



SILVER STREAK MAGAZINE

A SUPPLEMENT TO TCU SILVER FROGS' SILVER STREAK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your Silver Streak Magazine, our third issue and the “season closer” for our Fall 2020 semester. We’ve got some of your favorite features inside, along with some nice holiday surprises! If the weather is cool when you read this, we hope you’ll curl up with your screen and a nice warm drink, with some twinkle lights and maybe a cozy pet in your lap to read. And if the weather is unseasonably warm — which happens about every other week — pour some iced tea and take us out to the back porch! Here’s what’s inside:

- ◆ Books! We’ve done it again with recommendations to add to your winter reading list. [Shari Barnes](#) revisits her family tradition of Jolabokaflokkur, with some gift ideas for the readers in your family, and you’ll get even more ideas from our [member recommendation page](#) as several members tell us what they’ve been reading;
- ◆ Holiday music is on [Sharon Harrelson’s](#) mind as she shares a few favorites;
- ◆ [Polly Hooper](#) is back with On One Tank of Gas, sharing her idea for a party on wheels;
- ◆ See [what your fellow Frogs are watching](#) these days (hint: you’ll want to get Netflix!);
- ◆ [Fill up your plate](#) with festive recipes for sides and sweets from your Silver Streak staff;
- ◆ Crafter [Carol Stanford](#) shares a pretty and easy way to create unique ornaments;
- ◆ Master Gardener [Nancy Ranc](#) gets her hands dirty in the winter garden;
- ◆ [Penny McAdoo](#) brings us another edition of [the Poetry Break](#);
- ◆ [Larry Klos](#) invites you into the Writer’s Corner for [another short story](#) with a twist;
- ◆ And [Richard Ranc](#) continues to keep a close eye on [the stock market](#).
- ◆ Possibly the best part of all — throughout the Magazine you’ll also find some fun photos, traditions and greetings from members who are into the spirit of the season

Hope to see you all next semester! And remember during the break that YOUR contributions are needed for future issues! Creative writing, gardening, how-to projects, local history, cooking, your pets, photos, sports, music, what you’re reading and watching, favorite games...if it’s interesting to you, there’s a good chance at least some of our members will like it too. [Email us!](#)



READING LIST:

MERRY JÓLABÓKAFLÓÐ TO YOU!

by Shari Barnes

A couple of years ago in a column, I mentioned that my family had started a new Christmas tradition, and several of you have asked me if we are continuing the practice of Jolabokaflod. Indeed, we have embraced this Icelandic ritual with great continued enthusiasm.

Picture this: it's Christmas Eve at your house, and you are in your favorite chair in front of the fireplace. In one hand you have your favorite Snickers or Butterfinger and in the other you have just turned the first page of a brand new cozy mystery.

In Iceland, where the Jolabokaflod tradition originated during World War II, paper was not rationed. Therefore, books were given as gifts when other goods were hard to obtain. Even today, the Icelandic book trade sends a book bulletin out in November, and people use this publication to order Christmas gift books. A 2013 study conducted at Bifrost University found that 50 percent of Icelanders read more than eight books a year, and 93 percent read at least one.

Hot chocolate or other forms of chocolate are paired with the books. And on Christmas Eve, Icelanders spend the night eating chocolate and reading. That's at least as much fun as listening for tiny reindeer hooves on the rooftop.

So, this year, pretend you have Icelandic blood and join the celebration. Here are some suggestions for family Jolabokaflod books:

Grandpa...periodicals are just as good as books, so how about **The Farmer's Almanac** for weather, fishing, practical advice, and the latest trends.

Grandma...anything by Louise Penny; how about her latest: **All the Devils Are Here**.

Dad...you've heard most of his old jokes, so try a book of new humor like **The Best Book of Puns** by Art Moger (with an introduction by Bob Hope).

Mom...she could use some inspiration right now, so Max Lucado's **You Are Special** is a good choice.

Teenager...one of the favorite authors for teens is John Green; his first book, **Looking for Alaska**, is on target.

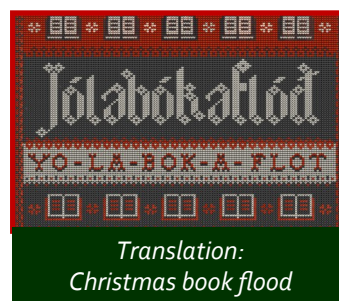
Aunt...the maker of the best desserts in the family, award her with a copy of **Martha Stewart's Cake Perfection Cookbook**.

Uncle...the family sports enthusiast, he will enjoy James Michener's **Sports in America**; written in 1976, it is still relevant today.

Toddler...little ones love sounds and pictures; **The World of Eric Carle: Around the Farm Play-a-Sound Book**.

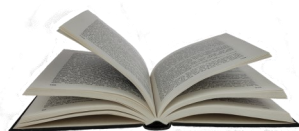
You can put any spin on Jolabokaflod that makes sense for your family. We hold our celebration on December 23 because Christmas Eve is already so full of other traditions. This year for our culture trip, we plan to make Mondlukaka, an Icelandic almond cake dessert. We'll eat it while opening our gifts. (But we will save room for the chocolate.)

Two of us have taken on the assignment for buying all the books and chocolate. But we've considered drawing names at some time in the future. We've also discovered that used books are an inexpensive way to indulge our Jolabokaflod spree.



Give your holidays a lift this year by trying a new tradition. Can't think of a better combination than books and chocolate.





MEMBERS SHARE:

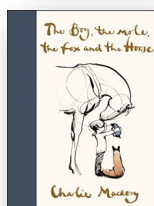
WHAT ARE YOU READING?

A Gentleman in Moscow is an excellent read, especially during a time we are encouraged to stay at home. It is a delight to read about Count Rostov, sentenced to house arrest in the luxury of the Metropol Hotel in Moscow. The story reminds one of how memories of travel, food eaten as a child, or experiences with a long-departed loved one can transport us to those faraway places, without leaving a small room. During 40 years of confinement, Rostov exhibits an essential faith that by the smallest of one's actions one can restore some sense of order to the world.

—Tim Runkle

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson is a straightforward multilayered explanation for all of us who want a better understanding of what racism in the USA has done and continues to do.

—Laura Dyson



A small, simple book hit the market recently and is inspiring lives in a beautiful thought-provoking way. ***The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*** is a gift from British writer and illustrator Charlie Mackesy. I've purchased several to give to friends for Christmas.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked the mole.

"Kind," said the boy.

"I've discovered something better than cake," said the mole.

"No you haven't," said the boy.

"I have," replied the mole. "A hug. It lasts longer."

"What do we do when our hearts hurt?" asked the boy.

"We wrap them with friendship, shared tears and time, till they make hopeful and happy again," said the horse.

Mackesy has collaborated with Richard Curtis for Comic Relief and Nelson Mandela for a lithograph project (The Unity Series). He has lived and painted from Africa to New Orleans and co-runs a social enterprise in Zambia which helps families of low and no income to become beekeepers.

—Carolyn Stephens

Still doing lots of reading...using the Libby app and the Fort Worth Library. Have a couple of recommendations...John Grisham's ***A Time for Mercy*** and Brit Bennett's ***The Vanishing Half***. Enjoyed both...one an easy read (Grisham) while Bennett's novel is a bit more complicated. *A Time For Mercy* proved to be a perfect audiobook to listen to while walking each day. *The Vanishing Half* tells the story of twin Black sisters born in the South. Both leave their hometown; one to pass for White and one not. Very interesting story!

—Betsy McDaniel

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes; ***Between Sisters*** by Kristin Hannah, ***The Bookshop on the Corner*** by Jenny Colgan; and ***The Bookshop on the Shore*** by Jenny Colgan.

—Siân Borne

Pamela Kelley: ***Beach Plum Cove*** series based on a family on Nantucket; five books in this series.

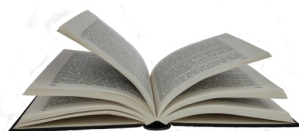
Mark Pryor: ***Hugo Marston*** series (#9 just came out this fall). Very good murder mysteries set mostly in Paris. The author lives in Austin, TX, so there's some "Texan" flair in all his books. I discovered his books at the bookstore on North Lamar, Bookpeople, in Austin. The staff reviews raved about this author.

Robert Galbraith: JK Rowling writes under this name and all the ***Cormoran Strike*** novels are very good. Strike is a private detective. He hires Robin Ellacott and the adventures begin. They mostly investigate murder mysteries, but have several irons in the fire at all times.

Janet Evanovich: The ***Stephanie Plum*** series. The latest is ***Fortune and Glory, Tantalizing Twenty-Seven***. If you haven't read her, start with ***One for the Money***. Stephanie is a bail bondsman. She gets in hot water at every turn while chasing down "skips." The hot Italian-American detective Joe Morelli and the even hotter Ranger, of Rangeman Protection Services, track her phone and keep an eye out for her 24/7. At the end of the day, she can't decide between the two of them who to turn to for "comfort."

—Lisa Winter

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MEMBERS SHARE:

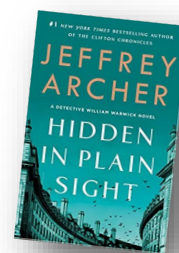
WHAT ARE YOU READING? *CONTINUED*

Jeffrey Archer has written a sequel to *Nothing Ventured*. In his latest novel, ***Hidden in Plain Sight***, the protagonist is William Warwick, the son of a prominent barrister who — instead of following in his father's footsteps after graduating from university — becomes a London Metropolitan policeman. This book continues with Warwick's promotion to Detective Sergeant and his assignment to the Drug Squad.

Old foes appear in this Warwick adventure — Faulkner, a shady financier who profits from art and book forgeries and Rashidi, a drug dealer wanted by the London police. Sequels bother me; I prefer stand-alone novels but the Clifton Chronicles and the two Warwick novels are exceptions to my rule.

Jeffrey Archer has been a best-selling author for more than 20 years. He is a member of the House of Lords and has served in the British Parliament. In addition to his novels he has authored several plays. His life story runs the gamut: legal problems, jail time, financial discrepancies and astounding successes...all undoubtedly excellent source material for his novels.

—Richard Ranc



HOLIDAY TUNES:

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

by Sharon Harrelson

For at least the past 30 years I've been collecting Christmas albums. As a slow adopter of new technology, I have quite a few vinyl records which I continued to accumulate even after CDs were "the thing." Finally accepting CDs, I just can't get excited about downloading my music. One of the things I love about albums is their cover designs, and I really like holding the music in my hand (especially when the artist signs it!). Old-fashioned, yes. That's a good thing. Right?

Some albums have risen to the top of my favorites list. If you have these (or ask Alexa to play them) they're definitely worth a spin. Along with Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and Michael Bubl , these are in the background every year as I bake, decorate and relax during December.



Steve & Eydie couldn't be any cuter than on 1964's ***That Holiday Feeling!*** — upbeat and adorable, they make me smile. They just don't make 'em like this anymore!



Bette Midler may look a little wacky on the cover of her 2006 album ***Cool Yule***, but the songs are wonderful. You'll be humming the title track for days!



The 2018 release ***Christmas*** by bluegrass sisters The Purple Hulls is a new favorite. I picked it up (and they signed it!) at last year's Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches. Sweet and spiritual.



Back in the days of the record club, my parents had a number of Ray Conniff (and the Ray Conniff Singers) albums. This one, ***We Wish You a Merry Christmas***, from 1962 still "sounds like Christmas" to me!





ON ONE TANK OF GAS:

DIY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PARTY!

by Polly Hooper

I don't know about you, but for me this pandemic has lasted far too long and it hit especially hard when it interfered with holiday plans and festive gatherings. I am sure we are all missing the big Silver Frogs holiday party as well as the parties our families, friends and neighbors invite us to each year.

So my proposal is to create your own one-of-a-kind holiday party in the socially-distanced privacy of your own car! Let's call it a Parade of Lights 2020. Get dressed up or just wear your ugly Christmas sweater -- or heck, even your Christmas pajamas. Put some yummy hot chocolate in a to-go cup and hit the road around sundown. Tune your car radio to KDGE/102.1 FM for non-stop Christmas music or if your car still has a player, pop in your favorite CD to set the mood. Cruise around Fort Worth and surrounding areas and sing along to your favorite songs. Maybe invite some friends or family to actually drive around together and decorate your cars if you really want to create a party atmosphere.

Here are some suggestions for where to take your party:



IN FORT WORTH:

Luther Lake with many residents decorating the back side of their homes facing the water and even on the lake. Located in the Ridglea neighborhood (76116).

Riverhills Phases 1, 2, and 3 (76109).

The 1100 block of Montego Rd in Ridgmar (76116): The lights are set to music and you can tune your radio to get the full effect. A sign reminds you to turn off your car lights and park to get the full show and make sure traffic coming in the opposite direction can see well.

Olive Place Baptist Church (76116) also has lights set to music with a sign telling you where to tune your radio.

Deepdale Dr at Westover Dr in **Westover Hills** (76107) as well as Westover Dr and Indian Creek. This whole neighborhood has nice lights so is worth the drive.

Thorne Hill Rd at Steppe Dr in **Benbrook** (76132).

For more Fort Worth lights, see [this web page](#) from the city.

NOT TOO FAR AND WORTH THE TRIP:

Harder Dr at Rushing Meadows Ct in **Dalworthington Gardens** (76016). [Read about how this display has grown.](#)

Interlochen in Arlington (76012): Westwood Dr & Randol Mill Rd. Specific dates and hours, and a map, can be found [here](#).

Glenbrook neighborhood, Bedford (76021): Cummings Dr @ Brookside Ct is worth the drive to Bedford if you don't live in that area. The whole neighborhood lines their yards in red lights and adds additional decorations like manger scenes, story books, Santa and reindeer and one yard even had a dinosaur. While enjoying the display we saw a car all lit up driving around that was really something to see. Don't miss this area! They have a [Facebook page](#) and you'll love this [sweet story](#).

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PARTY *CONTINUED*



COMMERCIAL LIGHT INSTALLATIONS DRAW BIG CROWDS (DON'T BE SURPRISED AT A WAIT) AND REALLY HAVE OVER-THE-TOP DRIVE-THRU LOCATIONS. MOST OF THESE ARE A LITTLE FARTHER AWAY; CHECK THEIR WEBSITES FOR ADMISSION CHARGES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Cleburne: Venturing a little farther from Fort Worth, take the Chisholm Trail Parkway to Cleburne and visit the [Whistle Stop Christmas](#) through December 31. [Mainstay Farm Park](#) is a Christmas tree farm where you choose a tree and they cut it, and there are so many activities that you can spend the whole day there (we have!). But hurry—it is open only through December 22.

Dallas: American Airlines Center's Silver parking garage has been transformed into a whimsical holiday drive-thru exhibit. Through December 26, [Candy Cane Lane](#) has multiple levels of holiday lights, lantern characters, and Santa and his elves.

Fort Worth: [Texas Motor Speedway's Gift of Lights](#) is their annual drive-in Christmas display, which includes tunnels of sparkling holiday lights, festive decor, and (order ahead and drive-thru) food trucks on specific dates. Guests must remain within their vehicles for the duration of the visit—but it's just as cozy and magical from inside a car. Open through January 3.

Grapevine: There's a lot to see in the town calling itself [The Christmas Capital of Texas](#) through December 31. [The Gaylord Texan](#) brings back its over-the-top holiday festivities with two new attractions: a walk-through lights display called *Yuletide Bright* and an immersive exhibit called *I Love Christmas Movies*. Both attractions require time-specific tickets to attend.

Grand Prairie: [Prairie Lights](#) returns for its 15th year with two miles of dazzling lights and holiday cheer. Located at Lynn Creek Park on Joe Pool Lake, Prairie Lights is a two-mile driving tour with five million lights, holiday scenes, a new, animated grand finale tunnel and a drive-thru concession stand. Operating through New Year's Eve; check the website for more information as wait times are long and admissions are limited.

FINALLY...

If you have not experienced the Christmas display at **Campo Verde Restaurant in Arlington** you will certainly want to go. This restaurant is decorated for Christmas all year long but they really kick it up a notch with 120,000 lights, 3,000 yards of multicolored garlands, 50 Santas, 30 Christmas trees and two model trains that click-clack around the diners over their heads. This extra special display is through March when they revert to their usual year-round Christmas. It is kitschy by most standards but something the kids will never forget. It makes for great photos too! Yes, you'll need to get out of the car for this one but they are taking COVID precautions. You can see photos [on their website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Whatever light display you choose to visit, make it a party of one or as many as live in your household and then come home and have a beverage of your choice and rate the light displays so you can remember where to go next year.





MEMBERS SHARE:

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?

I have watched a couple of Netflix programs that were very entertaining: **The Queen's Gambit** (only one season and very well done). Also **Emily in Paris** - a sweet, lighthearted series. Just finished season one and there will be a second season soon.

—Vickie Gall

The Crown Season 4. Drop the mic!

—Lisa Winter

The Queen's Gambit - excellent series about a gifted female chess player. And speaking of the queen, **The Crown** - Season 4

The Sapphires - based on a true story, a group of four aboriginal girls form a singing group and go to Vietnam.

Hillbilly Elegy - true story, set in Kentucky, starring Amy Adams and Glenn Close.

Fisherman's Friends - Sea shanties have long united Cornish fisherman, but when their chants sail up the charts, their friendship is kept at bay.

Effie Gray - Trapped in a loveless marriage, the young wife of a Victorian art critic finds herself falling for a young artist, and looking for a way out.

The 12th Man - Based on true events, this story follows a Norwegian saboteur's harrowing struggle to reach safety after escaping a Nazi attack in World War II.

Trial of the Chicago 7 - A peaceful protest turned into a violent clash with the police. What followed was one of the most notorious trials in history.

—Siân Borne

You don't have to be a baker to enjoy the delightful British program, **The Great British Bake Off** (called **The Great British Baking Show** in the US due to a copyright on the term "bake off").

The episodes involve amateur bakers, from all walks of life, competing for the grand title of champion baker. The hosts, genuinely entertaining chefs and television personalities, provide both comedy and expertise as well as baking challenges to the bakers. Complex cakes, tortes, and pastries of all manner are assigned to be baked by the contestants who are then judged for presentation, proper consistency and, of course, flavor. The judges then determine who will continue in the bake off and who is to go home. The setting is beautiful English countryside and the baking venue is a very large tented kitchen able to hold all contestants and kitchen paraphernalia.

This is a uniquely British show. The amateur cooks are gracious to each other, the banter is entertaining and the baked products are genuinely works of art. It is, above all, fun to watch!

The show airs on Netflix and currently has eight seasons. Entertaining, light and a place to discover some of the most intricate and delicious-looking pastries you have ever seen.

—Richard Ranc

[Editor's note: Three seasons of friendly holiday British Baking competitions are also available, with spectacularly festive bakes!]



“REMEMBER, GEORGE:
NO MAN IS A FAILURE WHO HAS FRIENDS.”

—Clarence, *It's a Wonderful Life*



SILVER STREAK STAFF SHARES:

FAVORITE HOLIDAY SIDES & SWEETS

This is a festive salad my family enjoys, and it's a great covered dish any time...bright red and so pretty.

—Diane Griffin

CRANBERRY & NUT CHRISTMAS SALAD

- 1 12-oz package **fresh cranberries**, chopped/ground
- 2 C **granulated sugar**
- 1 small package **cherry Jell-O**
- 1 small package **lemon Jell-O**
- 2 C **hot water**
- 1 20-oz can **crushed pineapple**, drained
- 1 14.5-oz can **mandarin oranges**, drained
- 1 C **pecans**, chopped/minced



- 1) Start this salad in the morning, or allow yourself two days.
- 2) Mix sugar and ground cranberries; cover and refrigerate overnight (or at least four hours).
- 3) Mix Jell-O in hot water; stir until completely dissolved; refrigerate until it begins to thicken. Add all other ingredients; stir well. (May want to place orange slices manually to evenly scatter throughout salad.)
- 4) Pour into serving bowl; cover and refrigerate overnight.

Popular Chef Michael Symon shared his family's corn pudding recipe on the Food Network. It looked so rich and flavorful that I decided to make it for my family for Thanksgiving. Little did I know it would be enough for three moderate-sized casseroles, and I wound up sharing one with my son and daughter-in-law, another with a friend and her family, and one for myself and my dinner guests.

Try it for a large gathering or for casserole gift giving. You won't be disappointed.

—Carolyn Stephens

MICHAEL SYMON'S CORN PUDDING

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 15-oz cans creamed corn | 1/2 C sliced scallions |
| 3 8-oz boxes cornbread mix | 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter |
| 4 large eggs | 8 oz mascarpone |
| 6 C fresh or frozen corn kernels | Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper , to taste |
| 2 C sour cream | |



- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F and butter a large Dutch oven or casserole(s).
- 2) Whisk together the creamed corn, cornbread mix, eggs, corn kernels, sour cream and scallions in a large bowl.
- 3) Melt the butter and mascarpone in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally. (Do not simmer or the mixture will separate.) Pour the mixture into the large bowl with the rest of the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper and mix well to combine.
- 4) Pour the ingredients into the prepared Dutch oven or other casserole dish(es) and bake until the mixture is set and golden brown on top, about an hour for the large Dutch oven.



SILVER STREAK STAFF SHARES:

FAVORITE HOLIDAY SIDES & SWEETS

We always make this spinach casserole for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's a family favorite!

—Siân Borne

SPINACH CASSEROLE Serves 4-6

2 **eggs**, well beaten
6 T **all-purpose flour**
1 10-oz package **frozen, chopped spinach**, thawed
1 1/2 C **cottage cheese**
1 1/2 C **grated Cheddar cheese**
1/2 t **salt**



- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2) Beat eggs and flour in bowl until smooth. Stir in spinach, cottage cheese, Cheddar cheese and salt; mix well.
- 3) Pour into greased 1-quart casserole. Bake for an hour.

I first tasted this salad at Thanksgiving when my sister brought it as a requested side dish for our family get-together. It is really appealing because of its color, and it turned out to be the new "let's go back for seconds" dish because of its taste and texture.

As soon as the 2020 pandemic quells and covered-dish lunches are back on my calendar, I plan to make this scrumptious crowd-pleaser for my friends. Until then, I'll just cut the recipe and create a mini-version for stay-at-home dining.

—Diane Griffin

RAINBOW BROCCOLI SALAD Serves 10

1 head **broccoli**, chopped or divided into smaller-than-bite-sized pieces
1 **red pepper**, diced
1 **yellow pepper**, diced
3/4 C **cheddar cheese**, diced
3/4 C **carrots**, shredded or julienned
1 C **purple cabbage**, chopped
1/4 C **red onion**, sliced
1/4 C **bacon bits**

Dressing:
3/4 C **mayonnaise**
1/4 C **yogurt**
2 T **white vinegar**
1/4 C **sugar**



- 1) Set aside one tablespoon bacon bits for garnish.
- 2) Toss all vegetables, cheese and bacon in a large bowl.
- 3) Combine all dressing ingredients in a small bowl, add to vegetables and toss to combine.
- 4) Garnish with reserved bacon bits and refrigerate at least an hour before serving.



SILVER STREAK STAFF SHARES:

FAVORITE HOLIDAY SIDES & SWEETS

This was my favorite recipe discovery from Fall 2019's **Baker's Dozen: Holidays** class, and it's now a holiday staple at our house. To add extra peppermint, swap out half of the chocolate chips for peppermint chips, which are generally available around the holidays.

—Sharon Harrelson

CHOCOLATE-PEPPERMINT SNAPS

Adapted from: *King Arthur Flour Cookie Companion* Yield: about 5 dozen

3/4 C (1 1/2 sticks) **unsalted butter**
1/2 C (110g) **light brown sugar**
1/2 C (99g) **granulated sugar**
1 large **egg**
1 t **vanilla extract**
1 t **peppermint extract**, or to taste
1 1/2 C (180g) **all-purpose flour**
1/4 C (21g) **King Arthur Triple Cocoa Blend** (or substitute natural cocoa)
1 t **baking soda**
1/4 t **salt**
1 C (170g) **semisweet chocolate chips**
Crushed peppermint candy, optional



- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets.
- 2) In a medium bowl, beat together the butter and sugars.
- 3) Add the egg, beating well and scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl. Add the vanilla and peppermint, beating to combine.
- 4) Add the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt, beating just to combine. Taste the dough; add more peppermint if desired.
- 5) Stir in the chocolate chips.
- 6) Using a 2-teaspoon or 1-tablespoon scoop, drop a few portions of cookie dough onto prepared cookie sheets, spacing 1 1/2 to 2" apart. Dip tops in crushed candy, if using.
- 7) Because these are dark cookies, you may want to bake a small test batch first to gauge how long to cook them. They're good both crispy and chewy, so it's your choice...just not burned! In my oven, 10 minutes keeps them chewy and 12 minutes makes them crisp.
- 8) Wrap airtight and store at room temperature. These will ship well!

These are a fun and pretty decoration for cakes or a cheese platter. They are also a DELICIOUS snack!

—Sharon Harrelson

SUGARED CRANBERRIES

Simmer 1/3 C each **granulated sugar** and **water** until sugar is dissolved. Submerge 2 C of fresh **cranberries** in syrup until well-coated. Remove with slotted spoon to a wire rack. Allow to dry for an hour, then (working in small batches) roll through granulated sugar to coat. Transfer to a clean surface to dry for another hour. Store refrigerated, in an airtight container separating layers with waxed paper.





MEMBER SHARES: HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



No holiday parties this year, so instead of putting up the big tree, I've settled on this crèche and holiday tree arrangement in the kitchen.

—Carolyn Stephens



Our son, daughter and I each made our favorite Thanksgiving dishes and packaged them in containers for eight households. We got together (carefully) to distribute them and then all ate the same meal together by Zoom on Thanksgiving Day. First picture shows all the food packages; the second is of our Zoom (unfortunately didn't get all eight locations).

—Harriet Harral



Ann Shelton's collection of reindeer adorns her mantel



Pam Moraga shares, "We celebrated last year by visiting the wonderful displays at the Gaylord Texan."



Larry Borne's decorations are welcoming and bright under the full moon.



HOLIDAY DECOR: CRAFTING WITH CAROL

by Carol Stanford

I've always loved to do arts and crafts, and a few years ago I started a craft group in my neighborhood. One year we made decoupaged paper mâché reindeer and I recently found the article that I'd gotten the idea from...it was dated 1998! So I've had these two reindeer (top right) all these years and display them at the holidays every year.

Since we moved, I started a craft group where I live (Trinity Terrace) and I had a few undecorated reindeer left over (yes...from 1998) so last year we decoupaged them as a group project. I also made an ornament to match (bottom right). The paper I used is from festive napkins and tissue paper, and I added ribbon and bells.

I made another reindeer (top) for my sister and her husband who were spending Christmas last year in Omaha, Nebraska, as Mormon missionaries. I thought they needed a "crafty" touch from home. ;)



This year I decided the group could decoupage an ornament. One of the ladies in the group is a Silver Frog, Sammie Maberry (left).

I brought various designs of tissue paper and napkins and they picked what they wanted to use. Here's how we made the ornaments (pictures below):

First, paint the ornament white, so the glue will stick better and it will look better through the paper. Then cut the paper into small pieces and spread a small area of glue on the ornament; put the paper on it and glue over that as well.

Then you overlap the next paper and so on. When done you put a final layer of glue over the whole thing and let it dry. I then put a coat of polyurethane for shine and protection.





THE GREAT OUTDOORS: WINTER GARDEN COLOR

by Nancy Ranc

Well, here we are nearing the end of 2020 and what a year it has been! At least we have had a beautiful long autumn with lovely warm weather and bright fall color. Now gardeners are looking for ways to bring color into winter gardens. Guess what? It can be done.

To get winter color you may need to buy some new plants. (Is that a bad thing?) By now most plants will be marked down so there is a substantial savings if you can find them in local nurseries. Ordering online is always an option but most online growers will not ship until spring unless you are lucky enough to find a sale. If you do find something you can't resist, here are some steps to take so you can enjoy new plants now and into the future.

You can start many lovely perennials (plants that come back year after year) and shrubs in containers. Surround the new plants with colorful annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons, ornamental cabbage or kale. Enjoy them this winter then transplant the shrubs or perennials into the garden in the spring and toss or compost the annuals. These plants will become permanent additions to the garden and continue to provide color year after year.

It is even possible to start new plants directly into the garden as long as the ground isn't frozen. Just follow the planting instructions on the plant tags. Be sure to use lots of mulch around the base of the plants and keep the new plants well-watered throughout the winter. Suggested plants:



Abelia—This evergreen, flowering, easy-to-grow plant is available in most nurseries and can be started in containers or in the ground. Original varieties grow very tall but new, dwarf varieties stay small, 3-4 feet, and still bloom prolifically. Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the fragrant pink or white blooms. Foliage varies from lime green *Radiance* to rust color *Canyon Creek*, *Rose Creek*, or *Kaleidoscope*.

American Beautyberry—Beautyberry grows to 6 feet tall and wide. It is not suitable for containers but is a unique addition to the winter garden. While beautyberry loses its leaves in winter, it does produce dense clusters of purple berries which stay on the branches through winter.

Artemisia *Powis Castle*—Artemisia is a silver-leaf perennial with soft, fragrant, lacy foliage. Plant it in containers as a spiller or in



the ground as a silver contrast to any dark foliage. Control growth by pruning leggy branches. Just do not water unless the soil is very dry. Artemisia hates being wet.

Boxwood—Many varieties of boxwood are available for evergreen background. Some new, very small varieties such as *Sprinter* are great additions to containers.

Clematis, Evergreen—An evergreen vine which is grown for its dark green leaves which are 5"-7" long, 1"-2" wide. Expect this vine to climb up to 20 feet. It is a perfect green background for colorful plants. As a bonus in late winter to early spring, the vine produces fragrant clusters of white flowers.

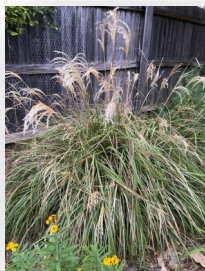


Grasses—Small grasses under 2 feet tall are excellent additions to containers. When they get too

(Continued on page 14)



(Winter Color, continued from page 13)



large for the container just transplant them into the garden. Dwarf Fountain Grass (pictured left), Mexican Feather Grass, Inland Sea Oats, and Pink Muhly Grass (pictured right) all produce seed heads that provide color and texture into the winter.

Lenten Rose—Lenten roses bloom in late winter with up to 2-3 months of flowers. They are very slow growing so purchase the largest plants you can find.

Loropetalum, Fringe Flower—The burgundy evergreen leaves give year-round color. Plants range in size from 2 to 12 feet tall by 4 to 8 feet wide. There are smaller varieties so check the plant tags before purchasing.




Leatherleaf Mahonia—Mahonia is a tough shade-loving evergreen shrub with holly-like leaves. Flowers appear in late winter followed by purple berries.



Nandina—Nandina is easy to grow in sun or shade. Nandina domestica is an invasive plant in Texas but newer varieties are available. Probably the best source of winter color with foliage becoming bright red as the weather cools. New, compact, and dwarf varieties are available:

Compacta (4-5 feet), Gulf Stream (3-4 feet), Firepower or Harbor Dwarf (18-24 inches). Whether in containers or in the ground, there is a Nandina that can work for you.

New plants become available all the time. Many will provide color and texture in North Texas gardens. If you see something you like, try it. To quote Audrey Hepburn, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Happy gardening! 



We are celebrating a joyfully crazy holiday season with a new puppy. She's a Jack Russell Terrier named Asta (after the dog in the old *Thin Man* movies).

As you can see, she's keeping us on our toes, but we haven't laughed this much all year!

Merry Christmas!
Barbara and David McClellan





MEANINGFUL PAUSE: A POETRY BREAK

by Penny McAdoo

The Three Goals provides some points to ponder as we send 2020 on its way. It's been a year that we will never forget. And never miss. Fortunately, poetry enriches our lives in good times and bad.

David Budbill is described by his publisher as a New England hermit-scholar with a generous spirit and a strong mind and voice. See what you think. And let me hear from you when you achieve the third goal!

The Three Goals by David Budbill

The first goal is to see the thing in itself
in and for itself, to see it simply and clearly
for what it is.
No symbolism, please.

The second goal is to see each individual thing
as unified, as one, with all the other
ten thousand things.
In this regard, a little wine helps a lot.

The third goal is to grasp the first and the second goals,
to see the universal and the particular,
simultaneously.
Regarding this one, call me when you get it.

from David Budbill, **Moment to Moment: Poems of a Mountain Recluse**, Copper Canyon Press. Used with permission.

TRADITIONS: A GIFT THAT GIVES AGAIN

I'd like to share a tradition I started with some of the "youngsters" in my life...
godchildren, nieces and nephews, my friends' kids...

To help instill in each of them a sense of caring for others and the world at large, at Christmas I give them a chance to contribute. I generally give each child—and now some young adults—a gift along with a check (usually for about \$25). The check has the amount written in and I have signed it, but I leave it to them to determine who should get it. Sometimes they choose an animal shelter or a medical research fund because they love animals or someone they know is sick. My favorite example is when one of my godsons and his siblings all walked down to their neighborhood food pantry when they found out a classmate and his family needed the pantry's help.

I don't think it's easy to teach children compassion and they don't always understand when "a charitable gift has been made in their honor." But I have found that with this gesture, the kids are excited to get a gift for themselves and "a bonus gift" they can pass along. Then it's an interesting exercise as they think about the many options and worthy organizations they can help support.



—Cathy David



WRITER'S CORNER: THE DISK

excerpted from *Stories with Twists*, by Larry Klos

The tide fell. The disk glittered as the waters receded from its top and sides. It was impossible to tell how large it was, but the disk was perfectly round and much larger in diameter than it was tall. It had a convex upper surface and was topped by a low vertical wall of about one-fourth of its total height. The entire bottom was a very smooth, shallow concave. The disk was pearly white in color and as impossible as it might appear, seemed slightly translucent on its rim as the edge thinned. Not even the vertical surface was marred by any irregularities; the entire object was so faultlessly and seamlessly constructed as to appear to be made of one single piece of material. No transparent portions could be seen, not even on the vertical wall. It appeared that the entire object was solid, without any internal cavities.

The disk had come without warning the night before. At least two people witnessed its descent into the water near the ocean shore. Margo and Bill Arnold were in the kitchen of their summer home on the beach when it descended. A beach party had just ended, the guests had all departed, and both were still slightly drunk. They were in the midst of an argument when the disk landed and under those conditions and circumstances neither thought the incident was worth reporting, but both remembered it very clearly.

The moon was out; it caused a bright reflection from the disk. The disk flew in, almost silently; all that could be heard was a slight rush of air as it flew quickly and nearly horizontally along the beach, gradually descending. It was spinning rapidly.

The pearly saucer swiftly approached the water. As it entered cleanly with only a slight plop, it slowed rapidly. For a moment it seemed to lose its equilibrium; it hesitated, then again became steady as it dipped and slipped down, indenting the beach sand under the surface of the water. It remained utterly still, absolutely no internal movement was apparent as the waves passed above it and disturbed the water which flowed over its smooth surfaces, vainly seeking an entrance to the interior. The disk remained quiet and immobile as time passed, the moon set, the sun began to rise, and the tide fell. The disk glittered again as it was exposed to the morning sun as the waters receded from its top and sides.

A child, the Arnolds' son, wandered down the beach looking for shells. A glint on the beach near his house caught his eye. Filled with curiosity and amazed at the strange sight, he began to approach the apparently harmless quiescent disk. The disk waited, still quietly, as the tousle haired, freckle faced boy came closer. He had no idea what was about to happen!

Margo Arnold paused by the window to rub the sleep from her eyes and saw her son. Her senses and motherly instincts came fully alert as she saw her long awaited and only son approach the disk! She quickly opened the window and screamed, "Billy, don't touch it! If your father wants that china saucer that he threw out last night he can get it himself!"





MINDING YOUR MONEY: LOOKING TO 2021

by Richard Ranc

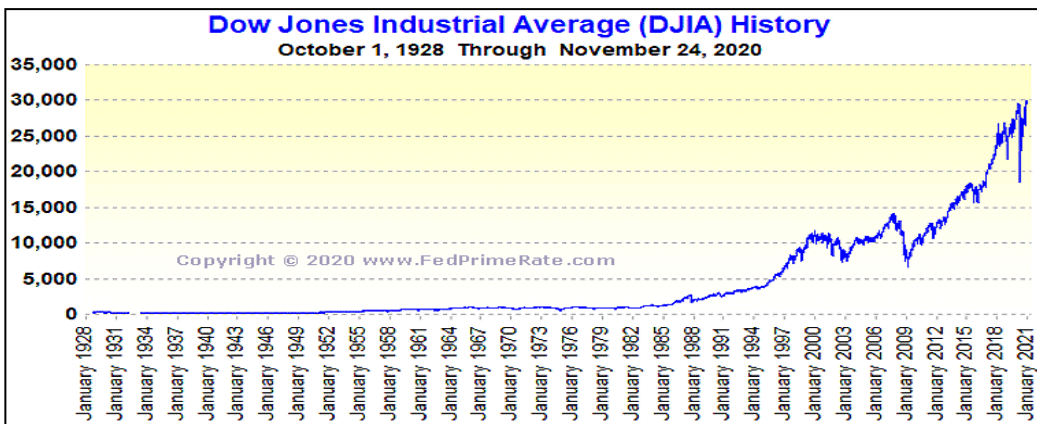
When checking your stock portfolio values in December 2020, you will find it much the same as it was in March 2020, despite the pandemic and a hectic national election. Hopefully, patience prevailed, and you resisted the temptation to jump the gun and sell. Instead, you allowed the markets to operate as they have historically.

Some thoughts for the coming year:

Markets will price in a successful distribution of COVID-19 vaccine and a business recovery, albeit less robust than had been hoped for. Providing a vaccine to critical personnel and allowing businesses to reopen will hopefully stimulate employment to levels seen before March 2020.

Congress will pass an economic relief package providing needed income to businesses, individuals and families.

Schools at all levels will reopen as will amateur and professional sports venues as vaccine distribution becomes available.



Keep in mind the above chart reflects some significant milestones; the market crash in 1929, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War 1965-1974, market correction 2008, COVID pandemic March 2020, an election unlike those past and yet in November 2020 the DOW trades at over 30,000.

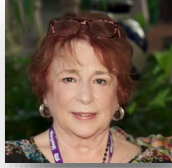
Although the DOW 30 Industrials is a limited index, nevertheless, it represents the “Blue Chips” of American industry.

In short, even with significant corrections the DOW trend has consistently been upward.

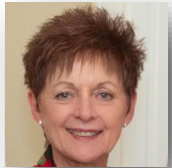
Finally, keep an optimistic perspective, press on and stay healthy.



CONTRIBUTORS



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SIAN BORNE (*Food*) A Silver Frog since Spring '17, Siân came to Fort Worth in 1973, after moving to the US from England. She has two daughters and five grandchildren. She loves to read and travel; for Silver Frogs, she is active in several committees, is an instructor, serves on the Advisory Board and is the SIG Chair.



DIANE GRIFFIN (*Food*) has enjoyed Silver Frogs since Spring 2016 and is an enthusiastic advocate for lifelong learning. She is a retired business owner who loves reading, writing, listening, travel, theater, volunteering, and frequent interaction with family and friends.



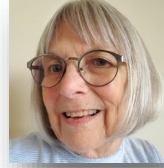
SHARON HARRELSON (*Editor, etc.*) is a Fort Worth native who's been editing various publications for work and fun since middle school. She's delighted to be a Silver Frogs instructor as well as a student; She enjoys cooking/baking, gardening, games and being a band mom to twin high-schoolers.



POLLY HOOPER (*On One Tank of Gas*) is a native Texan and is passionate about all types of photography. Her hobbies include travel and reading. She also loves to play games and is in a neighborhood book club. Her grandsons keep her very busy as well.



LARRY KLOS (*Writer's Corner*) is a charter member of Silver Frogs. He retired from Lockheed Martin after a career in aerospace engineering and management. He is co-chair of the Societal Issues SIG at Silver Frogs. In addition to home projects and volunteering, he has self-published eight books.



For **PENNY McADOO** (*Poetry Break*), Silver Frogs is the perfect combination of learning and friends. Penny has a 54-year career as an educator at every level from preschool to graduate school in urban, rural and suburban settings. Penny is a reader, a quilter, a traveler, and in these times, an observer of clouds.



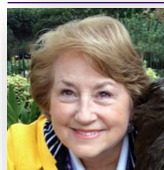
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CAROL STANFORD (*Crafting*) is a retired Dental Hygienist and business owner; she is a Silver Frogs instructor and serves on the SF Advisory Board as well as a number of boards locally. She enjoys live theater, going to movies, traveling, creating glass art, crafts and her four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



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SILVER STREAK MAGAZINE

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