

Design Alaska's Holiday Concert



The annual Design Alaska Holiday Concerts were held on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11. This year the audience was treated to a special presentation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, narrated by Jack Wilbur. A big thank you to the volunteers who handed out ornaments at the end of the concerts: Ryan, Dominique, Emory, Maggie, Jack, Carol, Marilyn, Kym, Deanna, Blake, Courtney, and Jeff L.



President's Corner

The end of the year brings a tradition of giving gifts and donations. Design Alaska has both old and new traditions of donating and gift giving in the holiday season to spread cheer, contribute to the wellbeing of our community, and give thanks. Some of the notable activities include:

- Employee directed giving campaign for the staff to donate to a local non-profit of their choice. This was started a few years ago and has been a big hit. It's fun to watch the breadth of organizations that our staff is supporting and how it goes deep into the community.
- Sponsoring Fairbanks Symphony's Design Alaska Holiday Concert and giving a holiday ornament to all families that attend.
- Providing a year-end donation to the United Way to help their partner agencies. This is in addition to our employee matching donations provided throughout the year. Many of these agencies may directly support employee families and of course, the community in need.
- Hand delivering gift baskets to local community groups and clients to show our appreciation for the work that we do with them throughout the year.
- In recent years, providing Christmas gifts for families in need through the Alaska Center of Non-Violent Living. They provide us a list of desired gifts for families in need.
- Mailing holiday cards with Alaska art, to include some personalized greetings, and preserve the feeling of receiving a warm message of holiday cheer to one another.

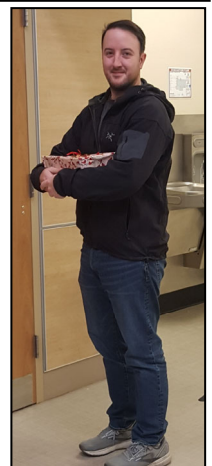
The Turtle Club and Family Christmas Party are ways that we thank each other and our families for the support that they provide. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet one another's families and share some of the holiday spirit getting to know each other.

Happy Holidays to everyone and I look forward to my chance to visit with each one of you individually to share my thanks for another year of working together.

Chris Miller, PE

President, Design Alaska

Design Alaska's Holiday Concert Volunteers



Office Holiday Traditions



Design Alaska is full of holiday traditions. We kicked December off with tree decorating in both buildings. We purchase our trees from the Kiwanis Tree Sale and place one in each building. Every year the tree decoration color alternates between the buildings. This year the main building's tree is red and gold, while the annex is rocking a silver and blue tree. Decorations are left out for a couple hours and employees stop by and place an ornament or ten on the tree. Another holiday decorating tradition includes purchasing ten poinsettias, and placing them in both buildings.



Another tradition looked forward to by employees is the Turtle Club dinner. Employees and their plus ones get together and enjoy each other's company away from the office.



Turtle Club Dinner



The annual Turtle Club dinner was held on Friday, December 9. Employees really love this event because it gives them an opportunity to spend time with those they may see only once a year as well as getting to know new people who have joined the Design Alaska Team.



What is Your Favorite Winter Holiday Tradition?	
Kayla Messina	My favorite holiday tradition is going out to the Santa Claus house and picking out an ornament every year. My mom started the tradition when I was a kid so my sister and I would have ornaments for our own trees when we grew up. We also hide a pickle ornament (aka the Christmas Pickle) in the tree at my mom's house each year and the first to find the pickle gets to open the first present.
Molly McGuire	My favorite winter holiday tradition is watching the two-part adaptation of Terry Pratchett's novel 'Hogfather', which is one of the 41 novels in his Discworld series. It is a humorous/satirical fantasy that explores belief, hope, and what makes humans human. And if you're a Downton Abbey fan, Michelle Dockery plays Death's granddaughter. Terry also cowrote 'Good Omens' with Neil Gaiman and 'The Long Earth' series with Stephen Baxter. Terry Pratchett is my favorite author and is a great topic to introduce in conversation if you want to break me out of my introverted shell.
Chris Miller	Opening Stockings on Christmas morning first thing before breakfast. Socks always included fruit, little travel pack sized toiletries, little nail clipper sets, package of twizzlers, gum, life savers etc., and small toys (kinder egg, Legos, etc). Kind of everything you would buy in the checkout line at the grocery store. We would then eat a big breakfast and linger a long time opening gifts one at a time slowly. Still do this today.....
Jack Wilbur	Trimming the tree on Christmas Eve.
Adam Shilling	Getting together with the extended family, and sweatpants.
Samuel Mitchell	<p>Christmas Eve dinner has been the longest standing tradition in my immediate family. We head to my parents for some traditional Polish food – homemade pierogis, sauerkraut soup, etc. along with some East Coast traditional sides like crab cakes. The food, family, friends, and a reading from the Gospel of Luke makes the evening one of my favorite holiday traditions.</p> <p>The DA Turtle Club dinner is a close second.</p>
Don Hopkins	Trimming the tree Thanksgiving weekend.
Jay Baxter	Going out to the woods and cutting a Christmas tree.
Marina Jones	Making my 4 th grade teacher's secret eggnog recipe. She of course gave it to me into adulthood...sip of that will give any stressed out elementary school teacher holiday cheer!
Buddy the Elf	First we make snow angels for two hours, and then we'll go ice skating, and then we'll eat a whole roll of Tollhouse Cookie Dough as fast as we can, and then to finish, we'll snuggle.
Dantasia Baum	Christmas Bingo.
Blake Burley	Spending time with family on Christmas day, reading the account of Jesus' birth from the Bible, exchanging gifts, eating a good meal together, and playing Trouble!
Cat Petersen	When my siblings and I were young, in addition to leaving gifts, Santa would tape lots of sparkly ribbons across the wide entryway into the living room. No one was allowed in until everyone in the family was awake (we weren't allowed to wake anyone else up until 9 a.m.), and then we'd all run through the ribbons together.



Reminder from the Wellness Committee. Wash Your Water Bottle.



HOW MANY *Germ*s
ARE ON YOUR WATER BOTTLE?



The average
athlete's water bottle:

313,499 CFU

The average pet toy has 2,937 CFU.

Values are in CFU (colony-forming units), per square centimeter, and are the average of 12 reusable water bottles.

December 2022 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Table Massage	8	9 Turtle Club Holiday Party	10 Design Alaska Holiday Concert
11 Design Alaska Holiday Concert	12 Birthday Cake	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Table Massage	22	23 Design Alaska Family Party	24
25	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31

December Birthdays

Jay Baxter	December 12
Elizabeth Johnston	December 13
Dantasia Baum	December 28
Brian Marmor	December 30
Tessa Anderson	December 31



January Upcoming Events

Office Closed	January 02, 2023
Table Massage	January 04, 2023
Mangers' Meeting	January 05, 2023
Table Massage	January 18, 2023
Mangers' Meeting	January 26, 2023

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Jennifer Davis	3rd Anniversary	December 21, 2019
Josiah Alverts	1st Anniversary	December 13, 2021

Employees enjoying pies from Larae's Breads, Pies and Espresso for our annual Thanksgiving day celebration.

