

Kiwanis



December 22, 2015



CLUB HAPPENINGS



Tecumseh, Michigan, U.S.A.

Serving the Children of the World™

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Today's Meeting News

• Hosts

- **Greeters**
 - Jeff Seitz and Ron Publiski
- **Presiding Officer**
 - Mike McAran
- **Reporter**
 - Jeff Seitz
- **Photographer**
 - Spencer Ruffner
- **Publisher**
 - Spencer Ruffner
 - Lana Archer
- **Invocation**
 - Ron Publiski
- **Song Leader**
 - Dr. Cook

• Guests



- **Dan Swallow, the new Tecumseh City Manager**
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• President Announcements

- Board meeting will be January 6 at 7 AM at the British Tea Garden (upstairs).
Thank you notes from the Tecumseh District Library and Hospice of Lenawee.
Luke Vandenburg became an Eagle Scout and thanked Kiwanis.

• Announcements

- Spencer announced the Chamber of Commerce Member of the Week: The Dog House with Coney Dog special for a dollar on Monday and Wednesdays.
- Spencer Ruffner encouraged members to visit the Treat Christmas Village Open House. Times 6-9pm on December 26 and 27 at 2747 Shepherd Road. You can also contact Dick and Shirley Treat at 517-265-6374 to make an appointment to view their Christmas Village.



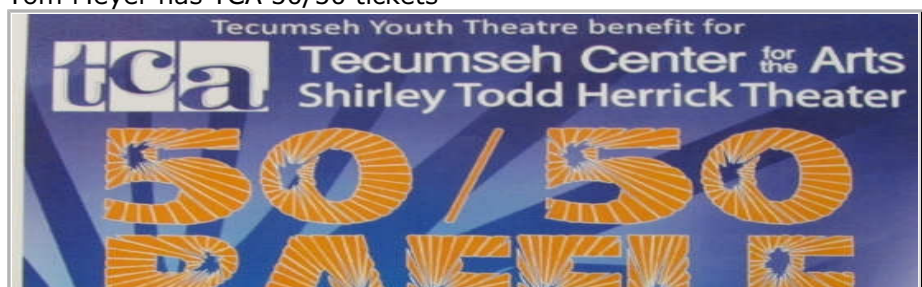
- Doug Bird sent this picture.

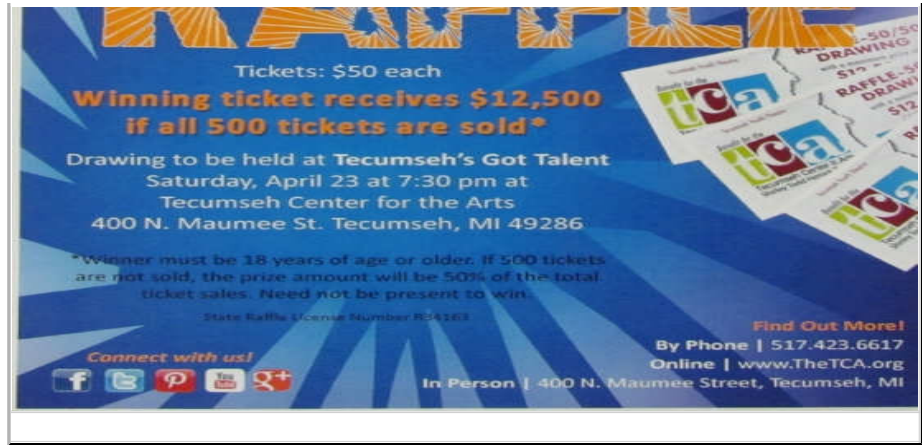
- Lance Ness is promoting a showing of a movie that will be playing at the Adrian Cinema on Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm. Cost will be \$10.00.

The movie showing in adrian was written and produced by a friend of Lance, Rich Christiano. I am selling tickets, and need to sell at least 80 or the movie is canceled .

Jack Beach reported that 248 cases of nuts have been sold. 70 by members and 178 by Community. We have about 50 cases left to sell. Members are encouraged to help sell them for the upcoming New Year's celebrations and the SuperBowl.

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- Ron Publiski reported the Boys Swim Meet will be January 9, a Saturday. Arrival times to assist are 11:15am and 1:45pm.
- Tom Meyer has TCA 50/50 tickets





- Tom Meyer also has March Mingle tickets available.
- Terry Lighthall presented a card with our donation, to Lisa our caterer and thanked her for the great breakfasts we enjoy.
- Lana Archer thanks those who assisted with the Tecumseh Service Club Christmas distribution. 135 families were assisted. It was noted that Megan ran over Ron Ps foot with a cart during the distribution.
- Lana also had Christmas Cards available for members to sign. These cards will be going to Tecumseh Place I, Tecumseh Place II and FieldStone.

• 50/50 Drawing

\$48.00 – Megan Porter who was not here. Thanks Megan.

• Fine Session

Sharon Hawley quizzed us on Christmas Carols and songs.

What Christmas Carol or song sounds like a member of King Arthur's Round Table who won't speak? *Answer: Silent Night*

What title of Christmas song is an anagram for Beverly Sills without the 'y'? *Answer: Silver Bells*

Which Christmas song sounds like a wollop to former TV host Arsenio and his family? *Answer: Deck the Halls*

Joy to the World contains a newspaper name – The World. What other carol contains another newspaper name? *Answer: Hark the Herald Angels Sing.*

Special Fines and Happy Dollars

- Anne Walker led the Lady Kiwanians in an interesting rendition of "Santa Baby". The gentlemen refused to pay to stop the song and were entertained.
- Anne Walker gave George Eidson a copy of his photo from the newspaper and also had him autograph her copy of the photo.

• Birthdays and Anniversaries

None

• Program

Our own Lance Ness provided our Christmas message. Lance graduated from seminary in 1990 and came to the Macon Methodist Church in 2007. He provided us with numerous interesting facts regarding Christmas and some traditions.

According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals. A manger (that is, a feeding trough) is mentioned in Luke 2:7, where it states Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn". Shepherds from the fields surrounding Bethlehem were told of the birth by an angel, and were the first to see the child. – the gospel of Matthew instead described a visit by an unspecified number of magi, or astrologers, sometime after Jesus was born while the family was living in a house (Matthew 2:11), who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the young child Jesus. The visitors were said to be following a mysterious star, commonly known as the Star of Bethlehem, believing it to announce the birth of a King of the Jews.

The middle of winter has long been a time of celebration around the world. Centuries before the arrival of the man called Jesus, early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Many people rejoiced during the winter solstice, when the worst of the winter was behind them and they could look forward to longer days and extended hours of sunlight.

In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21, the winter solstice, through January. In recognition of the return of the sun, fathers and sons would bring home large logs, which they would set on fire. The people would feast until the log burned out, which could take as many as 12 days.

The end of December was a perfect time for celebration in most areas of Europe. At that time of year most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter. For many, it was the only time of year when they had a supply of fresh meat. In addition most wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking.

In Germany, people honored the pagan god Oden during the mid-winter holiday. Germans were terrified of Oden, as they believed he made nocturnal flights through the sky to observe his people, and then decided who would prosper or perish, many people chose to stay inside.

Saturnalai In Rome, Saturnalia – a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice and continuing for a full month, Saturnalia was a hedonistic time, when food and drink were plentiful and the normal Roman social order was turned upside down.

In the early years of Christianity, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, the Bible does not mention the date for his birth. Pope Julius I chose December 25. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival. First called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 and to England by the end of the sixth century.

By holding Christmas at the same time as traditional winter solstice festivals, church leaders increased the chances that Christmas would be popularly embraced. By the Middle ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religion. On Christmas, believers attended the church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today's Mardi

Gras. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined "debt" to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.

The Christmas tree is considered by some as Christianisation of pagan tradition and ritual surrounding the Winter Solstice, which included the use of evergreen boughs, and an adaptation of pagan tree worship;

An Outlaw Christmas In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution. English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

Irving Reinvests Christmas It wasn't until the 19th century that American began to embrace Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas and changed it from a raucous carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace.

In 1910, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. In Irving's mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving's book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended-in fact, many historians say that Irvin's account actually "invented" tradition by implying that is described the true customs of the season.

A Christmas Carol Also around this time, English author Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story's message-the importance of charity and good will toward all humankind-struck a powerful chord in the United States and England and showed members of Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday.

The family was also becoming less disciplined and more sensitive to the emotional needs of children during the early 1800s. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention-and gifts-on their children without appearing to "spoil" them.

In the next 100 years, American built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards, and gift-giving.

Nativity scenes are known from 10th century Rome. They were popularized by Saint Francis of Assisi. The modern Christmas tree tradition is believed to have begun in Germany in the 18th century, though many argue that Martin Luther began the tradition in the 16th century.

The earliest specifically Christmas hymns appear in 4th-century Rome. Latin hymns such as "Veni redemptor gentius", written by Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan. "Conde natus ex Parentis" ("Of the Father's love begotten:") by the Spanish poet Prudentius (d.413). By the 13th century, in France, Germany and particularly, Italy, under the influence of Francis of Assisi, a strong tradition of popular Christmas songs in the native language developed. Christmas carols in English first appear in a 1426 work of John Awdlay, who lists twenty-five "caroles of Cristemas", probably sung by groups of wassailers, who went from house to house.

In Austria in 1818 Mohr and Gruber made a major addition to the genre when they composed "Silent Night" for the St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, William Sandys' *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* (1833) contained the first appearance in print of many now-classic English carols, and contributed to mid-Victorian revival of the festival.

Completely secular Christmas seasonal songs emerged in the late 18th century. "Deck The Halls" dated from 1784, and the American "Jingle Bells" was copyrighted in 1857.

In 1843, Louis Prang introduced the Christmas card to America. He has been called the "father of the American Christmas card". In 1885, Christmas was formally declared a United States federal holiday.

Christmas Day is celebrated as a major festival and public holiday in countries around the world, including many whose populations are mostly non-Christian. Among countries with a strong Christian tradition, a variety of Christmas celebrations have developed that incorporate regional and local cultures.

In the United Kingdom and countries influenced by its traditions, a standard Christmas meal includes turkey, goose or other large bird, gravy, potatoes. Special desserts are also prepared, such as Christmas pudding, mince pies, fruit cake (blame the British). In Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, fish often is used for the traditional main course, but richer meat such as lamb is increasingly served. In Germany, France, and Austria, goose and pork are favored. The Maltese traditionally serve *Imbuljuta-tal-Oastan*, a chocolate and chestnuts beverage. Slovaks prepare the traditional Christmas bread *potica*. *buche de Noel* in France, *panettone* in Italy, and elaborate tarts and cakes. Eggnog is a sweetened dairy-based beverage traditionally made with milk and/or cream, sugar and whipped eggs, Spirits such as brand, rum or bourbon are often added. The finished service is often garnished with a sprinkling of ground cinnamon or nutmeg.

A number of figures are associated with Christmas and the seasonal giving of gifts, Among these are Father Christmas, also known as Santa Claus (derived from the Dutch for Saint Nicholas), Pere Noel, and the Weihnachtsmann; Saint Nicholas or Sinterklaas; the Christkind; Kris Kringle, Joulupukki; Babbo Natale; Saint Basil; and Father Frost.

The best known of these figures today is red-dressed Santa Claus, of diverse origins. The name Santa Claus can be traced back to the Dutch Sinterklaas, which means simply Saint Nicholas. Nicholas was a 4th-century Greek bishop of Myra, a city of the Roman province of Lycia. Among other saintly attributes, he was noted for the care of children, generosity, and the giving of gifts. His feast day, December 6, came to be celebrated in many countries with the giving of gifts.

Saint Nicholas traditionally appeared in bishop's attire, accompanied by helpers, inquiring about the behavior of children during the past year before deciding whether they deserved a gift or not. By the 13th century, Saint

Nichols as well known in the Netherlands, and the practice of gift-giving in his name spread to other parts of central and southern France. At the Reformation in 16th-17th century Europe, many Protestants changed the gift bringer to the Christ Child or Christkindl, corrupted in English to Kris Kringle.

The modern popular image of Santa Claus, however, was created in the United States and in particular in New York. The transformation was accomplished with the aid of notable contributors including Washington Irving and the German-American cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902).

Current tradition in several Latin American countries (such as Venezuela and Colombia) holds that while Santa makes the toys, he then gives them to the Baby Jesus, who is the one who actually delivers them to the children's homes.

In South Tyrol (Italy), Austria, Czech Republic, southern Germany, Hungary, Liechtensten, Slovakia, and Switzerland, the Christkind brings the presents. Greek children get their presents from Saint Basil on New Year's Eve, the eve of that saint's liturgical feast. The German St. Nikolaus wears a bishop's dress and still brings small gifts (usually candies, nuts and fruits) on December 6 and is accompanied by Knecht Ruprecht.

Christmas Facts

- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the US alone. There are 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the US and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- Today, in the Greek and Russian orthodox churches, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after the 25th, which is also referred to as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. This is the day it is believed that the three wise men finally found Jesus in the manger.
- In the Middle ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous – a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.

Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the US on June 26, 1870.

- The first eggnog made in the US was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red and green plant from Mexico to America in 1828
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Clause-clad collectors into the streets since the 1890s.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition in 1930.

• Future Meeting Responsibilities

Date	Note Taker	Greeter	Greeter	Invocation	Fines	Program Chair	Program Description
December 29				Lana Archer	Tom Meyer	Mike McAran	Jerry J. Kelley, PhD, Michigan Boys State

January 5							
January 12							
January 19							



Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to  *changing the world one child and one community at a time*

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