

# Home Advisor™

Reliable news for healthy living, saving money, and having fun! December 2011



Michael



Janine



Buddy – President

**Dear Friends,**

Although Spring and Summer are my favorite seasons, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are my favorite time of year. For many of us it is a time when families get together. I am especially enjoying this holiday season with the additions of my two grandsons Rocky and Nico. This will be their first Christmas and I am really looking forward to it. So take time this holiday season to see the beauty that the Holiday season can remind us and not take for granted, our family and our friends. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season!

**December is our Annual Toy Drive for the  
New Haven Home Recovery**

Want a great way to brighten a child’s holiday? Just drop off a new unwrapped toy at our showroom before Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>. All toys will be delivered to the homeless children of the NHHR.

It is the mission of New Haven Home Recovery to promote the independence of women and children confronted with homelessness, HIV/AIDS and behavioral health issues in a supportive environment where their potential can be realized.

*Michael Phoenix*

**Holidays This Month:**

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - honors those who died in the 1941 attack

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Hanukkah – the Jewish Festival of Lights

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Winter Solstice – the longest night in the Northern Hemisphere. From here to midsummer, the days grow longer.

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas – commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Kwanzaa begins – a weeklong celebration of African-American heritage

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

New Year’s Eve – last day of the Gregorian calendar

**Inside This Issue...**

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**Attention  
Lauren Kane!**

You are this month’s  
Mystery Winner!

We have a \$10.00 gift card to Starbucks reserved just for you! Come by our store before the end of the month to claim your prize!

# Did You Know?

## Movie did you know...

- Did you know in every episode of Seinfeld there is a reference to Superman?
- Did you know the movie Pulp Fiction cost \$8 million to make with \$5 million going towards actor's salaries?
- Did you know the movie 'Wayne's World' was filmed in two weeks?
- Did you know the film 'Mary Poppins' was filmed entirely indoors?
- Did you know all of the clocks in the movie 'Pulp Fiction' are fixed to 4:20
- Did you know 55% of all movies are rated R.
- Did you know 'Babe' was played by over 50 pigs?
- Did you know the first James Bond movie was called 'Dr. No'?
- Did you know before beginning his movie career Keanu Reeves managed a pasta shop in Toronto Canada?
- Did you know the 1st full length animated film was released by Disney Studios in 1937 (it was Snow White and the seven dwarfs)

## Mega Trivia Contest!

**Who else wants to win a \$50.00 Gift Card that you can use at any Chili's Grill & Bar, Romano's Macaroni Grill, On The Border Mexican Cantina, or Maggiano's Little Italy?**

**This month's MegaTrivia question....**

Which of these volcanoes was responsible for "The Year Without a Summer"?

- A) Mt. Pelee; B) Mt. Vesuvius; C) Mt. Etna; D) Mt. Krakatoa; or E) Mt. Tambora?**

To enter in our monthly drawing email your answer to [jphoenix@FloorDecorCT.com](mailto:jphoenix@FloorDecorCT.com). Take your best guess...your chances of winning are better than you think!

**Answer to last months quiz:  
King Kong**

**Congratulations to last month's winner: Dan Rabinovitz**

## Home Advisor: Down, Up & Out

The end of the year is a perfect time to reassess what we loosely call "stuff". Most of us have WAAY too much of it.

If your closets and drawers are jammed full, consider this advice:



My grandmother had a pet saying: "down, up & out". This referred to our enforced annual cleaning of the house, usually right after the New Year's celebrations. Any pieces of clothing, toys or other items that hadn't been used in a while went in boxes down to the basement.

At next year's cleaning, if they were still in the basement, the boxes went up to the attic. Next time around, if they were still sitting unused, out they went in the garbage.

## About Staying Well – Forgiveness

Recent research suggests that your anger is hurting you far more than it hurts the object of your displeasure.

Studies reported in the Journal of Behavioral Medicine highlight the link between holding a grudge and higher levels of blood pressure, stress and cardiac risk.



So consider the people you're still angry with. There may be grievances that go back years, if not decades. Now think about them as the person you are now. Some of the slights and grudges may have faded over the years and for those that remain trying looking at the other's point of view.

Forgiveness not only benefits your health and your relationship with that person, it colors your world view and shines a light in your whole circle.

**Thank You to All Who  
Participated in our  
Thanksgiving  
For All Food Drive!**

**We donated over 150 canned food  
items to the Connecticut Food Bank.**

**A Big Thank You to...**

Laurie Levasseur, Doug Milone,  
Melanie Hallenbeck, Michael Ferrari,  
Linda & John Simon, Misty Barnes,  
Tina Oko, Janice Biesadecki, Marsha  
Sincavage, Drew & Sue Rosato,  
Barry & Carrie McMaster, Rebecca  
Slade, Gary Bellard, and Bob &  
Marsha Merritt.



***Flower Pot Fridge***

Going camping in the desert? Suddenly lose your electricity? Here's a terrific way to keep food cold. All you need is water, some sand and a couple of flower pots.

This is an ancient technique, dating back perhaps thousands of years. It works best in dry areas since it relies on evaporation. Place the smaller pot within the larger, as shown, and then surround it with wet sand. Your food goes inside the smaller pot, which should be glazed to prevent moisture getting at the contents.

Cover the entire thing with a cloth then stand back! The water in the sand evaporates through the outer pot, drawing all the heat with it and keeping the inside contents cold.

**\$\$\$\$ Moneywise: Debt & Savings \$\$\$\$**

If you have any disposable income – lucky you – are you better to invest the funds or pay down your loans?

Interest rates are at record lows right now, so the only way to make a return on your money is to gamble. Since I'm allergic to gambling, my advice is to pay down the debt!

But you may also want to think about setting up an emergency fund. Financial experts tell us to put away 3 months' or 6 months' worth of cash to keep things running in case of disruption, but for most of us that's just a dream.

More realistically, consider dedicating half of your "spare" cash to your emergency fund and using the other half to pay down debt. If you sock those dollars into your highest interest credit card, it will save you a ton! Take the money you save on this card, use it to attack your next highest interest debt.

With some discipline you'll find that living in debt doesn't have to be a life sentence and you'll have a reserve in case of emergencies.

**Easy Ideas for  
Christmas Decor**

1. Create a charming display of teddy bears dressed for the season. Gather together three or more teddy bears and arrange them on a table or on the floor in a corner. Dress the bears with touques, scarves and mittens. Place candy canes in their hands or tie bows around their necks.
2. Display a collection of nativity scenes from different cultures.
3. Make simple bows from Christmas print ribbon and pin them to your curtains.
4. Hang a collection of Christmas stockings on your mantle, a shelf or the wall (even if you don't stuff them).
5. Revisit your childhood. Cut snowflakes from white paper and hang them in all of your windows.
6. Wrap your doors in Christmas wrapping paper and attach large bows made from fabric or purchased at your local craft store.
7. Use red and green 3-dimensional fabric paints to trace simple Christmas patterns (like stars, bells, Santa's, stockings, etc.) on a white tablecloth. Dress up your house plants - hang small Christmas ornaments on them.
8. Tie a red ribbon around a tall, slim drinking glass. Fill the glass with candy canes and display on a shelf or side table.

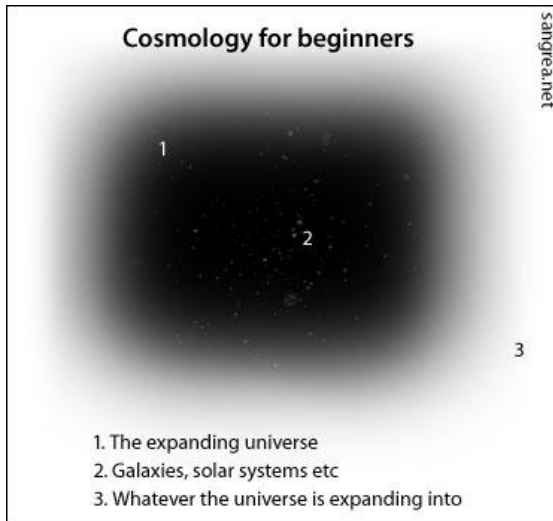


## Work Tips – The Idea Party

If you're stuck on a project, looking for a new marketing plan, doing your year-end review, or just building camaraderie in the work place, consider the Idea Party!

Here's how the Event planning works:

- Find a comfortable meeting room with lots of tables and chairs
- Invite a dozen of the company's most creative thinkers
- Provide snacks & drinks
- Furnish the room with flip charts, lots of paper, colored pens, crayons, post-it notes and good music
- Have some internet-ready laptops available
- Introduce your Idea Party topic, for example "New Marketing Plan" or "Our Key Target Markets"
- Pick a skilled facilitator and hand them the flip chart pens
- Enjoy! (thanks to Barbara Sher & Pamela Slim)



## Any Friend of Yours Is A Friend of Mine!!

Who is the next person you know who is in need of new flooring for the Holidays? You'll be doing them a really big favor by recommending a flooring professional that they can trust.

Just go to [www.FloorDecorCT.com](http://www.FloorDecorCT.com) click the Free Movie Pass Icon, fill in up to 10 names. Mail or fax it to us at 203-298-4084. I'll send them a \$100 Floor Décor Gift Certificate and I'll send you your choice of a Free \$50 Movie Pass or a \$50 Gift Card for Dinner for Two!

## New Friends And Clients!

### Meet our new clients...

Doug Milone, Melanie Hallenbeck, Michael Ferrari, Misty Barnes, Drew & Sue Rosato, Barry & Carrie McMaster, Gary Bellard, Tina Oko, Bob & Marsha Merritt, Kim Vogt, Dan & Kathryn LaBanca and Quality Improvements.

### Welcome back to our returning clients...

Rebecca Slade, Karen Alexander, Cardio Pulmonary, Ola Restaurant, and Linda & John Simon.

### A gigantic THANK YOU to all who referred us last month...

Gus & Mary Ann Kowitca, Lyon & Billard, Ron & Karen Capozziello, Gary Richetelli, and Decorative Interiors.

### Get A Night Out At The Movies or Dinner For 2 With My Referral Rewards Program

Just go to [www.FloorDecorCT.com](http://www.FloorDecorCT.com) and click on the Free Movie Pass icon. Submit up to 10 of your family or friends that you would like to receive a \$100 Gift Certificate to Floor Décor. Mail or fax the form to 203-298-4084. For each of your referrals that purchase a new floor from us I'll send you either a Free \$50 Movie Pass or a \$50 Gift Card for Dinner for Two.

### Information About Us

**FLOOR Décor**

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