

It's approaching a beautiful season we all have anticipation of celebrating Christmas with our friends and family, finally a New Year is right around the corner which gives us the opportunity to reflect back on our lives and various challenges and successes, against the odds some of us survived very strenuous test with patience, yet persevered with confidence and centering focus, on our higher power and Creator's love and blessings with such spiritual impact resourceful for helping us overcome whatever our lives are/were challenged by, so here you are, you've arrived and can look forward to new beginnings, and now be in expectation for bigger adventures and discoveries, focusing higher goals and prospects for future endeavors in this upcoming year, 2025. Your hearts desire is your ability to achieve, so strive higher for greater accomplishments. This is your chance for selectiveness of career and personal goals so making new vows concerning your personal and spiritual life and it's essentialness, is important. It is an opportunity to regain focus on your life direction, possess inner strength and keep confident about your destination, destiny, and MOVE FORTH with clear perspective, leading purposes, goal oriented for fulfillment and maturity of it's fullest potential, now and approaching its new, and fruitful (ripened) season for conception, birthright, New Year 2025. "I (God) will do a New Thing and now it SHALL COME FORTH.

Be Blessed and have a Prosper Holiday and Happy New Year!

~Cora Shaw



"The Final Countdown" –A Flash Fiction by Dominic

The year was 2999. Earth had long since fractured into sprawling megacities, their neon skies polluted with the debris of dying satellites and forgotten wars. Humanity's clock ticked louder than ever, for New Year's Eve would bring not just a new millennium, but the end of the world—or so the rumors whispered. "Five minutes to midnight," murmured Alex, her breath visible in the freezing control room of OrbitStation-9. She was the last remaining operator aboard, her fingers trembling over a flickering console. Her partner, Marcus, sat slouched in a chair, gazing at Earth through a grimy window. The planet below glittered like a disco ball, each city an ocean of lights. Yet all he could think about was the blackout that was coming. "Do you think they'll really do it?" he asked, his voice hollow. "Who? The billionaires?" Alex scoffed. "Of course. They've been planning this for decades." The "Countdown Project," humanity's cruelest joke, was the elite's escape plan—a series of nuclear detonations meant to wipe out life on Earth and reset the planet. Meanwhile, their private fleet of starships waited silently on the dark side of the moon. Marcus leaned forward, his eyes narrowing. "What if we stopped it?" Alex froze. "We can't. The codes are buried under layers of encryption. It's out of our hands." "Not entirely," Marcus replied, holding up a small, weathered flash drive. "I... I took a backup of the launch systems. We can hijack them. Detonate their ships instead." "Are you insane?" Alex hissed, standing abruptly. "That would kill thousands of people." "They're already killing billions," he snapped back. "Do you want to let them? Or do you want to fight for what's left of us?" The clock on the console read 11:59:30. Alex hesitated, then slid into her chair, fingers flying over the keys. "Thirty seconds, Marcus. If this fails..." "It won't." As the countdown began, the world below erupted into cheers, oblivious to the decision made in the cold void above. At zero, the starships exploded in the lunar sky, their brilliant flares resembling a cosmic firework display. For the first time in centuries, Earth had a future. [Fade to black.]

~Dominic



Artwork by Dominic



St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FRANCISCAN
360 IS OPEN!



WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address, Health Clinic

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

NEW: Art and Guitar classes, Work space available Tuesday 9am -11am

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

Happy New Year! We are grateful to each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions to the newsletter over the past year. These contributions have made it possible for us to publish 52 issues in 2024, and we look forward to many more in 2025! This week we have writing from Gregory Spears, a short story from Derrick Lola, writing from Jane Farmer, Rodney Wise, Khari, JFG, Cora Shaw, poetry from Stanley "Cosmic Stan" Johnson, artwork and writing from Dominic, art work from Lola Derrick and a haiku from M. Dunn

EPHESIANS 4:22-24 · *To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card.

Question: What are the triangles on the Times Square ball made from?

Question: Who is credited with writing the poem, "Auld Lang Syne"?

Question: What do people in the Southern United States eat for good luck on New Year's Eve?

Answers to last week's trivia.

What's the name of the giant snow monster who guards the North Pole in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?

How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?

Which reindeer is never mentioned in "The Night Before Christmas"?

The Alberta Clipper (A Maine cold front)

One year in the 2010's I booked myself a stay at a hotel for NYE. The hotel was in preparation for a New Years celebration with music and food and jazz music. I got dressed and went down to the hotel ballroom and grabbed a flute of champagne and mingled with some of the other hotel guests. Before I knew it time had flown by and it was time for the New Years countdown and the champagne toast. By the time the evening ended and I was ready to go home, the Alberta Clipper had arrived with the New Year. It was sooo cold I ran home before it got really bad outside. When I got home my cat was up waiting for me

~JFG

★ ★ ★ THE STORY • MISTLETOE ★ ★ ★

HAPPY NEW YEAR TOO ALL THIS IS WHAT SANTA SAY WE, I AND MRS.CLAUS WISHES YOU ALL MEERY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.WHAT WILL YOUR NEW BE OR MEAN FOR YOU A BETTER LIFE? YES WILL WILL SAY A -NEW CAREER, A NEW BETTER HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A BETTER CAR TO DRIVE WHAT ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING OUTSTANDING START A DONATION CENTER FOR THE WITHOUT WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE WITHOUT!WELL START ANEW MOVEMENT OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO SEE AND UNDER STAND THA THEIR IS A BETTER WAY OF LIFE TO NOT BE WITHOUT SO MANY PLACES TO GO YOU NEVER BEEN BEFORE DOES'NT THAT SOUND LIKE A BETTER LIFE I WOULD CHOOSE EDUCATION YES THE MORE YOU KNOW THE POWER OF THE KNOWLEDGE LOVE IT LOVE IT WHAT ABOUT THE FREEDOM THAT YOU CAN DO WHAT EVER YOU WHAT .SOUNDS NICE WHAT A BETTER LIFE FOR THE NEW YEAR.

#HAPPYNEWYEARTOALL WENDALEESHELTONMENDES #MISTLETOEANDCRANBERRIES

~Wenda Lee Shelton Mendes

December 2014 I had just moved in my first apartment in Gramercy Park...I was about to turn 22. It was going to be my first holiday season on my own as an adult. Later that evening after my shift ended at footlocker I took myself out to eat at the diner up the street from me. I got home and got dressed and headed down town to watch the fireworks display.

I had stopped and got myself a bottle of sparkling cider.

The fireworks display was so great. There was something about being surrounded by millions of people from all walks of life. Trying to get back uptown was going to be madness with all the crowds.

~Khari



★ ★ ★ Short Story ★ ★ ★

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from her?” “That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the cat. “I don’t matter which way you go,” said the cat. So long as I get on the road, “oh, you’re sure to do that,” said the cat, “if you only walk enough.”

Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you... Feelings are much like waves- we can’t stop them from coming but we can choose which one to surf.

Walk the path of God and he will protect you ALWAYS...

God will not let you down.

★ ★ ★ Happy New Year ★ ★ ★
~Derrick Lola



As I look back on my life in 2024, there were at lot of important goals that I didn’t get fulfilled. But, hopefully for 2025 God willing I still have a chance to get back on track and get somethings done. For a lot of us hitting the ”reset button” isn’t a bad thing.Not Keeping new years resolutions are common among people every year. But, let’s start with setting small goals instead of long range ones. So that way you don’t get disappointed and give up. Dust yourself off, and start over. Don’t beat yourself up. Walk by faith not by sight. (1 Corinthians 5:7).

~Rodney Wise



Drawing by Lola Derrick

What does New Year’s mean to Cosmic Stan?

New Year 2025 to Cosmic Stan, means more love throughout the land, means more poetry from me, my man, means I’ll be back again, by popular demands, In 2025 only love, can set the record straight, the world can only survive with LOVE, The world can’t survive with HATE, so by yourself don’t eat all your cake, show some love with food, on other plates, In 2025 I will also demonstrate, with this poetic love, That love always conquers hate, when you do the right things, Then your New Year ’25 will be happy, cause only living wrong, will make you sad, so let’s fill our ’25 New Year with cheer, Send your love to people,Whether they are far or near, As Cosmic a.k.a. Stanley Johnson sends a message to All Very Clear, In 2025, Happy New Year

~Stanley “Cosmic Stan” Johnson



New Year’s



It is now 2025! Did you make your list of resolutions for this year? Do you have a plan already on how you’re going to accomplish your resolutions this year? I have and I plan on getting started on checking off every box on my checklist immediately. No more procrastinating like I did in 2024, as I mentioned in a previous newsletter. This year is all about knocking down every obstacle that stands between me and my dreams without hesitation. I cannot let another year pass me by without accomplishing even the most basic resolutions that I have set myself as I have done before. It never feels good to make it to New Year’s and realize that another year has gone by and you haven’t accomplished as much as you had hoped, but each new year is a new beginning to start fresh and become the person who always says what they mean and does what they say they’re going to do. Hopes and optimism are two very powerful emotions. Hope is setting goals and believing that you can accomplish them, even when the odds aren’t in your favor. Optimism is positive thinking; knowing that everything will work out in the end, no matter how dreary the world currently appears. A hopeful optimist can’t be stopped! 2025 can be the year that we all conquer hurdles beyond what we previously thought ourselves capable of, no matter how prone we are to dragging our feet throughout the year and wasting time. Each new year is a chance to turn things around and that is exactly what I plan on doing. I hope everyone reading this has similar plans in mind and are working on a course of action to dominate this year. We are still in the first week of the year, so there is still time to get things together, but please join me in making 2025 the year we all look back on and say, “This is where my story began”.

~Jane Farmer