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Fa-la-la-la facts—The list: 6 things you didn't know about Christmas carols

The Christmas Carols stamps illustrate four beloved holiday standards: "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and "Jingle Bells."

You know the Postal Service released its Christmas Carols stamps recently, but how much do you know about the songs themselves? "The list" is here to fill in the blanks.

1. "Silent Night" is not performed in Austria until Dec. 24. Traditionally, the first performance is during a special service at St. Nicholas Church, where organist Franz Gruber put priest Joseph Mohr's original poem to music in 1818.
2. The composer of "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" is unknown. The lyrics were adapted from the 1865 poem "Lilly's Secret" by author and poet Emily Huntington Miller.
3. "Deck the Halls" is a Welsh tune given English lyrics in the mid-1800s. The lyrics first appeared in the United States under the title "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly" in 1881.
4. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was created for a free children's coloring book. Montgomery Ward department store copywriter Robert May wrote 89 rhyming couplets about the misfit character in 1939, 10 years before the poem was adapted to music.
5. "Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space. In December 1965, two Gemini 6A astronauts broadcast the tune over a radio to their sister spacecraft, Gemini 7, using an eight-note harmonica and bells.
6. "White Christmas" was used as a signal during the Vietnam War. In April 1975, American Forces Radio played the out-of-season tune as a sign to Americans in Saigon that it was time to evacuate

November PCC Event a Huge Success!

On Wednesday, November 15th, the Greater Boston Postal Customer Council held a very special 3-part event at American Legion Post 440 in Newton, MA. With over 40 attendees, it was one of the most successful events of the year.

Adam Lewenberg, Postal Advocate Inc, opened the program by discussing new postage rates going into effect in January 2018. He informed the audience on the best way to prepare for the changes and offered insight into how these changes will impact mailing operations.

The second presentation was on International Mail changes taking effect in 2018. Steve Smith, Base 60 Consulting and Merry Law, WorldVU LLC, provided information on how International Mail will be defined as "Goods" or "Documents" starting in January 2018.

Finally, Jim Holland, Marketing Manager, Greater Boston District USPS, unveiled the 2017 Flag stamp with David Hencke, of the VA Hospital. Mr. Hencke was also presented with kits and pens made by Al Silverstein, PCC Board Member. These kits and pens were distributed to the patients at the VA Hospital.

The event was sponsored by Creel Printing, Boston University, R.R. Donnelly Logistics Solutions and The Berkshire Company.



For more information about the Greater Boston PCC, visit us at: www.bostonpcc.org

Mike Shields to Serve as Industry Co-Chair

Mike Shields, of Sherman Printing, was named Industry Co-Chair in November, succeeding Adam Lewenberg.

Hello Membership, taking a few lines and a few moments of your time to introduce myself as the new Co-Chair.

Quickly, my background is strong in print mail. Having started out as a pressman prior to going to BC nights, then right into print mail. Happy to report it's been the right career choice for me. Thankfully, I am still energized & challenged by the technological improvements in both print and mail.

We have our work cut out for us to continue the mission and growth of the PCC.

It will not be done without you, the membership, your interest and attendance, at what I hope will be informative workshops and seminars in months ahead.

Happy Holidays,

Mike Shields



Boston PCC Honors Veterans

On December 7 Nick Francescucci, Jim Holland, Mike Shields and Al Silverstein visited the Veterans Hospital in West Roxbury. We were invited by David Hencke of the VA.

Opening remarks were delivered by Karen Acerra-Williams, Deputy Director, VA Boston Healthcare.

Nick then spoke about the connection between the high percentage of veterans who work for the USPS in the Greater Boston area and our responsibility to recognize their service and sacrifice.

Most Importantly, 35 veterans received handmade pens crafted by PCC Board member Al Silverstein, along with cards, message pads and, of course, postage stamps. Thankfully and gratefully, 5 WW2 Veterans were present and were also honored, with the longest and loudest ovation on the 73rd anniversary of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.



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NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW .. NOT EVEN HURRICANES ... U.S. POSTAL SERVICE UPHOLDS ITS MISSION TO DELIVER MAIL

Not even the massive damage inflicted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria could stop the Postal Service from carrying out its mission in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Within days, the Postal Service had 99 of its 128 Post Offices in PR delivering mail. Deliveries by Postal vehicles included packaged meals and water!

Ever resourceful and always committed, USPS took action to offset the extensive disruption resulting from impassable roads, absence of electricity and no cell service. Where Postal buildings were destroyed or unusable, the Postal Service set up tents to conduct business. With air transportation curtailed and diverted for other needs, USPS expanded the use of cargo ships. With roads blocked by fallen trees and other impediments, USPS supplemented delivery by holding mail for customer pick-up. As of early October, all incoming mail was available for pick-up or delivery.

To get the word out, Postal staff used all means available, including radio broadcasts to tell residents where their mail was being held for pick up. Always concerned for the safety of Postal staff and of customers, the Postal Service encouraged residents to pick up their mail but only when safe enough to do so.

With so many obstacles to overcome, the Postal Service hired more than 400 temporary employees to help get the mail through and continues delivery and pick-up service throughout the week-end, including Sundays. Sunday operations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are predicted to continue for the "foreseeable future".

But delivering mail is only part of the story. Letter carriers perform a vital service as they travel around the island. They know the geography and its residents better than any other organization and so they are able to report on conditions, including sick and elderly residents who need help. This information is provided to FEMA's disaster relief office so that medical attention can be directed to the exact location where it is needed.

In a twist of history, USPS has become the #1 system of communication, as it was for centuries before.

UPCOMING PCC NETWORKING EVENT FOR 2018 GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



Sunday
03/11/2018
Boston Celtics
vs.
Indiana Pacers

