

MEDIATE THIS !

THREE PRINCIPLES FOR EMPLOYING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

The American Christmas Tree Association estimates that more than 95 million households celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas tree. But there's a striking lack of consensus as to when the tree and decorations should be taken down. "How long is too long" is debated at Christmas dinner tables.

According to *Good Housekeeping* (and Christian tradition dating back to the 4th century), many mark the end of the season on the Twelfth Night — the eve of the Epiphany, which just happens to be tonight. The magazine warns: Leaving your decorations up after this date is thought to bring bad luck. Your neighbor Ralph throws caution to the wind, keeping his lights aglow until April or May.

No matter your holiday deconstruction regimen, January for many is a month of fresh starts. It also marks a return to comfortable routines. If you have school-age children, they may have admitted to boredom at the end of their winter break, feeling ready (and perhaps excited) to get back to their studies and friends. Parents, too, are eager to reclaim the rhythm of a regular schedule.

Not all students relish return-



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Leaving up lights for too long past the holidays is thought to bring bad luck. Deconstruction is also time for a fresh start.

ing to school, however. Academics aside, interpersonal dynamics create formidable challenges for some that can escalate into trouble at school, leading to harm if left unchecked. Sometimes, the root cause is problems at home, but even a fight with a best friend can trigger hurtful behavior.

Physiological factors can play a part, too: Writing for *EduTopia*, Heather Wolpert-Gawron says,

"When we ask students to make good decisions, their brains might not yet be wired to do what we are asking of them. That doesn't mean we don't have rules or expectations. But it does mean that we must acknowledge that children's brains are still under construction." She notes that the part of the brain that houses impulse control doesn't become fully formed until the early 20s.

Restorative justice practices are a time-proven response to addressing harm, rooted in ancient traditions from around the world. At the National Conflict Resolution Center, we've been working with San Diego Unified schools and students for more than five years, providing tools and training in restorative practices. The work is centered on building, maintaining and repairing the relationships that are essential to strong school communities.

Restorative justice employs three useful principles that can guide your interactions with the children and teens in your life when they face the inevitable interpersonal challenges — even before matters escalate.

1. Consider the harms and needs of both sides. In any "right and wrong" situation, there are reasons for the behavior. If your child feels hurt, help them recognize that the person who caused it may feel hurt and need healing, too. Wolpert-Gawron describes it as "empathy for all and by all."

2. Saying "I'm sorry" is a good start but may not be enough. Consider bringing both sides together, which creates an opportunity to resolve differences through dialogue. At NCRC, we facilitate restorative conferences

that include the student responsible for the harm and the parties impacted, including community members. They engage in an open and honest discussion about what happened and its effect on each of them.

3. Determine a course of action to set things right. Make sure it's achievable, because accountability is important. Our restorative conferencing culminates in a graduation ceremony that celebrates the students who committed to and completed their action plan.

For many of us, the practice of restorative justice requires a reorientation. When harm occurs, we tend to focus on the rules broken and the consequences for the offender. A better approach is to ask these questions: Who was harmed? What are their needs? How can the harm be healed? As these questions are answered, it will be easier for everyone to move forward.

Steven P. Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), a San Diego-based organization that is working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. NCRC is nationally recognized for its conflict management and communication strategies. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit www.ncrconline.com.

NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

BORDER: ALEXANDRA MENDOZA

SENTRI grace period extended

Still waiting for your SENTRI renewal? You are not alone.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) extended the grace period from six months to one year for members who have already submitted their SENTRI renewal application but have not yet received conditional approval, according to a message sent to applicants.

This is due to a "significant increase in application volume," according to CBP. "This means you will continue to receive full benefits for one year while U.S. Customs and Border Protection is finalizing your renewal application."

For one year, members of this Trusted Traveler Program will be able to continue to cross the border by the designated SENTRI lanes even with their expired card as long as they have initiated the renewal process before the expiration date.

CBP advises SENTRI members to renew their membership up to one year before their current expiration date.

Early renewal does not interfere with the

five-year term of the program, as it will start from the expiration date of the previous membership.

The Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) provides expedited processing at the U.S.-Mexico border for pre-approved travelers considered low risk.

Members must pass risk assessment by CBP that includes an interview with an officer and a fingerprint check and pay the membership fee (\$122.50) among other requirements.

Participants may enter the country by using dedicated primary lanes. In both Otay Mesa and San Ysidro, these are located on the east side. Usually, wait times can go from 10-30 minutes, while on regular lanes the wait could take hours.

To renew the membership, it is necessary to create an account online through the SENTRI.info website.

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NORTH COUNTY: GARY WARTH

Women's expo to go beyond business

SAN MARCOS

Business women will have an opportunity to network with other professionals at an upcoming expo to be held at Palomar College this week, but the organizer hopes they also will unite for a greater cause.

"I want women in small business to stand together and our expo," said Therese Cisneros-Remington, organizer of the fifth annual Women of Success North County Business Expo scheduled for Thursday at Palomar College in San Marcos.

"Women in business are leaders and educators," she continued. "They care about their community."

The focus of this year's expo will be human trafficking. Panelists include survivor Marjorie Saylor, founder of the nonprofit The Well Path, and county District Attorney Summer Stephan, who has been vocal about the topic for years, specifically awareness, prevention and prosecution of traffickers and people who "buy human beings for sex."

The Palomar student-produced documentary "Shattered Dreams," which fea-

tures Saylor, also will be shown at the expo.

Cisneros-Remington said the expo also will kick off her plan to start an annual human trafficking symposium that will include schools and cities through North County.

Saylor said she will speak before the screening of "Shattered Dreams" and talk about The Well Path, which she formed in 2017 for survivors of human trafficking. She said she started the organization after noticing gaps in services to help survivors around Southern California.

Other scheduled panelists include San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, Las Valientes founder and director Ana Serrano and Network Smart founder Andria Schultz, who also is a founding circle member of The Stan Lee Foundation.

The program is set to run from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. The full expo runs from 3 to 7 p.m. To register to attend, visit eventbrite.com and search for "Women of Success North County."

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THE READERS' REPRESENTATIVE: ADRIAN VORE

A heads-up on big 2020 stories

What will be the big local stories readers should watch for in 2020? The readers' rep asked Union-Tribune editors their forecast.

Public safety and courts editor Dana Littlefield: "It will be interesting to watch what happens with bail reform in 2020. In 2018, then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill that would do away with California's long-standing cash bail system. The new system would allow the courts to release more defendants in criminal cases before trial after each of them has been through a process to determine whether they are a risk to public safety.

"To overturn the new law, opponents — specifically a campaign funded by the bail bond industry — gathered the required signatures to place a referendum on the November ballot. That leaves in limbo what has been described as one of the biggest moves to reform the criminal justice system in California so far."

Health and communities editor Tarcy Connors: "The fragile bluffs in Del Mar will continue to be an issue in 2020 as regional officials grapple with how to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to move the train tracks off the eroding cliff.

"County residents thought they had crafted a future for the backcountry when the region's General Plan was updated by supervisors in 2012. But a little-known provision that everyone promised would be used sparingly — a General Plan amendment — has now become the mechanism by which thousands of homes could be built in areas not zoned to handle them. Voters will decide in March how those rural areas will grow, and the outcome will go a long way toward addressing the housing crisis or exasperating it."

In 2019 it "became apparent the region was woefully unprepared and equipped to deal with the rising need for psychiatric beds and rising number of mentally ill in the county. County Supervisors and hospital leaders have vowed to step up in 2020 to begin building a network that serve all areas."

Enterprise and border/immigration editor Mark Platte: "Immigration will continue to be a big story in 2020 and most likely a big part of the November election. We will be also be reporting on relations between the U.S. and Mexico which are extremely important."

Watchdog, government, education and military editor Denise Amos: The sentencing of Rep. Duncan Hunter and his wife and former campaign manager, Margaret, scheduled for March 17 and April 13, respectively.

The trial for the A3 charter school case,

one of the largest charter school fraud cases in California, is expected to start in 2020, while state legislators will likely debate how to regulate non-classroom-based charter schools. Also, several school districts will have to face the prospect of budget cuts.

The F-35 squadron coming to Miramar will be covered closely on the military beat.

Business editor Diana Chiyu McCabe: "Who isn't watching the skyrocketing stock market, super low mortgage rates and historically low unemployment? And in a presidential election year, the economy couldn't be more important.

"Locally, we'll be keeping an eye on one of our biggest companies: Qualcomm, which presents its arguments to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in February to overturn a controversial lower-court ruling that said the chipmaker violated anti-monopoly laws. That decision will have a major impact on the company's patent licensing business.

"In March, backers of a long-planned expansion of the bayfront Convention Center are hoping that a two-thirds majority of San Diego voters will say yes to a proposed hotel tax hike to finance an enlarged center. ... But it's pretty rare for voters to clear that two-thirds majority hurdle.

"And a few other stories that are sure to be in the news a lot this year: Anything about housing supply and prices; rent control; SDSU's efforts to build a 35,000-person stadium in time for the 2022 NCAA football season; and AB 5, a new state law that has thrown many of California's contract workers into a panic."

Sports editor Jay Posner: "San Diego State's nationally ranked basketball team will be the big story for the first quarter of the year. This appears to be the Aztecs' best chance to make a deep run in the tournament since the 2013-14 team advanced to the Sweet 16.

"Then throughout the spring and summer the Padres will be the center of attention. They haven't been to the postseason since 2006 but have said for the last few years that they were building toward contention beginning in 2020."

Entertainment editor Michael Rocha: Two of the big stories are the San Diego Symphony in July will unveil its \$45 million Bayside Performance Park at Embarcadero Marina Park South; and the KAABOO and Wonderfront music festivals and whether fans will support two three-day events, held fewer than two months and barely a mile apart in downtown San Diego.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIRST FEMALE GOVERNOR NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS TOOK OFFICE 95 YEARS AGO

Ninety-five years ago today, Nellie T. Ross succeeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming, becoming the first female governor in American history on Jan. 5, 1925. Currently, nine women are serving as governors of U.S. states.

Wyoming also was the first territory or state in United States history to grant women the right to vote. In 1869 the first territorial legislature of Wyoming extended voting rights to the women of the state.

Here, the *Evening Tribune* editorial board weighs in on the milestone. (For the record, the name Tayloe is misspelled in the text of the editorial.)

From the *Evening Tribune*, Wednesday, January 7, 1925:

Gov. Nellie Ross

Wyoming's first woman governor is now officially in executive control of the affairs of that great western state. Her inauguration is the climax of a long history of "women's rights" victories in Wyoming — a history that began four years after the Civil war, when Wyoming was merely a territory.

It will be interesting to the outside world to see whether or not any appreciable results come from this election of a woman to the highest office in the gift of this commonwealth.

Perhaps it is unfair to expect Governor Nellie Taylor Ross to give Wyoming a government any better than would have been expected from a male executive, yet it is unde-

nably a fact that the people of the country generally will watch the experiment with that thought in the back of their minds. During the fight for women's rights in various states, and in the nation at large, so much was said for the superior qualities of women in politics — superior, that is, over men in politics — that the election of a woman governor is a challenge to those predictions.

Our own guess is that the government of Wyoming will not be appreciably purer nor appreciably more efficient, under the new governor, than it has been in the past. This is not pessimism, but common sense. Mrs. Ross, widow of a recent governor, was elected partly upon sentimental grounds,



ASSOCIATED PRESS
Nellie T. Ross, the nation's first woman governor, was elected to a two-year term in Wyoming in 1924.

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