

# HELPING COMMUNITY HAPPEN

# **DECEMBER 2024**





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Orndorff orndorfm@gmail.com

The December article is always the hardest one to write, as there are some key things happening between the time I write this and the time you will be reading it. It feels like most of what I might want to say is going to be "old news". So, I'm hoping that between now and publication date, we will have had a good and informative PNCA meeting and enjoyed our ice cream, we will have another fun Turkey Trot, everyone will have enjoyed a Thanksgiving holiday, and you will all be signed up for our annual Dinner/Dance. Depending on when you get this, you may still have a few days before the Nov 29th deadline to sign up if you haven't already.

I'm really looking forward to the Dinner/Dance again this year. Tony and Lori and their committee have done a great job planning things and trying some changes to make it a little different from past years. I'm not a big dancer, but always enjoy spending the evening with neighbors and enjoying a nice meal and music. I hope to see you there!

I don't have all the details yet but suffice to say that there are lots of great plans in the works for next year. The events committee will be giving an update at the PNCA meeting, and we'll get more details out in the newsletter soon, plus we'll keep the PNCA calendar updated on the website. One new club starting in January is the "Walk-Run-Jog" club starting on Jan 12th. Should be a good, fun club that I'm really looking forward to!

You may have seen in newsletter and E-News articles that Frank and Audrey Kovalak will be stepping down from leading the Adopt a Highway group after many years of generous support. Thankfully, the Penn National Volunteers of the Decade, the Curro's, have volunteered to

take this over. The cleanup provides a great service to the community and I'm sure we'll be hearing from the Curro's soon as they ask for volunteers. We have been supporting this for over 25 years, so glad to see this important activity continue.

Thanks to our second (very mild) bout with COVID, I missed a few of my favorite fall activities, but I understand they were amazing events. Thanks to Rob Ackerman for organizing the Veterans Day ceremony, thanks to all the speakers, and thanks to the Penn National Harmony Singers for their performance. I hated to miss it, but I understand it was another great event. I also heard that the Thanksgiving Men's Luncheon was a great meal with a very interesting speaker and rated as the best meal so far this year. I also hated to miss the new par 3-ish tournament Jim Litzke set up for the men's league which I'm sure was a fun new event to end the season. In case you're wondering, two weeks confined to the basement is not as fun as all that I missed. Darn COVID! Finn and I are back in training for him to defend his title at the Turkey Trot. If he isn't successful, he'll have me and COVID to blame!

At our recent family reunion, my little sister demanded that I read a book *Die with Zero*, *Getting All You Can from Your Money and Your Life*. I would caution that it can be a very expensive book as we booked a pretty costly trip after reading just the first chapter!

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mark Orndorff



# THANK YOU FOR DRIVING SAFE!

SPEED LIMIT 25

That poem resonated with me because each year the Christmas season seems to catches us off guard, sometimes even exhausting and too hectic. This is when I remind myself that this is a period to, mindfully, pause from life's stressors and focus on positive aspects of life and relationships and enjoy the joy of the season.

I want to call out that there are some events happening in very early in December, so I ask you to make sure to check out pages 6 and 8 for these events. The monthly Men's and Ladie's Luncheons, The Artist Studio Tour at Penn National and Beyond, and the PN Harmony Singers Christmas Concert. Your support of these events is appreciated by all of the organizers!

As Mark mentioned in his message, the Penn National Veterans Day event was enjoyed by all attendees,. Thank you Rob Ackerman and all the speakers who shared their stories and all the attendees who supported this event.

On page 4 the Mixed league wrapped up their year with a Halloween theme. There are some great costumes and pictures to enjoy.

Check out page 10 for we have a new article for "Writing is Fun." This group is has been going for a while, but would welcome new members. Thank you, Carol Kagen, for you fun short story. A new group is kicking off in January, an activity group, Walk-Run-Jog. They are looking for new members too. Let's get active in 2025, details are on page 12 and you can find proposed route maps on pages 18 and 19.

On page 14, we have a couple new community items: a good contribution from Michael Donkin on where to find recommended/selected businesses on our PNCA website (pnca.info). And a recent new advertiser intro and "Spotlight" from our PNCA Ad Coordinator, Carole Mathieu. For the record this month's Trivia stumped me on several of the questions.

I am still looking for articles about groups in the community that may want to share their stories and activities in the PNCA Newsletter, please reach out to me by email, I would be thrilled to hear from you!

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday Season and a safe and Happy New Year!

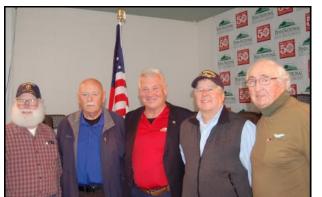
Eileen Grady

eileengf@msn.com

# PENN NATIONAL VETERANS DAY EVENT

Our PN Veterans Day Celebration 2024 was a huge success and enjoyed by those in attendance.

A sincere thank you to our veteran speakers, our PN Harmony Singers, Patti Nitterhouse, Black Oak Grille, the Pro Shop, our PNCA special events committee Pam Curro and Donna Matuch, both Kevin Mayhew and Rick Ockovic for assisting me, and of course, those who attended and supported this event.



Submitted by Rob Ackerman, Veterans Day 2024 event coordi-

PN Harmony Singers - Veterans day 2024





# MONTH

December is the Month of Giving and it revolves around people making a difference in society by helping others.

A few facts about December giving:

- According to the World Giving Index, the U.S. is the most charitable nation in the world.
- In the U.S., 72% of people have helped strangers.
- 31% of donations are given in December.
- There are over 1.54 million charitable organizations in the U.S.
- Last year Americans gave \$410.2 billion to charity (breaking all previous records).
- 12% of all giving happens in the last three days of the year.
- 28% of nonprofits raise as much as 50% of their funding in December.

Please consider how we can celebrate and participate individually during National Giving Month in some simple and small ways:

#### 1. Purge a Closet

Donate extra clothes, blankets, and shoes in our closets to area programs like those that support domestic violence victims.

to the young. There, we have the opportunity to stay engaged and steer kids in a positive direction.

#### 3. Bring Meals to a Family in Need

Consider cooking a meal for a family you know who is unable to do so for themselves during the holidays. Reach out to Meals on Wheels to see if you can assist during this very busy month for them.

#### 4. Purchase Extra Items For the Food Bank

Purchase a few extra groceries to leave out for PN's First Tuesday's or drop off food and or personal hygiene products at a local donation center. This can significantly help those in need looking for these useful items.

#### 5. For Those Who Are Crafty

and like being creative: knitting is an excellent way to volunteer and make clothes for people in need. Knit mittens, scarves, or blankets for needy children and adults. After completing a project, you can send your work to the nearest donation center.

#### 6. Donate Spare Items

Donating used books or old DVDs to a school library or homeless shelter, or benevolent charity is an excellent way to participate in the month of giving.

There is no act or effort too small. Please give if you can.



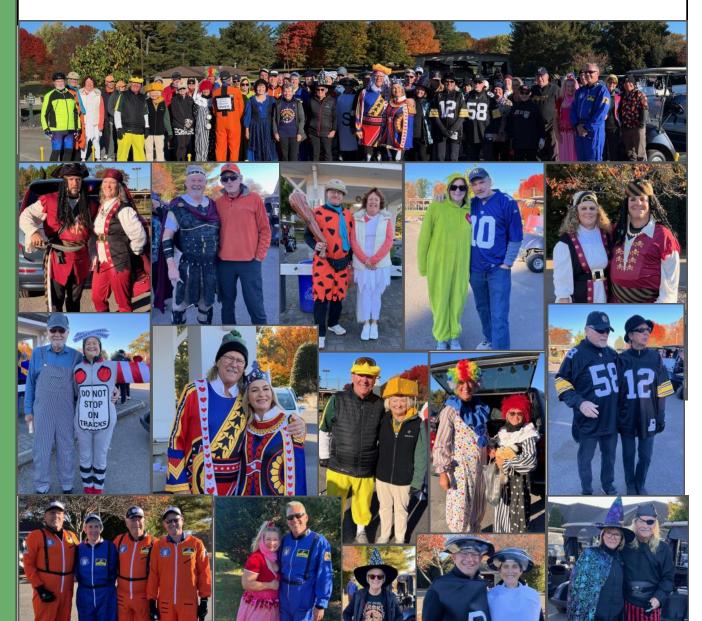


favorites was hitting your tee shot while sitting in a chair. Everyone in my group hit their tee shot to the left from the chair – and not very far. One thing that I didn't realize is that hitting a putt with your foot isn't so bad – some of the putts were better than with a putter. The event was a scramble, and the winners were the team of Kevin Mayhew, Lynn Talbot, Ray Mielke, and Karen Kugler at 6 under par.

After golf, Jon and Pam Curro graciously invited all of the mixed league to their house for an after party. The Curros and some friends provided soup, chili, veggies, fruit, deviled eggs, various chips and dip, and brownies and cookies. Everyone brought their own alcohol. It was great fun with our friends and neighbors, and Mark and I and the entire mixed league "management" are truly grateful to Pam and Jon for their generosity in all things.

Enjoy the pictures! It's been a great Mixed League year, and the entire team look forward to another fun and exciting year in 2025.

Submitted by Susan Orndorff







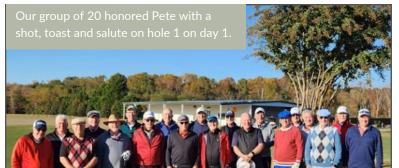
### PETE MASON CUP

Last October during an annual organized trip of Penn National golfers, "the travel group", (previously to Myrtle Beach and this year Colonial Williamsburg), a "Pete Mason Cup Trophy" was established in Pete's honor (Pete was one of the very early coordinators of this group trip). We now have a "Pete Mason Cup Trophy" to award annually. To honor Pete the trophy was designed with a Mason Jar holding golf balls. Each year, this trophy will be presented to the traveling player with the lowest net score average for the three day tournament.

Last year was the first year of the first year a trophy was awarded and the winner was Rod "A10" Shoop. His name plaque was added to the trophy and now the tradition will carry on.

This years group traveled to Williamsburg, VA, a group of 20 players who competed for the Cup. We played three new and uniquely challenging courses. It was a very close score, but the winner was Lynn Talbot, his name plaque will be added to the trophy this year.

### Submitted by Lynn Talbot







Time: Cash Bar at 11:00 AM; Lunch Served 11:45 AM
Cost: \$25.00 per person

Menu: Salad, True Surf & Turf - Filet and either a Crabcake or Broiled Salmon. Dessert and coffee or

Tea included. This is a special holiday luncheon for which we are substantially supplementing

the cost from reserves.

Speaker: Barry Guckes, a Penn National Resident and frequent professional Santa, will discuss his

experiences as Santa.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Route 30 West into Chambersburg, turn left on Fourth St. and continue straight ahead till you see the post on the right.

Please make your <u>reservation</u> by contacting one of the following committee members on or before Tuesday, December 3rd

Bernie Goldberg 717-401-0084 bernie 7009@gmail.com
 Bob Cronin 717-352-8539 rjcronin 68@gmail.com

Cancellations should be received at least three days prior to the luncheon date, except for an emergency, otherwise we ask that you honor your payment.

As our Christmas celebration, we support the Salvation Army by contributing toys for children. Please bring an unwrapped toy to contribute to this worthwhile program.

The Next Luncheon will be Tuesday, January 14th at The Visitor Center, Gettysburg National Battle Field, Gettysburg, PA.

Submitted by Bernie Goldberg

# PN HARMONY SINGERS



# A Song in the Air!

The Penn National Harmony Singers would like to invite you to our Christmas Concert, "A SONG in the AIR", on Tuesday, December 10th. From 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the New Guilford Brethren in Christ Church located on Mont Alto Road.

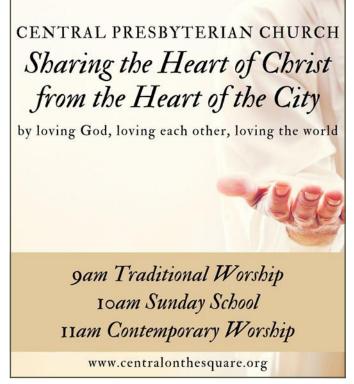
We will be presenting a holiday concert that we know you will enjoy. You will hear familiar carols, some new selections and an audience sing-a-long.

The choir sends their best wishes for a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your support! We look forward to sharing the holiday season with our Penn National Community.

We will resume practices starting in February. This would be an ideal time to come out and meet our choir. We practice on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 3:30-5:00 PM at the New Guilford Brethren in Christ Church.

Call or e-mail for more information at: 717-352-7719 or shcurtis6907@gmail.com









In-home studio locations within Penn National and also beyond within a two-mile radius of Penn National.

Fabulous door prizes and light refreshments served. Maps available at the Clubhouse

Participating local artists include: Jeff Barnhart, Kathy Carbone and Dan Carbone, Carolyn Chase, Donna Crissman, Andrea Finch, Jean Frey, Trudy Gembe-Palughi and Joseph Palughi, Linda Gottfried, Steve Jaczun, Jack Kier, Kate Keely, Janette Koons, Joyce Krenson, Carol Labashosky, Snorky Wills Nye, Nancy Reynolds, Adam Rung, Jim Sabiston, Deb Slocum, Zane Tindal, Gloria Walker, and Becky Wright.

Work includes: oil and acrylic paintings, pastels, watercolors, mixed media, fused glass, jewelry, fiber art, fine furniture, iron work, photography, ceramics, graphite and color pencil drawings, woodworking, batik, stained glass, vintage jewelry design, decorative household and gift items.

Thank you for your support!
Jean Frey and Linda Gottfried, Co-Chairs

PNCA EVENTS CALENDAR (events and details also found at pnca.info)			
DATE	EVENT		
November 28th	PNCA Turkey Trot 5k Run/Walk (registration at Clubhouse porch)		
December 3rd	First Tuesday Food Pantry Pickup		
December 5th	PNCA Ladies' Luncheon @ Waynesboro Country Club		
December 5th	WW II American Experience Museum—Gettysburg		
December 10th	PN Men's Luncheon—Chambersburg VFW		
December 10th	PN Harmony Singers Christmas Concert		
December 11th	PNCA Dinner/Dance - The Orchards		
SAVE THE DATES FOR JANUARY			
January 7th	Trivia Night at Mont Alto Fire Hall		
January 7th	First Tuesday Food Pantry Pickup		
January 14th	PN Men's Luncheon		

# BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT FREE LIBRARY YULETIDE CELEBRATION

WHERE: 13676 Monterey Lane, Blue Ridge Summit, PA

WHEN: Saturday, December 14, 4:00-6:30pm

#### THERE WILL BE

- \* Music
- Fire truck rides
- Cookies & cider
- Santa handing out candy canes
- \* Bird feeder craft for kids
- \* A quilt raffle

Join us for a Memorial tree lighting at 6:30pm. For more info: brsmtnboard@gmail.com



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WOODWORKING

Your Penn National woodworking neighbor is now on Facebook and Instagram!



Facebook: 80 Grit Woodworking of PA

At 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month a group of writers meet at the Penn State Mont Alto library. Some of us are new to writing and others have a little experience. We share short stories we write each month on a different agreed-upon theme. We invite you to join us for a few hours each month. If time allows, we have a "quick write" of 5-10 minutes during the meeting. An object or theme is called out and we scribble away.

If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out directly to Tom Cahill at thomas.michael.cahill@gmail.com

Here's a short story I wrote when someone offered a pair of glasses as a prompt. As you can see, writing is fun.

Glasses
By Carol Kagan

"Verna, have you seen my glasses?" Tom called up the stairs.

Verna was upstairs getting dressed to go downstairs to breakfast. She looked on and behind the nightstand. Not there. Seriously, she thought, where could they be? Not on the bed. Well, maybe they were put there while dressing. Not there. She went to the bureau and moved everything around looking for them. Not there. Maybe the bathroom. The vanity was small and only had a few bottles and soap. Not there or on the floor. Reaching into the pockets of the robe hanging on the door, there they were. Once downstairs Tom asked her if she found his glasses.

- "I wasn't looking for them," she replied.
- "I yelled up for you to look for them."
- "I didn't hear you," Verna said. "I was searching for my hearing aids."

Submitted by Carol Kagan

# **NEEDLEWORKERS GROUP**

The mild weather has kept many of us busy with outdoor chores, particularly pruning, pulling annuals and raking leaves. That means that many of us are behind in creating our holiday gifts for family and friends. Attending Needleworkers this month provides some uninterrupted time to complete the finishing touches on gifts and decorations.

Needleworkers meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Mont Alto Community Center where you will find attendees crocheting, knitting, binding quilts, or working on needlepoint, embroidery, cross stitch and wool appliqué. We encourage and enable!!!

Meetings this month are on Wednesday, December 4th and Wednesday, December 18th, from 1:30 to 3:30. It is time to work on those pieces that need our attention!!! Sue Stempien created "Penguin Pals" from a kit created by Valley Yarns by WEBS (www.yarn.com). Skill level is for Advanced Beginner. Sue was obviously not procrastinating!

Sue shared, "The kit contained all the yarns, safety eyes, needle covers shaped as penguins, tapestry needle.

"The directions are for both knitted and crocheted penguins. The large and small penguins are going to my grandchildren and the medium one to my Mom".

"I tailored the hat and scarf colors each of their preferences".





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IRON VALLEY





NOVEMBER BOOK CLUBS NEWS			
Group Name/Leader	Book/Author	Discussion/Meeting Time	
A Broader View: Vicky Billerbeck		No meeting in December	
A New Leaf: Cheryl Vorhauer	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson	December 10th Christmas lunch at 11:30 am at the Grille at Mennohaven	
Between The Lines: Becky Foor	No Book	December 18th Meeting @ Jan Barnes Pot luck at noon	
Easy Readers: Donna Steiner			
Literary Ladies: Terry Kenyon	No Book—Christmas Luncheon Gathering	December 19th @ The Orchards 1PM	
Page 2 Page: Judy Young (accepting new members)	No Book	December 13th luncheon @ Cashtown Inn at 1pm	
Page Turners: Barb Brown	A Quilt for Christmas by Sandra Dallas	December 4th 4pm @ B Street Restaurant	
S.T.A.R.: Sally Harper		No meetings in December	

# ANNOUNCING A NEWLY FORMED PNCA GROUP

THE WALK-RUN-JOG CLUB (WRJC) IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS FOR ITS JANUARY KICKOFF

**WHO:** Any Penn National resident who wants to walk, run, run/walk, or jog in the neighborhood with like-minded people, meet new friends, and support the Penn National Community.

**What:** Beginning at the PN Clubhouse area, members can try different routes, distances and terrain each week at their own pace (see suggested routes & locations on page 18 and 19).

WHERE: Meet at the covered picnic tables next to the trellis (Clubhouse option when open).

WHEN: Sunday January 12th - Kick Off Day

Regular Monthly meet ups:

- Second Sunday at 8:45 AM
- Fourth Tuesday at 4:15 PM (time to change to 5:15 PM after March 9, 2025)

**WHY:** A chance to exercise on a regular basis with other club members, prep for the annual Penn National Turkey Trot, meet new neighbors, explore different neighborhoods, get fitter and healthier, get better at the PN hills, enjoy the outdoors, have good conversation, grab a coffee or meal afterwards with new friends, etc.

#### **SUGGESTED ROUTES & LOCATIONS:**

For "Kick-Off" dates from January thru March in 2025, proposed routes are on the west side of Anthony Highway (see color-coded Penn National Distance Maps on the PNCA website: www.pnca.info).

### ALL ACTIVITIES ARE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Please bring whatever you may need to enjoy your exercise and be safe on your walk/run/jog such as wearing safety vests, warm gloves, hats, etc. Bring your water bottles too!

Always be mindful of traffic laws, walking no more than 2 across, at the edge of the roadway/close to or on the grass, & in the opposite direction of traffic. Please do not litter.





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#### PET SERVICES:

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HOME SERVICES

Lynn Cyron

It was a beautiful fall day and much nicer than the rain last month.

We again filled 4 full vans and trucks. We appreciate all the donations and monetary donations that we received.

The pantry is looking for hot chocolate, mashed potatoes, cranberry and Christmas cookies/mixes and other goodies for the Christmas Holiday season.

Maranatha is also looking for volunteers at the pantry for sorting donations and helping out. Volunteers need to show up at the pantry around 8am Monday thru Friday.

They are located at 195 W Loudon St, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Our next Food Pantry pickup will be on Tuesday, December 7th.

Thank you again for all your donations.

Submitted by Jon and Pam Curro

# **EVENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

We are planning our first 2025 events! The Event Committee will be featuring a Trivia Night on January 7th between 6 and 8 pm at the Mont Alto Fire Hall and a Chocolate Fest Event on February 12th, this will also be held between 6 and 8 pm at the Mont Alto Fire Hall.

Please watch for updated details in the weekly ENews!

Submitted by Pam Curro

# PENN NATIONAL SELECTED BUSINESSES

Are you looking for a trustworthy local business to provide a service? Or have you had a particularly great experience with a business that you'd like to recommend to our community residents? Please consider using the Penn National Selected Businesses page on our PNCA website www.pnca.info. To look up a business, select the "This Website" dropdown, then "Find a Business". To make a recommendation, select "Recommend a Business". We have many business categories – painting, electrical, driveways, solar, and more! This is a great way to share positive experiences!

Submitted by Michael Donkin

# **BUSINESS ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT**

For Steve Jaczun, what started as an interest in woodworking developed into a passion to turn raw materials into pieces with warmth and character. This led him to start his own venture, **80 Grit Woodworking**, right from his garage in Penn National, in 2022. This is where he specializes in creating small, functional items such as cutting boards, trivets, butcher blocks, charcuterie boards, and candle runners using a combination of domestic and exotic hardwoods.

If you're interested in a custom design, a specific wood type, or simply have a question, you'll find Steve to be a friendly guy who is always happy to connect. Check out his ad on page 9, then go to his website where you will see project pictures that are a testament to his drive for beauty and perfection.

Throughout the year Steve also plans to be hosting open houses, inviting people who value locally crafted,

If you asked Santa for some holiday-themed trivia
You're in luck! Have fun!
(Answers on pg. 17)
Submitted by Michael Donkin

- 1. Name the movie actor who narrated the 1966 animated holiday TV special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".
- 2. In the movie "Elf", which New York City department store does Buddy (Will Ferrell) end up working at?
- 3. According to the Farmer's Almanac, what is the worst Christmas song of all time?
- 4. Which satiric Christmas song repeatedly complains about the hassle of "rigging up the lights"?
- 5. Which Peanuts character shares Biblical wisdom with Charlie Brown in "A Charlie Brown Christmas"?
- 6. Which children's fairy tale inspired the Christmas tradition of making gingerbread houses?
- 7. Traditionally, what alcohol is used to spike eggnog?
- 8. What government organization tracks Santa's flight each year on Christmas eve?
- 9. What is the best-selling Christmas song single of all time?
- 10. According to German legend, who is the evil counterpart to St Nicholas, who is said to punish or even kidnap naughty children?



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#### **WINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

• **Red Wine:** A rich and full-bodied red wine, such as Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot, is a classic choice for holiday meals. These wines pair well with roasted meats, hearty stews, and rich desserts.

- White Wine: A crisp and refreshing white wine, like Chardonnay or Pinot Grigio, is perfect for lighter fare, such as seafood, poultry, and salads.
- **Sparkling Wine:** Champagne or Prosecco is a festive and celebratory choice for any occasion. It can be enjoyed on its own or paired with a variety of dishes.

#### **SPIRITS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

- Whiskey: A warm and comforting spirit, whiskey is a classic choice for winter evenings. It can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks, or in a cocktail.
- Rum: A versatile spirit that can be used in a variety of cocktails, rum is perfect for both tropical and winter-themed drinks.
- **Gin:** A refreshing and botanical spirit, gin is a great choice for cocktails like the classic Martini or the festive Gin and Tonic.
- Brandy: A rich and complex spirit, brandy is a perfect after-dinner drink. It can be enjoyed neat or in a cocktail.

#### HOLIDAY COCKTAIL IDEAS

- Mulled Wine: A warm and spiced wine that is perfect for cold winter nights.
- Hot Toddy: A comforting and soothing drink made with whiskey, hot water, lemon, and honey.
- Eggnog: A rich and creamy holiday classic made with eggs, cream, sugar, and spices.
- White Russian: A creamy and indulgent cocktail made with vodka, coffee liqueur, and cream.

#### TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE PERFECT HOLIDAY WINE OR SPIRIT

- Consider your guests: When choosing wine or spirits, consider the preferences of your guests.
- Pairings: Pair your wine or spirit with the food you're serving.
- Budget: Set a budget for your holiday drinks.
- Variety: Offer a variety of options to suit different tastes.
- Have fun: The most important thing is to enjoy yourself and the company of your loved ones.

With a little planning and creativity, you can create a festive and memorable holiday celebration. Cheers! Submitted by Mark Orndorff (for Cecily, while she is busy reopening the remodeled Fine Wines and Good Spirits)

# **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

Oh, no! I'm late. I just looked at the date. I thought I had more time than this. I don't understand. I had things all planned To give last-minute rushing a miss.

I trimmed the outside for a cheery yuletide. Started shopping extremely early. I house-cleaned like a pro; made things sparkle and glo, Put up lights, decorations and tree.

I baked in advance just on the off-chance

I wrapped as I bought. Now I find I am caught In that Christmastime crunch anyway.
I am only half-through my list of "To Do's",
And there's company coming today.

Well, I'm finding it hard to get out tons of cards, So I'm sending this poem *in lieu*, To say Merry Christmas and Happy New year! May God bless all of you.

Submitted by MJ









## **ANSWERS FROM PAGE 15**

- 1. Boris Karloff
- 2. Gimbels
- 3. "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" by **Elmo and Patsy**
- "The 12 Pains of Christmas" by Bob Rivers
- 5. Linus
- "Hanzel and Gretel" by The Brothers Grimm
- 7. Brandy
- 8. NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command)
- 9. "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby (according to Guinness World Records)
- 10. Krampus













