

space city

parent



Holly Jolly
FUN-TIME
Calendar

**CREATIVE
GIFT GIVING**

**RING IN THE
NEW YEAR**
with Family

**HAPPY FAMILY
TRAVEL**

**OUTGROWN
A TRADITION?**

**TIPS FOR A
STRESS FREE
HOLIDAY!**

**CLUTTER FREE
GIFT GUIDE**



GREATER CLEAR LAKE AREA'S **FREE** GUIDE FOR HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN!

HAVE WE OUTGROWN OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITION?

by Lisa A. Beach

Ever get to that point with a family tradition where you question whether it's past its prime? It might have been fun and memorable for years, but now, not so much.

For years, my boys looked forward to December 1, the day our Advent Calendar would "go live." For our countdown-to-Christmas, I would fill each little calendar pocket with a paper highlighting the day's special Christmas treat or activity. Ranging from "get peppermint milkshake" to "sleep under the Christmas tree," we did it all for 24 festive days. Twenty. Four. Days.

Twenty four days of baking and reading and singing and drawing and gluing and glittering ourselves into a Christmas frenzy. Now, I'm not crying "bah humbug" just yet, but that's a lot of Christmas spirit to pack into the tightly filled schedule of a busy family with two teens.

When the boys were younger and less busy, we could do any activity on any day. But as they got

older, and their schedules more complicated, the planning involved to just get together and bake some darn cookies is bringing out the Scrooge in me.

Hmmm, let's bake cookies on Monday after dinner. Wait, Parker's got a soccer game and won't be back until 8 p.m. and then he's got to eat and do homework. We'll do it on Tuesday. No, Trevor performs in a Christmas concert until 9 p.m. The scheduling conflicts go on throughout the week, until I silently scream, "Ho, ho, NO! I just want to bake some cookies with my kids!"

Um, no. Not gonna happen. But that doesn't mean we're nixing holiday fun altogether. We started merrily multitasking, watching Elf while we decorate the tree and drink hot chocolate. We plan fun stuff for the weekend, because "cramping in Christmas" makes it anything but the most wonderful time of the year.

ADVENT CALENDAR TEEN EDITION

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Decorate a gingerbread house | → | Drink ginger tea to calm stress during final exams |
| Attend a Christmas concert | → | Watch Pentatonix Christmas video on YouTube |
| Take family Christmas photo | → | Photoshop individuals into collage because group photo is too hard to schedule |
| Drive around neighborhoods looking at Christmas lights | → | Point out blur of lights while zipping down highway to get to soccer game on time |
| Bake cookies | → | Eat cookie dough ice cream |
| Spend afternoon doing arts and crafts projects | → | Cut Mom's shopping list into paper snowflakes on the way home from running errands |

tweeniormoments.com

Tired of over-sized? COMMERCIAL GYMS

Visit us at Pelican Health & Fitness!



We are a **small community gym** in Seabrook that can meet all your fitness needs!

- ✓ Nautilus expressway circuit
- ✓ Extensive selection of free weights and plate loaded equipment
- ✓ State of the Art Precor treadmills, ellipticals and bikes all with their own personal viewing machines



PELICAN
Health & Fitness

1908 Hialeah, Ste. D Seabrook, TX 77586
281-474-1141 • pelicanhealthandfitness.com

**FREE
REGISTRATION**
with this coupon
for a limited time

Small Changes

Voted
#1 Kids Store
in Bay Area!

Kid's Resale
We carry Everything Except the Baby!

Mon - Fri 10-6 • Sat 10 -5
Now OPEN Sunday 12 - 4

Bring this ad
and receive
15% OFF
purchase

- Like us on Facebook - We post our new arrivals
- New and Like-New Boys and Girls Clothing & Shoes
 - Infant to Size 10 / 12 • Baby Gear • Nursery Furniture
 - New Boutique Items & Bows • Dapper Snappers
 - Trendy Maternity for MOM

281-338-5164 • 920 W. Main • League City 77573
SmallChangesKids.com

