The Comedy Corner

Visiting Santa

A grandmother took her grandson to the shopping mall in December to see Santa Claus. The young boy was very excited to sit on Santa's lap. "Now, little boy," Santa said, "tell Santa what you want for Christmas."

In a very loud voice, the boy said, "I want a NINTENDO, and a NEW BIKE, and some BOOKS, and—"

"You don't have to shout," Santa chuckled. "Santa isn't hard of hearing."

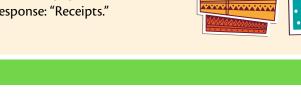
The boy leaned forward and whispered, "No, but my grandma is."

Gift Exchange

My friend reviewed her young son's fill-in-the-blank homework. One line: "At Christmas, we exchange gifts with _____." His response: "Receipts."



- 1 In Montgomery, Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the front section of a bus. (1955)
- 2 Barney B. Clark receives the world's first artificial heart transplant. (1982)
- 5 The 21st Amendment repeals Prohibition. (1933)
- 7 Pearl Harbor was bombed in a surprise Japanese attack. It marked the U.S. entry into WWII.(1941)
- 8 John Lennon was assassinated in New York City. (1980)
- 15 Gone With the Wind premiered in Atlanta. (1939)
- 17 The Wright Brothers made their first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C. (1903)
- 28 William F. Semple patented chewing gum. (1869)
- 30 Edwin Hubble announces the existence of other galactic systems. (1924) Yes, the Hubble telescope was later named after him.





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The HarborChase Wire: A Monthly Publication of HarborChase Sarasota MC



BIRTHSTONE: Blue Topaz

FLOWER: Holly

ZODIAC:

Sagittarius & Capricorn

SPECIAL DATES

World AIDS Day12/01
Full Moon12/03
Pearl Harbor Day12/07
Hanukkah12/12-12/20
Winter Solstice12/21
Christmas Day12/25
Kwanzaa12/26-1/01
New Year's Eve12/31

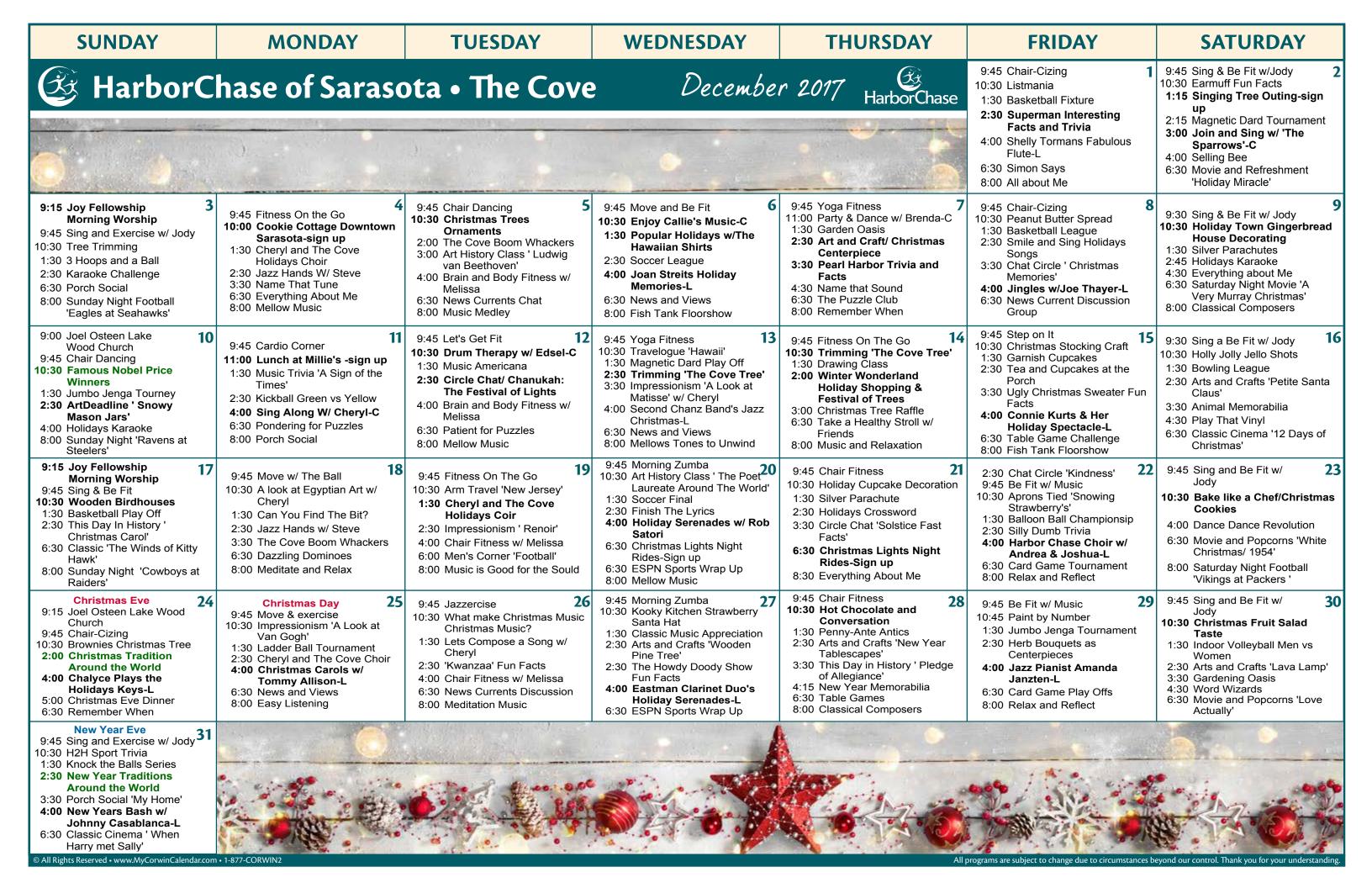
Fun Holiday Facts

- Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate the Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decide to have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and he would pass them out to the children to keep them quiet during the services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes.
- The modern Christmas custom of displaying a "wreath" on the front door of one's house, is borrowed from ancient Rome's New Year's celebrations. Romans wished each other "good health" by exchanging branches of evergreens. They called these gifts Strenae after Strenia, the goddess of health. It became the custom to bend these branches into a ring and display them on doorways.
- Christmas caroling began as an old English custom called Wassailing toasting neighbors to a long and healthy life. The earliest collection of carols was published in 1521.

'Gone with The Wind': A Southern Success

Over 300,000 people took to the streets in Atlanta, Georgia, as they made their way to Lowe's Grand Theater one exceptionally frigid night in 1939 for a motion picture debut of epic proportions. Spotlights filled the sky on December 15th as the premiere of the historical romance 'Gone with the Wind' broke more than just a few box office records, as the film garnered nine Oscars, as well as countless other awards. Several of the film's stars were at the Atlanta premiere, including Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, as well as the author of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel from which the film was adapted, Margaret Mitchell. The film has long been criticized for its portrayal of slavery. However, it has also been instrumental in changing the way African-Americans were depicted on screen.

'Gone with the Wind' remains the most successful film in box office history to this day, and a digitally remastered version of 'Gone with the Wind' was re-released in 1998.





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"The Greatest Benefit to Mankind"

Chemistry. Peace. Medicine. Physics. Literature. These five areas of study became a bit more prominent on Dec. 10, 1901. On the fifth anniversary of esteemed Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel's death, the first Nobel Prizes were awarded. Nobel set up the awards prior to his death, leaving \$9 million in his will for their creation. The prizes would be awarded to those who "...shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind."

The original ceremonies were a little different than they are today, however: The Laureates' names were kept hidden from the masses! So when the scholars arrived in their award destination of Stockholm, Sweden, talk immediately began to emerge about the special visitors in the country who would be receiving their awards at the old Royal Swedish Academy of Music. Hosting international guests was a rare occurrence in those days. The first Nobel Prize recipients included Sully Prudhomme, Frédéric Passy, Jean Henry Dunant, Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen, Jacobus Henricus van't Hoff and Emil Adolf von Behring. To date, 579 Nobel Prizes have been awarded.

The stage was set, both literally and figuratively, for the evolutionary culture of Broadway on Dec. 3, 1947. "A Streetcar Named Desire," which ran until Dec. 17, 1949, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre and concluded its run on the road with 855 total performances. Written by Tennessee Williams, this two-act play won Williams the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1948, inspiring a number of revivals and adaptation.

The likes of such a play had never before been seen on Broadway, with the enigmatic

brutality and sexuality shown through the lead characters played by Marlon Brando and Jessica Tandy. Tandy's role led to a Tony Award for best Leading Actress in a Play and a lifetime career in acting. Brando's role and his epic enunciation of "Stella!" led him to star in the film adaptation of "A Streetcar Named Desire." This ultimately catapulted Brando's career and life of stardom. The original "Streetcar Named Desire" managed to impact the entertainment industry in new and unforeseen ways for years to come.

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