



A Holiday Tradition

At some point in childhood, many kids don a blue shawl or fake beard and act out the nativity scene in front of doting parents and grandparents. Whether performed by children or adults, set up as little figurines in a home, or installed as a life-size tableau in front of a church, these scenes are a staple of the Christmas holidays. But when did this tradition begin?

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death.

According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about “the babe of Bethlehem.” (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say “Jesus.”) Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences.

The nativity scene's popularity took off from there. Within a couple of centuries, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. We don't know if people actually played Mary and Joseph during Francis' time, or whether they just imagined those figures' presence. We do know that later scenes began incorporating dioramas and live actors, and the cast of characters gradually expanded beyond Mary, Joseph and sweet baby Jesus, to sometimes include an entire village.

Nativity buffs will know, however, that the familiar cast of characters relied upon today—the three wise men and the shepherds—is not biblically accurate. Of the New Testament's four gospels, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth. Matthew mentions wise men, while Luke comments on shepherds. But nowhere in the Bible do shepherds and wise men appear together. What's worse, no one mentions donkeys, oxen, cattle or other farmyard friends in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But what would a nativity scene be without those staples? Luckily for all the folks cast as King #2, or a random shepherd, some artistic interpretation is permitted. The sense of joy and peace conveyed are the same.

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C and D Wings

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Village

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Magnolia Court

Health Rx

Here's To Your Good Health!

Eat Right to Stay Warm

If you can't stand the cold, you may not have enough iron in your diet. A recent study linked the body's ability to regulate or maintain body temperature under cold conditions to daily iron consumption. The best way to ensure proper iron levels through the winter is by eating more iron-rich foods such as lean red meat, fish, poultry, beets, beans and leafy green vegetables. Also, drink more orange juice; the vitamin C increases iron absorption. Iron supplements are not a sure remedy because they are not as readily absorbed by the body as the iron in foods. Moreover, the supplements can irritate the stomach and cause constipation.

Notifications

Christmas Wish

Is there something you have been wanting but can't seem to make it happen for whatever reason? Perhaps it is a letter you would like to send to a friend or loved one, but could use help writing it. Is there someone you'd like to speak to by phone, but haven't been able to find the number or connect for some reason? Do you need a pair of socks, a sweater, undergarments or pajamas that Mahova can help you purchase? While the Home can't manage every wish, we will do our best. Please feel free to share your wish by completing a form left by the Christmas Wish box in the Activity Foyer Area. The box will be placed following Resident Council on Monday, December 5 and picked up in the afternoon on Tuesday, December 13. Please know that someone may be getting back with you to obtain more details to better assist with your special wish.

Book Ends

By Georgeen Carden

Jacqueline Frost

This is an appropriate pseudonym for Julie Anne Lindsey, as she has written a series of Christmas Tree Farm mysteries. She is married, the mother of three children and lives in rural Ohio. She is a member of the International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime.

The December newsletter would be expected to have a review of a Christmas story . . . right? Our library doesn't have a card catalog, so I had to search the stacks alphabetically for titles that started with the word Christmas. I found six volumes with no trouble. Five of these were charming stories of distress turning to joy on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. "The Christmas Bus" by Melody Carlson and "Silent Night" by Mary Higgins Clark are two of them. The sixth one was a murder mystery, which I chose to review because I like mysteries.

"Twas the Knife Before Christmas"

This is a first person story told by Holly White, whose best friend, Caroline, has been accused of murder. The story takes place in Mistletoe , Maine. The local sheriff is Holly's love interest although it doesn't go beyond a high school crush in this novel.

The town square has been decorated for the holidays with a huge tree and a giant candy dish filled with red and white peppermint candies.

Ten days before Christmas, folks coming to town to shop find a local Lothario dead in the candy dish. Derek has been stabbed to death with best friend Caroline's custom-made butcher knife.

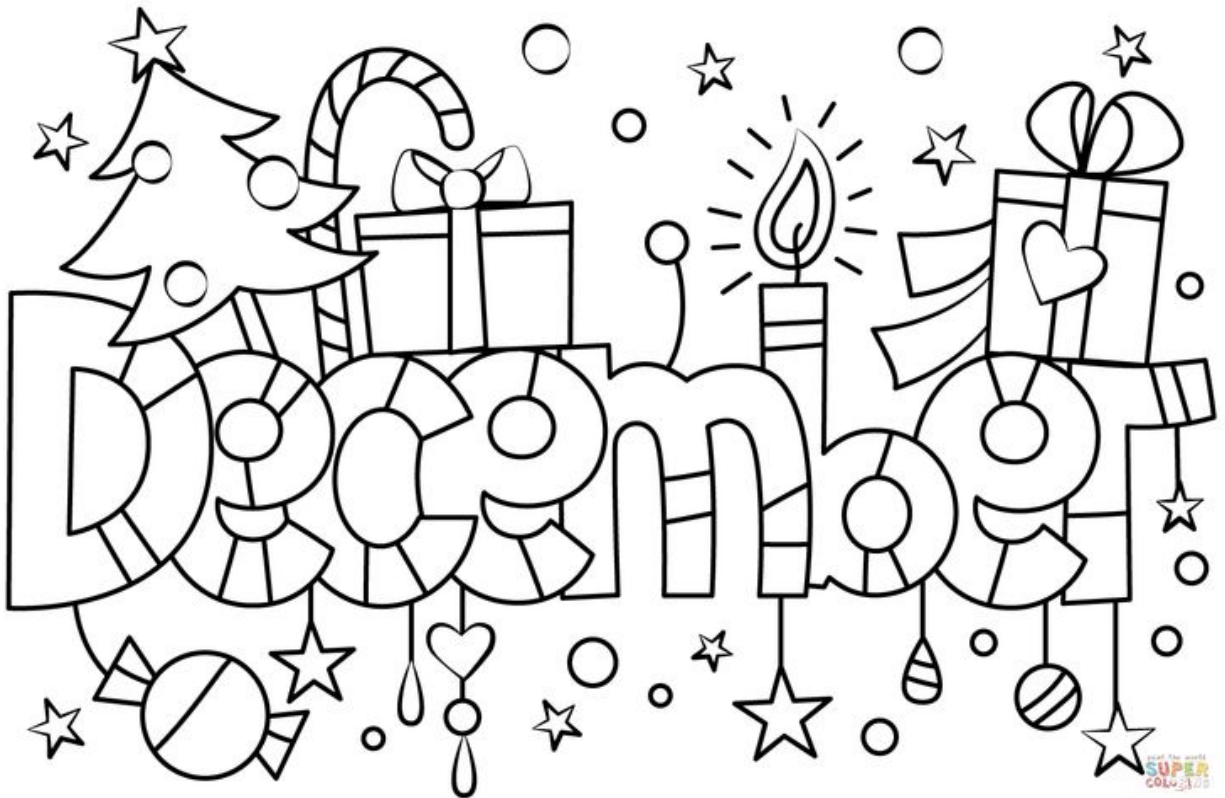
Caroline is arrested and taken to jail, where she must stay until the local judge returns from vacation to set bail. Holly is distressed that her friend may be in jail over Christmas and is determined to find the "real killer." She does, of course.

This novel is filled with clichés, teen-age slang and odd sentence constructions. The main characters are in their late twenties, but seem more like teen-agers. It's an implausible story, but entertaining to read.

Anniversaries



December 1, 1962 Wayne and MaryAnn Flora
December 19, 1975 Richard and Georgeen Carden
December 21, 2005 William and Dolores Reinhold
December 21, 1984 Gardner and Gypsy Rollings
December 22, 1956 Robert and Jane Harrison
December 22, 1956 Chester and Marian Wright





Christmas
WORD SEARCH

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

Silent Night
Miracle
Savior
Three Kings

Gold
Nativity
Angels
Star

Rejoice
Faith
Baby Jesus
Shepherd

December Movies

Movies start approximately at 6 PM. Channel 5.1 and TV Room

Love Actually - Friday, December 2 - A Christmas-themed romantic comedy. Nine intertwined stories examine the complexities of the one emotion that connects us all: love. 2 hours 9 minutes. Released: 2003. Rated: R for sexuality, nudity and language. Starring: Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Liam Neeson and Keira Knightly.

Elf- Friday, December 9 Once upon a Christmas Eve, an orphan baby crawled into Santa's bag of gifts and was taken to the North Pole. Raised by Papa Elf, Buddy comes to realize he doesn't fit in with the other elves. Determined to find a place where he belongs, Buddy searches for his real dad - in New York City! In the Big Apple, Buddy finds out why his dad is on the naughty list! But most importantly, he sees that the world is seriously lacking in Christmas spirit, which causes Santa all kinds of problems. So with the help of a beautiful department store elf, Buddy tries to teach his dad and the world the true meaning of Christmas spirit and to prove to everyone that Santa really exists. 1 hour 37 minutes. Released: 2003. Rating: PG for mild rude humor and language. Starring: Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart, Zooey Deschanel

Top Gun- Monday, December 12 - Maverick is a hotshot flyer who is sent to the Navy's prestigious Top Gun program. But in order to become the "best of the best," he'll need the help of his wingman and new-found love. 1 hour 50 minutes. Released: 1986. Rated: PG. Action and Drama. Starring: Tom Cruise, Anthony Edwards, Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer

December Movies

Movies start approximately at 6 PM. Channel 5.1 and TV Room

Top Gun-Maverick - Friday, December 16 (Dessert and Movie- MPR- Movie begins at 5:30 PM) and Friday, December 30 (Channel 5.1 and TV Room) After more than thirty years of service as a top naval aviator, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot. Yet, Maverick must confront the ghosts of his past when he returns to Top Gun to train a group of elite graduates and comes face - to - face with Lt. Bradshaw, the son of his former wingman, "Goose." Bitter rivalries ignite as the pilots prepare for a specialized mission, which will require the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it. 2 hours 10 minutes. Released: 2022. Rated: PG-13 for Sequences of intense action and some strong language. Starring: Tom Cruise, Miles Teller, Jennifer Connelly

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation - Monday, December 19 This holiday season Clark Griswold vows his clan will enjoy "the most fun - filled family Christmas ever." His plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster. There are 25,000 lights on the roof. An exploding turkey on the dining room table and a SWAT team taking siege outside. 1 hour 37 minutes. Released: 1989. Rating: PG-13. Comedy Starring: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Juliette Lewis.

A Christmas Carol - Friday, December 23 Ebenezer Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas, in this unforgettable classic that has become a holiday favorite for almost everyone. When three ghosts pay him a visit on Christmas Eve, Scrooge changes his miserly ways forever and wakes up a new man, just in time to celebrate the holidays. 1 hour 26 minutes. Released: 1951. Not Rated. Starring: Charles Dickens, Cathleen Harrison, Jack Warner and Mervyn Johns.

Resident Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following residents who celebrate their birthdays:

12/4 Betty Klotz
12/6 Helen Wadkins
12/8 Hank Lythgoe
12/16 Maxine Watson
12/21 Gene Watson
12/24 Woody Davis
12/25 Christine Johnson
12/25 Norma Klebert
12/28 Ed Bowen
12/28 Bea Holm

Employee Birthdays

12/5 Charles Vaught
12/7 Bonnie White
12/8 Beverly Allen
12/9 Lashay Austin
12/10 Johnetta Ball
12/12 Penny Allen
12/12 Shyvonne Bagby
12/15 Cheryl Smith
12/18 Rashida Traywick
12/18 Dianne Winston
12/19 Ciera Rawlings
12/21 Sheba Bowman
12/25 Marlena Jennings
12/26 Brian Wisecarver
12/27 Janet Jones Jmison
12/27 Mark Mumford
12/28 Carol Whyte
12/28 Wanda Woody-Cupitt

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Masonic Home Census: 162

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