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Going “HOME” for Christmas with “It’s a Wonderful Life”

Friday, December 25, 2020

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That movie, a staple of holiday viewing was released in 1947, the year I was born



The plot, familiar to all I assume:

“After a run of bad luck, a good man named George Bailey stands on a bridge on Christmas Eve, ready to jump. It’s up to George’s guardian angel Clarence to show the positive impact of George’s life on his loved ones and the entire town of Bedford Falls”

My “hometown” is nothing like Bedford Falls.

As my name suggests - Brooklyn, NY – a town of millions.

Joe and I have no family there anymore except in the cemeteries.

Still there is the feeling of home whenever we have returned for visits.

We would see a show or two, visit museums and run in Central Park (me not Joe). But we also walk all the old neighborhoods, visit the churches of our childhood and even the beaches where we once went by subway.

It has changed in many ways, different types of ethnic foods in the grocery stores, a Cruise Port and ferry service to Manhattan (FREE on the weekends). The churches we attended still have services in Polish and Italian but now have Spanish and Korean as well. The biggest shock! I talked to the new owner of the 3 family house I lived in as a child. It cost \$8,000 in 1956. The new owner paid \$750,000.

We rented a 3 room apartment on the 2nd floor for \$43 a month.

My Dad used to tell me that the place you live isn’t important. “Wherever I hang my hat is home”

Everyplace has something good to offer if you take the time to look for it. I remembered that when Joe & I moved several times to states that I had only seen on my childhood maps.

One last thought about change.

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The local people of the little rural town where I live now tell me how this place has changed with all the newcomers. Some not very happy about it either.

However, like George Bailey, may our lives be a positive change wherever we now call home.

I remember a Christmas album from my childhood – by Perry Como (anyone remember him?)

One song in particular – “I’ll be Home for Christmas”

The lyrics describe what it will be like but ends with

“I’ll be home for Christmas If Only in my Dreams”

Very appropriate for many right now.

Wherever you find yourself today, may your dreams be happy ones.

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=uFfA62s4jdl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFfA62s4jdl)

This is how my hometown looked when “It’s a Wonderful Life” was in the theaters.

Mom looks happy. I think I was cold.



If you ever watched the NYC Marathon, this same location is one of the vantage points of the broadcast
Families still walking with children in carriages. My home is their home now



Special thanks to Sparker SpedEd2.

She sent me a goodie which inspired me to write this blog.

It included this quote.

“No man is a failure who has friends.” ~ It’s a Wonderful Life”

I wish you all a peaceful and love filled holiday this morning.

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TOMATOCAFEGAL

Got to watch Miracle on 34th Street this Christmas. Have yet to see DieHard. We don't have cable
153 days ago



SHAWFAN

Such a lovely way to remember memories of our childhood. Your photos bring it all clearly back to me as well. Although, I grew up in Iowa. Nearly impossible for us to go home for Christmas although both of our mothers are still there as is my brother and two of Philip's brothers. A few cousins too but they don't really count.

As for "It's a Wonderful Life," I really wanted to watch that over Christmas. My husband has issues with Christmas. I think it's because we are now empty nesters. I'm hoping to be able to watch it



once he goes back to work next week.
156 days ago



IMNOTSTOPPIN

Wonderful, wonderful story! Keep writing your blogs. Lived all my life basically within a 20 mile radius. Many fond memories were created in my childhood especially around Christmastime. Now recently moving to a new county, semi rural is great and I hope there will be many memories to be had by my grandchildren.

Your story certainly can take us down memory lane!



Blessings!
160 days ago



YELLOW09RED

Hi Eileen,
This is an awesome blog. Thank you for sharing your home town memories.
Merry Christmas to you and Joe.

Hugs and smiles



160 days ago



BESSHAILE

Thank you for taking me home for Christmas.
160 days ago



HEALTHYANDFIT27

Well Said!
Love your blog!

Happy New Year!
161 days ago



Comment edited on: 12/28/2020 8:52:22 AM



SPARKLINGME176

Love the movie! I grew up around the area they filmed it. In the summertime! (Encino, CA)



12-27-2020 Yes! Perry is wonderful. My favorite Christmas album is PEGGY LEE's Christmas Carousel. (Remember her?) Our family made marionettes for our shows & used that music. VERY special Christmas memories. I still use the same marionettes (1967+) & her music in my shows. (At least until the pandemic, no performances, right now. I am a 'live' performer. Don't like it on video.) Finding joy & sharing it with everyone, is the way to go for me! Hope your



holiday's are blessed!
161 days ago



THOMS1

Yup, home is where you hang your hat!! So very true. I have lived in this area for the last 53 years so it is home to me and my family. But, when I go back to my hometown that's home too especially the cemetery where my parents and relatives from both sides are. There is no one living in that town that is a relative to me anymore but, I remember the streets, schools, church and the street where we used to live oh so many years ago and that just seems like home when I visit there. Anyway, I wish all of my spark friends a very Happy New Years and I hope 2021 is a much



more normal year whatever that means.
161 days ago



RACHNACH



162 days ago



WARRIORSUE518



I'm a Bensonhurst girl living on Long Island now.... nothing like those Brooklyn memories. Forever etched in my mind and heart.
162 days ago



AKA_TROUBLE



162 days ago



RUTHIEBEAR



Thank you for this "wonderful" blog. It is heartfelt and touching.
162 days ago



SWEETNEEY



lovely blog. The only thing certain in life is change.
162 days ago



ISNESS



Wonderful life hmm I wouldn't change it. I lost parents early. What my mother thought the nurturing care was - I think not. Had to flee my country to seek happiness. It's not a feeling; it's a journey one takes, I think. I'm alone, it's okay.
162 days ago



NANANANA



I remember Perry Como very well. The first time I remember hearing "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was on a King Family special. (Anyone remember the King Sisters?) One of them was singing for her son in the service. He wasn't supposed to be home but he came on stage as she finished the song.

Our moves have taken us from California to Virginia and Minnesota to Texas. Talking to strangers helps me cope. Bringing acquaintances into our home to share a meal also helps. No longer do I wait for the local resident to invite me. I make the first move.
162 days ago



SCDALYNCH



Friends are many times there for you when family is too busy with something else.

A friend that lives alone came with her little dog to have dinner today. She couldn't come on Christmas so we waited dinner until today. The snow is close to 8 inches where she lives. It made our day to share time with our friend.

Friends are sometimes closer than family!



162 days ago



JANROLG



162 days ago



LINDA!



I like your photos - especially the one with your mother. As we grow older, we treasure these

photos and memories. Wonderful blog.
162 days ago



AZMOMXTWO



awesome blog I am so glad that I agree that home is where I put my hat as they say
162 days ago



HEALTHYGRAMMY13



Great blog. Yes, I love that song by Perry Como and this year it really seemed appropriate. When I closed my eyes as it played on the radio, I was taken back in time for Christmas. Such wonderful memories that no one can take away from us.

162 days ago



GETULLY



What a great story! I have lived several places/states some of short periods of time (1-2 years) to others (7 years) before moving back to my home state. Everyone is wary of change and small towns seem to be more fragile with that thinking.

163 days ago



MSMOSTIMPROVED



I love your blogs. This pic of you and your mom is too cute. She had you bundled up so good there is no way you were cold. Maybe you were mad you couldn't run. I hope you enjoyed your holiday!



163 days ago



ETHELMERZ



I just listened to the Perry Como Christmas album, but it's a CD now, the LP one was lost in a flood. Also enjoy Christmas CD's of Andy Williams and Dean Martin, Mitch Miller from when he had the tv show every Thursday night at 10:00PM. Watched with my parents.

Memories, thankful for them. We immigrated from war torn Berlin. So happy to get here. Unfortunately, some of those Berlin memories are happening HERE, for Pete's sake! Ridiculous!

163 days ago



MORAVIANSTAR



I remember my dad saying that "Wherever I hang my hat is home"! Thank you for the reminder. There are so many wonderful old Christmas movies. We took our children to see "It's a Wonderful Life" at a "Free Flick" movie in Chapel Hill when my husband was in school and our young son (about 5, I expect) wanted to know if we could stay and see it again. Feel like I need that reminder from time to time - all our lives reach out in untold ways to others and we are often completely unaware of it.

163 days ago



OVERWORKEDJANET



Thanks, I watch the movie every year!

My Dad was born in 1922 in Pittsburgh and although the movie is set when he was too young, I imagine him living in those times. He WAS George Bailey in my eyes. Selfless, with faults. It cheers me and give me tears at the same time, every year!

Also, I say as is quoted many other places...Home is where your heart is.



163 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



merry Christmas

163 days ago



OSONIYE



Lots of insight here! Thanks for sharing.

We had a Perry Como Christmas album too, I loved it!

163 days ago



HAYBURNER1969



Another wonderful blog and trip down memory lane. Grandma looks so pretty in this picture.

163 days ago



THINCPL2004



Thank you for the wonderful trip down memory lane! And I hope you had a great Christmas



163 days ago

HOLLYM48



Merry Christmas to you and yours! I hope your day was filled with happy memories and happiness in the moment. I really hope to gather with family next year and have a big crazy Christmas once again. Until then, be safe, be happy, be loved!



163 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL



163 days ago

v



KITTYHAWK1949



163 days ago

v



UPTOIT59

I don't know but the old Christmas movies are the best. Give me them over Hallmark stuff.



163 days ago

v



CHERYLHURT

Merry Christmas

163 days ago

v



RHOOK20047

Thanks for your trip down memory lane of Christmas favorite movies - It's a wonderful life is one of my favorites. Probably has more meaning to folks this year with the pandemic and all the depression going around. I have been to some of my old neighborhoods and many places don't exist any more but my childhood parish church still stand tall in South St. Louis, and I feel so good every time and I drop in and visit.

163 days ago

v



MSLZZY

Merry Christmas. We have lived in this house for 40 years and our 2 daughters scarcely remember the house we lived in before as they were very young when we moved. Both our first house and the second house were destroyed by a tornado 5 years ago so we cannot go back except in memories and old pictures. Sorry I missed seeing that movie again.

163 days ago

v



NASFKAB

Great post. I have lived in this city where i was born for most of my 78 years. It has changed so much in these years, I have lived all over the world too. But home is Dhaka, one of the most polluted cities in the world but most of my memories are here.

163 days ago

v



PLCHAPPELL

Sweet blog - I live in a semi rural area on the coastal side of the same state.

163 days ago

v



QUARTERMASTER3



163 days ago

v



POLSKARENIA

Lovely blog and one of my fav films of all time!

163 days ago

v



LIS193

Merry Christmas



163 days ago

v

v

**MARYJEANSL**

Merry Christmas! For me, more than usual, this day is one of many memories, some of them happy, more of them bittersweet. The Christmas I want is also only in my dreams.

163 days ago

**GORDON66**

I do remember Perry Como. My father was a fan, and he had a couple of records. One of them was Mama Loves Mambo, but I have heard Perry singing Christmas songs. He had a variety show too and was mellow kind of guy.

I've lived in the same town for over 60 years. A lot has changed, but there are still many constants. It's my home, and home is where the heart is. Take care and be safe.

Leslie

XXXXXXXX

X

163 days ago

**RAZZOOZLE**

Merry Christmas!



163 days ago

**DOVESEYES**

Wonderful thanks :)

163 days ago

**BJAEGER307**

 Merry Christmas 

163 days ago

**ALEXSGIRL1**

merry christmas

163 days ago

**LSANDY7**

I love your message. I grew up in a small town (Southbury, CT) about 60 years ago. Everyone knew everyone. A much simpler time.

163 days ago

**MORTICIAADDAMS**

Merry Christmas!!

163 days ago

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