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Thank you and Happy Holidays

It doesn't really feel like the winter holidays yet and I couldn't be happier because we all know that snow and ice will eventually come even if it's in smaller amounts than usual. For now we get to enjoy the sunshine and the milder temperatures.



Christine M. Palumbo help to provide the core of our editorial. We have worked together for years and no one is more pleased than I am to have them to rely on for quality parenting information and advice. I admire their content and their work and am very grateful for their collaboration.

attention to detail, me included.

We have a fine art and production staff led by Leah Mitch and I'm proud to work with all of them. Arthur in particular has been doing our ads and helping to put together our flyers and titles since the beginning. Sylvan has designed and manages our website and has created wonderful insignia and logos for our various efforts. We're loaded with talent thank goodness.

With Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas approaching, we have entered the season of wonderful family and child celebrations, and of course gift giving. Our writer Lisa J. Curtis who usually does our New & Noteworthy Column, has expanded it to give you all some more new ideas for great kid gifts this year. We hope they will be helpful.

Speaking of collaboration, I have to thank Tina, who is my right arm and has been the woman I have turned to since 2009 to get my work accomplished. I'm also happy to have a terrific partner in the editorial aspect of my work in Vinny DiMiceli and the various copy editors that pass through our doors. Right now Courtney is on maternity leave having recently given birth to Henry. She'll be back but I hope not too soon. Little babies need lots of attention, care and love. Meanwhile Jim is filling in for her and doing a fine job. Lisa Curtis does an amazing job of editing and I know all the writers are grateful for her

Thanks to our fine sales team, Erin, Mary, Shelli, Jay and Tom, as well as to our colleagues in Westchester. Happy Holidays to Jean, Nina and LynnMarie.

Finally I want to thank Cliff for being such a terrific partner all these years. Next year we begin our 20th year of publishing these magazines. We started with Brooklyn Family in 1998. It's been an amazing ride and one that's hardly over.

Happy Holidays everyone! Thanks for reading.

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HOPE

for the holidays

It's the best gift for your family

BY CAROLYN WATERBURY-TIEMAN

During the cold, dreary days of winter, a popular childhood pastime was listening to records. (For those of you too young to remember, records were flat, black, vinyl discs upon which sound had been recorded and was released when a diamond-tipped needle passed over the grooves as the record spun on a turntable at either 33 or 45 rota-

tions per minute.)

Our record cabinet was stocked with albums of classical music, original Broadway and movie cast recordings, popular artists from the '40s to the '60s, and holiday tunes. More importantly, there was a treasured collection of Disneyland storytime classics such as *Bambi*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and other fairy tales. These were not recordings of the Disney, full-length, animated, feature films. They were

abbreviated versions, on 45s, told by a narrator with various performers providing the voices for the different characters. Catchy songs, unique to these recordings, such as "Cindy-Cinderella went to the ball, Cindy-Cinderella loveliest of all," and "Pinoc-, Pinoc-, Pinocchio, we'll find you if we have to go to Tokyo," were frequently sung, hummed, or whistled in our house.

Curled up in our comfy, green, rocking chair, I listened to these records until I knew them by heart. My favorite was the story of Pandora's box. Placed on Earth by Zeus, Pandora was given everything she could possibly need or want. She was charged only with never opening the beautiful box entrusted to her, (about which she was given no explanation — not a good parenting strategy).

Dreading the moment when her curiosity got the best of her, I remember willing her not to open the box. Visions of the horrible creatures, embodiments of the wickedness she unleashed, were vivid in my imagination. When she finally slammed the lid shut, a gentle, tinkling voice pleaded from inside, "Let me out. Let me out, too." Cautiously, Pandora asked, "Who are you?" Reassuringly, the voice

responded, "I am hope."

Realizing the dire consequences of her actions, Pandora threw open the box, releasing hope into the world. I recall tears of relief threatening to escape at the final words of the closing song, "When you have hope, you have everything."

Hope is a priceless gift we can give our children. It provides comfort when faced with loss and sorrow. It combats doubt in times of uncertainty. It is a source of strength when confronted with hardship and challenges. Combined with competence, confidence, wisdom, and love, hope makes what seems impossible possible. Parenting for hope requires us to:

Choose hope

When our children come to us feeling frightened, discouraged, or overwhelmed, we can help them discover the power of hope. By providing age-appropriate, accurate information; reminding them of their abilities and previous accomplishments; encouraging them to try again; and reassuring them of our unconditional love and support, we assist our children in developing the courage to choose hope.

Pair hope with action

Hope in the absence of effort tends to yield disappointing results. Hoping for a

good grade without studying; hoping for an excellent performance without practicing; or hoping for a successful presentation without preparing are all examples of the misuse of hope. Pairing hope with action significantly increases the likelihood of achieving the desired outcome. But even in the face of failure, it is better to have hoped and tried, than never to have hoped at all.

Inspire hope

Hope is contagious and can be readily spread by something as simple as a smile, a cheerful greeting, an encouraging word, or a random act of kindness. By modeling that which we hope for, we invite others to choose hope. Exhibiting courtesy and consideration for others regardless of age, gender, color, or religion demonstrates our hope for equality. Collecting and donating food and clothing conveys our hope for improving the lives of those less fortunate. Providing quality education reflects our hope for future generations. Adopting environmentally conscious habits is an expression of hope for our future on this planet.

Current social, moral, and political trends are contributing to an uncivil, divisive, combative, destructive interpersonal climate. Indefensible language, attitudes, and behavior are being legitimized, even

normalized. When bombarded, on a daily basis, by accounts of adults in positions of authority, influence, and power behaving abysmally, it is tempting to surrender to disillusionment. Giving in to despair is so easy, because it permits inactivity. By accepting the explanation, "that's just the way it is," we are relieved of the responsibility for attempting to change the status quo. We are choosing to ignore hope's plea to be set free to resist greed, hate, ignorance, and oppression.

This holiday season, my wish for us is hope. Not a passive kind of hope that enables us to sit around waiting for good things to happen, but an active, passionate kind of hope that inspires us to make good things happen for ourselves and for others. In the statement, "I hope..." it is important to remember hope is the verb, an action word. According to Christopher Reeve, "Once you choose hope, anything's possible." To hope is a courageous choice. May we have the courage to take action inspired by hope, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Carolyn Waterbury-Tieman has been married for 29 years and has two sons. She spent 15 years as a family therapist and parent educator and has written extensively on the topic of parenting. To contact her, please e-mail parent4life@yahoo.com.



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Gift guide

Presents to delight children of all ages

BY LISA J. CURTIS



Feline fine

Fur Real Roarin' Tyler is a wide-eyed tiger that responds to a child's voice and touch with more than 100 sound and motion combinations. Tots won't be able to resist letting this cat out of the (gift) bag, so it can be hugged and cuddled! Tyler comes with a squeaking chicken toy that he also reacts to. For kids ages 4 and older, this battery-operated, tail swishing, ear twitching critter promises to captivate. *Fur Real Roarin' Tyler the Playful Tiger*, \$94.99, www.Target.com.

Multitasking monitor

For newborn babies to 10-year-olds, Urban Hello's money- and space-saving Remi baby monitor actually serves a multitude of functions. With the help of its smartphone app, it's a baby monitor, sleep tracker, sleep trainer, alarm clock, music player, and sweet nightlight. Ooh la la, we love its French design! *Remi baby monitor by Urban Hello*, \$99.99, www.amazon.com.



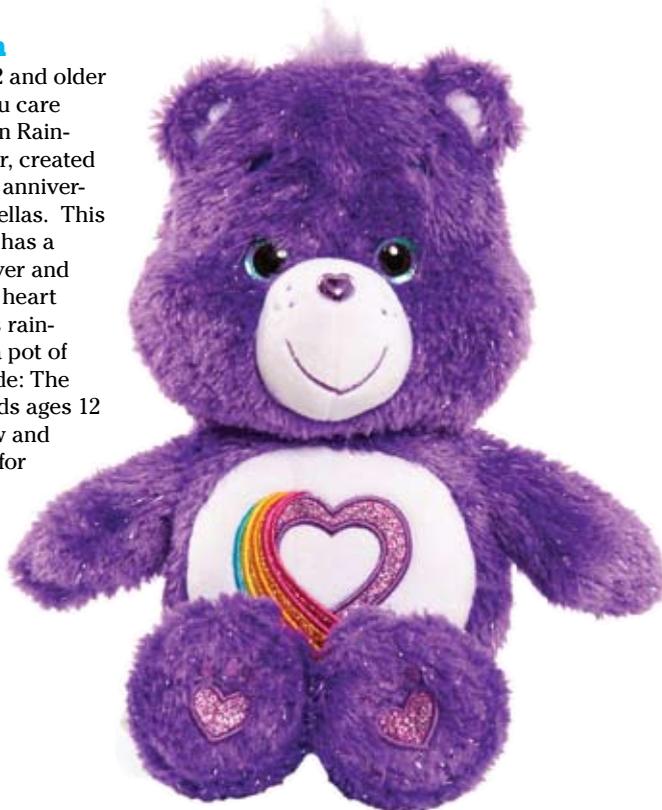
Gear for the A-Team

This military-themed baby carrier from Mission Critical outranks the competition — especially among fathers of infants weighing 8 to 35 pounds. In this carrier, baby can face towards dad or face out and enjoy reconnaissance of the great outdoors. The carrier also has a removable, washable liner and a sun shield. Available in three colors — coyote (pictured), black, or gray — this carrier deserves a medal for style meeting function. *Mission Critical baby carrier*, \$179, www.MissionCritical.cc.



Purple reign

Show that kid ages 2 and older how beary much you care with a limited edition Rainbow Heart Care Bear, created in honor of the 35th anniversary of these furry fellas. This deep purple edition has a pelt flecked with silver and a sparkling rainbow heart on his belly. And its rainbow just may have a pot of gold on the other side: The packaging invites kids ages 12 and younger to draw and submit their design for the next Care Bear for a chance to win \$3,500! *Rainbow Heart Care Bear*, \$24.84, www.walmart.com.



Faux fun

Sweetlings' Frost-A-Friend by Alex Toys includes everything your little pastry chef — ages 6 and older — needs to frost and decorate a cupcake, but without the sugar! In fact, this stocking-stuffer is not edible at all. In lieu of frosting, it includes a tube of whipped clay, a star tip (for professional-looking results), and a plastic cupcake base. After it's frosted, shower Her Majestling with glitter, and use the included tweezers to embellish her with stickers, plastic sprinkles, and, of course, accessories such as a wand, crown, or collar. When the frosting dries, kids can play with their new friend. For more frosting fun, check out the Sweetlings Sprinkle Shop (\$24.99). *Sweetlings Frost-A-Friend HER MAJESTLING* by Alex Toys, \$9.99, www.target.com.



Doodle and design

With the new Dr. Panda Plus Home Designer kit, kids ages 3 to 8 use a dozen dry erase markers to color 51 sturdy, cardboard flashcards featuring home furnishings, walls, and floors. Next, they take a picture of their illustrated flashcard with the app, and their illustrations are imported into their digital playhouse! They can also decorate the clothing of eight characters, including Dr. Panda. *Dr. Panda Plus Home Designer*, \$39.99, www.amazon.com.



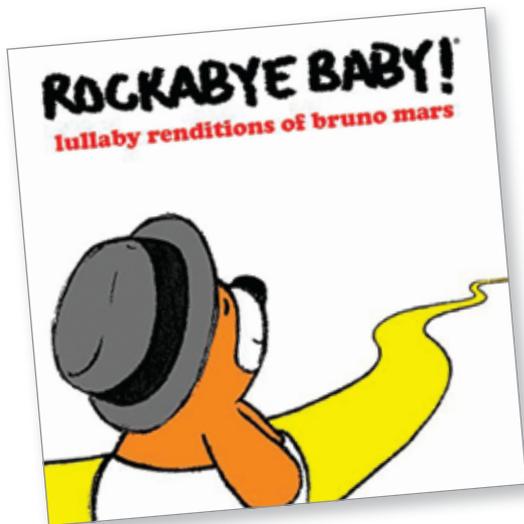
That's the 'Spirit'

Out of the pages of the historical fiction novel "Spirit Riding Free: The Adventure Begins," by Suzanne Selfors (Little Brown and Company), comes this doll and horse set. Inspired by the book's 12-year-old character, Lucky Prescott, and her horse Spirit — which also spawned a series that streams on Netflix, the set includes four carrots that the animal "eats" with battery-operated, whinnying gusto. (Additional accessories include a bucket, canteen, horse blanket, and an excerpt from the book.) Recommended for kids ages 3 and older that adore horses, the Wild West, and irrepressible heroines. *DreamWorks Spirit & Lucky Deluxe Feeding Set*, \$49.99, www.toysrus.com.



Eggciting minis

The Spin Master Hatchimals craze continues this holiday season. These Colleggtibles are an affordable, stocking-size alternative to pricey, full-size Hatchimals Hatching Eggs. First, kids — ages 5 and older — rub the heart on the speckled shell until the color changes, then they press on the shell to hatch the adorable, colorful, inch-high winged creature inside. Choose from seven collections: Cloud Cove, Giggle Grove, Meadow, Farm, Lilac Lake, Jungle, or Savannah. *Hatchimals Colleggtibles 4 pack + Bonus by Spin Master, \$9.99, www.target.com.*



'That's What I Like'

"The Rockabye Baby! Lullaby Renditions of Bruno Mars" album is the perfect stocking stuffer — or shower gift — for expectant parents. Soothing instrumental versions of Mars's hit songs — "Uptown Funk," "24K Magic," "That's What I Like," "Locked Out of Heaven" and much more — are a balm for the soul during those long, early morning hours when baby's awake and mom's feeling blue. *"Rockabye Baby! Lullaby Renditions of Bruno Mars" audio CD, \$16.98, www.rockabyebabymusic.com.*



Expecto the entree

Inspired by the wildly popular Harry Potter series of books and films, here is a set of ceramic dishes that will dazzle wizards and muggles alike at your next special meal. Each of the four place settings (which includes a dinner plate, salad plate, bowl, and 12-ounce cup) features the emblem of one of the four Hogwarts houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, and Slytherin. Kids will race to the table to claim the setting featuring their favorite house! The plates and bowls are edged with J.K. Rowling's couplet for each house. For example, "You might belong in Gryffindor, where dwell the brave at heart. Their daring, nerve, and chivalry set Gryffindors apart." All that remains is toasting the new year with a frothy butterbeer. *Harry Potter Hogwarts House 16 Piece Dinner Set, \$99.99, www.thinkgeek.com.*



Holiday scents are the spice of life

Christmas — and the entire holiday season — wouldn't be the same without its signature scents. Think cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, ginger, peppermint, and pine.

For many of us, the scents of the season evoke holidays of years past. Those yummy smells are essential to the way we experience the traditional foods and beverages we enjoy during this magical time.

Why are certain spices so popular at this time of year? In medieval Europe, Christmas was an occasion to splurge on luxuries from distant lands such as the Middle East. Many classic holiday dishes containing cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves first became popular during that time.

These essential holiday spices don't only add depth and flavor to foods, they are rich in natural plant compounds that have been studied for their health-promoting and disease-preventing properties.

Because spices are derived from plants, they share many of the same nutritional attributes of fruits and vegetables. Spices are very concentrated sources of anti-inflammatory health-protective compounds. For example, a mere ½ teaspoon of ground clove is said to contain more antioxidants than ½ cup of blueberries or cranberries. Using a heavy hand boosts their benefits.

Those benefits are greater than the sum of their individual effects when you also combine two or more.

Let's look at a few of the most popular:

Anise: Popular for its licorice flavor, anise seed is thought to alleviate gas and relieve coughs. It can be added to cakes, cookies, and ice cream as well as breads and fruit salads.

Cardamom: The seeds are helpful for the digestive tract and taste like an airy, gentle ginger with a touch of pine. Cardamom enhances the flavor of pumpkin and other squash, sweet potatoes, and pastries. It's best to purchase the seeds whole and grind them yourself in order to preserve the volatile oils.

Cinnamon: One of the most beloved flavors of the season, cinnamon comes from the brown bark of the cinnamon tree and can be sprinkled into coffee, cider, hot cocoa, hot cereal, whole grain pancakes, toast, poached pears, and baked apples. It may help regulate blood sugar in people with type 2 diabetes and may also lower cholesterol. Cinnamon provides antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial effects.

Clove: Famous for its sweet nutty aroma, clove contains eugenol, which is linked with the prevention of toxicity from environmental pollutants, certain forms



GOOD SENSE EATING

CHRISTINE M. PALUMBO, RD

of cancer, and has antibacterial effects. Use clove wherever you add cinnamon or ginger. For example, stir ground clove into applesauce, stewed pears, or oatmeal. It can be added to muffins, cookies, whole grain pancakes, and sweet breads.

Ginger: Popular year round, it can be grated from its root or added as a powder form. Ginger helps quell morning sickness. In fresh form, it's favored for treating colds, coughs, and congestion.

Nutmeg: This quintessential spice, the seed of the evergreen tree *Myristica fragrans*, has a woody, sweet flavor, and can be purchased whole and grated or purchased ground. It can be dusted on eggnog or added to baked goods. Nutmeg may kill some of the mouth bacteria that contribute to cavities. Children have been known to become sick from ingesting it straight from the jar, so ensure you put it where your child can't reach it.

Finally, many recipes for baked goods call for more sugar than is really necessary. Try cutting the amount by one-quarter. Compensate by adding half as much again of the various "sweet" spices.

Tip: If your spices are more than two to three years old, toss 'em and replace with more potent, new ones. They're best stored in a cool, dark cupboard in airtight containers, not next to your stove.

Christine Palumbo is a nutritionist in Naperville, Ill., where she loves to combine bay leaf, lemon or orange wedges, cinnamon sticks, whole cloves, and water in a pan on the stove to naturally infuse the air with the scent of the holidays. Find her at Christine Palumbo Nutrition on Facebook, @PalumboRD on Twitter or ChristinePalumbo.com.

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Mom, learn to say 'No' and mean it!

I have always been conscientious. I would prepare for everything and anything my kids might need starting at their birth. If they needed a cool drink, fresh diaper, or toy to keep them occupied, you could find that in my diaper bag. Of course, you'd also find a new set of clothes, some Tylenol, an extra bib, blanket, rattle, and snack. And you also might find a few headache pills for me, every credit card and medical card I owned, a list of things I had to do when I got back home, and a bottle of water in case the train got stuck between stops.

I almost never used any of these back-up objects.

Preparing for going out was combined with daily preparations inside the home, too. Schedule doctor visits, pay the bills, make that consultation with the new accountant, take our dogs to the vet, not to mention the laundry, dishes, feedings, etc.

I had been trying to do everything all at the same time, not let anything slip through the cracks, and control it all. Only I couldn't. No one can. None of us can do it

by ourselves, but I was not accustomed to asking for help. And each "Yes" I agreed to only fueled and heightened my anxiety.

It was the exact worst thing I could have done. I ended up feeling stressed, exhausted, and resentful.

Along the way, I slowly learned how to not do it all, and you can, too. It is especially important during this time of moms repeatedly over-extending themselves in order to make the holidays happen, and turn out happy for everyone (but themselves!).

It all begins with baby steps.

Recognize what you should stop doing. It might be as simple as checking your child's backpack or searching for your husband's keys. If the family member — child or adult — is fully capable of doing an age-appropriate task himself or herself, it is not your responsibility to do it for them. Kids have to learn consequences (and so do spouses!).

Say "No." How many times can we discuss that we need to start saying "No" and then continue to say "Yes"? It can be very



HEALTHY LIVING

DANIELLE SULLIVAN

easy once we make up our mind to do it. No, we can't run that bake sale or iron that shirt last minute. No, we can't make that elaborate dinner just because it's your favorite or stay late at work to take on a new task. Don't justify it with a "Well, I actually can if I juggle this and that and stay up late." Yes, perhaps — technically — we can get the given request done, but what will it cost when we have? Will it make you a cranky and resentful mom and spouse? Then "No, I'm sorry, I can't do that today" is perfectly acceptable.

Remember that no detailed explanation is needed. A simple, "No, I'm sorry. I can't do that" is sufficient. We don't need to explain ourselves away. That short phrase is simple, respectful, and to the point.

Set aside time to recharge. Busy moms need to schedule relaxation time the same way you would a doctor's appointment. Without regular leisure and downtime, you will run out of steam fast ... and then how well will you take care of your family?

Make your weekly commitments a group effort. Spouses and children alike need to participate in the functioning of the family unit, so not all household tasks fall on mom. Create a weekly schedule together to help keep family members on point.

Remember that you are a full person who has needs that have nothing to do with your family, your job, or your friends. Taking time for yourself is an act of self-love (and makes you a wonderful role model for your kids), and only when you care for yourself, can you fully care for the people in your life.

Danielle Sullivan is a writer living in New York City. Follow her on Instagram @Deewrite.

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Year-end tax tips

Five ways to save money this season

The end of the year is always a happy time for most people. Holiday parties, family gatherings, a slower time at the office. With a little planning and action now, you'll be able to enjoy all those parties without worrying about financial items on New Year's Eve. Below is a list of what to look:

Review your 401(k) contributions: If you participate in a 401(k), the maximum contribution limit this year is \$18,000; if you're age 50 and older the maximum contribution is \$24,000. You can contribute up to the limit until Dec. 31. If you want to contribute more money to your 401(k) you'll need to contact your company's payroll department and ask what steps are needed to increase your deduction starting with your next paycheck. If your employer allows a lump sum contribution you may want to redirect some or all your year-end bonus into your 401(k).

Take your required minimum distributions: Once you reach age 70-and-a-half you are required to take a distribution from your IRA, 401(k), and other types of retirement plans by Dec. 31 (except for the year you turn 70-and-a-half, when you're given an extension until April 1 to make your first withdrawal.) However, you don't need to take payment from your current employer's 401(k) while you're still working. Penalties are quite large if you miss the deadline — the amount not withdrawn is subject to a 50 percent excise tax. If you haven't taken your required payment yet, contact your financial advisor or 401(k) administrator and take the distribution before the deadline. Also, owners of IRA accounts over age 70-and-a-half can make contributions directly to charity from their IRA. This is a powerful planning tool because it allows taxpayers to make charitable contributions (up to the \$100,000) from their IRAs directly to a charity and to exclude that amount from income. Remember, no taxes will be paid on the distribution, and the income tax charitable deduction is not permitted for this amount.

Make the most tax-effective charitable gifts: Making a gift before the end of the year can increase deductions if



you itemize your deductions. Consider gifting highly appreciated stock instead of selling the stock and donating cash. If highly appreciated stock is donated, you get a deduction for the full value of the contributed stock but avoid paying capital-gains taxes on the increase in value since you've owned it.

Check the deadline for withdrawals from your flexible spending account: Many flexible spending sponsors require people to spend all the funds in their account by Dec. 31 or forfeit whatever money wasn't spent. So check to see if there is a balance in the account before the end of the year and make that doctor or dentist appointment, or buy those new glasses you may have been putting off. Flexible spending funds can also be used for many over-the-counter items like contact lens solution, pain relievers, diaper cream, medical devices like walkers and wheelchairs, and a host of other items. Under IRS rules, an employer may offer participating employees more time through either the carryover option or the grace period option to spend their funds. Under the carryover option, an employee can carry over up to \$500 of unused funds to the following plan



FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING

ANTHONY N. CORRAO

year — for example, an employee with \$500 of unspent funds at the end of 2017 would still have those funds available to use in 2018. Under the grace period option, an employee has until two-and-a-half months after the end of the plan year to incur eligible expenses — for example, March 15, 2018, for a plan year ending on Dec. 31, 2017. Remember, employers can offer either option, but not both, or none at all.

Contribute to a 529 college-savings plan: For most people, 529 accounts are an excellent strategy to save for college tuition. They allow the beneficiary of the account can use the money tax-free for college tuition, room and board, and fees. In some states a state income tax deduction is available for your contribution. Most states require the contribution be made by Dec. 31 in order to get the state tax deduction.

A little year-end planning could put you on the path towards solid retirement and college planning and might help you save on your taxes. Take a few minutes to review your financial plan before the end of the year to see if you can take advantage of any of these year-end strategies.

Anthony N. Corrao is an independent advisor with Corrao Wealth Management. For more than 25 years he has helped families with their financial goals by developing financial, educational, and retirement planning strategies. He can be found at www.corraoown.com.

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Enslaved cooks' deep influence

You've been cooking up a storm for days.

Soon, the whole family will be sitting at your table, which will be loaded down with everybody's favorites. The turkey will be golden. The bread, warm and soft. Pies line your kitchen counter because you've cooked for days. At least, as you'll see in "Bound to the Fire" by Kelley Fanto Deetz, you didn't cook 'round the clock, too.

Most of us, says Deetz, are used to seeing black faces on boxes of our breakfast foods. We might not notice them much anymore but those trademarked figures hide an often misunderstood truth.

The "black community" in Virginia, says Deetz, "is almost as old as the colony itself." In 1619, some 20 "negroes" lived in Jamestown; by 1625, there were 23 "Africans" in all of Virginia. Once slavery took firm hold in the state, there were tens of thousands of enslaved people, but Deetz focuses on cooks, beginning with plantation homes.

As slavery expanded, kitchens began to be set apart from the main house, probably because white plantation owners didn't want slaves under their roofs. For enslaved cooks and their families, that was both good and bad: more privacy was gained by living in the building where the kitchen was, and accommodations were usually larger than in the slave cabins — but that proximity meant that cooks were constantly on-call.

It took "a network of enslaved folks" to put food on the table, not only in growing the food, but in what may have been a house staff of dozens. Cooks cooked, but they were also bakers, butchers, brewers, distillers, and sometimes, laundresses.

A cook was likely taught to read and do "basic math," and she (sometimes, he) taught kitchen chores to new slaves. Despite a constant likelihood of abuse and brutality, cooks often had surprising power over

their mistresses and may have even negotiated their own circumstances.

And if things went really bad, there was always the danger-filled chance for a cook to tamper with the food.

There are, as author Kelley Fanto Deetz indicates in her introduction, several myths and misunderstandings related to enslaved cooks. There were, until now, many unknowns. "Bound to the Fire" sets things straight, but cooking isn't the only focus here.

What would "Southern hospitality" be without the influence of enslaved cooks? Not much, as Deetz indicates — and Southern architecture would be the lesser, too. Using documents and research, Deetz explains how this is so, which leads to a fascinating look at day-to-day work of Virginia cooks, the power they wielded, and how they influenced what you'll eat this holiday season. You'll come to eagerly anticipate those tales, and they serve to underscore Deetz's final point: Americans must look beyond stereotypes and be mindful of those who literally nourished a nation.

Be aware that this is not a cookbook. Instead, this is a book of culinary history and a chance to set it straight. Yes, there are old-timey half-recipes in here but really, "Bound to the Fire" is meant for opening eyes, rather than mouths.

"Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine" by Kelley Fanto Deetz [177 pages, 2017, University of Kentucky Press].

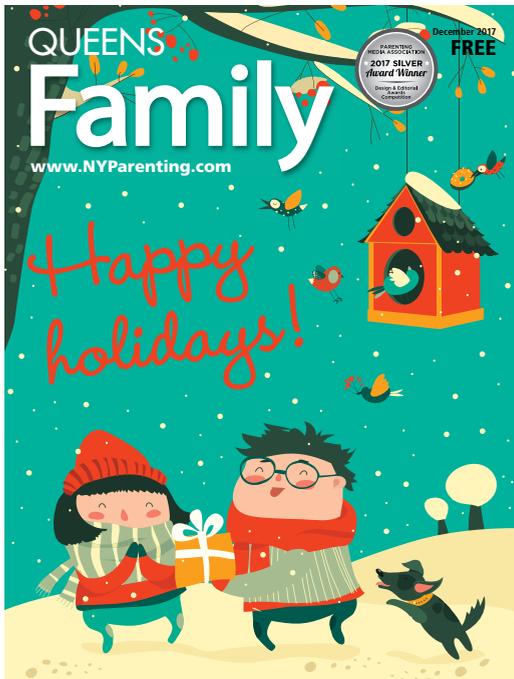
Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was 3 years old, and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill with two dogs and 12,000 books.



THE BOOK WORM

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER





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Calendar

DECEMBER



Masters of African dance

Families enjoy an interactive workshop and performance at Flushing Town Hall when Vado Dimoande and the Kotchegna Dance Company comes to town on Dec. 9.

Participants follow master dancer Vado Dimoande as he calls out the rhythm that accompanies the movement, featuring live drumming in this interactive workshop. The lesson culminates with participants invited to do “solo” steps — improvised movements — to show their appreciation to the drummers and the rhythms that have inspired the dance.

Then families are treated to a performance by Dimoande and the Company. The performance is sure to delight, teach, and inspire audiences with the

joyful dances of the Ivory Coast. Colorful clothing, exuberant song, vibrant dancing, and the exciting rhythms of djembe and doundoun drums will sweep the audience into a powerful experience of West African village life, with dancing, a call-and-response, drum solos, and a finale with audience participation.

Vado Dimoande and the Kotchegna Dance Company; workshop, Dec. 9 at 1 pm; \$7; \$4 children; free for members with tickets to the 2 pm show;

Family performance, Dec. 9 at 2:15 pm \$13, \$10 members; \$8 children; \$6 member children.

Flushing Town Hall [137-35 Northern Boulevard in Flushing; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org]

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Calendar

Submit a listing

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Send your listing request to queenscalendar@cnglocal.com — and we'll take care of the rest. Please e-mail requests more than three weeks prior to the event to ensure we have enough time to get it in. And best of all, it's FREE!

FRI, DEC. 1

IN QUEENS

Fairy Tale: World Music from Korea: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; flushingtownhall@gmail.com; www.flushingtownhall.org; 8pm-10 pm; \$16/\$10 Members and students.

Featuring Korean traditional instruments such as daegeum (Korean bamboo flute), haegeum (Korean fiddle), and geomungo (Korean folk zither), with jeongga (Korean traditional vocals), piano, and percussion, Fairy Tale creates their music inspired by Korean traditional poems and songs. Fairy Tale delivers folk stories, healing messages, and sentimental feelings of Korean poems and jeongga.

FURTHER AFIELD

"Happy as a Clam: The Musical:" Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at West Road, Garden City, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 10 and noon; \$9 (\$7 for members; \$13 for theater only).

Join us for a live musical adventure set in Long Island's Great South Bay. Meet Clammy the Clam who confesses she is not "happy as a clam." Clammy and her best friend Grabby the fiddler crab set out to find her happiness by wishing on a star. They learn about creating friendships when they befriend a love-struck fluke and float with a jellyfish. This new quartet of friends meets the hungry rock and roll performer, Sea Star, and the chase is on! Written by award-winning family performer/journalist and Long Islander Lena Pennino Smith, this popular STEAM-filled show gets everyone singing, dancing and clamoring for more (while sneaking in some local environmental science and geography).

Drones: Is the Sky the Limit?: Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86 (46th St. and 12th Avenue), Manhattan; www.intrepidmuseum.org; 10 am to 5 pm; \$33 (\$31 seniors; \$24, children 5-12; Free children under 5; retired and active duty military, Free).

The exhibit explores pilotless aircraft and the history of drone technology. Visitors can fly actual drones and explore the use of drones in police and fire departments, fashion, and art.

Snow pal puppets: Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at West Road, Garden



A real classic 'Beauty'

Will true love win? Will a kiss wake a princess? Find out when the State Ballet Theatre of Russia brings to life the classic tale of true love, "Sleeping Beauty," on Dec. 3 at the Colden Auditorium, Kuperferberg Center for the Arts, Queens College.

The audience is transported to the storybook kingdom of fairy tale princesses, malevolent witches, and true

love's kiss. The magical classic is the tale of the beautiful princess who waits in sleep for the kiss of her true love. Suitable for older children.

"Sleeping Beauty," Dec. 3, 2-4 pm. Tickets range between \$23 to \$42.

Colden Auditorium, Kuperferberg Center for the Arts, Queens College [153 Reeves Ave., in Flushing; (718) 793-8080; www.kuperferbergcenter.org]

City, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 2:30 pm to 4 pm; Free with admission to the museum. Join us to make your own snow pal, the perfect puppet to welcome winter!

Holiday Tea with American Girl: American Girl Place New York, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, Manhattan; (877) 247-5223; www.americangirl.com/retail/new_york_city.php; 3pm-4pm; \$24 per person.

Get a taste of the season at the brand new location for American Girl Place New York! Bring your dolls for a special holiday tea at the new flagship store in Rockefeller Plaza, complete with a deliciously different menu of teatime treats and crafts. Visitors will make a fleece headband to keep the dolls' ears warm on chilly days and will get festive with a holiday-card-making craft.

SAT, DEC. 2

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Astoria Park: Astoria Park Running Track, 19th Street and Hoyt Ave North; openrun@nyrr.org; openrun.nyrr.org; 8:45 a.m. Free.

Weekly run/walk! All ages welcome, push your stroller, walk your dog, or race three laps

of Astoria Park! Let's show the neighborhood all the fun they are missing out on. Meet in front of the rest area by the entrance to track, 15 minutes before the run starts for check in! Run Begins at 9 am. Sign our one-time waiver at openrun.nyrr.org before you go to speed up check in.

FURTHER AFIELD

Drones: Is the Sky the Limit?: 10 am to 6 pm. Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

SUN, DEC. 3

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Cunningham Park: Cunningham Park, 73rd Ave. and Francis Lewis Boulevard; openrun@nyrr.org; 8:45 a.m. Free.

Join in for a weekly run! All ages welcome, push your stroller, walk your dog, or race three laps of Cunningham Park! Let's show the neighborhood all the fun they are missing out on! Come by to run, walk, or volunteer! Meet us off Union Turnpike at the Comfort Station between the Tennis courts and baseball fields. Check-in starts at 8:45 a.m.

Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

Open Run Begins at 9 a.m. Sign our one-time waiver at openrun.nyrr.org before you go to speed up check in. NYRR Open Run is a free initiative for people of all ages and ability levels. That means that everyone from runners to walkers to parents with strollers are encouraged to join us.

Little Makers: Gingerbread Man's Great Escape: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$6 per child. (Members: \$5 per child.)

Families design and make an escape vehicle for the Gingerbread Man. Recommended for ages 18 months and older.

Family workshop & story time: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; (718) 592-9700; www.queensmuseum.org; 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Message in a Bottle/ Spend Sunday afternoons at the Queens Museum and enjoy art making, dance, music and storytelling. All Family art making workshops are drop-in, except where stated. No fee or advance registration required. Just show up and stay for as long as you like. Storytelling sessions run for 15 minutes and begin at the top of every hour, at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Storytelling: Listen to tales about pirates, treasures and messages in bottles. Spanish and English. Ages 2 and up.

Calpulli Community: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 2 pm; \$16 (\$10 members and students).

Calpulli Community celebrates a year of learning in dance and music with a fun family performance at Flushing Town Hall. Students – both children and adults of all ages – from Queens and Staten Island will perform folk dances from across Mexico. All proceeds from the event support Calpulli's next year of donation-based community programming.

Sleeping Beauty: Colden Auditorium, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Queens College, 153 Reeves Ave. (718) 793-8080; www.kupferbergcenter.org; 2 pm; \$23 to \$42.

The State Ballet Theatre of Russia performs the enchanting story of wishes that really do come true. Set to the music of P. Tchaikovsky and inspired by the timeless fairy tale, *Sleeping Beauty* is one of the most magical and hopeful of the storybook ballets. Follow the beloved story of Princess Aurora from her ill-fated curse to sleep until the kiss of Prince Charming awakes her to happily ever after.

FURTHER AFIELD

Drones: Is the Sky the Limit?: 10 am to 6 pm. Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

Meet Rinaldo: Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at West Road, Garden City, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 11:30 am and 2 pm; \$9 (\$7 members) \$13 theater only tickets.

One of the most popular circus clowns to

have visited LICM is back! Meet the Remarkable Renaldo, the ringmaster and clown of Circus Renaldo. Witness the juggling, pranks, magic and humor of this world class clown as he communicates with audience of all ages using his own unique language. In this interactive piece, he engages with the audience directly and brings lucky volunteers on stage to share in the antics. Renaldo has performed with many circuses around the world, so catch him here while you can!

Family Sundays: Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center, One Museum Drive, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassau-museum.org; 1 pm to 4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Converse, collaborate and create at the museum and be inspired by the works in the galleries, explore new art materials. Children and adults reconnect while talking about and making art together. Family art projects draw inspiration from the artworks on view in the Museum's exhibition, Fool the Eye. New projects are featured every week.

TUES, DEC. 5

FURTHER AFIELD

"Happy as a Clam: The Musical:" 10 and noon. Long Island Children's Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

Hear it, See It, Draw It: Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center, One Museum Drive, Roslyn, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassau-museum.org; 9:30 am to 10:30 am; \$5 (Free for members).

Look, listen and create with picture books and art! Children and their adult companions share story time followed by a walk through the gallery and drawing activities inspired by illustrations in our story book and the art on view.

WED, DEC. 6

IN QUEENS

Monthly Jazz Jam: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 7 pm to 10 pm; \$10 (Free for members, students and jamming musicians).

Jazz Jams are a fun way to hone your skills and jam with your peers. The house band is led by saxophonist Carol Sudhalter. All are welcome, regardless of instrument (vocalists, too!). Don't play? Come listen!

FURTHER AFIELD

"Happy as a Clam: The Musical:" 10 and noon. Long Island Children's Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

THURS, DEC. 7

IN QUEENS

Double Dutch: Al Oerter Recreation Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave. (718)353-7853; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/>

events/2017/12/01/my-gown-up-me; 4 pm to 6 pm; \$25 to \$150 (membership fee). Membership free for children under 17.

Calling all jump rope enthusiasts to take your rope skills to the next level. Come join us for weekly double dutch instruction. This class is to open to children of all skill levels and jumping styles. Skilled instructors are on-hand to provide basic double dutch instruction. Participants must be Recreation Center members. Membership is free to youth ages 17 & under.

FURTHER AFIELD

"Happy as a Clam: The Musical:" 10 and noon. Long Island Children's Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

FRI, DEC. 8

IN QUEENS

STEM Night: Health and Medicine: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; www.nyscience.org; 5:30 pm to 8 pm; Free.

Middle school, high school and college students can learn about the wide range of career opportunities available in the medical field. The evening includes hands-on activities, career conversations with experts in the field, and networking. Light refreshments will be provided. Chaperones required for students under age 16. R.S.V.P. required.

FURTHER AFIELD

"Happy as a Clam: The Musical:" 10 and noon. Long Island Children's Museum. See Friday, Dec. 1.

Holiday Tea with American Girl: 3pm-4pm. American Girl Place New York. See Friday, Dec. 1.

SAT, DEC. 9

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Astoria Park: 8:45 a.m. Astoria Park Running Track. See Saturday, Dec. 2.

Interactive workshop: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 1 pm; \$7 (\$4 children, free for members with performance tickets).

Participants will follow master dancer Vado Dimoande as he calls out the rhythm that accompanies the movement. Live drumming is introduced, and the workshop culminates with participants invited to do "solo" steps – improvised movements – to show their appreciation to the drummers and the rhythms that have inspired the dance.

Collage workshop: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 1 pm; \$15 (\$10 members/students).

Create a paper collage inspired by Town Hall Teaching Artist Steve Palermo's solo exhibit, Gods, Beasts and Men. Explore how you can transform images found in magazines



Light up the holidays

Get into the holiday spirit with fun for the whole family! Christmas in the Garden returns to Queens Botanical Garden on Dec. 3.

Families enjoy live musical performances, photos with Santa (fee required), tree lighting, garden tour, holiday crafts, New York Cares coat drive, workshop (fee required), and blowout sales at QBG Shop!

Take a snap with the Jolly Old Elf from Noon to 4:30 pm; stop and make a holiday craft from noon to 5 pm; Be creative and learn about conifers in the Pinetum, then make a swag and wreath in the workshop (\$10, registration required, all materials

included).

While you are waiting for the tree to be lit up enjoy a performance by The Rough Dozen Acapella and a bout of Christmas carolling.

Christmas in the Garden; Dec.3 from noon to 5:30 pm; Free; photos with Santa and workshop participation require additional fee; \$10 event parking rate in effect.

Donate a coat for those in need — the Garden is a collection site for the annual New York Cares coat drive for those most in need.

Queens Botanical Garden [43-50 Main St. in Flushing, (718) 539-5296; www.queensbotanical.org].

into exciting visual stories while discovering your own voice. All materials will be supplied and no experience is necessary.

Family Performance: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 2:15 pm; \$13 (\$10 members; \$8 children; \$6 member children).

Vado Dimoande & Kotchegna Dance Company will delight, teach, and inspire audiences with the joyful dances of the Ivory Coast! Colorful clothing, exuberant song, vibrant dancing, and the exciting rhythms of djembe and doundoun drums will sweep the audience into a powerful experience of West African village life, with dancing, a call-and-response, drum solos, and a finale with audience participation.

FURTHER AFIELD

Hello Hangul: Long Island Children's Mu-

seum, 11 Davis Ave. at West Road, Garden City, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 12:30 pm to 3 pm; Free with admission to the museum.

What does your name look like in Korean? Hyang-Ran Kang teaches us to use brush and ink as you are introduced to the art of calligraphy.

SUN, DEC. 10

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Cunningham Park: 8:45 a.m. Cunningham Park. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

Little Makers: Snow Globe Wonderland: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$6 per child. (Members: \$5 per child).

Families design and create winter snow globes. Recommended for ages 18 months and older.

Historic House Tour: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 1 pm to 5 pm; \$20 (\$15 in advance; \$5 children).

Celebrate the holiday season and learn about the unique histories in this tour of seven historic sites in Flushing and Corona. Each site will offer special activities and delicious refreshments. A mini bus will be available to take visitors to selected historic houses. Advanced tickets required.

Holiday market: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 1 pm to 5 pm; Free.

Get your holiday shopping off to a great start! Artists and Crafts people from the Queens area will be selling their wares in our gallery, including jewelry, paintings, hand-crafted ceramics, paper goods, greeting cards, clothing, and more.

Holiday Historic House tour: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave. (718) 359-6227; www.vomuseum.org; 1 pm to 5 pm; \$15 (\$25 at the door).

Celebrate the holiday season with seven historic sites and learn about their unique histories. Kingsland Homestead, Bowne House, Lewis H. Latimer House, Friends Meeting House, Flushing Town Hall, the Voelker Orth Museum and Louis Armstrong House open their doors for a special afternoon brimming with holiday cheer. Each historic house offers tours, sponsors activities, and provides refreshments and snacks. Set your own pace and visit as many sites as you choose. Six sites are within walking distance in Flushing. Shuttle bus transportation is available between the sites. The Voelker Orth is dressed for the holidays. Visitors can participate in a seasonal sing-along with Kenneth Gartman in the parlor, do a little shopping at our plant and gift sale, and enjoy yummy refreshments. Our tour guides can tell you about the house and museum and an art exhibition is on view. And please add a gumdrop to our gingerbread houses.

Historic House Tour: Kingsland Homestead, 145-35 37th Avenue; (718) 939-0647 ext. 14; info@queenshistoricalsociety.org; 1 pm to 5 pm; \$15 advanced purchase (\$20 at the for: \$5 children under 12).

Celebrate the holidays by visiting at seven Queens historical sites - visit as many as you like - Since this year is filled with important historic anniversaries, the theme will be the celebration of The Centennial of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Each house features a prominent woman associated directly or indirectly with the historic site. The six sites are within walking distance. There will be a dedicated shuttle that runs between Flushing Town Hall and the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Handouts will be given to visitors for the bus times and schedule. Contact

Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

the Queens Historical Society for times and locations.

30th Annual Holiday Historic House Tour 2017: Queens Historical Society, 14335 37th Ave.; (718) 939-0647; info@queenshistoricalsociety.org; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/30th-annual-holiday-historic-house-tour-2017-tickets-37216321018>; 1 pm; \$15.

Celebrate the holiday season with seven Queens historic sites and learn about their unique histories! Set your own pace and visit as many sites as you choose. One ticket is good for all seven sites. Each historic house offers tours, sponsors activities, and provides refreshments and snacks. Many of the houses will have musical performances throughout the day, holiday crafts to make and take, and historically-themed seasonal displays and decorations. Since this year is filled with important historic anniversaries, the overarching theme will be the celebration of The Centennial of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Each house will feature a prominent woman associated directly or indirectly with the historic site. This event will be a point of reflection upon the importance of the women featured, and will greatly aid in recognizing the heritage they left to future generations. The six sites are within walking distance. There will be a dedicated shuttle that runs between Flushing Town Hall and the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Handouts will be given to visitors for the bus times and schedule.

FURTHER AFIELD

Family Sundays: 1 pm to 4 pm. Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

TUES, DEC. 12

FURTHER AFIELD

Hear it, See It, Draw It: 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center. See Tuesday, Dec. 5.

THURS, DEC. 14

IN QUEENS

Double Dutch: 4 pm to 6 pm. Al Oerter Recreation Center. See Thursday, Dec. 7.

FRI, DEC. 15

FURTHER AFIELD

Holiday Tea with American Girl: 3 pm-4 pm. American Girl Place New York. See Friday, Dec. 1.

SAT, DEC. 16

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Astoria Park: 8:45 a.m. Astoria Park Running Track. See Saturday, Dec. 2.

Winter Wonderland: Al Oerter Recreation Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave. (718)353-7853; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/>

events/2017/12/01/my-gown-up-me; 11 am to 5 pm; Free.

Join NYC Parks in an afternoon of family relay races, crafts for children and adults, a photo op with Santa Claus, snacks, and a movie!

Pomander Workshop: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave. (718) 359-6227; www.vomuseum.org; 1 pm to 1:30 pm; \$6 (\$10 per family).

This workshop offers a hands-on introduction to a winter craft mentioned in literature as early as the 13th century. Pomanders were used to ward off infections or bad odors through the Middle Ages. Pomanders were particularly popular in the Victorian times when they were fancifully decorated. Made with oranges or other fruit, they offer a sweet fragrance in winter and lend attractive decor to the home. We provide the supplies, share their history and offer some decorating tips and techniques. We will also serve some hot cocoa on the side. It is an activity that you can revisit at home or other gatherings. The workshop is suitable for adults, teens and tweens.

Dragons Love Tacos and Other Stories: Jamaica Center for the Arts & Learning, 153rd St. and Jamaica Ave. (718) 658-7400; www.jcal.org; 2 pm; \$10 General Admission (\$5 children).

Dragons love tacos: They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa . . . oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble. The award-winning team behind Those Darn Squirrels! has created an unforgettable, laugh-until-salsa-comes-out-of-your-nose tale of new friends and the perfect snack.

SUN, DEC. 17

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Cunningham Park: 8:45 a.m. Cunningham Park. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

Framed Jewelry Art Workshop: Victorian Building at Maple Grove Cemetery, 83-15 Kew Gardens Rd. (347) 878-6614; info@friendsofmaplegrove.org; www.friendsofmaplegrove.org/events; 10 am; \$25/\$20 members.

Friends of Maple Grove presents a holiday workshop for framed jewelry art. You can bring some personal items to add if you wish. Reserve now as class size is limited! Free parking on cemetery grounds.

Little Makers: Gingerbread House Engineering: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona, Queens (718) 699-0005 X353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am and 11:30 am; \$9 per child. (Members: \$8 per child) plus NYSCI admission.

Families design and create mini gingerbread houses. Recommended for children ages 18

months and older.

Little Makers: Gingerbread House Engineering: NYSCI New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th Street, Corona, Queens (718) 699-0005; nysci.org; 10:30 am and 11:30 am; \$9 per child. (Members: \$9 per child.) Plus general admission.

Families design and create mini gingerbread houses. Recommended for children ages 18 months and older.

Family workshop & story time: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; (718) 592-9700; www.queensmuseum.org; 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Spend Sunday afternoons at the Queens Museum of Art and enjoy art making, dance, music and storytelling. All Family art making workshops are drop-in, except where stated. No fee or advance registration required. Just show up and stay for as long as you like. Storytelling sessions run for 15mins and begin at the top of every hour, at 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm. Storytelling: Listen to tales about pirates, treasures and messages in bottles. Spanish and English. Ages 2 and up.

"The Gift of the Magi:" Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 2 pm; \$16 (\$10 members and students).

Celebrating the holiday season, FTH Space Grantee Queens Opera Theatre presents "The Gift of the Magi", composed by Peter Ekstrom. The classic O'Henry short story, set to music and lyrics, tells the story of a young couple living in New York City on Christmas Eve 1905. They loved each other so much that they each sold their most prized possession to buy the other a Christmas present. Their special gifts bring a touching reaffirmation of their unselfish love.

FURTHER AFIELD

Family Sundays: 1 pm to 4 pm. Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

MON, DEC. 18

IN QUEENS

"The Gift of the Magi:" 7:30 pm. Flushing Town Hall. See Sunday, Dec. 17.

TUES, DEC. 19

FURTHER AFIELD

Hear it, See It, Draw It: 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center. See Tuesday, Dec. 5.

THURS, DEC. 21

IN QUEENS

Double Dutch: 4 pm to 6 pm. Al Oerter Recreation Center. See Thursday, Dec. 7.



A fantasia of tiny trains

Hop aboard for the 16th Annual Holiday Transit Show at the New York Transit Museum at Grand Central Station now through Feb. 4, 2018.

Dazzling children and adults, the display features Lionel trains traveling along a 34' long, two-level, "O" gauge model train layout. Departing from a miniature replica of Grand Central Terminal on their way to the North Pole, this year's exhibition showcases the Transit Museum's Lionel Metro-North, Polar Express, and vintage subway train sets.

A selection from the Museum's col-

lection of trolley and elevated train models created by Dr. George T.F. Rahilly will also be on display to the delight of viewers.

The exhibit is set against a cityscape backdrop designed by Brooklyn-based artist Josh Cochran.

16th Annual Holiday Train Show, daily through Feb. 4, 2018; Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm; free

NY Transit Museum at Grand Central Station [89 East 42nd St. at Park Avenue in Midtown; (212) 878-0106; www.nytransitmuseum.org]

FRI, DEC. 22

FURTHER AFIELD

Holiday Tea with American Girl: 3 pm–4 pm. American Girl Place New York. See Friday, Dec. 1.

SAT, DEC. 23

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Astoria Park: 8:45 a.m. Astoria Park Running Track. See Saturday, Dec. 2.

SUN, DEC. 24

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Cunningham Park: 8:45 a.m. Cunningham Park. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

TUES, DEC. 26

IN QUEENS

App Design 101: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona, Queens (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; nysci.org/innovation-camps; www.nyscience.org; 9 am to 3 pm; \$85 per participant (Members: \$75 per participant).

At this day camp for students in grades 3–5, kids will learn the fundamentals of app design using a free open source online tool, MIT App Inventor. Advance registration required.

WED, DEC. 27

IN QUEENS

Computing Creations: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona, Queens (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; nysci.org/innovation-camps; www.nyscience.org; 9 am to 3 pm; \$85 per participant (Members: \$75 per

participant).

At this day camp for students in grades 3 to 5, kids will learn the basics of coding to create their own digital games. Students will build interactive stories, animations and games using a free online resource called Scratch. Advance registration required.

Double Dutch Tournament: Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, 93-29 Queens Blvd. (718) 471-4818; <https://www.nycgov-parks.org/events/2017/12/27/26th-annual-double-dutch-tournament>; 9:30 am to 5 pm; Free.

Join in for the 26th annual event - Participants are welcome to register as a team or unattached for this competition. Divisions include novice, intermediate and advanced. Teams and individuals will be judged in the categories of compulsory, doubles, freestyle and speed. Check in begins at 9:30 a.m. For individuals without a team, pairings will be chosen at 10:30 a.m. The competition begins at 11 a.m.

ReMake the Holidays: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona, Queens, (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; nysci.org/innovation-camps; www.nyscience.org; Noon to 4pm; Free with admission (fees for some workshops).

Families can bend, twist, light, sculpt and animate a new version of the holiday season with workshops, demos, artist installations and more at this annual event. Each day will focus on a different recyclable material: December 27 – textiles, December 28 – paper, December 29 – plastic, and December 30 – metal. This year's event will include puppet-making workshops and performances, and daily ice sculpting demos.

Winter recess: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; 718.592.9700; www.queensmuseum.org; 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Spend the afternoon at the Queens Museum and enjoy art making, dance, music and storytelling. All Family art making workshops are drop-in, except where stated. No fee or advance registration required. Just show up and stay for as long as you like. Storytelling sessions run for 15mins and begin at the top of every hour, at 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm.

FURTHER AFIELD

Shoohorang & Bandabi: Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at W. Road, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 2 pm to 4 pm; Free with Museum Admission.

Learn about the official mascots of the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympics held in PyeongChang, South Korea! Soohorang is the tiger guardian meant to protect the competing athletes, and Bandabi is the brave bear in charge of the celebrations. In honor of the Winter Games, join us as we make our own adorable "masks" in the shape of Soohorang and Bandabi.

Calendar

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

Watson Adventures' Whodunnit at the Met Family Scavenger Hunt:

Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan; (877) 946-4868; rsvp@watsonadventures.com; www.watsonadventures.com/public/event/met-whodunnit-family-scavenger-hunt; 2 pm; \$31.00-\$42.00 (includes museum admission).

Join Watson Adventures on a unique murder mystery scavenger hunt for kids 10 and up! A killer is on the loose at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and it's up to you to stop him! The killer has created a scavenger hunt that, when completed, reveals his name, the weapon he used and where he hid the body in the museum. You'll get a list of suspects, weapons and hiding places that are all in the museum. By following the trail of clues and answering tricky questions, you'll provide the police with the evidence they need to catch and convict the killer. Can you figure out whodunnit? Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Price includes museum admission.

THURS, DEC. 28

IN QUEENS

ReMake the Holidays: Noon to 4 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Winter recess: 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Queens Museum of Art. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

FURTHER AFIELD

Watson Adventures' Whodunnit at the Met Family Scavenger Hunt: 10:30 am. Metropolitan Museum of Art. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Kwanzaa Celebration: Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at W. Road, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; 2 pm to 4 pm; Free with Museum Admission.

Do you like weeklong celebrations? Kwanzaa is the time when many African American families get together to give thanks and to enjoy the blessings of family. Join Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and LICM as we explore this unique holiday that celebrates African American culture. Get hands-on as we learn about the rich traditions and the meaning behind Kwanzaa, and make your own crafts to join in the festive fun!

FRI, DEC. 29

IN QUEENS

ReMake the Holidays: Noon to 4 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Winter recess: 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Queens Museum of Art. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

SAT, DEC. 30

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Astoria Park: 8:45 a.m. Astoria Park Running Track. See Saturday, Dec. 2.

ReMake the Holidays: Noon to 4 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Wednesday, Dec. 27.

SUN, DEC. 31

IN QUEENS

NYRR Open Run Cunningham Park: 8:45 a.m. Cunningham Park. See Sunday, Dec. 3.

Little Makers: Make Some Noise: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. (718) 699-0005 X353; nysci.org/innovation-camps; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am to 12:30 pm; \$6 per child. (Members: \$5 per child.)

Families design and make noisemakers for their New Year's Eve celebrations. Recommended for ages 18 months and older.

FURTHER AFIELD

Countdown to 12! A Dino-Mite 2018: Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave. at West Road, Garden City, Long Island; (516) 224-5800; www.licm.org; Noon to 4 pm; Free with Museum Admission.

Join us for a Dino-mite "Noon" Year's Eve party! Celebrate the new year with LICM and party like a dinosaur. (Can you tell we're excited about our next traveling exhibit?) Dig into fun activities; Stomp at an extreme dance party; Roar when the ball drops at noon and 4 pm! Start or end your day of fun with the ball drop of your choice; We'll be ringing in the New Year all day long as we make 2017 extinct!

LONG-RUNNING

IN QUEENS

My Grown Up and Me: Al Oerter Recreation Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave. (718) 353-7853; <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2017/12/01/my-grown-up-me>; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 am to 10 am, until Fri, Dec. 22; \$25 to \$150 (membership fee).

Tots explore their creative side and examine their surroundings in this free play time class. With the assistance of their grown up, children build their own Imagination Playground, move through tunnels, pop up houses, and more! For children ages 18 months to five years. Parents/guardians must accompany their children and must have recreation center membership.

GingerBread Lane: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona, Queens (718) 699-0005, ext. 353; www.nyscience.org; Weekdays, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 6 pm, until Sun, Jan. 14, 2018; Free with admission to the hall.

Visitors can marvel at homemade ginger-

bread houses made entirely of edible gingerbread, royal icing and candy. The houses are drafted, designed, baked, planned, built and decorated by creator Jon Lovitch over the course of an entire year. GingerBread Lane has won the Guinness World Record for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 for the largest gingerbread village. Lovitch's creation will again contend for this year's Guinness World Record.

Teen Program: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave. (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Friday, Dec. 1, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, Dec. 15, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, Jan. 12, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, Feb. 9, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, March 2, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, March 16, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, April 6, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, April 20, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, May 4, 4 pm to 6 pm; Friday, May 18, 4 pm to 6 pm; Free with admission to the museum.

Teens will learn about Jim Henson and his life's work from the Museum's new permanent exhibition. Using GiphyCam, a customizable GIF making app, teens will create Jim Henson-inspired characters and animate them in GIF form. Teen Digital Media Lab is a series of free design jams just for teens. These events are a unique opportunity to get exclusive access to the Museum, share in your favorite kinds of media-making, and experiment with new techniques and materials. We work with everything from vintage arcade games to web-based hacking tools as we explore the Museum's collection in fun and innovative ways.

Family Program: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave. (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Jan. 6, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Jan. 13, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Jan. 14, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 am to 4 pm; Monday, Dec. 17, 11 am to 4 pm; Free with admission to the museum.

Moving Image Studio is the Museum's drop-in space where visitors of all ages can create media and other projects. Families are welcome to stop by and build their own puppets and animation inspired by The Jim Henson Exhibition and the core exhibition Behind the Screen. Activities include stop-motion animation, puppet making with found objects, create your own meme, and coloring. Recommended for ages 4 and up and their adult companions. Please note: During Thanksgiving weekend and Winter Recess, the Museum will present holiday programs for families featuring a big-screen matinee and themed-workshop activities.

Activity Table: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; www.queensbotanical.org; Saturdays and Sundays, 2 pm to 4 pm, until Sun, Dec. 31; Free with admission to the gardens.

Stop by the activity table to create something appropriate - for all ages!

Family Holiday Programs: Museum of

Songs for Hanukkah

Celebrate the holiday with a fun filled rocking concert with Mister G at the Jewish Museum, Dec. 17.

Mister G's joyful and energetic concerts span genres from bluegrass to bossa nova and funk to folk, with children and parents singing and clapping along from the first infectiously catchy song.

For his Hanukkah show, Mister G puts a new twist on traditional holiday favorites, with songs from his Parents' Choice® Gold award-winning album, *The Mitzvah Bus*. Missus G (Mister G's partner onstage and in life) will lead the crowd in dancing to "Challahlala," "Hola Shalom," "Tokhes" (a Yiddish take on Simon Says), and of course, "Hanukkah," his ska-tinged ode to the Festival of Lights.



Hanukkah concert with Mister G; Dec. 17 at 11:30 am; tickets are \$16 general admission; \$13 for members.

The Jewish Museum [1109 5th Ave. at 92nd St. in Carnegie Hill; (212) 423-3200; thejewishmuseum.org]

West Dr, Manhattan; (212) 988-9093; Mondays – Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am and 11:30 am, Thursdays, 10:30 am and 11:30 am, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm, until Sat, Dec. 30; \$12 (\$8 for children under 12).

The special presentation is a variety show that celebrates the holiday season in song, dance and puppetry. The production quickly becomes a comedy of errors when Baby Bear invites Santa to star in Mama and Papa Bear's annual Christmas Eve holiday show. The audience also gets to join in on the fun with sing-alongs during the performance of holiday favorites "I Have a Little Dreidel" and "Feliz Navidad."

George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker": David H. Koch Theater, 20 Lincoln Center Plaza, Manhattan; (212) 870-5570; www.lincolncenter.org/venue/david-h-koch-theater; Thursdays, 7 pm, Fridays, 8 pm, Saturdays, 2 pm and 8 pm, Sundays, 1 pm and 5 pm, until Sun, Dec. 31; Tickets begin at \$25.

As the clock chimes midnight, a brave young girl turns the tide in a battle between toy soldiers and mischievous mice, and a blizzard of ballerinas reveal a wonderful world of confection. All 90 dancers, 62 musicians, 32 stagehands and two casts of 50 young students each from the School of American Ballet join forces to make each performance as magical as possible. Children of all ages from New York City and the nation are captivated by the lure of Tchaikovsky's music, Balanchine's choreography, Karinska's sumptuous costumes, and Rouben Ter-Arutunian's magical sets.

Hands-On Art: Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center, One Museum Drive, Roslyn, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassaumuseum.org; Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Dec. 23, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Jan. 6, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Jan. 13, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 am to 3 pm; Free with museum admission.

Spend up to an hour exploring techniques and materials and then continue to explore the grounds filled with trails and gardens.

Elf the Musical: The Theater at Madison Square Garden, 2 Pennsylvania Plaza, Manhattan; (212) 465-6741; www.thegarden.com; Wednesdays, 7 pm, Thursdays and Fridays, 11 am and 7 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm and 6 pm, Wed, Dec. 13 – Fri, Dec. 29; \$39 to \$150.

Embrace your inner elf this season with this fun holiday show. Elf the Musical is the hilarious tale of Buddy, who crawls into Santa's bag of gifts as a child and is mistakenly transported to the North Pole. Buddy grows up thinking he's an elf, but between his lousy toy-making abilities and enormous size, he begins to realize he's not like the others. With Santa's blessing, Buddy sets off on a whirlwind journey through New York City to find his birth father and learn about his past. "Cheers" cast member George Wendt stars as Santa Claus.

the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave. (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Saturday, Dec. 23, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Dec. 24, 11 am to 4 pm; Tuesday, Dec. 26, 11 am to 4 pm; Wednesday, Dec. 27, 11 am to 4 pm; Thursday, Dec. 28, 11 am to 4 pm; Friday, Dec. 29, 11 am to 4 pm; Saturday, Dec. 30, 11 am to 4 pm; Sunday, Dec. 31, 11 am to 4 pm; Monday, Jan. 1, 11 am to 4 pm; Free with admission to the museum.

The LEGO Batman Movie plus a "Superhero" workshop Create your own superhero world during winter recess with the Museum's drop-in art making workshops for families. Activities include making one's own LEGO animations and superhero masks, and designing superhero costumes. Recommended for ages 4 and up.

FURTHER AFIELD

Santaland at Macy's Herald Square: Macy's Herald Square, 151 West 34th Street, Manhattan; (212) 695-4400; <https://l.macys.com/new-york-ny>.

Macy's Santaland transports the young and young-at-heart into a fantasy world of glittering pine trees, snow-capped mountains, twinkling lights, cuddly animals, and gingerbread cookies. Located on the 8th floor of the iconic flagship store, this 13,000 square foot Christmas Village is filled with holiday treasures, taking customers on a special visit with the one and only Santa Claus.

16th Annual Holiday Transit Show: NY Transit Museum at Grand Central Station, 89 East 42nd St. at Park Avenue, Manhat-

tan; (212) 878-0106; www.nytransitmuseum.org; Weekdays, 8 am to 8 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am to 6 pm, until Sun, Feb. 4, 2018; Free.

Dazzling children and adults, the display features Lionel trains traveling along a 34' long, two-level, "O" gauge model train layout. Departing from a miniature replica of Grand Central Terminal on their way to the North Pole, this year's exhibition showcases the Transit Museum's Lionel Metro-North, Polar Express, and vintage subway train sets. A selection from the Museum's collection of trolley and elevated train models created by Dr. George T.F. Rahilly will also be on display to the delight of viewers.

Fri-Yay Art Day: Nassau County Museum of Art - The Manes Center, One Museum Drive, Long Island; (516) 484-9338; nassaumuseum.org; Friday, Dec. 1, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Dec. 8, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Dec. 15, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Dec. 22, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Jan. 5, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Jan. 12, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; Friday, Jan. 19, 9:30 am to 10:30 am; \$5 (free for members).

Under the guidance of Deanna DelSanto, young children and their adult companions investigate color, shape, form and more with hands-on activities. They will have the opportunity to experiment and become familiar with art materials and processes as they discover new skills while nurturing creative expression.

The Three Bears Holiday Bash: Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, West 79th and



Holiday joy is fur everyone

When I was a child, my sister and I hung up our Christmas stockings on the same wooden doorway in the dining room each year. Once our stockings were up, we'd place our dogs' stockings right next to them. The glitter, the glue, and the mess were all part of the fun. I continued the tradition with my own kids, so we hang our Mom and Dad stockings next to our daughters' and son's stockings, and then we begin the process of hanging the pets' stockings.

If you walk into our living room in December, you'll see close to 10 stockings in total and you might have thought we have an enormous family. Well, I guess we do, if you count our furry members.

It's a little bit of extra effort in a home where Santa comes to all the children and pets. Many late Christmas Eves throughout the years have been spent filling stockings with goodies, including toys, rawhides, and catnip. It has always been well worth the work, partly because many Christmas mornings were spent speculating what Django and Hayley thought of Santa since they were really the only ones in the house

who knew for sure what he looked like in person. And then the kids would be off to inspect the stockings to see what Santa left behind. The joy on the children's faces was always a delight, and I hope it is a lasting memory that they will keep and share with their own children one day.

Django was the last pet to get her own stocking after we adopted her seven years ago. We excitedly made room on the wall for our new pup just as I recalled making a new stocking for each child and furry family member throughout the years. Our dogs may not talk, but they certainly provide comfort and love to all of us.

This summer, we had to say goodbye to Hayley, the sweetest pup on earth. Here we thought we were changing her life when we rescued the little, abused Chihuahua 10 years ago, only to find out, she changed our lives exponentially. It's going to hurt when we take her stocking out of the Christmas storage box. Just last year, we were taking funny Christmas photos with her. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't miss her.

Our dogs are a definite part of our fam-



JUST WRITE MOM

DANIELLE SULLIVAN

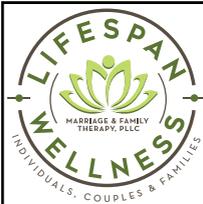
ily. We would be a different family without them. Yes, we'd have less fur and chores, but we'd also have a whole lot less love.

Wishing you and your family (human and furry) a wonderful and warm holiday season!

Danielle Sullivan is a writer living in New York City. Follow her on Instagram @Deewrite.

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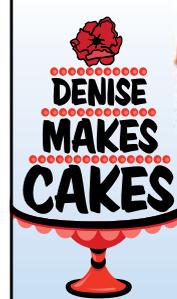
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How to have truly happier holidays

December is supposed to be a time of celebration. There are endless holiday parties, presents, and excitement in the air.

For many families, it ends up feeling like chaos, endless stress, and increased frustration. There are too many desserts, so your kids are bouncing off the walls. Family gatherings just stress you out, because everyone has an opinion about your parenting.

Do the holidays different this year. Come armed with a behavior toolkit to put the happy back into your holidays.

Here is what goes into your toolkit:

Some honey

Not literal honey, figurative honey. Did you know that you catch more bees with honey than with vinegar?

Every morning, before your family runs in different directions all over the city, tell everyone why you love them. Do it individually and specifically.

To your daughter, say, "I love you, because you got dressed the first time I asked you today." To your son, say, "I love you, because you tell amazing jokes." To

your partner say, "I love you, because you made the coffee this morning."

Show up prepared to speak with purpose

If you know your family will comment on your parenting, think of a few responses that you can quickly use in a pinch, like, "Thank you. I see how much you care" or "Hmm, that is an interesting perspective."

It may be new for you to just say "thank you" to criticism. It does not mean you will take their advice. It does not mean you agree with their advice. It just means that you are not going to argue with them about your parenting.

Be proactive within your immediate family

When changes happen to your normal routine, talk to your kids about it. Share with them what is happening before they ask you about it. If there is a different set of rules for a night (later bedtime or more screen time), let them know that it is happening and that it is a treat. Transparency is key to successful parenting.



BEHAVIOR & BEYOND

DR. MARCIE BEIGEL

Know the power of your actions

There is a reason in Hollywood they say, "Ready, Set, Action."

It is the action where the magic happens. What you do is the special ingredient in your toolkit that brings everything together.

Your kids are watching your moves and learning from your actions. Your family members are, too. Whatever you say is going to happen, make sure it does. If you tell your little ones you will be there in five minutes, make sure you go. If you say you will play a game together, get that game started right away. Actions are where listening skills are built, especially during super busy holiday times.

Now you are all set to have Happy Holidays!

Looking for more tips like this? Get Dr. Marcie's new book "Love Your Family Again," available on Amazon. Dr. Marcie Beigel is an international speaker and trainer of behavior. She brings realistic ideas to real life behavior that results in lasting change for families, schools, businesses, and relationships. Since 1998, she has worked with more than 5,867 people and is the founder of Behavior and Beyond, a company dedicated to behavior change. She teaches Behavior Boot Camps and Boosts as live events and online, does educational trainings, and consults individuals.

Dr. Marcie Beigel is a behavior specialist based in Brooklyn with more than 20 years of experience. Her book "Love Your Classroom Again" is a bestseller. Find out more at DrMarcie.com.



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