

# Red Suit Gazette

Unlock the World of Santa

The Brotherhood of the Direct Descendents of Santa



## A very special Surprise for Teeba *Christmas in July*

By LOU KNEZEVICH

Some of you have seen my other article about Teeba who at the age of 17 months was severely burned upon her face and scalp from a car bomb explosion in Iraq. The explosion killed Teeba's brother while injuring her parents and the driver of the vehicle she was in. Teeba is now seven years old and has lived in Ohio with Barbara and Tim Marlowe for the past two years while doctors at Cleveland's Rainbow Hospital continue reconstruction of her facial features.

Teeba has adapted very quickly to our culture and her command of English is excellent while the Marlowe's have insured she not lose her native language or customs. We met by

chance over two years ago while I was visiting family in Ohio. Her big brown eyes and smile captured my heart and we have become very close by telephone calls and the love of a little girl for Santa Claus.

Mrs. Claus and I paid a surprise visit to Teeba and brought with us a little bit of Christmas Magic in July. Here's what happened.

It was Sunday, July 26th and the weather in Concord, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb, cooperated with a pleasant sun shiny day. Preparations had started early and unknown to Teeba it would be a special party with a special visitor who had come all the way from the North Pole.

Although it wasn't the holiday sea-

See **BIRTHDAY** pg. 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Santa with Teeba in July 2009.

A VERY SPECIAL LITTLE GIRL NAMED TEEBA, SEVERELY BURNED IN A BOMBING IN IRAQ, RECEIVES A VERY SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA CLAUS.

### In This Issue

- 1 - A very special Christmas in July  
by Lou Knezevich
- A Letter from Santa  
by Lou Knezevich
- 4 - Westward Bound part 2  
by Al Horton
- 6 - Christmas hug  
by Norman Rockwell
- 7 - Santa-Tize  
Santa-America
- 8 - Santa's Story  
by Deborah Beeson
- 9 - Autism Training  
Santa-America
- 11 - Santa-America
- 13 - Blue Christmas  
Dover
- 14 - Yes, Virginia there is a Santa  
Claus
- 16 - Classified/Posts

## A letter from Santa (*I hated high school English*)

By LOU KNEZEVICH

What child wouldn't be excited to receive a personal letter from Santa, especially if it's in reply to one sent by the child. Santa letters are one of the best ways to convey the magic we portray as Santa Claus and bring a lasting happiness to children.

Santa letters are also an inexpensive way to promote

yourself by offering them on your website, business cards or as hand outs. Please don't worry about your grammar or writing style, as there are a number help aids built into your computer and online.

In high school one of the classes I hated the most was English. Not only were adjectives, prepositions and i before e except after c, a mystery, but my teacher, Ms. Pera

Campbell was the most feared instructor in 3 counties. She was tough! In fact one day she sent me home to bring back a theme I claimed I had started. In those days teachers could



See **LETTER** pg.12

## BIRTHDAY cont. from pg. 1

son Christmas music filled the air while a large cake in the shape of a Christmas tree was placed prominently upon the table. Some potted evergreen trees had been placed about the patio and hung with shiny ornaments that glistened in the sun. Everywhere one looked there were holiday decorations and make no mistake about it; this was a “Christmas in July” party.

Teeba had no idea her “Special Santa” would make a surprise entrance before the assembled group of 125+ children and adults. In fact I had spoken to her by phone only a few days before and when she pressed me and pleaded, as little girls can do, to come to her party I had to make a number of excuses until she finally accepted the Elves needing me to help with some very important toy orders.

Teeba’s party grew into a major event as Barbara and I planned my surprise visit.

Mrs. Claus and I dressed at the hotel and as we walked to the car our costumes turned many an eye in bewilderment. We wanted to create a magical experience for Teeba and all her guests and had planned some activities for the children. As we drove up to Teeba’s home, Barbara and Tim Marlowe were in the driveway to greet us. With a warm greeting and an exchange of hugs the excitement grew and we were ready to enter the party.

Mrs. Claus and I came around the corner of the house to the surprise of all, “There’s Santa!” was exclaimed by many a child and adult. As I shook hands, patted foreheads and spoke to every face I could; Teeba was not to be found in the crowd. She appeared briefly to check out the commotion but was so overtaken with excitement she couldn’t believe I was really there. It didn’t take long however for her to be by my side and a big hug was Santa’s reward.

One of Teeba’s first questions was “Don’t you have any summer clothes?” “Well of course I do but I wanted to look special for you,” I replied. My answer seemed to satisfy her and we sat down to talk about many things. Teeba wanted to show us her room and a special playroom in the basement. She was so proud of her dolls and dress up clothes to play let’s pretend. When we returned to the patio it was time for Santa to hear the wishes of any child who sat upon my lap.

It seemed like the afternoon had just start-

See **BIRTHDAY** pg. 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Barbara Marlowe, Teeba, Santa Lou, Mrs. Loretta Claus and Tim Marlowe.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children talk with Santa during Teeba’s Birthday Party. Teeba can be seen at right, wearing a set of reindeer antlers, standing with Mrs. Claus.

**BIRTHDAY** from pg. 2

ed and then it was time to say good bye to the children as one after another made their way home. We lingered with Teeba and made arrangements to have breakfast the next morning before I'd head the sleigh back to Atlanta, Georgia.

About 70% of Teeba's face has been reconstructed through a series of surgeries at Cleveland's Children's Rainbow Hospital. Teeba's face still needs skin grafting while her ears remained to be reconstructed. Both ears were burned completely to the ear canal from the explosion but are not noticeable because of the long hair of Teeba's wig. Although I have noticed the terrible scars upon this child's face my eyes see a beautiful child full of inquisitiveness and wonderment. Yes, we are so apart in cultures and generations but we have found love transcends all boundaries and places us on a common ground.

As I portray Santa Claus I am constantly amazed at how the spirit of the character I assume touches me in so many profound ways. Many times I am asked for things or to make situations whole which Santa could never change and a voice inside of me says just the right words. I know when I put on the Red Suit it is the spirit of Santa who speaks and acts for me.

As the holiday season approaches it is my wish you



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Samia Bishara, standing in back, is a family friend who tutors Teeba, helping her maintain her heritage. In front is Santa, Teeba and Mrs. Claus.**

also experience the spirit of Santa Claus. May the joy you bring from your heart create a childhood memory which lives forever in the minds of those who you have touched. Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

By Lou Knezevich  
 'Georgia's Premier Santa'  
 "Zivili"  
 Celebrate Life  
 Santa Lou  
 Santalou@bellsouth.net  
 www.Santa-Lou.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Teeba with Santa at breakfast the morning following the birthday party.**



# Westward bound

*A class in marketing  
from Las Vegas  
with Al 'Santa' Horton*

KRIS KRINGLE, AKA, SANTA AL HORTON, A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR, RECENTLY DEPARTED ATLANTA, AND FINDS HIMSELF IN PAHRUMP, NV. HIS WORDS OF WISDOM AND STORIES TO DELIGHT THE EAR, WILL CONTINUE TO APPEAR ON THESE PAGES.



PHOTO BY BILL MCKEE

Santa Al Horton's pickup truck in the Holly & Shamrock Parade in Gatlinburg, Tenn., on March 17. Loretta Knezevich is seen waving from the passenger seat window.

## The Big Move West Part 2

By KRIS KRINGLE

Wow, it's just the middle of June and I am excited about being Santa in Las Vegas already.

Now for today's lesson in marketing.

I do get a lot of attention with my truck decorated the way it is and I do hand out a lot of business cards. But, those two things will not even come close to bringing in the visits I want.

I created a special Santa Resume with a cover letter.

The cover letter was fairly simple. I wrote about three sentences briefly telling who I am and what I do. I included a link to a website that gives more details along with two photos. The cover page was as it should be, short and to the point, about ½ a page. Perfect.

Then I updated my resume. I included names of several prominent individuals, companies, and special events where I have appeared for several years. I started my resume with a general comment then listed my past activities by decade. I

began with the 1980s and talked about being a designer bearded Santa, along with my Santa visits while in the United Kingdom. Next, in the 1890s, I talked about improving my physical appearance and adding some theatrical makeup to enhance the look. I also talked about asking the client to write a check to the local homeless shelter or orphanage as payment.

Entering into the 21st century, I talked about changing, growing the real beard and how I improved my costuming by adding a variety of custom made suits and outfits. My resume describes seven different looks I have and where and when they would be just the right attire.

My complete resume includes a cover letter, my Santa history and my pertinent personal and life history details. I also include what is called a cut sheet (several photos printed on one page) that I can include with the package or give out individually.

The references I include have proven invaluable.

Remember these important tips. Have a Santa cover letter that introduces you and talks about what you can do. Have a Santa resume that describes what you have accomplished in the past, several pictures in different outfits or poses and a life resume that tells your story. I also tell potential clients that a background check from local officials and sources

will be provided once I am hired.

What is the next step?

I looked for agents who represent clowns, party performers, acts and similar characters. I have found only one that doesn't require money up front. I presented her with my package and asked if she would be interested in promoting me for the upcoming season. Next I began contacting acts and performers that are on stage in different shows. I ask if they liked their agent and if they would recommend them to me. I gave them my card and asked if they would have their agent contact me if interested in representing me.

My next course of action was to contact all the casinos and convention centers. For this, I produced two groups of information. I researched email contacts and then sent each a copy of the complete package. For those without email contacts, or only through a web form, I located their postal address. The Las Vegas area offers a very long list. It took me two days to email everyone and another two days to print out, package, address and mail the rest. This can be quite expensive, especially in a region as large as this. My cost was \$1.05 per package. Do not forget to maintain records of all expenses, including the internet, for tax purposes.

I took a two-day break before con-

See **MOVE WEST** pg 5





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Santa Al Horton

### MOVE WEST cont. from pg. 3

tinuing. Up to this point I have spent four days, 10 or more hours per day, researching, and seeking future appearances for Santa.

Next I began contacting party stores, party warehouses, party supply stores and anything I could locate related to parties. I made the same lists, preparing email and postal mail packages, as I did for the other contacts above. This was a much smaller list. I then proceeded to locate all the local TV and radio stations and contacted them, followed by all advertising firms in the local area. I accomplished all of this in one day, which totaled nearly 18 hours. Whew!

I finished up the month contacting the non-casino related hotels, entertainment spots, fun parks, along with the local city government. I did not forget to make contacts with photographers to see if I can get some work doing Santa

photos with preschoolers.

June was busy indeed and gone in a flash, but I did make some terrific contacts.

I had a terrific time with another group of folks in early July. I have not forgotten the Brotherhood and will always be faithful to all members of the Santa community. I was asked by AORBS to come and offer some of my knowledge and share it with their gathering in Branson.

I was also contacted by a photographer who teaches a class in photography. He asked me to be a part of his seven week course by being the subject for his students. I was booked for two different sessions. The first was for the first day of the class and the second followed a week later. Following the second sitting I will receive a CD containing all the images which are mine to use as I see fit. This was my pay which is terrific to me. As you may know studio sessions with a professional photographer are expensive.

Not only were the photos very valuable to me, the contacts I made alone were worth the time. Sometimes cash is not the best payment.

These two sessions with the photographers could lead to some commercial jobs in the near future.

As July came to an end I began receiving more and more responses from my efforts in June. I am currently looking at 30% response on my contacts. Normally when I help someone do this I tell them to expect 10% responses and from those 10% expect less than 10% to hire you. So far, I have a 30% response and have 3 paying jobs.

Keep the smile on your face. The kids will love you and the adults will wonder

what you are up to. (That is until they realize you are a crazy loot who loves giving to the children. Children of all ages.)

Until next time.

Kris Kringle  
Al Santa Horton  
FunWithSanta@gmail.com



# Christmas hug from Santa



# 'SANTA-TIZE'

CHILDREN ACROSS AMERICA helping Santa fight the flu bug

SANTA AMERICA LEADS COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AS WELL AS SANTA HIMSELF

**DAPHNE, Ala.** - December 1, 2009 - Children across America are joining Santa to "Santa-Tize" their hands at home, at school and before they visit the Big Elf, himself! With flu season in full swing, Santa-America ([www.santa-america.org](http://www.santa-america.org)) is asking children to take the "Santa Pledge" to Santa-Tize their hands several times each day and to cough into their sleeve or a tissue.

Imagine tens of thousands of little ones climbing onto Santa's lap this season and it paints a beautiful picture -- until you consider the potential for sharing germs, as well as holiday wishes. "We recognize that Santa America is in a unique position to spread this common sense approach to safeguard the health of children, their families and friends, as well as Santa," says Santa Ernest Berger, president of Santa-America, the largest non-profit Santa charity in the nation. Santa has close contact with more children than almost any other person during the holiday season. Since launching this initiative during the last week of



November, Santa America volunteers report that children who Santa-tize with him seem more engaged and happier than ever. "They are delighted to be invited to Santa-Tize together, creating a new memorable tradition," explains Santa Ernest. Moms and Dads are also Santa-Tizing and give this program a big parental thumbs up!

"So many families and healthcare providers have expressed appreciation for our efforts to empower children to help keep the flu bug away without making it a chore," adds Santa Ernest. "We can make a real difference and sometimes simple efforts can have a huge positive impact."

Santa America volunteers serve children in hospice, in the hospital and those experiencing post-traumatic stress. Santa brings love, hope and joy wrapped in a warm hug to special children and their families 365 days a year. Beginning 2009, Santa America's nearly 300 volunteers expanded their traditional focus, visiting children with autism and the families of wounded warriors and disabled veterans. For more information, visit Santa America at [www.santa-america.org](http://www.santa-america.org).

# Santa's Story

## Mrs. Claus' account ...



*T'was Saturday, mid-spring nineteen  
hundred and fifty-nine ...*

*A future Santa was born, what a magi-  
cal time!*

*April twenty fifth is his birth date,  
arriving promptly when due neither  
early nor late.*

*Born tiny and healthy and no one would  
know  
how great Santa's spirit inside him  
would grow.*

*The world's largest Christmas Market,  
Germany's main holiday region -  
Stuttgart as a birth place made him  
right for the season.*

*Land of Black Forrest, Valley of  
Neckar'  
nestled in rolling hills, he was born  
afar.*

*Where fairytale castles peek out of the  
mist,  
this happy young lad was born with a  
gift.*

*His spirit is honest - there is no trick,  
He knew at nineteen he would be Saint  
Nick.*

*Soon after we married - we had  
children galore.*

*Two girls and two boys - that would  
make four.*

*Each Christmas season was  
the best it could be!*

*He'd make magic happen - we always  
believed!*

*Our children grew up, the two oldest*

*moved on.*

*Our family expanded with the  
marriage of one.*

*With the news of the first grand-  
child (who won everyone's heart)  
he knew it was now time to start!*

*"I need help with my hair, pick up my  
suit,  
I'm going home now to work on his  
boots."*

*He was dressed all in fur from his  
head to his foot,  
and his clothes weren't yet tarnished  
with ashes and soot.  
Bundles of candy canes he unboxed,  
that were stacked  
and he looked like a peddler just opening  
his sack.*

*His eyes how they twinkled! His  
dimples how merry!*

*His cheeks were like roses, his nose like  
a cherry!*

*His droll little mouth was drawn up  
like a bow,*

*And the beard on his chin was as white  
as the snow.*

*The stump of a pipe he held tight in  
his teeth,*

*Cherry smoke encircled his head like a  
wreath,*

*He had a broad face and a little round  
belly,*

*That shook when he laughed like a bowl  
full of jelly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly*

*old elf,*

*And I laughed when I saw him, in  
spite of myself.*

*A wink of his eye and a twist of his  
head*

*Soon gave me to know I had nothing to  
dread.*

*More rapid than eagles the reindeer  
names came  
and he laughed and he shouted and he  
called them by name.*

*Now Dasher, Now Dancer! Now  
Prancer, Now Vixen!*

*On Comet! On Cupid! On Donner  
and Blitzen!*

*This Santa's spirit is worth more than  
gold.*

*T'was magic that's caught in these  
memories I hold!*

*His story's not over but it's  
time that I end  
with Merry Christmas to all -  
As your season begins!*

*Don't let Christmas sneak up on you!*

### - Deborah Beeson

SPECIAL THANKS TO HENRY LIVINGS-  
TON AND CLEMET MOORE FOR HELP IN  
MY DESCRIPTION AND BORROWED WORK  
IN PUBLICATION.





educating Santas visiting children with

# Autism



Santa-America provided online training for Santas to work with children on the Autism Spectrum. Three sessions were conducted on October 26, October 31 and November 1.

Topics covered included:

- Identifying children on the autism spectrum
- Tips for photographers
- Creating a low stress atmosphere for Santa visit

- Relaxation techniques for children, parents, and Santa
- Information sheet for parents to provide Santa pre-visit

In addition, Santa-America has created a video that is on-line at <http://www.santa-america.org>, <http://www.youtube.com/santaamericachannel>. The video is for parents to watch with their children to prepare them to see Santa.

For more information or resources,

please go to <http://www.santa-america.org>.

Santa-America is a 501c3 dedicated to delivering Love, Hope, and Joy 365 days a year. Our trained and background checked Santas visit children in Hospice care, children with chronic pediatric conditions, or children suffering with post-traumatic stress.

Please support our efforts by using the Donate now button.

See **AUTISM** pg 10

**AUTISM** from pg. 9

**Additional Autism resources:**

**MayoClinic**

[www.mayoclinic.com/health/autism/DS00348](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/autism/DS00348)

**Autism Research Institute**

Please visit our new web site

[www.autism.com](http://www.autism.com)

© copyright 2007 Autism Research Institute

<http://www.autismwebsite.com/ari/index.htm>

**Autism Society of America**

What are Autism Spectrum Disorders?

Autism is the most common of the Pervasive Developmental Disorders, affecting an estimated 1 in 100 births (Centers for Disease Control Prevention, 2007).

[http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about\\_what](http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about_what)

**Geneva Centre for Autism**

What is Autism?

How Common is it?

<http://www.autism.com/autism/index.htm>



**Autism/PDD Information and Support to help your child**

<http://www.autism-pdd.net>

**Commonwealth Autism Services**

When you love someone with autism, you'll move heaven and earth ...

<http://www.autismva.org>

**Autism**

Stacey wanted to know what autism meant, what causes it, what it's like to have autism, and more.

[http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/brain/autism.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/brain/autism.html)

**Autism Information Page: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)**

Autism (sometimes called "classical autism") is the most common condition in a group of developmental disorders known as the autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/autism/autism.htm>

**Autism Research Institute**

The Autism Research Institute (ARI), a non-profit organization, was established in 1967.

<http://www.autism.com>

**Autism Support Network**

Looking for autism resources nearby?

Check our listings for professionals and services that might help.

Do you provide services for the autism community?

<http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com>

**Autism Resources**

Welcome to Autism Resources, with information and links regarding the developmental disabilities autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

<http://www.autism-resources.com>

<http://www.Santa-America.org>





For nine months, the nine-year-old Hurricane Katrina survivor did not speak. He and his mother rode out the killer storm in the attic of their home. His next-door neighbors were not so lucky and the young boy heard their screams as Katrina took the lives of his best friend and his friend's mother. When the mother and son moved to Mobile, they sought help for the boy's post traumatic stress. Week after week, month after month, the boy was silent during therapy sessions. A professional in the medical community called Santa-America for help. When Santa Ernest walked into the counselor's office, the young boy jumped up, flew across the room and hurled himself into Santa Ernest's embrace shouting, "Santa, I thought you were dead." The boy's mother and counselor wept as the boy told Santa Ernest about his nightmare experiences.



**Santa-America Changes Families' Lives!**

Founded in 2003 by Daphne resident, Ernest Berger, Santa-America is a national non-profit volunteer service organization that offers Santa visits to children and families in crisis...365 days a year! Santa nurtures children and their families by giving compassion during an emotionally stressful time of their life. Following the initial visit, the same Santa will continue to visit the family year after year, helping in their grief and bereavement. Santa's visits with children come from the medical community, hospice, and special needs educators. We build relationships with medical societies and alliances. As one of our initiatives, Santa America is conducting a clinical pilot study to reveal the value of Santa's love on chronically ill children.



**Caring For Our Children**

Santa-America is the leader in advancing the highest standards for its volunteers. We conduct rigorous national background checks and intensive training ... the same background check as a doctor or nurse.

**Love, Hope & Joy  
 Wrapped in a Warm Santa Hug  
 for Special Children & Their Families  
 365 Days A Year!**

**How We Build Community**



Santa-America volunteers unite generations and work together to build community through service to our children. The gifts

of Love, Hope & Joy transcend politics, culture, race and religion. These gifts are treasured universal values.

**Gifts for  
 Our  
 Children**

When we visit our special children, Santa-America gives gifts that symbolize Love, Hope and Joy. Our signature Santa Hugs™, sleigh bells, and our special book, An Angel in the Sky, continue to remind children and their families of their special visit with Santa.



For more information about Santa-America, visit Santa-America online at: [www.Santa-America.org](http://www.Santa-America.org) or contact our Executive Director, Santa John Scheuch, at [SantaJohn@Santa-America.org](mailto:SantaJohn@Santa-America.org) Don't miss the newsletter, Weeble Words, which can be found at: <http://www.santa-america.org/newsletters.htm>

Photos courtesy of Elizabeth McGonagle Graham, Lasting Memories Photography.

## LETTER cont. from pg. 1

do things like that and she knew I lived close enough to return within the class period. Oh, yes, I had thankfully started the assignment which probably saved me great embarrassment and being sent to the dreaded detention period!

Over the years I've become a bit more comfortable writing but adjectives, prepositions and i before e except after c are still mysteries. Thankfully I have people like our editor Santa Bill McKee to look over my shoulder and make me look good. Maybe you have had the same experiences and trying to write a letter from Santa brings back those memories.

It will be hard to escape it but some time in your Santa Claus career you will be asked to write a Santa letter to some child either for a special reason or possibly you want to offer it as a part of your Santa Service.

Let's explore writing a Santa Letter which I guarantee you is not going to be distasteful as my high school English class and it's going to be a lot more fun.

Don't worry about your grammar or what to say. By easily utilizing some resources you can become a pro and getting started is relatively cheap as you'll utilize things you already have or use.

### What do I need to get Started



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Santa Lou at his desk.**

Basically you will need:

- Computer
- Printer and color print cartridge
- Letter size Paper, White or maybe colored.
- # 10 or suitable mailing Envelope
- Postage Stamps
- Foil Seal or a wax seal (gives an official look)
- Lots of Imagination.

### Where do I Find Santa Stationary?

There are numerous websites which offer free downloads of stationary with Santa themed borders to use for your letter. You can find these by entering "Santa stationary free" or "Santa letters" into your browser and doing a search. You will find numerous sites listed and with a bit of exploring you should find some themed stationary to your liking.

### What will I Say?

One of the easiest methods to write a Letter from Santa is to format a series of questions which fit a letter template. These are

some general questions which you could place on an index type card or letter with instructions for completion by parents, grandparents or someone who has information about the child receiving the letter.

These questions are basic information, including the name and address to whom you're writing. Is it a boy or girl? Some information that only Santa will know such as a recent achievement, favorite sport, special present received last Christmas, etc. Also the names of brothers or sisters, ages and any special information should be included. Does the child desire a certain gift for this Christmas and are there any special requests or mentions?

When you are composing your template keep a few things in mind.

Write the letter in a conversational tone and avoid using words that are not usually in a child's vocabulary. Keep things simple and don't overdo descriptions or explanations. Be complimentary and respectful. Remember don't tell all about Santa. A little mystery is expected.

### Let's Write A Letter

Practice composing a letter to put some of these ideas to work. Begin with this example.

You asked Emma's parents to fill out the questionnaire and here is the information you have. Emma, age 6,

was in a dance recital, loved the Jasmine princess doll left last Christmas, her brother's name is Davis and they sing and dance together. Emma helps her Mom out a lot. She has an "Elf on the Shelf" named "Jingles." She wants Snow White for this Christmas.

Dear Emma,

*Greetings from The North Pole where it is snowing and we are all busy at work making toys for the coming holiday season.*

*The elves had a short vacation after Christmas and when they returned to the toy factories there was a big mountain of orders waiting for them. It seems like they are always working so hard, including your elf "Jingles," to make sure there are enough toys to fill all the orders and special requests.*

*The elves in the Ballerina Doll Factory were all talking about you Emma and how good you danced at the Cumming School of Dance Recital. They thought you were one of the prettiest girls on the dance floor.*

*I told them you were 6 years old and I wasn't surprised how well you danced since you are doing so good in school. I also told them "Sometimes Emma and her brother sing and dance together. I told the elves I enjoyed it so much I just can't stop saying "Ho ho ho!"*

*and I had the biggest smile on my face from one ear to the other.*

*My elves have told me you want me to bring you a doll for Christmas. I know you want a special doll and her name is "Snow White." I'll try my best as I know your name is on the "Nice List."*

*Mrs. Claus just came in with some fresh baked cookies and a cup of hot chocolate so I'd better finish this letter. Oh yes, Mrs. Claus sends her love and to; "Keep up the good work and She's so proud of the way you help mom."*

Your special friend,  
**Santa Claus**

### How to make it look good

I incorporated the information returned by Emma's parents into the body of the letter, trying to mention as many of the important items as possible. I checked the letter over, and being satisfied with the content, I'm ready to choose some stationary.

You can easily find Letters from Santa with illustrated borders and/or use clip art to make your own design. I print what I have written as a word document while I download and print the colorful letter head I have chosen to send. Now some of you are adept at computers so you can skip over how I line up the letterhead.

I hold the word document up to the light

See **LETTER** pg.15



# *Yes, Virginia There Is A Santa Claus*



EIGHT-YEAR-OLD VIRGINIA O'HANLON WROTE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF NEW YORK'S SUN, AND THE QUICK RESPONSE WAS PRINTED AS AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL SEPT. 21, 1897. THE WORK OF VETERAN NEWSMAN FRANCIS PHARCELLUS CHURCH HAS SINCE BECOME HISTORY'S MOST REPRINTED NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL.

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

-VIRGINIA O'HANLON,  
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street

"VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as

if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!

You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there.

Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real?

Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

## LETTER

from pg. 12

placing it over the letterhead to see if it fits within any borders and then adjust the word documents to fit within the borders. Not scientific but it works for me.

The final step is to put the letterhead in the paper tray so when I download the word documents it will print within the borders. I normally don't preprint my Santa signature so I can do it free hand to personalize the letter.

### Some Extra's

I mentioned in the "Things you'll need" foil stickers or sealing wax. Most office supply stores carry in their stationary area pressure sensitive foil stars and circles that look very official. You may wish to stick one at the bottom of your letter or across the envelope flap.

Mrs. Claus bought me a wax embossing kit which you can find online or at a Hallmark Store. The kit consists of Red Sealing Wax and the letter "S" in fancy script for embossing on a handle. I like to

drip the melted wax over the envelope flap and then emboss the letter "S" into the hot wax. This leaves an official imprint from Santa and I can just imagine the excitement over the official letter from Claus.

### The Envelope is Important

The envelope is very important because it will be the first thing a child sees so you want to create some visual excitement right from the start.

Many times when you download letterhead there is a companion envelope with the same theme to make them is a matching set. Whenever possible try to use the companion envelope to look more professional. If you use colored paper for your letterhead, buy the set with the envelopes the same color.

Many online printing companies will print a return address label per your design. You can put a photograph of yourself to one corner and print something such as this: Santa Claus, Your Street Address, North Pole, Your State, and Your Zip Code. This disguises your true location,

however return or new mail will be delivered to your home.

One last thing is the postage stamp. You can have a postage stamp made with your likeness or maybe with Mrs. Claus. These may be purchased online and they are a terrific way to show everyone that the letter is coming from Santa Claus. Do try to order these as the season approaches and/or any postage price increases are not imminent. Otherwise you will have to paste on the additional postage stamp.

Writing Santa Letters is fun and can add much more to your portrayal of Santa. Just be yourself, use your imagination and bring the joy to the little faces that wait to hear from you.

After all, you are Santa!

By Lou Knezevich  
'Georgia's Premier Santa'  
"Zivili"  
Celebrate Life  
Santa Lou  
Santalou@bellsouth.net  
www.Santa-Lou.com



## Submissions

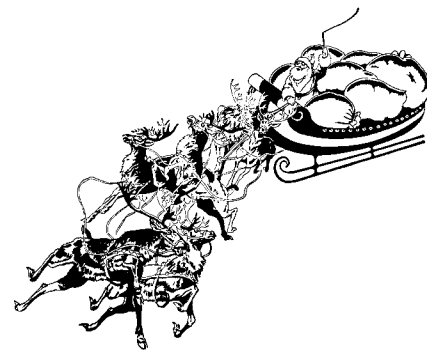
Zazzle.com site can be invaluable for those Santa's who wish to create their own business cards, Christmas cards, stationery, etc. Even Bumper stickers.

Add your own photos and information to this card if you like. May you and yours continue to be Blessed this Holiday Season.



While doing Mall work this past year at a North Central location, I had a young lady about the age of nine, sit on my lap, and when I had asked her if she had been good this past year she stated that she had been especially nice. When I had asked her what it was she wished for, she said, and I quote, " I don't need anything this year, but if you could, please bring a new pair of glasses for my mother because her's are broken and she can't see very well. And....if you could, would you bring a pair of shoes for my daddy, cause his have hole's in them. Now, there's a Christmas wish and a mother and father's daughter, to be proud of!

The credit goes to an unknown child.



I just returned from a 21 day trip to England, France, Italy and Israel, mostly to visit the great art museums. My Santa beard drew considerable attention in Europe. In England and France I was told that I might be suspected of being a Muslim terrorist due to my having such a long beard. In Israel the opposite: I was taken for a religious Jew also because of the beard. In Italy I was greeted several times by children's cries of "Poppo Natale" (Father Nativity), their term for Santa Claus. It just Proves that Santa has to be "on" at all times. I'm happy to be back in the good old USA and am excited about the upcoming season. I wish all the Brotherhood a good and glorious Merry Christmas.

- Santa Ray Wozniak



*“In putting on this suit  
and entering the sleigh,  
the wearer waives any  
and all rights to previous  
identity, real or implied,  
and fully accepts the  
duties and responsibilities  
of Santa Claus until  
such time that wearer  
becomes unable to do so  
either by accident or de-  
sign.”*

The “Santa Clause”  
from the movie *The Santa Clause*



## Polar Express Style Bells & more

These sand cast, solid Brass bells can be found online at Cat’s Paw Web site. The bells pictured above are recent additions to Perry’s inventory. For our readers who are familiar with my story ‘The Bell on Christmas Eve,’ this is my source of the small acorn bells which are very special to me.

I have purchased numerous bells from Perry and I can recommend his service, honesty and products very highly, without hesitation.

Contact Perry at:

Cat’s Paw

<http://www.catspawdb.com/accessories.html>

[donnajo@aye.net](mailto:donnajo@aye.net)

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### **Masthead Artwork by Stephanie Suzanne Sentinella**

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