

urbanHIST Newsletter

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NOT FOR SALE



Christmas and New Year Greetings

The special edition of urbanHIST Newsletter brings Christmas and New Year greetings from different parts of Europe. Do not miss interesting Christmas traditions, meals or experience of urbanHIST team.

New Year Greetings from UPJŠ

Dear friends, colleagues and readers, a new calendar year has begun, which is always a good reason to exchange new year's wishes after the traditional December reflection of the year gone by, to look ahead and set new ambitions. Let me do so as well.

First of all, I would like to wish all of you good health – to everyone in particular but also to the complex organism named urbanHIST. Let its organs work properly, complementing each other, responding to stimuli and producing only good results. In

a similar way, without a metaphor, I wish all of us a lot of peace, patience and responsibility in tough decisions, but also in everyday work. Few weeks ago, all our teams started the second half of the project implementation, therefore we need a huge dose of creative atmosphere, which is not possible to accomplish without collegiality, respect and mutual help.

There are many objectives to be met in the new year – two Network-Wide Workshop Weeks, international scientific conference organised by BTH in Stockholm, a considerable

number of local training activities, four issues of urbanHIST Newsletter etc. We have great expectations as to publications of ESRs' research results and their progress in drafting the dissertation theses. Last but not least, management of urbanHIST and responding to new unpredictable situations continue to represent an immense challenge for all of us. Let us see what 2019 surprises us with.

Early in January, the management team of urbanHIST met for a working meeting in Prague. After the demanding period brought by administra-

tive evaluation of the first two years of the project implementation, the real and original spirit of urbanHIST could be felt. Although not all the dilemmas we faced could be solved, one thing is for sure, all of us – Max, Christiane, Maria, Marina, Abdellah, Annica, Katka and I – would like to send you a lot of positive energy from the meeting in order for all the new year's wishes to be fulfilled and all the common goals of 2019 to be accomplished.

Martin Pekár
UPJŠ Local Director

New Year's Resolutions

Elvira Khairullina - Think positive, laugh more and finish PhD thesis.

Susanna Weddige - Less good resolutions; more results!

Ksenija Krsmanović - Every day be better than you were yesterday.

Marcelo Sagot Better - I must say that I am not a huge supporter of the new year resolution idea, as I consider that every day is an opportunity to become better and work for our goals. However, I am really looking forward in this 2019 to mature and improve as a partner, as a friend, as a professional and more importantly as a human.



Members of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice | Photo by Lukáš Katriňák

From Jul to Божић

This winter, I had the opportunity to stay in Stockholm while doing my secondment at ArkDes, urbanHIST non-academic partner organization. Being in the Swedish capital at the end of the year is definitely a challenge after living in sunny Spain, while you need to deal with the extremely dark, short and cold days. Fortunately, since the beginning of December, streets got lightened by Christmas decorations, every window was a frame of a decorative star-shaped lamp and a scent of the mulled wine was spreading from the city squares.

On December 13, I had the chance to see the traditional Swedish celebration of St. Lucia that was a very particular experience. As usual, in the early morning of that day, I had taken a metro to get to ArkDes. Suddenly, all the sleepy heads of passengers were listening to the Lucia songs, sung by the group of teenagers that entered the same metro, wearing long white dresses, probably on their way to St. Lucia celebration. What a splendid ride to work! When I arrived to ArkDes, colleagues invited me for a *fika* at *Moderna museet* restaurant where St. Lucia choir performance was about to start. In no time, all the ArkDes and Modern museum staff were enjoying

these soothing songs while eating saffron buns *Lussekatter* and drinking our first morning coffee.

I often consider myself lucky to have Christmas euphoria lasting longer than usual. For me, it does not end in December. Every year I go to Novi Sad to be with my family for Orthodox

Christmas that we celebrate on January 7. I greatly enjoy having a few days of family gatherings, my hometown covered with snow and singing Christmas concerts with my choir before I return back to work.

Ksenija Krsmanović
Early Stage Researcher



Center of Novi Sad covered with snow | Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović



St. Lucia choir performance and fika with Lussekatter in Moderna museet | Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović



Choir Sveti Roman Slatkopojac before the Christmas concert | Photo by Dusan Panic



Christmas trees at Christmas market on Södermalm | Photo by Julia Loof



Stockholm from below the arches of the City Hall | Photo by Ksenija Krsmanović

Good New Year Start in a Good Place

My husband and I spent the New Year break in Dresden. This year we decided to stay in Germany and experience Christmas and New Year celebration traditions. We also have friends in Dresden which we made during my secondment in Stadtmuseum, and it was nice to see them again and share happy moments.

First, we visited Christmas market which always was a different experience as in Dresden there were several places. In Altmarkt, for example, there were organized many gift and traditional food shops. As one of our friends planned to visit Kazakhstan, we bought some sweets and souvenirs for our families. Overall, we en-

joyed Christmas market decorations, concerts and food. It was nice to stay among people and enjoy hot local food and hot tea when it was cold on the street.

Then, on 31st of December, we went to the Dresden Filharmonie to the classic music concert called ¡España! We enjoyed passionate and energetic

music of Spanish composers like Manuel de Falla, Joaquín Turinas and Joaquín Rodrigo. At the end we were participating in the concert, clapping as instructed by the conductor under the Radetsky March of Johann Strauss. On the New Year Eve, we invited friends for the meal and said goodbye to the Old Year. Around

23.30 we went to the bridge Augustusbrücke to see fireworks. There were many people on the bridge, we were celebrating each other, and everyone was very happy. This warm atmosphere still remains with us.

Elvira Khairullina
Early Stage Researcher



Christmas market on Altmarkt | Photo by Elvira Khairullina



Firework on the bridge | Photo by Elvira Khairullina



Dresden Kulturpalast concert | Photo by Elvira Khairullina

Czech-Polish Christmas Dinner in Prague



The five ESRs during one of their weekly colloquiums in Prague | Photo credit Azmah Arzmi

A third of the urbanHIST Early Stage Researchers, Azmah Arzmi, Adam Górka, Ondřej Jirásek, Agnès Dudych and Susanna Weddige were stationed at the APO, Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague from October to December 2018. Besides having weekly colloquiums in cafes, attending conferences and visiting museums, Christmas markets and of course researching, we decided to have our very own Christmas celebration as our families and partners were also there with us. On the 14th of December 2018 we had Christmas dinner at Ondřej's flat. Ondřej and Adam's wives did most of the cooking and preparations while Agnès baked the dessert. The rest of us helped to babysit the children and finish the leftovers. For starters there were Polish specialties, such as *barszcz z uszkami*, *zurek* and the best *mushroom pierogi* we ever tasted. As for the main course we had Czech specialties.

Although it was a Czech tradition to serve carp for Christmas, Ondřej and his wife served *chicken řízek with potato salad*, which is also typically Czech but influenced by the Austrian cuisine. Finally, we each had a slice of Agnès' delicious lemon meringue cake. Of course, it was not easy to eat altogether and have long conversations when there are little children under the age of seven playing and refusing to sit still. After we dined and had fine wine, we exchanged Christmas presents and watch the children get excited over their new toys. That was our last gathering before we split up for the Christmas holidays, and for some of us it was a nice end to our last secondment before we return to our home universities after a hectic year of travelling.

Azmah Arzmi
Early Stage Researcher



Barszcz z uszkami, a type of Polish tortellini with beetroot soup | Photo by Azmah Arzmi



The best mushroom pierogi I ever tasted with a sprinkling of fried onions | Photo by Azmah Arzmi



Chicken řízek (schnitzel) with potato salad | Photo by Azmah Arzmi



Agnès Dudych's delicious lemon meringue cake | Photo by Azmah Arzmi

Driving Home for Christmas

Driving home for Christmas – what a beautiful idea! But... where is home?

We left our urbanHIST-dictated home in Sweden (which has become our home by now) for our home country Germany (which still feels like home in many aspects). Our children enjoyed the merry-go-rounds at the Christmas market in Erfurt, but to be honest the whole time in Germany felt like a kind of merrily going around!

Quiz question: how many loved places, friends and members of our families can be visited in just two weeks? A lot more than you think!

Back to the Christmas markets in Germany, for me definitely the place NOT to be at. Crowded with too many people getting drunk on cheap but expensively sold mulled wine... You get the point. But since we drove home for Christmas... It was the first place to go after our arrival in Erfurt and we had it all: merry-go-rounds, sweeeeet roasted nuts, strawberries covered in pink chocolate (or whatever it was), spun sugar... And it was the first time in the life of my three-year-old boy that he rejected something sweet offered to him – what a surprise that even he can get enough!

Speaking of traditions, the most popular game in German-speaking countries "Mensch ärgere Dich nicht" had to be played! Usually it is a competition between my six-year-old boy and his great-grandfather, but we got the permission to join in. Playing board games with four generations is great fun, especially when the audience is much more annoyed by the rules than the players themselves.

The best? Driving home after Christmas – filled with new memories and good food and long conversations and gratitude.

Susanna Weddige
Early Stage Researcher



Board Games | Photo by Susanna Weddige



Christmas Market Erfurt | Photo by Susanna Weddige



Christmas Market Erfurt | Photo by Susanna Weddige



Christmas Market Erfurt | Photo by Susanna Weddige

Czech Christmas Eve in Opava

Besides the Christmas dinner with other ESRs and their families before leaving Prague, we celebrated Christmas in a close family circle with my wife and son in our apartment in Opava. Even though we all were sick during the whole Christmas holiday, we enjoyed the Christmas Eve, mainly thanks to Erik's joy from gifts. During the traditional Christmas dinner consisting of pea soup, fried carp and potato salad, we were listening to Czech Christmas

Carols. Under the plate, each of us found a carp scale, which, if it is worn in the wallet during the following year, attracts money by its magical power. After the dinner, we poured molten lead into water. From the resulting shape, we were guessing what awaits us in the following year. After Erik had seen the first star in the sky, the bell rang and signaled that Baby Jesus was already here and left gifts for children under the Christmas tree. Afterwards,

everything was about distribution, unpacking, admiring and testing of the gifts. The most popular gift for the whole family was the train track kit, which we were trying to put together

for the rest of the evening, mainly because Erik tried to help us. Fortunately, after few hours, we finally succeeded and the train could leave the depot. If Erik had not been dragged from the

railway kit, he would be running with the trains there until now.

Ondřej Jirásek
Early Stage Researcher



Christmas Eve family photo | Photo credit Ondřej Jirásek



Lead pouring | Photo credit Ondřej Jirásek



Carp scale with its magical power of attracting money | Photo credit Ondřej Jirásek



The best gift – a railway kit | Photo credit Ondřej Jirásek

The Tradition of "12 Dishes"

Regardless wherever we are, it is good not to forget about small and essential traditions. There are various reasons to keep traditions or not. As for me, Christmas does not bring only warm moments and presents, it helps to maintain a memorable relationship and customs from older generations and my ancestors. My home country – Belarus has two official days of Christmas at the national level. The first is according to the Gregorian calendar on the 25th December, while another one is on

the 7th January according to the Julian calendar. Belarusians usually refer to the first one as catholic and the second one orthodox. My family celebrates both, as some relatives are orthodox, while others are catholic. The most essential is the late dinner on Christmas Eve, when all who celebrate this Christian holiday, do not eat anything during the evening before the first star appears in the sky. Only then, it is allowed to sit at the Christmas table, which should have exactly 12 dishes. The 12 dishes sym-

bolize the apostles of Christ. In addition, all dishes should be lean as the Christmas fast still continues. One of the most common is "kutya" that is usually from wheat grains, barley or rice. Traditionally, Christmas is considered a family holiday, and a family dinner is one of the most important parts not only for my family but wider in Belarus and also around the world for many Christians.

Aliaksandr Shuba
Early Stage Researcher

Christmas Scenes in Valladolid

By María A. Castrillo Romón



Calle Platerias | Photo by María A. Castrillo



Roscones: Typical Christmas sweet in Spain for the Day of Wise kings, 6 January | Photo by María A. Castrillo



Plaza Mayor | Photo by María A. Castrillo



Team UVa | Photo credit UVa



Portal | Photo by María A. Castrillo



Castañas (Chestnut): Typical autumn-winter fruit | Photo by María A. Castrillo



Bola | Photo by María A. Castrillo

Typical Cavalcade of the Three Wise Kings in Avila

By Marina Jiménez



Typical cavalcade of the three wise kings (here King Baltasar) in Avila | Photo by Marina Jiménez



Typical cavalcade of the three wise kings (here King Baltasar) in Avila | Photo by Marina Jiménez

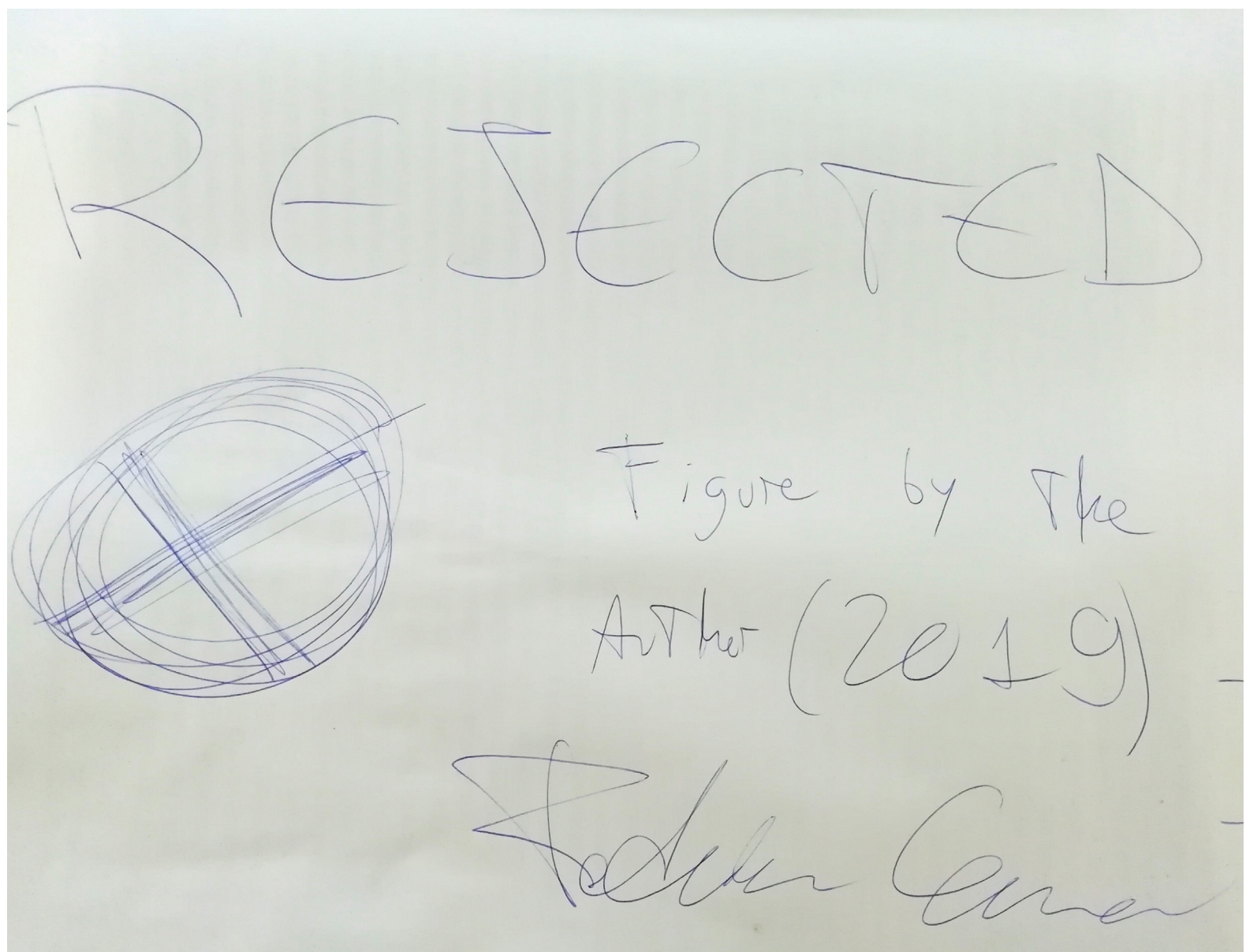
Rejected Present for Christmas

A part of our job consists of writing and publishing a paper in high-ranked international journals with a high impact factor. Well, I was able to publish in one of them during last year: it gave me a lot of work and a revision to make. So I took courage and I wrote another paper, just using my summer holidays dedicated to it. So I kept working instead of going to a really beautiful island to enjoy the time I've just deserved after this almost year and a half of urbanHIST.

I put myself in a deep reflection on a theme and a city I really like, or maybe I had been falling in love with due to my past experience, which in fact I consider a sort of second home. I tried to be original, as regards the methodology and the theoretical framework. Then, in strict relation to them, I put into the paper a wide range of questions and ideas to materialize the paper. Well, this second part of the paper I'm very proud of, it has been evaluated well: however, it is sure that there are some mistakes. The whole paper consists of just less than 10.000 words.

But what really disappointed me was the considerations of one of the referees, who told me that "The paper does not always substantiate important statements", lacks references of some phrases, but these phrases have been elaborated by myself. Moreover, I used some concepts without referring to some literature to support them, concepts that a reader of a high-standard international journal has to know. Without any references I want it to say that if some researcher in urban studies writes the name of a concept, they have to know what it means, also because it is strictly related to the text of the paper and I have the right not to quote every word I use.

So the morning of the 24th December I received as the only Christmas gift an e-mail with the rejection of the



Source of the image: Federico Camerin

paper in this really famous journal only for something that I would say is original, well referred (I cited almost 70 references). Is it for glory? Was it worth losing my summer holidays working on it? In Italian, I would take a phrase of the Italian poet Alessandro

Manzoni: "*Fu vera gloria? Ai posteri l'ardua sentenza*" that means "Was this, glory just and true? Sentence waits posterity.". Well, I won't explain who Alessandro Manzoni is neither what "The Fifth of May" represents, as a researcher can absolutely google it.

May you also tell me if I cited it well or not: to me, it absolutely doesn't matter.

References
Alessandro Manzoni (1822), *Il cinque maggio*. Text available in English ver-

sion at: <https://konicki.com/blog2/2009/11/12/november-12-the-fifth-of-may-a-napoleonic-ode-by-alessandro-manzoni/>

Federico Camerin
Early Stage Researcher

Holiday Break in Poland

Greetings from Poland and happy new year urbanHIST! As a part of my holiday break, I was really just looking forward to coming back and spending time in the country and with the people I call home. Our Christmas holiday was very cozy but extraordinary time in the family. The preparations for this special day started last summer actually, when

Magda and I prepared our own apple cider, and 6 months later when Christmas time arrived, it was time to open the bottles!

Our Wigilia started when the first star appeared in the sky. The most important moment of the Christmas supper is the sharing of the Oplatek, when everyone wishes their best for

the year to come and shows gratitude for having that person in their lives. It is also a tradition to have dinner made out of 12 dishes and when the table is set, one chair remains empty in case of an unexpected guest. Barszcz, piernik, makielki, carp, and herring are common dishes to have while singing Christmas carols that eve. Neverthe-

less, as I am a bit of a cook, I managed to squeeze some latin flavor and prepared a non-very traditional Ceviche for the dinner.

On the other hand, New Year's Eve was more of a party time. I went with Magda to spend some time with friends in Kłodzko, a little town in the mountains close to the Czech Repu-

blic. Curiously enough, the house belongs to one of our friends' family that is known for breeding Schnauzer dogs. It was an enjoyable and entertaining night filled with friends, vodka, fireworks, and more than 30 dogs.

Marcelo Sagot Better
Early Stage Researcher



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better



Photo by Marcelo Sagot Better

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

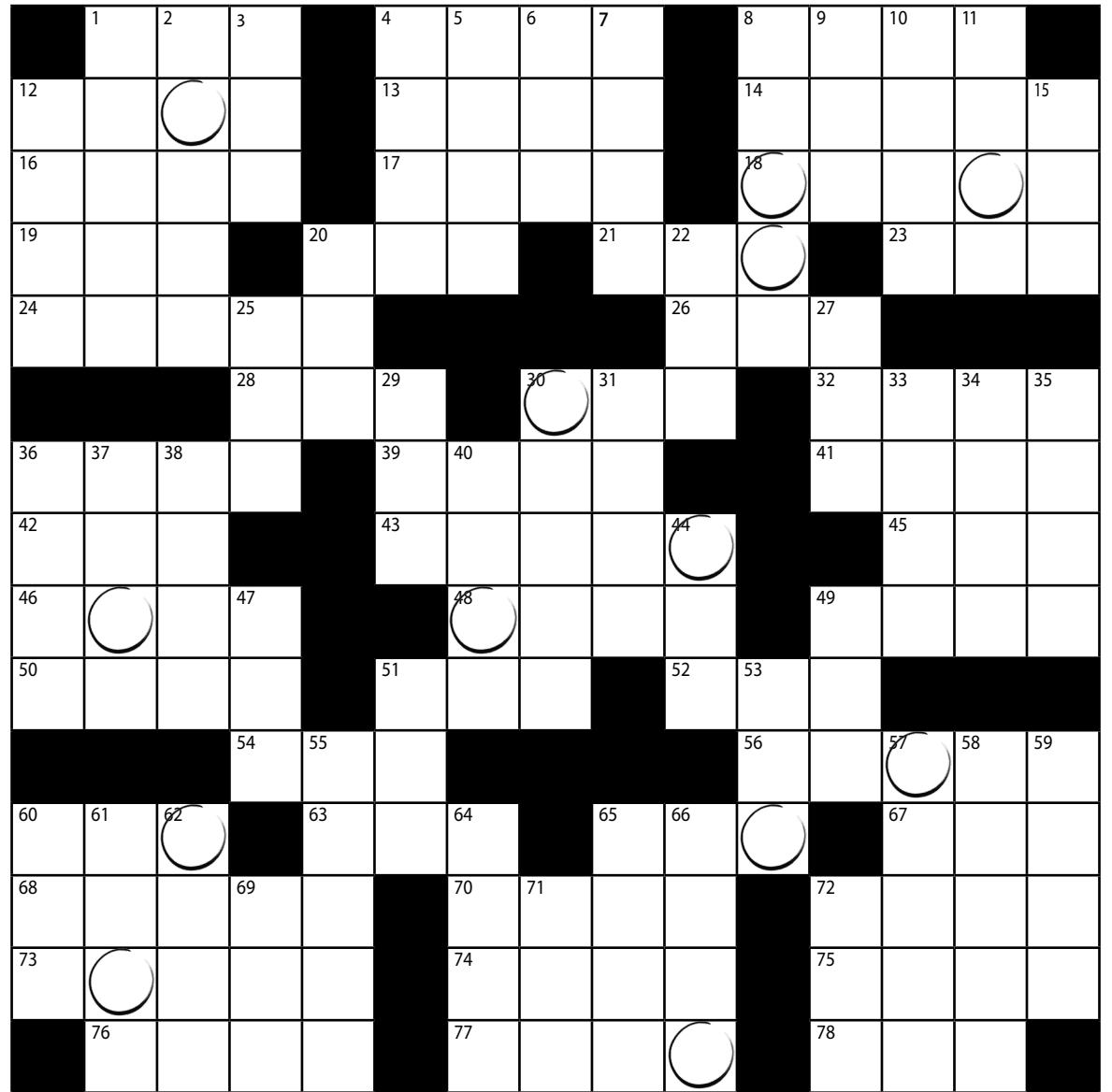
When this crossword is completed, the circled letters (read in order from left to right), will reveal the title of the favorite Christmas song.

ACROSS

- 1 Declare (3)
- 4 Damon of "Good Will Hunting" (4)
- 8 A child's bed with enclosed sides (4)
- 12 Post-Christmas event, Store's attraction (4)
- 13 On sheltered side (4)
- 14 Sci-fi droid (5)
- 16 Rainbow goddess (4)
- 17 Olympic prize (4)
- 18 Simple-living folk (5)
- 19 Born (female) (3)
- 20 Cake (4)
- 21 Stop standing (3)
- 23 Withdrawn (3)
- 24 Style of art/literature (5)
- 26 A vegetable, briefly (3)
- 28 Holiday ____ (3)
- 30 Shy; modest (3)
- 32 The "m" of Einstein's equation (4)
- 36 Snow vehicle (4)
- 39 Persia, now (4)
- 41 Ballerina's skirt (4)
- 42 Record (3)
- 43 Christmas fruity drink (5)
- 45 Popular sushi fish (3)
- 46 Spoken or verbal (4)
- 48 Notion or concept (4)
- 49 Harbour (4)
- 50 Water in a whirl (4)
- 51 Some; No matter which (3)
- 52 Delight (3)
- 54 Salad ingredient; It may be beaten (3)
- 56 Rush (5)
- 60 Legendary Giant (3)
- 63 Fat pig (3)
- 65 Pork product (3)
- 67 Saddler's tool (3)
- 68 Shot, picture (5)
- 70 Knowing, as a secret (4)
- 72 An energy source for engines, power plants (4)
- 73 Ascetic holy man in Hinduism (5)
- 74 Sensed (4)
- 75 Summer coolers (4)

DOWN

- 1 A garment worn by Hindu women (5)
- 2 Little green man (5)
- 3 "I agree" (3)
- 4 The wise men, generally assumed to be three in number, who paid homage to the infant Jesus. (4)
- 5 African flower; Cosmetic additive (4)
- 6 ____ Aviv (3)
- 7 Williams and Kennedy (4)
- 8 Box; Bottle-carrier (5)
- 9 CD follower (3)
- 10 Wading bird in ancient Egyptian art (4)
- 11 Claptrap; Foolish talk (4)
- 12 Make melodious sounds (4)
- 15 Lord's Prayer pronoun (3)
- 20 Writing tool (3)
- 22 Clinging plant (3)
- 25 Clear (of) (3)
- 27 Greenwich Mean Time (3)
- 29 Bite (3)
- 30 Any of a variety of confections made with sugar, syrup, often combined with chocolate, fruit, nuts, etc. (5)
- 31 A single time (4)
- 33 Not manual (4)
- 34 Asterisk (4)
- 35 A set of men's garments, consisting of trousers, a jacket, and sometimes a vest (4)
- 36 Small, sour, blackish fruit (4)
- 37 God Almighty (4)
- 38 "Wow!"; "Goodness!" (4)
- 40 The remains of a building, city, that has been destroyed or that is in disrepair or a state of decay (4)
- 44 Leon Uris novel "The ____" (3)
- 47 Alkaline solution, Heavy-duty cleaner (3)
- 49 Myanmar monetary unit (3)
- 51 Back in time (3)
- 53 Electrical unit (3)
- 55 Evil spirit or phantom (5)
- 57 Spaghetti accompaniment (5)
- 58 Heavy cloth; Scottish export (5)
- 59 Extensions to buildings at right angles (4)
- 60 The ancient Roman goddess of plenty, and the wife of Saturn and mother of Jupiter, identified with the Greek goddess Rhea (3)
- 61 Comparative adjective (4)
- 62 Heading on a chore list (4)
- 64 Christmas present (4)
- 65 Saint (4)
- 66 Social insects living in organized colonies (4)
- 69 Not just a (3)
- 71 Sci-fi character who takes the red pill rather than the blue one (3)
- 72 Christmas tree (3)



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



When this puzzle is completed, the remaining letters (read in order from left to right), will reveal the quote by Marjorie Holmes.

USED WORDS

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Area | Panel |
| Bauhaus | Panorama |
| Builder | Rural |
| Culture | Science |
| Decade | Search |
| Designer | Theory |
| Epoch | Tower |
| Europe | Town |
| Founder | Tradition |
| Functional | Train |
| Landscape | Urbanism |
| Level | War |
| Modern | |

Solutions for Puzzles and Sudoku will be published in the next 9th issue of the urbanHIST Newsletter (April 2019). Credit: Editorial team.

SUDOKU

