

Memory Corner

Christmas Carols



Dorothy S. moved to Akron when she was fifteen. "I was very unhappy," she recalls. "I

was leaving my school friends behind and all that. But I met my husband two months after we moved – and then they couldn't drag me away!"

Dorothy and her husband had four children – three boys and a girl. "We used to make a big deal out of Christmas. We had a tree every year, and we'd put it up and decorate it the day before Christmas."

"We had a piano at the base of the steps up to the second floor of our house – the steps up to the kids' bedrooms. On Christmas Eve they'd sit on the steps and I'd play the piano and we'd sing Christmas carols together."



Diane says... My boys and I love to celebrate the holidays. We look forward to unwrapping our collection of decorations and finding a special place on the tree for each one. My warmest wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday season!

Diane Johnson, President & CEO, VIP HomeCare, Inc.

Happy Holidays!

Light and Cheer at the End of Year

Ring-ring go the bells at the Salvation Army kettle. Blink-blink go the Christmas lights at every mall. But what puts real zing in the holidays for you? Most people will say it's a special family tradition.

To celebrate the season, Ruth D.'s family always sets aside one day when family members gather to make a simple craft – something every generation can enjoy. This year, with family members aged three to sixty-three, they plan to make colorful paper chains to hang on the tree or across the living room ceiling.

Jean K.'s family always has a special celebration on New Year's Eve. This began when Jean, her brother and sisters were small, and their parents went out to a New Year's party, leaving the children with a babysitter. "We thought it was really unfair that they got to go out while we had to stay home. So the following year they invited us to a New Year's party at our house. My mother even sent us invitations in the mail! And now it's a tradition. This year I'm sending invitations to my daughters, their husbands and my granddaughters!"

Throughout the centuries people have felt a need to bring light and cheer to these dark, cold days at the end of the year. How about reviving a tradition that brings zing to your heart – or creating a new one for family and friends? Happy Holidays!

Buckeyes

A wonderful gift!

- 1½ cups creamy peanut butter
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups confectioners sugar, sifted
- 6 oz.s semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons shortening

In a medium bowl, mix together peanut butter, butter, vanilla and sugar to form a smooth, stiff dough. Shape into balls. Place on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Refrigerate. Melt shortening and chocolate chips in a double boiler or in a metal bowl over a pan of hot water, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Using a toothpick, dip balls into melted chocolate. Return to wax paper and refrigerate 30 minutes to set.

Crossword Holiday Time

Across

- 3. Mailing with holiday wishes (2 words)
- 5. Paper covering a gift
- 6. Present
- 7. Circular door decoration
- 8. Ties in a bow
- 9. Santa's helper
- 11. Frosty the _____
- 12. Ringer on a sleigh (2 words)

Down

- 1. Plug-ins on the tree
- 2. Spicy cookie person (2 words)
- 4. Rudolph's family
- 5. Where elves make toys
- 10. Green leaves and red berries

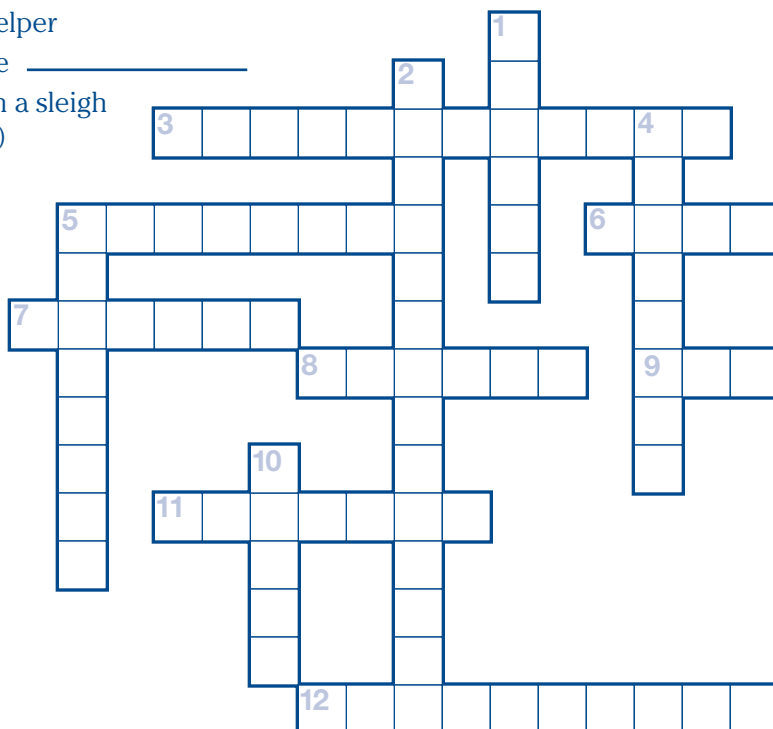
November puzzle answers

Across

- 4. Turkey
- 6. Corn
- 9. River
- 10. Stuffing
- 12. Gratitude
- 13. Bean

Down

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Pecan
- 3. Pumpkin pie
- 5. Football
- 7. Grandma
- 8. Pilgrims
- 11. Family



Answers will be in next month's newsletter.

VIP Spotlight

Meet Robin



Robin has worked for the company since 1994 – before it was VIP. “I’ve worked with a lot of clients, and I have so many good memories of them.”

Robin had a background in healthcare, having worked at City Hospital in Akron for twelve years. “Then we moved to Georgia, and I worked as a preschool teacher. But when we came back to Ohio they didn’t recognize my qualifications, so I went back into healthcare.

“At that time I had a one-year-old baby and an older child, and VIP worked around my schedule. They asked me what hours I wanted to work, and that was a real blessing. My baby is fourteen now!”

During the holidays, Robin’s clients often have visits from family. “They want to help as much as they can, and of course we work around that. But in the end it has to be what the client wants, what they’re comfortable with. When they have a routine, sometimes they just don’t want to change it.”

“Robin is the best thing that ever happened to me,” says one client. “And my children agree. I just couldn’t do without her.”