

# JUNXION

FOR RESIDENTS, BY RESIDENTS

## *Home* FOR THE *Holidays*

Pastry Chef Tess Wofford is back in Chadds Ford and whipping up a sweet new life



### **ALSO INSIDE:**

SEASONAL STYLE FROM CO  
CHIC BOUTIQUE

A TABLE SETTING TO MAKE  
YOUR CHRISTMAS BRIGHT

LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEAS  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE IT ALL

# the santa cause

## Perk Musacchio Reveals What's In The White Envelopes On Her Christmas Tree Every Holiday Season.

This time of year, I always find myself thinking about *traditions*. It starts in the fall with the costumes, parades, and trick or treating at Halloween followed by Thanksgiving Day football games, family, and friends, and, my all-time favorite meal, turkey and all the trimmings. December comes with several sacred holidays, depending on your religious beliefs. In our family, we celebrate Christmas, but everyone can enjoy the following traditions. One is borrowed from an unknown Facebook post, and one belongs to my husband.

The borrowed one is something that many of us often do, but we haven't made it an official tradition. Turning it into a tradition can be a lifelong lesson for our children and will make a difference to any recipient. It's the *Tradition of the White Envelope*. Select a local charity. Plan to donate (monetary or goods). Write a letter about your donation and, perhaps, honor someone

in your family with that donation. Put the letter in a white envelope and place it in the branches of the Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, share that letter with your kids. If it includes items for donations, take your children with you when you drop them off for a real-life experience of helping others. Simple and yet meaningful, it can be incorporated into any holiday celebration.

The second tradition started in our family when our kids were young. Every Christmas Eve after the kids were in bed, my husband would retreat to his den and later emerge with a rolled-up piece of paper he inserted between the branches of the Christmas tree. The first year of this tradition, he did it after I went to bed, so it was a surprise for me, too. The letter was from Santa. Every year thereafter, Santa would share his wisdom and thoughts with each family member, even the dogs. As our three sons became teenagers, they humored their dad and listened as he read the letter, pretending to be amazed with what Santa knew and said. With each comment, they often had a little smile on their faces. As the boys went off to college and even early on in their marriages, the letters continued. Santa's humor changed, as did the

content, but the message was always one of love, pride, and encouragement.

As parents, we never really know if what we are doing will make a difference or, even better, become a tradition for the next generation. Last Christmas, when we visited our eldest son, Mike, we were touched to see a white scroll in between the branches on his tree. Thus, the tradition of the "letter from Santa" will continue for his girls.

Here is a compilation of some of my favorite excerpts from all of our Santa letters.

*December 25*

*Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas, Musacchio Family!*

*I always look forward to my visit to your house, and my snack is just as I*

*remembered ... pizzelles, milk, and carrots for the reindeer. You are too kind to old Santa. I will leave you a brief note this year as the reindeer are a bit rammy, so I can't park on the roof for very long.*

*Little David- I am so happy to see how you have grown up. You're not so little anymore. Santa is so proud of your success in school and sports. You are becoming quite the wrestler! I hope you feel proud, too. You have really taken my advice from last year and are remembering to stop and think and practice your patience. Keep up the great work and don't forget to tend to those chores at home, too.*

*Steve- You have had some year! You are always very busy with school, sports, and friends, and you have some great friends! Remember "work before pleasure" makes the pleasure more enjoyable and rewarding. Hopefully, you will remember all of these things, as well as being considerate of your parents' wishes. All of this could see you with your driver's license before my next visit. Good luck!*

*Mike- Isn't it amazing what a difference a year can make? WOW! You are a senior in college now! With all the continued hard work, you will be writing your ticket to a really fun job and a bright future. You may not see that now, but remember that Santa sees all. No matter what, your family loves and supports you in everything that you do. Santa knows about the power of love and family. Trust him. We are all very proud of your accomplishments this year.*

*To little Gus- You are very fortunate to have been rescued by this loving family. I know you love them as much as they love you! I hope you get house-trained soon.*

*And Chloe- you had better stop having accidents in the house. Enough is enough. You have to set a good example for your little brother. I left both of you young whippersnappers some puppy treats.*

*Finally, Mom and Dad- Santa is very proud of the ways you are raising your sons, some of which might seem a bit strange and annoying to them. However, as I have seen since the Middle Ages, there is a method to the madness of parenting. Because of your rules and expectations, you have been successful where others have failed. As a family, never be afraid to hug and say that you love each other. That is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. Put faith and family first, and you will continue to raise confident, caring, and successful young men. Oh, and if you don't mind my saying so ... less carbs and more exercise in the coming year will also be good resolution.*

*Yours in Polar love,  
Santa*

*Perk Musacchio is a retired educator and the co-author of A Student's Guide to Communication and Self-Presentation and No Manual, No Problem: Strategies and Interventions to Help Your Child Thrive in Today's World and originator of the PeaceWalk®. For more information, visit her website at [www.skillstosoar.com](http://www.skillstosoar.com).*



STORYTIME, LIVE ANIMAL PRESENTATIONS, and more!

4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807

[delmnh.org](http://delmnh.org) | 302-658-9111

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [y](#) [t](#) @delmnh