

# THE STATE OF THE ESTATE

January 2019



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## How Santas are made!

Have you ever wondered how Santas are made? Jane and I got a behind the scenes peek into a “Santa factory” when we volunteered for the City of Murrieta’s “Santa Runs.”

If you’ve ever spent time in Murrieta, California, you may have noticed large white stars painted in the middle of streets throughout the city. Turns out, these are “Santa Stops.” Every December, sleighs travel to these stars. They make a stop and kids can see Santa.

Jane and I arrived for our volunteer shift and were directed to the Santa Factory. This turned out to be a trailer where a city parks employee was helping several men into Santa suits. They were fitted with boots, gloves, wigs, and beards as well as the usual big red fluffy suit. Additional volunteers put on reindeer costumes. Then all the volunteers headed out to big yellow school buses, where we all traveled to the sleigh staging area (an ordinary Carl’s Jr parking lot.)

Each sleigh was loaded up with a Santa, a Mrs Claus (to help make sure his outfit stayed in place), a reindeer, high school choir students, and volunteers. Then the sleighs took off, and Jane and I were glad we wore gloves. It gets COLD aboard a sleigh. Santa had to crouch down low so his beard didn’t fly off. Each sleigh had a police escort, and as we neared the star, they turned on the sirens.

As soon as the sirens started, people came running out of their houses. It was very exciting flying along in a sleigh with Christmas music blasting plus the sirens, watching people come running down the street. Some kids were on scooters or bikes. People brought babies and dogs. Some adults had cups of cocoa or coffee. Kids were in match pajamas or holiday clothes. A few people were barefoot and looked confused because they were new to the neighborhood and didn’t know they happened to live near a star.

At each stop, the choir sang while Santa met kids. Volunteers handed out candy canes, and Jane and I got to help with one of the best parts of this local tradition: the people coming to meet Santa at the star brought canned food and toys for the needy which were loaded onto our “chase car.” In between each stop, we laughed, shivered, and shared cookies. It was the most fun I’ve had volunteering in years and this will be a December tradition for us from now on. Next year I’m bringing a warm hat, and definitely arriving early enough to see the Santa Factory.



Juliet's Corner

# Slow Cooker Turkey Quinoa Chili with Sweet Potatoes and Black Beans Recipe:

<https://www.wellplated.com/slow-cooker-turkey-quinoa-chili/>

## Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 pound lean ground turkey
- 1 large yellow onion — chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons chipotle chili pepper
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 3 small sweet potatoes — (or 2 large) peeled and diced (about 1 pound)
- 1 cup uncooked quinoa
- 1 can crushed tomatoes — (28 ounces)
- 1 can black beans — (15 ounces) rinsed and drained
- 1 can beer — (12 ounces) I used an IPA; any dark or amber beer would be great too! or substitute additional low-sodium chicken stock
- 2-3 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- For serving: cilantro — avocado, shredded cheese, tortilla chips, and sour cream or plain Greek yogurt



## Directions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium high. Add the turkey, onion, salt, garlic powder, and black pepper. Cook and stir, breaking up the turkey as you go, until the turkey is no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Stir in the chili powder, chipotle chili powder, and cumin, then transfer to the bottom a large slow cooker.
2. To the slow cooker, add the chopped sweet potatoes, quinoa, beer, 2 cups chicken stock, crushed tomatoes, and black beans. Cover and cook on high for 3-4 hours or low for 5-6 hours, until the potatoes are tender. Stir in additional chicken stock if the chili is thicker than you would like (I added about 1/2 cup extra). Serve warm with desired toppings.

## RECIPE NOTES

- Leftover slow cooker turkey quinoa chili can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days or frozen for up to three months.
- If you are doubling this recipe it WILL NOT FIT in a 6-quart slow cooker.

**The Grossman Law Firm, APC has an annual dinner with the staff to celebrate another year of success and hard work. Each year we enjoy working together and it is always nice when we take just a moment and share a meal that is just to appreciate what we have accomplished for the year.**



# ***FAMILY BIRTHDAY CRAFT***

<http://christineyscrafts.blogspot.com/2012/01/family-birthday-chart.html>

1. Cut a piece of wood about 24" long and then used the router to make the edges purdy.
2. Then, spray painted the wood. You can modge podged some patterned scrapbook paper on to it to make it fancy.
3. They used the Silhouette to cut out the vinyl. The font is called Teeny Boppin NF.
4. They got the little circles from our local craft store. They think they are 1 3/4" size. Garrett drilled holes (1/16" drill bit) in the top and bottom of each circle. Those dang things break easy though so be careful! Also drill the holes before you paint them because they break so much!

\*They now buy my circles online and they don't break because they are thicker. I get the 2" size which is 1/4" thick

1. Also drill some holes in the plaque to hang the circles from. You can get the little eye hooks from Home Depot to hang them all together with.
2. You can color code the circles by families. Then just write their names on the circles and the # of the day in the month their birthday is on. Hang in numerical order.

Here are the screw eyes to connect my circles:

<http://www.craftparts.com/silver-screw-eye-p-2476.html>

You can also find them at Home Depot and they are size number #216

Here are the circles to use for the Birthday Chart:

<http://www.craftparts.com/wood-circle-disc-p-1870.html>

Here are the sawtooth hangers to use for the back of the board:

<http://www.craftparts.com/178-sawtooth-hangers-p-2300.html>

You can get paints from Home Depot in the little tester sizes.



## **ESTATE ACCOUNTS:**

After you have obtained your EIN, you will need to open a bank account in the name of the Estate. You may choose any bank that you would like.

After the account is open, all money from assets sold or payments received from either closing decedents bank accounts or brokerage account in the estate MUST go into the Estate Account.

There can be NO distributions of any kind to any beneficiaries or heirs for any reason without a court order. Typically, all distributions occur at the end of probate.

Funds from the estate account can only be used for purposes of paying bills in the estate such as: Mortgage, utilities, repairs, maintenance, storage of tangible property, income taxes, and tax preparation. In the event that some other form or payments need to be made and you are unsure if you can use estate funds, please call our office to confirm.

As a reminder, estate funds CANNOT be used for personal expenses such as gas, food, or any other personal expenses.

**Learn More on Our Website!**

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From All of Us At

Happy  
**New  
Year**  
2019

Happy New Year!

This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*This year, instead of making that same old New Year's resolution of losing those ten pounds or going to the health club three times a week, resolve to give your home a New Year's face lift!*

*These design tips should serve you well as you move towards an updated, fresh new look for your home*



- *Start a file of magazine pictures of rooms that you like. Even if you can't exactly pinpoint why you find a room setting so appealing, by reviewing your file, your decorator will be able to quickly understand the feel that you want for your home.*
- *Involve your professional decorator at the very beginning of your project. Doing so will help you avoid the costly mistakes that many homeowners make. The most successful decorating projects are those where the decorator and homeowner are very candid with each other regarding tastes, priorities, budget, timing and goals.*
- *Your first goal should be to design your home to suit the way you and your family actually live. Analyze all the rooms of your home – are some underutilized and some just exhausted from use? Maybe it's time to relocate some activity centers and redirect some traffic patterns.*
- *Be realistic when determining the amount, you plan to invest in the project. If you haven't redecorated in several years, you may need to acquaint yourself with today's pricing to determine your budget range.*