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Empowering older adults to be active,  
connected and independent in the place they  
call home



## TWIN CITIES VILLAGE VOICE

DECEMBER 2020

December—the final month of a weird, woeful, wacky year, with some wonder thrown in. While the months plodded on, we adapted and coped. The pandemic necessitated items and terms new to us: masks, social distancing, Zoom, the curve, face shields. It also brought new hobbies—gardening, sewing masks, knitting crafting, building, baking. Beyond that, we found time for renewing old enthusiasms: writing, reading, and completing jigsaw puzzles. It hasn't been easy, but positives blossomed as well; special shopping hours for those of us of a certain age, a renewal of helping others with tasks or to shop, sharing homemade baked goods, a consciousness about societal fairness, and a new beginning with a veteran president who already knows the ropes.

And, it's the holiday season. As with the other celebrations this year, this "so 2020 year," will be different, but we will make it work, and let us pray and envision and hope that by this time next year, life will be back to normal. Wishing all of the Twin Cities Villagers a blessed, safe holiday, filled with joy and love and light.

*Season of skinny candles*

by  
Marge Piercy

A row of tall skinny candles  
burn quickly into the night  
air, the shamesh raised  
over the rest  
for its hard work.  
Darkness rushes in  
after the sun sinks  
like a bright plug pulled.  
Our eyes drown in night  
thick as ink pudding.  
When even the moon  
starves to a sliver  
of quicksilver  
the little candles poke  
holes in the blackness.  
A time to eat fat  
and oil, a time to gamble  
for pennies and gambol  
around the table, a light  
and easy holiday.  
No disasters, no  
repentance, just remember  
and enjoy. The miracle  
is really eight days  
and nights without trouble.

**The Coming of Light**

by Mark Strand

Even this late it happens:  
the coming of love, the coming of light.  
You wake and the candles are lit as if  
by themselves,  
stars gather, dreams pour into your  
pillows,  
sending up warm bouquets of air.  
Even this late the bones of the body  
shine  
and tomorrow's dust flares into breath.

Sharing December with Christmas and Hanukkah is the African American festival of Kwanzaa.



Kwanzaa is a seven-day festival celebrated in appreciation of African and African-American history, heritage and culture. The term 'Kwanzaa' originates from the Swahili expression "matunda ya kwanza," which means 'first fruits of the harvest.' The festival is observed from December 26th to January 1st. Each of these seven days' honours particular principles which are thought to have been fundamental in promoting strong, productive communities and families in Africa.

**Christmas Is A Holiday For Friends**

Christmas is a holiday for friends,  
However they may be, or not, related.  
Remember that the three wise kings were strangers  
In search of one remote, uncanny dream.  
So may we all be far more than we seem,  
Together bound for dark and haunting changes,  
More lovely for the loves we have created  
Along the lonely paths from means to ends,  
Stumbling towards that star of Bethlehem.  
(by Nicholas Gordon)

Christmas Gift Suggestions by Oren Arnold is a short and sweet poem, highlighting the true gifts one should give to different kind of relations in your life.

**Christmas gift suggestions:**

To your enemy, forgiveness.  
 To an opponent, tolerance.  
 To a friend, your heart.  
 To a customer, service.  
 To all, charity.  
 To every child, a good example.  
 To yourself, respect.



For more gift ideas:

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in U.K.  
 Newspapers:

**FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.**

8 years old,  
 Hateful little bastard.  
 Bites!

**FREE PUPPIES**

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbor's dog.

**FREE PUPPIES.**

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.  
 Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

**COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.**

Also 1 gay bull for sale.

**JOINING NUDIST COLONY!**

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

**WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE ...**

Worn once by mistake.  
 Call Stephanie

**FOR SALE BY OWNER.**

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes.  
 Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!**

**Volunteer:** Andrea Dyer

Thank you for giving your time and energy to our village!

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## LOCAL VILLAGE EVENTS (open to all, unless noted)

All the events below are offered on Zoom. If you are not yet comfortable with Zooming, we can provide one-on-one help. Just let the office know you would like a volunteer to work with you. [info@marinvillages.org](mailto:info@marinvillages.org) or (415) 457-4633.

### Food & Drink

#### **Men's Coffee Group**

Wednesdays, December 3 & 17, 11:00am

Join the group for informal and free-ranging discussions with no agenda, including current events, respective activities, health issues, or whatever lands on the table. Men from other local villages beyond Twin Cities are invited to participate. Check with Alan Hayakawa, [alan.hayakawa@gmail.com](mailto:alan.hayakawa@gmail.com) for information, and watch for the Zoom link.

#### **Sip and Chat**

Tuesday, December 15, 4:30 – 5:30pm (new time better suited to a happy hour)

Last month we celebrated our fourth anniversary at the Sip and Chat, with lively conversation and games and prizes. The word-scramble maestra was Diane Castro, and the draw-the-name-from-a-hat gift baskets from Trader Joe's (painstakingly curated by Mary Wood, who no doubt had to taste-test the chocolate prior to selecting) went to Caroline Silverman and Sandra Massen. **So, for December's festivities**, do you still have a Christmas sweater, ugly or lovely? They're quite trendy now, you know. Put it on, mix up some eggnog and get comfortable, click the link, and Zoom in! Catch up with Village friends again, tell stories, and talk. It's fun to chat with others and actually to have a holiday party on our calendar. An email will be sent to all Villagers before the event with the Zoom link.

As the new year begins, the curve flattens, and the tiers open, we will let you know what will be available to members from our volunteers at TCV.

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## MARIN VILLAGES EVENTS

### Meet the Marin Villages Board

Thursday, December 17, 4:00pm

Come meet the board of directors of Marin Villages. Can you name them all? A fun opportunity to hear what they love about Marin Villages, and what they are up to when not in board meetings or otherwise volunteering for us! RSVP to the office to receive the Zoom link. (415) 457-4633 or [info@marinvillages.org](mailto:info@marinvillages.org)

### Not Home Alone--Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25; and Thursday, December 31, 4:00pm

Not looking forward to spending the holidays alone? Join Donnalee Wells on Zoom and celebrate the holiday with fellow Villagers. You are encouraged to have something to eat with the group to celebrate with others. Always fun and good conversation. A movie to follow will also be suggested. RSVP to Marin Villages at [info@marinvillages.org](mailto:info@marinvillages.org) to receive the Zoom link.

Take a second look at the "**Things to Do**" part of your Marin Villages newsletter. You will find many interesting suggestions for films, books, concerts, events, and activities that are available. As events and openings become more plentiful, you will find some new ideas.

### Also, check out other websites:

**Library** ([marinlibrary.org](http://marinlibrary.org))

**Buck Center** informational lectures and events  
([buckinstitute.org/events](http://buckinstitute.org/events)),

**Age Friendly Corte Madera** ([agefriendlycortemadera.com](http://agefriendlycortemadera.com)), and the  
**Parks and Recreation** departments of our sister cities.

There is truly so much available to participate in, and now that you have the time, jump in; virtually, of course!

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## BITS AND PIECES

**'Twas A Computer Christmas**

T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the shop,

The computers were whirring; they never do stop.

The power was on and the temperature right,

In hopes that the input would feed back that night.

The system was ready, the program was coded,

And memory drums had been carefully loaded;

While adding a Christmasy glow to the scene,

The lights on the console, flashed red, white and green.

When out in the hall there arose such a clatter,

The programmer ran to see what was the matter.

Away to the hallway he flew like a flash,

Forgetting his key in his curious dash.

He stood in the hallway and looked all about,

When the door slammed behind him, and he was locked out.

Then, in the computer room what should appear,

But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer;

And a little old man, who with scarcely a pause,

Chuckled: "My name is Santa...the last name is Claus."

The computer was startled, confused by the name,

Then it buzzed as it heard the old fellow exclaim:

"This is Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,

And Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen."

With all these odd names, it was puzzled anew;

It hummed and it clanked, and a main circuit blew.



It searched in its memory core, trying to "think";  
Then the multi-line printer went out on the blink.

Unable to do its electronic job,  
It said in a voice that was almost a sob:  
"Your eyes - how they twinkle - your dimples so merry,  
Your cheeks so like roses, your nose like a cherry,  
Your smile - all these things, I've been programmed to  
know,  
And at data - recall, I am more than so - so;  
But your name and your address (computers can't lie),  
Are things that I just cannot identify.  
You've a jolly old face and a little round belly,  
That shakes when you laugh like a bowlful of jelly;  
My scanners can see you, but still I insist,  
Since you're not in my program, you cannot exist!"  
Old Santa just chuckled a merry "ho, ho",  
And sat down to type out a quick word or so.  
The keyboard clack-clattered, its sound sharp and clean,  
As Santa fed this "data" to the machine:  
"Kids everywhere know me; I come every year;  
The presents I bring add to everyone's cheer;  
But you won't get anything - that's plain to see;  
Too bad your programmers forgot about me."  
Then he faced the machine and said with a shrug,  
" Merry Christmas to All " as he pulled out the plug!

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## AND MORE...

Birthday greetings to Birte Hansen on December 30!

If you haven't yet seen the film "My Octopus Teacher," do your heart a favor. It teaches about magnificent beings, and warms viewers to the core. Perfect film for the season.

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## HELP US HELP OTHERS

For more than two decades the belief that it takes a village to raise a child has become embedded in our culture. Not as embedded but equally important is the village it takes to provide a comfortable, nurturing, and safe environment for people as they age. You can help.

We need more caring volunteers to be part of this thriving nationwide movement, a movement that's dedicated to strengthening bonds between generations and building strong, vibrant communities that provide continuity to all ages.

Marin Villages is looking for volunteers to provide a variety of support to older adults. Our goal is to match skills from volunteers with the needs of members. Volunteers sign up for visits that fit their life and lifestyle, but we ask for a commitment of two assignments a month.

If you know someone who is interested in volunteering, could use our services, or would like to donate to an organization serving older adults in Marin, please have them call the office at (415) 457-4633, or visit our website ([www.marinvillages.org](http://www.marinvillages.org)) for application forms and online donations.

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