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Happy Holidays!



Please join me and MP Rob Oliphant for our 17th Annual
New Year's Levee
Sunday, January 19, 2020 • 1-3 pm
Toronto Botanical Gardens, Floral Hall
777 Lawrence Ave E, Toronto

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Winter indoor plants, and read



The weather is getting colder. The days are approaching their shortest of the year. A few plants are hugging close to the window looking for those precious few hours of sunlight. A lucky few are enjoying some longer days under the fluorescent tubes. The gardener is wondering how to satisfy his horticultural urges. There are always a few big new Amaryllis bulbs to be found in the stores and they will perform their magic with little or no care from us, while filling the room with those large blooms. In one corner of my solarium the Christmas Cactus is covering itself with flower buds as the nearby Thanksgiving Cactus is starting to fade. These reliable short day plants are a saving grace for the winter gardener.

The seed catalogues have not started arriving just yet and the Christmas shopping list awaits our attention. If there are gardeners on your list then wander into the nearest book store and have a look at some of the newest titles. If you buy them early enough and read carefully you can enjoy them yourself before wrapping them up. Here's a few that I have enjoyed this year.

If you have children or grandchildren that have shown any interest in gardening or even ones that you would like to introduce to our favourite pastime then you want to find "Gardening with Emma." I have known Emma for several years and she is a delightful young lady of 14 that thoroughly enjoys gardening. Her book is a delight to read and look at. It showcases her many experiences growing a range of vegetables while having a lot of fun and learning about the natural world. She grew about 100 varieties of tomatoes last year along with many other crops and she does this on her parents' city property in north Toronto. Another great book for those who

want to expand their palate and their gardening experience is Niki Jabbour's "Veggie Garden Remix" where the author, another garden writer friend of mine, tells us about some 240 vegetable varieties that she has grown, usually successfully, in her Nova Scotia garden. Different vegetables from around the world that Niki has discovered and adapted to growing in her garden are outlined along with growing and eating tips. It actually makes interesting reading even if you have no desire or space to try them.

If you would rather travel than actually garden then look for "Gardenlust" by Christopher Woods. It is a botanical tour of the world's best new gardens and you can just sit in a cosy chair and travel through those amazing gardens and possibly plan your next trip. Last fall I was in the north of England and spent some time in Alnwick gardens, one of those featured in this impressive book. I saw it at the end of October but this book helped me to see what it would look like at other times of the year. ★

Ken Brown is a horticulturist with extensive houseplant and container gardening experience. He will gladly answer questions addressed to him c/o Hi Rise.



Celebrate Christmas With Us

Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildwood

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"The Best Christmas Gift Isn't Under Your Tree"



The Wonder of Christmas Showcase - December 15, 2019 - 4pm
Guests include George Masswohl (Come From Away) and Sarah Strange (Shrek the Musical) and many more songwriters, singers and musicians. Donations to support YouthLink

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24
7pm - Family Service
11pm - Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Service - Wednesday, December 25, 10:30am

Wesley Chapel Advent & Christmas Services



Sunday Advent Services

December 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Children & Youth Christmas Musical

Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Blue Christmas:

Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.

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Café 65 - Together At Christmas Time

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Christmas Pageant within the Eucharist

Sunday December 8th, 10:30 am

Festal Choral Eucharist

With Carols and Readings for Christmas
Sunday, December 22nd, 10:30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE

BCP Holy Eucharist - 4 pm

Carol Sing - 7 pm

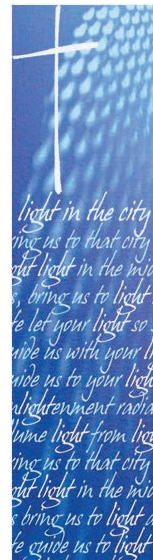
Family Christmas Service - 7:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

BCP - Holy Eucharist - 10 am

Wednesdays Holy Eucharist 11 am

Sundays Holy Eucharist 8 am BCP & 10:30 am BAS



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White Gift	Dec 8
Christmas Fanfare	Dec 8, 4:30 pm
Holy Communion	Dec 11; 2:00pm
Lessons & Carols	Dec 15
Solace Service	Dec 18, 7:30 pm
Christmas Pageant	Dec 22
Christmas Eve	Dec 24, 7:30 pm

"Merry Christmas"

*I wish you and your family a very
Merry Christmas and
Happy and Prosperous new year.*

*Wishing you all good health and
happiness in 2020 and beyond.*



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CANADA PROUD

DR. ROCHELLE
BURNS

Canada 3 stories

And to end the year, here are three delightful stories about what makes us so proud of being Canadian:

Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, was father to Mary -- and to Canada. Mary was born disabled. Macdonald knew her limitations. But he focused on her limited strengths doting on her in their Kingston home, calling her "Baboo", buying her a typewriter for her to communicate, and reading to her regularly.

Then there was Canada. He saw the problems of bringing different peoples under one roof. But he focused on the endless potential of this country.

His fatherliness to a child. His fatherliness to a country. Quite a man.

The part of the 401 called the Highway of Heroes was started by the public. This was not a government initiative. This was a people initiative. It was a way for Canadians to say thank you and honour the fallen returning from Afghanistan.

This kindness has a precedent. In 1915, many World War I



Canadiamn Womns Hocky

wounded soldiers were transported back to Ontario. The Ontario Motor League asked Torontonians with cars to pick them up from the train station and take them to hospitals or their hometowns. Car owners willingly did so until War's end.

What a warm fuzzy feeling hearing about people working together. Pass the tissues. I'm so proud of us now. I'm so proud of who we have always been.

February 11, 1891: *The Ottawa Citizen* Newspaper reported on a hockey game between two women's teams. Because it's thought to be the first write-up of

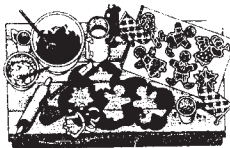
a women's hockey game, it's generally regarded as the start of Women's Hockey.

That may be. But in order to get there, there were Ontario girls, for who knows how long, skating and shooting and having one hoot of a time on ponds across the Province.

Now there are female Pee Wee teams and Olympic teams. And there are still girlfriends skating on frozen waters giggling -- shooting -- sweating -- scoring!

Have a happy New Year dearest readers who are as proud of Canada as I am! ★

Dr. Burns is a social historian focused on values throughout the ages.



HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Toronto Botanical Garden (info@torontobotanicalgarden.ca) 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (416) 397-1341 will host **3 December workshops**. For info or to register call 416 397-1341 or go to torontobotanicalgarden.ca

Seasonal Wreath Workshop
Wed., Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. - Create a festive wreath with fresh seasonal greens, fragrant eucalyptus and other materials, all of which will be provided.

Gift Wrap Workshop
Sat. Dec. 14, 10 a.m. - Have fun while learning how to make the most of your wrapping papers and creating unique gift toppers. Bring a 10" by 10" box to decorate and wrap at the workshop. Materials included.

Winter Wander (Families with Kids ages 4 to 9)
Sun. Dec. 8, 10 a.m. - Enjoy a festive morning with the family at the TBG. Look for signs of winter wildlife, build and hang birdfeeders, make crafts and play gaes too

Book a Holiday Party at the Royal Botanical Gardens, too! Reservations available for one of many beautiful spaces, for groups of up to 400.

CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER!

Colour Your Christmas Therapy is offered for older adults, by the Central Eglinton Community Centre, 2nd Fl., Program Room on December 4 and 18, from 10:30 AM to 12 noon. 160 Eglinton Ave. E. (at Redpath Ave.) Cost: \$2.50/refreshments. Call 416-392-0511, ext. 228

MUSIC

Enjoy a **Christmas Fantasy Concert** on Fri. Dec. 6, 8 PM at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd. Vaughan Williams' **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** will be presented. It includes Evan Fraser's *Noel for the Darkness*; and the Cantemos Latin ensemble will present 16th century Mexican song in Spanish and the indigenous Nahuatl language. Audience will enjoy traditional carol singing. Fees: Children/free accompanied by adult. Call 416-256-0510 for tickets/email address is info@uppercanadachoristers.org

EDITORIAL



Encountering the Christmas spirit

I love Christmas, at least what it stands for. The birth of one who, even when he lived, was a source of both hope and conflict, as he is today.

As for the rest of the things associated with the season: some, not so much.

I must say, I enjoy receiving and giving gifts. Especially surprises. Like the lady who came to me to pay an invoice and brought with her, a box of cookies. Or the wonderful cook who arrived with a delicious Christmas dinner. I am a microwave and toaster oven cook, so, not hard to guess how much that gift was appreciated.

I enjoy digital cards but still delight in sending and receiving the old fashioned kind that come in an envelope and can be displayed on my walls.

I don't need the nonsense associated with the season.. I try to ignore it. I am sure you know what I am talking about.

The important thing is, something seems to enter our hearts at this season. It's almost as if we give ourselves permission to allow the spirit of love and generosity to enter our collective psyche at this time.

And it is this that I really love about the season.

It doesn't seem to matter what your belief system is; or even if you have one. It doesn't matter what label you give it. It is a god-force that affects everyone, or can if you allow it to.

I think the reason so many enjoy the classic tale by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*, where miserable miserly Scrooge turns into a happy, giving person, is that it symbolizes the transformation that can happen in people's lives. (If you have never read this, get a copy at the library or watch TV for movie versions)

This invisible, loving spirit causes us to become generous. Seek out a neighbour who may be lonely. Donate to charities./ Volunteer at a food bank. And much more. Even during war, opposing armies have been known to call a truce at this time.

Then, after the season, the spirit seems to go away. But it doesn't. It is here for us, Day and night. For all of us.

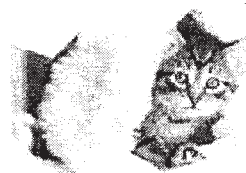
What if we, collectively and individually, didn't ignore it?

What if we kept ourselves open to it, not just now, but in the months ahead?

It is just that we start to close ourselves off from it.

What would we have to lose? Except stress, unhappiness and misery?

Whatever you celebrate at this season, I wish you, satisfaction, love and joy.



Valerie Dunn,
Editor Publisher

Valerie M. Dunn

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Valerie M. Dunn, publisher
Contributing Editors

Ken Brown; Dr. Rochelle Burns; Sam Goyal, Muffy Divine; Mary Downey; Martha Hall Findlay; Ellen Gardner; Andrene Gregory; Suzanne Harris; Fatima Khurram; David King; Sonny Goldstein; Achim Krull; Marilyn Lincoln; Femi Doyle-Marshall, John Joseph Mastandrea; Michelle; Rayburne Montgomery; Brook Physick, Alan Redway, Charles Schwartz; Mehboob Sherikff; Katarina von Koenig; Iris R. Ward.

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LETTER

Looking for an old friend

I would be most grateful if I could locate my friend I came with to Canada in 1966.

I lived on Avnkley street for a few years and Stanley Wright my friend lived in an apartment building a few doors from where a Loblaw's store used to be at Sherbourne and Bloor.

My friend and I are from Manchester.

I would be delighted if some-

one who knows Stanley Wright to please pass this article to him as it has been 20 years since I last spoke with him.

Thank you.

Walter A Blunt

416-461-8640

Cambridge Ave. Toronto

Letters to the editor are welcome but maybe subject to editing.

MOVIE REVIEWS

When I review a film, regardless of how much I enjoy it (or not), I focus on the overall quality of the film with particular regard to the following criteria: a progressively evolving and captivating plot; literate and clever dialogue (versus unnecessarily crude or profane); memorably captivating acting performances; the quality of technical production creativity and/or CGI visual effects; and ultimately, the level of continuing interest and story appeal it generates for its target audience.

I prefer to use my column to review films that I think you (our readers) will enjoy, but this month my wife and I were enjoying a trip-of-a-lifetime to South Africa, and the only film I saw didn't merit a positive recommendation. I had been looking forward to this particular film but, as is too often the case, I suffered post-viewing disappointment which makes it all the more challenging to apply my criteria without bias.

This Holiday Season, rather than spend my time talking about why you should not see a film, I thought I would instead use this space to suggest a few of the many films released into the GTA this year that you (and family/friends) might enjoy viewing during holidays (be it at a theatre or via online streaming).

VERY GOOD (8)

Action/Suspense: Ad Astra (PG)

Drama: Apollo 11 (G); Blinded by the Light (PG); Tolkien (PG)

Documentaries: Armstrong (G); Great Bear Rainforest (G); Superpower Dogs (G); Volcanoes: Fires of Creation (G) Mike Wallace Is Here (PG).

GOOD (11)

Drama: Astronaut (PG); The Current War (PG); Luce (14A); Rocketman (14A); Stan & Ollie (PG); Yesterday (PG)

DAVID KING



Family Animated: Abominable (G); How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG); The Lion King (PG); Toy Story 4 (G)

DISCRETIONARY (5) – depending on your personal preferences

Action/Adventure: Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG); Spider-Man: Far from Home (PG)

Drama: Once Upon A Time in Hollywood (14A)

Romantic Comedy: Last Christmas (PG)

Documentary: Pavarotti

HOPEFUL RECOMMENDATIONS (3)

I have not yet seen these films but I am hoping they will end up on my "recommended viewing" list: Ford v Ferrari (PG); Gemini Man (PG); Jojo Rabbit (PG)

CANNOT RECOMMEND (5) Although several of these films received plenty of media-hype, I personally don't recommend them.

Action / Adventure: Rambo (18A); Stuber (18A)

Drama: Good Boys (18A); Happy Death Day 2U (PG); Ready or Not (14A)

There are several useful websites that can help guide your choices. Simply enter a movie title in the SEARCH box to find its plot synopsis, the list of characters and actors, and links to reviews. I find the three most useful are: <https://m.cinemaclock.com/ont/toronto/movies/in-theatres> www.IMDb.com www.Tribute.ca

Happy viewing and I wish you and your family and friends a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.★

CELEBRATE PEOPLE!!

The East York Agnes MacPhail Recognition Committee is now accepting nominations for the 27th Annual Agnes MacPhail Award, in honour of the first woman elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 1921, then elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1943. Social justice and equality rights were MacPhail's main focus. Nominees must be East York residents and volunteer community leaders in seniors, women's rights, criminal

justice/penal reform, international peace/disarmament sectors. Housing, health care and education activists also recognized. Nomination form in any East York public building or send an email to: agnesmacphailaward@toronto.ca. **Deadline is Fri. Jan. 10/2020, midnight.** Mail to: Agnes MacPhail Recognition Committee, c/o Antoinette Crichlow, City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 12th Fl., West Tower, Tor. ON M5H 2N2. Phone (416) 392-0088.

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- Or Phone: (416) 424-1393
- Or E-mail: Valerie.Dunn@bell.net
- Or go to www.hi-risenews.com

A Victorian Christmas
in Cheshire, England

by Charles Schwartz

One, frosty afternoon, this past December, we met up with friends in Chester, putting ourselves in their hands, to decide how we would spend the afternoon together. They took us to Tatton Park - an historical property now owned by the National Trust.

The estate originated in the 16th century, going through various additions and alterations - and owners - until its present, Victorian iteration. Beside its structures, it encompasses formal gardens, meres and thousands of acres of parkland upon which herds of red deer, fallow deer, Hebridean and Soay sheep roam as they have since the 15th century.

Walking through the entrance, docents in 19th century, Victorian, attire were warm and welcoming. Together with the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and red carpet in the foyer, that special ambience suggested we were in store for a treat. Victorian holiday decorations abounded and a grand staircase revealed a magnificent, sunlit cupola.

Walking the manor, brought us to a splendid, wood-paneled library with its impressive collection of first and rare editions, globes and *objets d'art*. The cellar contained a huge, store of rare wine and spirits. Bringing in deliveries to the manor stores necessitated the use of a mini, underground railway running from the outside, directly into the cellar.

The cellar kitchen is massive with the largest ranges and ovens I have ever seen, and a cellar, garden conservatory guaranteeing a fresh supply of herbs, year-round. The chef greeted us there, serving up not only lots of information but more importantly freshly, baked flapjacks; yum!

To my mind, the centerpiece of the mansion is the dining room with its Christmas dinner table, set in candlelight, tableware, and faux food. Conspicuously missing, however, were the guests. But, thanks to a number of family portraits, I was able to imagine what the guests might have looked like when they sat down to Christmas dinner.

My Dickensian mind had me ruminating over the apparent



social and income inequalities of the time: there were the ultra-wealthy - haves - and the have-not servants who literally devoted their lives, wearing out their bodies in manor service. I suppose if I were Victorian, I might hold a different view; but to be fair, there is this consolation: without the landed gentry, the arts, could never have flourished as they did, allowing us to savor, today, the beauty and art of those times.

In case you are unable to visit Tatton Park right now, here is a gastronomic Christmas present for you, courtesy of the chef:

Reference:
Tatton Park:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatton_Park

Christmas Cake
8 oz of plain flour
8 oz of butter
3 oz soft brown sugar
4 eggs
4 oz of ground almonds
Juice/zest of a lemon
Tsp of mixed spice
Tsp of ground cinnamon
1 lb of currants
8oz of raisins
8 oz of sultanas
4 oz glazed cherries
4 oz of mixed peel

Brandy or rum

1. Put 1kg mixed dried fruit, the zest and the juice of 1 orange and 1 lemon, 150 ml brandy or other alcohol, 250g softened butter and 200g light, soft brown sugar. In a large pan set over a medium heat.
2. Bring to the boil, then lower the heat and simmer for 5 mins. Tip the fruit mixture into a large bowl and leave to cool for 30 min.
3. Heat oven to 150c/130c fan/gas. Line a deep 20 cm cake tin with a double layer of baking parchment then wrap a double

layer of newspaper around the outside - tie with string to secure.
4. Add 175g plain flour, 100g ground almonds, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 2 tsp mixed spice, 1 tsp ground cinnamon, 1/4 tsp ground cloves, 100g flaked almonds, 4 large eggs and 1 tsp vanilla extract to the fruit mixture and stir well, making sure there are no pockets of flour.

5. Tip into your prepared tin, level the top with a spatula and bake in the centre of the oven for 2 hrs.

6. Remove the cake from the oven, poke holes in it with a skewer and spoon over 2 tbsp. of your chosen alcohol. Leave the cake to cool completely in the tin.

7. To store, peel off the baking parchment, then wrap well in cling film. Feed the cake with 1-2 tbsp. alcohol every fortnight, until you ice it. Don't feed the cake for the final week to give the surface a chance to dry before icing.

Chocolate and Orange Flapjack
115g Demerara sugar
325g oats
225g butter
185g syrup
1/2 orange zest
60g dark chocolate
50g dark chocolate chips for the top
Melt butter sugar and syrup

Add oats, zest and chocolate put in to a paper line tray
Put chocolate chips on the top and bake 160 for 15 minutes
Don't over cook.★

Charles Schwartz is a native New Yorker, geographer and an avid traveller who has visited all seven continents.

Suzanne Harris lives in the west of England and is a writer and traveller.

A Christmas Evening of Song will be presented on Sun. Dec. 8, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, with Tina Faye accompanying Margaret Bardos, at The Donway Covenant United Church, 230 The Donway W. (416) 444-8444. Admission: Pay what you can. Christmas refreshments follow song!

The USA and the
2019 Canadian
federal election



Barack Obama

Were you surprised to learn that former US President Barack Obama, highly regarded by most Canadians, had issued a statement on Twitter with less than a week to go before our federal election endorsing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for re-election? This despite the fact that both the Republicans and the Democrats in the US Congress have been condemning foreign interference in the American democratic election process and despite the fact that our own government has warned that this federal election would be vulnerable to foreign interference.

Initially, I was surprised when I first received this news in an email from the Liberal Party of Canada requesting I make a donation since Barack Obama had just endorsed Justin Trudeau. Now however, we learn that other Americans were using Facebook to attempt to influence our election results. So I overcame my surprise, by reflecting on the fact that despite the American self-righteous protests about foreign interference in their elections they have a long history of "interference" one way or the other in the elections of other countries including our own.

In the 1963 Canadian federal election, President John F. Kennedy's people supported Lester Pearson for Prime Minister because although he had originally opposed nuclear weapons Pearson made a 180 degree turn prior to the election to support American nuclear weapons in Canada while then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker opposed nuclear weapons on Canadian soil.

American interference both overt and covert didn't start there of course. It goes back a long way. After the Spanish American War the USA claimed and since have retained Hawaii, now a State, Puerto Rico, still a Territory and continue to hold Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Since then the USA's military has overtly invaded Mexico 4 times, Honduras 7 times, Nicaragua and Panama 9 times as well as the

Caribbean Commonwealth country, of Grenada as recently as 1983.

The USA has also used the covert operations of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to install American friendly governments examples of which include: orchestrating a coup d'etat to overthrow the legitimately elected Iranian government in 1953 and to put Pinochet in power in Chile in 1973. But the USA hasn't forsaken the use of arms altogether as we have seen recently in Iraq and Libya, although it appears now that their favourite weapons have become tariffs which it used in the recent trade negotiations with Mexico and Canada and sanctions currently in use against China and many other countries.

The USA has always made sure, one way or another, that its neighbours' governments are friendly. That's why when President Franklin D. Roosevelt, another American revered by Canadians, was asked why he supported a certain South American dictator, he replied, "He may be a bastard but he is our bastard."

When I reminded my son-law of all this, he replied, "Would you prefer that Canada be a satellite of China or Russia rather than a satellite of the USA.?" My answer, no I wouldn't but I do want our country, Canada, to be a sovereign independent nation able to make its own decisions without any outside interference whatsoever.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!★

Alan Redway is a retired lawyer, former MP for Don Valley East, former Minister of State (Housing) in the Brian Mulroney government and former Mayor of East York. He is the author of two books, Governing Toronto: Bringing back the city that works and East York 1924-1997: Toronto's Garden of Eden. He can be reached at alan.redway@gmail.com

ASK MICHELLE

Roommate's boyfriend causing unhappiness

Roommate woes:

Dear Michelle,
In the past few months my roommate has found herself a boyfriend. While I am totally happy for her, I am not happy that he seems to be over at our apartment all the time. I am not talking about casual visits but sleeping over sometimes for 4 nights. I did not agree on having two roommates. Our apartment is small, and he is infringing on my personal space. How do I handle this without ruining my friendship? T.M

Dear T.M
This is a difficult situation, and I understand your desire to protect your friendship. However, I see no way around the fact that you are unhappy as her roommate.

Ask her if it's possible if her boyfriend could reduce his overnights or suggest that perhaps she could stay at his home. Explain that you just would like some privacy and freedom. Having said all of this, if it becomes a serious point of contention you may need to find another place. Why should you have to move? Simply it would be for your peace of mind.

Michelle

Dear Michelle,
My husband and I recently purchased a beautiful cottage. All of our friends have been saying how excited they are to come up and spend time with us during the summer months. Michelle, we have a lot of friends. If we were to schedule them all, we would not have

anytime to enjoy the cottage ourselves. What can I say without sounding like a snob? Amy

Congratulations on your purchase! It can be so frustrating when others invite themselves over!

From your email, I get the feeling that quiet time is what you are both after. I think that eventually you will want to have friends over here and there. However, they do not dictate that. You and your husband set the boundaries.

Perhaps consider having a party and inviting all your friends over. This way they can tour the cottage and share in your excitement.

Sometimes people are just curious. Hopefully this helps. Michelle

Dear Michelle,
One of my friends always tells me when she has bought my birthday present. Always at least 3 months in advance. This particular friend doesn't have a large family and hardly any friends. I have a large family and to stick to my budget they receive birthday presents from me. Part of me feels like this friend announces the purchase of my gift so I can get her one. This is not financially feasible, and I feel coerced into it. I may be overthinking all of this, but I am starting to feel resentful! Any advice would be appreciated. Wendy

If your friend has not already made her announcement that she has purchased your gift. Tell her

that from now on you would like to go out for lunch and celebrate both your birthdays at the same time. It could be a new tradition! Explain that this is more affordable for you. That is all you need to say. A good friend will understand.

All the bestMichelle

Do you have a question for Michelle? Please email her at: askmichelle3@gmail.com

Calvary Baptist Church, 72 Main St., hosts 2019 Christmas visitors with Candle Light Carols and Readings, Dec. 15, 7:30-9:30 PM. FREE. And, a Community Christmas Day Dinner will be held on Dec. 25, 3:00-6:00 PM. Open to everyone who would like to share a Christmas meal together. Volunteers and donations towards food are welcome! Contact calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca for details.

AWARENESS

From me to you

Let's start at the beginning. I was born in Swansea, Toronto.

One day I was walking to my grandmother's, when I was stopped dead, because a voice came into my head saying, "You are part of something much larger." And I knew it was God talking to me and it changed my life forever after.

I was 16 when I got my first job at an old store 2 blocks east of St. Lawrence Market. I touched up slightly damaged old pieces of expensive china. I never saw who hired me. Anyway I was in the old store where the window was partly covered. I worked with my paints on china. Everything was fine until one day I saw two mice drinking my water in a bowl by the window. The mice could get out of the plastic wall. From then on the mice and I worked together until two mice got stuck in the wall. One coming out and the other going into the wall. After that I stopped helping the mice.

I noticed at two stores west of me there were 11 cats. The store owners were making leather and gave the cats the left over food of the victims. I then spoke to the person who was selling fish at the market to save the leftovers for the 11 cats.

Later on, I was working at the Malton airport in the art department. When they stopped building the CF-100 I was then the highest paid artist in the art department.

I was involved in the ministry at the United Church. I later ended up going to the Unitarian Church at St. Clair and Avenue Road. The Unitarian movement rooted in the 15th century, some say even earlier than that. Today, it includes a wide diversity of beliefs. It is also officially gay

positive. A recent official statement reaffirmed their "commitment to trans and non-binary persons, to radical inclusion, love and justice." First Unitarian is officially certified as a green sanctuary congregation.

The First Unitarian Church has an art gallery where paintings are hung on all walls of the church. I think I ran that gallery for 25 years.



I met Mary Ellen Warren and her family, now living in New Zealand. We became long time friends, after buying a Cookbook I prepared for the Flemington Health Centre, a long time ago.

At one point in my life, I began visiting men in Sunnybrook Hospital, who had been injured in the world wars.

One day a man was lying on his back with something sticking out of him, so I said, "Oh you use that to pee." I learned a lot of stuff from patients I visited and many of them could predict the future.



An eighteen year old woman lay on her back and said to me, "Give me advice, I can see the future and I know a friend of mine is going to be in a car accident." So I told her what to say.

A man was dying and he wanted to go and join the angel outside his window. I told his wife to tell him. "When you are ready to go, join your angel," and he did. Other people I visited, also knew when someone would die.

My dad, who was gay, worked at the Bolt works in Swansea by the railway tracks. But having an accident be lost a finger and had to quit.

He married mum in 1928, and was a great guy. Dad was part of a band many years ago. he showed me a picture of it. And,

IRIS WARD



he got the *Toronto Star* newspaper when I was 6 years old, and I still read it. So that is my story.

"Merry Christmas Everyone."★

The author, a condo owner, is a professional artist. She can be reached at 416-429-0475 or at her email address: irisward@sympatico.ca

DE-CLUTTERING JEANNE MCKAY



Cleanup before Christmas

T'was the clutter before Christmas

T'was the month before Christmas, when all through the house

The clutter was growing, did I see a mouse?

*We had concerts and parties the children their programs
Shopping and cooking and baking by Grammas.*

The nights grow longer, the parties and festivities brighten our hearts and homes. Lights and greenery replace our everyday décor.

Glancing around I see items out of place, and ignored. From the corner of my eye three books from my lazy summer reads catch my attention, okay, and three from the spring as well; an electric neck massager for that stiff neck in was it August? DVDs orphaned from their cases; the magazine rack that is holding no, not a mouse; a craft left over from the last visit with Grandchildren; a course catalogue for last semester; and please don't look under the couch.

Put things in their place and make room for festive garlands and lights. The books on the bookshelf, magazines for recycle. Space only for seasonal crafts and the knitted blanket for Grandma. Tidy up and enjoy the holidays.

Here are a few thoughts to help prepare for the holidays

- Declutter and organize first. Only leave what needs to be in that area. (Like the couch, and look for the mouse)



- Make clean-up party time. Celebrate the season with hot-chocolate, treats and special music. For those exchanging gifts at Christmas, use this opportunity to encourage your kids to donate toys that they are no longer interested in. Encourage them to downsize.

- This is a great time to take gently used but no longer needed decorations to a Thrift store, before Christmas, so someone else can share the fun, on a budget.

- Decorations hold memories. Can't decide whether you should

PARENTING

MARY DOWNEY



The joy our senses bring

All of us, adults and children, experience so much joy from our senses. If you ask anyone what sense they would give up if they had to, they always have a hard time responding.

At Christmas this is especially true, as it is for any major religious holiday of any denomination. Think of the sense of sight. Children love to help put up the tree; when the lights go on it is magical. For many each ornament that is hung has a history, a treasured memory. To walk or drive down the streets at dusk and see all the buildings lit up in different ways is exciting. On some streets nearly every house is decorated with outside lights. There are smiles of excitement on school friends as Christmas draws near. The pageants and concerts at school and church are so full of colour and imagination.

Our sense of hearing is so alive at this time. Children hear special music at home and school. They take part in concerts and sing at home and school. Making music brings people together in a happy way.

Children and adults love tasting and smelling all the foods connected with special holidays. Turkey cooking, sage dressing, special breads baking, desserts, candy: each person has his own favourites.



cookies cut in special shapes-rolling the dough, pressing the cutter in, lifting it carefully to put on the baking sheet. They can give cookies as gifts. They enjoy string popcorn – and eating it. They love to pick up a gift wrapped under the tree and try and figure out what is inside. They like to touch the fabric of new clothes and see in the mirror how they look. They love to feel the warmth from a fireplace.

There is a sixth sense many enjoy – adults and children. It is the sense of intuition. It is a strong awareness of the presence of others – people and animals-how they feel. There is a strong awareness of the love and care others feel for those around them. Sometimes this is outspoken; at other times help quietly inside. We share this as a family and as a community, and we are so thankful.★

The author, a Mississauga resident, has three adult children. She is an experienced tutor and youth group leader. Questions may be addressed to her c/o Hi-Rise.

CRAFT OF THE MONTH

MARY DOWNEY

Dove of peace

Cut out the shape of a dove or other bird (side view) using white poster paper. Cut a slit in the body to insert folded thin white paper for wings. Draw in eyes on each side. Use glue stick on sides and tail. Sprinkle glitter. Punch a hole near the top of the bird's body in the middle. Tie a white ribbon through to hang.

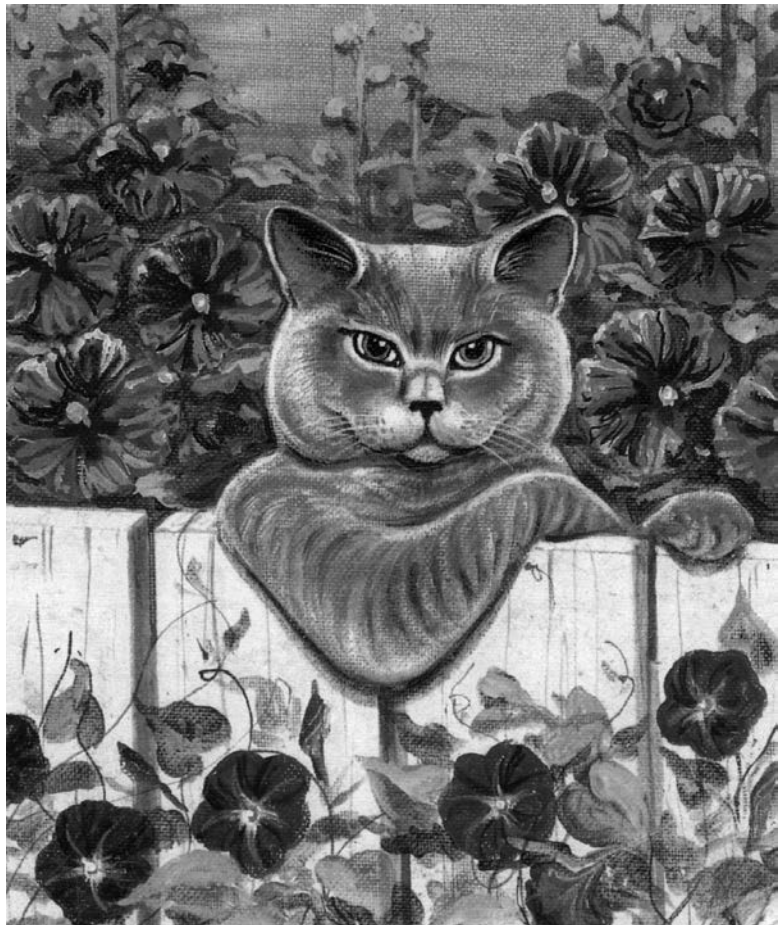
Greeting Cards:

Use appropriate paper for drawing or painting. Have the children trace the shape of their hands on the paper (or dip hand in poster paint and place evenly



on paper - adults can help). dry well. Use these to make cards.★

The author, a Mississauga resident, has three adult children. She is an experienced tutor and youth group leader. Questions may be addressed to her c/o Hi-Rise.



St. Patrick's Church

131 McCaul St. Toronto - (416) 598-3269

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Note: All Masses are in English unless indicated otherwise

Saturday Dec. 21: 7:30 am, 5 pm (4th Sunday of Advent)

Sunday Dec. 22: 8:30 am, 10 am (German), 12:10 pm, 5:00 pm (4th Sunday of Advent)

Monday Dec. 23:

7:30 am Mass (4th Week of Advent)
12:10pm Mass (4th Week of Advent)

Tuesday, Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

5pm (Family Mass), 8pm, 10pm (German), 12midnight

Wednesday, Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

8:30 am, 10am (German), 12:10 pm

Thursday, Dec. 26: BOXING DAY

9:00am (Church will close after the Mass)

Friday Dec. 27: 7:30 am, 12:10 pm

Saturday Dec. 28: 7:30 am, 5pm - Confessions - 4:15 pm

Sunday Dec. 29: 8:30 am 10 am (German), 12:10 pm and 5 pm

Monday Dec. 30: 7:30 am, 12:10 pm

Tuesday Dec 31: New Year's Eve - 5 pm (Feast: Mary, Mother of God)

Wednesday, Jan. 1 2020: NEW YEARS DAY - Feast of Mary, Mother of God
8:30 am, 10 am (German), 12:10 pm

www.stpatrickstoronto.ca



Tri-Congregational Church

1080 Finch Ave. E. (one block East of Leslie)

(416) 494-2442 www.tri-church.ca

Joint Christmas Concert Sunday Dec 8 7:30 p.m. Iona Presbyterian

聖公會聖基道堂
(北約克堂)

St Cyprian's Anglican
Church
Rev. Victor Li

Iona
Presbyterian Church
Rev. Robert Reid

St. Christopher's
Anglican Church

Rev. Canon Philip Der

Sunday, December 15
11:00 am Lessons & Carols
Friday, December 20
7:30 PM Candlelight
Memorial

Sunday Services at 11 a.m.
With a carol sing at 10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

主任牧師

謝子樂牧師

416-494-6476

聖誕快樂

Tuesday, December 24
7:30 PM
Christmas Eve Eucharist
Wednesday, December 25
10:30 am
Christmas Day Eucharist



CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

416 466-7476

✦ Pageant Service
Dec. 15 at 11 am

✦ Christmas Music Service
Dec. 22 at 11 am

✦ Christmas Eve
Family Service
Tue. Dec. 24 at 7 pm

415 Broadview Ave.
www.stjohnstoronto.com

The Donway Covenant United Church

A Caring Congregation
230 The Donway West, West of Don Mills Road,
2 blocks north of Lawrence

Rev. Jennifer Palin

416-444-8444

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

A Christmas Evening of Song and Carols sing-a-long Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

Christmas refreshments following.

Bydonation

- Sun. Dec 1. A Service of Holy Communion at 10:30 am
- Sun. Dec 8. Christmas Music Medley 10:30 am with Church Choir
- Sun. Dec 15. Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem. 10:30 am
- Sun. Dec 22. Shepherds and Angels 10:30 am
- Tues. Dec 24. Candlelight and Communion 7:00 pm.

Join us to share Christmas Blessings!

Integrity Worship Centre

Our Services are held at 175 Grenoble Drive (Saint John XXIII Catholic School)
At the corner of Grenoble Drive and Gateway Blvd., Flemington Park, Toronto

Rev. Neslie Harley

(416) 421-1754 www.integrityworshipcentre.ca

Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Service, Sunday December 22 @ 11:00 a.m.
New Years Eve Service, December 31 @ 10:00 p.m.
All Welcome!

Come to Church this Christmas

Rejoice, the Saviour is Born!

Christmas Eve DEC. 24

4:30PM Family Eucharist

Bring even the littlest lambs to learn about Jesus' birth
with an impromptu pageant and fun-to-sing music

10:30PM Christmas Carol Sing Along

11:00PM Choral Eucharist

A candlelit celebration of our Saviour's birth
with solemn liturgy and traditional carols

Christmas Day DEC. 25

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

A simple service with carols



St. Timothy's
Anglican Church
Agincourt



4125 Sheppard Ave. East, Scarborough
(416) 293-5711 www.sttims.ca



Bayview United Church

2609 Bayview Avenue
(416) 447-5941

"You Are Invited to Advent
and Christmas Services"

Rev. Cindy Cooper

www.bayviewunitedchurch.ca

Sunday December 1, 2019 - 11:00am

Advent I Candle Lighting Service with Holy Communion.

Sunday December 8, 2019 - 11:00am

Advent II Candle Lighting Blue Christmas Service with
Creating a Tree of Remembrance

Sunday December 15, 2019 - 11:00am

Advent III Candle Lighting White Gift Worship Service with
Special Music by the choir.

Sunday December 22, 2019 - 11:00am

Advent IV Candle Lighting Pre-Christmas Worship Service.

Tuesday December 24, 2019 - 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service with drama, carols,
scriptures and candle lighting.

Sunday December 29, 2019 - 11:00am

Carol Sing Worship Service.

Willowdale Baptist Church

15 Olive Ave, Willowdale

(near Yonge & Finch)

www.willowdalebaptist.com 416.225.8857

Every Sunday @ 10:30am—Worship Service

** child care provided**

Sunday, Dec 8 @ 10:30am—Family Christmas
Celebration Service - "Come to Bethlehem
& See!" dramatic presentation

Sunday, Dec 15 @ 7pm—Christmas Concert
Jubilation Singers & Orchestra

Sunday, Dec 22 @ 7pm—Candlelight Service
Celebrate birth of Jesus with whole family

Sunday, Jan 5, 2020 @ 10:30am—New Year's
Celebration Service + Potluck luncheon
All Welcome - bring nut-free food to share



Thorncliffe Park United Church

16 Thorncliffe Park Drive
Toronto, Ontario

(416) 421-0792

Rev. Edith-Ann Shantz

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
All Welcome!

Christmas Buffet Luncheon

Saturday, December 7 @

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost - \$15.00

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

Thursday, December 19 @ 7:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 22 @ 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 @ 6:30 p.m.

You never know when
people might be looking to
meet spiritual needs.
Advertise in our worship
directory

Monthly "invitation"
listings are inexpensive.
Call Hi-Rise, 416-424-1393
email: Valerie.Dunn@bell.net

St. Thomas's Anglican Church

383 Huron Street, Toronto

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sun., December 1 | Advent I

Evensong & Advent Carols 7 pm

Sun., December 22 | Advent IV

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 7 pm

December 24 | Christmas Eve

Low Mass 5:30 pm

Organ Recital 10:30 pm

Midnight Mass (Choral) 11 pm

December 25 | Christmas Day

Said Eucharist (Plain Rite) 8 am

Sung Eucharist (Contemporary Rite) 9:30 am

Choral Eucharist (Traditional Rite) 11 am

www.stthomas.on.ca

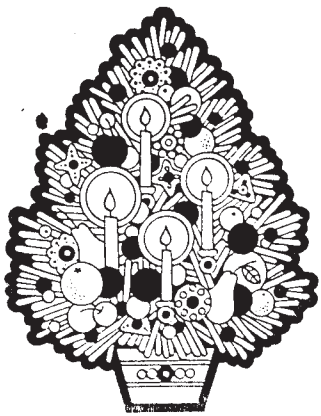
Christmas, a season of celebration, it is also a chance to be green and mindful of the environment. Let's consider some ways to make Christmas greener.

One big focus for "green" issue is the very symbol of Christmas, the tree. Will that be real or artificial? Critics argue cutting down trees for a few weeks of decoration is unsustainable. Other people consider artificial trees and the non-recyclable plastics they contain a serious problem.

Undoubtedly, artificial trees are a problem. They contain PVC plastics which waste companies cannot recycle. The discarded trees end up in landfills or waste incineration plants. These plastics are a serious health concern: some contain lead, especially toxic to young children. In either case, they release a load of pollutants. However, artificial trees can last for years. That reduces some environmental impacts.

Real trees are neither wasteful nor an environmental issue. First, many Christmas tree farms on land are not very suitable for commercial farming. Second, they are a crop just like any other. Farmers harvest them at various ages, depending on the size the sellers want. After Christmas, Toronto collects and recycles old trees. They end up as mulch for Toronto parks. The trees return to nature and never end up in the waste stream. Living trees are a truly green option. Nurseries and other vendors offer potted trees. After Christmas, you can put the tree outside until spring. When the ground is soft enough, plant your Christmas tree and enjoy it for years to come. However, don't keep living trees indoors for too long. That disrupts the winter hibernation cycle and may kill the tree.

Another option is a Norfolk pine. These evergreens are subtropical, and in our climate are perfectly happy indoors. After the



celebrations, they live on as indoor greenery. When the next Christmas comes, you have a tree ready to go. Putting the tree on a patio or balcony over summer will encourage growth and keep them perfectly happy.

Decorating your tree is also becoming greener. New LED lights consume much less energy and yet provide all the colour we want. The LED lights are much cheaper today, and the individual lights last much longer.

We can also apply "green" to our gift giving. We can reduce packaging and reuse unwanted gifts. We can also ensure our gifts can be recycled at the end of their lives.

One way to reduce gift giving, and save money too, is the Santa Gift Game. Every participant buys one gift in an agreed upon price range. Place the wrapped gifts under the tree. Choose the person to start by lot. That person begins by picking any one item. They unwrap and show it to the group. The next person then chooses and unwraps a gift. They have the choice of keeping their gift or trading it with that of the previous player. Then the third player chooses a gift. They can keep, or exchange with that of either previous player. At the end, the first player has the option of exchanging his or her gift against any gift the others hold.

Reducing packaging is something many of us already do. Since gift bags became popular, recycling these bags has also become common. Consider a new twist: use fancy reusable shop-

ping bags to hold gifts. You have no waste and a second gift that will be useful for the coming year.

Re-gifting is an excellent way to go green. Some object to re-gifting, but why leave new and unused gifts gathering dust? We all have such gifts in a closet somewhere: a tea set for coffee-drinkers; a fancy sushi-making kit for someone allergic to fish; a book about raising dogs for cat lovers. Surely, other friends might appreciate these gifts. A forgotten gift can be a joy for the right person.

Finally, consider the best gift. It has no environmental impact. It costs no money but has great value. Give of yourself. Do you know a neighbour who needs help with a child or pet? Give them a few hours of your time to watch the child or walk the dog. An elderly neighbour might appreciate a gift of a home-cooked meal and some company. A card with a fancy homemade gift coupon for these services can be a hit. We sometimes forget that our time, energy, and talents can be the best present. According to Kermit the Frog, it's not easy being green, but these ideas can help.★

Scam Alert:

The scams for November were depressingly similar. The good news is that most people managed to avoid them.

Diet pills are an ongoing scam. One person reported they took up an offer advertised on Amazon of a free trial of Keto Trim. The only cost was to be the price of shipping. The person was sent two orders of pills for \$88.95 each. The return address on the package was not valid, and the courier hung up on the customer when they requested a refund. At the time of this writing, Keto Trim is not listed on Amazon Canada.

The RCMP warns about returning favourite: While working on your computer, you suddenly see a new window which warns your computer is locked. The window advises you to call Microsoft Technical support at a number they provide. When you call, you are asked to pay a fee to clean up your computer.

This particular version of Ransomware does not actually encrypt and lock your computer, and the Microsoft technical support is fake. If you call the tech support number, they ask for a fee to remove the problem. However, they may demand a credit card – along with the security number – which opens you up to other scams. Ignoring the pop-up warning is also a problem, because the software

causing the issue remains on your computer. You can reboot your computer and continue working but that software can redirect your browser to other malicious sites and cause other problems.

How do you get that infection? Usually it comes with something you downloaded from a corrupted website. The RCMP warned of a popular recipe website. Downloading a recipe also installed the malicious software on your computer.

Go online and search for a removal tool. There are several programs available for that purpose. Otherwise, take your computer to a trusted repair shop for a cleaning.

©Achim Krull 2019
Please contact me at anytime:
livegreenatbell.net

DAY TRIPPING

SAM GOYAL

Things to do during the holidays -



Christmas Market Torontomto

Dresden's Striezelmarkt was first held in 1434 and is considered the first genuine Christmas market.

A Christmas market, also known as Christkindlmarkt is a street market associated with the celebration of Christmas during the four weeks of Advent.

These markets originated in Germany, but are now being held in many other countries. The history of Christmas markets goes back to the Late Middle Ages in the German-speaking part of Europe, and in many parts of the former Holy Roman Empire that includes many eastern regions of France.

Inspired by the European Christkindlmarkt that originated in Germany in the 1400s, Toronto's own Christmas Market is a five week-long event which celebrates the sounds, sights and scents of Christmas. Set in the Victorian-era, cobblestone-lined Distillery Historic District, the market brings together local craftspeople, artisanal food-makers and spectacular light displays for a truly festive experience. Admission is charged \$6.00 on weekends beginning at 6 pm on Fridays. Admission is FREE during the week. Closed Mondays. November 14 to December 22, 2019.

If you're looking to add some more things to your growing list of things to do over the holidays, located just two hours away from Toronto is an amazing drive-thru Christmas light tunnel that's definitely a sight to see.

This light tunnel does not happen every year and for \$20, you can hop in your car and drive

thru the 2 km course through Bingeman's. This year's brilliant spectacle will feature static and animated displays — from reindeers, sleighs, elves and of course, Santa.

Coming back into the city, the displays at the Allan Gardens Conservatory and Centennial Park Conservatory at Christmas time are the highlight of the year. Each conservatory is decorated and filled with thousands of flowering plants including over 30 varieties of poinsettia. For a very special experience, visit the conservatory in the evening on a weekend when dozens of candles are lit at sundown. The shows run until mid-January. Entry is free.

The holiday season is upon us, and with the colder temperatures come a host of fun activities for the whole family over the holiday. Many of these events span the whole month of December, and are wonderful opportunities to get outside, enjoy some quality time with loved ones, and take part in some great activities across Ontario.

Until the new year ... Seasons Greetings and Best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year 2020.★

Sam Goyal is a registered Toronto City Greeter and also volunteers with new immigrants and visitors to Toronto and organizes personalized tours and guided city walks around town in English, Hindi and Punjabi @Torontogreeter on face-book:www.TorontoFreeWalks.com

Nominate an Innovative Young Person - Sponsored by the Ontario Science Centre, the young Canadian using science and technology in informative, creative ways will receive a prize of \$15,000. Funded by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, it was created to support youth ages 14 to 18 to pursue careers in science, technology and

innovation. Second place award is \$8,000, and \$3,500 for up to three finalists. Past finalists have come from across Canada. Award submissions accepted until February 7, 2020; external jury will select winners in April 2020. For more information, check website OntarioScienceCentre.ca/InnovationAward.

REFLECTIONS

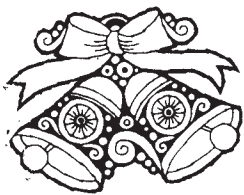
The nights are growing longer., the season of Yule is here. We take an inventory of the good, the bad and the indifferent. We regret the unfinished business and celebrate the milestones that we have travelled.

The holly and the ivy begin their dance in the green wood. We take this time to conduct our personal reconnaissance of milestones and what matters today. In the corner of the universe we call Manor Road United. We welcome to the manor in the month of December there is the annual Santa clause pancake breakfast. People gather to break bread, at a table with a purpose.

All the funds raised support the work and program of the *The Theresa group*.

Since 1990 The Theresa Group has evolved from providing support to a handful of children and families to an organization with a dedicated team of professional staff providing a broad range of compassionate frontline services to hundreds of local children and families affected by HIV and AIDS. The Theresa Group also coordinates a

The yule is here!



Provincial program to distribute infant formula to new moms living with HIV and is a founding member and fiscal agent for the global Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS.

The yule is here.

The Teresa Group and the Coalition co-organize an international symposium affiliated with each International AIDS Conference. Theresa group becomes the open door to possibility where we make a left turn from the road of quantitative acquisition and discover the pathway to qualitative compassion and radical grace. We make a left turn from the road to ourselves and blaze the trail towards the road of benevolent gratitude.

REV. JOHN JOSEPH MASTANDREA



The yule is here.

The gift of the light explodes into the circle of altruistic gift from the limits of self and moves outward towards the other person, the neighbour in the hood, the stranger around the corner and the friend standing by our side.

The yule is here.

Recently I have come to know personally the executive director of the Theresa Group.

She is the story whisperer, the one who offers a drink from the well of community, to walk with, group with and be transformed by the moment shared.

The nights are growing longer, the season of Yule is here. We light the candle to be the beacon and reminder that we are never alone, gripping the hand of the stranger whom we will soon call friend.★

The Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea serves at the Manor Road United Church, Toronto

Statistics on GTA real estate market



How is the real estate market doing?

Well, what better source to analyze this, than the October 2019 report from The Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB)?

In TREB's latest report, some very interesting stats are showing up – but before we get into the nitty gritty, let's see what components are important to view and analyze. And, then you, the reader, can draw your own conclusions. Fair?

For the current year, let's look at the following:

Sales: In January 2019, TREB reported sales of 4,009, in October 2019 sales were 8,491. Not bad, eh? The October sales were up 8.5% from September 2019 sales of 7,711.

Active Listings: The active listings in October were 15,375 vs September active listings of 17,254 – a drop of 10.9%.

Months Of Inventory (M.O.I.): So, if the sales are up and active listings are down – guess what happens to the M.O.I (Months Of Inventory)? Yes, you are right – M.O.I. drops. From 3.0 in January to 2.2 in September to 1.8 in October. M.O.I. basically indicates the supply and demand and that, among other factors, guides the price.

Question: how many months of inventory indicates a balanced market, a buyer's market and a seller's market? Glad you asked! Traditionally, 4 to 6 months is a balanced market, above 6 indicates a buyer's market whereas below 4 indicates a seller's market.

Average Price: The average price in January was \$748,000, increasing to \$843,000 in September and \$852,000 in October. An average increase of 1.1% per month!



Days On Market (D.O.M.): Sophisticated buyers rightly question "how many days a property has been on the market"? Well, from January's D.O.M. of 33 days we dropped to 23 days in both September and October.

To look at the bigger picture – let's compare October 2018 Vs October 2019 – direct month to month comparison – fair? October 2018 sales were 7,448 vs October 2019 sales of 8,491 – a 14% increase! October 2018 average price was \$808,000 Vs October 2019 price of \$852,000 – a 5.5% increase!

Caution! Before you take out your cheque book and run to a realtor to buy – remember these are across the board prices, and include condos, townhouses, semis, etc. etc. And they include all areas – the fast selling, high demand area as well as the not so fast selling areas.

My advice, please contact an experienced realtor to narrow it down to your particular type of property and location. Ask questions! Then draw your own conclusions.★

The author Mehboob Sheriff is a Registered Real Estate Broker with Homelife/Vision Realty Inc., Brokerage. He is also a Registered Mortgage Broker Lic # M08010601 with Verico C.O.D. Financial Services Inc. Brokerage, Lic # 10311. He has owned two Century 21 offices and has been General Manager and part owner of a ReMax Franchise office. He has over 45 years of experience in Real Estate and Mortgages and can be reached at 647-703-6786.

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CREATIVE IDEAS IN FINANCIAL PLANNING



B-Xalted!, the choir formed by writer Barbara Gowdy and publisher/musician Whitney Smith, presents its third concert, Cold Night, Warm Song: Midwinter Music with B-Xalted!. Wed., Dec. 11, 8 p.m. at Toronto's Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Avenue.. Music ranges from a medieval carol to Vivaldi's great Baroque Magnificat, and works by Rachmaninoff, Vaughan Williams, and Canada's Rob Teehan and Stephanie Martin; plus audience singalong in carols. More information, and a link to tickets are available from www.b-xalted.com,

Cold Night, Warm Song: Midwinter Music will be presented on Wed. Dec. 11, 8 PM Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave. by **B-Xalted**, choir formed by writer Barbara Gowdy and musician Whitney Smith. Music spans mediaeval carols, Vivaldi's Baroque Magnificat, and works by Rachmaninoff and Canadians Rob Teehan and Stephanie Martin. Sing-a-long carols, too! For more information and link to tickets contact www.b-xalted.com.

Join The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir on Wed. Dec. 11 at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Tickets \$30/each. Children under 12 free. 26 Deslisle Ave. 416-9030.

What will happen next?



That depends on to what next, I am referring: next month, next year, next four years or all of those times.

Last month, I discussed our own federal election and the next four years in that context. This month, I want to look more closely at the rest of this year and the coming year and maybe a little speculation on the four years after that. That of course, will be premised by what happens south of the border next November.

I always like to begin my forward looking by looking at where we are and where we have come from. We are in the 11th year of an economic expansion that is unprecedented in two major ways. It is the longest period of expansion in the last 60 years and it is the most muted. When trying to predict what will happen next, these are very important considerations. The questions they bring to mind are: "Can it continue?" "How long will it last?" "Will it end with a period of recession?" "How will we be able to see the end coming?" Before I answer them, I want to remind you all of the definition of a recession. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth or more grammatically correct, two consecutive quarters of economic contraction.

Looking at the major economies around the world, we have seen slowing growth at least twice in the last five years and each time a recession was avoided. In those economies where there has been a recession according to the above definition, the contraction has been extremely slight and rarely lasted more than the two quarters. This is to be expected because the slower growth we have been experiencing does increase the odds of random negative quarters, but usually only one at a time so a recession is avoided.

The other "sure fire" predictor of a recession in the past has been when the yield curve goes negative. To briefly explain, the yield curve is the comparison of interest yields on bonds according to the time they are invested. Traditionally, 90 day treasuries yield the least and 30 year bonds yield the most and everything in between shows on a chart as getting progressively higher the longer the time frame. When the 2 year bond pays higher interest than the 10 year bond, it is called an inverted yield curve. This happened in 1990 and a very short recession followed. Again in 2000 (remember Y2K) and a little longer recession and after it happened in 2007, the mother of all recessions in 2008.

Well it has happened this year also, but only very briefly and no recession has followed, nor do I think one will. Times have changed in a big way. The demographic has shifted and a third of the labour force is now over the age of 55. There has been very low inflation because rising wages and wages are not going up because the older segment of the work force does not want higher wages. They want a secure job and they want Fridays off, so we have more people working less and that means there is no reason to raise interest rates to ward off inflation. That leads to the inevitable conclusion that the economy will continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace than in past expansions.

A greater concern also getting the headlines is the slowing global trade brought on by the "trade wars" and resulting tariffs. This does create a greater chance of deceleration of the large economies and we have seen China suffer more than most because of it. That is where we will see the U.S. have a large influence in three significant ways. Their Fed is cutting rates, their government is continuing to spend copiously and there will be a last minute trade deal with China, probably just before the election in November to help the current President get re-elected. This will take much of the pressure off China and allow them to continue to export their goods and maintain some positive economic growth in that country also.

So to answer the big questions of:

- 1) what will happen next month? – continuing record breaking growth in the North American stock markets;
- 2) what will happen next year? – no recession, more of the same and a trade deal with China, hopefully on both sides of the U.S. border;
- 3) what will happen in the next four years? – if there is no major upheavals in government leaders, here, the U.S., the Euro zone, the U.K., even Israel, we should be able to enjoy continuing muted economic expansion with the occasional blip. I can only hope so.★

Sonny Goldstein, a Certified Financial Planner, is the President of Goldstein Financial Consultants and "Creative Ideas in Financial Planning" For more information, any questions, or a free consultation, call (416) 221-0060, or in writing at #1850-5160 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M2N 6L9.

For more information, any questions, or a free consultation, call (416) 221-0060, or in writing at #1850-5160 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M2N 6L9.

RELATIONSHIPS

DR. ROCHELLE BURNS



The perfect holidays - always

When the holidays come, the ads focus on families having a merry old time. As I've written so often, there is no such thing as the perfect family, at any time of the year. Actually, you'll have to admit, holidays bring out the best and worst in behaviors of all family members.

In short, many have come to realize some of the happiest -- at least, less stressful -- holiday times have been with only one other person. Or, even, by ourselves. Remember, dear readers, there is a difference between being alone and lonely, as we have all experienced when we are surrounded by the wrong people.

In short, dear readers, it's not how many are present at your table, but what gives the greatest serenity to you that truly counts.

Begin by stopping to buy into the holiday hype. If you feel like being alone, do that. If you are alone and are uncomfortable, invite a neighbour also on their



own, or a refugee family, or a person or two of a different faith to share your traditions. There are endless possibilities.

It never, ever has to be family only. It always has to be what gives you the greatest joy.

And, contrary to the holiday ads, you never have to do the same thing year after year.

People are different. You are different. Your needs are different at different times of your life. Work with that.

In short, if you find you are constantly uncomfortable about the holiday season, it's because you have an unrealistic outlook that your needs can be met in only one way. Not true.

So, consider the advice online from dailyom.com about another unrealistic expectation often attached by many to the holiday season: "As the holidays arrive it is easy to become distracted by our desire for perfection. It might be the need to craft a festive environment, always be in an upbeat mood, or simply the desire to find just the right gifts for everyone in our lives. Even though these things can be positive, if we start putting too much pressure on ourselves during this season, we are much more apt to forget what truly is important--celebrating our lives with the people we care about." And one of those people is always -- you.

However you choose to celebrate I do so hope you choose to fit the celebration into what makes you happy. So, dear readers, I leave you with another bit of advice from dailyom.com: "The more we are able to let go of our traditional expectations for the holidays, the more open we will become to the bounteous spirit that lies within us."

They go on to sagely say: "Holidays can be a wonderful time for taking stock of what matters most to you."★

Dr. Burns is a social historian focused on values throughout the ages.

A "BAAN" CHRISTMAS

IDA FEDOR-BAAN

When I was eight years old, my Hungarian grandparents Lajos and Maria, did something wonderful to ease the pain of my parents' separation, which unfortunately, led to an even more painful divorce years later.

On a very limited budget, my grandfather purchased a small, but ornately decorated, musical Christmas tree. Presented to us on December 6th (The Feast of Saint Nicholas, Mikulas in Hungarian), the tree was in the centre of a dish filled with chocolate, marzipan, and surrounded by Hungarian desserts such as makos/dios kalacsok (poppyseed and walnut/hazelnut, sweet rolls and raspberry jam-filled "kifli" rolls) lovingly baked by my grandmother. (I did homework at the end of the same table where grandmother prepared daily meals in our small kitchen.)

December 24 is of more importance in Hungarian tradition than Christmas Day. So Christmas Eve Dinner was "majas hurka" (liver sausage), surrounded by hearty amounts of potatoes, salads and cabbage rolls. Raspberry soda/coffee and tea were served as refreshments with the desserts mentioned earlier.

Obviously on my best behaviour over the years, most of the time it was an honour to find a Chocolate Santa and other treats. Whew! Krampus (Grinch) gives naughty children wooden twigs, according to tradition. (I was given the small peanuts - as a joke by my beloved Grandfather - because he said I ate like a "bird".) Now I know why I was "owned" by budgies in my later years.

Then, on December 24th, the little Christmas tree was "lit up." Its lights shining beautifully celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, Christian Saviour of mankind according to our Hungarian tradition.

A small Nativity scene was placed on the table beside the tree. In it were figures of the Christ Child in a straw bed, a kneeling Holy Mother Mary, Father Joseph standing over them, surrounded by the three Magi and animal figures. The most prominent object, however, was the STAR at the top of the stable. God's Star, heralding the birth of His Son to save the world from sin.

Our favourite Hungarian Christmas hymn was "Menybol Az Angyal" (an Ode to the Angel Gabriel, who was sent by God to the Holy Mary with "Tidings of Great Joy". She would soon be the Mother of a Great Man!).

Simple, useful, loving gifts were exchanged. Grandfather received some books and clothing, grandmother, a lovely fur-lined winter coat, and mother received some delicate blouses and robes.

I hope that everywhere people celebrate family, friendship and health in the same loving manner. Be it Eid in the Muslim tradition; Hanukkah in Jewish homes; Kwanza in homes with African traditions, and of course, the Christian Christmas. Every person is a part of that "Star" atop our Christmas tree united in God.

Health, peace, joy and God's blessing to every one of His "Stars" - You!★



Hungarian Liver or blood sausage served with potatoes and cucumber salad:

A Hungarian Christmas Dinner staple in my household every year, the liver or blood sausage can usually be purchased at any European Butcher/Deli. The liver sausage is covered in an edible lining which disintegrates during baking, and is filled with chopped liver, rice and various spices. The "blood" sausage is similar, but with the blood added for another type of flavouring.

Ingredients:

- One Liver or Blood Sausage
- 3 to 4 Potatoes or Cooked Rice
- Hungarian Paprika (sweet) - one tsp.
- Salt - one tsp.
- Black Pepper - one tsp.
- Shortening or Olive Oil - one tbsp or as needed.

Preparation:

- Preheat oven to 500°.
- Spread a spoonful of shortening covering entire, flat baking pan.
- Sausage:**
 - Wash sausage, place in centre of baking pan.
 - With fork, poke around sausage every one inch (to release air or sausage will explode and decorate oven, needing cleaning after).
- Potatoes:**
 - Wash potatoes, remove peel or leave peel on (reader's choice).
 - Cut potato into 1/4" strips, squares or circles.
 - Mix potatoes in a pan with melted, spoonful of shortening, paprika, black pepper and salt as seasoning.
 - Place seasoned potato slices around sausage and in centre of sausage, covering entire baking pan.
 - Place baking pan into oven and bake at 500° until sausage splits slightly.

Note: Watch potatoes. Remove when lightly browned and put aside into microwaveable dish for reheating if needed, when sausage ready to be served.

CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

- One large cucumber
- Salt - 1 tsp.
- Vinegar - 3 - 4 tbsp.
- Hungarian Paprika - 1 tsp sprinkled over each salad serving
- Sugar (if desired) - 1 tsp

Preparation:

- Wash cucumber
- Chop entire cucumber into 1/4" or 1/2" slices
- Mix chopped cucumber slices with salt, vinegar, sugar.
- Sprinkle tsp of Hungarian Paprika over each cucumber salad serving.

The writer is an apartment resident and was on the staff of HI-Rise in its earlier years. She has recently returned as community notice writer and administrative assistant.

TENANTS

BHAVIN BILIMORIA

The Legal Max for Sub-Tenancies

Q: What is the maximum amount of time for which a tenant is legally entitled to sublet their apartment?

A: Under the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (the "Act"), subletting refers to the situation in which a tenant vacates their apartment and gives another person (i.e. the subtenant) the right to occupy their apartment for a term ending on a specified date. This date must be before the end of the tenant's term or period, and the tenant must have the right to resume occupancy of their apartment after the specified date.

For example, suppose a tenant rents their apartment pursuant to a fixed-term tenancy, such as a one-year lease. The maximum amount of time this tenant is legally entitled to sublet their apartment for is a term that does not extend beyond their one-year lease. So if the tenant's lease runs from January 1st to December 31st, this tenant is legally entitled to sublet their apartment for as many consecutive days, weeks or months as they want to, within this one-year term, so long as the specified date on which the sub-tenancy ends is before December 31st.

If the tenant rents their apartment on a month-to-month basis, also known as a periodic tenancy, the maximum amount of time this tenant is legally entitled to sublet their apartment for is a term that does not extend beyond their one month period. So if the tenant's period runs from December 1st to 31st, this tenant is legally entitled to sublet their apartment for as many consecutive days or weeks as they want to, within this one month period, so long as the specified date on which the sub-tenancy ends is before December 31st.

Because the Act requires the tenant to have the right to resume occupancy of their apartment after the specified date on which the sub-tenancy ends, the last possible day for this specified date must be the day before the tenant's term or period ends. In both of the above examples, the last possible day for the specified date would be December 30th because the last day of both the one-year lease and the one month period is December 31st.

Whether a tenant seeking to sublet rents pursuant to a fixed-term tenancy or a periodic tenancy, the Act requires them to first obtain their landlord's consent before subletting their apartment.★

Bhavin Bilimoria, Staff Lawyer, Don Valley Community Legal Services (Formerly Flemingdon Community Legal Services)

Drop by the **Groove Room Coffee House** on Dec. 13, 7 - 8:30 PM at St. Augustine's Anglican Church, 1847 Bayview Ave. Live music by local artists - enjoy coffee and dessert with friends. Cost is \$5.00 and proceeds support the Flemingdon Park Food Bank. Contact office at office@saintaugustine.ca. 416-435-2656.

CONDOS

MARILYN LINCOLN

Can director be paid for cleaning our building?

Q: One of our directors has offered to do the cleaning in our building. He says he enjoys cleaning and would do a good job. Can the board pay a fellow director for cleaning duties or is this against the condo act?

A: If the board feels they need to hire someone for the cleaning it would be better if that person is an employee of the corporation that is entitled to benefits under the Workers Compensation Insurance Act. This way the employee cannot sue the corporation as a result of a workplace accident. What if your fellow director falls on a wet floor and is seriously injured? This director would not be entitled to benefits and is not prohibited from suing the corporation.

What about the property manager who is in charge of day-to-day supervision of the cleaning staff? She or he may feel uncomfortable supervising the director if the job is not completed up to proper standards. The Condominium Act also requires a director, who has a direct or indirect interest in any cleaning or other type of contract to disclose the interest and to refrain from taking part in any discussion or voting regarding the contract.

Once your director discloses his or her interest regarding a cleaning contract, the board may approve the contract in the abs-



ence of that particular director. The Condominium Act in Ontario does not prohibit a director from becoming a cleaner. However, it is usually the norm for the board to put out tenders to cleaning companies or professionals. This procedure would satisfy the requirements of the Act.

Professional private cleaners that carry liability insurance. Even though your director has good intentions there is so much to think about before agreeing to this type of arrangement. The board of directors could be held liable for a negligent act of this director if the unexpected should happen. Prior to making any final decision the board must do their homework to see if this type of arrangement would work or not? It is imperative that proper insurance and safety measures are in place in order to avoid any serious consequences if your board goes forward with this. Good luck!

Marilyn Lincoln is a condo owner, director and author of The Condominium Self Management Guide marilyncondoguide@hotmail.com

STONECHURCH

Stone Church Toronto Presents

Christmas in a Box

Sunday, December 15 | 11 am

Wander into the awe of Christmas as seen through the eyes of a handful of curious kids and a rather eccentric old lady.

Come out for this **free** production with your family and friends and enjoy the story and songs that remind us of the truth of Emmanuel—God is with us!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 | 7-8 pm

Please join us for a special service of music and God's Word as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ!

Stone Church | 45 Davenport Road, Toronto
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(Just a three-minute walk North from the Yonge/Bloor subway. Free underground parking at 40 Scollard St.)

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LIFE’S JOURNEY

Scribing or writing

The Miracle Morning by Hal Elrod presents one final part of the morning routine called scribing or writing in a journal to help you reflect on your life and where you want to go.

If I had to pick one of my favourite steps in the process it has been this. I use my mornings to plan out my day, set my daily goals, reflect on what I want the day to be like and if it is a Friday to evaluate how my week has been going and where I am in my weekly goals.

This small step has brought more productivity and clarity to my day. Picture an early morning with the sun beginning to stir from its slumber. You wake up, make a cup of coffee, and once you’ve gone through the morning routine (Silence, Affirmation, Visualization, Exercise, and Reading) you open your agenda and pull out your favourite pen and begin to write on a clean crisp new page. You reflect on the previous day, what you could



KATARINA VON KOENIG ILIC

mind and to your life. I have now been following the routine for a few months and I must say that it’s brought out a more calm and centered me and it has allowed me to learn new things and to really reflect on what I want out of life.

I would go so far as to say that this routine has even given me a more Carpe Diem attitude. It has made it easier to deal with the unexpected surprises that the day can bring. This routine introduces a self-care regiment into your day that lets you honour yourself. Oftentimes life is so full of the hustle and bustle that we don’t take time to care for ourselves and that may lead to burnout. This routine ensures that you do take the time to centre and mentally prepare for any unexpected surprises of the day. It was a pleasure going through this routine and I will make this a permanent addition to my day. As you go through your days remember that you can attract the life you want and this routine will help BUT you have to work hard too. There is no magic pill or

have done better, on what you want this new day to bring and you plan out your meals, and set priorities and create a flow to your day even before you hit the ground running. This step will result in an increase to productivity even if you skipped all the other steps. What I’ve done is added this into the end of the day. It allows me to analyze any questions I have anything that has puzzled me throughout the day. It lets me reflect and see what I could have done better what I did do better. I think that this step, like reading, has the ability to make a real difference to your state of

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2020

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M.P.

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WISHING YOU ALL
MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

@johnmckaymp
@JohnMcKayLib
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THORNHILL UNITED CHURCH
25 Elgin Street (at Dudley Ave.) 905-889-2131
www.thornhillunitedchurch.ca

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS AT TUC

Sunday Dec. 1st	10:30 am	- Advent 1 - Service with Communion
Monday Dec. 2nd	7:30 pm	- "Joy of Christmas" Concert*
Sunday Dec. 8th	10:15 am 10:30 am	- Carol Sing with TUC Symphony - Advent 2 - Service with Handbell Choir
Sunday Dec. 15th	10:15 am 10:30 am	- Carol Sing with TUC Symphony - Advent 3 - Christmas Pageant Service
Sunday Dec. 22nd	10:30 am	- Advent 4 - Service of Lessons and Carols with Liturgical Dancers
Tuesday Dec. 24th	4:00 pm 7:00 pm 11:00 pm	- Christmas Eve Service for Children & Friends - Christmas Eve Service, Choir & Communion - Christmas Eve Service, Choir & Communion

* Concert by **CHORISMA** - Donations of non-perishable food items for Thornhill Christmas Assistance Program will be appreciated.

potion to draw in the life you want there is only steps that can help you prepare mentally and physically to work hard for the things you want to have in your life. Until next time keep well and as always stay productive and organized!!★

Katarina graduated from UofT with a major in political science and classics and a minor in philosophy. She continue her post graduate studies in journalism and adult learning and education and holds certification in media relations. She is passionate about writing and can be reached at: von_koenig2003@yahoo.ca

CHRISTMAS SERIES

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THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

- * DEC. 1
THE MEANING OF THE INCARNATION
- * DEC. 8
THE MEANING OF THE BABY’S NAME (CALVARY CHRISTMAS CHILDREN’S/YOUTH PRESENTATION)
- * DEC. 16
THE MEANING OF THE MISSION TO EARTH
- * DEC. 22
THE MEANING OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH
- * DEC. 24, 6:00 P.M.
THE FIRST NOEL (CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION)
- * DEC. 29
THE MEANING OF THE MAGI

SPECIAL EVENTS/CONCERTS

- * SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 7:30 P.M.
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Indoor adventures



Each year snow and cold cause winter blues. Weather affects our moods and how we feel overall. Although winter can be enjoyed in various ways such as skiing, skating, etc., many people do like to stay inside and feel warm and cozy. I am personally among those who like to do indoor activities with my family be it having a family night at home or taking kids to indoor fun places around the city. I would like to share some of the places that I find are good for young kids and also for parents to have a good time during the winter holidays.



Legoland

Legoland Discovery Center:

Kids are huge fans of Legos. It gives them a chance to be more creative and imaginative. There is a big legoland indoor playground in Vaughan which I find is a great place for children and also for parents. They also can make arrangements if someone would like to celebrate their birthday over there. It is a safe indoor place where kids can play while parents can just sit and relax. They also have a couple of rides. The tickets vary from \$17 to \$34. If tickets are purchased online, some extra bucks could be saved. For more information please check the website below. www.toronto.legolanddiscoverycentre.ca

Chuck E Cheese:

One thing I have noticed is that kids love going to chuck e cheese. I have been there many times and I love the fact that kids enjoy their games while I could relax nearby reading a book. It is a fun place to celebrate birthday parties, arcade games, enjoy freshly baked pizza, etc. Kids buy play time from as little as \$10 and could win lots of tickets. Winning tickets makes the kids very happy. It's a safe place where kids could spend a lot of

time having fun. They offer various deals on different days of the week. For more information, please visit their website: www.chuckecheese.com

Local library and community centres:

During winter holidays many libraries and community centres across Toronto organize interesting activities for children. Make sure to check them as kids love those creative things (speaking from my personal experience). Some of the arts and crafts activities are also for adults.

Don't let the winter stop you from having fun with your family. Organize parties or movie nights with kids and friends, enjoy dining out and more. Never miss an opportunity to have good quality time.

Happy holidays and a Wonderful winter!★

The author, came to Canada 15 years ago from Pakistan, went to Montreal, and for two years has lived in Thorncliffe Park. She has two pre-school children and acts as a tutor for others in the evening. She is keenly interested in community issues

The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy Summit: TO2020 and BEYOND

By Ida Fedar-Baan

Metro Hall (55 John St. Toronto) was the site of this joyous, interactive, musical community celebration of Resident Leaders and Agencies working on Torontonians' behalf, on Saturday, November 9.

The Shape My City" Web platform was launched to support these Agencies and was also part of the "Neighbourhood Grants Celebration".

A moving "Land Acknowledgment" recognizing Canada's Indigenous People was held by Cat Criger, Elder from the Anishnawbe Nation, Traditional Teacher and Knowledge Keeper. Food, music provided by a live D.J., and interactive installations allowed full visitor participation.

One in particular, was another emotionally-moving project: A Weaving Loom was on display. People were asked to choose and add fabric pieces in various colours: Yellow – signifies celebration; Red – story not seen yet; Green – signifies change; Blue – signifies leaving; Purple

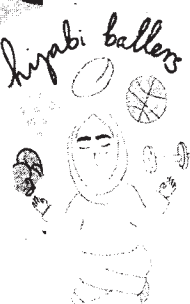
– the future, and finally, Beige – a story of action. A "real-time" mural, created by the Students' Commission of Canada, encouraged youth/adults of all ages to draw or write their thoughts.

Thorncliffe Park resident Charles Zhu, Parenting Group Founder in the Flemingdon/Thorncliffe Park neighbourhoods, Janel Simpson, three-time Neighbourhood Grant recipient from the Morningside-Mornelle Court area and Nessa Babli, West Hill Community Activist, were recognized for their service.



Beth Helmers, Artistic Director, Community Arts Guild, with loom.

Hijabii Ballers, sports group was created to encourage and engage Muslim women in sports. The Toronto Raptors sponsored the women's headgear.



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CATS OF THE MONTH

Featured this month are two more of Gerri's cats from Catty Cat Catuary. Their whole story was featured in last month's issue. If you missed it, an album of the 30 remaining cats still looking for homes has been created complete with pictures and bios can be seen on Catty Cat Catuary's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Catty-Cat-Catuary-110387439050464>

Time and resources are running out to keep the sanctuary going much longer. In addition to the need for food, litter and supplies needed to keep the sanctuary going, hands on help is also needed to care for them. If you live in the Grimsby area or are willing to travel, please let us know. Needless to say, donations are welcome. We appreciate your sharing and networking to help find the remaining cats their furever homes.

We wish to thank Hi-Rise for sharing this story and highlighting Gerri's cats.

- Katherine Stern

Please note that an adoption fee applies. For further information, please contact Judy at judithawilson@hotmail.com or call 416-258-5061

Tinka



Tinka is a tame female, approximately 11 years old. We call Tinka the Paddle Cat. She LOVES to be paddled on the butt, and even better if she can get up on your shoulder while you do that to her! You cannot

Support the Salvation Army's 129th Annual Christmas Kettle Campaign by dropping a financial donation (cash or cheque) into one of the 2,000 red "kettles" around Toronto, in order to raise \$21.6 million to assist individuals and families and 400 communities with free meals, food hampers, and toys.

help but smile. Tinka is good with other cats, super cuddly and loves attention. She seems to be a bit timid but I think that a loving owner will overcome that!

Nita



Nita is a tame female, approximately 9 years old. Nita is a very affectionate and lovable kitty who will quietly make her way over for some love and attention. We think that she could become a lap cat, given the opportunity and less competition with the other cats. She gets along well with the other cats.

Donations can also be "tap and go" at some locations, OR e-mail SalvationArmy.ca or calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769). Over 1.1 million people are assisted with food, clothing and practical help.



Central Eglinton Community Centre Holiday Gift Fair



Friday, December 6
10:00am to 12:00pm.



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ask for more information on Vendors' tables available.

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Happy holidays from my family to yours!

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- **22 DEC, 4 PM – CHRISTMAS READINGS & CAROLS**
Carols and readings by candlelight
- **24 DEC, 5 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE**
Relaxed service with Carols & Children's message
- **24 DEC, 10 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE**
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INDOOR GARDENING KEN BROWN

Winter indoor plants, and read



The weather is getting colder. The days are approaching their shortest of the year. A few plants are hugging close to the window looking for those precious few hours of sunlight. A lucky few are enjoying some longer days under the fluorescent tubes. The gardener is wondering how to satisfy his horticultural urges.

There are always a few big new Amaryllis bulbs to be found in the stores and they will perform their magic with little or no care from us, while filling the room with those large blooms. In one corner of my solarium the Christmas Cactus is covering itself with flower buds as the nearby Thanksgiving Cactus is starting to fade. These reliable short day plants are a saving grace for the winter gardener.

The seed catalogues have not started arriving just yet and the Christmas shopping list awaits our attention. If there are gardeners on your list then wander into the nearest book store and have a look at some of the newest titles. If you buy them early enough and read carefully you can enjoy them yourself before wrapping them up. Here's a few that I have enjoyed this year.

If you have children or grandchildren that have shown any interest in gardening or even ones that you would like to introduce to our favourite pastime then you want to find "Gardening with Emma." I have known Emma for several years and she is a delightful young lady of 14 that thoroughly enjoys gardening. Her book is a delight to read and look at. It showcases her many experiences growing a range of vegetables while having a lot of fun and learning about the natural world. She grew about 100 varieties of tomatoes last year along with many other crops and



she does this on her parents' city property in north Toronto. Another great book for those who want to expand their palate and their gardening experience is Niki Jabbour's "Veggie Garden Remix" where the author, another garden writer friend of mine, tells us about some 240 vegetable varieties that she has grown, usually successfully, in her Nova Scotia garden. Different vegetables from around the world that Niki has discovered and adapted to growing in her garden are outlined along with growing and eating tips. It actually makes interesting reading even if you have no desire or space to try them.

If you would rather travel than actually garden then look for "Gardenlust" by Christopher Woods. It is a botanical tour of the world's best new gardens and you can just sit in a cosy chair and travel through those amazing gardens and possibly plan your next trip. Last fall I was in the north of England and spent some time in Alnwick gardens, one of those featured in this impressive book. I saw it at the end of October but this book helped me to see what it would look like at other times of the year. ★

Ken Brown is a horticulturist with extensive houseplant and container gardening experience. He will gladly answer questions addressed to him c/o Hi Rise. He currently devotes his time to his website www.gardening-enjoyed.com

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and Christmas

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Advent and Christmas Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields (College and Bellevue)

Sunday, December 8, 7 pm
Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 22
Nine Lessons and Carols, 7 pm

Tuesday, December 24
Family Carol Service, 5 pm
Christmas Eve Mass, blessing of
the crèche & carols, 9 pm

Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 am
Christmas Day Mass



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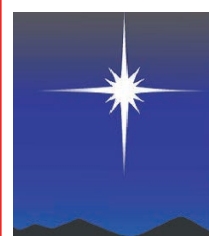
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Sunday December 22nd and Sunday December 29th

Mimico Public Library

(Station Rd and Stanley Ave)

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All are welcome at the manager

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December 1st **The Promise of Hope - 10:30am**

December 7th **Christmas Bake & Crafters' Sale - 9 am to 3:00 pm**

December 8th **The Promise of Peace - 10:30am**
Christmas in Mimico Concert— 3:00pm

December 15th **The Promise of Joy - 10:30am**
Celebration of Holy Communion

December 22nd **The Promise of Love - 10:30am**
Join us for Christmas Lunch following worship

December 24th **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service - 8:00pm**

Christmas At St. Luke's Anglican Church (A Place to Connect)

904 Coxwell Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4C 3G3



Wednesday December 11th

7:00 p.m. - Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve December 24th

7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day December 25th

10:30 a.m. - Celebration of the Birth of Jesus

ALL WELCOME