



December '09

# NEWSLETTER

By Francis P. Church, first published in The New York Sun in 1897.

Dear Editor—

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

~ Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.



You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## DECEMBER TEST RESULTS

The December test went pretty well. It would have been much better had I not turned the heat off after class on Saturday!. Even the ink in our pens was frozen. Sorry for the chilly test. Congrats to the new ranks!

*White Belt / Yellow Stripe*

**Hunter Lane**  
**Iilir Zeba**  
**Michael Heldman**

*Purple Belt w/ Green Stripe*

**Molly Hojnacki**

*Red Belt*

**Zack Pickell**

Additionally, **Stephanie Stewart** was impressive in her first test toward Second Degree Black Belt!

## 'TIS THE SEASON

The Holidays are fast approaching and thoughts of family, presents, shopping, parking, crowds, cooking, baking, cleaning, trimming, cards, assembly, wrapping, and watching "A Christmas Story" just one more time... is probably making most of us go bonkers.

Try not to. This is a wonderful time to appreciate what you have - not what you've got to do.

Shelby Martial Arts sincerely wishes you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



*You can have anything you want in life if you just help enough other people get what they want.*