

# Applause

Volume 27, Number 4    School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC    December 2025



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Josie Oakley  
Callum Rennie  
Kyle Wells



From the Editor

Dear Readers,

Happy Holidays SOA! I'm very happy to present the December Issue to you as we head into break.

This issue came at a very busy time for me, with the rehearsal and performances for the *Holiday Spectacular* (photos on pg. 13) and *All You Need is Love* (pg 18), alongside the end of the semester workload and working to polish my Senior Thesis for the January performance.

But, it's all been great fun, and along the way this paper managed to come together. There's some more great picture spreads, such as Powderpuff, Theater Senior Thesis, and more

There's also some articles I'm quite fond of this month, such as the invigorating debate of Instagram and TikTok between Dante and Fletcher.

I hope you all enjoy this issue and enjoy the much needed break.



Your Editor,  
Luciano Cusatis

SOA Calendar  
by Trinity Collins

Tuesday, 12/16: 6th grade Theatre one-act, Black Box Theatre, 4-7 PM  
Tuesday, 12/16: Dance senior thesis fall performance, RMMT, 6:30-8 PM  
Wednesday, 12/17: 11th grade Theatre presents "Holiday Tales," Black Box Theatre, 4-8 PM  
Wednesday, 12/17: 6th grade Creative Writing and Visual Arts Bulls Island Presentation, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Tuesday, 1/20: String senior thesis,

RMMT, 5:30-8 PM  
Friday, 1/23: Creative Writing guest author: Emily Van Duyne, RMMT, 8:30-11:30 PM  
Tuesday, 1/27: Junior honors ceremony, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Friday, 1/30: Convocation #2, RMMT, 2-3:30 PM  
Friday, 2/6: For the culture Friday-Black History month, Courtyard Breezeway, 11 AM-2 PM  
Tuesday, 2/10: Band senior thesis recital, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Wednesday, 2/11: MS Piano winter

jazz concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Thursday, 2/12: HS Piano winter jazz concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Friday, 2/13: For the Culture Friday-Black History Month, Courtyard Breezeway, 11 AM- 2 PM  
Friday, 2/13: 6th grade dance, Cafeteria, 1:30-3:30 PM  
Tuesday, 2/17: HS Strings pre-conference concert, RMMT, 5:30-7 PM  
Wednesday, 2/18: Pre-JPA concert, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Thursday, 2/19: Theatre competition one-act preview, RMMT, 5-6 PM

Applause

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In This Issue

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Powderpuff  
by Applause Staff

Applause Presents *All You  
Need is Love: Unplugged,  
Music Meets Poetry*  
by Lila Hayes and Sheridan King

Band Majors Perform  
Winter Concert  
by Trinity Collins



## Debate: Instagram Reels vs TikTok

by Dante Criscitiello & Fletcher Seminaroti

### Dante's Argument for Instagram Reels:

Let's face it, TikTok had its time of popularity, from 2019 to 2022. Since then, TikTok hasn't been the funniest platform. On top of the world right now, of course, is Reels. Bringing us the best memes that the world has ever seen, like 67, Mustard, Khaby Lame Mechanism, and many more. Not only starting big worldwide memes like these, expanding upon them so greatly that the jokes become more lasting. TikTok doesn't have this edge to humor; they might have a couple of good memes over the span of 2 weeks, but Reels has the long-lasting effect of humor on TikTok.

Reels is also more user-friendly than TikTok. Many people like mixing photos and short videos. Reels makes this easy with templates where you can drop photos in, and it auto-syncs to music, something TikTok doesn't streamline as simply.

Also, TikTok on the Privacy side of things is very dangerous, essentially collecting your data, like your browsing history. TikTok has recently been hit with major allegations of violating children's privacy laws by collecting data from users under 13 and making it hard for parents to delete that information. Several states also accuse TikTok of neglecting serious safety issues on its livestream feature, claiming adults were able to exploit minors while the platform looked the other way. European regulators even fined the company hundreds of millions of euros for allowing user data to be accessed by staff in China, proving that TikTok guards your privacy about as well as a wet paper bag guards water.

Other lawsuits say TikTok purposely designs its app to be addictive for kids, which honestly isn't surprising for an app that acts like the digital equivalent of a bag of chips. You keep saying, "one more," and suddenly it's been two hours.

Overall, these allegations raise serious concerns about child safety, data protection, and whether TikTok is more interested in users' well-being or just milking too much screen time like it's going out of style.



Dante Criscitiello and Fletcher Seminaroti

### Fletcher's Argument for TikTok:

Let's not kid ourselves—Reels is basically Instagram trying to act like TikTok's cooler cousin, but it's failing hard. First off, the algorithm? Weak. On TikTok, your "For You" page can hit you with weird, niche, or genius content you didn't even know you wanted. On Reels, you're mostly scrolling through recycled videos from your friends or influencers, which gets boring fast. Predictable content is about as funny as one of Dante's jokes (not).

When talking about jokes, Reels kills humor faster than a bad Wi-Fi connection. TikTok thrives on spontaneous, messy, relatable jokes, while Reels pushes everything into perfect, polished templates that scream "staged." Creativity dies on Reels.

Originality? Forget it. It's all about copying trends and trying too hard to look cool.

Privacy? People claim Reels is safer, but it's owned by Meta—a company that treats your data like Vbucks. Location, browsing habits, ads, interactions—they're all tracked, logged, and sold across Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp. So if you think your info is safe, spoiler: it's not. And don't get me started on the vibe. Reels

is all perfect selfies, curated grids, and "look at me" staged videos. TikTok celebrates the weird, the awkward, the messy—and that's where viral magic happens. Plus, TikTok's duets, stitches, and remixes create community; Reels copies them, but it's clunky and lifeless.

Bottom line? Reels is polished, yes—but boring, unoriginal, and fake. TikTok? It's messy, it's wild, it's unpredictable, and it shapes culture worldwide. If you want creativity, real humor, and a feed that actually surprises you, TikTok isn't just better—it's untouchable.





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## Editorial: The Importance of Giving This Holiday Season

As the holiday season fast approaches, SNAP benefits are returning in full. During the government shutdown, President Trump pushed for cuts to funding of SNAP benefits, leaving recipients without food necessities as temperatures drop. Though households are now scheduled to receive benefits in full, the lack of assistance during most of November wasn't without impact on recipients.

With decreased benefits, even temporarily, food banks faced increased strain on their resources to continue providing for local residents. Though the benefits are back this month, food banks already struggle to meet citizens' needs. During Thanksgiving break, while millions of Americans splurge on extravagant feasts, millions others struggle to find food and housing.

The USDA estimates that 47.4 million people lived in food-insecure households in 2023, including over 7.2 million children. Prevalency of food insecurity in the US has been on a rise over the past several years, with the state of South Carolina above the national average. Last year, the Lowcountry Continuum of Care reported 484 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Lowcountry. The Continuum is comprised of members across counties, such as representatives from One80 Place, My Sister's House, and Young Moms Together.

There are people in our community working to provide food for families in need this season. The Post and Courier published an article about The Sunday Dinner House, a group of neighbors who have come together to cook and deliver food. Though it started out small, it has grown into a community-wide effort. They currently accept donations to continue providing meals.

There's plenty you can do to support the community outside of the Sunday Dinner House, too. In school, Mr. Martin is accepting donations of non-perishable food items to be donated to blessing boxes and One80 Place, a shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Other organizations like Lowcountry Food Bank collect donations as well.

Take the time this month to bring in any donation you're able to, and give some joy this holiday season.

## The Human Cost of the Israel-Hamas Conflict

by Lila Hayes

In December 2023, *Applause* staff writer Isis Hanna wrote an editorial: "Why You Shouldn't Be Afraid to Stand With Palestine, Too." That was two months after the Hamas October 7 attack on Israel. According to a recent estimate, approximately 72,500 people have been killed since the war began. More than 70,000 of these have been Palestinians, and 377 were killed after the ceasefire agreement as part of Israel's 738 violations. Though the ceasefire has brought hope for the humanitarian conditions in Gaza, there are still thousands of Palestinians in need of aid.

There is no longer another word—and there hasn't been one in months—for these actions except for genocide. It is inherently shameful to call Israel's actions against the Palestinian people anything but genocide.

The United Nations states that in order to be tantamount to genocide, "there must be a proven intent on the part of perpetrators to physically destroy a national,



Lila Hayes

ethnic, racial or religious group." According to their official definition, this can include any of the following acts: "Killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

On August 22, 2025, the United Nations relief chief, Tom Fletcher, confirmed that the people in the Gaza Strip are facing famine – more specifically, man-made famine due to Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid from entering Gaza.

Israel's blockade is still standing, meaning it has complete authority over the entrance of aid to Gaza. As long as this is the case, Israel is able to use aid delivery as a bargaining chip instead of a necessity to maintain human rights conditions. Recent reports of an analysis done by the Associated Press show that the aid reaching Gaza is well below the amount that should have already been provided. Even within the constraints of the ceasefire agreement, the required 600 trucks of aid is a fraction of the amount needed to help Palestinians who have been facing famine for months.

To use starvation as a war tactic is a war crime, and that makes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a war criminal. But this isn't news. In November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu on the grounds of war crimes and crimes against humanity. If you were to look on the ICC's website, you'd find that the official state of Netanyahu is "at large." In order to get to the U.N. conference, Netanyahu took an extended flight, potentially so that he could avoid the airspace of countries that are members of the ICC.

However, the United States isn't a member of the ICC, and therefore Netanyahu cannot be prosecuted on American soil. This means he's free to dine at the White House with President Donald Trump.

Omer Bartov is a professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Brown, and he grew up in Israel and joined its military for a time. Originally, he disputed any claims of war crimes by Israel. However, in light of Israel's invasion of Rafah, he considers Israel's actions to be genocidal.

The White House continues to deny any claims of genocide. Karoline Leavitt, White House Chief of Staff, said in September that President Trump "believes [recognition of Palestinian statehood] is a reward to Hamas," and that officially recognizing Palestine as a state would do "nothing to end this conflict and bring this war to a close."

This is blatantly untrue. Recognition of Palestine can bring in worldwide support and pressures against Israel's actions. The saving of human lives when so many have already been taken doesn't reward anybody, nor does it make amends. It's the basic requirements for our humanity.

Of 193 UN countries, 157 have acknowledged Palestinian statehood, including the U.K. and Canada. The United States, however, continues to send billions of dollars of assistance to Israel. In March 2025 alone, \$4 billion of military assistance was expedited in its delivery to Israel by Marco Rubio, the current Secretary of State. This does not account for the \$17.9 billion of military assistance recorded from October 2023 to October 2024.

Though the ceasefire brings some hope for rebuilding in Gaza, conditions remain far from humane as aid continues to be lacking. The support and assistance of Palestine should not be perceived as anti-semitism, and this is not a political issue. Although what occurred on October 7 and the days since has been unfathomable for both Israel and Palestine, Israel went beyond defending itself thousands of civilians ago. This is a humanitarian crisis, and the United States has been funding genocide.



## Where Were They Then? Ms. Gomez

by Cannon Gibbs

*Curious about her path to the Bonds-Wilson Campus Library, staff writer Cannon Gibbs sat down with media specialist Ms. Jennifer Gomez for this month's edition of "Where Were They Then?"*

**Cannon Gibbs:** Take us all the way back where were you born and raised, and what are some of your earliest memories that still feel vivid today?

**Jennifer Gomez:** I was born in Virginia, but I was raised in Massachusetts because my dad served in the Marines. Some of my earliest memories include constantly fighting with my brother—he's only ten months younger than I am, decorating my school locker, and getting lost in Nancy Drew books.



**Ms. Gomez as a college freshman with her roommates, 1989**

**CG:** Growing up, what did you imagine yourself doing?

**JG:** In seventh grade, I had a French teacher who completely inspired me. I already loved school, reading, and learning, so from that point on, I knew I wanted to become a teacher.

**CG:** Before the world knew you as Mrs. Gomez, what was your life like—academically and personally?

**JG:** I attended Holy Cross, where I majored in French and sociology. I spent my junior year studying abroad in France, which was incredible. I didn't even have email until my senior year, so every French accent mark had to be added by hand on my papers. I later pursued my master's in French—j'adore toujours le français—but ultimately had to earn a degree in Spanish as well, because I was told I wouldn't find a full-time job teaching only French.



**Ms. Gomez on Halloween at her first teaching job, 1997**

**CG:** What brought you to Charleston?

**JG:** I came to Charleston in 2003 because my husband got a job at the College of Charleston (he teaches Hispanic Language and Literature). It was hard to move away from family but we could not have asked for a better place to move to, it's a place many people vacation to!

**CG:** What inspired your switch from teacher to librarian?

**JG:** I became a librarian because I needed a change from the everyday aspects of teaching but wanted to stay in the education profession. Every day in the library is a little bit different - plus, being in the library gives me the opportunity to help out a lot of students, not just those in my classes.

**CG:** How did you end up at SOA?

**JG:** After earning my Spanish degree, I taught both Spanish and French in Boston. When my family moved to Charleston, I initially taught Spanish at Cario. That position led me to become a librarian there, and eventually, I made my way to SOA.

## Where Are They Now? Cheyenne Koth Leahy

by Lila Hayes

*Cheyenne (née Koth) Leahy is an Applause alumni and 2017 graduate of SOA's Creative Writing program. She earned a BA in Public History from Flagler College in 2021, where she was president of the campus Archaeology Club. Cheyenne stayed in St. Augustine, Florida after graduation and is currently the Collections Assistant at the UFHSA Governor's House Library.*

**Lila Hayes:** When did you start to develop your love for historical work?

**Cheyenne Koth Leahy:** My love for learning about the past has been developing since childhood! (Charleston Herself is very much to blame — being a Southerner requires a very nuanced love of the past. [Do I sound like a CW disciple or what!]) However, my love for the WORK of interpreting history has ebbed and flowed over the years. One day challenging, the next boring — then it's challenging because of how boring it is. Preservation often entails monotonous maintenance; we want our resources to last for future generations. The work you do really depends on where you land within the Web of Collaboration (™). An archaeology lab is different from a historic house museum ... and a national landmark is different from a university archive! Of course, I could go on about their similarities, too...



**Cheyenne Koth was the Editor-In-Chief of Applause from 2016-2017**

**LH:** How has your experience at SOA contributed to your work as a historian?

**CKL:** Working in cultural heritage institutions is a neverending group project. I think sharing the Classroom with so many different artists at SOA primed me for that aspect of the field. Being on the Applause staff was also a formative collaboration. But really, being an SOA Creative Writing kid is the blessing that keeps on blessing. Communication through the written word is a core skill that I've relied on across ALL of the positions I have served. Not to mention the spiritual support lent by the craft itself! I must also mention Mr. Bill Smyth's special efforts to



secure professional experiences for his students. My internship at The Charleston Museum during my senior year whet my appetite for history in a real way.

**LH:** What was your introduction to history and conservation as a career after your graduation from Flagler College?

**CKL:** The first positions I worked after 2021 were carry-overs from internships and volunteering I had done as a Flagler student. We were lucky to have some truly cool professors. Archaeology Club was also this huge networking venture, so I had gotten a decent feel for the community prior to graduation. I think I bit off more than I could chew, though; I ended up working three different part time jobs! Those were at 1) Fort Mose Historic State Park (first legally sanctioned free Black settlement in the United States), 2) Visit St. Augustine (tourism is married to history here, much like Charleston), and 3) The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum (built in 1798 on the Nation's Oldest Street). To answer your question more directly, though... Being Assistant Curator/Historical Actress/DustBunny Commander at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum was an important early career experience.

**LH:** What's the most interesting part of your job?

**CKL:** Nowadays I'm working in a special collections archive. We create rotating historical exhibits, which is super rewarding. I love working with researchers, too. Our collection at the UFHSA Governor's House Library is very specific to St. Augustine's archaeological and architectural history. We frequently host University of Florida Historic Preservation students and folks from the St. Augustine City Archaeologist Office.

**LH:** You were a writer on the St. Augustine Black History App. What was that research and writing process like?

**CKL:** It was absolutely necessary that the St. Augustine Black History App (created by Visit St. Augustine and the St. Johns County Visitor and Convention Bureau) be created collaboratively. African descended people have been in St. Augustine since 1565. Whoever you are, distilling that history into an app would be intimidating! Our content team was mostly white women — decidedly NOT experts on the topic or members of the living community whose story we were sharing. I had been hired as a writer onto the project by Visit St. Augustine because of my connections through Fort Mose and I Lived Here, As Well (the Black History Month program at the Ximenez-Fatio House). Truly a neverending group project! We relied heavily on African American historians, interpreters, and other local stakeholders to proofread our articles and provide direction on which People/Places/Events to focus on first. Contributing organizations included museums, nonprofit historical societies, and churches. We were also lucky to have interviewed members of the community who remembered the St. Augustine Civil Rights Movement. It was a really special and rewarding process. Way more social than the archives!

P.S. I personally consider the St. Augustine Black History App unfinished — there are so many more figures and places to post.



**Governor's House Cultural Center & Museum, where Cheyenne works**

Walker Architects

**LH:** What would be your dream project to work on?

**CKL:** In 2022, I attended the Slave Dwelling Project Conference, where Chef B.J. Dennis hosted a conclusion dinner of Gullah cuisine (sourced from Peculiar Pig Farm). It was delicious and inspiring. Since then, I have wanted to host meals with historically accurate dishes and spiels. Or some sort of potluck with dishes based on archaeological evidence from a specific site. Anything with food, really — exhibits, events, publications. Food is the perfect entry point for historical interpretation — cause we all gotta eat!

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# SOA Alumni Publish 2025 *Trace Fossils* Anthology

by Rachel Wheelon

*Trace Fossils, a literary magazine founded by Jessie Leitzel and Gideon Reid, started in high school, and has continued even as the staff went their separate ways after graduation. Recently, they published their 2025 Anthology, a collection of their favorite pieces submitted over the year. Jessie and Gideon were kind enough to answer some questions about what running a literary magazine entails.*

**Rachel Wheelon:** What are your roles?

**Jessie Leitzel:** Admittedly, my job is the less-cool one. While Gideon works primarily with curation and creative direction, I run logistics, which encompasses finances, leading our nonprofit board, outreach and partnerships, and of course, the publishing part of our yearly anthology. *Trace Fossils* just partnered with Grolier Poetry Book Shop on Harvard's campus; getting us in stores there was my wheelhouse. Gideon arranges the words well and I get them out to the world. But since we share a title as well as a mission for the journal, it's always easy to cross-reference each other when needed. And I could never let Gideon have all the fun; keep your eye out for a special "Homing" issue in December, edited by yours truly.

**Gideon Reid:** Jessie and I share the title of "Editor-in-Chief", but when you have a small staff, that title encompasses every role that hasn't been delegated to a reader or an editor. I handle a lot of the creative direction of the magazine—what art goes into each issue, which pieces work best, how we can supplement if we decide we don't enjoy enough of the submissions we received. As we've expanded into print anthologies and featured editions, there's a lot of oversight on those parts as well.

**RW:** How is the process of getting the pieces to publication broken down?

**JL:** The process begins the spring prior, when the final installment of the year goes live, and it's a mad sprint from there. In those few months between April and October, the head editors are running proofreading, Gideon is writing the editors' letter for "The Waiting Room," I'm conducting and publishing the Buzzcut interview for that year, and everyone on staff is putting up with rounds and rounds of my emails, asking "but what if we do it this way?"

**RW:** How has running the magazine changed since high school?

**GR:** In high school, when we all lived so close to one another, we were able to hunker down in someone's living room and go through each piece together. It was a long, inconvenient job, but it was one I think we all enjoyed. Now we have readers who ease the selection process, so, as we've moved further from one another, we've also been able to shift our focus to bigger projects. We recently signed a contract to sell our anthologies in-stores, and we're working with the Charleston Literary

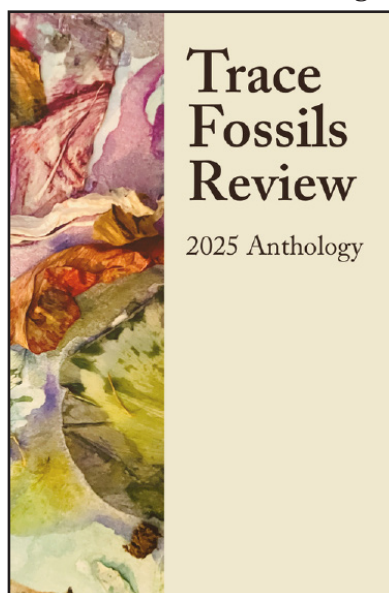
Festival as well. I'd say going to college has expanded our ideas of what we can accomplish with the magazine and has given us the support to reach those goals.

**RW:** What are the technical aspects that go into formatting the Anthology and getting it on the page?

**JL:** Our books are distributed by Bookmobile, the same company printing for presses such as Graywolf and Coffee House, so many weeks are spent in conversation with them to make the final copy as wonderful as it is. In the end, though, all of our work looks miniscule in scale compared to that of Bella Cosentino, our Print Designer. She takes all of our audacious maybes and actually puts them on the page. By the time the books are printed and in our hands—I actually have a box of them on my window now, absorbing some of that steel-crisp Boston fall—we're facing forward to the next grand possibility.

**RW:** How do you pick what pieces go into the Anthology?

**GR:** Curating the anthology is my favorite time of year! There is definitely a lot of emphasis on literary merit, but so much of the process is just combing our way back through each issue and picking which pieces compliment one another. With the inaugural volume, I focused largely on the flow from one piece to the next, and arranged based on thematic relevance. This year, a lot of attention was still given to the flow, but also: what underlying narratives could we bring to the surface through the order of pieces? What can one piece make you realize about another given their proximity? Which themes echo back? There's an art to it, in deciding what the reader sees when they pick up each collection, and it's one I've really enjoyed learning.



The Anthology is available for purchase at [tracefossilsreview.org](http://tracefossilsreview.org)



# TECHNIKA

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# Checking In on Teacher Cadets

by Rachel Wheelon

Teacher Cadets have had a busy past few weeks. From a guest speaker to field trips, we have gotten the opportunity to be hands-on in a classroom setting. Our most recent school visit was to Hursey Montessori where the cadets were split into groups and rotated through the classes of the school, including special education, middle school English, and pre-k.

With the focus of observing stages of psychosocial development, cadets wrote down what they observed in each classroom. Observations like the number of students, the arrangement of desks, and peer interactions were later used in the preschool project, where cadets designed their own school, its layout, communication examples, and schedule.

We also visited the College of Charleston campus where we went on a guided tour led by some of their education majors. After the tour, we got to eat at the dining hall, which was definitely a hit amongst the cadets. Within the classroom, a special education teacher came to give us an insight into disability programs schools offer, the process of getting



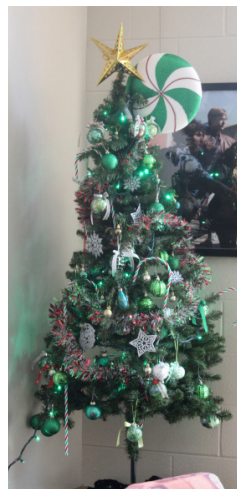
Teacher Cadets at the College of Charleston Campus

a 504, and some of the laws and regulations that go into supporting someone with a disability in school.

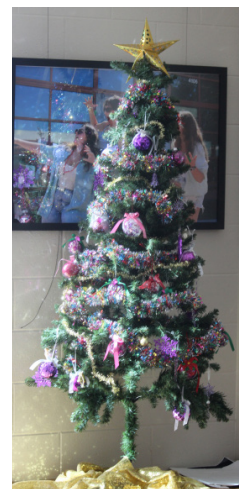
Upcoming, we're working on our educational philosophies and preparing to start our internships in the second semester.

## SOA is in the Holiday Spirit

The Classes of 29', 28', and 27' have all put up beautiful trees in their class colors!



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# Ashlee Latimer Shares Her Unique Path to Success

by Trinity Collins

In conjunction with YALLFest last month, author and theatrical producer Ashlee Latimer visited the SOA Media Center to share her journey and explain how she shaped her career in theatre, literature, and Broadway. Her story is one of the most interesting I've heard: Just one tweet sent to someone she admired catapulted her whole career.

During college, she sent a tweet to a Broadway parody account called Annoying Actor Friend, saying that her career goal was to intern for them. The account responded and challenged her to create a Wikipedia page, which led her to new skills and make connections online. That interaction became the starting point for the many opportunities that later shaped her career.

In Latimer's young life, she had her sights set on being an actor, but while she was in high school, things changed, and she became more interested in becoming a theatre teacher/ producer. She majored in theatre at the University of Tennessee, but in her free time, she would write. In 1st grade, she started writing about movies that she liked, and ever since then, writing has been a big part of her life.

While in college, she decided she wanted to go to the Southeastern Theatre Conference, a week-long event meant to help

students find summer jobs. But unfortunately, she ended up getting there very late, with only about 35 minutes left to spare, due to a truck catching fire on the road in front of her, and her boss misplacing her work.

With very little time, she decided to take chances, and she went to talk to a representative from Disney and applied for an internship. Though she was wait-listed, she didn't move on and kept in contact with the Disney representative. While there, she noticed a long line for something called Berkshire Theatre Group and thought it must be good, so she got an interview there. She didn't get the position she applied for, but she got a position in marketing, which she had never really done before. She decided to take the marketing role instead of waiting for the wait-list to open up for the Disney place because she needed a job. While in her marketing job, she actually ended up gaining many skills that would help her endlessly in the future.

By still staying in touch with the Disney representative, Latimer was offered her first Broadway job as a production assistant on *Aladdin*. She explained that she was willing to help in any way that she could, even just running errands for them or getting their coffee. The opportunity helped her gain a foothold on Broadway.

She later worked in social media for *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* and began producing concerts at 54 Below. This eventually led to her becoming a co-producer on Broadway shows such as *Once On This Island* and *The Inheritance*, earning her two Tony awards. At the time, she continued writing and recently published her novel *Witch Killer*.

Through her visit, Ashlee Latimer encouraged taking risks, staying in contact with people you meet, and remaining open to paths you may not expect. Her story showed that success does not always come from a straight plan, but from persistence, creativity, and a willingness to embrace uncertainty.



Ashlee Latimer at SOA

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# A Look at Deaf and Hard of Hearing’s Collaborations with Vocal

by Sheridan King

*A continuation of a series highlighting what the Deaf program has done through the years.*

During the month of December, SOA is full of excitement, with seemingly every major doing something Christmas related. The vocal department, along with band and orchestra have continued the tradition of their “Holiday Spectacular” show. Throughout the many joyous and moving songs of the production, is “Silent Night”, which according to Dr. Selby, is the one that makes the most people tear up.

The song Silent Night was created in Austria, and spread quickly throughout Europe, with many orchestrations being created along the way. The song spread so much hope and peace, that it even created an unexpected ceasefire on Christmas of 1914, with soldiers from both sides uniting in No Man’s Land to sing. Because of the history of the song, and the symbolism that it has in this context, along with the absolutely beautiful music at the show, it has become a fan favorite.

For over 14 years, the Deaf students have been connecting and performing with Vocal. Mr. Rogers said, “The best thing is that it has sort of bridged the gap between all of our students here.” and that couldn’t be more true. Both of the vocal teachers agree that when the students come into their classes to teach sign language, it is one of their favorite parts of putting on the Holiday Spectacular shows.

Along with the Christmas show, there have been other collaborations over the years. Some of the students have performed at Mr. Rogers church in the past, as well as doing in class activities with vocal students over the years.

Mrs. Hammond mentioned that in the past, students have interpreted other songs with the Vocal Department as well, including the song “Let There be Peace on Earth”. Because of the emotional attachment many have to this song, many are wondering what will happen next year. Mr. Rogers and Mrs. Hammond can’t guarantee anything, but said that they have plenty of ideas to keep this tradition alive.



**Senior Katerin Figueuroa at this year’s Holiday Spectacular**

## Sign of the Month: “Hot Chocolate”

by Sheridan King  
Demonstrated by  
Marquis Larry



1. Hot- Touch your middle finger to your lip
2. Chocolate- Make a “C” shape with one hand and hold it on the other hand

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***Holiday Spectacular* Delivers Once Again!**

Photos by Applause Staff

On December 12th & 13th, SOA Symphony and Vocal packed the Gaillard for the annual *Holiday Spectacular*! With solos from vocalists **Harry Baxley**, **Beckett Carrington**, **Elyse Lang**, and **Jack Mears** and the beloved performance by our Deaf students, everyone worked very hard to put on a terrific show.



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# SOA Athletes Begin Winter Sports Seasons

by Fletcher Seminaroti

The winter sports season is in full swing at Academic Magnet, with Raptor athletes showing grit, determination, and teamwork on both the court and mat. The wrestling team has hit the ground running this year, attending several tournaments thus far this year. The most recent being one for Charleston, where they came in 8th place-and match-ups against Bishop England and Lucy Beckham. The junior band major Dean Barnwell could count a 2-1 start to his season, leading the team with strong effort and skill consistently throughout. As more tournaments and match-ups come up, the Raptors are sure to be looking forward to their successes yet to come.

The girls' basketball team is currently 1-4 this season, but recently celebrated a major win against crosstown rival Hanahan with a 48-39 victory. Sloane Bradley talked about key development points in the team, including defense, post moves, and overall chemistry due to quick substitutions into and out of games. Bradley added that late practices have helped players bond off the court, which helps establish a supportive and close team. She recalled the game against Hanahan as very aggressive, where there were several fouls and injured players, but overall congratulated her team on an aggressive yet united effort to take down a big rival.

Thus far, the boys' basketball team is 1-5, with their only win coming against Baptist Hill, 59-46. Omari Wynn-Ferrel has been an otherwise consistent scorer, including 26 points in Tuesday night's loss to Bishop England. Wynn-Ferrel is working on cleaning up his hurried passes and staying calm under pressure, while embracing his role as a playmaker and combo guard to run the offense. His performance, despite the team's loss to Bishop England, was impressive and demonstrated great skill and leadership on the court.

The cheer team has transitioned from supporting fall football to hyping up winter basketball games several days a week. Ava Wolf, a junior band major, said one of the biggest differences is juggling how much the team sits versus stands during the games. "We get to sit way more in basketball than we do in football, which is really nice considering those super long football games," Wolf said. Wolf's favorite part of the season is all the team outings before the games. "We always go get peppermint milkshakes at Chick-fil-A," she said. The cheer squad will continue to bring high energy and great team bonding, ensuring that fans and players feel the full Raptor spirit.



**Omari Wynn-Ferrel in a game against Hanahan, 12/5/2025.**



**Siblings Ava (left) and Rose (right) Wolf are on the Cheer team together**

Across all sports, our athletes are off to great starts, so check back in next month to see how the winter season is progressing.

# Second Sunday Provides an Incredible Experience for Students

by Dante Criscitiello

Second Sunday is a monthly event downtown, where the stretch of King Street from Queen to Calhoun closes down and becomes a lively pedestrian area that features music, performances, and all kinds of activities. I've been to Second Sunday a total of three times now, and every event has allowed me to earn over thirty dollars from performing music alone. There are a lot of people, mostly families and tourists strolling around, and there is never a lack of interesting street performers who play their own special music in every corner.

One of the most interesting things about this event for me, though, has been the sense of community. Everytime I have attended, I have noticed a supportive group of individuals who value creativity and are supportive of young performers. This is part of the reason that I believe so many students should make an effort to participate, especially students from SOA. Honestly, there are not enough of us who take part, but two of those who do were able to share some interesting insights.

Rayna Perez, a senior Strings major, told Applause, "Everybody is either friends with you before you get there, or you befriend them there. Either way, it's welcoming. Senior Piano major Grey Harlos added, "Almost everybody there is very cooperative and always down to play some songs with you," he explained, going on to report that he has met many other musicians as a result of being part of this community.

Grey also discussed what he's been able to make. "It depends," he said. "The most I've ever gotten in three hours was \$150, but I've also gotten as low as \$20 in three hours." Though his performances are never met with consistent crowds, he finds it all worth it despite this.

He told me that it has been a great event for him to experiment with, as he can test out some original compositions and try new things without there being a lot of pressure. "When I started doing a lot of singing in front of people, this event gave me a chance to jump into the deep end," he said, which helped him develop his confidence.

People are welcome to play whatever kind of music they like, but of course there are always some that are especially crowd pleasers. "If it's Tyler Childers, that usually fits the mood best. Not necessarily my favorite, but I know people like him, and playing his songs brings in tips," said Rayna.

Second Sunday is a lot more than a street performance. It is a platform for aspiring musicians like those at SOA to challenge themselves, network with other musicians, and know that there are people who value their creativity, while also making some extra cash in the process. Regardless of your skill level, profit, or performance type, it all remains a valuable experience. Even those that don't perform should still definitely check it out, as there's nothing quite like some great music on a gorgeous Charleston afternoon.



**Grey Harlos at another local gig**



Santa Claus at SOA?!



These two Sophomores delighted students with Christmas cheer by handing out candy on Wednesday to get everyone ready for break.



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# Students Go All Out for Powderpuff

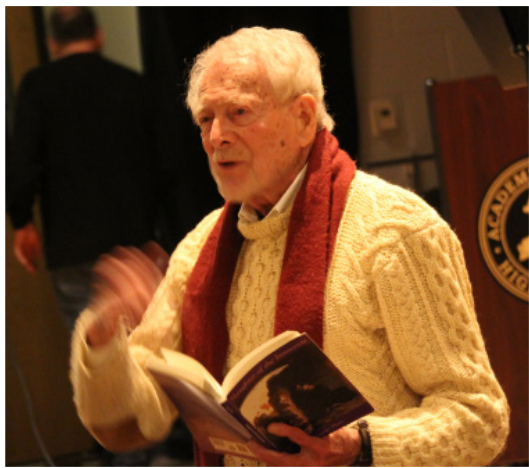
by Applause Staff



**Applause Presents *All You Need is Love: Unplugged, Music Meets Poetry***

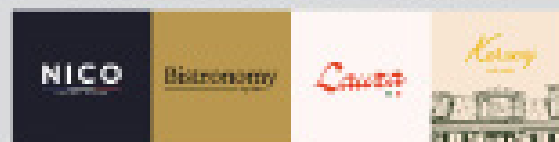
Photos by Lila Hayes Sheridan King

On Tuesday, December 16th the first edition of this year's *Applause*-sponsored show *All You Need is Love: Songs of the 60's* was performed in the AMHS Lecture Hall. The unplugged show served as a precursor to a larger concert that will occur in the RMMT on January 29th. It featured poetry by Eugene Platt, as well as the world premier of a piece of music based on his poem "Slaughter of the Innocents," performed by SOA students. This was followed by eleven songs from the 60s that highlight the mixing of music and poetry, such as Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come," Bob Dylan's "A Hard Rains A-Gonna Fall," and the Beatles' "Something."

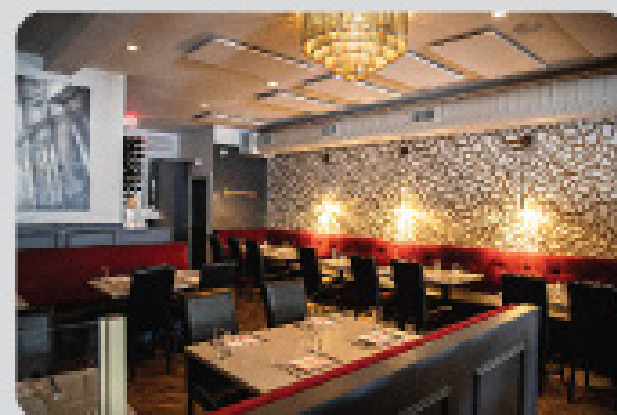


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## December Slang

by Fletcher Seminaroti

Each issue, our resident language expert Fletcher Seminaroti researchs the newest words around the halls of SOA, including some additional holiday slang for this month.

**Flow State:** When you reach your mental capacity of focus, sending you to an upper state of being.  
Ex: Dante was genuinely reaching flow state while taking his math test.

**Grilling:** An alternative to “roasting,” used when interrogating someone.

Ex: Dr. C was grilling Luciano over his grades.

**Wabi Sabi:** Popularized by a clip from the cartoon *King of the Hill*, it describes something that is typically ugly but with an appreciative connotation.

Ex: The run-down building downtown isn’t ugly, it’s just got wabi sabi.

**Frying:** Something causing intense laughter, to the point of wheezing or loss of breath.

Ex: That joke was genuinely frying me.

**Gold Loot:**

Originally from the hit video game, Fortnite, it means a rare and valuable find.

Ex: Ty opened his lunch box, and he had some gold loot in there.

**Good Looks:** A saying to thank someone for looking out for you.

Ex: Thanks for covering my shift bro, good looks.

## Holiday Slang

**Grinching:** The action of being grumpy around the holidays.

Ex: Bro was genuinely grinching yesterday. I don’t know what his problem is.

**Sleigh:** Another word for trucks, normally when they’re “bubba” (see previous issue) or modded.

Ex: I’m going to lift my sleigh.

**Scrooge:** The act of being stingy.

Ex: Bryce would not share a dollar with me for a cookie at lunch; he’s being a scrooge.

**Spin the Dreidel:** To hand something of yours over to someone else.

Ex: I was super thirsty, but then I saw Cannon’s water bottle so I asked him to spin the dreidel.

## Creative Writers on Display at Wordfest

Photos by Lila Hayes



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# Band Majors Perform Winter Concert

Photos by Trinity Collins

The High School Band majors put on their Winter Concert in the RMMT on Wednesday, December 10th, which featured a wide range of performances from the different band classes.







**Ella Thompson, 10th**



**Delilah Lee, 9th**



**Evyn Angelos, 11th**



**Wade Miller, 9th**



**Maris Mills 9th**



**Priya Cardella, 10th**





Quinn Powell, 11th



Eva Durinsky, 11th



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## Theater Majors Present Their Senior Theses

Photos by Luciano Cusatis

From November 12th-14th, the Senior Theater class performed their Senior Thesis plays. Each student created an original play starring their classmates. The show on the 13th also featured a “passing of the torch” ceremony where each senior presented a rose to a member of the Junior class.







Mr. Watts works his magic on the grill so Seniors can enjoy “Grub on the Green!”



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## Classic Movie Review: *Pulp Fiction* (1994)

by Dante Criscitello

Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* remains one of the most influential films of modern cinema, even more than thirty years after its release. Known for its non-linear storytelling, which this movie uses very drastically. With sharp dialogue and memorable characters, the movie weaves together five intersecting plots, involving hitmen, a boxer, and the criminal underworld of Los Angeles. I absolutely recommend watching it because its craftsmanship is undeniable. Tarantino's unique blend of dark humor and tension, along with standout performances by John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman, and Bruce Willis give the film an energy that still feels fresh to modern viewers.

What makes *Pulp Fiction* especially impressive today is how much of modern pop culture it shaped. From its iconic soundtrack to its quotable lines, the film helped redefine what a crime movie could look like, encouraging a wave of creative, unconventional storytelling in Hollywood. Its structure invites viewers to think differently about time and perspective, rewarding attention and rewatching.

The film is rated R due to its violence and language, so I wouldn't recommend it to younger audiences, but *Pulp Fiction* still remains a landmark film that continues to influence filmmakers and spark discussion, proving that impactful storytelling can stay relevant decades later.

## Classis Album Review: *The Royal Scam* (1976)

by Luciano Cusatis

Throughout their eight years together, Steely Dan released seven fantastic albums, all of which were innovative and genre-defining. With so many classics, you could make an argument for any of their albums to be their best, but in my opinion, they were at their highest level with 1976's *The Royal Scam*.

The album kicks off with "Kid Charlemagne," perfectly setting the energy. That's truly the best way to describe this album, energetic. It's the perfect record for a good drive with the windows down and the music all the way up. I've heard every song so many times, yet everytime they feel so fresh and entertaining, which is certainly saying something for an album that will be turning fifty next year.

"Kid Charlemagne" remains as likely the

most successful hit off the record, but every track that follows keeps that same energy going, and you can honestly make the case for any song on this album to be the best.

However, In my opinion, nothing tops "Green Earrings." Just the brief opening synth alone

has such a great feel to it, and every other instrument that later joins it seems to fit perfectly. It's not just the instruments, the lyrics are simple but so catchy, and Donald Fagen's vocals sound incredible all throughout the album, but especially here. I especially love

the second verse, where the vocals and guitar go back and forth, almost as if it's a conversation between the two. The song also contains three incredible guitar solos, where each one is completely unique, and manage to one up each other. It certainly ranks in my top five favorite songs of all time.

There's so much more I could say about all of the songs, from the incredibly catchy "Don't Take Me Alive," to the super funky "The Fez," and the title track, which serves as the outro, and perfectly concludes all that has been built up over the forty-minute runtime.

*The Royal Scam* is one of my favorite albums ever. If I could only choose a few to listen to for the rest of my life, this would no doubt be one of them. It's the perfect record to throw on in so many different scenarios, and it's impossible to hear it and not immediately be in a great mood.

## Contemporary Book Review: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* (2008)

by Sheridan King

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* was in the works years before it was published. It was finished by Annie Barrows (the author of the series "Ivy and Bean") after Mary Ann Shaffer's passing in 2008. Based on real life events, the book takes place on the island of Guernsey in the English Cha--nnel, and secondarily London.

Told from the perspective of many letters, this book explores the adventures of Juliet Ashton and her writing career. In the beginning, she looks for a new topic to write about, and starts receiving letters from a man named Dawsey Adams. They send letters back and forth, and get to know each other through their shared love of reading and interest in the WW2 conflicts that happened on the island.

As more and more members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society communicate with Juliet about their life experiences, more friendships are created and stories are uncovered.

Throughout the book, themes of hope and persistence are explored as truths are revealed and their story is told. When I started reading, I first wondered how the book was going to relate to the German occupation, and found that it is tied in really well to the middle/end of the book.

Overall, the book is amazing, and I think all of the characters are tied together well into the end of the book. A movie has been made more recently, and I will definitely have to watch it at some point. This book is a good choice for anyone who likes historical fiction, as well as realistic fiction.

## Restaurant Review: Chopsticks House

by Trinity Collins

As you walk into Chopsticks House, you might notice the plain walls, but the food is anything but. Chopsticks House is a Chinese restaurant in Downtown not too far from King St. It's the perfect place to go after doing a little shopping in the area.

I walked in around noon, got greeted at the front desk, grabbed a menu, and sat down at a table with my friends. The place was small but cozy. It had only a little bit of decoration on the walls, and the few customers in there were quiet, but there were TVs playing Chinese music, so it wouldn't be uncomfortably quiet.

I looked at the menu and was surprised by how low all of the prices were for how appealing the food looked. I decided to choose from the special combination plates, and got sesame chicken with roast pork fried rice, roast pork egg roll, and wonton soup (\$8.20). After one of my friends also figured out what she wanted, we went up to the counter and ordered our food.

After about 5 minutes, my wonton soup came out first; it was a warm shade of yellow and smelled amazing, like savory chicken and sesame oil. It was perfectly hot, and the dumplings looked amazing too. The rest of the food came out a little bit later and looked perfectly placed together. The rice was in a perfect scoop on the plate with the chicken right beside it. On the side of the plate, the eggroll was placed, and there were 2 broccoli pieces placed on each side of the plate. The taste of everything was even better, the sesame chicken was juicy and sweet, making me want more and more. The rice was how you would expect it, mild and soft like regular. The veggies in the eggroll made it taste fresh but the pork made it a mix of fresh and smoky. The wonton soup was very warm and soothing, while light and salty.

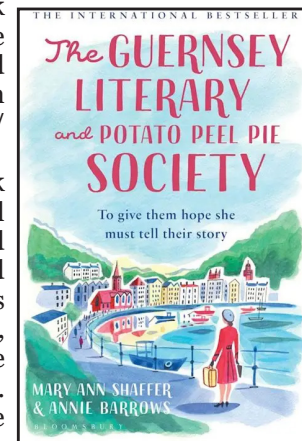
My friends and I loved our food and



*Pulp Fiction*



*The Royal Scam*



*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*



I would definitely go back for some calm dining. If you ever want to have some nice and cheap Chinese food on any occasion I definitely recommend giving Chopsticks House a try!

### Video Game Review: *Mario Kart 7* by Trinity Collins

Nowadays, most people play games on their phones, but around 2015, a portable gaming system called the Nintendo 3DS was very popular. The 3DS is about the size of a folded phone, just a little chunkier, and it has many purchasable games. One of its biggest hits was *Mario Kart 7*. If you don't know what that is, it is a racing game where you play as different characters, compete for first place, and use power-ups along the way.

Recently, my phone was taken away, and instead of reading books, I grabbed my dusty Nintendo 3DS from my shelf. I played a few games, but I could not stop coming back to *Mario Kart 7*. The game keeps you hooked with



*Mario Kart 7*

different levels of difficulty.

There are 32 tracks in the game, and my personal favorite is Neo Bowser City. It is a futuristic, neon-lit city controlled by Bowser. It rains during the race, which makes drifting on the wet roads harder, and the track has many curves and turns. The race takes place at night, which makes it more challenging, and the map looks very cool.

*Mario Kart 7* has four main single-player modes. In Grand Prix, you race four tracks against CPUs and earn points, and the highest total wins the cup. In Time Trial, you race alone to get the fastest time using up to three mushrooms. In Balloon Battle, you pop other players' balloons with items to earn points. In Coin Runners, you collect the most coins while stealing coins from other players with items. Personally, my favorite is Grand Prix, but besides that, it's time trials, it's so fun to race against yourself and try to beat your endless records.

The game has three speed levels: 50cc, 100cc, and 150cc. I recommend starting with 100cc because it is not too easy and not too fast, it helps you prepare for 150cc while making 50cc seem easy. You can earn up

to three stars on each track by finishing in first place in every race. There are 17 different characters to choose from, including your own customizable Mii. There are also different karts you can unlock as you complete tracks.

If you're ever in the mood to try a new game, you should give *Mario Kart 7* on the Nintendo 3DS a try.

## Have a Great Break and a Happy Holidays Everybody!

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(843)-288-5178



MONDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY: 11:30AM - 9:00PM

FRIDAY: 11:30AM - 9:00PM

TUESDAY: 11:30AM - 9:00PM

THURSDAY: 11:30AM - 9:00PM

SUNDAY: 11:30AM - 8:00PM

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## December Horoscopes

by Ellis Richards (Everything is the same  
but im jolly now so its not)




### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)




The aural glow of the screen calls out to a writer like you! Isn't it perfect? I can already hear the thunderous applause! So go to the writers room and draft me the most magnificent Christmas slow-burn because Netflix has been putting out straight junk lately.

### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)



I don't even need to tell you to keep it low key, you're already a master of the French exit! In fact, I greatly admire your dedication to nonchalance. It's just that I doubt that Santa holds the same enthusiasm, so throw in a good deed every now and then.

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)




Stop tracking Christmas tree needles in the house! I just vacuumed, and the cat won't stop sneezing. I know the search for the perfect tree is important, but measuring height, circumference, and diameter?? Go use your penchant for numbers to build the world's fastest sled or something.

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)




An artist through and through, I suggest letting some holiday joy paint your canvas! Or holiday disappointment. I just saw someone actually ask for a labubu from their elf. Whatever you choose, I must request you refrain from using your skills for evil because I'm tired of seeing my ugly pics pasted on ornaments. Spare me please!

### Aries (March 29 – April 19)




The number four is like, totally evil and plotting on your demise. Don't travel on the fourth, don't spend money on the fourteenth, and avoid four year olds at all costs. They can do work with those little plastic safety scissors and are not to be trusted. Stay safe out there!

### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)




"BE AGGRESSIVE, B - E AGGRESSIVE!" No, seriously, assertiveness is key to getting what you want this month! So pull some strings! Go give commands! I expect it to sound like a captain yelling at their crew whenever you're around! Just don't overdo it. I suspect someone will stage a mutiny.

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)




You've got a lot of eyes on you this month, literally. Avoid lingering around your christmas elf too long because im sure it's been waiting to get back at you for all the times you've knocked it over. Think I'm joking? Then go look. Those rosy cheeks and mischievous grin hide pure malice.

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)




Touch grass; I'm not even joking! Consider daily excursions down the street, to the park, or even just in your backyard! A relaxing mosaic of fall foliage is sure to assuage fears and anxieties, even better if you bring a thermos of hot chocolate!

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)




A timely Christmas party!? No Leo, having a Christmas rave is much more your speed. Complete with laser lights, a bubble machine, ornament bobbing, and.....holographic reindeer?? I'm sorry, but it seems your ambition and my budget are in disagreement. Do you think I'm Bezos?

### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)




Don't let your nerves win! Assuage anxieties with a fun Christmas novelty calendar or a shot of eggnog! No scented candles though....I learned that lesson the hard way. My room smells like Santa busted it down in there.

### Libra (September 23 - October 22)



A winter sojourn is in the cards for you this December! So where? The crystalline beaches of Aruba? The phenomenal aurora borealis in Norway? The bustling shops and pop-marts of Shibuya? ...Are you serious? So many wonders in our modern world and you chose...Buc-ee's!?

### Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)



Get lined paper, a red pen, and your wallet because the holidays are here and they're going to hurt! (your wallet...) The solution, of course, is to do your best reenactment of season three episode two of America's Greatest Cheapskates. What!? What do you mean you don't watch early 2000's trash reality tv!? Smh.



# Wizard of Oz/Wicked Trivia

by Sheridan King

1. What is Elphaba’s surname in Wicked?
2. What is the name of Dorothy’s dog?
3. Who played Dorothy in the 1939 film?
4. What animal is Dr. Dillamond?
5. What is the name of the spellbook Elphaba uses?
6. Where is the wizard from?
7. Why does Elphaba have green skin?
8. Who decides that the yellow brick road will be yellow?
9. Finish the line: “I don’t think we’re in \_\_\_\_\_”
10. Who’s shoes did Dorothy steal in the beginning?

## Answers

1. Thropp, 2. Toto, 3. Judy Garland, 4. A Goat, 5. The Grimmerie, 6. Omaha, 7. Her mom drank a potion, 8. Glinda, 9. “Kansas anymore...”, 10. Nessarose

Evelyn Gillen,  
9th grade Piano



Sheridan King

8/10

1. Thropp
2. Toto
3. Hugh Jackman
4. Goat
5. Grimmerie
6. Earth
7. Her mom drank a potion
8. Glinda
9. Kansas anymore
10. Nessarose

Parker Williams,  
9th grade Band



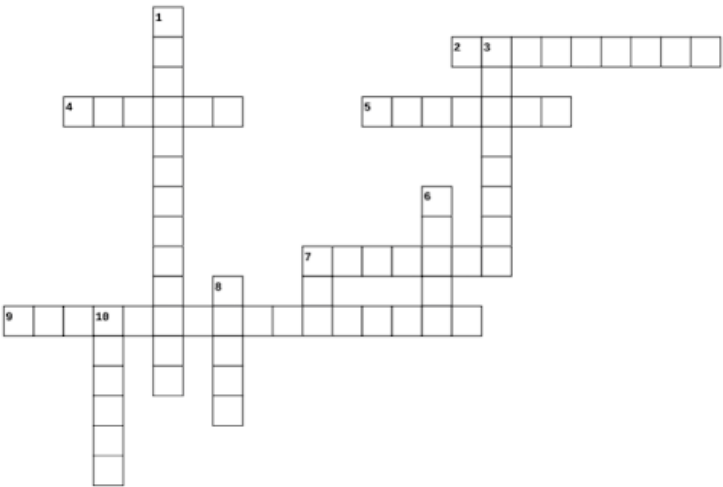
Sheridan King

2/10

1. Witch
2. Toto
3. Barack Obama
4. Cat
5. Big Book of Spells
6. The Real world
7. She does Photosynthesis
8. Elphaba
9. Kansas Anymore
10. Elphaba

# Holiday Crossword

by Frankey Coakley



## Across

2. These smell good, “roasting on an open fire.”
4. The (for most people) best part of Christmas.
5. Somehow, Santa can fit through this.
7. They didn’t let him play in any reindeer games.
9. The most delicious house around

## Down

1. Often looks beatiful with a star on top.
3. The Jewish holiday in December
6. “Carol of the \_\_\_\_\_”
7. The primary color of Christmas
8. The secondary color of Christmas
10. This strange man tried to take people’s stuff on Christmas Eve



G	S	S	R	Y	G	D	S	K	S	A	N	T	A
U	W	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	H	B	R	C
N	C	S	P	K	L	F	N	M	P	P	H	P	H
L	O	O	J	J	Z	A	F	I	P	S	R	N	R
M	X	R	A	U	V	M	D	S	Z	L	Y	Z	I
Z	I	N	T	L	E	I	K	S	G	E	S	P	S
P	E	T	R	H	U	L	M	L	E	I	N	I	T
T	G	J	T	M	P	Y	N	E	L	G	O	W	M
O	G	O	F	I	I	O	C	T	F	H	W	N	A
Y	N	M	Z	B	N	M	L	O	U	T	F	P	S
S	O	I	U	K	T	S	L	E	U	F	L	E	T
Z	G	G	I	F	T	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	R
K	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	K	S	E
S	B	W	D	B	Y	U	W	C	X	D	E	C	E

Christmas  
Word Search

by Frankey Coakley

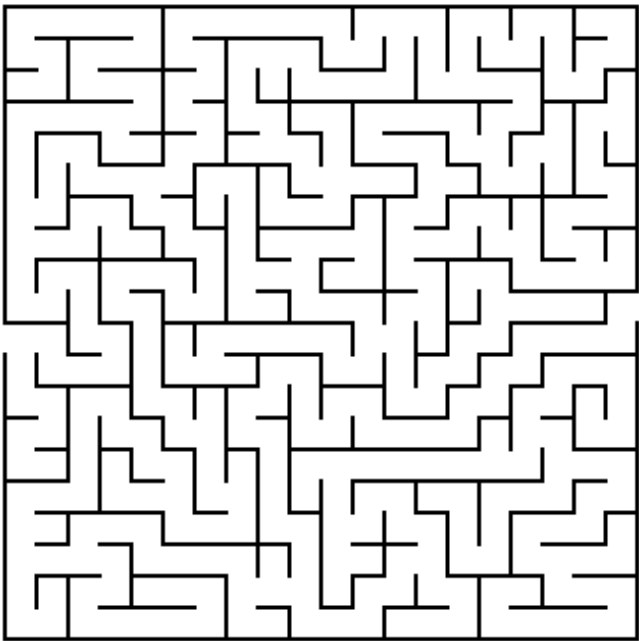
- Christmas Tree  
Coal  
Eggnog  
Elf  
Family  
Gifts  
Ice Skating
- North Pole  
Santa  
Sledding  
Sleigh  
Snowflake  
Snowman  
Toys

SOA Sudoku

by Frankey Coakley

3						8	4	9
5	6				8	2		
				1				
	2	3			6			5
7					4	9		1
	5			4	2			
				3		6	7	
				6			9	

Help Ms. Gomez Return  
Her Library Books!







“Put olive oil on the stairs.”

Porter Ivan, 6th grade Theater



“Tie them upside down and dip them in ketchup.”

Lucy King, 7th grade Visual Arts



“Tie them to a plane and watch them fly away.”

Miroslav Denev, 8th grade Band



“I would dump a bucket of cat urine on them”

Mr Hill, Instructional Coach



“I would make them trip on a stack of books!”

Ms. Lasley, English Teacher

# If you were Kevin McCallister in *Home Alone*, what trap would you set?

by Trinity Collins, Lila Hayes, and Sheridan King



“I would blast some music and turn on all of the lights”

Ms. Foster, English Teacher



“Put a giant dresser in front of the stairs.”

Everett Bates, 9th grade Band



“I would set my cats on them.”

Olivia Short, 10th grade Piano



“Release giant squirrels.”

Judith Suttle, 11th grade Band



“Set giant mousetraps.”

Calev Harrold, 12th grade Band