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Serving You

“State of the Art in Service”

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Keep the home fires burning



Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful! That crackling, cheerful dancing fire in the fireplace is sure to kindle deep appreciation from family and guests on chilly winter

days.

Throughout the ages, the home hearth has been the center of cheer on dreary days.

For some, keeping the home fires burning, is virtually a sacred tradition. Mary-Anne Robb resident of the stately Cothay Manor in Somerset, England keeps the fire burning in her Great Hall from October until Easter. “Old houses,” she says, “should smell of beeswax and wood smoke.”

Perhaps with the rising costs of fuel, more homes will rekindle the tradition of a merry fire. If you are considering building a holiday fire, one of the first things you have to do choose wood. Of course different woods smell differently and burn

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November 17-19, 2009

G2E Convention and Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

November 16-20, 2009

IAAPA Attractions Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

2010

March 10-12, 2010

ASI Showcase , AMOA International Expo and Fun Expo, 3 in 1 Show Las Vegas Convention Center, North Hall, Las Vegas NV.

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NAMA National OneShow, McCormick Place North, Chicago, IL.

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ACE Atlantic Coast Exposition, Embassy Suites Hotel at Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, SC.

November 16-18, 2010

Global Gaming Expo (G2E), Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV.



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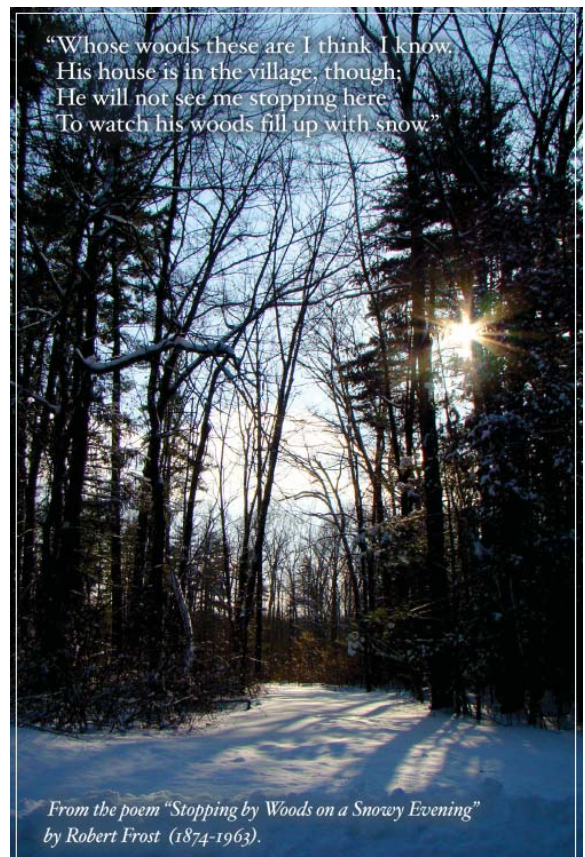
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for different periods. Dense hard wood such as oak and ash are slow, lazy burners. Spruce or cedar smell lovely but burn quickly. If you cut your own wood, cut your logs to size immediately then let them season a year.

A fire can take an hour or so to warm up a room, so plan ahead if you want to have one as a backdrop for dinner.

Robb recommends keeping a good layer of ash in the often-used fireplace, since it holds heat and cuts down on smoke. Remove some ash every two weeks or so, depending on the size of your fireplace. You can distribute it over your rose beds.

The editors at County Life UK recommend purchasing a firelighter to start your fire. To lay a proper fire, crisscross a layer of extremely dry kindling. Above that put two small, very dry logs balanced against each other as an arch. Start the kindling and logs with your firelighter. When the flames are high and going well, add coal or larger logs.



Wartime Christmas Miracles

With modern transportation, technology and food preparation, our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan will probably have a decent Christmas dinner. Maybe they can make a phone call to their families or a visit via computer. Though life-threatening dangers are around them, we pray they will be safe.

Wartime Christmases bring stories that are sometimes called “Christmas miracles.”

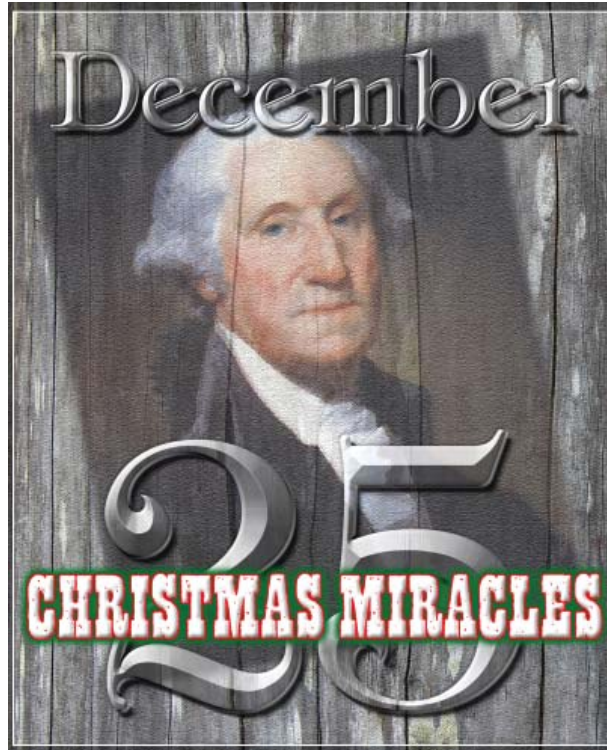
George Washington’s victory on Christmas night 1776 was a miracle of strategy and courage.

British and Hessian troops were settled into winter quarters at Trenton. For nine hours on Christmas Eve, the patriots and their cannons crossed an icy river in small boats. In a gale of sleet and snow, they then walked the nine miles to Trenton. At dawn, they captured 900 enemy soldiers, losing just two of their own. It was the turning point of the American Revolution.

Another wartime near-miracle occurred in World War I when English and German troops were dug into parallel trenches that stretched for thousands of miles. The space between them was sometimes a matter of yards. German soldiers began placing candles and scrawny decorated bushes atop their parapets, and gradually, some on both sides showed their heads.

The singing of Christmas carols began, alternating from one side to the other. Then men on both sides ventured out. They exchanged souvenirs and traded. They toasted each other’s health. Many cried. The truce ended on December 26. Officers saluted each other; then the war was on again.

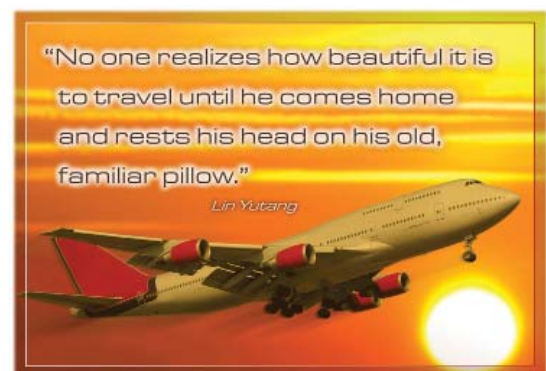
During World War II, Bob Hope’s Christmas specials were something of a miracle. He and his people flew to wherever the armed forces were fighting. They entertained and brought a touch of home and Christmas cheer. The Christmas specials were televised so people at home could see the show and the troops.



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Tradition that will enrich your Holidays

Help your children enjoy the benefits of charitable giving at an early age

Parents sometimes have the feeling that Christmas has become little more than an attempt to fulfill the expectations of their children.

It can be more. Done correctly, adding the idea of helping others during the holidays can bring them joy right now. It can create a holiday tradition that will enrich the season for the rest of their lives.

You can start early by explaining to small children that some people may not have Christmas dinner without help from the bell-ringing Santas. Kids will love putting a few coins into the kettle.

Those who believe in Santa Claus may wonder why there are so many Santas and why they don't leave toys for every child. Explain that Santa needs help. The children will be thrilled with the idea of picking out a toy that Santa could give to a

poor child.

It's easy for parents to feel they are a little poor themselves this year. Still, a gift doesn't have to be expensive, and the joy of choosing one could be something a child looks forward to each year in the future. Choosing a gift should be fun and an expression of love.

A story about why other kids may not get much for Christmas could be in order. Tell your children about recent floods or hurricanes that destroyed other kids' parents' homes and belongings. Don't make the story too frightening.

Older kids would enjoy helping you select the cause you choose to support this year. Make the choices interesting and encourage them to give part of their cash Christmas gifts to help others.

Teens would enjoy going with you to help serve a free dinner at the church or soup kitchen. Inviting teen nieces, nephews or pals to join you is a plus.



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We wish you the many joys of the holiday season

It's time to put aside concerns about the world, the economy and work, at least temporarily. Fortunately, the worst American recession since the 1930s appears to be healing.

It's time to celebrate. The holidays are here. The birth of Christ, the menorah's promise of light, and the winter solstice lift our spirits.

In December, diverse people celebrate in different ways but everyone can feel the wonder of the holiday season.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ on December 25 with its traditions and customs, including the appearance of Santa, that jolly old elf.

Hanukkah celebrates the lives of a people who refused to give up. The Festival of Lights commemorates the Jews' rededicating the Temple of Jerusalem after a great battle.

The lights of Christmas and Hanukkah come as a welcome relief since by Dec. 21, the winter solstice brings the shortest, darkest day of the year.

We may celebrate holidays in different ways, but in our work we are one group, unified and determined to prevail and succeed.

We wish you the joys of the season and thank you for being our good friends, clients and customers.





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