Letter from the Editor

Kate Chadwick shares some personal insight into this month's theme



It's a safe bet that whether you celebrate the holiday or not, you probably have a favorite Christmas movie—I know I do. (I also have some non-favorites: *The Polar Express* weirds me out, and I've never sat through *A Christmas Story* in its entirety, much to the horror of my Gen Z friends.) There are vintage classics like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, and modern-day ones like *Elf* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I've read Twitter arguments that *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie, but having never seen it, I have no dog in that fight.

A couple of animated ones occupy my heart. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, the stop-motion confection, is approximately as old as I am, and the first one that I remember watching, ever. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* puts me in a blanket on the floor at my grandparent's South Philly rowhome with cookies (and possibly soda).

The Mack Daddy for me is *Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. I'm talking here of course about the Boris Karloff-narrated TV special, not the live action and far inferior film production—with apologies to Jim Carrey. And in a tie with it would have to be *A Christmas Carol*, the 1951 version starring Alastair Sim. Don't even hand me any other version.

It's more than the vision of Dr. Seuss, the music and the magical Whos in The Grinch; it's more than the timeless, quaint charm of Victorian England in *A Christmas Carol*. It's the themes of redemption in both that get me. As a person in recovery, it's my firm belief that no one is beyond redemption, that anyone is capable of change. I've always looked at winter—and by extension, winter holidays—as a reset, a time of rest, recharging, and reassessing, complete with New Year's resolutions if you must. Everything slows down in winter, and it's in that quiet that we can reconnect not only with loved ones, but with ourselves.

And what a backdrop West Chester will present this holiday season; it'll be downright Bedford Falls-like! In the absence of the Christmas parade this year, the borough will instead be aglow with lights, and Kelly Murray gives us all the shiny details. If you're a fan of trains, as I am, you'll love Danielle Davies' story on the West Chester Railroad—a joy in its own right, it's doubly so with Santa as a passenger and Christmas tree shopping at this time of year. And as always, our local shopping guide offers inspiration to even the most gift idea-challenged among us [right here].

Thank you for reading *The WC Press*, and best wishes from all of us here for a happy (and restful!) holiday season and a healthy new year. As George Bailey reminds us annually, it's a wonderful life. —***kate@thewcpress.com***

The Press

"The holidays stress people out so much. I suggest you keep it simple and try to have as much fun as you can."
–Giada De Laurentiis

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