

CURBSIDE

A collection of views from people on the streets

Holiday reflections

Living on the streets can make a person feel desolate and disconnected at any time of the year. The holiday season, a time that elicits feelings of connection and joy in the greater community, can feel alienating to a person experiencing homelessness. Yet, there are moments of joy within the same community. With these parallel experiences in mind, Street Roots asked people experiencing homelessness: What does the holiday season mean to you personally?

"Time of the Lord! Time of giving! I usually stay home on Christmas."
—Troy

"I always try to make it home for the holiday seasons, at least for Thanksgiving. I always hitchhike wherever I'm at to Moab, Utah. Christmas has never been too especially important in my household but my dad always did go all out for Halloween, so I always did like Halloween. I always try to make it home to let him know I still love him."
—Tyler Rowe

"Capitalism: they've taken the religious holiday from the Christians and a very meaningful thing to a lot of people and they base it around gifts and the holiday season and everywhere you go, even if you aren't a Christian, you are basically forced in the American society to celebrate Christmas."
—Kelly

"Being close to family. I spent eight months in jail and so I didn't see my family during that time. I'll probably go to the YWCA for Christmas dinner, I did that last year. I don't know what my plans with my family are this year. It's kind of crazy because at Thanksgiving I had dinner at my husband's house with my daughter, then I went to see my son at my sister's house and it felt odd not to be eating all at one time. I don't know what's going to happen this year, we might do the same thing."
—Karen

"Happiness, joy and no pain. I spend time with my kids and family members and street friends and sisters and volunteer work out of love for God."
—Donna

"It means being with your family if you have all your family together."
—Freckles

"I think there should be more support for the young foster and homeless kids; we need to do more for them. All year round I think they should be given the chance to have a good life. I'm adopted myself but I got lucky."
—Chris

Compiled by Cole Merkel



Buddha in Ya

By Jerry Thompson

It had been so hot that week that it had
Sucked the clouds off shore
Right up to the edge of the breakers.

And I'd been sitting on my board,
Waiting for my set so long that now
I could feel the salt water stinging at the skin on my feet, even
Through the rubber feet of my wet suit.

I had become nearly hypnotized
Counting out the wave's, one, two, three,
Break, Swell one, two, three,
Break, swell.

The ocean had become a chant, a mantra.
I was bobbing up and down like a seagull.
Unconcerned with the world around me,
Transfixed on the rhythm of the sea.

The very pulse of the earth
One, two, three,
Break, swell.
One, two, three,
Break, swell.

When I was suddenly startled
back into the moment,
On my board, drifting further, and further out

And, there was my set.
The ninth wave.
The moment.
The ride.

PUZZLES

By Cole Merkel

Answers on page 6

Crossword

- Across
- Arabic proof
 - Drawn to
 - Darling
 - O. Henry's "The Gift of the
 - Accept
 - Greek cheese
 - Self-righteous prude
 - Cake topper
 - "Giovanna d'___" (Verdi opera)
 - 1875 Brazilian novel written by G.M.
 - Chipped flint nodule produced by glaciation
 - Disfigure or scar
 - Church part
 - Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
 - "Gilligan's Island" prop
 - Levee
 - Semitic symbol
 - Freetown currency unit
 - Cherry tree's ancestor
 - Enthusiastic
 - Flirtatious looker
 - "I'm ___ you!"
 - Chest crackling sound
 - Appearance
 - Textile worker
 - Coasters
 - More, in Madrid
 - Brainy
 - Kind of situation
 - Density symbol
 - Skittles
 - When soaps play
 - The stork family
 - List preceder
 - 60 minutes
 - Dice spot
 - Lining up
 - Mt. ___; Highest volcano in Italy
 - Infomercials, e.g.
 - Test, as ore

- Down
- Intensifies, with "up"
 - Agile or lively
 - Not "fer"
 - Elevated ideals
 - Bake in a shallow dish
 - ___-Cola
 - ___ Difrancio
 - Bleak solitude
 - Cereal killer
 - Chipper
 - Carve in stone
 - New Mexico art community

- Cinderella's rescuer
- Horse food, or Quaker
- Boy
- ___ Harp
- Ivan the Terrible and Nicholas II
- Opposition
- Catlike
- Bean-esque
- Lake Naivasha locale
- Fast finisher?
- Sound of contempt
- Account
- "___ Time transfigured me": Yeats

- Absorb, with "up"
- Like a wallflower
- Duotheistic religious movement of witchcraft
- Long-limbed
- Palm with great weaving branches
- Bibliographical abbr.
- Bites
- Lady of Lisbon
- Bit
- ___ bean
- Ages
- Fleur-de-___

Sudoku

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

The objective of Sudoku is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



This man
works.

So does
Street Roots.