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Old English Christmas at Hartwood: Pittsburgh's Downton Abbey

By Marilyn Sorvas



The beautiful Hartwood Acres Mansion still looks as beautiful today as it did in the 1920s.

~photo courtesy of Allegheny County

We are coming up on the year 2020, so let's look in our virtual rear view mirror at Pittsburgh a hundred years ago, focusing on the 1920s.

Pittsburgh, at home on the Three Rivers, was also home to a growing and evolving number of individuals making their mark on history as successful business people. Beginning in the 1800s and continuing on into the 20th century, scions were building legacies as well as families, such as the Carnegie family, the Heinz family, and the Mellons. Irish immigrant Thomas Mellon landed in America in 1818 at age five and lived in a log cabin close to a settlement ironically called Poverty Point, Pennsylvania, near present-day Murrysville.

For those who are Masterpiece Theater aficionados, the decade of the 1920s was the latter years of the Downton Abbey era. Pittsburgh's English Manor mansion now called Hartwood Acres is a lasting legacy of the Flinn-Lawrence family and was built in the mid-to-late 1920s. A little bit of Downton Abbey in Pittsburgh perhaps? A little background is in order.

Mary Flinn was the daughter of one-time Senator William Flinn. Mr.

Flinn was born 1851 in England. The family immigrated to Pittsburgh, settling in the East End. He would later start a very successful construction company with a partner, then become a Pennsylvania State Senator and hold many other public offices of trust. The Flinns lived at their family home called Braemar in the East End. In 1914, at age 27, Mary Flinn married 24-year-old John W. Lawrence.

About ten years later, Mary inherited a rather large fortune – many millions – upon the death of her father in 1924. She and her husband next bought some 479 acres for a new home. They hired Alfred Hopkins, a famed architect, to build an English Manor home modeled after examples in Cotswold, England. It is said roots run deep. Obviously, a love for her father's English heritage stayed with her.

Today, the interior of the house contains many original English antiques, as well as a 17th century Flemish tapestry, a 19th century damask ball-and-claw foot couch, and two Georgian-era folding walnut game tables which are very rare indeed. An oak mantel hand carved in 1601 and removed from an English castle

graces the Great Hall, as does an 1870 Bijar Persian carpet. Worth \$75,000, the carpet contains 1000 knots per square inch! The Great Hall, where most of these objects are, is about half the size of a football field.

That's about as close to some Downton Abbey-era antiques and artifacts as I'm gonna get! But our story continues, albeit in an abbreviated form.

Childless at age 50 and 47, Mary and John adopted two boys from England. The sons, renamed John W. Lawrence Jr. and William F. Lawrence grew up happily at Hartwood Acres as children of socialites.

Their mother loved horses and involved the boys in horse events. Hartwood Farm was home to many social activities involving the community and Mary Flinn Lawrence was a well-known philanthropist. The Flinn Lawrence grandchildren visited Hartwood which they knew simply as "grandma's house."

Mary's husband John died in 1945 and she ran the estate afterwards. Mary was herself severely injured in an auto accident in 1963 and spent the last eleven years as an invalid. She would eventually strike a deal with Allegheny County to purchase the estate, with the caveat that she and her caretakers would live on in the house until her death, which occurred in 1974. She had lived nearly 30 years past her husband.

The approximately 33-room home, including stables, outbuildings and land was transformed into a public venue which would include historic tours, concerts, cultural events and a wedding venue. It opened in 1976. Christmas at Hartwood is one of the most popular tours as the elegant mansion is adorned with holiday decorations. It shows how an Old English Christ-

mas was done and remains a special memory to Jeffrey Lawrence, grandson of Mary Flinn Lawrence and son of John W. Lawrence Jr.

Jeff published a book called Reflections of Hartwood. Much of the information in this article comes from the book or from Jeff himself. The book contains 43 chapters and has about 180 photos, lots of personal reflections from him and his father, along with interviews of former employees of the estate. It provides an insightful look into "Pittsburgh royalty" and a family, house and lifestyle that is sort of our own Pennsylvania version of Downton Abbey. The home is worth a visit any time of the year. However, it is "reservations only" for Christmas and Candlelight tours. Call 412-767-9200 for availability, but be quick about it! Spaces go fast. The fantastic Celebration of Lights holiday display continues into mid-January 2020.



The Flinn Lawrence family on a horse driven sleigh ride.

~photo courtesy of Hartwood Archives



TechTalk 2.0: Weighing the Benefits and Risks of Dark Mode

by David Domalik



The addition of Dark Mode in the September release of iOS 13, 2019 will be remembered by user experience designers as the year Dark Mode completed its takeover of interface design. While the dark mode feature simply inverts your screen to place light-colored text on a black screen, it has become widely popular and is now available on most operating systems and applications, including Windows, MacOS, iOS, Android, Twit-

ter, Instagram, and Gmail. The shift has caused a lot of discussion around the effects bright screens have on the health of our eyes, but research has found a surprising advantage to using a traditional black-on-white screen.

Dark Mode has its origins in some of the earliest home computers, which operated using monitors that could only display green text on a black screen. It wasn't until the 1980s that word-processing machines adopted the white screen to more accurately reflect the appearance of printed text on paper. Today, a trend towards extreme minimalist design has pushed us back to a black screen, driven by the prevalence of the color in fashion, advancements in screen technology, and scientific studies on the effects of technology.

A new smartphone screen called AMOLED has become standard over the past five years. One of the key features of this technology is the ability to only power the pixels required to show an image, enabling true blacks and extreme contrast when compared to the standard LED screen, which powers the entire screen at all times regardless of content. Most Samsung Galaxy devices since

the S6 have had an AMOLED screen as well as the iPhone X, XS, and 11 Pro. For this reason, using dark mode on any AMOLED smartphone can significantly increase the battery life of the device since less power is used to keep the screen on. One experiment actually found a 30% difference when putting an iPhone 11 Pro through the same set of tests, once with dark mode on and again with it off.

Another common claim with dark mode is that it protects our eyes from the blue light emitted from white screens. While this is true and blue light has been found to inhibit sleep, there is no scientific evidence that it actually damages our eyes. In fact, light from the sun contains significantly greater amounts of blue light, which explains why we instinctually stay awake when looking at white screens and reinforces that it isn't harmful. Dark mode isn't the only solution to fears about blue light; another common feature known as Night Shift tints the screen an orange color at night and has much of the same effects as a dark screen. Regardless, most users say dark mode feels more pleasant to their eyes.

The science doesn't necessarily match this opinion. We've evolved as a species

to be better at detecting contrast in bright daylight than at night and that natural inclination translates onto the printed page or screen. The biology of our eyes makes text especially difficult to read on a black background. If you walk into a well-lit bathroom, look at your eyes in a mirror, and turn off all the lights, you'll notice an important feature of our eyes: the size of our pupil adjusts to let in more light in dark situations and shrinks to let in less light in bright situations. When using dark mode, our eyes react similarly. With enlarged pupils, it can be more difficult for our eyes to focus on the thin lines that make up text. There's no proof that this added strain has long-term effects, but it can cause you to tire quickly when reading long sections of text.

I'm personally a fan of dark mode and would recommend you look up how to activate the feature on your specific device. Most smartphones also include an option to automatically shift between light and dark modes based on either sunrise/sunset data or the ambient light around you. But, as with any technology, it's important to understand the benefits and risks first before using it.

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MUSINGS . . . GRATITUDE



by Sharon Eakes

the feeling of gratitude. Gratitude opens our hearts. Research has shown that feeling grateful can literally shift our hearts into a healthy heart frequency.

When we feel grateful, our brains flood with chemicals — endorphins — that make us feel good. It's also true that we can't feel grateful and have a negative emotion such as anger or fear at the same time. That makes gratitude the antidote to worry, frustration, fear and depression. That's worth remembering!

Editor's Note: Sharon Eakes is a personal and executive coach, who is a regular columnist for our paper as well as for the Huffington Post. She is the author of Fresh Views on Resilient Living. She may be reached by calling 412-741-1709 or email Sharon @hopellc.com.

Sharon and Nancy Smyth, her business partner in Two Wise Women, together published, "Chocolate or Lunch, How Choices Impact Relationships." If you have tense relationships, this book is for you. Both books are available through Amazon.

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others.
Cicero

Thanksgiving may come once a year, but gratitude is such a powerful phenomenon it's worth cultivating for everyday use!

Gratitude is many things: a feeling, an attitude, a practice, a way of life.

A Feeling

Amazing things happen in the brain and body when we experience

An Attitude

When we cultivate an attitude of gratitude, it expands our world and attracts people to us. (Blaming, complaining, and judging contract our world, making us less attractive and more isolated.) In a neat twist, an attitude of gratitude often shifts our feelings.

A Practice

Pessimists are people who have exercised their muscles of negativity and lack until those muscles are very strong.

A Way of Life

Optimists are people who have developed their gratitude muscles. The real gift is when, through practice, gratitude becomes a way of life.

It strikes me that experiencing gratitude for small things may be the only way to thrive and remain cheerful in the long haul, through the inevitable big and little difficulties of our individual and collective lives. Often gratitude for small things

brings us right to the present moment. The past may be painful, the future murky, but here, now, right this minute, I might be having an absolutely delicious cup of coffee. Or a neighbor brings me a cartoon, and I'm tickled and laugh, grateful for the small and precious moment of sharing.

Coaching Tips

I encourage you to develop your gratitude muscles until they are strong and automatic, making gratitude a **way of life**. Here are some things that will help:

- Consider keeping a gratitude journal. Use any spiral notebook, or check online for a gratitude journal especially for keeping track of what you're grateful for. I love the free app Gratitude 365.
- Think of someone in your life who annoys you. Now think of two things about that person you're grateful for. Notice how quickly a feeling can change depending on what you focus on.
- If you have trouble thinking of things you're grateful for, be ridiculous. Be grateful for bad things that haven't happened — you don't have a broken leg, for example.
- Start a meeting by sharing what you're grateful for. Include progress on projects, help received from various people both in and out of the room. You'll be amazed at the positive energy this generates.
- Read *Attitudes of Gratitude, How to Give and Receive Joy Every Day of Your Life*, by M.J. Ryan.
- Count your blessings! Stop right now and write down at least ten things you're genuinely grateful for. Include small things and large, such as: the fact that you woke up this morning, that you are loved, that the sun is shining through the window and making a beautiful mosaic on your hardwood floor, that you love many people, that strawberries are in season, the support you get from others, your devoted dog, cat, goat, etc. etc.

The Powerful Secret to Dissolve Stress and Create Your Best Holiday Season Ever!

FREE Workshop by Sharon Eakes

Sewickley Public Library Community Room

Dec. 3, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Bet you're looking forward to the holidays. But holidays can also be stressful. It is common to feel irritated at the busyness and emotional rollercoaster of holiday planning and interacting. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the tasks and all the things you want to do to have a meaningful holiday.

This workshop will help you make a vital shift, focusing more on who you want to be during the holidays rather than what you want to do. You'll learn the powerful secret that will help you:

- stay calm
- generate and hold positive, loving energy for yourself and others
- look forward to seeing family members you've thought of as difficult
- choose gifts with a different mindset
- laugh with family members and generate treasured memories, instead of getting annoyed

If you embrace and practice the secret, you'll sail into the holidays with energy and confidence, a smile on your face.

Please reserve a spot in the workshop by calling the library at 412-741-6920.

P.S. As a bonus, once you learn the secret, you can use it to improve all parts of your life, including work.

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Local Libraries Offer Engaging Programs for Adults, Teens, Kids

All of the libraries across the area offer unique programming for all ages. Most activities are free but some special events require a small fee. Each library listed below includes a summary of their scheduled events for the month. Be sure to check with the library directly or go to their website to view their events calendar for a complete listing and details regarding age requirements, registration and fees.

GREEN TREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 Manilla Ave., Pittsburgh, 15220
greentreepubliclibrary.org, 412-922-9292

Storytimes for toddlers, preschoolers, and school age children.

Book Donation Day, first Sat. of month

Wednesday Book Club, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Kirigami Workshop, Dec. 6, 2 p.m.

Slate Snowman Signs (Adults), Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

Art Discussion Group, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.

Adult Board Games, Dec. 14, 12-4:30

Intro to Fermented Veggies, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Festive Book Bingo (Adults), Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

Tail Waggin' Reads, Dec. 16, 4 p.m.

Winter's Day Crafts, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

In the Arctic Scavenger Hunt, Dec. 27, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Noon Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Friday Flick: Where'd You Go Bernadette, Jan. 3, 10 a.m. for adults.

SCOTT TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

301 Lindsay Rd., Scott Twp., 15106
scottlibrary.org, 412-429-5380

Storytimes and activities for toddlers, preschoolers, and school age children.

Cooking Club: Cookie Swap, Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m.

Conversation Salon, Dec. 9, 1 p.m.

Seasonal Arts & Crafts: Waterless Snow Globes, Dec. 4, 3:30 p.m.

Winter Old-fashioned Read-aloud, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. for all ages.

Adult Scrabble and Games, Tuesdays

Create a Masterpiece with Stickers, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. for age K and up!

Senior Chair Exercises, Tuesdays

Puzzle Time, Fridays, 1-4 p.m.

LEGO Club, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Code, Create, Play, Dec. 19, grades K-5 for hands-on tech.

Drop-In eBook Assistance, Dec. 5, 12 19 & 26, 3 p.m.

Adult Color Time, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

Winter Festival, Dec. 7, 2 p.m. for family.

Holiday Cookie Exchange, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m. Bring 3 dozen and swap!

Gingerbread House Decorating, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. for all ages.

Holiday Origami, Dec. 21, 12 p.m., for ages 6-11.

Reading is Fun!

Instant Pot Forum and Recipe Swap,

Dec. 10, adults & teens.

Cult Movie Classic Series:

We're No Angels-Dec. 3, Holiday Inn-Dec. 17

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH WEST END

47 Wabash St., Pittsburgh, 15220
carnegielibrary.org, 412-921-1717

Storytimes for toddlers, preschoolers, and school age children.

Little Learners, Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

Kids' Club, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 3:30-5 p.m.

Teen Time, Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 4:30 p.m.

Tween Scene: 3D Adventures, Dec. 11, 3:30 p.m.

West End Writing Club, Weds., 10 a.m.

Book Ends Book Club, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.

Adult Craft: Block Printing, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

West End Winter Open House, Dec. 14, 1-3 p.m. for all. Cookies, crafts, live animals and more!

CRAFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

140 Bradford Ave., Pittsburgh, 15205
craftonpubliclibrary.com, 412-922-6877

Storytimes for babies through preschool.

Family Storytime, Mondays, 11 a.m.

Yoga, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Technology Help, Weds. at 1 p.m.

Homeschool Art Class, Mondays, 12:30 p.m.

Scrabble, Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

STEAM Night, Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Book Club, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Teen Anime Club, Dec. 9 & 23, 3:30 p.m.

Conversation Salon, Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

Tails and Tales, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m.

Movie Classics, Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.

Fibromyalgia Support Group, Dec. 7

Super Smash Bros Night, Dec. 24, 4 - 8 p.m. for ages 16 and up.

Writers' Support Group, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH SHERADEN

720 Sherwood Ave., Pittsburgh, 15204
carnegielibrary.org, 412-331-1135

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Russian for Beginners, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Green Grocers - Mobile Farmers Market, Every Tues. 4:30 p.m.

Teen Time, Mondays, 3:30 p.m.

The Labs: Open Labs, Thursdays, 3 p.m.

Kids Club, Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m.

Reading Buddies, Every Mon., Tues., & Wed., 4-6 p.m.

Adult Open Craft, Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.

Holiday Craft Workshop, Dec. 3, 5 p.m.

A Novel Bunch Book Club, Dec. 9, 1 p.m.

What's Cooking?, Dec. 16, 3:30 p.m.

Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.

THE ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY AND MUSIC HALL

300 Beechwood Ave., Carnegie,
carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456

Storytimes for babies, toddlers and preschoolers offered.

Cloverleaf Art Exhibition, Dec. 2-7, free.

Tree Lighting, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. for all.

Teen Tuesdays, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.

Lego Club, Dec. 11, 4 p.m., ages 5-10.

PALS Book Club, Dec. 18, 1-2 p.m.

Family Evening Storytime, Mondays, 7 p.m.

Listen Locally Downstairs: Roger Humphries and RH Factor, Dec. 27, 8 p.m.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH MT. WASHINGTON

315 Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, 15211
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December speakers are Dec. 5, Join Mtg. w/Carnegie Collier; Dec. 12, Robyn Vittek - WQED; Dec. 19, Mary Withrow - PAART; Dec. 26, no meeting.

More info call Rick Porach 412-655-4174.

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Have fun getting fit taking two hour dance classes for 6 weeks each Monday starting Oct. 28 at GT Municipal Center Gym. Cost \$30/GT res, \$40 non res.

PICKLEBALL

Play Pickleball this winter on Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Green Tree Municipal Center Gym. FREE! Information at greentreeboro.com.

CHRISTMAS IN CRAFTON HOUSE TOUR

The Christmas in Crafton House Tour, a local holiday tradition, occurs this year on Sun., Dec. 8 from 1-6 p.m. Tour historic Crafton homes from farmhouse to sophisticated and some with a modern twist reimagined for 21st century living. Tour begins at the First Baptist Church of Crafton, 1 Oregon Ave. and Steuben St., Tour booklets are available for

presold tickets or \$20 day of tickets purchased. Advanced tickets are now available at the Crafton Public Library and the Crafton Boro Office and on-line tickets available at craftonborough.com until 4 p.m. on Dec. 6. All proceeds benefit Crafton recreational facilities and programs.

CAROLS & LIGHTS

Carnegie celebrates the season with Carols & Lights on Fri., Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m. at the Carnegie Borough Building. Events include caroling, tree lighting, Santa, cookies, hot chocolate and a screening of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* with popcorn. Info at carnegieborough.com.

NUTCRACKER AT THE LIBRARY

Enjoy the classic performance of The Nutcracker on Dec. 13-15 and 20-22 at Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Ave., Carnegie. Tickets available at 412-279-8887 or at the door on the night of performance.

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Pittsburgh Junior Times

SOUTH/WEST EDITION • VOL. 6, NO. 66 • DECEMBER 2019

Around Town

by Sophia Paulick, 6th grader

The first thing I did this month was to go to one of art camps run by my neighbor, Mrs. Hannah. She owns the GoExploreCreate art studio. They do parties, camps, lessons, and any celebration you need. She was at the Dormont Street Fair.

Mrs. Hannah held her first art camp in her basement. A couple of you reading this may have even gone



Awesome picture made at the GoExploreCreate art camp.

to that art camp. Sadly, I was unable to attend; however, my brother and sister went. They said that they enjoyed it. They did a clay project, which I thought was cool. For another example, they did a really neat birch tree by covering the tree parts with tape, painting the canvas, peeling off the tape, and making black streaks with ink. I thought my mom had bought them!

The way Mrs. Hannah teaches is extremely unique. First, she does a warm-up to get the creative juices flowing. When I took her art camp the year after my siblings did, the warm-up was sketching mountains. We were taught that mountains shouldn't be "shark teeth." Then, we learned a little about what we were painting. Finally, we started to sketch and paint. We painted llamas in the mountains. It was really fun and I thought mine turned out great!

Mrs. Hannah is extremely creative. She knows her students can do anything. When we were all painting llamas, one girl wanted her llama lying down. She, along with

Mrs. Hannah, looked up pictures and found a way to make this possible. I was incredibly impressed with the final product.

You should definitely check out some of the cool stuff GoExploreCreate does! There is an inner artist within you, just waiting to come out!

The next visit took me to the Neville Roller Drome. The Drome was remarkable. I learned a lot about its history and was so grateful to the kind employees. Did you know that the Drome has always been a family-owned business? It has been owned by only two families since it opened in 1948.

The inside of the Drome is pretty awesome. There are disco balls and strobe lights. There is even a DJ booth! Fun fact: The DJ booth used to be a room with a live organ. (An organ is an instrument that looks like 2 pianos stacked on top of one another that



We are having fun at Neville Roller Drome.

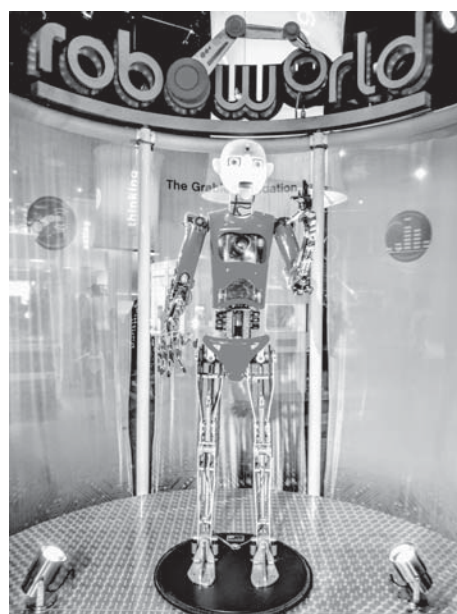
can make different sounds like a synthesizer. They are often found in churches.) They would play mostly slow dances and foxtrots.

The floor in Neville Roller Drome is amazingly smooth, even though it is the original hardwood design.

In the drome, they play cool games. The most popular one is probably "Ghostbusters" or "Wipeout." In "Ghostbusters," you listen to the song, turn around, and skate the opposite way every time they say "Ghostbusters." In

"Wipeout," they play regular music, but every time the music stops and the guy says "wipeout," you have to fall. Then, they see who falls fastest, the boys or the girls. I plan on going to the Neville Roller Drome quite often, so I hope to see you there.

The Science Center and SportsWorks were both fun. At the



RoboWorld was one of my favorite exhibits!

Science Center, there was so much to learn and explore that I felt super overwhelmed, so I chose one thing to focus on. In one section of the Center, I found an amazing exhibit called the Robot Hall of Fame. It was awesome, and I think you'll love it. The hall of fame has things like C-3PO and R2-D2 from Star Wars and HAL from Space Odyssey. Space



Check out this amazing robot at Carnegie Science Center.

Odyssey, by the way, is a really good movie. The museum is sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University. At the end of the museum, there is a robot hand you can move with buttons on

a metal board. This is all on the RoboWorld floor. I next visited SportsWorks, which is in an entirely separate building. In SportsWorks, there are three major attractions. First, there is the You-yo, a cool



The ropes course is fun for all ages! It's so much fun.

~photos courtesy of SportsWorks

contraption that allows you to lift yourself. It's really hard! There is also the rock-wall. It has several different levels, such as easy, medium, and hard; however, they share the same height of twenty-five feet. Don't look down! Last but not least is the ropes course. The ropes course is an awesome system that lets you go on an adventure 10 feet in the air. There is even a zipline at the end. I enjoyed both buildings and you will, too!



Happy Holidays!

Take a Look...

Zoo Challenge
Games and Puzzles
Around Town
Art Fun with Lydia
Did You Know?

pittsburghjuniorimes.com

Take the Challenge!

The 8th Annual Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium challenge is back! Each issue there will be a "What am I?" animal quiz with the answer on the back page. Try the December quiz to the right.

Cut out the quizzes and print the articles and create a book. It can just be the pages stapled together or get as fancy as you would like. At the end of the school year, bring your completed book to the Zoo for a free admission between June 15 and August 15, 2020 and save \$\$\$!

Good luck!

Answers for puzzle on back page. (Don't Peek!)

Word Scramble:

Sledging
Santa
Wreath
Snowman
Ice Skate
Stocking

The Eight Differences:

snowman mouth
ear muff
knot on sled rope
foot print in snow
shadow on snowman

bonus: screws on shovel
tassel on hat
boot

Did You Know...

...that the tradition of Christmas trees came from Germany? The earliest known decorations for trees were apples.

...if you add up all the gifts given in the song the Twelve Days of Christmas there are 364 gifts?

...Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as a holiday and Oklahoma was the last state to do so.

...the tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was in Seattle, Washington and was 221 feet tall?

courtesy of kidsplayandcreate.com

What am I?

1. I live in the sandy coastal waters, shallow bays and tropical reefs of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans as well as the Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean.
2. I am brown in color with dark markings on my upper half.
3. I can live to be about 25 years old and I grow to be about 13 feet long and can weigh up to 250 pounds.
4. I mostly eat large and small boney fish, squid, small sharks and crustaceans.
5. Something unique is that I surface for gulps of air that I store in my stomach so that I can float motionless.

I am a(n) _____

Look for the answer on the back page.



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Pittsburgh Junior Times

Available Monthly

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Pittsburgh Junior Times

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Get Creative!

Pittsburgh Junior Times Mini-Camps for Kids



Ages 7-9, Max. 6 kids per class
2 camps available in January
Register at 412-956-9265

Each camp will
complete different projects.

Pick the ones you like best!
Write & Illustrate a book
Paint with acrylics
Hand build clay figurines
Make a Zine
and more!

Being held at Carnegie Coffee Company





Fun with Lydia

by Lydia Deimel, 6th grader

Did you know that cooking is a type of art? Culinary artists use cooking and baking as a creative outlet. They decorate, cut, color, and flavor to express themselves. I thought that since the holidays are coming up, it would be awesome to combine my love for art and my love for food into one amazing holiday gift! So, today we are making **DIY chocolate bark**! You can use this recipe to give as a gift, or serve it with your holiday dinner.

The materials you need are: a sheet pan, parchment paper, double boiler or microwave, almond bark or candy melts chocolate, and optional add-ins. Some different add-ins you can use include crushed peppermint, dried fruits, nuts, shredded coconut, M&M's, sprinkles, caramel drizzle, pretzels, and different flavors of chocolate chips. You can also swirl different types of candy melts or almond bark, or use just one type of chocolate. I used milk chocolate, coconut, pretzels, and sprinkles.

>When you see this symbol in the following recipe, please ask for adult help or supervision.

Directions:

1. Place the sheet pan at a convenient location near the stove, and cover with parchment paper.
2. Prepare your ingredients, because when the chocolate is melted, you need to work quickly.
3. Set up the double boiler, or prepare almond bark or candy melts for microwave. I use a double boiler.
4. >Follow directions on almond bark or candy melts to melt.
5. >After melted, quickly pour chocolate onto prepared pan.
6. After chocolate is poured, tap the pan or smooth the chocolate down with a spatula.
7. Sprinkle a generous amount of add-ins on top, and press lightly on them to make them stick.
8. Let sit until hard, then break into pieces.

Here are some cool packaging ideas:

- Brown grocery bag with handmade drawings or decorations
- Recycle a Chinese takeout box by painting it
- Colorful paper bag tied up with ribbon or yarn
- Recycle a can by washing it and covering it in decorative paper

Have a great holiday season and a Happy New Year!

1



2



3



4



5



6





Fun and Games

Answers on page Jr. 2.



Find eight differences in the pictures below.



Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to form words that have to do with Christmas or winter.

TKISOGNC

ECTKISAE

NASWMON

HWETAR

NASTA

DGSEIDL

Holiday Jokes

What do Santa’s elves do after school?
Their gnomework.

What is a parent’s favorite Christmas carol?
Silent Night

What does Tarzan sing at Christmas?
Jungle Bells

Why is it cold on Christmas?
Because it’s Decemrrrrrrrrrr!

What do Santa’s elves drive?
Minivans

What do you get from a cow at the North Pole?
Ice Cream

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

at **OLSH**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 - Doors Open 6:30 pm; Movie begins 7:30 pm

Guess the movie title for an OLSH prize!

The Christmas spirit continues with this movie’s story of Christmas from the Donkey’s point of view!

Email admissions@olsh.org with your guess - all correct guesses will be put into a drawing for an OLSH prize!

Free & open to the public; Concessions will be sold prior to the show!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

OLSH High School Auditorium; Call 412-262-3300

Extra!

We are looking for kids ages 6 - 13 as writers, artists, or anyone interested in contributing to this kids’ newspaper. We also need someone who likes to try new things, write and can commit to writing a bi- monthly column for the front page.

If interested, please call 412-956-9265

Community Bulletin Board

ROSTRAVER SPORTSMENS ASSOCIATION

The Rostraver Sportsmen Association, 539 Cedar Creek Rd., Belle Vernon, will hold their monthly meeting on Mon., Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Applications are now being accepted for membership from both men and women. For more info call 724-984-6611.

WHITE OAK AMERICAN LEGION

The White Oak American Legion Post #701 is having their annual New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31, 2019, 7 p.m.- 12:00 a.m. The legion is at 2813 Capital St. in White Oak. Admission is \$25 per person. All proceeds benefit veterans programs Music from the 50s and early 60s by Candy and Mike.

For more info. call 412-414-8495.

SOUTH HILLS COIN CLUB MEETING

The monthly meeting of the South Hills Coin Club will be held Tues., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. at the Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2999 Bethel Church Rd., Bethel Park. All members and the general public are invited. This month's program will be the annual Christmas party. A 50/50 will be offered and children's prizes to be awarded. Applications are now being accepted for membership. For more info. call 724-984-6611.

COOKIE WALK

The St. Matrona Sisterhood of Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church announces its 16th Annual "COOKIE WALK" to be held Sat., Dec. 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cookies and specialty pastries will fill the church hall located on Mansfield Boulevard in Carnegie. (off the 79 exit at Carnegie) More info at 724-348-7326.

GREEN TREE GARDEN CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

The GT Garden Club will be having a "Holiday Party" on Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Grand Concourse in Station Square. Reservations required. Info at greentreeboro.com.

CHANUKAH FESTIVAL

The Annual South Hills LIGHTS Community Chanukah Festival at Potomac and Belrose Ave. (just a block away from Hollywood Theater) will be held Sun., Dec. 22, at 5 p.m.

Includes a live concert with Oneg Shemesh (all the way from New York!), World's 1st Chanukah VIRTUAL REALITY 3D Experience, Grand Menorah Lighting featuring "Menorah of Warmth": Dress the giant 12 ft Menorah in winter gear to be distributed to those in need, Hot Latkes & Doughnuts, Chocolate Gelt for every child, Hot Drinks, and Glow-in-the-Dark Chanukah Swag! Free to attend! Open to all! RSVP appreciated at www.chabadsh.com/lights or 412.344.2424. All advance RSVP's will be entered into a raffle.

RETIRED

MEN'S LUNCHEON

The Retired Men's Luncheon Group invites retirees to our Thursday, November 21st lunch. Following lunch the Thomas Jefferson High School acappella choir will perform seasonal songs under the direction of Julia Lucia. Lunch is at noon. The cost for lunch is \$ 8.00 payable at the door and the lunch is held at Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church

at 199 Old Clairton Road in Pleasant Hills. Please reserve your lunch by calling the church office at 412-655-2000 option 0. We are a non-denominational group. Come socialize with us. We look forward to seeing you there.

MASONS MEETING

Charleroi-Monogahela Lodge #337 Free and accepted Masons will hold their regular stated meeting on Tues., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Hall, 100 2nd St. in Monogahela. For more info. call 724-809-9742.

OLDIES DANCES

The White Oak American Legion Post #701 located at 2813 Capital St. in White Oak will sponsor oldies dances on Sat., Dec. 21, from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission is still only \$5 per person. All proceeds benefit veterans programs. Music from the 50s and early 60s by Candy and Mike. More info call 724-984-6611.



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412-491-1957

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Shelly Davis at 412-956-9265
before the 15th of the month.

Church Directory

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

31 Warriors Rd., Green Tree
412-921-8444
Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.
Joyful Journey Preschool
Rev. Tom Ribar, Pastor

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

310 Mansfield Avenue, Green Tree
412-921-0745 Fax: 412-921-0707
www.stmargparish.org
Mass Schedule:
Tuesday and Friday: 9 a.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation:
Saturday: 12-1 p.m.
and any time by appointment
Administrator: Fr. Robert Grecco
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Aleksandr Schrenk
Deacons: Kevin Lander & Jim Mackin

All Saints Polish National Catholic Church

500 Fifth Street, Carnegie
412-276-2462 Fax: 412-276-9677
www.allsaintspnccpa.org
all.saints.pnc.church@verizon.net
Weekday Mass: See Bulletin
Weekend Masses:
Sat., 4:35 p.m. and Sun., 8:30 a.m.
Very Rev. Richard Seiler, Jr. Pastor
Independent - Catholic - Sacramental

Crafton United Presbyterian Church

80 Bradford Avenue
412-921-2293 Fax: 412-921-0348
www.CraftonUP.com
All Are Welcome
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Pastor Diane Flynn
Office: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., M-Th

Church of the Nativity (Episcopal)

33 Alice Street, Crafton
412-921-4103
www.nativitychurch.org
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Child care provided at 10 a.m.
The Rev. Shawn Malarkey

First Christian Church at Carnegie

Teaching From God's Word
Anthony and Lydia Streets
Carnegie, PA 15106
Minister Robert W. Hale,
412-279-5030
carnegiechristianchurch@gmail.com
Sunday Services:
Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Worship & Communion: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 10 a.m.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Steuben St. & Lincoln Ave.
412-921-1125
Pastoral Office Hrs. by Appointment
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship
with Holy Communion
Rev. Douglas Kinsey, Pastor
Rev. Shawn Markarkey, Pastor

Hawthorne Avenue Presbyterian Church

90 Hawthorne Ave.,
Crafton, PA 15205
412-921-2504
Handicapped Accessible
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Pastor Paul Nigra
www.hawthornechurch.org

1st United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights

50 Stratmore Avenue
412-921-6153
9:30 a.m. Faithbuilders
11 a.m. Worship Service
Child Care Available
All are welcome!
Pastor: Dave Carver

Unity Presbyterian Church

"Serving God, Loving All."
Greentree Road at Potomac Ave.
Phone: 412-561-2431 Fax: 412-561-0696
www.unitypresbyterianchurch.org
facebook.com/unitypresbyterianchurch
9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Kids' Disciple Zone Class
(4 yrs-adult; childcare under 4 yrs.)
Rev. Dennis W. Molnar, Pastor

Saint Philip Parish

St. Philip Church, 50 W. Crafton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Ascension Church, 114 Berry St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-922-6300
Saturday Vigil Masses
4:00 p.m. - St. Philip
5:30 p.m. - Ascension
Sunday Masses:
7, 9 & 11 a.m. - St. Philip
9:30 a.m. - Ascension
Weekday Masses are 8 a.m.
Mon., Wed., & Fri. - St. Philip
Tues. & Thurs. & Sat. - Ascension
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays -
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. at Ascension
Eucharistic Adoration
First Saturdays -
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at Ascension
Rev. John B. Gizler III, Pastor

Saint Stephen Lutheran Church

55 Forsythe Road, Pittsburgh 15220
Off Greentree Road in Scott Twp.
412-279-5868
Pastor Maurice C. Frontz III, STS
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Saturday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

Ambassador Baptist Church

"Representing Jesus"
1926 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh
412-477-3210 **www.HisService.com**
ambassador.montgomery@gmail.com
Sunday Services: 9:45, 11, 1:15
Thurs. Bible Study and Kids Club: 7 p.m.
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Independent, Fundamental
"Preaching and Practicing the
Word of God"

Mount Washington Baptist Church

112 W. Sycamore, Mt. Washington
412-431-8396
mtwashingtonbaptistchurch.org
Sunday Worship Services:
11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Nursery Available
Independent-Fundamental-
Premillennial-Soulwinning
Rev. Ray G. Cunningham, Pastor

United Presbyterian Church in Ingram

30 West Prospect Avenue
412-921-2323
Website: ingramupchurch.org
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Office Hours:
Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Bible Baptist Church

412 Old Washington Pike
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-276-7717
bbcpittsburgh.com
Sunday Services:
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Breakfast
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Evening Worship
Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
& Children's Program
Rev. Phil Golden Jr., Pastor

Carnegie Primitive Methodist Church

640 Dow Ave., Carnegie, 15106
(Corner of Fountain St. & Dow Ave.)
412-563-4484
Welcome
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study & Prayer: 7 p.m.
Daniel Pastorius, Pastor

Church of the Atonement (Episcopal)

618 Washington Avenue, Carnegie,
PA 15106
412-279-1944
Holy Eucharist Rite II:
Sunday, 9 a.m.
The Rev. Ben Wright
Bible Study: Wed., 6:30 p.m.
www.atonementcarnegie.org
www.facebook.com/
atonementcarnegie

Carnegie Presbyterian Church

219 Ewing Road, Carnegie
412-279-3223
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Colleen F. Molinaro
www.carnegiepresby.org

NOTE: Call churches directly for special service hours for the holidays.

Church Corner News

NOTE: Check with the churches directly if you don't see a specific mention of Advent or Christmas service times.

Mt. Pisgah Church, 31 Warriors Rd., Green Tree, is back to the fall schedule with worship hours and Sunday School. Sunday school will be at 11:30 a.m.

All are invited to attend Pisgah Pasta, an "All You Can Eat Pasta Buffet" on Friday, Dec. 13, from 4-8 p.m. This buffet offers six homemade sauce choices, all made from scratch, which include Marinara, Traditional Meat, Garlic/Butter, Fettuccine Alfredo, and more.

Also included is BreadWorks breads, AYCE pasta, salad and beverages. Cost: \$9 for adults, \$5 kids 3-12, and free for little ones 2 and under. Everything is available to go.

Daytimers will meet Dec. 17 at 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 7 p.m.

Info at 412-921-8444.

Unity Presbyterian, (formerly Wallace Memorial Presbyterian) Church, Greentree Rd. at Potomac Ave., will be offering Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. Joyful Noise (4 yrs old - grade 1), Disciple Zone (grades 2-6) and adult classes.

Enjoy the Unity Concert Series featuring the Pitt Glee Club on Fri., Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

On Tues., Dec. 24, the Christmas Eve Family Service will be held at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary

Information at 412-561-2431.

Grace Anglican Church, 319 W. Sycamore St., Mt. Washington, two blocks down from Grandview Avenue, at the corner of Sycamore St. and Bertha St., welcomes you to enjoy a Carol Sing on December 17 at 7 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

On Dec. 22, a concert by One Voice Choir will be held at 2 p.m. with refreshments to follow. Info at 412-381-6020.

Crafton United Presbyterian Church, 80 Bradford Ave., is still holding the weekly food bank on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30-12:30 p.m. as part of the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Those who wish to receive food must reserve their space by calling 412-921-2293, opt. 3, ahead to schedule their day and time for pickup.

Info at 412-921-2293.

Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 601 Washington Ave., Carnegie, will be holding a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Family Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion will be at 7 p.m.

On Christmas Day, Festival Service of Carols and Communion will be at 10 a.m.

Information at 412-279-2952.

Carnegie Presbyterian Church, 219 Ewing Road, Carnegie, has both Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups that meet monthly. Anyone is welcome to join.

Contact Heather at 412-860-1142.

Info at carnegiepresby.org.

1st United Presbyterian Crafton Heights, 50 Stratmore Ave., is having a Blood Drive on Dec. 8, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Fair Trade Shopping Event, sponsored by Uniquely the Same, will be held on Sat., Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the East End Cooperative Ministry, 6175 Harvard St., 15206. This event features 15+ vendors, live music, free admission, complimentary coffee, donuts and pastries. Every gift you purchase helps to lift families in developing countries out of poverty!

Exercise indoors M-W-F at 9 a.m. at the church. All levels welcome.

Church of the Atonement, 618 Washington Ave., Carnegie is having their Annual Christmas Open House on Dec. 25, 1-3 p.m. for all. Enjoy fellowship and a delicious dinner. For

those who are shut-in, call Joyce at 412-276-0366 to place order by Dec. 21 for free delivery in the Carnegie area.

Information at 412-921-6153.

Covenant-Community Presbyterian Church, 1630 Greentree Rd., is having an Advent celebration on Dec. 7, 12 - 3 p.m. and includes music, crafts, snacks and live Nativity animals (12:30-2:30 p.m.). Christmas Eve service at 5:45 p.m. All are invited. Info call 412-343-4411.



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How Much is That Doggie in the Window?

By Marilyn Sorvas



Meet Max! He'd love to be your new BFF.

If you're kids ask you for a dog – or a cat – or a duck, parakeet, bunny, etc., for Christmas, don't do it. Don't cave in, "just say no." It's a terrible idea for the holidays.

What happens is that the home is in constant flux from irregular schedules. School is out, folks go on vacation, company is coming in and out, seasonal activities are going on outside of the house, and general chaos reigns on Christmas morning. You get the picture! A puppy or kitten gets treated like just another toy... and it's NOT a toy. The last chapter of this story is that the dog or cat gets sent off to a shelter after the New Year because it either had "accidents" in the house, was snippy to the kids, or everyone simply got tired of caring for it already.

That all sounds pretty harsh but statistics show that it happens. When a family adopts a new pet, it is perhaps a 10-15 year commitment. That pet is a new family member, due all the rights and benefits befitting its place in the family. It needs help to adjust, time to get accustomed to everyone and the routine of a solid home. The family adjusts itself to the new four-footed family member and learns to work with its feeding, potty, and sleep schedule.

The right time to buy a pet is after the new year, when the stress of the holidays is over, when

the kids are tired of their holiday toys and everyone gets back on a good, regular daily schedule, and are refreshed and revived.

Meet Max! He's an adult, medium-sized dog with a charming smile, who's good with people, including children. He loves to play AND to cuddle. He needs a home with no small animals, no cats, no small dogs. His vaccinations are up-to-date and he is neutered. He can be rough with his toys so you know he likes his exercise. Check him out! Call 312-928-9777 and ask for a "meet 'n greet." There are others as well.

ATTENTION

There are many ways to help the various animal shelters this holiday season.

One event is the **Western PA Humane Society Holiday Gift Wrapping** at the Mall of Robinson. They need volunteers for all shifts.

Check with pittsburghcares.org for more information on this opportunity and others.

Truby's Grooming

presents

Dog-of-the-Month



"Bella"

of Elliott

Crafton-Ingram Shopping Center

412-928-0188

Animal Shelters

Animal Advocates
412-928-9777

Animal Friends
412-847-7000

Humane Animal Rescue
412-345-7300

Humane Animal Rescue North
412-321-4625

Clip and Save

Dog Day Care

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Day Care, Overnight & Vacation Stays available

Conveniently located in Green Tree



Find out more:
412-921-7725

PJs, Paws & Popcorn: Holiday Edition

December 13, 5:30-9 p.m.

Attention Parents!

Looking for some shopping time or even a date night?
Drop the kids off with a sleeping bag and pillow, the rest is provided!

Evening Includes:

Meet & greet with a touchable critter
Games, Pizza, Popcorn & Drinks
G or PG movie

Cost \$25/child (\$10 each additional sibling)

East End Animal Resource Center
6926 Hamilton Ave., humaneanimalrescue.org 412-345-7300

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