

PEOPLE SPEAK

# If you could invite anybody to a holiday party, who would it be and why?



**Emma Alvis**  
Student  
Pueblo

"I would invite President Obama. I'd bring my grandkids over so they could meet him, too. I'd hope he speak to them about education and how important it is."



**Mark Clark**  
Retired  
Pueblo

"I would like to invite some famous artists like Michaelangelo or some sort of famous person in history. I'd talk to them and just pick their brain."



**Terry Fowler**  
Retired  
Pueblo

"I'd invite my grandchildren. They live in Wichita, Kan., and I haven't seen them for a few years."



**Evangelina Ullibarri-Aragon**  
Student  
Pueblo

"If I could, it would be Miley Cyrus because she's pretty and would be interesting to talk to."



**Natasha Albo**  
Student  
Pueblo

"Channing Tatum because I want to meet him in person."



**Jonathon Medina**  
Student  
Pueblo

"I think it would be Tupac because he's my favorite rapper and he's influenced my life."



**Natalie Gallegos**  
Student  
Pueblo

"I would invite Luke Bryan because he is yummy and he would sing for me the whole time."



**Justin Busch**  
Unemployed  
Pueblo

"My mom because I love her with all of my heart and she showed me the way."

## AT THE LIBRARY

**Fiction**  
"The First Phone Call From Heaven," by Mitch Albom\*  
"Dust," by Patricia Daniels Cornwell\*  
"Someone Else's Love Story," by Joshilyn Jackson\*  
"White Fire," by Douglas J. Preston\*  
"Stella Bain," by Anita Shreve\*  
"Tatiana: An Arkady Renko Novel," by Martin Cruz Smith

**Nonfiction**  
"Wyatt Earp: A Vigilante Life," by Andrew C. Isenberg  
"George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution," by Brian Kilmeade\*  
"Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair," by Anne Lamott\*  
"Paddle Your Own Canoe: One Man's Principles for Delicious Living," by Nick Offerman\*  
"Humans of New York," by Brandon Stanton  
"I Kiss Your Hands Many Times: Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary," by Mari- anne Szegey-Maszak

\*Also available in eBook format through the Pueblo City-County Library District's overdrive collection.

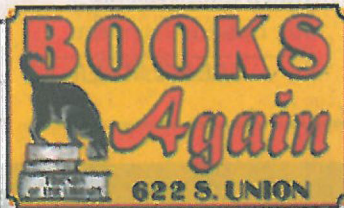
Asked Wednesday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

The Pueblo Chieftain ■ Pueblo, Colorado

## EYE OPENERS

**InfoZone News Museum,** Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013



**Our Best  
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All profits used to benefit the Pueblo Library District

12-4-13

## TIME FOR REFLECTION



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS MCLEAN

The reflecting pool at the entrance of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library mirrors the warm, cheerful interior of a cold Pueblo night this week.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013

12-11-13

Friday, Dec. 13, 2013

**HISTORY**

# Kit Carson's will rests at local library

## Competition on to raise status of document

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Pueblo City-County Library District's Special Collections is housing the last will and testament of famous frontiersman Kit Carson.

The document was nominated recently as one of Colorado's top 15 most significant artifacts, and now it has a chance to be in the top 10. To make the next cut, it will take lots of votes from the public. Voting is electronic, and can be done at this site: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P5XJ352>. Voting ends Dec. 31.

This artifact is the original will made by the famed trapper, trader and

scout, who died on May 23, 1868, at Fort Lyon. It is dated May 15, 1868, and filed at the Pueblo County Courthouse on Oct. 8, 1868. In 1976, it was discovered in the closed probate files at the courthouse. The library staff felt they could restore and preserve the will. It was turned over to the library in July 1976.

The artifact is significant because Carson was the most famous frontiersman in the 1800s.

The will outlines what Carson left to his surviving family, and shows that women of New Mexico could own property. Carson lived most of his life in Taos, but hunted in Southern Colo-

rado and served as commander at Fort Garland for a time. The last years of his life were spent in Boggsville, a settlement in Bent County. He was a hunter at Bent's Fort, and rode up and down the Arkansas following buffalo herds on the plains. Carson served as scout, escort for caravans to Taos and tracked deer, elk and big game up the Huerfano, St. Charles and Hard Scrabble rivers.

The contest is sponsored by Colorado Connecting to Collections, an initiative made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The initiative aims to increase awareness of and sup-



**Kit Carson**

port for collections and their long-term care and preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector.

12-13-13

PEOPLE SPEAK

# If you could take a vacation to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?



**Cassandra Clark**  
Student  
Pueblo

"I want to go to Alaska because there's a lot of wildlife and animals there. I figure it'd be cool to go experience all of the wildlife up there."



**Kiam Hanspard**  
Custom knife maker  
Pueblo

"If I could go anywhere, it would probably be Montana or Alaska. I'm an outdoorsman. I like fishing, hunting, the woods, the trees and just taking it simple."



**Stephanie VanBuskirk**  
Server  
Pueblo

"I suppose I would go to Australia. I'm really interested in the wine culture there and just learning more about what's over there. I've been to Europe a couple of times ... so I'd like to go a little down under and see what that's about."



**Ron S. Martinez**  
Teacher  
Pueblo

"My wife and I would go to the Holy Land. We are both Roman Catholic so we'd like to go there on a vacation and see it."



**Joe Mestas**  
Disabled  
Pueblo

"I would take a trip to Spain because that's my ancestors' origin and I'd love to see it."



**Deborah Youtsey**  
Retired  
Pueblo

"I would love to go to Australia. I think it would be a pretty place to see."



**Holiday Brown**  
Student  
Pueblo

"I'd go to Rocky Point, Mexico, because I like the beach and I like going into the town and shopping and going into the market. It's a really neat place."



**John LeDoux**  
Retired  
Pueblo

"I'd like to go to Alaska and see my grandson who is stationed out there. I'd also like to fish there."

AT THE LIBRARY

**Fiction**  
"The Gods of Guilt: A Novel," by Michael Connelly\*  
"Hild," by Nicola Griffith  
"Hostage," by Kay Hooper\*  
"The Good Lord Bird," by James McBride\*  
"In the Night of Time," by Antonio Munoz Molina\*  
"Mykonos after Midnight," by Jeffrey Siger  
"Death of the Black-Haired Girl," by Robert Stone\*

**Nonfiction**  
"Collision Low Crossers: A Year Inside the Turbulent World of NFL Football," by Nicholas Dawidoff\*  
"Anything That Moves:"

CALENDAR

Thursday

- Destination Pueblo meeting, 8:30 a.m., Rawlings Library.
- Pueblo Chamber "Business After Hours" reception, 5 to 7 p.m., U.S. Bank, 503 N. Main St.
- Jan. 8**
- Latino Chamber "Coffee Break," 8:15 a.m., Corwin Magnet School.
- Jan. 9**
- Latino Chamber "Happy Hour," 5 to 7 p.m., 5th & Main Espresso.

Renegade Chefs, Fearless Fathers, and the Making of a New American Food Culture,\* by Dana Goodyear\*

"Five Days in November," by Clint Hill  
"A Story Lately Told: Coming of Age in Ireland, London, and New York," by Angelica Huston  
"The Handoff: A Memoir of Two Guys, Sports, and Friendship," by John "Self-Help Messiah: Date and Success in Modern America," by Steven Watts\*

\*Also available in eBook format through the Pueblo City-County Library District's overdrive collection.

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

PEOPLE SPEAK

# What is the best Christmas present you have ever received?



**No name  
No Occupation  
given  
Pueblo**

"A car. It wasn't special at the time, but now that the person who gave it passed away, it's very special."



**Roxie Frank  
Travel Agent  
Pueblo**

"When I was 16, my parents bought me a 1963 Galaxy Ford convertible. I was in high school and lived in Arizona and I couldn't have asked for a better Christmas gift. I got up on Christmas morning and saw the car outside with a big red bow on it."



**Kimberly Groves  
Home maker  
Pueblo**

"Last year, when my grandson was born on Dec. 14 right before Christmas. That was the best gift I've ever received."



**Melanie Taylor  
Elementary student  
Pueblo**

"A horse. My mom gave it to me and I like to have it ride around."



**Nathan Maes  
Convergys employee  
Pueblo**

"Mine was getting a bike. It was special because it was a nice bike; it was the biggest present I had; and it was in a big old box for me."



**Zachary Brower  
Student  
Pueblo**

"When I was little and my mom was working hard to support me and my three siblings, we hardly had any money. But she took us all out together to a cabin in Taos and we spent a lot of time together. We just connected in a way we hadn't."



**Aiden Mitto  
Student  
Colorado Springs**

"A violin. I play violin and have for 10 years, so it was a good thing."



**Joe Chaloupsky  
Disabled  
Pueblo**

"Being together with family and having dinner is the best gift I could ever receive."

AT THE LIBRARY

**Fiction**  
"Command Authority," by Tom Clancy with Mark Greaney\*  
"Innocence: A Novel," by Dean Koontz\*  
"Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Retribution: A New Jason Bourne Novel," by Eric Lustbader\*  
"Vatican Waltz," by Roland Merullo\*  
"Silent Night: A Spenser Parker with Helen Brann Holiday Novel," by Robert Parker with Helen Brann\*  
"Dangerous Women," by various authors

**Nonfiction**  
"The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams," by Ben Bradlee\*  
"You Herd Me!: I'll Say It if Nobody Else Will," by Collin Cowherd\*  
"Art As Therapy," by Alain de Botton\*  
"Napoleon: Life, Legacy, and Image: A Biography," by Alan I. Forrest  
"The Heir Apparent: A Life of Edward VII, the Playboy Prince," by Jane Ridley\*  
"The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life," by Rick Warren and others

\*Also available in eBook format through the Pueblo City-County Library District's override collection.

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

# Life



CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/CHRIS McLEAN

Lou Mercer stands next to one section of the Pueblo AIDS Memorial Quilt that's displayed this month in the InfoZone at Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

**TRIBUTE**

## 'It needs to be done'

Pueblo AIDS quilt shares heartfelt memories with community

BY MARY JEAN PORTER  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Fifty lives are up for recognition. Memorials in cloth, these quilt panels represent 50 deaths from AIDS — and the tireless dedication of the woman who sewed most of them. The Pueblo AIDS Memorial Quilt, on display at the InfoZone at Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library until Jan. 2, is shown every December in honor of World AIDS Day. The rest of the year, it's in a box at Lou Mercer's St. Charles Mesa home. She adds to it when requested by families.

"I keep saying I want someone else to keep it and take care of it, but no one does," says Mercer.

So the memories of friends she's loved, together with brief glimpses of people she never met, remain close to her.

**Remembering loved ones**

Mercer, 72, was inspired to start the quilt in the mid-1990s. She'd gotten involved in PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and SCAP (South-

"Back then, it was a death sentence. We were ready for him to go," she says. "By the way, he's still alive."

Her son, now a department head at a Texas university, fortunately has no panel in the AIDS quilt, but Mercer's restaurant co-worker from the 1970s is remembered in embroidery on the first panel she made.

"I met a lady whose brother had died of AIDS. We were thinking about what we could do to memorialize our loved ones. I make quilts. I knew about the national AIDS quilt, so we decided to make a quilt. We ended up with seven panels that first year."

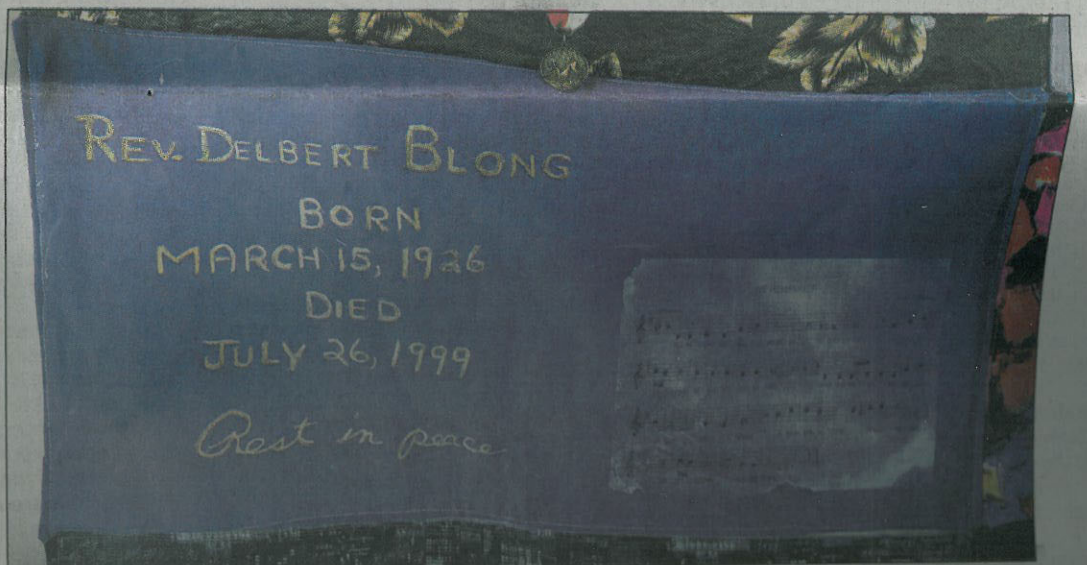
"I made one for my friend Gibby. He and I were both cooks in Kansas. I was newly divorced and he helped me with Christmas for my kids."

Mercer moved to Pueblo in 1977 and her friend moved to California. Years later, she heard from his family that he'd died.

"He never had a funeral; his death was never in the newspaper," she says.

**Fired up**

A photo of Mercer and



The Rev. Delbert Blong (1926-1999) is memorialized in this quilt panel that includes sheet music.



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### Remembering loved ones

Mercer, 72, was inspired to start the quilt in the mid-1990s. She'd gotten involved in PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and SCAP (Southern Colorado AIDS Project) earlier that decade, after her son turned up HIV-positive.

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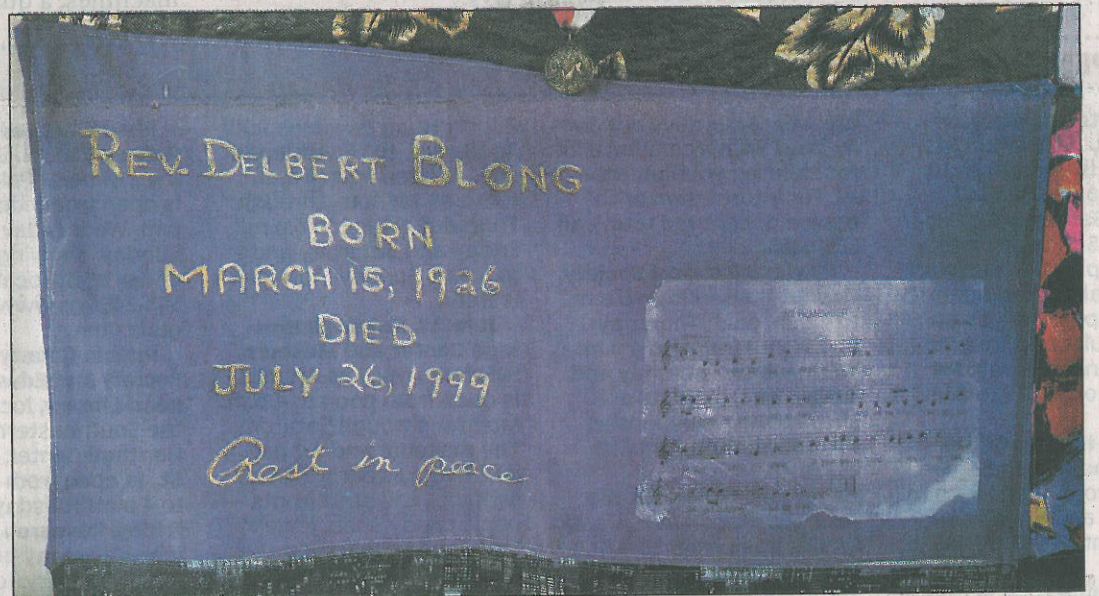
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### Fired up

A photo of Mercer and the new AIDS quilt was published in *The Pueblo*



The Rev. Delbert Blong (1926-1999) is memorialized in this quilt panel that includes sheet music.



A pennywhistle is attached to the quilt panel made for Michael Wayne Darrell, who died in 2006.



Mementos from the life of Allan Clyde Burgess Jr. are stitched to a panel in the Pueblo AIDS Memorial Quilt.

“

Somebody introduced me one day as an activist. 'Well, what the hell is that?' I thought. I guess I've always just been taking up for people who needed it.

LOU MERCER

SEE QUILT, 2E



Chieftain in 1994 and prompted two phone calls: One from a woman who wanted Mercer to sew a block for her deceased loved one, and one from an irate person whose words included, "I don't know how you can show your face in this town ..."

Mercer says such sentiments get her fired up. That, plus memories of being one of a few people standing outdoors in the cold at the first AIDS Day vigil in Pueblo; of keeping secret the location of early PFLAG meetings for fear they'd be bombed; of hearing her son's father say they should tell no one about his HIV status because the father's house might be spray-painted or burned.

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people who needed it."

Mercer continues to work on the AIDS quilt — three panels were added last year and she has one to make this year; she makes them only with family members' permission. She hosts monthly "lunch and learns" for SCAP clients — she buys, cooks and prepares the food, and has done so for years. She's cared for AIDS patients who needed her help.

"Why do I do it?" she says. "I guess because it needs to be done."

Puebloan Phyllis King has known Mercer for years and admires her.

King, who was case manager for the Southern Colorado AIDS Project from 1996 to 2004, says Mercer did an "amazing" amount of volunteer work for the project and continues to support SCAP. She was recognized as volunteer of the year by Volunteer Coordina-



Tracey Lea Grindstaff, who died in 1999, is remembered in this AIDS Memorial Quilt panel, complete with red ribbon.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS McLEA

tors.

"At that time, a \$1,000 award from Penneys went with it. She promptly gave it to SCAP," King says.

**Where to start?**

In addition to sewing — Mercer says she has eight sewing machines; sergers, embroidery machines, a quilting ma-

chine among them — she makes soap and lotion that she sells over the Internet; she weaves and spins; she cares for her flock of geese, two dogs

and a cat; and she's written a short novel, "Chapter One ... Loose Ends."

"I don't know where to start slowing down."  
[maryp@chieftain.com](mailto:maryp@chieftain.com)

Wednesday,  
Dec. 25, 2013

FRANK S. HOAG, General Manager, Publisher, President — 1904-1963

FRANK S. HOAG, JR., Chairman, Publisher, President — 1931-1989

ROBERT H. RAWLINGS, Publisher and Editor

**EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

ROBERT HOAG RAWLINGS, JANE RAWLINGS, TOM McAVOY, JEFF HOLMQUIST

**COMMUNITY HEROES**

# Subia, Walker make a difference in Pueblo



**RAY AGUILERA**

Opinion

## Jon Walker

There haven't been many people who have come to Pueblo that have had a bigger impact than Jon Walker, our distinguished library director.

He came to Pueblo at a time when our library was struggling under poor management and financial irregularities. Walker is a soft-spoken and unassuming person who is the best fit we could ever find.

Walker's background and roots are from Kansas. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma State University where he graduated with honors and was recognized by three honor societies in 1977. He continued his education, receiving his master's of arts degree from the University of Tulsa. He then enrolled at the University of Oklahoma and received a master's of library and information studies degree. While Walker was in college, he received nothing less than a 4.0 grade point average.

Walker is truly an academic. He belongs to a long list of professional organizations and is involved in so many professional activities. The list was too long to print, but it is impressive.

If you want to know the effect that Walker has had on Pueblo, go to any of our libraries and you will see first-hand that they are packed and provide state-of-the-art services in all areas that libraries provide.

But most of all, Walker is a listener. A month after Walker arrived in Pueblo, Anthony Nuñez and I decided to see what he had in mind for Pueblo's libraries. While visiting, we very casually mentioned the idea of having a library Books in the Park program and, to nobody's surprise, Walker put into place a program on the East Side and at the Bessemer Park. This will be the ninth year that they average more than 100 kids per day at the parks through the library's reading program.

In the past, whenever citizens would ask for anything to improve the East Side, they received a resounding no. It was too expensive, people said, and those living on the East Side wouldn't use it. But Jon Walker was open minded to the leadership of Larry Atencio and Eva Montoya to build

a library on Pueblo's East Side. Walker was also open to building a library in the Avondale area, which has a high minority population.

The district operates within an annual budget nearing \$10 million, employs about 135 staff members and serves a population of about 160,000. The library has even provided Nooks and Kindles to some of the high schools and even a few grade schools, allowing students to become familiar with the latest technology.

Jon Walker has become a most valuable partner in the community and has opened the door to literacy for all Puebloans. He has received little of the recognition that he so richly deserves.

PEOPLE SPEAK

# What is your New Year's resolution?



**Dean Sparks**  
Unemployed  
Pueblo

"I want to lose some weight."



**Brian Hough**  
Father  
Pueblo

"I'm not sure that I have one. I really couldn't ask for much more. I'm healthy, my family is healthy and everything has been good for us, so I just want it to continue."



**Al McAllister**  
Retired  
Pueblo

"I want to start working out. I like to do weightlifting and I want to get back into it."



**Jill M. Starkey**  
Artist  
Pueblo

"To stay happy. It's the most important thing. Happiness is the key to health and well-being."



**Hailey Herrera**  
Student  
Pueblo

"Keeping my weight off."



**Amy Valero**  
Unspecified  
Pueblo

"To find a good job. I'm new here to town and in the process of interviewing and all that stuff."



**Richard Lewis**  
Unemployed  
Pueblo

"Getting a house to live in. That's really my only focus."



**Sandi Youngs**  
Dispatcher  
Pueblo

"To get more organized financially and to lose some weight."

can Tragedy," by Matthew Lysiak

"Inside the Dream Palace: The Life and Times of New York's Legendary Chelsea Hotel," by Sherill Tippins\*

"Jab, Jab, Jab, Right Hook: How to Tell Your Story in a Noisy, Social World," by Gary Vaynerchuk\*

"Burn the Fat, Feed the Muscle: Transform Your Body Forever Using the Secrets of the Leanest People in the World," by Tom Venuto\*

"Elizabeth of York : A Tudor Queen and Her World," by Alison Weir\*

**\*Also available in eBook format through the Pueblo City-County Library District's overdrive collection.**

12-29-13

## AT THE LIBRARY

### Fiction

- "The Apartment: A Novel," by Greg Baxter\*
- "The Invisible Code: A Peculiar Crimes Unit Mystery," by Christopher Fowler\*
- "The Spook Lights Affair: A Carpenter and Quincannon Mystery," by Marcia Muller
- "The Prince of Risk: A Novel," by Christopher Reich\*
- "Innocent Blood: The Order of the Sanguines Series," by James Rollins\*
- "The New Countess," by Fay Weldon

### Nonfiction

- "Act of War: Lyndon Johnson, North Korea, and the Capture of the Spy Ship Pueblo," by Jack Cheevers\*
- "Newtown: An Ameri-

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

Sundays,  
Dec, 29, 2013