



MAHOVA

December 2020

News

How St. Nicholas Became Santa Claus

St. Nicholas was a Christian bishop who helped the needy. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew. St. Nicholas transformed into the legendary character called Santa Claus, who brings presents to children around the World.

St. Nicholas was born sometime circa 270 AD in Patara, Lycia, area that is part of present-day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he later served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre.

There are many legends about St. Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, St. Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. On the third visit, the man saw St. Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. He also reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned and sentenced to death.

Several sources state St. Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343. Stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world over the years. He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s, a religious movement that led to the creation of Protestantism, which turned away from the practice of honoring saints. St. Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland.

The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas, December 6. It was a common practice for children to put out their shoes the night before. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that St. Nicholas had left there for them. Dutch immigrants brought St. Nicholas, known to them as Sint Nikolaas or by his nickname Sinter Klaas, and his gift-giving ways to America in the 1700s.

In America, St. Nicholas went through many transformations and eventually Sinter Klaas became Santa Claus. Instead of giving gifts on December 6, he became a part of the Christmas holiday. In the 1920 poem "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, he is described as a jolly, heavy man who comes down the chimney to leave presents for deserving children and drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The cartoonist Thomas Nast added to the St. Nicholas legend with an 1881 drawing of Santa as wearing a red suit with white fur trim. Once a kind, charitable bishop, St. Nicholas had become the Santa Claus we know today.

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Village

8 Ways to have a Healthy Holiday Season



1. Wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

It is flu season; wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm.

Wear appropriate clothing depending on the weather, such as warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and waterproof shoes.

3. Manage stress.

Give yourself a break if you feel stressed, overwhelmed or out of control. Find support and get plenty of sleep.

4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.

5. Be smoke-free.

Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke.

6. Fasten seatbelts when driving or riding in a motor vehicle.

Buckle up no matter how short the trip and encourage passengers to do the same.

7. Get your vaccinations.

Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives.

8. Eat healthy; stay active.

Eat fruits and vegetables full of nutrients to help lower the risk of certain diseases.

Book Ends

CHRISTMAS MIRACLES of MARBLE COVE Volume Two

Last month was about Volume one where the first of the four women re-started the Living Nativity and obtained a place to hold it. The second hunted for and found the costumes and when they were deteriorated, her friends sewed new ones.

The Sounding Joy by Sunni Jeffers

In the first story of Volume Two, Margaret, the third member of the group, and their artist find the background sets which are deteriorated to the point of being nearly unusable. She starts what seems like a massive job, one that will take well into next year. Starting with the easy part, the animal cutouts, she is stalled by a customer at her art shop. He is looking for a painting of the Marble Cove Lighthouse as a Christmas present. Margaret is also down because her Down Syndrome daughter will be going on a trip for Christmas other than returning home. Then she finds a home-made popsicle stick Christmas decoration on her doorstep.

In time everything works out. The customer supplies new scenery that only needs paint [an easy job for Margaret] and also purchases a painting from the shop rather than a custom one. The best thing is when her daughter arrives home refusing to go on the Christmas trip with her school. Margaret even also learns the origin of the popsicle stick decoration.

Loves Pure Light by Camy Tang

Beverly, the last of the four, is walking along the beach when she discovers an old battered Christmas wreath. What bothers her is that it is decorated with items made from shells. This prompts a memory deep in her brain from her childhood. She is also bothered with a snippet of song she associates with the wreath but has forgotten the source. She is extremely busy setting up and especially busy preparing and directing the cast of the Living Nativity.

Part of this is putting together the cast and having rehearsals. During this time she remembers things from the time when the wreath hung over her grandmother's piano. She also remembers when the family falling apart when her uncle removed things from her grandmother's home shortly after her funeral. [The wreath?]

When her uncle appears at the Living Nativity, she confronts him and learns things she was never told. Thus, the family starts reuniting again. All because of an old wreath that washed up for Beverly to find.

I enjoyed these and will be placing them in the library as soon as the Big House is opened again. Soon I hope! Pray for an end to the virus!

In Memoriam

Forever in Our Hearts

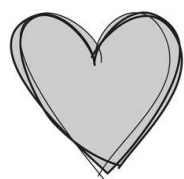


11/14/2020
11/20/2020

Charles Hinkle
McClellan Burgess

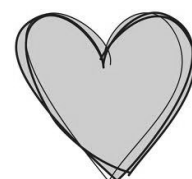


ANNIVERSARIES



12/19/1975
12/19/1975
12/21/2005
12/21/1984
12/22/1956

Richard & Georgeen Carden
John & Gloria Edelin
William & Dolores Reinhold
Gardner & Gypsy Rollings
Chester & Marian Wright



Have You Heard?

December 13 is St. Lucia's Day, which is associated with Festivals of Light. Before the Gregorian calendar reform in 1752, her feast day occurred on the shortest day of the year. The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that were dyed green. An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny.

The birthstone for December is turquoise and represents good fortune and success. The flowers are the holly and paperwhite.

Brain Teasers

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

Find these December Words in the puzzle

Christmas
Holiday
Snow
Winter
Cold
Hot Chocolate
Tree
Ornaments
Pageant

Lights
Santa
Elf
Candy Cane
Icicles
Rudolph
Presents
Reindeer
Mistletoe

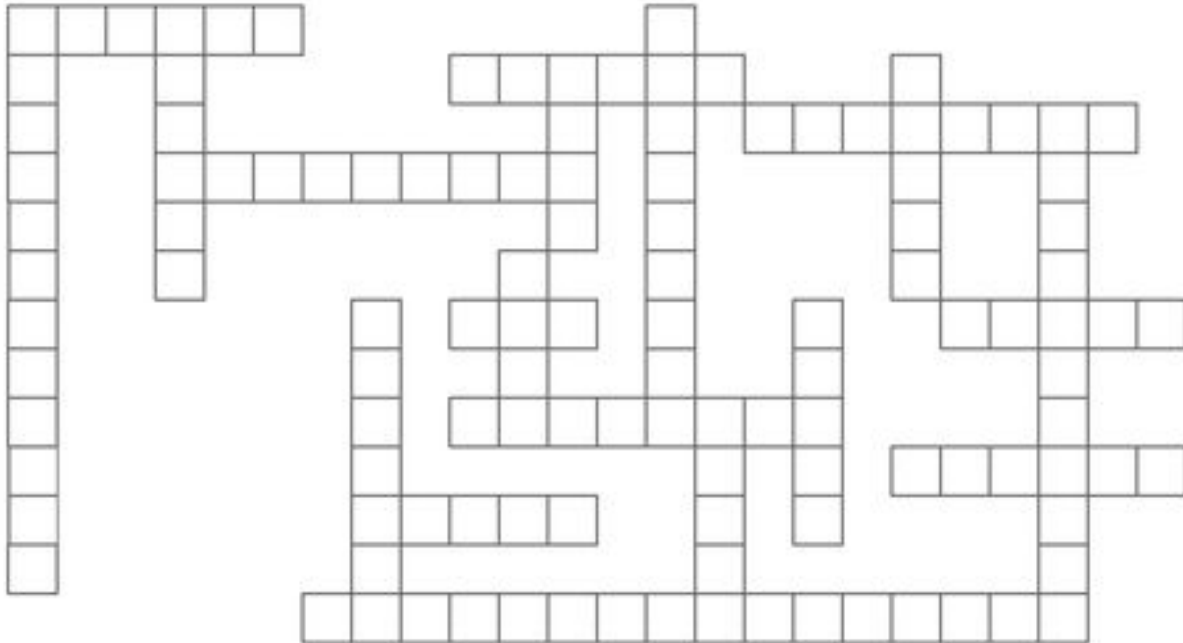
Bells
Sled
Milk
Tradition
Wreath
Frosty
Candles
Cookies
North Pole

Brain Teasers

Name: _____

Christmas Fill in the Blanks Puzzle

Below the blank puzzle grid is a list of words. Place the words in the correct place on the grid. Tip: Start with letter sizes that have the fewest words. So if there are only 2 words with 7 letters and 5 words with 4 letters, try placing the 7 letter words first.



3 Letters

fir

cedar

lists

8 Letters

December

yuletide

12 Letters

announcement

4 Letters

pine

Noel

6 Letters

Donner

St. Nick

eggnog

Advent

9 Letters

Bethlehem

North Pole

16 Letters

Christmas cookies

5 Letters

bells

party

merry

7 Letters

Rudolph

11 Letters

decorations

Coloring Page



Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to the following residents who celebrate their birthdays:

- 12/4 Betty Klotz
- 12/5 James Herring
- 12/6 Art Gregory
- 12/6 Susan Sprigg
- 12/8 Hank Lythgoe
- 12/18 Mary Lee Peroe
- 12/19 Luvirda Mitchell
- 12/20 Anne Dechent
- 12/24 Woody Davis
- 12/25 Norma Klebert
- 12/28 Ed Bowen
- 12/28 Bea Holm
- 12/31 Gloria Edelin

Scan this QR image to go to the Masonic Home Website.



Masonic Home Census -- 170

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Anne Hagen, CPA, MBA

Chief Executive Officer

Warren Swanson, CPA, MBA

Chief Financial Officer

Robert Adkins, LNHA

Senior Administrator

Kathy Bryant, ALFA

Assisted Living Administrator

Dr. Danny Felty

Medical Director

Terry Hilton

Director of Development

Regina Pettaway, RN

Director of Nursing

Barbara Ramirez

Human Resources Director

Mike Butler, Jr.

Director of Facilities

Jason Houdek

Director of Dining

Employee Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 12/2 Peter Mollica | 12/15 Cheryl Smith |
| 12/5 Charles Vaught | 12/17 Tacara Shuler |
| 12/5 Lachandra Broidy | 12/18 Dianne Winston |
| 12/7 Bonnie White | 12/18 Rashia Traywick |
| 12/8 Beverly Allen | 12/21 Sheba Bowman |
| 12/10 Johnetta Bell | 12/23 Holly Fiore |
| 12/12 Penny Allen | 12/25 Marlena Jennings |
| 12/12 Shyvonne Bagby | 12/27 Janet Jameson |
| 12/12 Mary Corbett | 12/28 Carol Whyte |
| | 12/28 Wanda Woody |

MAHOVA Editor
 Robyn Massie
 804-222-1694
 Extension 77268

MAHOVA Copy Editor
 Mildred Ammons