

# THE ROAR

Volume X Issue VII

Warsaw Community High School

December 18th, 2020



# FAREWELL 2020

2020 was a rough ride and now it's finally ending! With all the negative this past year, we have to look at the bright sides. These are the Roar team's favorite moments of 2020!

LB- I really enjoyed when we got to come back to school. It was nice to feel slightly normal!

Piper- My favorite part of this year was spending time with my friends over the summer and sitting next to Rae and Sadie in newspaper :)

Sadie - My favorite part of this year was going on my missions trip and chatting with Piper and Rae in Newspaper!

Alex- It was cool to find out how the ROAR was made and published and the time it took to make them and to be part of something that so many people take pride in being in. All round the class was cool and fun to be apart of.

Konner- My favorite moment of 2020 was surviving. Also Kid Cudi dropping new music was nice.

Savannah- I loved being able to be around people and see my friends again. I also enjoyed all my new classes, especially newspaper and ceramics.

Rae- My favorite thing I did this year was I started doing more special effects makeup and improving my talents to better my skill set, and sitting next to Piper and Sadie in newspaper.

Alyssa- My favortie part of 2020 was having so much time to explore new hobbies and learn new things!



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Mission Statement: The Roar's mission is to consistently provide Warsaw Community High School and the surrounding community with compelling content that is passionately crafted through hard work in a professional enviromental focused on its audience.

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# 2020 *in Music*

Sydney Leighty and Jordyn Truex

## **Positions-Ariana Grande**

*Positions* is a continuation of Ariana Grande's constant stream of music. This album takes a turn from Grande's 2019 album, *thank u, next*. In *thank u, next*, Grande's focus is primarily the sound of the music, instead of the lyrics. Specific sounds/dubs often opened the songs, and each song had a very distinct back track. However, *Positions* seems to take a different stance. The opening track, "shut up", has a very soft, simple back track, emphasizing the words she sings. The lyrics oppose the sound of the song, a theme that continues throughout the album. Many of her songs are about learning to love again after a heartbreak, such as "off the table," "pov," and "motive." Grande's music is driven by self-discovery and a newfound confidence. Each song has specific lyrics that leave little to ponder upon, making her intentions and her confidence very clear. "Positions," the album's title track, is a song full of metaphors and clear intentions, where she alludes to a lot and outright says even more. Overall, the album is a good listen, even if you're not interested in the meaning behind her lyrics. The back tracks are calming and fluid, and the album's theme is consistent.

## **Gaslighter-The Chicks**

*Gaslighter* is one of the best country albums I have ever listened to. I am not usually a fan of the folksy, country style that The Chicks (formally the Dixie Chicks) use, but this album is such a bop. The album is primarily about one of the members, head singer Natalie Maines, and the process of her leaving her cheating husband. The Chicks have a fascinating style of music; whereas most musicians hint towards trauma to make their music relatable to a wider audience, The Chicks don't shy away from coming right out and saying what they mean. Not only does Maines blatantly tell the story of how she found out her husband was cheating in "Tights On My Boat", but she also rips out her righteous anger on her ex from "Gaslighter" to "Sleep at Night," telling the audience how he tried to blame it on her, call her crazy, and gaslight her into believing that it was her fault. *Gaslighter* is an amazing listen if you're feeling righteously angry or if you just want to listen to a bangin' album with ingenious lyrics. From the upbeat songs about finding new love to songs about self-empowerment, *Gaslighter* is worth every minute.

## **Circles-Mac Miller**

*Circles* is an album by Mac Miller that was released posthumously after his death in September of 2018. The album starts off with its titled track, with a very soft chime and somewhat fuzzy bass sound. This album picks up where *Swimming* left off, and is more of a second installment rather than a completely new album, continuing the creative sound as it is not traditional rap. Compared to his past albums, Miller uses new sounds, and you can see a growth in his personal life through his music. He is no longer Easy Mac, the guy "with the cheesy raps," yet instead he is diving deeper into his own mind and pulling out emotions that many can relate to. Throughout Miller's career, his sound changed drastically from just rap to a somewhat alternative, R&B sound. This album is more stripped and real. Listening to the album all the way through, track after track, it is flush with live instrumentals and more of a singing voice, something he introduced in his last two albums, *The Divine Feminine* and *Swimming*. Overall, *Circles* is an expansion of the mind and forever one of my favorite works of art.

## **Power Up-AC/DC**

Old bands that release new music are often accused of fast cash grabs or told that they are stuck in the past. The 17th studio album from AC/DC came out of nowhere this year. After a few struggles and the loss of Malcolm Young, no one believed the band would continue on. The opening track, "Realize," is like a blast from the past when you first hit play. All of those feelings you get from listening to old AC/DC classics are there, and they're strong. It sets the tone, and yet "Shot in the Dark" is definitely a highlight for the album with its strong bluesy riff and drum beat. *Power Up* is just like their previous music, as the group has never been known for experimentation. They stick to their sound, and many fans appreciate that. This album was not a fast cash grab or a desperate attempt for validation. They did exactly what they set out to do. They paid tribute to their late friend and provided their fans with fresh, but familiar music.

Spread Holiday Cheer &

# Volunteer

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

When: November - December (sign-up)  
Where: Walmart or Kroger (sign-up)  
Why: The Salvation Army asks people to collect money for families in need. Your bell-ringing experience could benefit a variety of families this holiday season!

**Christmas Caroling**

Where: Wherever you want!  
Why: Singing has been known to make people smile- whether you're good or bad at it! What better way to spread Christmas cheer than to sing with a group of your friends and family?

**Cards for Senior Citizens**

Where: Miller's Merry Manor, Paddock Springs, Mason Health and Rehabilitation Center, Grace Village, Living Legacy Associates, Lake City Place  
Why: Spreading joy to our elders is important this holiday season, especially now that they are isolated from people they love!

**Soup Kitchen**

When: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.  
Where: First United Methodist Church  
Why: This holiday season there are many people in need. Volunteering at the soup kitchen allows you to give back to your community and spread joy to others!

# How To Help Local Charities

By: Piper Ellis

## Our Father's House

Location: 2114 E Winona Ave, Warsaw, IN  
Our Father's House is a social service organization and thrift store that works to help struggling families and individuals by providing food, furniture, and clothes at a reduced price, if not free. All donations are used to their full extent. Whether you decide to donate a couch, some well cared for used clothes, or money, your contribution is sure to make someone's day, month, or even year.

## The Animal Welfare League

Location: 1048 S 325 E, Pierceton, IN  
The Animal Welfare League is the county pet shelter that houses dogs and cats alike. Even though most people would love to adopt a pet, that isn't always feasible. If you have a love for animals and would like to donate to The Animal Welfare League, your donation could be used to fund emergency medical procedures, provide toys for the pets, supply the facility with proper maintenance resources, and save pets' lives.

## The Beaman Home

Location: 603 Parker St, Warsaw, IN  
The Beaman Home is a shelter for women and children who have been affected by domestic abuse. The staff at The Beaman Home focus on teaching the women basic life skills and how to get a job so that they can eventually return safely into the community. The staff feeds and houses the women and children. A monetary donation to The Beaman Home would provide safe transportation, a clean living space, food, bedding, clothes, hygiene products and more to those living at the shelter.

## WCHS Food Pantry

Location: Warsaw Community High School, Room G155  
The Food Pantry is based out of Mrs. Leinbach's classroom and helps provide food to students in the school. This is a great resource for our school and it is very important that this service stays around. Leinbach would appreciate any donation, but she says that the pantry could really use some cereal.



# RUN LIKE

This 2020 season, the Warsaw Girls Cross Country team did what no one thought could be done. After a very restrictive season, uncertainty about the meets, and being ranked 12th at Semi State, the Lady Tigers blew the expectations out of the water placing 4th and moving on to run at state.

Because of COVID-19, The season started with a rocky pre-season of running alone or in small groups until the official pre-season started in July. Although, the team worked through this and handled the Covid precautions well by social distancing whenever possible and wearing masks. Erika Bugg explained that “As a whole (the team) handled Covid-19 with diligence making sure that we could have our season and continue to run together,” The girls cross country team had a successful season and grew in their athletics and team relationships alike. “As a freshman, I couldn’t have asked for a better first year,” says Marissa Howett “I love each and every one of (the girls) and without them all there the whole season and atmosphere would’ve been changed”



Wini Barnett and Adree Beckham pose for a picture



Marissa Howett runs at Conference

After a win at the NLC Conference Championships, eleven girls moved on to the postseason. The girls, Wini Barnett, Adree Beckham, Regan Brouwer, Ava Knight, Elizabeth Vander Bie, Erika Bugg, Marissa Howett, Whitney Shepard, Macelyn Marccuccilli, Amanda Lucinde, and Mikayla Mimnaugh, moved on to Sectionals and Regionals, winning both. Next, the team moved on to Semi State where they placed 4th after being projected to place 12th.

The team was ecstatic when they learned they were to run at the state cross country meet. “I was so relieved and emotional when I heard we made it to state. I was so proud of the girls and how we ran as one and was so excited that we made it my senior year,” says Adree Beckham

“...I screamed. I was so happy and proud of them cause I knew how hard they had to work for that spot,” expresses Whitney Shepard.

Macelyn Marccucilli states “When I found out we made it to state I was very happy for all the girls. We worked so hard and it was good to see everyone’s joy as our main goal was reached.”

Ava Knight went on to explain that, “We worked so hard to get to state so of course I was just thrilled to have the opportunity to run at such a high level.”

At State, the girls ran with great Warsaw pride and had an amazing trip to Terre Haute. Wini Barnett was the first lady tiger to cross the finish line with a time of 19:55. Wini shares that her biggest takeaway from this season was that “Even though all odds were stacked against us, we still pulled through and we can continue to pull through.”

Overall, the girls cross country team had an extremely successful season and many of the girls are already excited for next year’s season.

# THE WIND

The boys Cross Country team has had a fantastic season! After dominating the competition from sectionals all the way to semi-state, the Cross Country boys have completed their season at state! WCHS placed 16th overall, with seven runners: Garrett Hall, Jacob Kissling, Sam Lechlitner, Luke Nier, Harrison Phipps, and Sam Slough. Kissling, WCHS's top runner for the year, finished 60th out of 207 of the top runners across the state of Indiana. A few of the boys told me about their favorite experiences this year and their personal Cross Country memories.



Harrison Phipps finishes his race



Sam Slough checks his watch at the end of a race

From the twinkies run to the hotel rooms at state, each Cross country runner enjoyed this season despite COVID-19 restrictions. Even though many top runners were contact traced throughout the season, the team managed to make it all the way to state, coming to rest as the #16 team in the state. Senior Jacob Kissling and junior Sam Slough advised that people who want to start running cross country should put in the time and work in order to dominate, and they agree that anyone who puts their mind to it can run cross country. Kissling was very appreciative of his mentor and coach, Jim Mills, saying "My biggest mentor for cross country has always been my coach Jim Mills. He has always been very supportive of me and has always been able to bring a lot of knowledge about running and health to our team. I feel so blessed that he decided to stay with my group of seniors all four years and wish him luck with whatever he does next!"

The boys cross country team was among many wildly successful WCHS fall sports teams, including the volleyball team, and for many seniors, COVID-19 has created an unprecedented senior year, but through all the restrictions and struggles, WCHS athletes have managed to thrive and make this year an unforgettable one. Stay warm, tigers.



# Who was Kris Kringle?

That time of year is upon us and we will begin to see the famed Kris Kringle or Santa Clause. We all know him, Big jolly man in a red and white suit who comes down the chimney to give presents to all the good boys and girls. That is the Western Culture adaptation of who Kris Kringle was. In actuality Kris Kringle was not actually named Kris Kringle, his real name was Saint Nicholas and he was a bishop who helped the needy. Born in 280 AD in Patara, Lycia an area that is now part of present day turkey.

A devout Christian, he later served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre. Saint Nicholas lost both of his parents at a very young age and used the family inheritance to help the poor and sick. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, Saint Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside.

Saint Nicholas was the patron saint of sailors, children, wolves and pawnbrokers. After the Death of Saint Nicholas, the legend of his gift giving grew into the legendary character called Santa Clause, who brings Christmas presents to children all around the world.

Alex Bright

## *The Christmas Truce*

*In the cold winter of 1914 during WWI soldiers on both sides of the Western Front participated in an unofficial ceasefire. On Christmas Eve German and British soldiers started singing Christmas carols from inside the trenches. When the sun rose on Christmas day soldiers slowly came out of the trenches. German soldiers ventured into no-man's land and called out Merry Christmas. The Allies first thought it to be a trick, but slowly started coming out as they realized the Germans were unarmed. They exchanged food and small gifts such as cigarettes, alcohol, and plum pudding. They also sang carols and even played games of soccer together. Although the games were often hard to play on the rough ground, they still tried to play games of "kick-about". Some of the soldiers used the time to collect the bodies of their fallen. Approximately 100,000 British and German troops participated in this ceasefire. In the following year many attempts of ceasefires were thwarted with threats of punishment, but there were reports of small ceasefires throughout the war. This ceasefire, and the continued attempts, showed the humanity and Christmas spirit of the soldiers.*

- Savannah Mesman





# CHRISTMAS MOVIE FAVORITES

## *Elf*

A hilarious Will Ferrell movie about a man who thinks he's an elf.

## *Home Alone*

A movie about a young boy whose family forgot him home while at Christmas Vacation.

## *Die Hard*

An action movie about a LA workplace that is taken over by a terrorist during their Christmas Party.

## *Polar Express*

A movie about a young boy who wants to ride trains for Christmas and on the Polar Express he learns to love and appreciate his family.

## *White Christmas*

White Christmas is a musical about two retired war veterans and a pair of sisters who save Christmas for an old sargent.

## *Miracle on 34th Street*

This movie is about a young girl and a single mom who don't believe in Santa Claus but through a department store Santa, the miracles of the season start to work their magic.

## *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

A classic christmas story about an outcast in the town of Whoville who decides along with his dog to steal Christmas for the people of Whoville, but during his thievery remembers the past and has a change of heart then restores Christmas.

## *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)*

Everyone knows the classic tale of Rudolph the red nosed reindeer but this is still a great Christmas movie to watch when you're getting into the holiday season.

## *A Christmas Story*

A Christmas Story is about a kid who wants a BB gun for Christmas and is focused on what he wants but eventually learns the true meaning of season.

## *The Muppets Christmas Carol*

The Muppets Christmas Carol puts a small twist on the classic tale by incorporating part of the muppet cast into the show by depicting some key characters.

## Personal Favorites of the Roar Staff

Rae- *The Family Stone*

Jordyn- *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer(1964)*

Alyssa- *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer(1964)*

Sydney- *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)*

Mrs.Leinbach- *Santa Claus is Coming to Town (1970)*

Piper- *Die Hard*

Konner- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

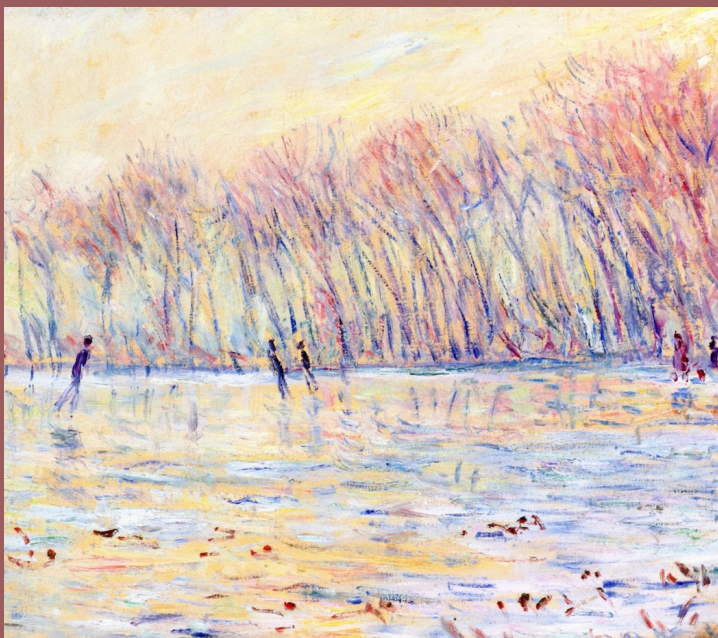
Savannah- *The Grinch (2018)*

Alex- *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

Sadie- *Elf*

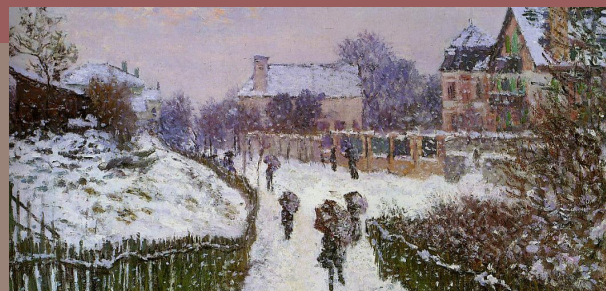
# THE IMPRESSIONS OF WINTER

Winter may look a little different to me than it does to you. To me winter looks like sledding down the hill at my grandparents' house and ice skating on the lake. Claude Monet, a French painter, appreciates that everyone has a different view of winter. That is why he created more than 100 paintings depicting winter scenes. Here are just a few of his many works.



Skaters at Giverny by Claude Oscar Monet – 1899

Boulevard St-Denis, Argenteuil,  
Snow Effect by Claude Oscar Monet – 1875



Houses in the  
Snow, Norway  
by Claude Oscar  
Monet – 1895



# Fashion, Fashion

COVID may have kept us on lockdown for most of 2020, but that's not stopping fashion! Here are the TOP 4 fashion trends of 2020 and how to style them!

## SWEATER WEATHER

No, not the song by The Neighborhood! It's that time of year again, and this year it's all about crewnecks and sweater vests. Crewnecks have always had a spot in the fashion realm and layering them has become all the rage. This year has been the year to bend gender norms and fashion has been the first step. Sweater vests and button ups have become a staple in many people's closets this season. Whatever aesthetic you're trying

to achieve, you can't go wrong with a soft sweater to warm up your look.

how to style:

Turtleneck layered under a sweater vest over mom jeans, converse and a funky hair clip  
Collared shirt under a blue crew neck a black mini pleated skirt and black tights and chunky sneakers

## No one wants a waist over nine inches

We may no longer be cinching our waists down to nine inches, but corsets are still alive in the fashion industry one hundred years later. This season, corsets have appeared in both formal and casual wear. A wide variety of designs and textures gives you a range of occasions to wear corsets! Baggy clothing? Corsets will bring a form of femininity to a more androgynous outfit. A sophisticated corset isn't needed to create this look either. A simple black underbust will bring in that waist creating the illusion of an hourglass shape.

how to style:

A beautiful Overbust layered under a pant suit radiates women empowerment. A short white dress and a black underbust corset paired with black demonias and a leather coat

## Keeping it loose

The evolution of jeans over the past decade have all led up to baggy pants. Skin tight skinny jeans and low rise jeggings have now been replaced! Boyfriend jeans, mom jeans, wide jeans, and high rise reign supreme! Where discomfort was fashion, Gen Z has come serving a new way to show how you can look good and still feel good.

how to style:

Little shirt, big pants  
Cropped cami, black denim wide black jeans, converse and funky rings and jewelry  
Oversized graphic tee, blue straight legged jeans and vans/ black boots

## Put your mask on right!

The pandemic has created many inconveniences and new norms this year, including masks. Be that as it may, we must look at the glass half full. Like all articles of clothing, there are many different styles of masks to try out! Masks don't have to be another inconvenience to your

how to style:

Matching your mask with your outfit  
Patterns that correlate with your outfit

new found aesthetic, but instead a new accessory to pull your fit together. While keeping our masks on and looking stylish, we can keep ourselves and others safe!

In the end, fashion is what you make it! Explore the fascinating world of fashion and find what makes you feel good!

**-ALYSSA PENA**





# Sports Moments That Made 2020 Not So 2020



Jimmy Butler, also known as Jimmy Buckets, leading the Miami Heat to the finals and earning the respect of all the NBA fans was unforgettable.

We were introduced to the NFL's new fan favorite Rodrigo Blankenship whom was building legos the night before winning the starting job.

The funniest moment in possibly sports history Joe Kelly getting suspended for making fun of the Houston Astros was my personal favorite thing to happen in sports this year.



NFC East being bad at football has been comedy for all NFL fans this year.

The LA Lakers winning the NBA Championship after the tragic loss of Kobe Bryant was heart warming and made a lot of fans emotional.



Tom Brady's last throw as a patriot being an interception returned for a touchdown in the playoffs was a great moment for everyone except Patriots fans.



Alex Smith making a comeback after having a gruesome leg injury and ending the Steelers undefeated season was a historic moment.

Mike Tyson getting back into the boxing ring this year was unexpected and a great fight versus Roy Jones Jr.





# The Grinches

Konner Shepherd

The Grinch movies are both great movies to watch over the holidays but if you only have enough time to watch one, which should you choose?

In my opinion if you're watching them with younger kids then maybe watch the new animated one. It has more light hearted humor, a not as scary animation, and is more appropriate for a younger audience. Although, we should all be able to agree that the Jim Carrey (Original)



Grinch movie is far better than the new cartoon movie. The acting, the story, the humor, it's a master piece and a classic that will always be remembered as one of the best

Christmas movies of all time.

Jim Carrey transforms into The Grinch and really brings the exciting character to life. Now, the cartoon version that has recently come out is also a great addition to the line of Grinch movies because it seems to be a modern version that went a different direction than the original two movies. Have fun watching either of these movies this Christmas with your family.  
-Konner Shepherd



# The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza

The Greek Mythology OlympiaGanza is a narrative story of a bunch of Greek myths. The narrators are Jordan Norris and Emma Spencer, and there are many supporting actors and characters.

## What's your favorite part of the show?

"Though it is hard to choose just one "favorite" part for this show, I would personally go with the game show portion of 'Name That Monster!', as it has a lot of energy and comedic chaos." -Jordan Norris

"My favorite part of the show would have to be when I die. I found that part really funny and enjoyed pretending to be dead." - Alyssa Peña

"I think that the satirising of the real mythology is really funny!" - Theo Cooke

## Why would you suggest coming to the show?

"Are you kidding me? I may be a theatre guy, but if I had a choice of all the shows out there, this is my current favorite. It's a blast, even though the humor is a different approach from most others. It's a relief and bound to catch the audience off guard." -Jordan Norris

"I would suggest this show because it puts a comedic twist to Greek mythology with a beautiful set and amazing actors." - Alyssa Peña

"I think that people should come for the humour. It's also always fun to watch something in the theatre!" - Theo Cooke

## Why do you like acting?

"I find acting to be a home in a way, as due to my bleeding disorder (Hemophilia A Severe) I was destined for something non-sports related, and for me that is entertainment through things like acting, directing, and narrating. Acting also tends to provide a good outlet to express emotions in a healthy way as you channel them into characters." - Jordan Norris

"I really enjoy acting because it's like becoming a new person no one's seen before. The adrenaline before going on stage is thrilling." - Alyssa Peña

"I don't really know, honestly! I just like it a lot. It's a good mixture of the people I'm acting with and the rush of opening night. All around it's very fulfilling!" - Theo Cooke

## What is your favorite part of the show process?

"seeing the improvement of the show progressing through practices that it goes through at the beginning. It's something you may do for fun, but by the end of the production it becomes something you are truly proud of." - Jordan Norris

"My favorite part of the show process is watching the set slowly come together." - Alyssa Peña

"I really just enjoy being around all of the people in the cast, and seeing it through to the finish." -Theo Cooke

December 4th and 5th at 7:30 p.m.

and

December 6th at 2:30 p.m





# Traditional Holiday Decorations from around the World

In the US when we think of holiday decorations, we think of red and green, and trees and Menorahs, and light displays, and cheeky elves... but in other places around the world different holiday traditions are sealed in the hearts of the people and bring all kinds of comfort and joy. Here are just a few of the countless traditions from around the Globe:



wikipedia.org

In Ukraine, there is an amazing folktale about a poor widow who discovered a pine tree growing in the middle of her house! She knew she didn't have enough money to decorate for the holidays so she and her family went to bed with sadness in their hearts. They woke up on Christmas morning to find the minute tree decorated lavishly in spider webs and cobwebs that were made of actual silver and gold! After this holiday miracle, they never went without anything they needed again. Because of that heartwarming tale, in Ukraine it is very common to see Christmas trees adorned with fake spiders and sparkly cobwebs and spider webs!



Hans Proppe

In the Mexican city of Oaxaca there is an incredible celebration that occurs on December 23rd called La Noche de Rábanos (the Night of the Radishes). Rachel Gould shares that since 1897, there has been a market held in the city where craftspeople can sell their wares. Because the art, carvings, and gifts were so amazing, farmers who also were set up in the market decided to carve their produce into detailed, charming scenes. Now, over 100 years later, there are contests for best carving (for a grand prize of 12,000 pesos or around \$600.00), and thousands of visitors come to see the stunning radish craftsmanship.



Nick Kampouris

In Greece they have a gorgeous tradition called the Karavaki, The Christmas Ship. It is said to represent Greece's history at sea and celebrate when sailors would come home after lengthy journeys across the oceans. When these sailors arrived back at shore, their wives would present them with little wooden boats. Now they are tied to the holiday season as, in Greece, Saint Nicholas is also the patron saint of sailors!



# History of Tree Lighting

The original plan for this article was to go to the tree lighting ceremony in Warsaw and share the story with readers of the Roar, but unfortunately, due to COVID and work, I had to miss it. So instead, today we're going to talk about the history of tree lighting ceremonies.

The National Tree has been a tradition in the US for generations, dating all the way back to 1923. Presidents and First Ladies have been pressing the button to light the National Tree just south of the White House since Calvin Coolidge. The ceremony wasn't only to spread Christmas cheer, however. The Coolidge administration wanted to encourage and popularize the use of electricity throughout the country, and a publicized tree lighting ceremony matched the splashy advertising of the early 20's. Around \$70,000 in today's money was spent on lighting the tree, and the ceremony, among other efforts to "electrify" the US, encouraged many Americans to light up their homes. In 1920, only 35% of Americans had electricity, but by 1930, that number had jumped to over 68%.

The National Tree lighting ceremony is nearly a century old, and the Rockefeller tree lighting ceremony was not far behind. 1933 marked the beginning of the Rockefeller tree lighting, with a towering 50-foot tree and over 700 lights, but before the Rockefeller tree had lights, it was decorated by construction workers in the Great Depression, who scraped together enough money for a 20 foot tree because they were thankful to still have their jobs, decorated with handmade garlands and ornaments made from tin cans. This year, the Rockefeller tree is a fantastic 75 feet tall, 11 tons, and will be lit by over 50,000 lights.

Tree lighting ceremonies have changed tremendously from 1923 to now, but the sentiment stays the same: celebrating and appreciating what we have for Christmas time.

Sydney Leighty

## Top Holiday Songs

### 1 - "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU"

– MARIAH CAREY

Journalist Tom Eams shared that this classic Christmas tune was recorded in August of 1994 and purportedly took only 15 minutes to write! Mariah Carey worked with songwriting partner Walter Afanasieff to make bring this bop to life.

### 2 "ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE"

– BRENDA LEE

*The Tennessean* published an in depth article into the makings of this Christmas hit. Johnny Marks wrote this upbeat tune after writing other Christmas songs like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas." It was released in 1958 and did not achieve great success. It wasn't until *Home Alone* came out in the 1990's that this song resurfaced and became a holiday staple.

### 3 "THE CHRISTMAS SONG"

– NAT KING COLE

NPR did an interview with James Torme, son of illustrious jazz artist Mel Torme, about his Christmas song success. He shared how his father wrote this song after a very hot summer in 1945. With his writing partner Bob Wells, and a grand piano, this beautiful song came to life in about 45 minutes. A year later, in 1946, Nat King Cole released his take of the song and it quickly became a standard.

### 4 "JINGLE BELL ROCK"

– BOBBY HELMS

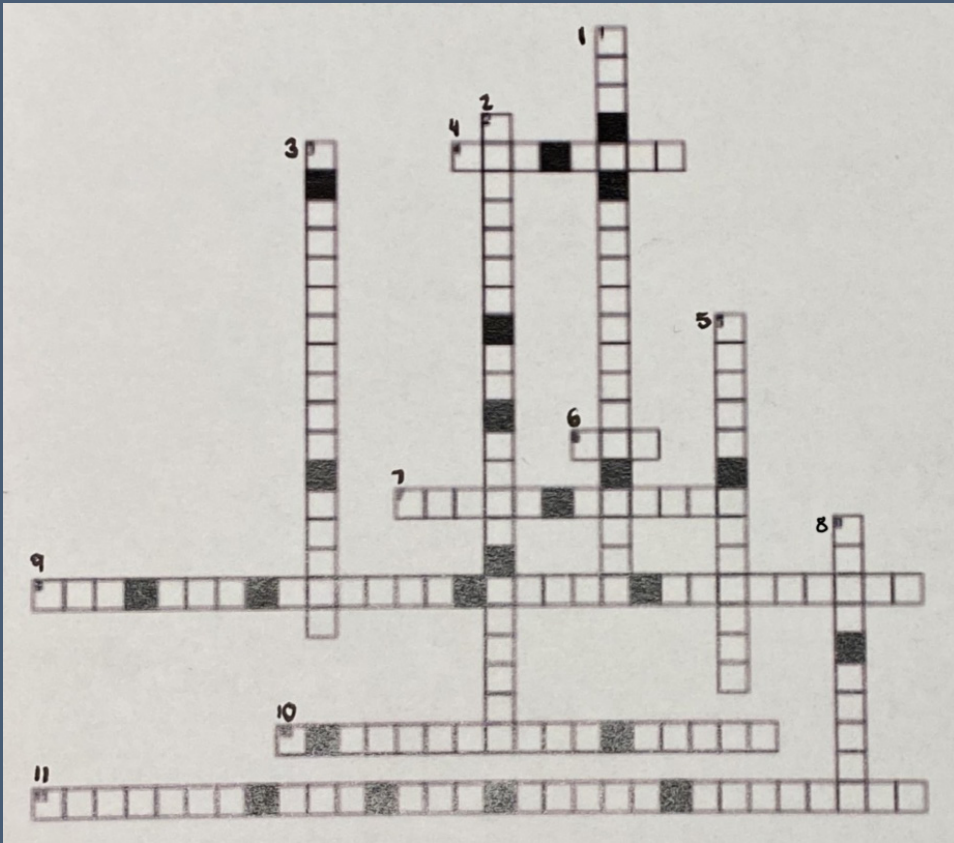
In the 1950's this piece was written as a Rock'n'Roll response to the traditional carol "Jingle Bells." Joseph Carleton Beal and James Ross Booth wrote this song with the guitarist, Hank Garland, who played our #2 favorite above. This hoppin' piece is sure to make you want to jump up and boogie until New Year's Day!

### 5 "FELIZ NAVIDAD"

– JOSE FELICIANO

Jose Feliciano hails from Puerto Rico and has been blind since birth. Nearly 50 years ago, he originally started to write this song entirely in Spanish, but decided to add some English lyrics as well. Feliciano has expressed in an interview with Cynthia Bowers, that he never thought this song would get the attention it has gotten. To this day, "Feliz Navidad" gets an astounding amount of radio play!

# ➤ Christmas Crossword Puzzle ➤



## Across

4. Only some people consider this film starring a New York cop a Christmas movie
6. This film features an iconic snowball fight scene
7. Santa Clause deflates and is replaced by a single dad in this film
9. A glaring green grump guzzles down glass in this film
10. All the ghosts of Christmas come to visit in this film
11. This film features an elf aspiring to be a dentist

## Down

1. In this film an angel swoops in to save the life of a young businessman
2. Santa Claus goes to court in this film
3. Even if someone double-dog dares you, do NOT lick a telephone pole
5. This film features a mustachioed, bespectacled conductor
8. This film features a violent kid attacking two grown men

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