

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

DECEMBER 2006

A Month of Multicultural Holiday Celebrations

During this holiday season, running to and from shopping malls and social gatherings, we are typically inundated with a dazzling array of images, most often related to Christmas. At this time of year, however, many of the major religions and cultures of the world celebrate a variety of holiday traditions.

Whether it's a traditional Christmas song or lighting the menorah for Hanukkah, we hope you are looking forward to expressing your traditions.

December 2: World Aids Day (UN) — A day designated by the United Nations and the World Health Organization to increase awareness about AIDS in the world.

December 5: Discovery Day (Haiti) — Commemorates the discovery of Haiti by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

December 6: St. Nicholas Day (International) — Celebrates the life of St. Nicholas the Bishop who is from Turkey and is known for his generosity. Many European countries exchange gifts with loved ones on this day instead of Christmas.

December 13: Luciadagen / St. Lucia's Day (Sweden) — Also known as the "Queen of Light". A candle-stick parade takes place in her honor.



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December 15: Navidades (Puerto Rico) — Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day, January 6.

December 16: Chanukah or Hanukkah (Jewish) — An eight day festival marked by the kindling of lights on a candle stand called a menorah. Begins at sundown or previous day. Hanukkah is a Hebrew word meaning "dedication".

December 25: Christmas (Christian) — A celebration of the birth of Jesus. Also celebrated as a secular holiday where large family feasts occur and gifts are exchanged.

December 26: Kwanzaa (African American) — Started by California State University Black Studies Professor Dr. Maulana Karenga during the Black Freedom Movement of the 1960s.

There is no time more fitting than to wish you the gift of love, the blessing of hope, and peace this holiday season.

— Tara and April

Why Evergreen Trees Never Lose Their Leaves

Winter was coming, and the birds had flown south, where the air was warm and they could find berries to eat. One little bird had broken its wing and could not fly with the others. It was alone in the cold world of frost and snow. The forest looked warm, and the bird made its way to the trees as well as it could, to ask for help.

First it came to a birch tree. "Beautiful birch tree," said the bird, "my wing is broken, and my friends have flown away. May I live among your branches until they come back to me?"

"No, indeed," answered the birch tree, drawing her fair green leaves away. "We of the great forest have our own birds to help. I can do nothing for you."



So the bird approached an oak. "Great oak tree, you are so strong, will you not let me live on your boughs until my friends come back in the springtime?" "In the springtime!" cried the oak. "That is a long way off, plus you will probably eat most of my acorns."

"It may be that the willow will be kind to me," thought the bird. "Gentle willow, my wing is broken, and I cannot fly south with the other birds. May I live on your branches until the springtime?" The willow did not look gentle, for she drew herself up proudly and said, "Indeed, I do not know you, and we willows never talk to strangers. Very likely there are trees somewhere that will take in strange birds. Leave me at once."

The poor little bird did not know what to do. Its wing was not yet strong, but it began to fly away as well as it could. Before it had gone too far, a voice was heard. "Little bird," it said, "where are you going?" "Indeed, I do not know" answered the bird sadly. "I am very cold."

"Come right here, then," said a friendly spruce tree, for it was her voice that had called. "You shall live on my warmest branch all winter if you like. If your friends have flown away, it is time for the trees to help you."



"My branches are not very thick," said a friendly pine tree, "but I am big and strong, and can protect you from the North Wind."

"I can help too," said a little juniper tree. "I can supply you with berries all winter long."

So the spruce gave the lonely little bird a home; the pine kept the cold North Wind away; and the juniper provided berries. The other trees looked on and talked together wisely. "I would not have strange birds on my bough," said the birch. "I shall not give my acorns away for anyone," said the oak. "I never have anything to do with strangers," said the willow.

In the morning all those shiny, green leaves lay on the ground, for a cold North Wind had come in the night, and every leaf that it touched fell from the tree.

"May I touch every leaf in the forest?" asked the wind in its frolic. "No," said the Frost King. "The trees that have been kind to the little bird with the broken wing may keep their leaves."

This is why the leaves of the spruce, the pine, and the juniper are always green.



Happy Holidays

from

"The Sister Team"

Wishing each and every one of you
a most joyous and healthy
holiday season!

Warmest regards,

Tara and April Glatzel



Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Luke and Christina Liebner

Aaron and Erin Gettis

Joe Buffardi and Mandy Wallingford (referred by Alex and Celeste Idzardi, past and treasured clients)

Jean Ewalt

Jill Hansen (referred by Jeremy and Erin Hansen, past and treasured clients)

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

December Quiz Question

What sparkly prop from the movie "The Wizard of Oz" is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 1/05/07



November Quiz Answer

Question: What is the most attended or watched sport in the world?

Answer: Soccer. Most of the world calls it "Football" though.

Congratulations to Bryn Fichtel

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

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The Pet Page

Grieving The Loss of a Pet?

Have you recently lost a pet, and no one seems to understand the depth of your loss? The truth is that some people grieve the loss of their pets more deeply than the loss of a person in their lives, because their pets were their only source of unconditional affection and love. Often when a person loses this connection to another creature, he or she grieves. If you're having trouble coping with the loss of your pet and need some support, you might try browsing www.petloss.com. The site is filled with pet grief information and articles that can help you understand your confusing emotions in a society that often does not give people permission to properly grieve their pet loss.



I'm Still Here

Friend, please don't mourn for me.
I'm still here, though you don't see.
I'm right by your side each night and day
and within your heart I long to stay.

My body is gone but I'm always near.
I'm everything you feel, see or hear.
My spirit is free, but I'll never depart
as long as you keep me alive in your heart.

I'll never wander out of your sight:
I'm the brightest star on a summer night.
I'll never be beyond your reach:
I'm the warm moist sand when you're at the beach.

I'm the colorful leaves when fall comes around
and the pure white snow that blankets the ground.
I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond,
the clear cool water in a quiet pond.

I'm the first bright blossom you'll see in the spring,
the first warm raindrop that April will bring.
I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine,
and you'll see that the face in the moon is mine.

I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep
and the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep.
I'm the smile you see on a baby's face.
Just look for me, friend, I'm everywhere!

—Author Unknown

IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Sister Team" is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always
..... for the animals!

--Tara and April

Happy Poinsettia Day!

Were you aware that the poinsettia has a special day all its own? By an Act of Congress, December 12 was set aside as National Poinsettia Day. The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851), appointed the first United States Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. While in Mexico, he was enchanted by the brilliant red plants and brought some of them back to his hothouses in Greenville, South Carolina. He began propagating the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens, and the rest, as they say, is beautiful history.



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Christmas Tree Fun Facts...

- Recycled trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and are placed in ponds for fish shelter.
- Oregon produces the most Christmas trees.
- Growing Christmas trees provides a habitat for wildlife.
- Christmas trees take 7-10 years to mature.



- Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.
- Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace — it can contribute to creosote buildup.
- Artificial trees may last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.
- An acre of Christmas trees provides for the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people.
- On average, over 2,000 Christmas trees are planted per acre.
- Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska.

- Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882.
- Christmas tree lights were first mass produced in 1890.
- President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923.

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sq ft, eat-in kitchen, fireplace, large yard!

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\$344,900 Classic "Wood Streets" Cottage
on great street. 2 bds *plus* sunroom, 1.25 bths
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newer appliances in awesome eat-in kitchen,
bull-nosed ceilings. Attached 2-car garage!!

Reduced



\$405,000 All-time low! Awesome 3 bd/1.75
bth, gorgeous hrdwd flrs, central air, updated
kitchen, charm galore, 2-car attached garage!

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information...

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or
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*Holidays!
Happily*



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Here

Chit Chat

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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