



WALT SHURDEN LAW

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611 Druid Road East, Suite 712 • Clearwater, FL 33756

Your Family-Time Communication Guide

By Walt Shurden

We have never been so at odds about so many different issues. You have probably made your decisions about what you believe partly on your personal history, and partly on what you have seen and read from media sources. News is cheap, everywhere, sometimes fake, and we are all 'full of it'. But this holiday season, for the sake of the family, don't give the gift of your knowledge about a divisive topic. You will convert no one and enjoy yourself not at all.

Instead, after the cornhole champion has been declared and it is time to sit and talk, focus on trying to have great conversations about the people you are with. Here are some really great ideas for you to try from professional talk show host Celeste Headlee, who recorded a TED talk on this topic.

1. Don't listen with the intent to formulate a reply. Instead listen with the intent to understand the speaker.
2. Go with the flow. When thoughts come in your mind while someone else is talking let them go. Don't try to hold onto the thought because you will stop listening or possibly interrupt the speaker. Let thoughts come and go.
3. Don't equate your experience with theirs. Accept that the person's experience is unique.



4. After you have said something once, do not repeat yourself because it is condescending.
5. Stay out of the Weeds. Your listener doesn't care about all the details, they care about you.
6. Accept that listening takes effort and is not intuitive, but that a great conversation is worth the effort.

Happy Holidays and good luck with the fam.

Our Goal

To provide exceptional legal service to our clients.

This Month's Spotlight



Brianna & Benjamin Wiik

Brianna Wiik, 15, is a sophomore at Mitchell High School in Trinity, FL and Benjamin Wiik, 16, is a junior at Anclote High School in Holiday, FL. Both have volunteered at their local library, Habitat for Humanity and now Life Care Center in New Port Richey. Both are avid soccer players and are on their respective high school varsity soccer teams. They are excellent students and hope to continue on to college with the help of Bright Futures Scholarships. Way to Go Brianna & Benjamin.



Winter Solstice – December 21, 2016 at 5:44 am

There are still 24 hours in the “shortest day of the year,” there is just less sunlight. Because of the tilt of the earth, the northern hemisphere gets less sun each day during the winter. The first day of winter marks the day with the least amount of sunlight and the sun is at its most southerly point. On December 22nd this year, the days will start ‘getting longer.’

Many of our winter traditions are based on the winter solstice:

- During ancient times the Yule log was lit to ward off evil spirits on the winter solstice.
- People believed that the sun stood still for 12 days during this time (maybe the 12 days of Christmas).
- It is widely believed that this time of year was chosen as the time to celebrate the birth of the Christian Savior, because it was the time of a pagan celebration of the rebirth of the sun.

Winter solstice can happen any time between December 20 and 23. December 21 or 22 solstices happen most often. The last December 23 solstice was in 1903 and will not happen again until 2303. A December 20 solstice has occurred very rarely, with the next one in the year 2080.

If you ever want to review an old article that you read in our newsletter, and cannot find it, you can look it up on our website, www.waltshurdenlaw.com. All newsletters are saved under the “free info” tab, then “library.”

Christmas Trivia

1) How many ghosts visited Scrooge?

- a) four
- b) two
- c) three
- d) one

2) What ran over Grandma on Christmas Eve?

- a) a sleigh
- b) a reindeer
- c) a train
- d) a truck

3) Why didn't the other reindeer like Rudolph?

- a) his shiny nose
- b) Santa liked him best
- c) his good looks
- d) he was the fastest

4) What sound did Frosty make as he ran through town?

- a) bumpety-bump-bump
- b) slippety-slip-slip
- c) thuddety-thud-thud
- d) thumpety-thump-thump

5) What should children not do when Santa Clause is coming to town?

- a) lie or cheat
- b) cry or pout
- c) sing or dance
- d) run or jump

6) In the movie *A Christmas Story*, what does Ralphie want for Christmas?

- a) a puppy
- b) a baseball
- c) a Red Ryder bb gun
- d) a cap pistol

7) What color Christmas do people dream of in the famous song?

- a) red
- b) silver
- c) green
- d) white

8) How many horses pull the sleigh in *Jingle Bells*?

- a) two
- b) one
- c) four
- d) eight

9) How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

- a) eight
- b) twelve
- c) four
- d) ten

10) What is the other name for Santa Clause?

- a) the tooth fairy
- b) St. Christopher
- c) St. Nicholas
- d) St. Francis

Answers to
Christmas
Trivia
1) A
2) B
3) A
4) D
5) B
6) C
7) D
8) B
9) A
10) B

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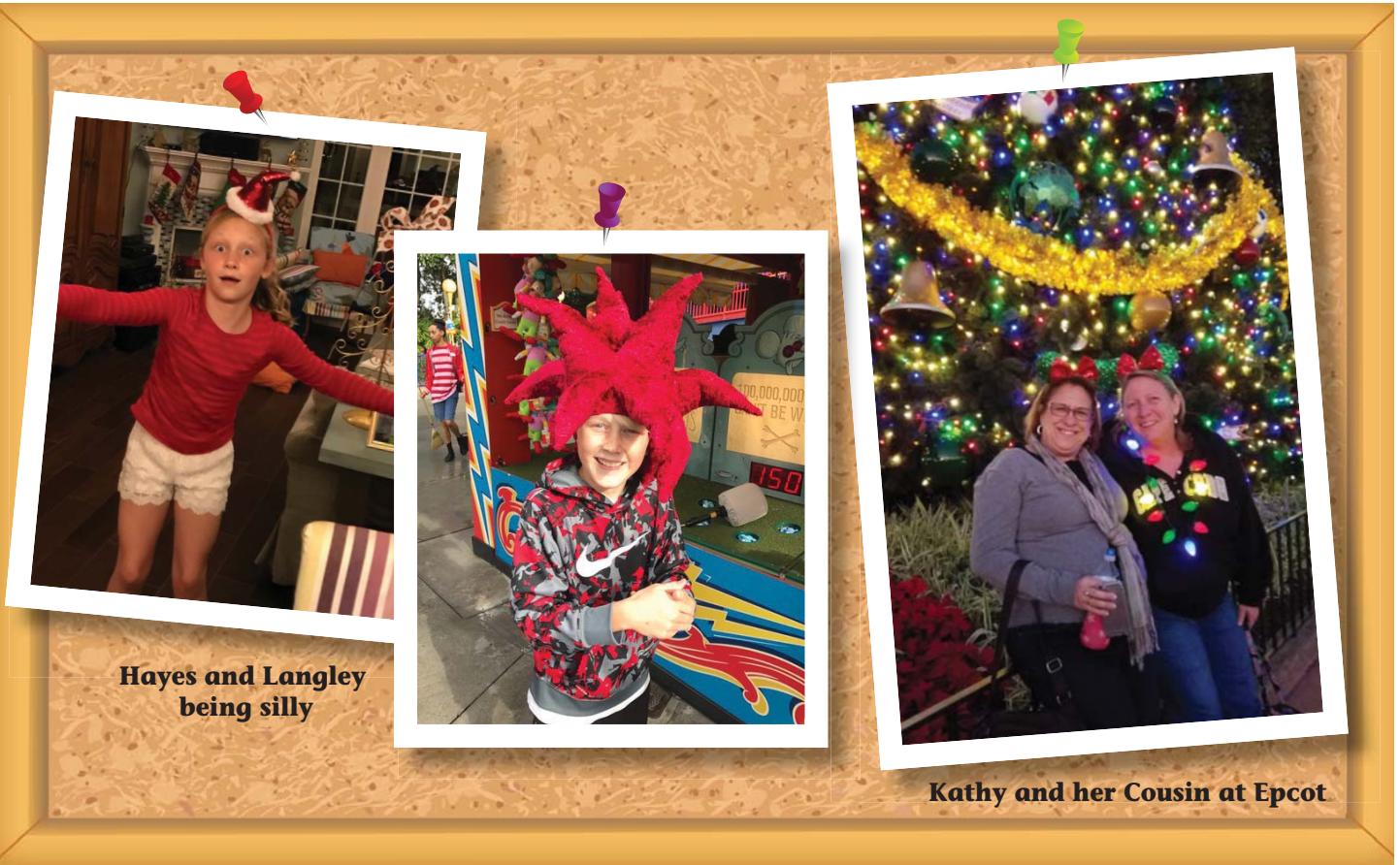
Legal Term of the Month

Not so Legal Term of the Month –

Yule: is the ancient name in the Germanic lunar calendar for a winter festival corresponding to December and January.

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**Hayes and Langley
being silly**

Kathy and her Cousin at Epcot