



# The Retreat Newsletter

November/December 2005

Volume 2, Issue 5



## Happy Holidays with Love from the Retreat

Photo by Dave Williams



Dottie and Mike Williams

### The Williams Welcome Their Son Home from Iraq

By Dottie Williams

Although Dave and I often make the trip to our daughter's in Pennsylvania, our trip this summer was one of the best. We were on our way to see our son, Mike, who had just returned from a year's tour of duty in Fallujah. The celebration lasted for two weeks ending with a party on Labor Day. Family and friends came from New York, Florida, and Pennsylvania to welcome Mike home and to congratulate him on his engagement to his girlfriend, Suzanne. We certainly have lots to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

### CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

By Eva Kemp



As an American born in England living in the States, I wondered if you knew of the holiday called Boxing Day. Incidentally, all vacations are called holidays in Britain. Boxing Day is the party day of the Christmas season and a national holiday in all of the British Isles, including Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England.

Boxing Day is always December 26th. It got its name  
*(Continued on page 2)*



### HOLIDAYS IN MOSCOW

By Brad and Amy Wexler

We have lived in Moscow, Russia, and have been for the last 10 years. Of course, sometimes we make the awful trek back to Philly or Toledo to spend time with family and relatives. This means about a 22-hour trip door to door, and numerous airport lines for security, passport control, and

*(Continued on page 2)*



### CHRISTMAS 2004 in MUNICH

By Chuck Eschenburg

The sun finally appeared on Christmas morning. The preceding week along the Danube had been COLD and gray. We had seen enough of ice and snow to satisfy our Florida souls. The day was another of sightseeing, walking in the center of the city where the Christmas market had closed down for another year. We began in a huge beer hall, mid  
*(Continued on page 2)*



### A Christmas Day Meeting

By Gail and Jerry Blumengarten

On Christmas Day 1975 in front of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel I met Gail for the first time. We had no idea how much significance the occasion would have in our lives. We had both signed up for a career education trip to Israel over the Christmas/Chanukah recess. The trip gave the participants on our

*(Continued on page 2)*



### HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Bonnie Becker

The holidays are approaching along with the beginning of "The Season." It is during this time that we reflect on the year past as well as look forward to the year ahead.

Our [Singles@Seabranh](#) is a very diverse group, so I thought it would be fun to ask our members to share their holiday traditions with everyone.

There were those who don't like the holidays, any holiday,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ***Holidays in Moscow (Continued from page 1)***

immigration.

Other times, we stay in Moscow. The Russians don't celebrate "Christmas" as we know it. They go by the Orthodox religious calendar, which means their "Christmas" is somewhere around the 8 of January. And it truly is a totally religious holiday.

The main celebration is New Years. I would equate it to how Americans celebrate Christmas: 31 of December, offices start closing around 12 noon, there are mad rushes to the markets to stock up for the holiday. In the evening, friends and family come over and the "festivities" begin: food, drink, fun. Parents can now order Santa or "Ded Moroz" (Grandpa Frost) to come to their house, give their kids presents, and share a drink or 2! There is now special "Santa" insurance for those guys playing Russian Santa, as they are sometimes asked (and I'm sure paid well) to scale down the sides of apartment blocks and enter apartments through the windows! A dangerous task even without the New Years "cheer!"

It seems almost everybody goes for a "walk" around 11:30 pm. Of course, you can go to Red Square, but even smaller regions and courtyards seem to have something going on because it's New Years! Sometimes Ded Moroz shows up with his side kick, Sne Gurochka (like snow fairy), and joins the fun. Sometimes there are folk singers or performers, and sometimes just some unorganized fun. Fireworks and champagne are of course included! Festivities go on until at least 5:30 am. January 1 and 2, Moscow seems like a ghost town. It is the only time I really see this 24-hour big city shut down. And all of this when it is about -20F outside! Happy New Year!

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## ***A Christmas Day Meeting (Continued from page 1)***

tour a chance to see some of the major sites in Israel as well as visit schools on all levels and have meetings with educational leaders. We also had the opportunity to earn three graduate credits.

Bethlehem was a very moving experience, especially on Christmas Day, even though we are not Christians. We did celebrate Chanukah in Israel which was quite special.

Holidays have unexpectedly played a part in our lives. On New Year's Day of the following year, we were engaged, and in less than a year we were married. Jerry was born on Valentine's Day, our daughter Shira (which means song in Hebrew) was born on the first day of Spring and our son Neil was born on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.

## ***Christmas 2004 in Munich (Continued from page 1)***

morning, finding tables of folks already slaking thirst and munching on giant pretzels. The mood was festive but seemed a bit odd for a Christmas morning. We left shortly, passing many closed shops and ventured onto the Marienplatz, the central square. Many people had gathered, staring at the city hall for it was almost noon and time for the procession of figures in the bell tower. The bells started to ring and the glockenspiel figures rotated in their ancient garb thru doors in the tower. It was quite a nice free show of old clock-making and seemed so appropriate for that special morning.

In the afternoon we walked about our hotel, enjoying families testing the ice in small ponds and playing with new toys. Darkness came early and we walked to one of the few restaurants open that evening. Roast goose was featured as well as traditional German cuisine. Unfortunately, we were at a table of disgruntled complainers who groused most of the meal with negativity. It was quite unpleasant, and I finally spoke up to change the subject to something more appropriate for a special dinner. It became quiet, but the gloom remained. Oh well, the next day we went, in new snow and slush, to Mad King Ludwig's famous castle. Our horse drawn carriage had to stop half way up as one of the horses had thrown a shoe. In a short while, the farrier appeared, nailed on a new shoe and upward we went with the crowds thru the slush. Something different for Christmas for sure, at least for us Floridians.

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## ***Christmas in England (Continued from page 1)***

because traditionally the staff and tradesmen received their gifts on that day, as they, of course, were busy on Christmas Day preparing the large celebration meal for their employees. It became known as Boxing Day as hopefully your gift came in a box.

Christmas Day was always the quiet day for visiting family. Almost every Brit serves turkey on Christmas Day followed by Christmas pudding and Christmas cake. Christmas cake is a rich fruit cake (much loved by the Brits as opposed to hated by most Americans) usually made with rum or brandy, covered in marzipan and then iced with a Christmas scene. Christmas Eve is for fun and no presents are opened until Christmas morning allowing Santa Claus to do last minute packing after his Christmas Eve libations. Christmas afternoon was spent watching the television, or before that listening to the radio, as the monarch always gave a Christmas speech. Even today this still holds true and most Brits will listen to Her Majesty the Queen addressing them at, traditionally, 3 o'clock on Christmas afternoon.

Brits have longer holidays than in America. Six weeks vacation per year is not unusual. Many companies close from noon on December 24th and do not re open until January 2nd. Great if you are an employee, not so great as an employer.



# OPLATKI

By Lill Malinowski

Wesolych Swiat! Bozego Narodzenia! That is the way to say "Merry Christmas" in Polish. Among Poles, wherever they are, the most beloved and beautiful of all traditional festivities is that of Christmas Eve. It is then that the Wigilia, or Christmas Eve Dinner is served. It is a solemnly celebrated occasion and arouses deep feelings of kinship among family members.

There is a Polish, Catholic tradition which we celebrate every Christmas Eve. After grace but prior to our Christmas Eve dinner, each person at the table is given a piece of oplatek. Oplatki (the plural of oplatek) are thin wafers shaped in a rectangle and usually stamped with Christmas nativity scenes. Oplatki are like the Eucharist host which is received during Mass.

Each person takes their oplatek around to each member of the family, breaking off a bit of each other's wafer while sharing a brief expression of love. If there is a wrong from the past year between two people, this is the time to mend the rift by asking for forgiveness and reconciliation. Then we enjoy the Christmas Eve meal in peace and harmony.

Our family is located in many different states. To include those who cannot be present for Wigilia, oplatki are sent to them along with their Christmas card.

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## **Holiday Traditions (Continued from page 1)**

and think that the way to handle them is to go on vacation!

Others sounded so morose, i.e. "I have no family, no friends, no Christmas!!" that I called one of them to be sure this single wasn't standing on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of a building ready to jump off. Then I remembered that there is a 4 story limit on buildings in Martin County, and was greatly relieved.

Still others have memories of past lives, like the single who reflects on her ex and his expectation that she would make a 2-day sauerkraut recipe to accompany the turkey every Thanksgiving.

Most of our members, however, have warm holiday memories to share.

Although my children are in their late 20's, they still love to make decorated sugar cookies like they did when they were little. These are happy memories. They still beg me to perform the cookie ritual when we get together, whether Easter, Christmas, or Halloween. I make the

dough from scratch and roll and cut the cookies. When my children arrive, I bake the cookies and they decorate them using dozens of home made colored frostings and every conceivable jimmy and sprinkle. My daughter's cookies always look perfect, within the lines and with clearly recognized results. My son's look like something not readily identifiable, sort of like a Jackson Pollock painting gone out of control. We always have a great time. It is a small but nice tradition that hopefully they will carry on with their own children.

Nancy remembers the many holidays spent as a single mother. She and her children would visit house to house on Christmas Eve, having dinner at one, trimming the tree at another, and dessert at another, all with participating single parents bringing families together for a wonderful evening. Nancy's specialty is Ricotta pie, which she still makes at Christmas reflecting her Italian heritage.

The most poignant memory was from a member whose recollections about a recently deceased father brought forth memories of traditions carried here from Italy.

"For every holiday gathering that I can remember, my father made sure the celebration (whether it was Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or for that matter any Sunday dinner), included a hearty table wine. He would hold up his glass in a toast to the family, and in Italian he would announce; "la familia." And in respect, we would solemnly follow his lead as "the family" is such a very special part of Italian life. I lost my father in September 2005; however the influence of his love for la familia was not lost with him. His love and heart felt sensitivity for what is good, is remembered not only by our family but by just about everyone who knew him. It remains with those of us who choose to carry on his special way of celebrating our family's holidays. We do that with sincerity and the best of examples of generous humor and love for not only la familia but for people of faith and good cheer everywhere."

No matter what your family makeup, I believe that it is important to form your own traditions. Moving to Florida and away from family and friends changes our family dynamics and may change traditions. It is important, however, to form new traditions or build on the old ones with new friends, not only to celebrate the coming of the holiday season but to bring comfort, reflect on happy memories and to continue the thread of life, even if they are ours alone.



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

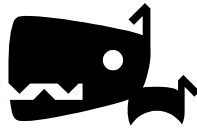
By Todd Jackson, LCAM and  
Gina Cotto, LCAM

Photo by Dave Williams



Gina Cotto and Todd Jackson

Property Managers are nice people, really, but unfortunately have the terrible task of relaying bad news or a constant "you can't do this, you can't do that...". And I do enough of that at home with my two kids. However, I'm grateful to have a space in The Retreat to share a few of my recent observations – and of course, "you can't do that" routine.



WITH HURRICANE SEASON STILL UPON US, remember that shutters are to be installed only at the time of an impending storm, and not prior. Hurricane shutters remain on several homes in the development. If this is the case at your home, please remove the shutters. Also, be aware of the safety issues presented when shutters are installed for any length of time - poor ventilation, a fire hazard and a message that no one is home, hence, a good target for theft. Per the Governing Documents, fines may be issued for non-compliance.

**A SIGN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** Please note, per association documents, signs (i.e. real estate, open house, advertisement etc.) are not permitted at the Retreat - on the community grounds, displayed in windows of units or in your vehicles. Per the Governing Documents, fines may be issued for non-compliance.

**KEEP ON TRUCKIN' – INTO THE GARAGE:** As you have probably read in the governing documents before purchasing or leasing at the Retreat, if you own a truck, it must be parked in the garage. Trucks may be towed without warning if found unattended outside the garage and/or fined by the Covenant Committee. Vehicles parked on the grass, streets or swales may also be towed.

## NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Bill Cole

- ✓ There has been continued progress in sorting out inherited problems. This has been costly but solutions are working.
- ✓ Engineering report presented to DiVosta.
- ✓ The Retreat attorney is re-doing all our documents in preparation for members to vote on changes/improvements.
- ✓ Accounting report will be presented to DiVosta soon.
- ✓ 70% of sprinkler heads are defective and 495 electronic decoders in the irrigation system are defective and need to be replaced.
- ✓ SeaWind School has installed noise suppression on air conditioning units for us.
- ✓ Seabranh Boulevard is being repaired/repaved. Completion is scheduled for early 2006.
- ✓ Mulching will be done in January on all properties.
- ✓ Preliminary work on 2006 budget indicates increase in assessments. This is absolutely necessary.
- ✓ We believe that The Retreat has about 75%+ year around residents.

Thank you all for your feedback and support. Contact any of us anytime. We want your ideas and concerns.

***Best wishes for a safe and  
happy holiday season.***

### NOTICE from the Board of Directors

Lost Lakes Golf Course is private property. Management complained to us several times about Retreat children and adults using bicycles, running, and walking on the golf course. They are issuing a warning to our members to cease trespassing on the golf course. The next violation will result in arrest.

Please respect their wishes. This is private property, and they have sustained damage from people on their course.

Thank you, The Retreat Board of Directors



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Len Freedman

Since the last news letter, Florida and the Gulf Coast have experienced Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and a considerable amount of rain. We were spared from the devastation that the Gulf Coast received. Many Retreat residents have expressed concern if a Hurricane Katrina type came on shore in our area. At a meeting I attended at the Sheriff's Department, there was a speaker from The American Red Cross. The Red Cross representative stated that if you do not live in a mandatory evacuation area, have a newer home with storm shutters you should stay put. Additionally the representative lives in a DiVosta community. Furthermore, a recent article in the Palm Beach Post written by Bob Villa, of "This Old House" fame, described a hurricane proof home he is building. The description is similar to the DiVosta construction method.

The Red Cross recommends that everyone who is capable attend CERT Training classes. CERT classes provide training in first aid and emergency treatment until a medical professional or first responder can arrive. Dottie Williams will arrange to have a CERT training class date if enough residents apply. CERT training is a wonderful asset to each individual.

Martin County has passed a new ordinance that requires home owners with alarm systems to take out a yearly permit at a cost of \$20.00. If a home owner has no false alarms, the subsequent year's cost is reduced to \$10.00. The ordinance will take effect in early 2006. The Sheriff's Department encourages all homeowners who have experienced mechanical problems with their alarm systems to have them corrected. False alarms where a Sheriff's deputy responds will cost the homeowner a fine. Subsequent false alarms will result in a larger fine.

With the fall and cooler weather approaching, our friends, relatives, and guests will be returning to the area. The roads will have increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic and the day light hours will be shorter. We should all be vigilant in watching out for children, walkers, joggers, and bike riders. Please drive defensively and obey the rules of the road.

Finally, there are neighborhood watch meetings each month, first Monday after first Thursday at 7PM. All residents are invited to attend.



## GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON

By Bill Cole

The *Government Liaison Committee* has been reorganized. Mary Jane Battaglia is the new chairperson. This group will be active in attending Martin County meetings, representing The Retreat, and keeping us advised of issues relating to our community. Interested new members are encouraged to contact Mary Jane or Bill Cole.



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Calling All Retreat Business Owners

By Coni Mc Guinn

Starting with the January 2006 issue of the *Retreat Newsletter*, we are initiating an advertising program to help with the newsletter printing costs. Ads will be business card size in black and white.

Cost for ad is \$125.00 for the year. A yearly contract is required. Deadline for the January issue is December 10th. Please contact Coni Mc Guinn at 545.3465 or at [conimcguinn@aol.com](mailto:conimcguinn@aol.com).

### 2006 RETREAT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UPDATES

By Bea Kozlowski

The 2006 Retreat Telephone Directory will be published in the spring. If you have any changes to your current listing in the directory, fill out the telephone directory form located on Page 40 of the 2005 directory and place it in the Property Management Office mail box located outside the Clubhouse West Entrance. These changes will be incorporated in the 2006 directory. Only residents who list their e-mail addresses in the directory will receive e-mail information from the HOA.

If you are a new resident and wish to be listed in the 2006 telephone directory, pick up a form at the Property Management Office or call Bea Kozlowski at 545.3505.



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Mary Paukstys

There were 76 Retreat attendees at the **Octoberfest**. A great time was had by all!

On Monday, December 12, we will have our annual **Holiday Dinner Dance** at the Mariner Sands Country Club located on the East side of U.S. 1, just North of Seabranh Boulevard. The cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with a CASH BAR. Dinner and dancing from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm - music by Vito. Cost is \$45.00 per person which includes valet parking and a three course dinner with choice of entree of prime rib or snapper. Dress is holiday attire and jackets and ties are required. Tickets will be sold on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Clubhouse - CASH ONLY.



## IRRIGATION & MAINTENANCE

By Dave Williams

### Plant Information from Our Landscaper, *Concepts in Greenery*

Certain plants will not thrive or even grow in a wet environment--namely Magnolia, Plumbago, Podocarpus, Ligustrum, Juniper, Bougainvillea, and Jasmine. These plants are poor choices given our soil conditions and are not recommended as replacement alternatives.

Your HOA inherited a property in tough shape relating to irrigation, soil, grading, bugs, excess water, plants and trees. A great deal of progress has been made but we are very much a work in progress. **Concepts** has a large crew here six days a week, and they are gaining on solving the issues.

Presently, the landscaper is in the process of working to improve the quality of soil and plantings. The soil in the planting beds is being treated to improve the soil pH. The entire property is being treated for red fungus. The water bubblers for the oak trees along the streets are being capped to prevent over-watering, and the moisture retaining mulch around these trees is being removed. All the oaks will receive two injections annually to fight disease. These improvements will take some time. Also, keep in mind that **Concepts** has a one year warrantee policy on anything they plant. As a result, they want to be sure conditions are correct for survival before they plant.

On another note, the irrigation system cannot be adjusted for watering requirements of new plants and trees. Homeowners will have to take responsibility for manually watering plants in some situations.

## STO 232 CONCRETE COATING

For residents' convenience, Retreat Management has purchased STO concrete coating in the colors required for our homes. This paint-like coating can only be purchased in five gallon buckets. We have portioned it into two cup containers that you may purchase for \$3.00 at our office. The colors available are white (trim), and apricot; beige, and yellow (house colors). Your sidewalks are probably beige.

## LEGAL COMMITTEE

By Dottie Williams



I would like to apologize for omitting the name of Ben Suplick from the list of members of the **Legal Committee** in the last Newsletter. Ben has been one of our most reliable members and his expertise helped us in preparing our report of recommendations for changes in our covenants.



## WELCOME COMMITTEE OF THE RETREAT

By Geri Morgan

The **Welcome Committee of The Retreat** presents to all new residents a "Welcome Bag" which contains brochures, maps, cards, and other material that could be of use to newcomers. If you would like to include a business card, brochure, etc., please contact Becky Freedman at bekyf561@aol.com or call her at 545.3286; or Geri Morgan at MGermorg@aol.com or call at 546.2443.

## MEMORIAL BENCHES

By Muriel Barry



**Memorial benches** are now available. The benches are of strong, maintenance free materials and will be anchored to concrete slabs. An engraved plaque is included. They will serve as memorials for our loved ones and will also enhance our community. The Retreat's picturesque lakes and natural preserves will be taken into consideration when sites are chosen. The cost of each memorial bench is \$1,000. If you would like additional information concerning the purchase of benches, please contact the Homeowners office or Muriel Barry at 545.1919.



## COVENANT COMMITTEE

By Bill Cole

Our new **Covenant Committee** members will be Chairperson Nick Sacco, Nancy Galiher, Tom Hartnett, Russ Lahey, Stephen Stone, and Ken Gregory (alternate).

We will have an initial organizational meeting shortly.



## HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

By Karin Ryan

Our community is putting the wheels in motion for our annual **Relay for Life**. Anyone can participate in this fight against cancer.

The Retreat will be hosting a fund raiser for this cause called the **Holiday Home Tour**. Several residents in the Retreat will open their homes for viewing on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, to raise money for the Relay for Life. The price is \$10.00 per person.

This tour will give people a chance to see and share some ideas in not only holiday decorating but great ideas in enhancing our beautiful DiVosta homes in The Retreat. The **Holiday Home Tour** will also bring our community closer together. Many of our loved ones and neighbors have been touched by this devastating illness, and we would like to do our part in eradicating this disease.

All who are interested in participating in **any** way, please call me at 546.2049. Details will be posted in the mail room.

## Needlework-Knitting Group

By Sandy Morrow



Our first meeting was well attended. Meeting dates for the rest of this year are Oct. 25, Nov. 8 and 22, and Dec. 2 and 20, at 6:30 pm at the Clubhouse. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Sandy at 545.1936 or Liz at 546.5673.



## UPSILAMBA ROUNDTABLE

### **Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China**

By Jung Chang

Book Reviewed by Susan Hemmer

The cliché is that “the world is becoming smaller.” As commerce and national interests stretch out and spread around the globe, we connect with and confront the national interests of others. One of the countries whose interests increasingly will be competing with our own is China.

China’s recorded history dates to 2000 BC – a mind-boggling fact to those of us who are citizens of a country that is by comparison, still in its infancy. China’s population is *1.31 Billion* souls compared to our measly *295.7 Million*. Their economy is booming, and they actively seek sources of oil outside their borders. The global dynamics promise to be interesting.

An extraordinary book, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* has recently been reissued. In 1995, this book was “recommended reading” in preparation for a visit to China and as such I expected it to be somewhat academic. Au contraire!

*Wild Swans* is a memoir and a riveting account of the impact of history on the lives of three generations of Chinese women growing up in 20th-century China. The author, Jung Chang, is the final link in this chain that begins with her grandmother in 1920. It is also the story of the creation of modern China, from a country steeped in tradition to one of terror, betrayal and hunger. It is a family saga, a love story, a historical document, and a tale of determination all rolled into one.

Written with a remarkable clarity of vision, it is a powerful and moving account of what communism, and especially Mao Zedong, did to China and her people.

In a world where children were encouraged to inform on their parents, the bonds formed within the Chang family fills you with hope. In a world where Mao was everything, the courage shown by the family fills you with admiration. And in a world where love was dishonorable, the love shared between Chang’s parents restores your faith in humanity.

The author, Jung Chang, was born in Yibin, Sichuan Province, China, in 1952. She was a red guard briefly at the age of fourteen and then worked as a peasant, a “barefoot doctor,” a steelworker, and an electrician before becoming an English language student and, later, an assistant lecturer at Sichuan University. She left China for Britain in 1978 and was subsequently awarded a scholarship by York University where she obtained a Ph.D. in linguistics in 1982 - the first person from the People’s Republic of China to receive a doctorate from a British University. Jung Chang lives in London and teaches the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.

This is an exceptional book. Jung Chang is a classic storyteller, describing in measured tones the almost unbelievable.

# THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

By Joy Currier

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my friends, my acquaintances, and my neighbors. During my cardiac procedures this past summer, I received your prayers, your cards and flowers, and your good wishes. This outward flow of love and concern helped speed my recovery. Words don't convey what I feel, but THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

## Singles@Seabbranch

By Bonnie Becker

Mark your calendars for the kick off to "The Season" dessert party.

Date: Friday, December 2

Location: Joanne's - 8932 SE Retreat Drive

Time: 7:00 PM

Bring your favorite dessert or a bottle of wine!

RSVP: Bonnie: 545.2951 or Joanne: 545.7547



Look for upcoming [Singles@Seabbranch](#) events on the Retreat bulletin board.

## RECIPE CORNER

### Fruit and Brandy Topping

By Ann Condon

When we lived up North, we had a Christmas party for many years between Christmas and New Years for our friends. This recipe was a big hit every year.

- 1 can pineapple chunks
- 1 can Bing cherries (pitted)
- 1 can sliced peaches
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 cups apricot brandy

Drain fruit and save syrup. Layer fruit, nuts, and raisins in a large bowl. Combine syrup from fruit and brandy. Chill three hours. Serve over pound cake or ice cream.

## FLORIDA SENIOR

Received from Hank Stasiewicz

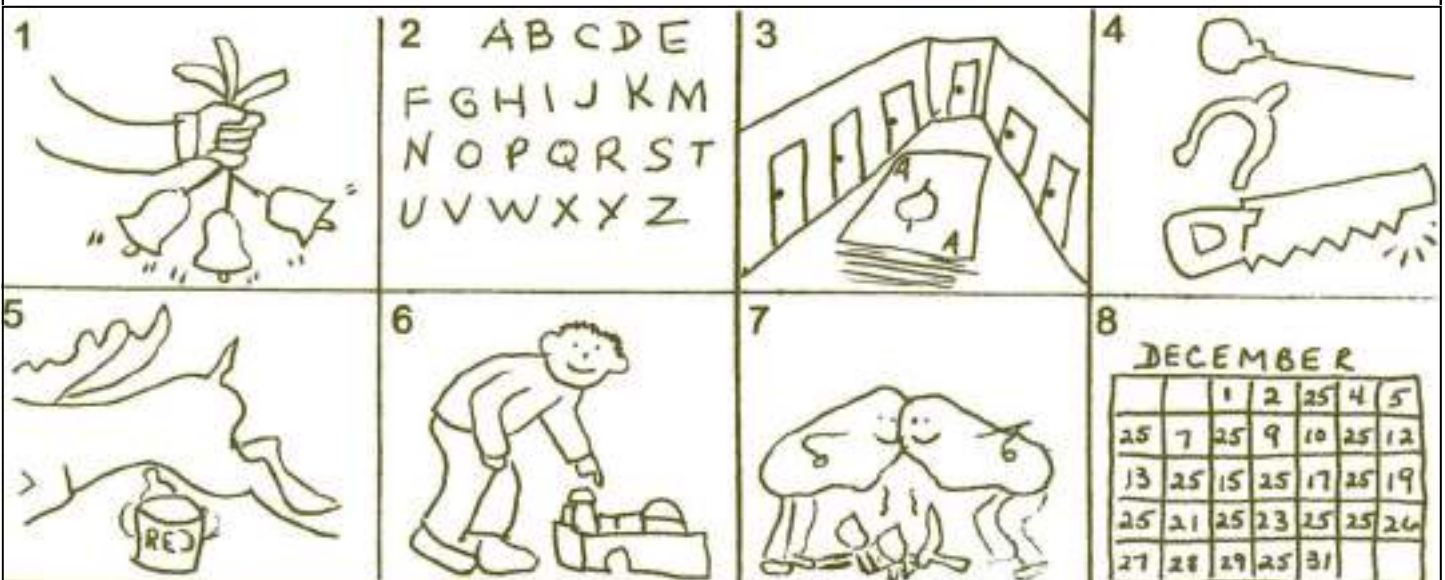
An elderly Floridian, called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried.

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard," he says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."

## HOLIDAY QUIZ

Received from Coni Mc Guinn

Each picture represents a holiday song. Answers are on the last page.





## USEFUL COMPUTER LINKS

By "Cybrary Man" aka Jerry Blumengarten

[www.cybraryman.com](http://www.cybraryman.com)

The Internet is filled with sites that can help you plan for the holidays. In this Holiday issue I have highlighted two sites that provide a lot of links to help make your holidays enjoyable.

The Librarians' Index to the Internet's [Holiday Foods, Beverages, and Recipes](#) site is a great way to prepare for these special celebrations:

<http://lii.org/search/file/holidayfoods>

For Christmas there are links that provide: 400 Christmas Cookie Recipes, Greek Christmas recipes, Gingerbread cookies and cakes, Christmas! Christmas! Christmas! includes Christmas Traditions, Songs of the Season, Christmas Stories and Poems as well as Feasting for the Christmas season, Christmas Trees and More gives information on tree types, selection and care as well as recipes for cookie ornaments, Christmas in Mexico, a bilingual site, includes holiday lyrics, directions for making a piñata as well as recipes for traditional dishes.

For Hanukkah you can find a Virtual Chanukah site with a step-by-step guide as well as recipes and games, other links include how to play the dreidel, recipes for latkes and jelly donuts, the procedure for lighting the hanukkiyah (Hanukkah menorah), and the history of this holiday.

You can also find many links to these holidays: Cinco de Mayo, Easter, Halloween, Kwanzaa, Lent, Mardi Gras, Thanksgiving and others.

Holidays give us a chance to get really creative. Education World has a really interesting page of links with many holiday craft activities.

[Ho! Ho! Ho-liday Art Projects Even Santa Would Love!](#)

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_curr/curr108.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr108.shtml)

Some of the highlights include a Christmas Reindeer, paper chains, Hanukkah crafts, piñatas for the observance of Posadas, and Kwanzaa crafts. Also included are craft ideas to be used as gifts. You can learn how to make an origami paper crane to remember the season of peace and do some New Year craft projects.

This site also provides additional holiday sites of internet interest.

Resources for Winter Holidays can be found at:

<http://www.waterborolibrary.org/christm.htm>

See also: Cybrary Man's Holiday and Cooking links at:

<http://www.angelfire.com/stars3/education/cooking.html>

## MICROWAVING WATER

Received from Bea Kozlowski

A 26-year old man decided to have a cup of coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure how long he set the timer for, but he wanted to bring the water to a boil. When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup, he noted that the water was not boiling, but suddenly the water in the cup "blew up" into his face. The cup remained in tact until he threw it out of his hand, but all the water had flown out into his face due to the build up of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face which may leave scarring.

While at the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this is a fairly common occurrence and water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner, something should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy such as a wooden stir stick or tea bag (nothing metal). It is however a much safer choice to boil the water in a tea kettle.

Warn your family and friends about this!

## LOCK YOUR KEYS IN THE CAR?

Received from Ken Ciani

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone on your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the other person at your home press the unlock button of your key fob (clicker), holding it near the phone on their end. Your car doors will unlock. This saves someone from having to drive your keys to you.

Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk!).



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**Answers to the Holiday Quiz**

1. Jingle Bells
2. Noel
3. Deck the Halls
4. All I Want for Christmas Are My Two Front Teeth
5. Rudolph
6. Toyland
7. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
8. Twelve Days of Christmas

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