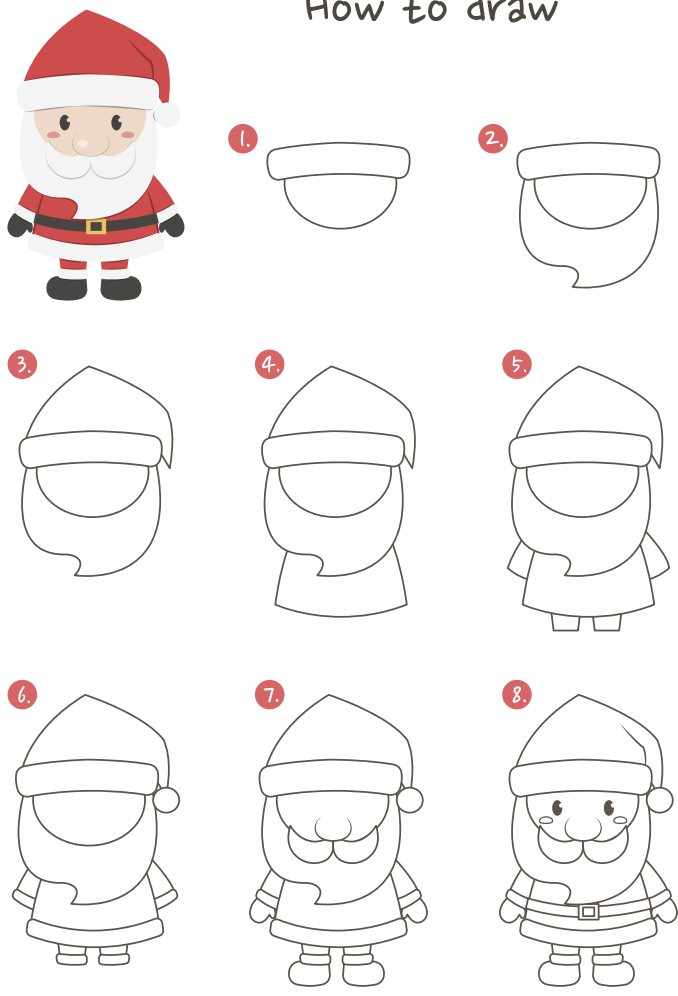
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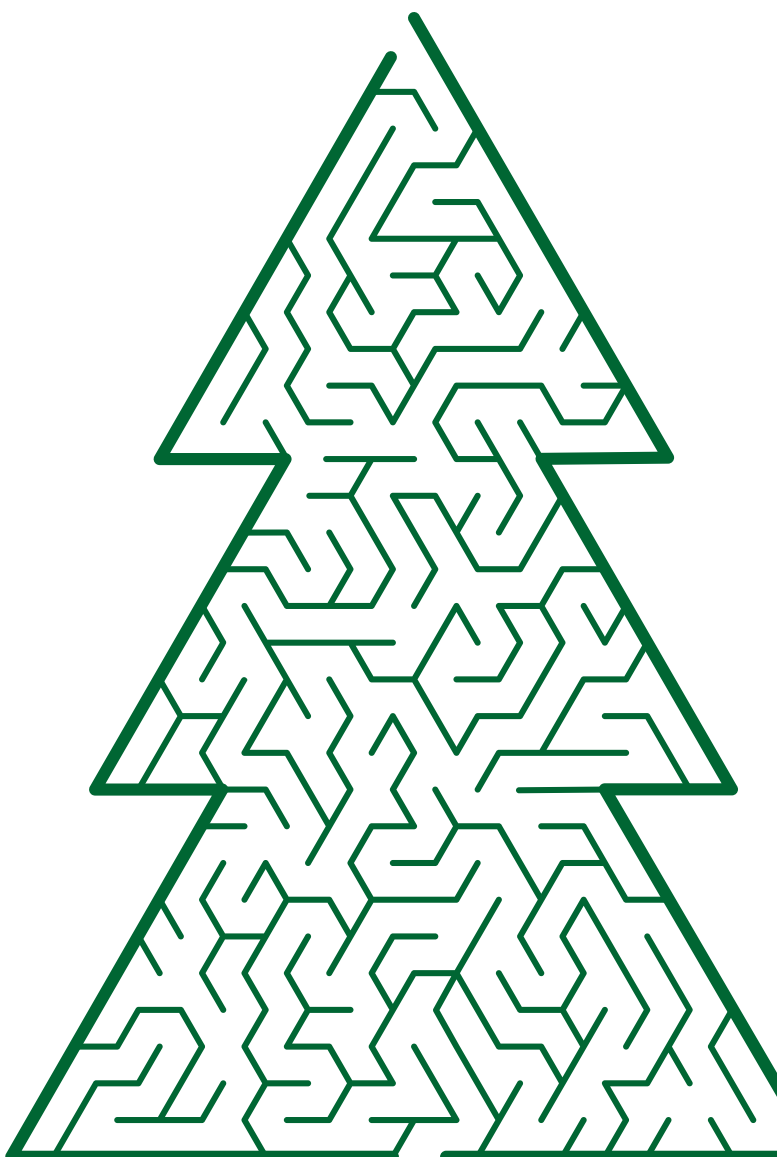
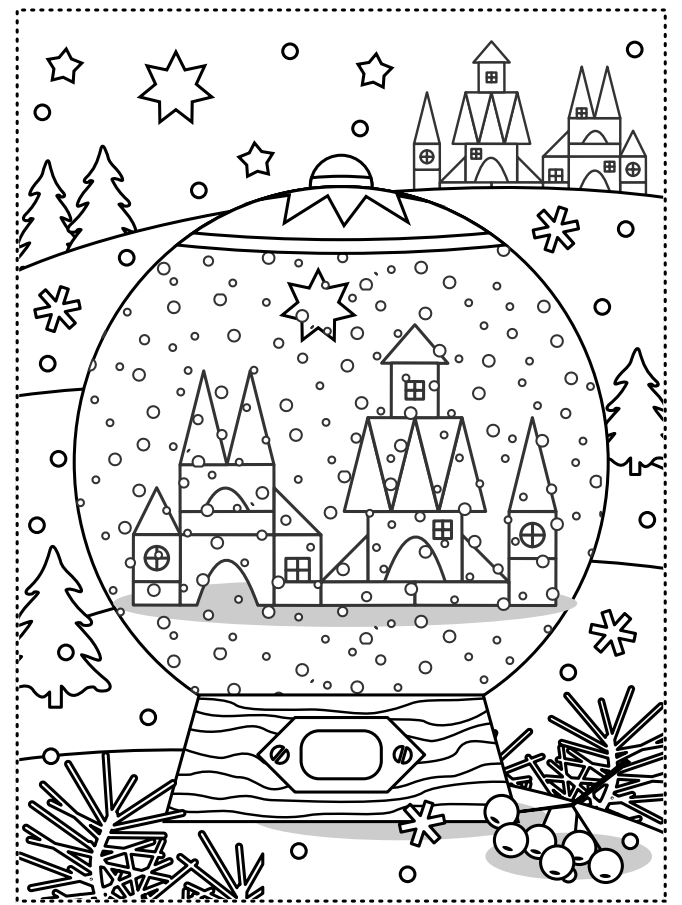
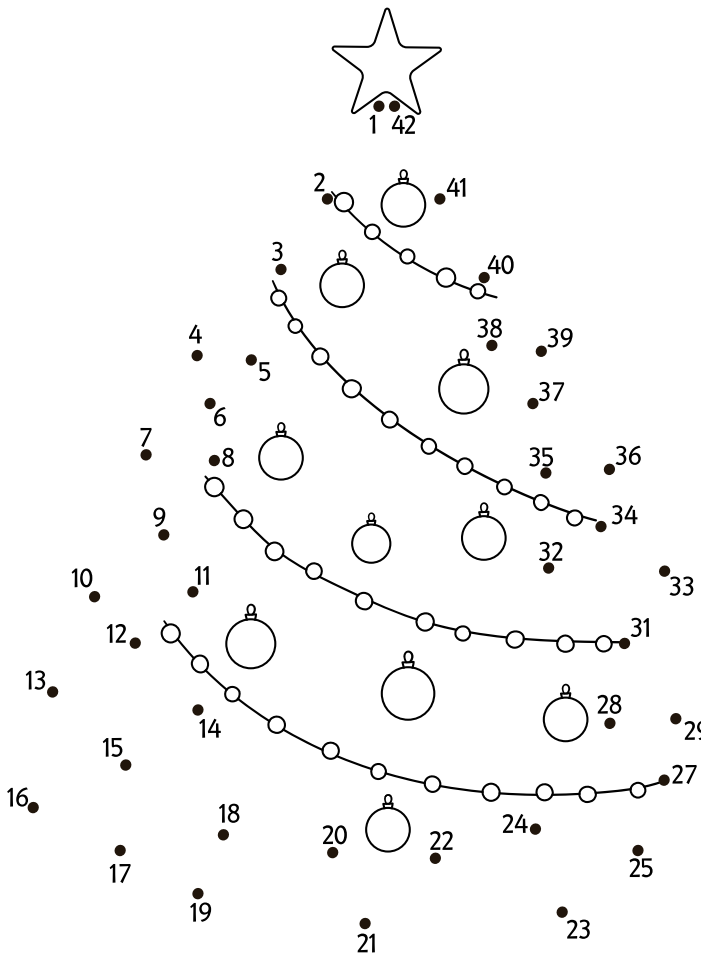
Sudoku answers

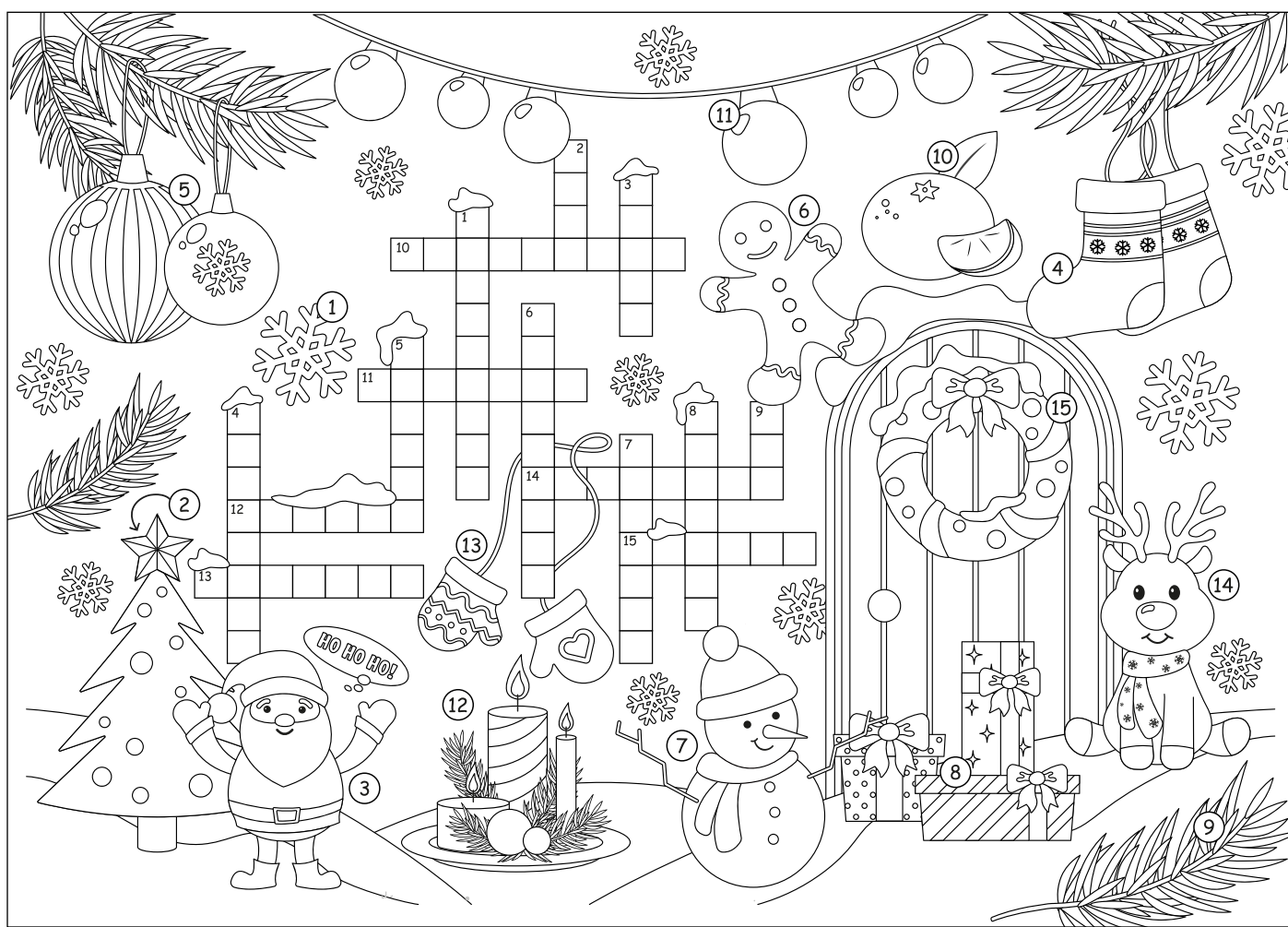
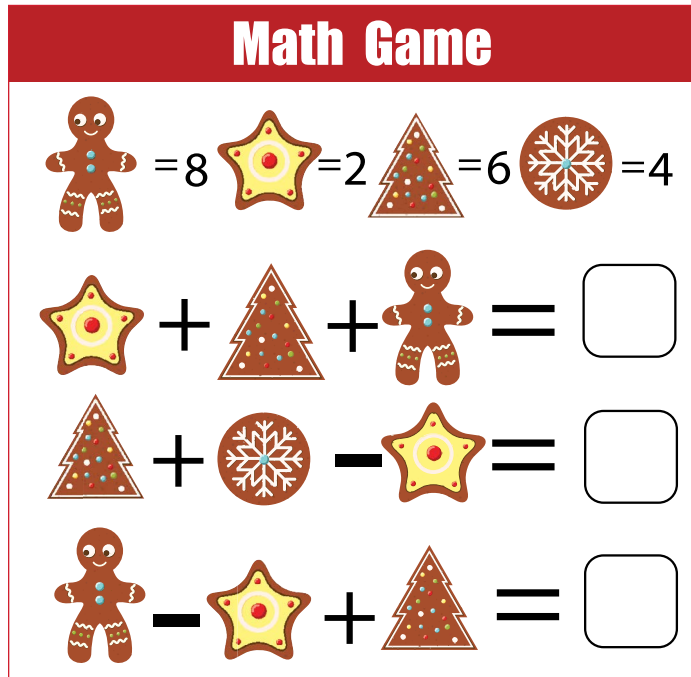
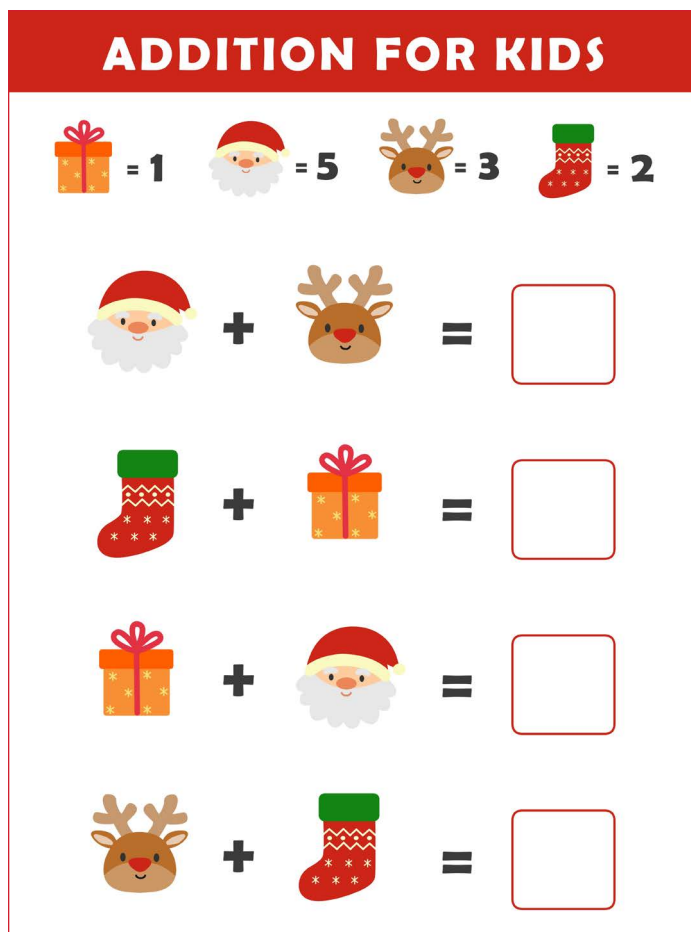
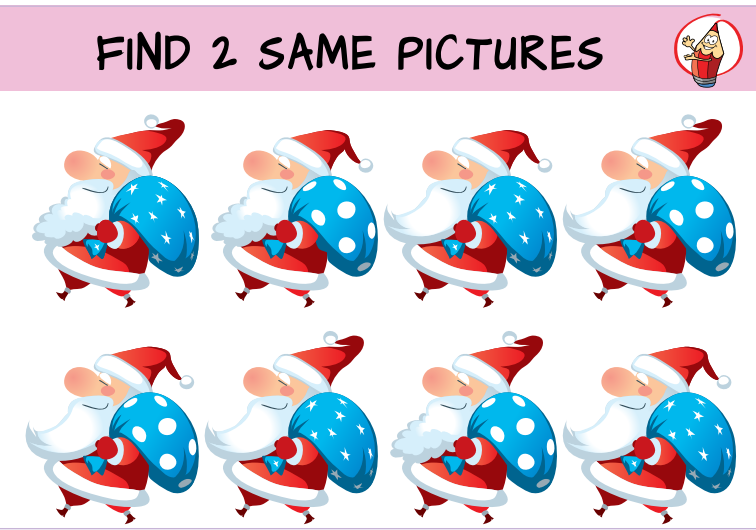
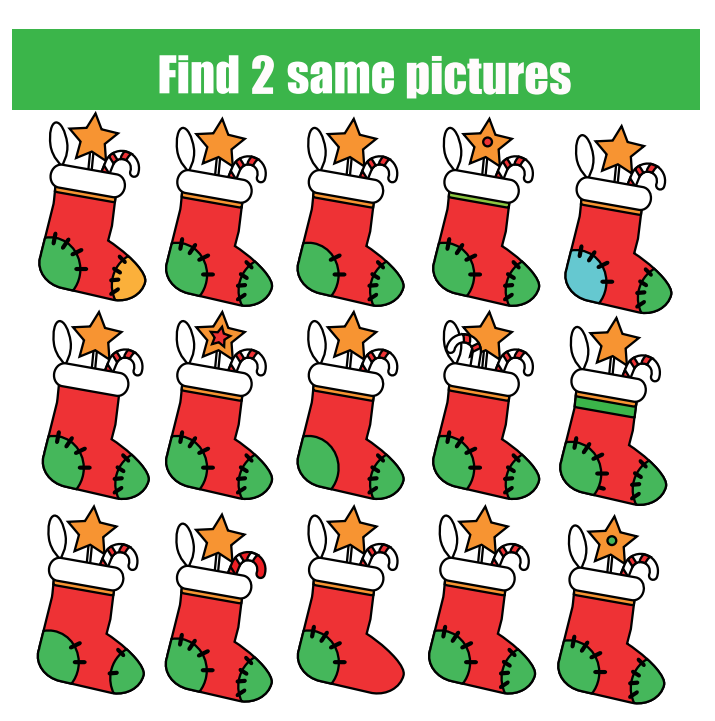
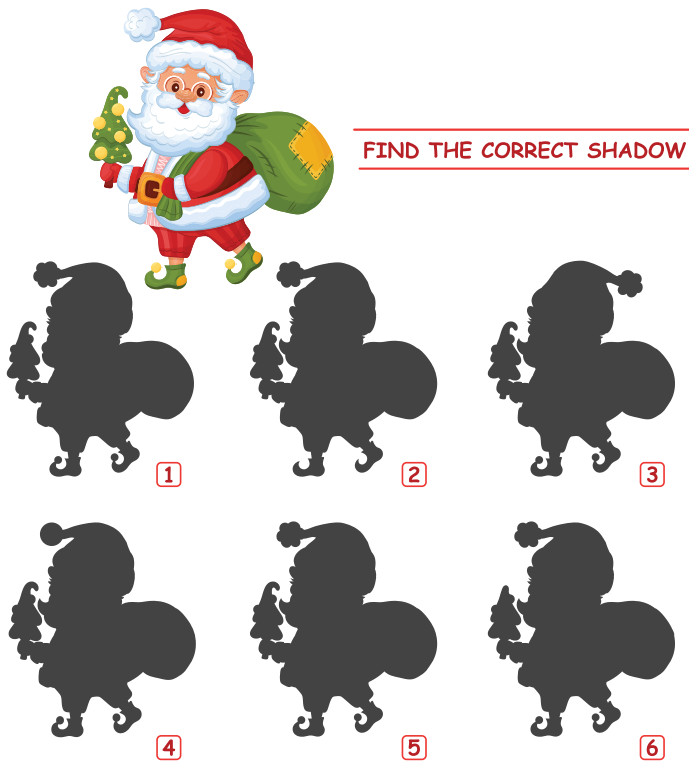
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How to draw



Find 10 differences.





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 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-



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!

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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From cosmetic procedures to craniofacial reconstruction to pediatric craniofacial and plastic surgery, Oren M. Tepper, MD, provides care that balances traditional aesthetic concepts with modern technology and minimally invasive techniques. A pioneer in stem cell therapy and 3D surgical innovation, his advances have revolutionized patient care and earned international recognition.

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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