

“*Christmas Hints*”

~ 2004 ~

***A Collection Of Hints And Resources
To Help You And Your Family Enjoy
The Christmas Holiday!***

Edited By Neal R. Voron

Distributed Courtesy of:

MusiciansChristmasDream.com

<http://www.MusiciansChristmasDream.com>

and

ChristmasHints.com

<http://www.ChristmasHints.com>

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Making A Difference With Music™

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Here's Some **GREAT** Resources For Getting Organized For Christmas!

- [OrganizedChristmas.com](http://www.OrganizedChristmas.com)
(Shopping list, Gifts list, Planning forms, tips, and more!)
- [ChristmasHints.com](http://www.ChristmasHints.com) (see "articles" section)

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All About **Christmas Letters!**

<http://www.ChristmasLetterTips.com>
(Letter writing tips, examples, ideas, and more!)

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Learn about **Toy Safety** and **Age-Appropriate Toys!**

Download the .pdf booklet

'Fun Play, Safe Play'

from the **Toy Industry Association!**

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7 Christmas Tips

By ThriftyFun.com

Unusual Wrapping Ideas

Use linens or towels to wrap gifts and the wrapping will be a nice gift too. You also can use something as simple as a car washing chamois.

Decorations Your Children Can Make

Here are some decorations your kids can make. Paint macaroni and string it together to wrap around your tree. Have them cut out snowflakes from white paper to decorate your walls. Or, have kids string together popcorn and cranberries.

Grow a Natural Christmas Tree

Consider a potted tree instead of a cut one. It will save you money every year and it will grow with you and your family. Keep an eye on your tree's health while it is inside. It should only be inside for 10 to 14 days.

Wrap Gifts Before They Are Found

Wrap gifts before you hide them. That way if someone does look for them or accidentally stumble across them, the contents will still be concealed. I try to wrap gifts the day that I buy them.

Bake Simple Holiday Cookies

The best cookies are not always the most expensive. Most people love simple chocolate chip cookies. Sugar cookies are always fun because they can be cut and decorated so many ways. Box the cookies and store them in a cool place.

Easy Classic Christmas Ornament

Lightly spray paint pine cones with gold or silver paint to make a classic Christmas ornament. Use florist wire or paper clips to hang them on the tree. Or, put them in a bowl or basket as a centerpiece or table decoration.

Making Your Own Wreaths

If possible, make your own wreaths and swags from evergreen and holly branches. You can use an old wire hanger to attach the branches to. Bend the bottom portion of the hanger to form the shape that you would like the wreath to be. Then attach branches with wire or large twist ties. Add a large red bow for color.

About the author:

Tips provided by <http://www.ThriftyFun.com>

ThriftyFun.com publishes tips, articles and recipes daily.

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FUN

Christmas Activities for Children!

The kids will **LOVE** the many coloring pages and
Christmas crafts activities at this site!...

<http://www.Christmas-Activities.com>

Grandparents Magazine Lists Kid-Tested 'Top Gift Picks' For 2004

<http://www.GrandparentsMagazine.net>

Each year, **Grandparents Magazine** sends a large selection of the year's new toy offerings to its nationwide force of kid toy-testers, who try out the products and report their findings. Only the best make the list.

In addition to Top 10 lists for both younger and older kids, the online [Grandparents Magazine's 3rd Annual Holiday Gift Guide](#) covers this year's best choices in dolls, educational toys, pretend play, board games, building toys, puzzles, crafts, and more.

Special breakouts in the guide list the best bargains (under \$10) and splurges (over \$50). Other sections look at DVDs/videos, computer games, and video games.

Here are the Top 10 lists...

For children ages 8 and up:

- * **Best Grandparent/Grandchild Toy/Activity:**
Jet Hawk 1 Air Powered Glider (Uncle Milton)
- * **Best Building Toy:**
Big Air Ball Tower (K'nex)
- * **Best Doll:**
Nellie (American Girl)
- * **Best Craft Kit:**
Beauteous Beads (The Bead Shop)
- * **Best Boy Toy:**
Alien Racers (MGA Entertainment)
- * **Best Girl Toy:**
Disney Princess Jewelry Box/CD Player (Disney)

- * **Best Electronic Gadgets (tie):**
Intellivision 25 (Intellivision)
& **Spiderman** (Jakks Pacific)
- * **Best Travel Toy:**
Video Now (Hasbro)
- * **Best Educational Toy:**
iQuest (LeapFrog)
- * **Best Interactive Play:**
Robosapien (WowWee)

For children ages 8 and under:

- * **Best Toddler Toy:**
Parents Busy Street Playground (Parents Magazine Play+Learn)
- * **Best Educational Toy (infant/toddler):**
Little Touch Leap Pad (LeapFrog)
- * **Best Building Toy:**
Zoo (Playmobil)
- * **Best Educational Toy (preschool/school-age):**
Vtech V.Smile (VTech)
- * **Best Game:**
Balloon Lagoon (Cranium)
- * **Best Doll:**
Cabbage Patch Kids (PlayAlong Toys)
- * **Best Craft Kit:**
Magic Touch (Pamela Drake Int.)
- * **Best Electronic Gadget:**
Leapster by LeapFrog (LeapFrog)
- * **Best DVD (tie):**
Elf
& **Shrek 2**
- * **Best Travel Toy:**
Video Now Jr. (Hasbro)

For detailed reviews from the testers, go online to [Grandparents Magazine](#).

Enjoy Original, New Christmas Music!

Download the .pdf
“ ‘Christmas Is Love’ CD Lyrics Songbook”



Read the lyrics for FREE and listen to introductory soundclips for original new Christmas music by **Joseph F.M. Pokorny**.

Songs include:

- [Christmas Is Love](#)
- [It's Christmas](#)
- [Happy Birthday, Jesus](#)
- [In The Town Of Bethlehem](#)
- [Memories Of Christmas](#)
- [I Love Christmas](#)
- [Little Miss Mistletoe](#)
- [Candy Cane Street](#)
- [Merry Christmas](#)
- [Have A Very Happy Holiday](#)
- [Santa Message](#)
- [Jingle Bells](#) (Instrumental adaptation of classic song)

<http://www.LyricSongbooks.com/ChristmasIsLove.pdf>

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Get **Christmas Recipes** from

WorldFamousRecipes.com

<http://www.WorldFamousRecipes.com/christmas-recipes.html>

Recipes offered at the site include: Christmas Snow Punch, Egg Nog Pie, Christmas Fudge, Christmas Bread, Christmas Bonbons, and more!

ChristmasHints.com Suggests

*That You Consider these **Books** for your reading enjoyment & shopping education this year...*

- **“Stories behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas”**
By Ace Collins, ISBN: 0310239265
- **“Purplebook 2005: The Definitive Guide to Exceptional Online Shopping”**
By Hillary Mendelsohn (Editor), ISBN: 0553382837
- **“The Oppenheim Toy Portfolio”**
By Joanne Oppenheim, Stephanie Oppenheim, James Oppenheim, and Joan Auclair, ISBN: 0972105026

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***For Hints To Save Money in December
(and throughout the year)!...***

Check out the Annual Sales And Seasonal Discounts Calendar at:

Savvy-Discounts.com

<http://www.Savvy-Discounts.com>

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Make 2005 Your Best Year Ever!

***Join the activities on **January 3rd, 2005**
for Resolution Kick-Off Day, and throughout
Motivation Inspiration Month in January!***

<http://www.MotivationInspirationMonth.com>

Mommy... Daddy... ***Is There Really A Santa Claus?***

By **Mark Bulleit**
GreetingsFromSanta.com

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Is there really a Santa Claus? Any parent who hasn't been faced with this question most likely will at some point. But how do you answer this? No one wants to crush a child's dreams of Santa and holiday magic.

Some kids, like me, are crushed at school when they hear from a classmate that they found all their presents under their parents' bed, thus, proving there really is no Santa. Then, reasoning sets in, which is about the time they begin to wonder why they have been told this fairy tale all this time as it was the truth.

So, is there truly a Santa Claus? Well, if you are in this position you will probably be glad to hear that the only true answer to this question is... yes, absolutely.

The name "Santa Claus" came from the Dutch "Sinter Klass" pronunciation of St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a Christian priest, who later became a bishop. He was a wealthy person, and traveled the country helping others, giving gifts of money and other presents. St. Nicholas chose to remain hidden while giving these gifts, so the children were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come!

One famous story is about a poor man who had no money to give to his three daughters on their wedding day. St. Nicholas dropped bags of gold into the stockings which the girls had left to dry by the fire. Ever since, children have hung up stockings on Christmas Eve hoping that they will be filled with gifts by Christmas morning.

According to the Catholics, a saint is one who lived such a holy life that, after dying and going to heaven, is still able to help people on earth.

In the 1500's people in England stopped worshipping St. Nicholas and favored another gift giving figure, Father Christmas.

Now, no matter what your religious preference is or if you even believe in Saints, doesn't change that St. Nicholas represents a selfless act of giving. Rather it be material gifts, money where needed or the often most valuable gift of a little of your time, it's about the act of helping someone else for no other reason than just because they need it.

As St. Nicholas had figured out as a young man, we truly, as adults, begin to understand Santa Claus when we realize that the best gift of all is not on the receiving end, but being the one giving. And being rich doesn't always mean having a lot of money. Often, especially these days, taking the time to spend with someone, inviting them over for dinner or even putting food on their table, can make all the difference.

But how do we explain this to a child? Well, we do it in stages. They first have to learn how much receiving a gift meant to them to understand how much it means to others. And Santa Claus, well he is a perception of a truly magical holiday spirit presented to them in a way with which they can associate at this point in their lives.

So, how do we, as parents, answer this question in a way our young children will understand? You, as a parent, should decide when it's time to come clean. You can meter this by deciding when you feel they will understand that Santa Claus really does exist in all of us and he often means something different to each person they'll meet. A child grasping this is a big step towards learning what the holidays are truly all about.

Mark Bulleit is the developer/co-founder of the popular [GreetingsFromSanta.com](http://www.GreetingsFromSanta.com), offering personal letters from Santa. Light up your child's face like never before this season. Happy holidays from **GreetingsFromSanta.com!** <http://www.GreetingsFromSanta.com>

Read The New Christmas Tale...

'The Musician's Christmas Dream'

...Will You Help It Come True In Real Life?

'The Musician's Christmas Dream' is an enjoyable Christmas tale by **Neal R. Voron** about a musician who dreams of sharing his music with the world.

The short story introduces many new, original Christmas songs by **Joseph F.M. Pokorny**, the writer/composer of "**Wind Dance**", an Irish love story musical, and many other songs, musicals, and cantatas.

You can freely-download a .pdf file of the story at:

<http://www.LyricSongbooks.com/MusiciansChristmasDream.pdf>

If you enjoy the story and song lyrics, please join in the campaign to make the **Musician's Christmas Dream** come true in real life for Pokorny by letting your friends and relatives know about his music!

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COMING SOON from [RyKy Records™](http://www.RyKyRecords.com)...

TwinkleToes' Diary/Santa's Toy Shop

An Audio Story with Music and Pictures

By Joseph F.M. Pokorny

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RyKy Records (tm) hopes you enjoyed

"Christmas Hints"!

~ Christmas Hints 2005 ~

* If you would like to be notified when **Christmas Hints 2005** and other Christmas-related resources become available, be sure to sign-up for the Christmas Hints Newsletter at:

<http://www.ChristmasHints.com>

* We are looking to make **Christmas Hints 2005** even more valuable for readers! If you know of a resource that you think we should consider for inclusion in Christmas Hints, please contact **Neal R. Voron** at Neal@RyKyRecords.com with "**Christmas Hints Resource Suggestion**" in the "Subject" of the message.

* If you are a **webmaster** or **newsletter publisher** and would like to distribute a customized version of this e-book which includes your web site name and URL link, please contact **Neal R. Voron** at Neal@RyKyRecords.com with "**Christmas Hints Customization Inquiry**" in the "Subject" of the message.

Thank you for helping us to make **Christmas Hints** better!

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About the Editor...

Neal R. Voron, an author, lyricist, and Internet entrepreneur, is president of **Voron Communications** and co-founder of **RyKy Records™** [<http://www.RyKyRecords.com>].

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Please Tell Your Friends!...

They Can Enjoy "Christmas Hints", too!

Refer them to:

<http://www.christmashints.com/ChristmasHints2004.pdf>

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