



By Barb Turcotte

Though the names in this article are fictional because of some circumstances regarding the child, the collaborations and experiences are real. I'll be referring to the Christmas Angel as Angel, the aunt as Mary and the child as Grace.

A chance meeting can often change someone's life for better or worse, but this was certainly for the better! Just think back to the chance meeting when you met your now best friend or perhaps when you met your spouse? But imagine if your chance meeting was a Christmas Angel!

While Angel was having her hair done, she noticed a young girl named Grace, who was patiently waiting for who Angel thought was her mother to finish. Angel was so impressed with Grace's polite calm behavior she felt drawn to commend her for her good manners and compliment the mother as well. Hence the dialogue between Angel and Mary began.

During their conversation Mary revealed that Grace was her niece rather than her daughter but currently lived with her instead of her biological parents. Though Mary didn't reveal many details, she did tell Angel that Grace had previously been in a group home where her belongings were stolen, so when she came to Mary's she had nothing but the clothes on her back. Mary explained what an amazing young girl Grace was and how her temperament was always like that, just sweetness. She also described how Grace was always ready with a helping hand no matter the task and did things with no prompting. Mary also shared that no matter what she did for Grace she was so appreciative that it was fun doing things for her.

Angel is definitely her mother's daughter, like her mother she has a huge heart and is always wanting to help anyone in need. Angel's life has had its challenges, yet her positive attitude and willingness to help others has never wavered.

After having an insightful conversation with Mary, Angel decided she wanted Grace to know just how special she was and engaged Mary in the plan. Angel told me that when she left the salon she actually went to her car and sobbed thinking about Grace's past. That's when Angel truly became Grace's Christmas Angel. Unbeknownst to Mary or Grace they didn't realize what this chance meeting would result in. Though it truly doesn't matter, I just think it shows what true Random Acts of Kindness are about as all three, Angel, Mary and Grace, are of different cultures.

Angel knew that her plan would also help

Mary, who so unselfishly was helping during this difficult situation, so she began contacting family and friends asking for their support to create a memorable Christmas for Grace. They, knowing her, jumped right in to help as elves to create Angel's vision. Angel was overwhelmed when she received well over 20 responses offering their help with amazing items and cash donations. Mary was also astonished when Angel showed up bearing all kinds of gifts. Angel included a card with the names of all the donors who had made this Christmas vision become a true miracle. Angel has been in contact with Mary since Christmas and she explained how much she and Grace have enjoyed playing the board games included. How wonderful that they weren't just put on a shelf, but that the true meaning of sharing is that Grace and her aunt share quality time together. Grace made a beautiful thank you card for Angel thanking her and everyone for the incredible Christmas they'd created for her!

Have you ever gone to a place where they display wish lists of children on a Christmas tree and decided to help make a child's wishes become reality? What a feeling it is, just the thought you've done that puts a smile on your own face and melts your heart with the vision it creates. Imagine being able to know the child you're helping and incorporating others to complete this Random Act of Kindness! Mary had no idea that Angel's plan would include a special gift for her as well, a prepaid hair appointment!

Though I'm not able to reveal real names, I thought this was such a heart-warming story I wanted to share it. Many think about generosity during the holiday season yet Random Acts of Kindness happen all during the year. I hope 2024 is a spectacular year for you and I can't wait to hear about your Random Acts of Kindness stories. There are so many truly incredible people amongst us, it's time to hear and recognize those good things happening in our own communities. Be someone who makes a difference by spreading positivity whether it be for someone you know or a stranger, kindness is always welcome! Happy New Year!

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

# CAMPUS NOTES

## Bridgewater State University Dean's List

BRIDGEWATER - The following local residents were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University.

**Hampden:** Nyasia Adames  
**Wilbraham:** Adrianna Britton, Sophie Dobosz, Taylor Fahey, Brennan Gravanda, Jack O'Toole and Bridget Reilly.

## Cedarville University Dean's Honors List

CEDARVILLE, Ohio - Andrew Demos, of Hampden, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Fall 2023. This

recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

## Springfield College Dean's List Students

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield College recognizes Dean's List Students from Hampden and Wilbraham for academic excellence for the 2023 Fall Semester.

### Hampden

Kaelin Cerasuolo was named to the dean's list. Cerasuolo has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Carly DeGray was named to the dean's list. DeGray has a primary major of Accounting.

Mary-Elizabeth Hrycay was named to the dean's list. Hrycay has a primary major of Health Science.

Connor Joyce was named to the dean's list. Joyce has a primary major of Exer Sci / Applied ES.

### Wilbraham

Francesca Bongiorno was named to the dean's list. Bongiorno has a primary major of Health Care Management.

Sarah Champagne was named to the dean's list. Champagne has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Emma Delamarter was named to the dean's list. Delamarter has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PT.

Olivia Dragon was named to the dean's list. Dragon has a primary major of Health Science.

Franklin Graziano was named to the dean's list. Graziano has a primary major of Finance.

Frank Gulluni was named to the dean's list. Gulluni has a primary major of Sport Management.

Abigail Hotaling was named to the dean's list. Hotaling has a primary major of Physical Education.

Olivia Long was named to the dean's list. Long has a primary major of Sport Management.

John Manning was named to the dean's list. Manning has a primary major of Business Management.

Joe Manning was named to the dean's list. Manning has a primary major of Sport Management.

Emma Robinson was named to the dean's list. Robinson has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Jaclin Robinson was named to the dean's list. Robinson has a primary major of Psychology.

Madison Roy was named to the dean's list. Roy has a primary major of Health Sci / Pre-PA.

Maggie Skorka was named to the dean's list. Skorka has a primary major of Education.

Zavier Villanueva was named to the dean's list. Villanueva has a primary major of Integrative Studies.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Hampden**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Vincent and Meggie DeCesare for a Special Permit under Section 6.1, 6.11 (1) of the Hampden Zoning Bylaw to allow the construction of a private garage which exceeds, in aggregate area, a square footage which is more than one half (1/2) the ground floor area of the main dwelling including any attached garage, at the DeCesare residence located at 17 Potash Hill Lane. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours. For the Board, Madison Pixley, Chair, Hampden Planning Board. 01/25, 02/01/2024

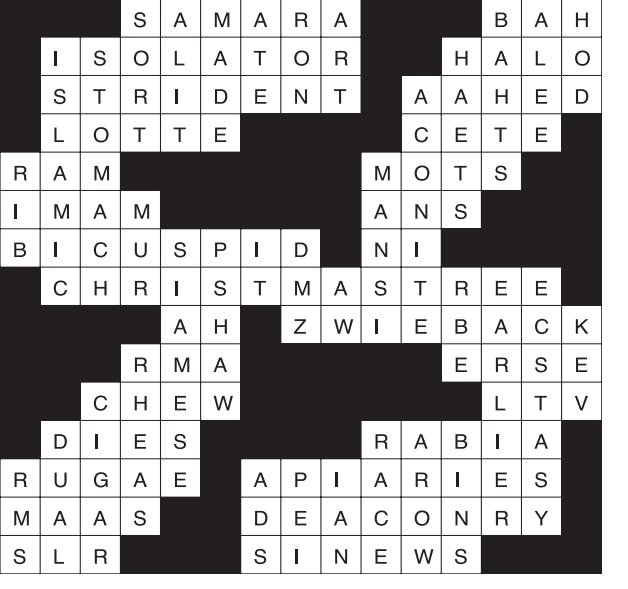
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0037EA  
Estate of:  
Sarah D. Howard  
Date of Death: 12/01/2023  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John C. Howard, Jr. of Tolland, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: **John C. Howard, Jr. of Tolland, CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00

a.m. on the return day of 02/06/2024.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of

this Court.  
Date: January 08, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/25/2024  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD22P0795EA  
Estate of:  
Donna Christine Posley  
Date of Death: 03/19/2021  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT  
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **William C Posley of N. Hollywood CA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right

to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/12/2024.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an

affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 08, 2024  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/25/2024



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**