

# ★ USA-Your Union News ★

## WARM GREETINGS

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. May this Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your family.

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Important news to keep you in the know!

Contract highlights and holiday giveaway!

Holiday themed games & puzzles!

Recipes to share!

Members in the spotlight!



UNIFIED SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

**Great school culture is not an accident.** It happens when we recognize that we all depend on each other, and then work together to create supportive, caring conditions for everyone—students, teachers, support staff, guests, everyone!

**Thank you all for all you do!**

## NOVEMBER MEETING IN REVIEW:



Your union officers met via Zoom on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. We talked about our Meet & Greet; future events; issues some are facing and much more! Wanna know more? Join us on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm via Zoom! We're making it easy to join in and share your thoughts! See you soon!

## LOOKING AHEAD



Do you like giveaways? Yummy food ideas? Wanna see other members in action? Go to page 2 for this and much more!

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

*Remember to complete your salary notices by December 15<sup>th</sup>. If there is an issue or question you have about yours, please reach out to HR or your local rep. for assistance.*

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## BASKET RAFFLE!

Would you like to take this lovely themed basket home for yourself? Maybe use it as a gift? All you need to do to enter is complete the following form and submit it by December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Basket Raffle

Only 1 entry per member is allowed. It really is as easy as it seems-you'll see!

Baskets will be delivered via truckmail to you on December 15th!



## CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS:



### 5.1.2 10-month Employees

a. All 10-month employees shall be allowed twelve (12) holidays at their regular daily rate of pay on a schedule to be established by the BOCES after consultation with the Association.

Columbus Day  
 Veteran's Day  
 Thanksgiving Day  
 Day after Thanksgiving Day  
 Christmas Eve Day  
 Christmas Day  
 New Year's Eve Day  
 New Year's Day  
 Martin Luther King Day  
 President's Day  
 Memorial Day



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## Christmas Word Search

G	R	E	E	N	A	B	E	S
P	E	A	C	E	D	O	L	L
N	D	M	O	W	M	W	F	A
T	R	E	E	N	M	I	L	K
P	L	R	G	I	F	T	B	A
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
O	C	Y	Y	A	I	N	L	G
O	L	A	T	N	B	E	L	L
K	A	T	H	T	O	Y	E	B
I	U	E	A	A	N	O	S	E
E	S	R	U	D	O	L	P	H
S	C	L	I	G	H	T	S	H

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
SANTA  
CLAUS  
BELL

TOY  
DOLL  
BALL  
GIFT  
BOW

TREE  
LIGHTS  
ELF  
COOKIES  
MILK

RED  
GREEN  
RUDOLPH  
NOSE  
PEACE

USE THE REST OF THE LETTERS IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR TO FIND  
THE ANSWER:

WHAT IS RED AND WHITE AND SLIGHTLY MELTED?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. 😊

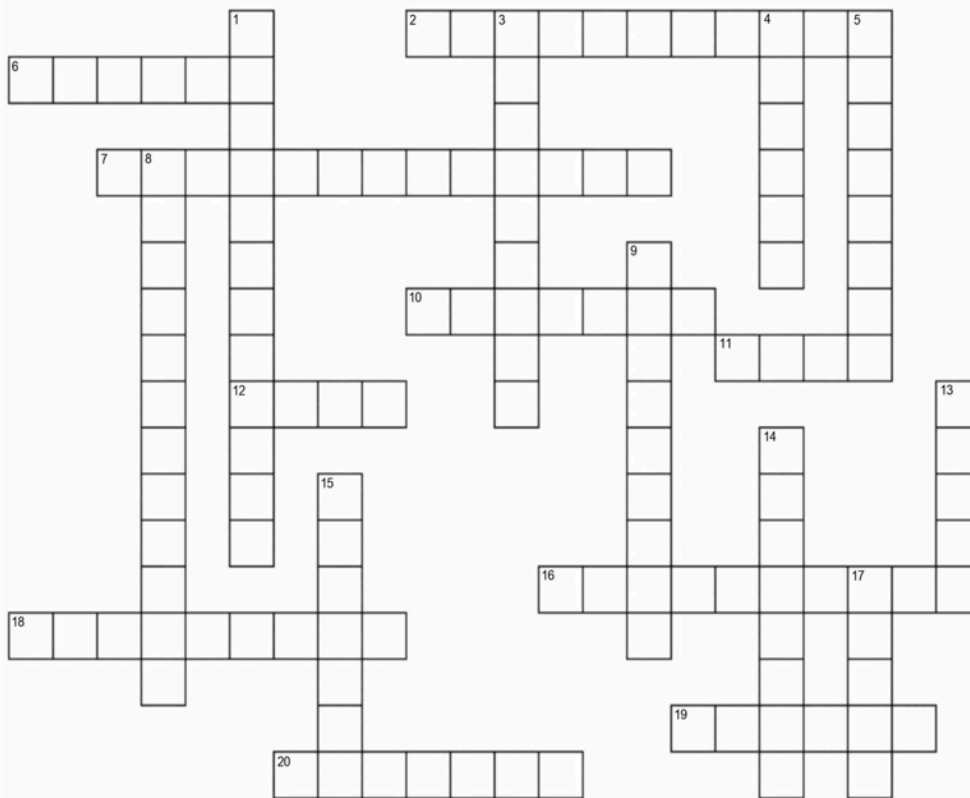
[www.florassippigirl.blogspot.com](http://www.florassippigirl.blogspot.com)

*"Christmas is not as much  
about opening presents as it*

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## Christmas

crossword puzzle

**WORD BANK:**

ANGEL  
CANDY CANE  
CHIMNEY  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CHRISTMAS TREE  
DECEMBER  
EGGNOG  
ELVES  
GINGERBREAD  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
MISTLETOE  
NORTH POLE  
RUDOLPH  
SANTA CLAUS  
SLEIGH  
SNOW  
SNOWMAN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
WINTER

**DOWN:**

1. The night before Christmas.
3. Where Santa Claus lives.
4. Traditional Christmas beverage.
5. The month when Christmas occurs.
8. Warm drink with marshmallows.
9. Red and white striped peppermint candy.
13. They make the toys in Santa's workshop.
14. Sock-shaped item hung above the fireplace.
15. Red nosed reindeer.
17. Popular Christmas tree topper.

**ACROSS:**

2. Spiced cookie used to make miniature houses.
6. Santa's reindeer-powered transportation.
7. Decorated with ornaments, tinsel and lights.
10. Winter sculpture with a carrot nose.
11. Five pointed Christmas tree topper.
12. Frosty winter precipitation.
16. Jolly man in a red suit who delivers presents.
18. Greenery that invites you to kiss underneath it.
19. Season when Christmas occurs.
20. Santa climbs down this to deliver presents.

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What did the  
gingerbread man put  
on top of his bed?

A cookie sheet.

## Kahlua Candied Yams

- 8 medium-sized yams
  - (I bake them, cover them, and let them cool so it's easier to peel the skin.)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup Kahlua

Cut yams into serving-sized pieces.

In a heavy skillet, melt butter and brown sugar. When melted, add Kahlua.

Cook for 1 minute. Add yams.

Turn until brown on all sides. Cover

Reduce the heat and cook for about 15 minutes.

Turn yams once more before serving.

Serves 8-10



## Chocolate Raspberry Crumb Bars

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups (12-ounce package) chocolate chips, divided
- 1 can (14 ounces) Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional) [I use sliced almonds]
- 1/3 cup seedless raspberry jam

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan.

BEAT butter in a large mixer bowl until creamy. Beat in the flour, sugar, and salt until the mixture is crumbly. With floured fingers, press 1 3/4 cups of the crumb mixture onto the bottom of the prepared baking pan; reserve the remaining mixture for later use.

BAKE for 10 to 12 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown.

MICROWAVE 1 cup morsels and sweetened condensed milk in a medium, uncovered, microwave-safe bowl on HIGH (100%) power for 1 minute; STIR. Morsels may retain some of their original shape. If necessary, microwave for an additional 10- to 15-second interval, stirring just until the morsels are melted. Spread over hot crust.

STIR nuts into reserved crumb mixture; sprinkle over chocolate filling. Drop teaspoonfuls of raspberry jam over the crumb mixture. Sprinkle with remaining morsels.

BAKE for 25 to 30 minutes or until center is set. Cool completely in the pan on a wire rack.

Yields 36 bars





December 2025

Member Spotlight

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# PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



## With Member Benefits

### Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

**MB Discounts & Deals** offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at [mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com](http://mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com) with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at [nysut.org/memberid](http://nysut.org/memberid)).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

**Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel** tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting [mb-nysut.org/travelmb](http://mb-nysut.org/travelmb), or calling 800-626-8101.

Wishing you happy holidays  
filled with joy, warmth, and  
wonderful memories. May this  
season be bright and your new  
year full of happiness and success.  
Take care and enjoy every moment  
with your loved ones!

~ Angie Bacon 