

## Patriotic Colors

*By Hap Hansen*

There are many colors of winter, starting with the last red rose of autumn, slowly fading into the white snow. In late winter and into early spring, the early blooming, various colored crocuses are peeking through the sparkling, white snow. It's fun, watching the happy faces of children at Christmastime, under a green tree festooned with multiple colored lights and red, blue and green ornaments shining in the twinkling light.

Unfortunately, too many Christmases are simply gray for those children with no toy packages to open, no tree, no lights and very little food in the kitchen. This Christmas season, give your green dollars and silver coins to the dozens of charities who work tirelessly to turn gray Christmases into shining colors of the rainbow for those less fortunate.

In many front yards, one can see white snowmen with black coal button eyes and mouths of cherry red or orange carrot noses gleaming in the smiling faces. You may still see a droopy faced, orange Halloween pumpkin still languishing on someone's front porch.

We get to see the golden moon arising and silver stars twinkling, as they begin to appear at dusk in the darkening evening. We should all hope and pray this winter, that the lyrics of that old song will come true: 'When the lights come on again, all over the world.'

Finally, as the red and blue states' votes were being counted in our last election, no matter whether you were pleased and rosy with the results, or whether you were appalled and blue, whether you are disturbed by our national problems of riots, flag burnings, demonstrations, the deficit, etc., or not, our Country will go on and survive. In the end, we must all remember that the winter colors of the flag of the United States of America, as well as the spring, summer and fall colors, are still patriotic red, white and blue.