



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2023



Hello Ladies,

Happy New Year to you all!!!!

I hope you are all having a dry and warm January.

We are in Myrtle Beach for our Mid-Year meeting and we are working hard for the good of the organization.

Shine off your boots and dust off your hat for a wonderful Convention in Nashville, TN from July 31st - Aug 4th 2023!

Keep an eye out for your first Convention chatter with more information to follow.

Stacy Anders

National President 2021—2023



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Pre Mid Year



Sister Bonding

Dedicated appointed committee chairs came in early on their own expense to bond, learn and share ideas. Pictured left to right, Doreen Bergggren—National BD President, Brenda Bingham—Conflict Resolution, Charilyn Damigo—By-Laws Chair and Denise Guerra—Mentor Chair

NEB

Meeting 2023



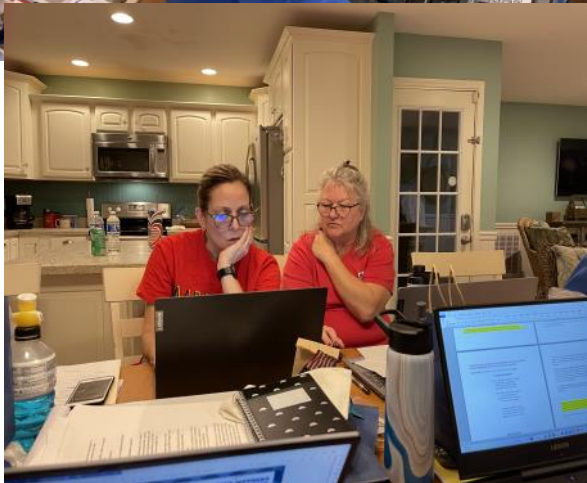
Visit with SC 8 and NC 16



Dinner Guest

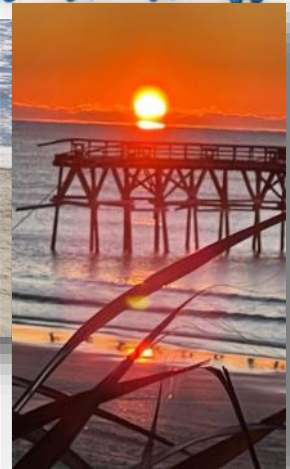


National Executive Board Burning the Midnight Oil



Love from Stacy, Rebecca, Karen,
Cheree, Brenda, Marisol, Sonya,
Alethea, Jackie, Karla, Lynn,
Anne and Pat

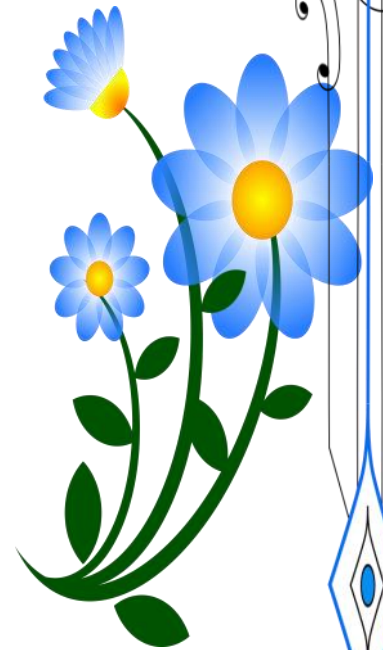
Mid Year Group



NEB Meeting 2023



Blue Daisy



Nan Hays OH 22

Nancy Elizabeth Shumway Hays, age 69, of Marysville, died unexpectedly Sunday, December 25, 2022 at her home. She was a former associate of Western Electric/ Lucent where she was an office clerk for more than 20 years. She retired from Farmers Insurance in 2018 where she worked as a data processor. A 1971 graduate of Marysville High School, she was president of Heart of Ohio Blue Star Mothers for ten years as well as a founding mother. She was also affiliated with the Union County Military Family Support Group.



Our BSMA Mentor, Carol Sanchez, advised me to contact you regarding our recent loss of a member. Blue Star Mothers Buffalo-Niagara Chapter NY7 experienced the passing of a dear friend and long time BSMA member, Judith Holthoff. Judith passed away on November 25, 2022, following a sudden illness. Judith was one of the founding members who organized Chapter NY7 in 2010. She served as our Financial Secretary, Membership Chair, and VAVS representative for many years. Judith was the proud mother and mother-in-law of Zachary and Meghan, who both serve in the U.S. Air Force. She was also a loving and very attentive grandmother to their twin daughters. Judith will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and BSMA sisters.



February is a time, according to the calendar, to show love and give hugs to those we love.

But, what about those who have no one to show the love or feel the hugs of a loved one.

There are many groups that can fit into that category but we, as Blue Star Moms, can fill the Needs of one specific group. Our Veterans!

How can we feel this need? First, you do need to talk with the VAVS Chief about any plans you have - But here are some possible ideas.

Cards for veterans – you can make them instead of purchasing them and create during your Chapter meeting. Anytime in February they can be delivered.

Ditty Bags – fill with your hygiene items and a perfect gift for those in the domiciliary.

Snack bags. Fill fun bags with snacks but be sure they are sugar free.

We are sure your individual chapters will have amazing ideas, but these are just jump starters.

Your VAVS team is excited to see the photos of how you celebrate our veterans. We would also like to send out our hugs to all our volunteers because it is you who can make the difference in the day of a veterans and feel those hugs.

Happy Valentines Day.





Department of Minnesota

I hope you all enjoyed your Holidays!

Our weather in MN has been living up to its reputation since the last newsletter. A cold, winter wonderland. I love the different seasons here, I just wish winter didn't last for 8 of them!

Along with many across this land, Minnesota was honored to participate in Wreaths Across America December 17th. Due to illness, jobs and the weather few were able to participate this year. Thanks to Mary and Benita we were represented well. Special stop, to lay a wreath and honor Mary's son. It is truly an honor to be on these sacred grounds

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!



TN 7



Wreaths Across America



GRAVES." WE'RE
HERE TO
REMEMBER NOT
THEIR DEATHS,
BUT THEIR LIVES.



. Belinda Owens and Mala Quatman both had their soldiers there as well to be a part of our service.





SPRING CREEK AREA TX18

BLUE STAR MOTHERS



Packing Party

FIND A WAY TO SERVE



"Testimonial"

I just wanted to say thank you. I tried posting on the FB page and was not able to. I am a just a grateful soldier in the US Army. From November 2017 to September 2018 I was deployed to Afghanistan (top left picture). A box was sent to us with these stars, and fun things to make us smile, but a group name was never given. The star in the top right is the one I have carried since that day bc it was a special memory for me. Now i am over seas again. WE GOT ANOTHER BOX AND I SAW THE SAME STARS FROM 2017, but this time it had a group name. Five years later so I wanted to just say THANK YOU AGAIN for so much support and love. Wow time sure flies. MAY YALL HAVE A HAPPY and BLESSED NEW YEAR.

Shane, Army

2017 to 2022



Four Corners Blue Star Mothers

Holiday Care Packaging and Wreath Laying



As invited guests, our chapter attended the Pickle Ball Association game day and meeting. They shared about our mission. We are so very fortunate to live in a community that supports our military, our veterans, our Gold Star and our Blue Star families.



Celebrating and serving at the National Guard Armory Christmas Party!



Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

There were quite a few happenings for NM 6 members in our Valencia County this past month!

Networking produced a win-win-win opportunity when we were connected with the secondhand bookstore *Books on Becker*. The mission of this nonprofit Friends of the Belen Public Library is to support and promote the Belen Public Library and community literacy. The store had a surplus of donated books that they, in turn, donated to NM 6; several members drove to the Veterans Home and presented those books to be enjoyed by the veterans. (Photo BSM dad with Ms. Moore from the bookstore.)

The Army JROTC from one of the local high schools hosted a lively Christmas party for about 50 children from the community. NM 6 folks were on hand to help out in the kitchen, keeping pancakes and nachos and fruit and punch bowls filled. The game and food and gift-filled evening might have been the only celebration many of these children would experience this holiday season. It was fun to share in their excitement.



After a couple covid years off, NM 6 revived the annual Appreciation of our Supporters' Breakfast. Representatives of several organizations who have helped sustain our chapter—through thick and thin—were treated to a delectably delicious bountiful, breakfast buffet of enchiladas and eggs and biscuits and gravy (and birthdays cake) at our local Sopa's Restaurant.

Later, two of the local Army JROTC programs joined us on a float in the 2nd Annual Bosque Farms Christmas parade! The Parade's Grand Marshals were two of our county's Gold Star Mothers and their husbands. Everyone on the float and in the car was warmed up that chilly evening by the welcoming and appreciative crowds.



THEN, we joined our Albuquerque sister BSM chapter to welcome home two families from their trip to Disney World as part of the Snowball Express—dedicated to serving the children of our fallen military heroes. The flight was delayed, but we waited there, along with Santa, to greet them.

We pray for Peace and Joy and kindness to all this Christmas and throughout the New Year. We also look forward to continuing our BSM missions in 2023.





Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16



December 2022

- Christmas parade
- Army Navy football game watch party
- Wreaths Across America at 3 cemeteries
- Gathered donations of shower soap for veterans
- Hosted Quilt of Valor presentation
- December meeting with holiday gift exchange





Cheri, Debbie, Juli & Monique
 Providing Service on Veteran's Day



Alyssa Straightening Up
 the Storage Unit



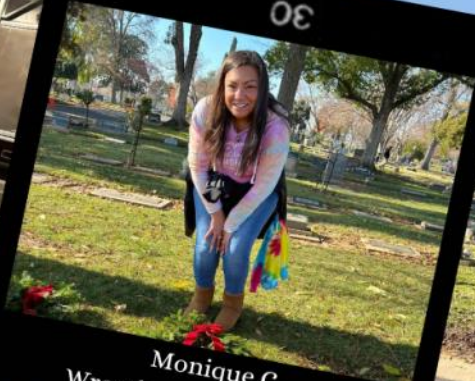
Robin, Debbie, Sandy, Karla
 and Carol Sorting Donations



Carol & Sandy
 Making Raffle Baskets



Robin - Flight Attendant
 On the Snowball Express



Monique C.
 Wreaths Across America



Robin, Juli, Mandy, Monique,
 Debbie B., Debbie K. & Margo



Mandy
 Wreaths Across America

Behind The Scenes



Debbie, Margo, Heidi, Vivienne, Marcela, Ardis,
 Mandy, Juli, Debbie, Wendy, Rebecca, Cindy & Karla

Annual Christmas
 Gathering



Karla, Jodie, Juli & Patty
 Setting Up Care Packages



Cydney & Cheri
 Handing Out Boxes

LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER



December 3, 2022 – Our Blue Star Mothers enjoyed riding in the Christmas parade!



December 7, 2022 – Our Blue Star Mothers and Chapter 1 Mothers attended Baton Rouge's "2nd Annual Lighting Ceremony" to honor Louisiana's fallen service men and women and in remembrance of Pearl Harbor.



December 10, 2022 – Several of our Mothers and grandchildren packed 30 Care Packages and shipped them to our deployed Heroes!



December 12, 2022 – Our Annual Christmas Dinner, we brought socks, t-shirts & undies to donate to Veterans and we had our "Secret Sister Reveal"



December 17, 2022 – Our last and very important ceremony for 2022, "Wreaths Across America" held at Louisiana National Cemetery.



Lone Star Chapter 6 DFW, TX



Care Box Drive



Wreaths Across America



Care Box Packing



Recent Chapter Events:

- 11/05 – Flag distribution in recognition of Veteran’s Day
- 11/11 – Veteran’s Day Fundraiser Events
- 11/12 – Flag pick up from Veteran’s Day recognition
- 12/04 – Care Box Packing
- 12/10 – Chapter Holiday Party
- 12/17 – Wreaths Across America Distribution

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 01/21 – Pick up wreaths
- 01/26 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 01/xx – Care Box Packing (date TBA on Facebook)
- 02/18 – Flag distribution - President’s Day
- 02/23 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 02/25 – Flag pick up - President’s Day

Please follow us on Facebook!

Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter 6- DFW,Tx

Veteran’s Day Fundraiser



SOARING EAGLES BLUE STAR MOMS CA22

Soaring Eagle Blue Star Moms honored our Veterans by walking in the Veterans Parade.



We sent care packages to our troops.

We sent 3 Veterans on Honor Flight.



We hosted a Christmas Craft Fair, walked in the annual Light Parade with Radio Host Lia Knight and celebrated Christmas. Happy New Year!



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



January Chapter Happenings



Exciting Invitation!



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8 presents an evening with Elaine Brye, author of *Be Safe Love Mom: A Military Mom's stories of Courage, Comfort, and Surviving Life on the Homefront*.



Elaine Lowry Brye is a mom who knows about letting go. Like many moms, she cried when her kids left home, wishes they'd call and write more, and spends sleepless nights worrying about them. But Elaine's tears and concerns are even more poignant than most mothers'—because Elaine is the mom of four military officers, one each in the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines.

➔ JOIN US ➔

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm MST
register at wsbluestarmoms.org
to receive the link for the meeting.

We had a busy holiday season this year! We participated in our local Parade of Lights, participated in Wreaths Across America by placing wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers and spent a ton of time at 2 different airports in our area welcoming home 11 kids from our Blue Star Mom Chapter for the holidays! It was fun for us to have the opportunity to meet 5 other military families that happened to be waiting for their child that would be on the same flight. It was a great opportunity for outreach to new families!



Wreaths Across America



Welcome Home at Montrose Airport



Parade of Lights



QUILT RAFFLE

On Freedom's Wing

CONGRATULATIONS to a Blue Star Mom in Ohio that was the lucky winner of our quilt raffle! We appreciate the interest we received across the country!

BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Pabst Mansion recognized
our group in their Decorator
Spotlight!



Pictured below are a few
happy recipients of
Operation Home Baked
boxes!



The Blue Star Mothers of Southeastern WI Chapter 2 finished 2022 with as much energy as we kicked it off with. In the last month of 2022 we decorated a room at the Pabst Mansion, attended a banquet supporting our local veteran community, baked and packaged individual boxes that were shipped to our troops, gathered for our monthly meeting and even welcomed a new member (WELCOME Barb!).

Days before Christmas we gathered for our 2nd annual Holiday Flower Arrangement fundraising event! Pictured below you can see the group with their completed arrangements as well as the fun that was had along the way.



**Happy
New Year
2023**

Texas Chapter 2

Blue Star Mom's Houston TX2 was in full Elf mode the whole month of December. 370 Christmas care packages were sent out to our deployed, as well as care packages for a BSM chapter in Florida devastated by the hurricane. This year, we packed boxes full of Christmas goodies, stockings, gifts, and many Christmas cards. We celebrated the season with a chapter Christmas party in which members brought stuffed stockings later donated to our local VA hospital. We closed out the year with a laugh and a giggle from our version of Elf on a shelf.



Michigan 178

This is a busy time of year for the Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178. We hosted our third annual Christmas party for our Veterans at Fiddler's Green in Bad Axe, MI. Thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus who joined us and passed out the Christmas gifts and joined in the Bingo games and prizes. There were delicious party platters and, of course, the Blue Star Mothers baked lots of Christmas cookies. Pictured is the corn-hole game that was made by Nicole Stermer's husband, Ed.



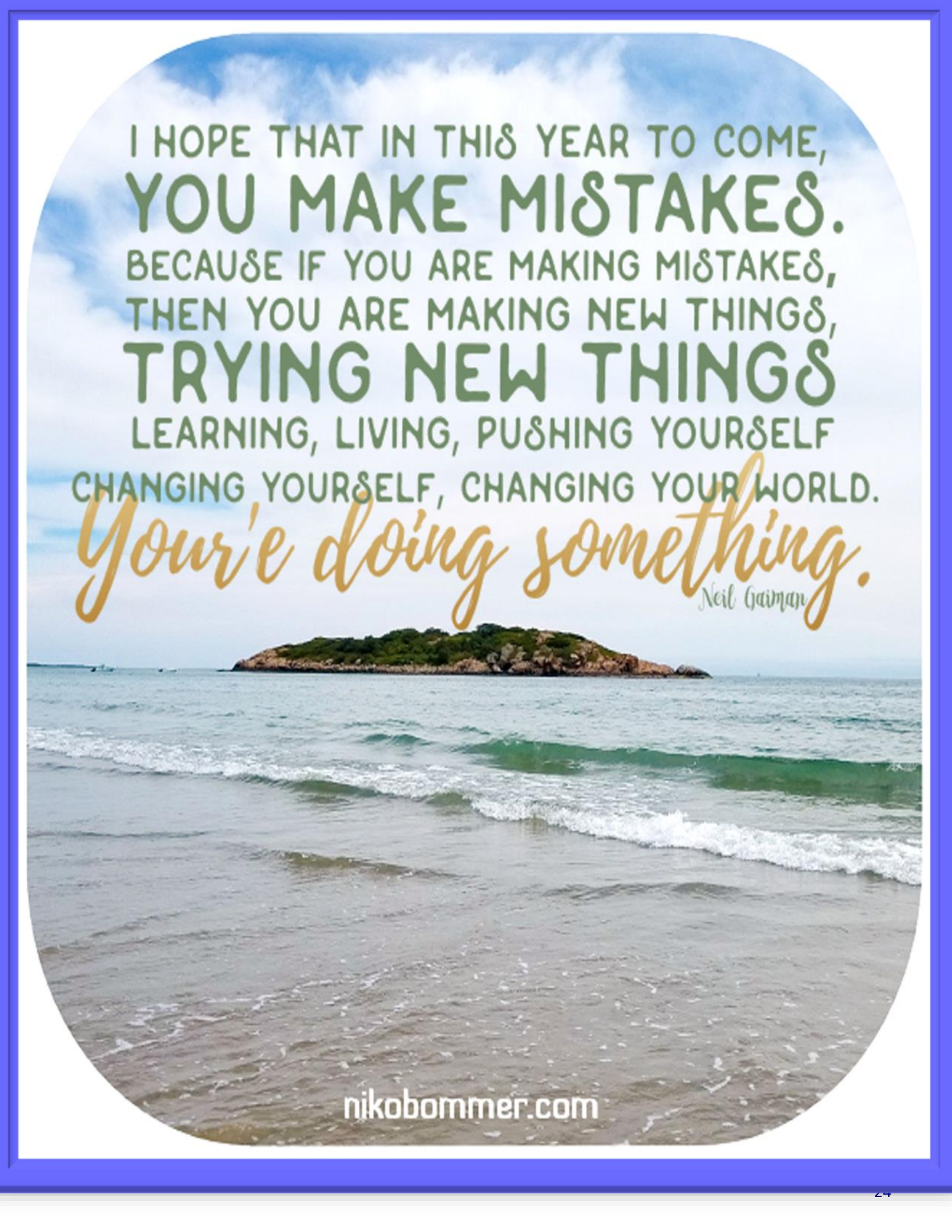
Endings are always beginnings.
Open up to all the magic of
the New Year!

“A Great Attitude
becomes a great day
which becomes a
great month which
becomes a great year
which becomes a
Great **LIFE.**”

mandy hale



WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM



I HOPE THAT IN THIS YEAR TO COME,
YOU MAKE MISTAKES.
BECAUSE IF YOU ARE MAKING MISTAKES,
THEN YOU ARE MAKING NEW THINGS,
TRYING NEW THINGS
LEARNING, LIVING, PUSHING YOURSELF
CHANGING YOURSELF, CHANGING YOUR WORLD.

Your'e doing something.
Neil Gaiman

nikobommer.com