# December 2013 A FREE PUBLICATION



### THE BABY BOOMER GENERATION & BEYOND

LOCAL INTEREST CALENDAR HEALTH FINANCE HOME & GARDEN ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE TRAVEL DINING FAMILY RETIREMENT LIVING



We're in the belly of the beast this month, as millions of us desperately scour stores for ideas and last-minute gifts. Did you know that much of our consumer culture as we know it today began with a boy from Wisconsin in 1908?

Story on page 7

### What's Wrong with Our Nativity Scenes?

"In Western societies, Christmas has largely become a family and commercial celebration for which the historical event – the birth of Christ – is a pretext." ~pg 3

### 7 Symptoms not to Ignore

Too often we ignore symptoms because we're just too busy to bother getting checked out.

That can be a big – possibly fatal – mistake.

Find out the symptoms – from fatigue, tummy pain, shortness of breath and more.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Enjoying the Good Life: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Visit Our Model Railroad Showroom

# Family Fun Lasts a Lifetime!

Choose from Hundreds of Exciting Model Railroading Gifts.



### **Showroom Hours**

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. 5601 West Florist Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218

### Win Prizes!

We've cleverly hidden "Santa's Little Helpers" here and there on the Walthers Showroom layout. Find them all, enter your name, and you could win a \$125 gift certificate or a new WalthersTrainLine® Set!

No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held on December 28, 2013.



### **Donate to Toys for Tots!**

Purchase a train set at our showroom, or at a selected area hobby shop, through December 24th and Walthers will donate \$5.00 to Milwaukee's "Toys for Tots".

For participating stores visit www.walthers.com/trainsetsforgood or call 414.461.1050

Mention This Ad For A Free Gift! when you visit the Walthers Showroom.

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Holiday Shopping, Holiday Parties, Holiday Tours. 2 Tours for the Price of One - \$8 with this ad.









Dates still available for your holiday party or event. We can accommodate parties and groups from two to 300. Looking for that unique holiday gift, how about some retro beer merchandise?



at the historic pabst brewery

Bring in this ad and get 2 for 1 one on our Beer History Tours (\$16 value for \$8). Check out our web site for tour times & days.



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### FROM THE PUBLISHERS

**DECEMBER 2013** 



Is there really a Santa Claus? I found myself in the middle of 'that' conversation just the other night and I had to really, really think on my feet. Amara, our 9-year old great-

neice is staying with us this school year and, to say the least, Tom and I have found ourselves in many new and unusual...adventures. Being on our own for so many years, we really didn't understand the chaos that kids bring into your lives. And the joy. Now we understand.

Now back to the Santa question. How do we answer without sounding silly but without popping some really wonderful childhood dreams? Being a firm believer in her own thoughts, Amara strongly pointed out 'It doesn't make sense. I think parents do it.' Mmmmm my mind was clicking fast... ah....well...

"Of course parents have to help. How could one fat little ball of red fur do it all by himself? But he's like magic Amara! And I believe in our life we'll all get chances for some very majestically magical moments. We'll know it when we feel it. Like God always watching over us but you can't see him. That's magic. Disneyworld. That's magic. And Santa, well he's part of that magic too. He puts the love and the pretty lights and all the presents under the tree into our hearts and then on Christmas Day... poof! We have magic!

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and iov. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus!" (By Francis P. Church, first published in The New York Sun in 1897).

So as we settle into the quiet of the early winter evenings in our fuzzy slippers this month, don't forget to watch for some of that magical stuff! Whatever your traditions and beliefs, it's there - go find it!

> And always remember to... Celebrate Life!

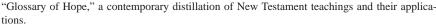
> > Sandy and Tom Draelos

Even Some 'Religious' Elements of Christmas Celebrations Stray from the Truth, Says Bible Publisher/Scholar

### What's Wrong With **Our Nativity Scenes?**

If you're in business, you likely don't even call this the holiday season anymore - it's "the holiday quarter." Because for businesses, Christmas is all about making money.

"In Western societies, Christmas has largely become a family and commercial celebration for which the historical event - the birth of Christ - is a pretext," says Christian E. Megrelis, www.christian-megrelis.com, chairman of the French Bible Society, former vice chair of the United Bible Societies and author of



"When Eastern churches began celebrating the birth of Jesus, they sought to keep the religious event distinct from the family and gift-giving event by separating the dates," he says. "That's why in Orthodox churches, gifts are not offered on Christmas Day, but rather on Jan. 2, St. Basil's Day, and thus are linked to the New Year celebration."

But Western churches, which adopted the Nativity celebration first, meshed the two practices,

Nativity Scene continued on page 23



# **7 Signs and Symptoms NOT to Ignore**

You work hard taking care of your family, friends and work. But are you taking care of yourself? Too often we ignore symptoms because we're just too busy to bother getting checked out. That can be a big – possibly fatal – mistake. Find out the symptoms – from fatigue, tummy pain, shortness of breath and more - you shouldn't ignore.

By Mayo Clinic staff

Chest pain, sudden loss of vision or speech, and severe abdominal pain require immediate medical attention — but what about more subtle red flags? It can be tough to know what to do. Here's a list of seven signs and symptoms that merit attention.

UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT LOSS

Losing weight without trying might sound like a dream come true, but in reality it can signal a

Signs and Symptoms continued on page 10

Boomers! is a monthly publication serving the Baby Boomer Generation (45 and above) of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee counties.

We provide informative, helpful & entertaining content which relates to the issues facing this diverse, active, mega-consumer market - America's number one generation!

### PUBLISHER / Editor

Sandra A. (Hill) Draelos

### ADVERTISING / MARKETING

Advertising Professionals Vicki Huber | Kelly Larson



### THE MILWAUKEE PUBLISHING CO., LLC

PHONE: (414) 586-9212 FAX: (414) 586-9474 milwaukeepublishing@wi.rr.com www.Boomersnewspaper.com









Registration has begun!

# WEEKEND EVENTS INCLUDE

FRIDAY EVENING
5K COMPETITIVE RUN

SATURDAY MORNING
KID'S DUATHLON/TRIATHLON

SATURDAY EVENING ADULT DUATHLON

SUNDAY MORNING
ADULT SPRINT TRIATHLON





### Uber Tap Room December 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM (Fri)

3 Sheeps Brewery Beer & Cheese PairingJoin Uber Tap Room and 3 Sheeps Brewery to sample 4 different 3 Sheeps Brewery beers with 4 different Wisconsin cheeses.

#### Mount Mary University Gospel Choir Concert December 6, 7pm

Mount Mary University

The Mount Mary University Gospel Choir will present its Christmas concert, More than a Holiday, on Friday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Our Lady Chapel, located on the second floor of Notre Dame Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door.

#### MPM European Village Holiday Traditions Alive! December 6-7, 11am

Milwaukee Public Museum Stroll the decorated European Village and step back in time to a turn-of-the-century holiday.

### Storytime with Mrs Claus December 6 & 13 from 5-6pm

Santa's home in Mayfair MallWhile Santa is on his break, Mrs. Claus will read favorite holiday stories and hand out plush toys to the first 50 children who attend each event.

## MillerCoors Holiday Lites December 6- 21, Fri and Sat, 4:40 pm A display of more than 300,000 LED

lights synchronized to a medley of holiday music in Miller Valley. Visitors to Holiday Lites receive a FREE brewery mini-... tour, special giveaways and discounts at the Girl in the Moon Brewery Sample beer at the end of the tour. Bring a new, unused toy for Toys-4-Tots or a non-perishable food item to benefit Hunger Task Force.

### Acacia Theatre Company Presents "Advent of Redemption"

Special pay-what –you- like performance on December 7 in Concordia University Wisconsin's Todd Wehr Auditorium, 12800 North Lake Shore Drive, Mequon Celebrating the season of advent with "Advent of Redemption," a production showcasing several of Acacia's bestloved short plays and a few of its all new tour offerings. Enjoy the Christmas story with an evening of music, theater and joy.

### Breakfast with the Reindeer Saturday, December 7, 9am

Clock Tower Square, Downtown Milw Enjoy donuts, milk, hot chocolate, carolers, and holiday music with live reindeer. Have your family photo taken with your camera to enjoy for years to come.

## Milwaukee Wave Opening Game & Concert Saturday, December 7, 6pm

US Cellular Arena December 7, 2013 at 6:00 PM (Sat)

#### Buy Local Gift Fair Sunday, December 8, Noon - 4 pm Lakefront Brewery

Keep your money in Milwaukee this holiday season with unique gifts for family and friends! Free admission. Local yendors.

#### Calmus "Christmas A Cappella" December 12, 7:30 pm

"Christmas A Cappella" will feature world-renowned German a cappella ensemble Calmus, First Prize Winner of the 2009 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, singing old and new holiday songs as you've never heard them before.

South Milw Performing Arts Center December 12, Thursday, 7:30 pm.

#### The Milwaukee Hmong New Year December 14-15 Exposition Center

Milwaukee Hmong community premier ethnic festival to celebrate the New Year with colorful costumes,

Year with colorful costumes, traditional music, delicious food, and a Hmong marketplace.

### Bel Canto Chorus Christmas in the Basilica December 14-15 Basilica of St Josephat

The Bel Canto Chorus, Boy Choirs, and Stained Glass Brass will fill the splendid space of the Basilica of St. Josaphat with music to lift your spirits.

### Trans-Siberian Orchestra December 15, 3pm & 7:30 pm shows BMO Harris Bradley Center

Encore and final performance of their multiplatinum rock opera, 'The Lost Christmas Eve.' A portion of the proceeds from every ticket will benefit the Hunger Task Force.

### Harlem Globetrotters December 31, 2013 BMO Harris Bradley Center

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters have been thrilling families and millions of fans for 88 years, all the while innovating

### 46th Annual Wonderful World of Weddings January 4-5, 2014

the game in exciting new ways.

Exposition Center
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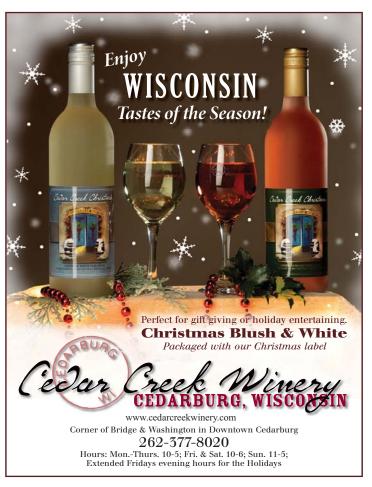














**Ripon Native Shaped Shopping Worldwide** 

ODD WISCONSIN By Michael Edmonds

Harry Gordon Selfridge (1857-1947) was born in Ripon and went to work at ten. He joined Marshall Field's at 19, made partner at 29, and retired with a fortune at

He invented the phrase, "Only [X] shopping days until Christmas," and coined the slogan, "The customer is always right."

In 1908 Selfridge visited London, where rude treatment by storekeepers prompted him to teach them a lesson. He built a five-floor American-style department store on Oxford St., in the very heart of the British Empire.

He covered its wider aisles with soft carpet and welcomed browsers who just wanted to "make a day of it." His store carried "almost everything that enters into the affairs of daily life."

It also turned shopping into sensual entertainment. It pioneered artistic window displays, and had a restaurant, music, fresh flowers, post office, and even a "silence room" for those who literally shopped 'til they dropped.

Conservative London merchants were shocked, but their customers were delighted. And Gordon Selfridge grew even richer.

For two decades he splurged on lavish homes, servants, travel, and gambling. When the Depression hit, he'd run through nearly all his money. Creditors let him stay on as honorary president when they seized the business in 1937.

By then, he'd largely invented consumer culture as we know it today.

Sources: "Yankee who taught Britishers that 'the customer is always right" Milwaukee Sentinel, September 09 1932; "Ripon native, now merchant prince, to return for honor." Sheboygan Daily Press, October 18, 1935.





We're in the belly of the beast this month, as millions of us desperately scour stores for lastminute gifts. And much of the consumer culture surrounding us began with a boy from Wisconsin...







Holiday Fruitcake Recipe

- 1 C Water
- 1 C Sugar
- 4 Large eggs
- 3 C Dried fruit 1 tsp. Baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 C Brown sugar
- Lemon juice, nuts
- 1 FULL bottle of whiskey
- 1 Full dose of HUMOR

Sample the whiskey to check for quality. Take out a large bowl. Check the whiskey again to be sure that it is of the highest quality. Pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer; beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 tsp. sugar and beat again. Make sure the whiskey is still OK. Try another taste. Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the burner. If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a screwdriver. Sample the whiskey to check for toxisisticity. Next, sift 2 cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one tablespoon of sugar or something...whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn on the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window. Check the whiskey again. Go to bed. Who the heck likes fruit cake anyway???



### The following phrases are alternate titles for well-known Christmas Carols. Have fun!!

- 1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
- 2.5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
- 3. Miniscule hamlet in the far east
- 4. Ancient benevolent despot
- 5. Adorn the vestibule
- 6. Exuberance directed to the planet \_\_\_\_
- 7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
- 8. Monarchial trio
- 9. Yonder in the haystack
- 10. Assemble, everyone who believes \_\_\_\_
- 11. Hallowed post meridian
- 12. Fantasies of a colorless December 25th\_
- 13. Tin tintinnabulums
- 14. A dozen 24-hour yule periods \_
- 15. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Homo sapien of crystallized vapor
- 17. I merely desire a pair of incisors
- 18. I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red\_\_\_\_
- 19. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy\_\_\_\_
- 20. Aloft on the acme of the abode

ANSWERS ON PAGE 26.

For more holiday fun, check out reindeerland.org







Kids get their first cell phone by age 12, and more than a third of them have smart phones. Nine out of 10 teens have a computer and 97 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds play video games. More than half the homes in the United States have a fairly new video game console.

"It's great that our kids have access to technology, but I talk to a lot of parents who say they simply don't enjoy giving their grandkids tech gifts during the holiday season," says Ted Bernstein, founder of Life Insurance Concepts, Inc. (www.lifeinsuranceconcepts.com).

That has become more challenging as kids, along with the rest of us, come to rely more and more on technology for everything — from communication to entertainment to telling the time. Coming from a four-generation family of life insurance specialists, Bernstein has a special interest in family legacies and a long history of innovation. He offers these suggestions for holiday gifts for grandkids that create lasting memories.



# Low-Tech Holiday Gifts Instead of Another Mobile Device or Video Game, Consider Something Lasting from the Heart the Kids will Remember

Their own clunker – which you'll restore together. If you have a child who's still a few years from driving age, buy an old pickup truck or car that the two of you can restore together. You'll have years to complete the project, which guarantees not only lots of one-on-one time together, but also the opportunity to teach valuable skills that will benefit him or her for a lifetime. "Plan it right, and when your child gets a driver's license, they will also have wheels," Bernstein says. "And after spending so much time working on that vehicle, they're more likely to drive it carefully!"

An annual helping hand for years after you've gone. Imagine being able to send your grandchild a holiday gift of \$20,000 every year for 20, 30 or 40 years — with a note from you attached. You can do it with the Installment Life Option, a life insurance policy option that pays

818 S. Water St (Water/National) 414-383-7593

beneficiaries of a life insurance policy in predetermined amounts of your choice for up to 40 years. Because of the deferred payout, the insurance company can reduce the premiums up to 50 percent. And your grandchild is reminded of your love for him or her throughout his life.

"A lot of the grandparents who do this love the fact that they can continue to help their grandchild long after they're gone," Bernstein says. "They also like the fact that they can choose what date the money is disbursed, whether it's a holiday, a birthday, or a special date significant to the grandparents and grandchild. And they can add a personal note, which can be sent according to the policy holder's instructions."

The gift of compassion. Sponsor an impoverished child in another country in your grandchild's name. "I like the organizations that allow you to personally connect with the child you sponsor, so your grandchild can write to and receive letters from them, and trade photographs. You can learn about the country together, and pick out gifts for birthday or holiday season," Bernstein says. A grandparent might pay the whole cost of sponsorship or allow the grandchild to pick up a small portion, he adds.

One organization highly rated by independent charity evaluator Charity Navigator is Compassion International. The 61-year-old Christian-based non-profit facilitates 1.2 million sponsorships, providing the children with food, medical care, educational opportunities and more for \$38 per month. Sponsors are invited to exchange letters and develop a relationship with the child.

Ted Bernstein is a third-generation life insurance specialist with decades of speaking out and advocating for changes on behalf of consumers. www.lifeinsuranceconcepts.com





CARRY IN OVER 35 STATES



# 7 Signs and Symptoms NOT to Ignore

continued from page 3

health problem. If you've lost up to 10 percent of your weight during the past six months, for instance, 15 pounds (7 kilograms) if you weigh 150 pounds (68 kilograms), consult your doctor.

An unexplained drop in weight could be caused by various conditions — including overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism), diabetes, depression, liver disease, cancer or disorders that interfere with how your body absorbs nutrients (malabsorption disorders).

### PERSISTENT or HIGH FEVER

A fever isn't necessarily a cause for alarm. Fever seems to play a key role in fighting infection. If you've had a fever for more than three days, however, get checked by your doctor. Persistent fever can signal a hidden infection, which could be anything from a urinary tract infection to tuberculosis. In some cases, cancerous (malignant) conditions such as lymphomas- cause prolonged or persistent fevers, as can some medications.

If you have a high fever, 103 F (39.4 C) or higher, consult your doctor as soon as possible.

### SHORTNESS of BREATH

Shortness of breath that feels more severe than what's caused by a stuffy nose or vigorous physical activity could signal an underlying health problem. If you're unable to get your breath, or you're gasping for air or wheezing, seek emergency medical care. Feeling breathless when lying down also is a symptom that needs to be evaluated promptly.

Causes for breathlessness may include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia, a blood clot in the lung (pulmonary embolism), as well as other heart and lung problems. Difficulty breathing can also occur with panic attacks — episodes of intense anxiety that can cause rapid heart rate, sweating, shortness of breath and other physical symptoms.

### **4 UNEXPLAINED BOWEL CHANGES**

What's considered normal for bowel movements varies widely. Consult your doctor if you notice unusual or unexplained changes in what's normal for you, such as: bloody, black or tarry-colored stools; persistent diarrhea or constipation; unexplained urges to have a bowel movement

Changes in bowel habits could signal a bacterial infection — such as campylobacter or salmonella — or a viral or parasitic infection. Other possible causes include irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.

### **5**CONFUSION/PERSONALITY CHANGES

Seek medical attention if you have: sudden confused thinking; confusion about time or place (disorientation); sudden problems with concentration

or memory, sudden personality or behavior changes, such as becoming aggressive

Changes in behavior or thinking could be caused by many problems, including infection, anemia, low blood sugar, dehydration or mental health conditions. Sometimes medications contribute to confusion or personality changes.

### 6 FEELING FULLAFTER EATING LITTLE

If you consistently feel full sooner than normal or after eating less than usual, get checked by your doctor. This feeling, known as early satiety, also may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, bloating, fever, and weight loss or gain. If so, be sure to tell your doctor about these signs and symptoms as well.

Possible causes of early satiety include gastroesophageal reflux disease, commonly known as GERD, and irritable bowel syndrome. In some cases, a more serious problem — such as pancreatic cancer, could be a factor.

### 7 FLASHES of LIGHT

Bright spots or flashes of light and other visual disturbances sometimes indicate a migraine. In other cases, sudden flashing lights could signal retinal detachment. Immediate medical care can help prevent permanent vision loss.







When someone publicly posts 'Ugh, I have the flu' on Twitter or Facebook. Sickweather qualifies that report using a patent-pending process and then plots it on a map.

### NEW IPHONE APP ALERTS YOU WHEN SICKNESS IS NEARBY Just in time for holiday travel and flu season

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

Sickweather, a Baltimore-based company that tracks illness, has launched their first mobile app for the iPhone to alert users in real-time when they enter sick zones: areas near reports of illness gathered from social media. This is the first app of it's kind to leverage big data from social media, along with Apple iOS's geofencing and notification technologies, to serve health alerts.

For example, when someone publicly posts 'Ugh, I have the flu' on Twitter or Facebook, Sickweather qualifies that report using a patent-pending process and then plots it on a map. When a Sickweather app user travels near that report (whether they are dropping kids off at school, traveling for the holidays, or stopping in their favorite cafe for a cup of coffee) they will get a real-time alert notification on their phone warning them of their proximity

"What users do at that point is up to them," says Graham Dodge, CEO & co-founder of Sickweather. "It could prompt you to wash your hands, get a vaccine, buy medication, or take other preventive measures to boost your immune system, but ultimately we believe that the net effect of this new, real-time awareness will help reduce the spread of illness and reduce healthcare costs."

The Sickweather app is available in the App Store as a free download here: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ sickweather/id741036885?mt=8

Sickweather launched their beta website in November 2011, and now qualifies over 600,000 reports of illness each month. In 2012, they were recognized among "100 Brilliant Companies" by Entrepreneur Magazine and featured on the Today Show for successfully identifying the early start of the 2012 Flu Season 6 weeks before the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). For more information, please visit: http://www.sickweather.com







For increased living space, bypass the backyard, forget the attic, and look to the basement. A lower-level area can be transformed into the "center" of a home without extensive renovations.

# Latest Trends in Custom Basements

**Upper level living rooms are becoming more formal** and less frequently used, according to Tom Mainville, CR, of Story Hill Renovations in Wauwatosa. "The basement is often now the 'go to' room when families want to spend time together," says Mainville. "Extending living space – even doubling what's on the main floor of the home – is what's in."

An open floor plan gives the lower level an airy feel, while a simple differentiation in flooring by area can divide the space by functions. "A mixture of carpet, hardwood floors, or tiles will make it look more like a home and less like a drab basement," notes Deron Butler of Joseph Douglas Homes and Remodeling in Menomonee Falls. Butler also recommends maximizing headroom and opening up the stairs at the bottom. "Have this area be the main focal point of the lower level to appear more inviting," he said. "An exercise space and bathroom can be located out in the perimeter."

"Adding a bathroom downstairs is a popular trend and truly worth the investment," said Butler. "Because it's generally not the main bathroom for the house, a basement bathroom doesn't have to be large. An area about 35 square feet can accommodate a toilet, vanity, and shower."

Lower levels with mini and full kitchens are great for entertaining, Mainville adds. "A wet bar or small kitchen makes entertaining that much easier," he said. "This eliminates the need to go up and down the stairs with snacks and dishes and allows you to focus on the time spent with your guests or just relaxing. Incorporating a basement kitchen does require access to hot and cold water, as well as electrical outlets."

The choice in lighting is key to making a custom basement feel more like home. "Select recessed can lighting to help your lower level appear more spacious," recommends Butler. He suggests painting the trim around to can lights to help them blend into the ceiling. "Decorative table and floor lamps will also brighten the space and provide task lighting beside sofas and chairs," Butler said. "But if you have an opportunity to cut in an additional window, take it, and let as much light in as possible."

Other touches that help open up the lower level and make it feel like part of the rest of the house include wall trim, ceiling treatments, and crown molding. "Break up long walls with niches or other interesting features," said Butler. "Simply putting light-colored paint on the walls will make a dramatic difference in the look and feel of the basement. If height allows, tray or coffered ceilings also add a nice touch. The lower level doesn't have to be dark and dingy." Also consider covering the basement foundation walls, perhaps with drywall, paneling, or plywood.

For more information or to receive a free copy of an annual membership roster listing all members alphabetically and by category, and the booklet, "Milwaukee/NARI's Remodeling Guide," call 414-771-4071 or visit the Council's website at www.milwaukeenari.org.







There's a new term that's been floating around for a few years now – "Aging In Place". Most who hear it, aren't sure what it really means. Is "Aging In Place" a good thing? Or does it have negative connotations, as though to suggest one should give up their independence as they age and reside quietly in a singular location, likely not of his or her own choosing?

Thankfully, "Aging In Place" is indeed a good thing and in fact the opposite of this negative connotation. Simply put, "Aging In Place" refers to one's ability to remain in their own home as they age, with as much independence as possible. With today's innovations, gone is the need to move from the home you love into an assisted living facility or nursing home, simply because some everyday tasks have grown difficult for you.

Nobody relishes moving to an assisted facility or nursing home. Moreover, even if you resign yourself to doing so because you believe there's no better way, you're faced with the daunting task of how to pay for such a facility. A recent article in The Journal Sentinel by Guy Bolton on the cost of assisted living, nursing home care in Wisconsin, sheds some eye opening light on these costs.

"The median annual cost of an assisted living facility in Wisconsin is \$42,451, while the cost for a private room in a nursing home is \$96,725 in the state, according to the 10th annual survey by Genworth Financial Inc."

With little help from private insurance or Medicare, it's easy to see how someone can quickly spend their life's savings when they choose to move into such a facility. The alternative: "Aging In Place" to the rescue!

By now, you're probably wondering just how feasible that option is for you, due to tasks that may have become too difficult and of course, the cost. Let's address the two most common issues that arise as we begin to age: Managing stairs and bathing/toileting.

As we age, managing stairs inside and outside, becomes increasingly difficult. This is compounded in a two-story home where the bedrooms and main bathroom are on the upper level. For the exterior, a simple ramp can be constructed, thereby eliminating the need for stairs. This is suitable for a variety of abilities, including someone who uses a walker, scooter or wheelchair. The cost for a basic ramp can be as little as \$3,500, installed. For interior stairs, a variety of stair lifts are available to fit all types of staircases. For basic straight stairs, the cost for a lift would average \$3,200, installed. Both ramps and stair lifts install in one day, with minimal alterations to the home.

Another set of challenges arise in the bathroom. Something as simple as toileting can become a chore when it's difficult to sit or rise without a helping hand. Several cost effective fixes are available. The first is the installation of grab bars to give you that extra helping hand. The second is the installation of a raised toilet seat. These simple fixes range between \$75 and \$200. The bigger issue in the bathroom however, is bathing. As we age, it often becomes difficult to climb into and out of the bathtub and this activity is the cause of the majority of household falls for seniors. Solutions which are available for this situation are the installation of a barrier free shower (zero ledge to step over) or a walk-in bathtub. The cost for either ranges \$5,000 to \$7,000 on average, with two to five days to install. And, both actually raise your home's value!

There are so many other products that are not mentioned, to help you with "Aging In Place". It's plain to see, the onetime cost of any (or even all) of these helping devices is only a fraction of the cost of just one year of rent in an assisted care facility. Costs aside, "Aging In Place" gives you the freedom and independence you deserve, while staying in the home you love!

Russ DuQuaine is an Accessibility Specialist with CARE – Complete Accessible Ready Environments, and can be reached at 877-917-2273.

# Have you ever dreamed of playing in a band?

Whether you've never picked up an instrument, or haven't played since high school, we invite you to experience the fun of making music with a small group of adults just like yourself.

We play in a concert band setting, and also split into smaller ensembles. No experience is necessary. Many of our members had not played before joining. This is a great opportunity for seniors to try something new. No age limitations - we have members between 40 and 90!

Join us at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Saukville Mondays & Thursdays at 1pm

Local Chapter of New Horizons International Instructors are Degreed Music Professionals FUN is our main ingredient!

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### IS YOUR LAWYER ALSO A CPA?



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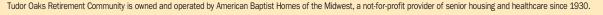
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Presented by the UW-Waukesha Continuing Education Department

# Retrace the Heroes' Journey on the Freedom Ride

In 1961, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregated buses were unconstitutional, yet the segregated South refused to enforce the new laws. To confront local laws and culture which enforced segregation in seating, a number of young Black and White students challenged the status quo by riding in mixed racial groups on interstate buses in the South. These pioneers of the civil rights movement were known as Freedom Riders.

UW-Waukesha Continuing Education Department will retrace those heroes' journey on its own Freedom Ride. The group will embark on a 9-day journey to key cities encountered on the historic Freedom Ride and end in Washington, D.C. Led by Margaret Rozga, poet and Civil Rights activist and Jim O'Leary, Oconomowoc High School history and IB teacher, the group will travel to monuments, memorials, and museums erected to honor civil rights actions. In addition, the group will attend the opening ceremony of the National Civil Rights Conference. This year's conference will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the murder of three civil rights activists, Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney, immortalized in the 1988 film, Mississippi Burning.

UW-Waukesha's Freedom Ride will travel to Memphis, TN and visit the Civil Rights Museum housed in the Lorraine Motel, site of Martin Luther King's assassination, and then proceed to Jackson, MS to visit Medgar Evers Home among other sites. The next stop is Alabama, specifically Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. While there, the group will visit the Rosa Parks

Memorial Museum, the Voting Rights Museum, and Edmund Pettus Bridge. In Atlanta, Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church and the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame will be featured. The group will end the Freedom Ride with two days in Washington D.C. with tours of monuments and museums arranged by Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner's staff, before flying home to Milwaukee.

Jim O'Leary, retired history teacher from Oconomowoc shared, "This trip represents a genuinely unique opportunity to retrace the steps of a pivotal time in our 20th century history. We won't just talk about what happened, we'll stand in the same places as those who risked their lives to make this a more just nation."

The tour is expected to attract adult community members, whose lives paralleled the 60's, and university students who would be the same age as the original Freedom riders. The students can earn credit for the educational tour. Passante adds, "Whenever UW-Waukesha travels with a multigenerational group, the experience is all the more rich."

The package includes: admission to all sites and museums, hotel accommodations (eight evenings), eight dinners, coach bus transportation on the tour and airfare from Washington, D.C., and 3 credits (optional). For cost, registration, a full itinerary and slideshow, go to the Travel page at UW-Waukesha Continuing Education website: <a href="http://www.waukesha.uwc.edu/Continuing-Education/Travel-tryps.aspx">http://www.waukesha.uwc.edu/Continuing-Education/Travel-Trips.aspx</a> or email Vic Passante at vic.passante@uwc.edu.



Rosa Parks Memorial US Capitol

The 1961 Freedom Rides began in May and intended to test court decisions that interstate buses and terminals be integrated. While 13 students set out on a twoweek journey that they knew had risks, the movement eventually involved more than 400 riders over a seven month span.





# How to Financially Survive Expert Offers Tips to Maximize Money for an Aging Population

Retirement

Americans are living longer these days from an average 47 years in 1900 to more than 78 years as of 2010. We are also experiencing a deluge of adults reaching retirement age now that includes 10,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day.

By 2030, when the last of the baby boomers have turned 65, nearly one in five Americans will be retirement age, according to the Pew Research Center's population projections. Money will be a big problem for many of them, especially if boomers develop health problems that affect their ability to live independently, says insurance expert, Chris Orestis, a former insurance industry lobbyist who recently contributed to the federal Commission on Long-Term Care's fact-finding mission.

"With 30 percent of the Medicaid population consuming 87 percent of Medicaid dollars on long-term care services, we can see that's not going to be sustainable," Orestis says. "More individuals will be forced to find their own resources to pay for those needs. That's why states such as California, Florida, New York and Texas are embracing legislation requiring seniors to be notified that they can convert their life insurance policy for 30 to 60 percent of its death benefit value. The money can be put into an irrevocable fund designated specifically for any form of care they choose."

Orestis details more ways in which seniors might

handle long-term care and other budgetary issues:

• Senior discounts really add up! Here's a list of establishments to check out:

www.lifecarefunding.com/blog/senior-discounts. Restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, travel deals and other merchants give various senior discounts with minimum age requirements ranging from 55 to 62. Some of these places are worth making habits, with 15 percent off the bill at Applebee's, 30 percent off at Banana Republic and 60 percent off at Food Lion on Mondays! Don't forget your free cup of coffee at Dunkin' Donuts if you're 55 or older, and don't be shy – at many of these places you'll have to ask for the discount.

• Long-term care is a matter of survival, so use your best options. The practice of converting a life insurance policy into a Life Care Benefit has been an accepted method of payment for private duty in-home care, assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care and hospice care for years. Instead of abandoning a policy when they can no longer afford the premiums, policy owners have the option to take the present-day value of the policy while they are still

alive and convert it into a Long Term Care Benefit Plan. By converting the policy, a senior will remain in private pay longer and be able to choose the form of care that they want but will be Medicaid-eligible when the benefit is spent down.

· Your "last act" may be decades away, so plan accordingly. It makes sense to finally enjoy your money after a lifetime of savings, but be smart about it. Take time to organize your paperwork and create a master file that holds things such as insurance policies, investments, property, wills and trusts, etc. so you have your financial picture in one place. Also, live smart today and hold off on that new car if you don't need a new one. If your current car is paid off and you sit tight for an additional two years, you'll save \$7,200 on a new car with \$300 monthly payments. Refinancing your home may also be a very good idea, since rates are still hovering around their all-time lows. Get at least three quotes, compare rates, terms and potential penalties to make sure you're getting the best deal. Also, live healthy a to lessen the chance you'll need long-term care in the future.

Chris Orestis, nationally known senior health-care advocate and expert is CEO of Life Care Funding, which created the model for converting life insurance policies into protected Long-Term Care Benefit funds. A former life insurance industry lobbyist with a background in long-term care issues, he created the model to provide an option for middle-class people who are not wealthy enough to pay for long-term care, and not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid.





### The STRECTCH IRA



What's a Stretch (or Beneficiary) IRA? It's a name to explain how withdrawals can be taken by your IRA beneficiaries AFTER you pass away. This refers to both inherited IRAs and inherited Roth IRAs.

The Stretch IRA is the ability of your beneficiaries to extend distributions on his/ her inherited IRA over his/her lifetime. There is so much involved in the Stretch IRA and it is such a great benefit that I can't get into all of the details here. But, let's get started with some of the key points.

One major benefit of a Stretch IRA is, the younger the beneficiary, the bigger the tax benefit (due to the longer life expectancy.) The longer the life expectance, the longer the money can grow tax deferred or tax free for your beneficiaries.

Simply put, the life expectancy of a 50-year-old beneficiary is 34.2 years, a 20-year-old is 63 years and a 1-yearold is 81.6 years. This is a terrific planning opportunity because the annual required withdrawal for the younger beneficiary is so much smaller AND the money can grow so much longer. If the IRS has to wait for the money, the family can keep more money with a larger potential for growth.

While the tax deferral is a terrific benefit, it can be even more powerful when used with a Roth IRA. A Stretch Roth IRA offers all distribution and growth tax-free for life!

You have to know what you're doing, so once again, "don't try this at home." If the Stretch IRA is not done properly, the benefits will be lost. When setting up a Stretch IRA it is imperative that:

The Stretch provisions must be set-up in an IRA beneficiary form and then, the key point; it has to be executed at the time of the IRA holder's death.

·The titling of the new Inherited IRA (Beneficiary or Stretch) has to be correct and include important components. Most importantly, the deceased IRA owner's name – YOUR name – must remain on the Inherited IRA, along with the beneficiary's names. If this is done incorrectly, it will mess-up a perfectly good plan!

Using a Stretch IRA or Stretch Roth IRA is a terrific technique, if done properly. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Jeffrey D. Kowal, CLU, ChFC is a Chartered Financial Consultant and President of the Kowal Investment Group, LLC. Aaron T. Kowal CFP® is a Financial Advisor at Kowal Inevstment Group, LLC, N16 W24132 Prairie Ct. Suite 200, Waukesha, WI 53188. They can be reached at 262-522-4040 or jkowal@kowalinvestmentgroup.com. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the option discussed in this material. Any opinions are those of The Kowal Investment Group and not neces-



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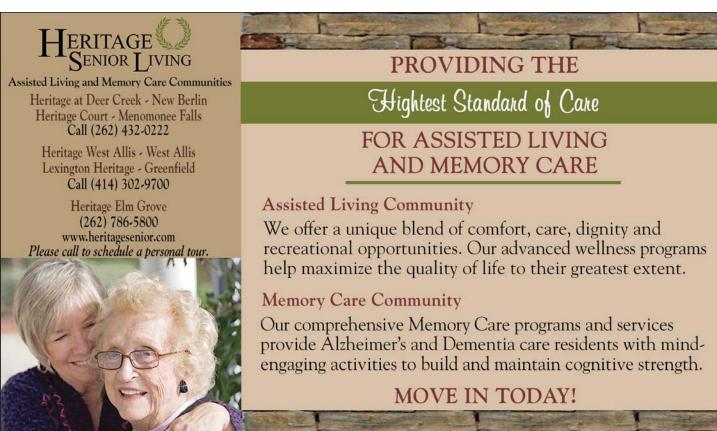




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# **Packing**



### on Your Next Vacation

Let's face it, some of the most fascinating places in the world are located in some of the most impoverished places in the world. You can't visit the Pyramids of Giza without driving through the slums of Cairo. The Taj Mahal, arguably the most beautiful building ever built, sits amid some of the worst poverty anywhere. Even vacationing on a beautiful Caribbean island, your luxury resort is an anomaly; but the poverty is all around you.

By Ann Craig-Cinnamon

I've been traveling most of my life and, in fact, I lived in Tehran, Iran as a young woman back in the mid 1970's. Poverty was all around me there. I had a beggar friend that I passed every day on the street. We were warned not to give money to beggars because if you did, they wouldn't leave you alone and you might draw an unwanted crowd. So I didn't give him anything, and for his part, he never asked. We just had a friendly salaam and a smile for each other each day. But I always felt bad about it. The often used rationalization about the poor not knowing any better never held any truth for me. It's more "there but for the grace of God go I" that sums up my feelings more accurately. I don't know how you can witness other human beings struggling for their everyday existence and not be changed by it.

As much as I love to travel to exciting and exotic spots around the world, I have always had lot of trouble justifying my own good fortune being able to enjoy the best of what a country has to offer while the people there, many of them poor, are waiting on me and treating me like a king. I understand and agree with the logic that, by going, I am helping to create jobs and am contributing to the economy. But it just doesn't seem like enough.

Courtesy of www.Dosomething.org

A few years ago I read about a couple who, on their own, raised money, medical supplies and clothing at their workplace and church which they personally delivered to an orphanage in Nairobi. So when my husband and I decided to go to Kenya we thought we would try the same thing. We raised several thousand dollars, lots of clothing, and had a local pharmaceutical company donate medical supplies which we then took with us to the New Life Children's Home in Nairobi. We packed everything in old suitcases that we just left there. It wasn't a difficult thing to do; it just took a little thought and planning. And we received way more than we gave when we had the opportunity to visit with those beautiful children and see the good work the orphanage was doing in a country devastated by Aids and other diseases.

More recently when we visited Cambodia we noticed wells that had signs on them. We asked our guide about it and learned that the wells had been donated by tourists who wanted to help when they saw the poverty that the people of Cambodia were living in. We decided to donate a well ourselves so our guide took us to an area near Siem Reap where the government had given little plots of land to the poor and disabled. Many of these people had nothing but a shack to live in and no water nearby. Drinking dirty polluted water was a common occurrence and people often became ill and even died because of it. So, we donated enough money to have a well built in an area where several families lived. Believe it or not, the well only cost us \$200. For the cost of a utility bill here at home, several families would have fresh, clean water to drink. It was an easy thing to do. We didn't even lift a finger.

There are a lot of non-profit organizations that offer what are called "voluntourism" trips in which the traveler gets involved in charitable work while they are visiting a poor country. And that is a great way to help. But if you are the kind of traveler who wants to go on your own but you'd like to do something to help while you are visiting, you can, if you seek it out. It doesn't have to be Cambodia or Kenya, it can be closer to home like in the Caribbean. Just do a little research ahead of time to find an organization that is legitimate, contact them to see what they might need and start a fundraiser of your own at your church before you go. Tour guides are often a great source too. You have the added bonus of seeing for yourself that your donation is going to a good cause. I guarantee you that you will enjoy your trip a lot more if you leave something meaningful behind rather than taking lots of things home with you.

Ann Craig-Cinnamon has spent 30 years in both radio and television broadcasting in the Indianapolis market. After living in Tehran, she developed a love for travel and has visited all 50 states and more than 70 countries on all 7 continents. She is also the author of the new book, Walking Naked in Tehran. For more information please visit: www.walkingnakedintehran.com

There are a lot of non-profit organizations that offer what are called "voluntourism" trips in which the traveler gets involved in charitable work while they are visiting a poor country.



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The volunteer concert band meets in Saukville, with members coming from Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington and Fond du Lac for weekly rehearsals, and when the music is 'ready for prime time' the group shares its musical cheer by performing at area senior living facilities and senior centers.

Instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. Don't have an instrument, no problem, try a variety until you find the one most suited.

There is room for everyone, and there is no pressure to

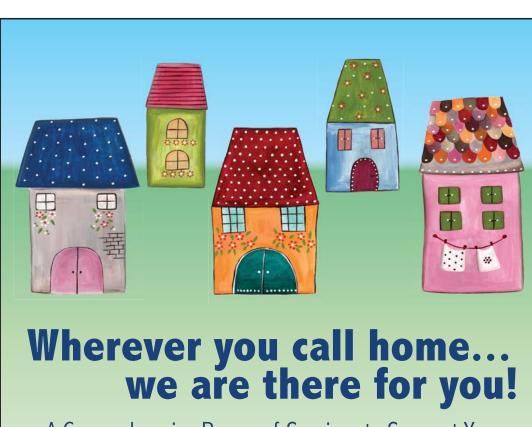
progress at any particular pace or play music beyond one's skill level.

"We believe actively participating in music-making is a perfect way to add meaning, deep satisfaction, friendships and fun to our lives," says director Diana Jonen. "We try hard to find music that is fun for the more advanced players, yet not daunting for the beginners."

Jonen taught beginning band for four years, and now teaches private students and coaches a youth

The atmosphere is relaxed, reflecting the national New Horizons motto: "Your best is good enough."

Members age in range from their 40's to their 90's. If interested, you may contact Diana Jonen at (262)-308-0916 or info@tc-newhorizons-band.org



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# "If we want people to be their best, we need to shine a light on what that looks like."

Sharing Their Stories Can Make Us a Better Society

### Philanthropist Honors Our Unsung Human Angels

It's easy to spot the largely unsung heroes in these three recent news stories:

- Fifteen National Guardsmen run 26 miles carrying full backpacks to raise money for the families of fallen soldiers.
- An off-duty firefighter rushes to a dangerous chemical blaze because he knows the local volunteer force may not be equipped to handle it.
- A middle school student in Georgia rallies youngsters and businesses to collect comfort items for troops deployed in Afghanistan.

"But each of these stories also has a surprising twist – one that underscores just why it's so important to share them," says philanthropist John Shimer, founder of the Angels Among Us project (www.angelsamongusproject.org). "If we want people to be their best, we need to shine a light on what that looks like."

Shimer notes that in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings, Americans took comfort in seeing and hearing about the many acts of selflessness.



"We were horrified by the fact that there's someone evil enough to place a ticking bomb next to children. But we were also heartened by the bravery of the civilians who rushed into danger to help the injured, and the many area residents who opened their homes to stranded race participants."

In January, Shimer launched Angels Among Us to recognize just such people. Community "human angels" are selected from among nominations and, in addition to receiving an Earthly Angel Award and a donation to their charity of choice, Angels Among Us produces professional, high-quality videos that tell their story.

"The videos are compelling, so people will watch them," Shimer says. "And that's how we spread the word, inspire others, and even create a society where *everyone* is an Earthly Angel."

Angels Among Us, which accepts nominations at its website, has no shortage of amazing stories, Shimer says.

### Consider these recent examples:

National Guard 'Tough Ruckers': Fifteen Massachusetts National Guardsmen donned full gear, including backpacks weighing 40 pounds or more, to run the Boston Marathon in memory of fallen soldiers. The "Tough Ruck" also raised money for the families of deceased soldiers through the Military Friends Foundation.

But that's not the end of the story.

The men were near the finish line when the bombs exploded April 15. They're the guys in fatigues seen on countless videos rushing to pull down barricades to get to the injured.

An off-duty, volunteer firefighter: Capt. Kenny "Luckey" Harris, 52, worked for the Dallas Fire Department but lived 80 miles away in West, Texas, where he also served with the all-volunteer

station. He was off duty on April 17 when fire erupted at a fertilizer plant in West. He rushed to the plant.

"He was worried the volunteer guys wouldn't be safe on a chemical fire," his friend and fellow firefighter Ronnie Janek said. "He said he had to help them stay safe." Harris was among the 14 people who died when the fertilizer plant exploded – 11 of them were first responders.

Volunteer firefighters, who put their lives on the line for their communities for no pay, make up 69 percent of U.S. firefighters.

A boy with a heart for soldiers: As a 10-year-old fifth-grader, Remington Youngblood understood the hardships facing troops in Afghanistan and wanted to do something both to help them and to express his appreciation for their sacrifices. So he

created a nonprofit, Change4Georgia, partnered with a Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and hit the speaking circuit to rally other schools, businesses and communities to the cause.

Today, the middle school student's charity not only regularly fills troops' wish lists for items like chewing gum and chapstick, last Christmas it delivered hundreds of gifts and foods to the children of active-duty soldiers. It also provides school supplies to those children, and even makes an annual scholarship donation to one student veteran.

As these stories demonstrate, angels surround us in many forms, Shimer says.

"If we look for them and follow their example," who knows how we can change the world?"

John Shimer is a director of Fortune Family Foundation, a charitable corporation that provides assistance to non-profits focused on fostering self-sufficiency. He is the author of "Turn Right at the Dancing Cow," the story of a "human angel" from Seattle and the vocational school she established in Uganda. He's the founder of the new Angels Among Us Project, which seeks to spotlight the best and most inspiring of human behavior.







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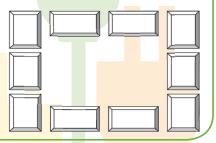
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The days grow darker sooner and the cold wind increases. Welcome to the season of winter when some people may experience the unwelcome guest of a growing isolation.

Rev. Joe Jagodensky, SDS

"Isolation begins very slowly, especially as we age," according to Alexian Village of Milwaukee Health Services director, Karri Sears. "In winter we tend to be indoors much more and people can neglect important health opportunities to interact with others. During the winter months, older adults need to be extra careful not to separate themselves from neighbors, family or friends as it can have a direct impact on health.

Isolation can slowly lead to depression which then encourages more isolation. "It's a vicious cycle where one symptom slowly leads or becomes something else," according to Alexian Village's Linda Paulson, BSN, MBA. "It's common to feel lonely at times in life but if other symptoms present themselves, then depression can easily occur." The National Institute of Mental Health lists these warning signs:

- ~ Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions
- ~ Fatigue and decreased energy
- ~ Feelings of guilt, worthlessness or helplessness
- ~ Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- ~ Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping
- ~ Irritability, restlessness
- ~ Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex
- ~ Overeating or appetite loss
- $\sim$  Persistent aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease even with treatment
- ~ Persistent sad, anxious, or empty feelings
- ~ Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts

"Staying connected is very important for older adults," says Rev. Joe Jagodensky, SDS, Director of Pastoral Care at Alexian Village. "As we get older there are so many losses, personal and in family, that special attention needs to be paid to the temptation to separate ourselves from others. It can easily become a habit that we take for granted as just another part of aging when it is not, at all."

### Knowing depression's symptoms can help you head them off

Being aware of winter's isolation and possible depression can lead people to create creative measures to stay involved and connected. Karri Sears offers these suggestions: "Visiting and walking through a mall during a winter afternoon can add activity and necessary light to the day. Exercise, even simple ones, can awaken endorphins that trigger positive mood and good feelings. Calling friends can help even if the conversation is only about the weather. If anxious feelings arise don't be afraid to talk about it, we're all susceptible to periodic "winter blahs." Relaxing with a good book or enjoyable music can have a calming effect. Identifying the time of day that is the most difficult to live through can encourage filling that time cleverly. For many people the transition at dusk is a troubling time. Why do you think bars have 'Happy Hour' during that time? Filling that time with something positive can counteract feeling low or alone. It may sound silly but making a point to make a store clerk or cashier smile can help you smile yourself."

To an extent, we can manage our attitudes and dispositions. We all have what's called 'situational depression' which is just a part of life. But a lingering feeling of worthlessness or meaningless can be very dangerous, especially for older adults. If these feelings persist, you may want to seek out support groups or professional counseling.

Alexian Village of Milwaukee is a "continuing care" retirement community offering Independent Apartments, Assisted Living, Rehabilitative Services, Skilled Nursing and Adult Day Services. 9301 N. 76th Street. www.AlexianBrothers.net. Rev. Joe Jagodensky, SDS can be reached at jjagodensky@alexianbrothers.net or (414) 357-5105, extension 5558

# What's Wrong With Our Nativity Scenes?



continued from page 3

which led to secularization, Megrelis explains.

"The West's Christmas celebration is partly responsible for the secularization of Western societies," he says.

Some of our most important religion-oriented holiday traditions don't even jibe with the story told in the official historical record of Jesus' birth: the Bible, Megrelis says. He offers these examples.

Animals in our manger scenes. The canonical Bible – the books of the Bible considered to be Holy Scripture – does not mention sheep, donkeys or other animals watching over the newborn Jesus. The animals are from the apocryphal gospels, writings by early Christians that were not included in the New Testament because their authors were anonymous, unverifiable or otherwise dubious. These include the "infancy gospels" written during the second century to feed a hunger for more detail about Jesus as a baby and young boy.

"The Gospels of Matthew and Luke say only that Jesus was placed in a manger – a feeding trough for animals," Megrelis says. "They do not say whether the manger was in a stable or what animals were about. Those details came from the infancy gospels."

Our images of a pregnant Mary riding to Bethlehem on a donkey. Again, the New Testament makes no mention of Mary on a donkey. But according to the apocryphal gospels, Joseph saddled a donkey and "set Mary upon it" for the trip to Bethlehem.

"We three kings of Orient are." Contrary to the popular Christmas carol, the Bible does not say how many wise men visited the infant Jesus. The only reference to "three" is the number of gifts they brought: gold, frankincense and myrrh. The carol has them traveling a great distance and our traditions have them arriving at a stable.

"In fact, the Bible says, 'On coming to the house' — not stable — 'they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him," Megrelis says, adding "No one knows where the wise men came from. It could not have been very far, as we are told that Jesus was brought to Jerusalem as soon as Mary has been purified, in keeping with Jewish tradition, and shortly after his circumcision, which would have been at eight days old."

Giving one another gifts was also not part of the biblical Nativity, Megrelis points out.

"The wise men brought gifts because it was customary to bring gifts when one visited royalty, but the Bible doesn't mention an exchange of presents," he says.

Christian E. Megrelis holds master's degrees in engineering, business and political studies. He is also the former vice chair of the United Bible Societies, a major world publisher of the Bible. He is the first publisher of the Bible in the French-speaking world.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honor of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?"

The man replied, "They're Carol's."

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### **Pregnant Turkey**

One year during the holidays, we all went to my sisters's house for the traditional feast. Knowing how gullible my sister is, my mom decided to play a trick. She told my sister that she needed something from the store and sent her out. When my sister left, my mom took the turkey out of the oven, removed the stuffing and 'stuffed' a Cornish hen into the turkey, and re-stuffed the turkey. She then placed the bird(s) back in the oven.

When it was time for dinner, my sister pulled the turkey out of the oven and proceeded to remove the stuffing. When her serving spoon hit something, she reached in and pulled out the little hird.

With a look of total shock on her face, my mother exclaimed, "Patricia, you've cooked a pregnant bird!" At the reality of this horrifying news, my sister started to cry.

It took the family two hours to convince her that turkeys lay eggs!



### 3 Signs It's Time to Call 9-1-1

Each year, about 600,000 Americans – one in four — in the United States die from heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

By Dale Hemstalk

Of the 715,000 Americans who have a heart attack each year, about 525,000 are first-timers, says the CDC, and those individuals may not know what's happening. Sadly, many people do not get to the hospital on time, says paramedic Dale Hemstalk.

"If someone is having a heart attack, for example, they should get to the hospital without delay upon the initial onset of symptoms," says Hemstalk, who is also a software developer with Forté Holdings, Inc., a provider of health-care software that works closely with paramedics, emergency medical technicians and firefighters (www.ipcrems.com).

"We live in an age in which we *should* be taking greater advantage of our technology for health purposes – but you have to call for help first!" Hemstalk says.

He shares warning signs that it's time dial 9-1-1.

Symptoms for a heart attack: Men and women frequently report different symptoms. Men tend to have "classic" signs; pressure, fullness, squeezing, pain in the center of the chest that goes away and comes back; pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck or arms; chest discomfort, lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

For women, symptoms tend to be back or jaw pain; difficulty breathing; nausea or dizziness; unexplainable anxiety or fatigue; mild flu-like symptoms; palpitations, cold sweats or dizziness. Triggers tend to be different between the sexes, too. In women, it's often stress; in men, it's physical exertion.

Symptoms for a stroke: There are clear, telltale characteris-

tics of a stroke, including sagging on one side of the face, an arm that's drifting down and garbled speech. But there are also more subtle signs from the onset, such as sudden numbness of one side of the body, including an arm, leg and part of the face; sudden confusion, trouble speaking and understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden loss of balance; sudden headache for no apparent reason. Risk factors include diabetes, tobacco use, hypertension, heart disease, a previous stroke, irregular heartbeat, obesity, high cholesterol and heavy alcohol use.

Symptoms for heart failure: This is not the same as a heart attack, which occurs when a vessel supplying the heart muscle with oxygen and nutrients becomes completely blocked. Heart failure is a chronic condition where the heart can't pump properly. Warning signs include shortness of breath, fatigue, swollen ankles, chest congestion and an overall limitation on activities. Just one of these symptoms may not be cause for alarm; but more than one certainly is. Risk factors include various heart problems, serious viral infections, drug or alcohol abuse, severe lung disease and chemotherapy.

"At no point should anyone be discouraged from calling 911; the bottom line is, if you feel it's an emergency and you need to call 911, call 911!" Hemstalk says. "There are many reasons to seek assistance from emergency responders, and they are not limited to those that I've mentioned."

Dale Hemstalk is a United States Air Force Veteran and Career Firefighter Paramedic, Hemstalk has been providing emergency care for over 20 years. During his tenure in EMS, Hemstalk has been an educator, Paramedic Preceptor and Field Training Officer.





A HISTORY LESSON

### ADAM's RIB

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked Adam, "What is wrong with you?"

Adam said, "Lord, I don't have anyone to talk to."

God said, "Then I will give you a companion, and she will be called a 'woman'. This person will cook for you and wash your clothes, she will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will not nag you, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will never have a headache, and will freely give love and compassion whenever needed. She will never question your behaviour or the company you keep. She will support you and understand that you have important decisions to make throughout your life and don't have time for nonsense...

Adam asked God, "What will this woman cost?"

God said, "An arm and a leg..." Adam said, "What can I get for just a rib?" And the rest is history

ABSOLUTE NEAT **NOTHING ADORABLE OBLIGATION AFTER ANYMORE PACKED ATTENTION PAIR BAGGAGE** PAST **PIPE BEET** PLEAD **BLOW PROBABLY BREAK BUFFALO** QUIET **REAL COUSIN** RELIEF DAWN SANE DREAD **EXTRAVAGANT SCHOOL SECOND FARE** SHAME FARM **GAVE** SLIPPERY **ICE** SNEEZE LIMIT **SPEECH** LIPS THFM LOST **UNWISE MAKE** VASE **WERE** MOST **WICKED** 

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**MYSELF** 

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There were three guys talking in the pub. Two of them are talking about the control they have over their wives, while the third

After a while one of the first two turns to the third and says, "Well, what about you, what sort of control do you have over your wife?"

The third fellow says "I'll tell you. Just the other night my wife came to me on her hands and knees."

The first two guys were amazed. "What happened then?" they asked. "She said, 'get out from under the bed and fight like a man'."

Crossword puzzle on page 26

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# Crossword iwk alcdelokijklmnopgrstujujujz FROM BOOMER'S NEWSPAPER

### **ACROSS**

- 1. One who has expressive talent
- 2. Liar
- 3. The loneliest number
- 5. Deeply appreciative
- 7. Consenting reply
- 10. Not awake
- 11. Different kinds combined
- 15. Male bovine
- 18. Open handed hit
- 20. Describes hair condition
- 21. Perfect score
- 23. Which came first
- 24. To brawl
- 26. Skeletal make up
- 27. Proceedings of a court
- 29. Tree swinging primate
- 32. Soda
- 34. Mad scientist's office
- 39. Tracking dog breed
- 40. Simmered bones
- 41. Antlered animal

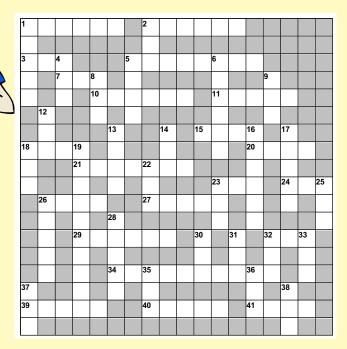
"Papa, what is the person called who brings you in contact with the spirit world?"

"A bartender, my boy."

#### \*\*\*\*\*

money?

- 1. At a point on something
- 2. Distant
- 4. Optical receptor
- 5. It's as good as ....
- 6. Renowned
- 8. Not happy
- 9. To go acquire
- 12. Most important fuel (at present)
- 13. Always too long
- 14. Fib
- 16. Reference to length
- 17. Absence of color
- 18. Precedes the number bleen
- 19. Rare occurrence
- 22. Unwanted garbage guest
- 23. Large member of the deer family
- 25. Not me
- 26. Ordering others around
- 28. Measured in degrees
- 30. Coffee alternative
- 31. Sticky
- 32. Earnings
- 33. Apple is the most American
- 35. Children's lift to school
- 37. Who, what, when, where, ...?
- 38. Used to catch butterflies



### SONG ANSWERS from page 8:

- 1. Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- 2 Silent Night
- 3. O Little Town of Bethlehem
- 4. Good King Wenceslas
- 5. Deck the Halls
- 6. Joy to the World
- 7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- We Three Kings
- 9. Away in a Manger
- 10. Come All Ye Faithful
- 11. O Holy Night

- 12. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
- 13. Silver Bells
- 14. The Twelve Days of Christmas
- 15. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- 16. Frosty the Snowman
- 17. All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
- 18. I Saw Mama Kissing Santa Claus
- 19. Walking Through a Winter Wonderland
- 20. Up on the Rooftop

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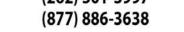
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### Santa's Bad Day: The Birth of a Tradition

One particular Christmas season a long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip, but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress

Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked, and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys.

So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door, and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

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Thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

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