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Two American Revolutions

By Dr. Jim Haas

The new year brings the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the beginning of a successful political revolt against British rule. There was also a socio-economic revolution aiming to change the status of persons, change the economy including the ownership of land, and alter the role of organized religions. This revolution was only partially successful and will be the subject of a future column.

The political revolt and the war that made it succeed is well known to those who remember their U.S. history classes. In early 1776, the Continental Congress created a Continental Army and appointed George Washington commander in chief. In March, the army drove the British out of Boston, and in June, the Congress authorized Thomas Jefferson, advised by Ben Franklin and others, to write what became the Declaration of Independence. Congress deleted Jefferson's condemnation of slavery and made a few minor changes then adopted the Declaration on July 4. It was printed and distributed in the 13 former colonies—now states—with a copy to King George III.

The war dragged on until 1781 with each side having victories and defeats. The British chased Washington out of New York City and New Jersey in late 1776, but on Christmas night, Washington led his forces across the Delaware River and, in a surprise attack, took Trenton, N.J., killing or capturing its entire garrison. The victory encouraged patriots to join Washington's army. (Pictured is the river crossing as depicted in Emanuel Leutze's 1851 oil-on-canvas painting now in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Born in Germany, Leutze grew up in the U.S. then returned to Germany. He made two huge copies of the painting—12.4 feet by 21.2 feet—to inspire liberal reformers



in Germany. The first was destroyed in a Bremen museum by Allied bombing during World War II.)

In 1777, the patriots defeated and captured an entire British army at Saratoga, New York, which encouraged France to support the U.S. cause against France's traditional enemy. A French fleet sailed to North America, and the Spanish, Dutch, and Swedes backed the U.S. The British, having no allies, found it necessary to defend their more profitable colonies in the Caribbean, India, and the Pacific. The American Revolution became a sideshow in the first global war.

In 1781, Washington trapped a British army in Yorktown, Virginia, and a British fleet sent to rescue them was defeated by the French navy in Chesapeake Bay. General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington, and Britain turned its attention elsewhere. Two years later, the Treaty of Paris ceded to the United States the land north of Florida, south of Canada, and west to the Mississippi.

And what of Native Americans whose land it had long been? Most tribes foresaw

that a newly independent nation would inevitably grow westward taking their land, so they sided with the British or tried to remain neutral. Joseph Brant, of the powerful Mohawk tribe, led 400 warriors and white Loyalists on a rampage through Pennsylvania and central New York killing settlers and burning homes and crops. Washington sent to the area an army that destroyed at least 40 evacuated Iroquois villages. White settlers promptly took the land.

After the war, Washington left public service and returned to his land at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, on the Potomac River. Not a great tactical general but a superb leader of men, Washington's honesty, hard work, and courage made him a national hero. When the Constitution created a presidency in 1789, he was the obvious choice.

For us, an obvious choice is to watch the lively new Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt six-part documentary "The American Revolution" which airs on PBS January 9, 10, and 11. PBS members can stream it on PBS Passport. It's also available as a book.



By Sharon Hoover

Last week I wrote about AI and received some info which I intend to investigate after the holidays. Instead of continuing that conversation, I have enclosed a picture of some of those who attend the daily luncheon at the Turner Community Center during the week. This picture includes me, but I was there only in spirit. You see, one of our very clever members, Nancy Calkins, added me in from one of the photos taken at the Cookie

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Exchange. I fell the day before, did not break anything but bruised my knees, an elbow, the tops of my feet and toes. I plan to be out of this wheelchair and walking before New Year's Eve. So much for that.

I did get some reading done and for once it was not a "who done it". "1929 - Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History and How it Shattered A Nation" by Andrew Ross Sorkin. Sorkin is an award winning journalist for the New York Times and co-anchor of CNBC's Squawk Box morning program. This book was eye opening to say the least. It triggered the Great Depression and devastated many households. The book tells what led to the crash and what followed. But it just isn't about money. It is a story about power, disregarded alarm bells,

financiers who fell from grace and skeptics who saw the crash coming only to be dismissed until it was too late. It tells of the raging battle between Wall Street and Washington and the characters whose ambitions led to disaster, finally resulting in legislation prohibiting such actions. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of our economy. Could it happen again?

Speaking of reading, have you signed up for the KCK Public Library's Winter Reading Program? I already have my tote and notebook. Adults 18 and older can read 24 hours to earn the above gifts. Any reading counts-books, eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels, etc. The program ends February 28, but you have until March 7 while supplies last. Sign up at kckpl.

beanstack.com or pick up a paper log at your nearest library.

Turner Community Library has a couple of activities in the first week of January. On Wednesday, January 7, children can create a Pom Pom Pal – a bear or a frog or using their imagination. From 2pm-3pm at the Turner Community Garden. Registration required. Kckpl.org.

On Friday, January 9, Crafternoon's project is a Manifestation Collage using scissors, illustrated magazines, other materials and glue sticks to create a one of a kind personal creation. Teens and adults at the Windmill KC from noon until 2pm. Registration Required - kckpl.org.

That's it for now. Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.



Stock Market Insights

The Santa Claus Rally: A Seasonal Signal, Not a Strategy

Joe Shearrer, CPFA® is Vice President and Wealth Advisor at Fervent Wealth Management.

Every December, as holiday parties fill the calendar and year-end checklists get shorter, the stock market picks up a familiar storyline: the Santa Claus Rally. You'll hear it

mentioned on financial news channels and in market commentaries, usually with a mix of optimism and skepticism. Some investors swear by it. Others dismiss it as folklore. As with most things in investing, the truth sits somewhere in the middle. So what is the Santa Claus Rally,

and should investors pay attention as we close out 2025?

The Santa Claus Rally refers to a historical tendency for stock prices to rise during a very specific period: the last five trading days of

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Market Insights...

...from page 2

December and the first two trading days of January. This isn't a recent invention. The term dates back to the 1970s, when market historian Yale Hirsch observed that stocks often performed better than average during this short year-end window. Over time, the idea stuck and became part of the market's seasonal vocabulary.

Importantly, the Santa Claus Rally does not mean the market goes up every December, nor does it suggest guaranteed gains. It's simply a pattern that has shown up often enough over many decades to be worth noting.

Looking at long-term market data, the Santa Claus Rally has occurred roughly three out of every four years, with average returns during that seven-day stretch typically around 1% to 1.5%. That may not sound dramatic, but over such a short period, it's mean-

ingfully higher than normal. Of course, history also shows plenty of exceptions.

In years marked by recessions, financial stress, or major uncertainty, Santa has skipped Wall Street altogether. Recent decades have also seen the effect become less consistent as markets have grown more efficient. That's why most professionals view the Santa Claus Rally not as a prediction, but as a sentiment gauge, a way to take the market's emotional temperature as one year ends and another begins.

There's no single explanation, but a few factors tend to show up each year. By late December, much of the selling of losing investments to reduce taxes has run its course. Trading volumes are lighter as many institutional investors step away for the holidays. At the same time, optimism tends to creep in; earnings are largely known, big policy decisions are often on pause, and investors begin looking ahead to the new year. Put together, those conditions can create a modest up-

ward bias. Not always—but often enough to earn the rally its name.

As we head into the final weeks of 2025, the backdrop is familiar: cautious optimism mixed with legitimate uncertainty. Investors are watching interest rates closely, hoping for a more favorable policy environment. Inflation has cooled from its highs, but concerns around valuations, economic growth, and geopolitical risk remain very real.

In other words, this is not an environment where a calendar effect alone will determine market direction. Could we see a Santa Claus Rally this year? Possibly. History suggests the odds lean that way, but whether it shows up or not shouldn't drive major financial decisions.

Seasonal trends like the Santa Claus Rally are interesting, and they make for good headlines. But they are no substitute for a well-thought-out financial plan. Long-term investing success is still built on fundamentals: diversification, appropriate risk,

discipline during volatile periods, and a focus on goals rather than short-term market moves.

If Santa brings a little cheer to the markets this year, that's a bonus. If not, it's a reminder that markets don't move on tradition, they move on expectations, data, and human behavior. Either way, the smartest move is the same one investors should make every season: stay focused on the plan, not the noise.

Have a blessed week!

Joe Shearrer

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is a really good twist on the fun favorite, S'more treats. This is baked in a 9x9" cake pan and then cut into bars. I really enjoyed them and was surprised because I don't like graham crackers, but these were on another level, they're that good. Angelica Navarro's son, Timmy made them as I baked my cookies for our annual Christmas cookie exchange. You must give them a try:

S'MORES COOKIE BARS

Ingredients:	1 lg. Egg
1/2 c Brown sugar	Package of:
1/3 c Sugar	Graham crackers,
1 1/4 c Flour	Large Marshmallows
1/4 t Salt	1 pkg Semisweet
1/2 T Baking soda	Chocolate chips,
Wet ingredients:	2 Milk Chocolate bars
1t Vanilla	Set oven to 360°.
1/2 c Butter, melted	

In a large bowl combine and whisk together all of the dry ingredients. Fold in the chocolate chips. In another bowl whisk the egg, then add the Vanilla and the cooled melted butter. Add the wet ingredients to the dry and stir just until combined. This forms the dough that will be spread onto the cookie bar. Spray the pan with nonstick spray. Line the pan with graham crackers. Top with a layer of the dough. Cover dough with the large marshmallows. Top with the milk chocolate bar. Spread the remaining dough on top, top with another layer marshmallows and milk chocolate bars. Add extra dough on top. Bake at 360° for 12-15 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool for 15 minutes. Then, cut into bars.

Timmy is in Junior high school and he made these delicious bars in no time! You will want to make a second batch to share them during the holidays. Enjoy!

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for a lighting controller at Oak Grove Elementary.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 5, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Concrete Projects throughout the district.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 28, 2026, at 1:00 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ADVERTISEMENT

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for Fence Projects throughout the district.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to crockettc@turnerUSD202.org

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, January 28, 2026, at 1:30 pm. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

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