

**the
Hippo**

DECEMBER 12 - 18, 2024

**A NEW CAROL
EVERY NIGHT P. 10**

**HOLIDAY
MEALS P. 26**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

Our Annual

Gift Guide

**GIFT IDEAS FOR
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LOVERS, GARDENERS,
KIDS AND EVERYONE
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INSIDE: WARM UP WITH SOME HOT TUNES



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ON THE COVER
It's our annual gift guide. We have ideas for everyone on your list throughout this week's issue. Head to a local art studio to make a one-of-a-kind gift (page 12) or check out a local craft fair for a handmade-by-someone-else item (see page 10). Henry Homeyer suggests gifts for gardeners (page 18). Find museum membership ideas with some fun gift shop items (page 20). Get advice on how to make some tasty gifts (page 26) or some ideas for kitchen must-haves (page 28). Find books (page 34) and gifts for film-lovers (page 38). And for the music-lover, check out Michael Witthaus' recommendations (page 40).



ALSO ON THE COVER A new night, a new take on *A Christmas Carol* (page 10). Find special holiday meals and special meals on a holiday (page 30). And take a break with local bands playing at area bars and restaurants (page 42).

INSIDE THIS WEEK
NEWS & NOTES
4 NEWS IN BRIEF
6 Q&A
7 SPORTS
8 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX
9 THIS WEEK

THE ARTS
10 WHAT THE DICKENS
12 HANNAH COLE DAHAR
16 ARTS ROUNDUP

INSIDE/OUTSIDE
18 GARDENING GUY
Henry Homeyer offers advice on your outdoors.
23 KIDDIE POOL
Family fun events this weekend.
24 CAR TALK
Automotive advice.
24 TREASURE HUNT
There's gold in your attic.

FOOD
26 WEEKLY SPECIALS Experts help you make a gift basket, charcuterie board and cookie plate; Kitchen must-haves; Weekly Dish; John Fladd Cooks.

POP CULTURE
33 REVIEWS CDs, books and a Q&A with filmmaker Jay Craven. Amy Diaz salutes *Conclave's* six Golden Globe nominations and also checks out several streaming films. Film listings on page 47.

NITE
38 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE
Nite Roundup, concert & comedy listings and more.

42 MUSIC THIS WEEK
Live music at your favorite bars and restaurants.

45 COMEDY THIS WEEK
Where to find laughs

46 CONCERTS
Big-ticket shows.

47 TRIVIA NIGHTS
Find some friendly competition.

ODDS & ENDS
47 SUDOKU
48 JONESIN' CROSSWORD
48 KEN KEN, WORD ROUNDUP
49 SIGNS OF LIFE
49 7 LITTLE WORDS
50 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

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NEWS & NOTES

Hospital partnership

According to a press release, the State of New Hampshire will enter a public-private partnership with Dartmouth Health to operate Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility under a proposed agreement.

In a statement, Gov. Sununu said that “in 2022, the State of New Hampshire purchased Hampstead Hospital to ensure that critical mental health care services for children were not lost. This partnership with Dartmouth Health will ensure one of the country’s most prestigious health systems is taking care of New Hampshire’s kids. This is an amazing win-win opportunity that ensures world-class care while saving an estimated \$20 Million annually in overhead costs to the state. Without this contract, the long-term stability of the state’s only mental health hospital for children is at significant risk.”

Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility will provide inpatient psychiatric care, partial hospitalization services and psychiatric residential treatment center services, and Dartmouth Health will ensure that these services are available to children and young adults in alignment with New Hampshire Children’s Behavioral Health System of Care, according to the release.

Dartmouth Health currently provides behavioral health services at New Hampshire Hospital and the Youth Detention Center, according to the same release.

Home ski home

According to a press release,

the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism (DTTD) is anticipating an estimated three million people will visit New Hampshire this winter, with spending by those visitors expected to reach a record \$1.6 billion.

In a statement, Taylor Caswell, commissioner of the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs, said, “New Hampshire’s winter season is an integral part of our tourism industry, driving jobs, and supporting businesses in every corner of the state. Whether here for an experience on the slopes or off, every winter visitor is helping support the region’s economy and build on New Hampshire’s reputation as a premiere vacation destination.”

The news was announced as part of Ski New Hampshire’s Ski 603 Winter Kickoff at McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester, according to the press release.

In a statement, President of Ski NH Jessyca Keeler said that “our resorts are ready to welcome skiers and riders regardless of the forecast, after making capital improvement investments in snowmaking over the past year. Newer, more efficient equipment has made a dramatic difference, improving snow production and snow quality, while at the same time increasing sustainability and reducing energy impact. It enables ski areas to open earlier and stay open even when Mother Nature isn’t producing as much snow as we’d like.”

New Hampshire’s winter marketing campaign platform features outdoor adventures for all levels and abilities, indoor adventures,

and the beauty of New Hampshire’s natural landscapes, according to the press release, and will fully launch in January in New England and eastern Canada.

No wait

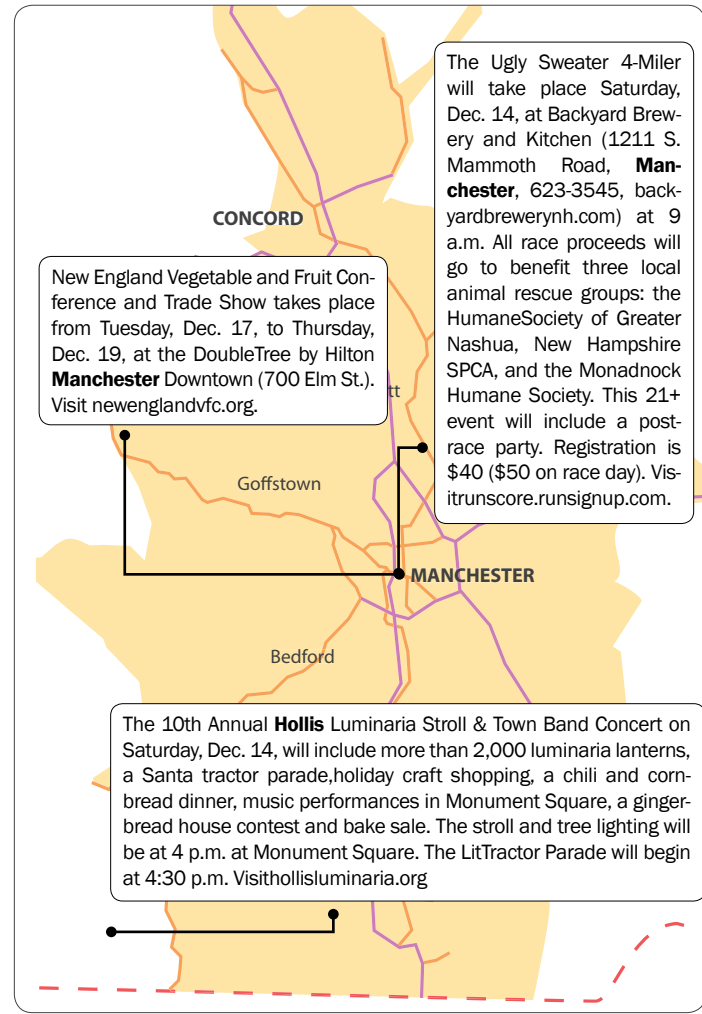
According to a press release, The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and New Hampshire Hospital announced that on Friday, Dec. 6, there were no adults in hospital emergency departments (ED) waiting for inpatient psychiatric treatment and this marks the first time this has happened since DHHS began collecting data on the waitlist nearly four years ago.

In a statement, Gov. Sununu said, “Mission Zero set New Hampshire on a path to ensuring timely access to mental health care. Our work is not yet finished, but it is clear that our efforts have made great progress and are delivering results.”

In a statement, DHHS Commissioner Lori Weaver said that “for the past 14 months, our Mission Zero partnership has worked across the mental health system to develop new solutions to the issue. While we still have much work to do to eliminate the wait list for good, reaching zero today demonstrates that Mission Zero is working for the people of New Hampshire.”

The press release said that between Nov. 1, 2023, and Nov 1, 2024, the average daily waitlist declined 35 percent.

In October of this year, patients waited less than two days, three fewer days than the year prior, according to the same release.



New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show takes place from Tuesday, Dec. 17, to Thursday, Dec. 19, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown (700 Elm St.). Visit newenglandvfc.org.

The Ugly Sweater 4-Miler will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, at Backyard Brewery and Kitchen (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, backyardbrewerynh.com) at 9 a.m. All race proceeds will go to benefit three local animal rescue groups: the Humane Society of Greater Nashua, New Hampshire SPCA, and the Monadnock Humane Society. This 21+ event will include a post-race party. Registration is \$40 (\$50 on race day). Visit itruncore.runsignup.com.

The 10th Annual Hollis Luminaria Stroll & Town Band Concert on Saturday, Dec. 14, will include more than 2,000 luminaria lanterns, a Santa tractor parade, holiday craft shopping, a chili and cornbread dinner, music performances in Monument Square, a gingerbread house contest and bake sale. The stroll and tree lighting will be at 4 p.m. at Monument Square. The Lit Tractor Parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. Visit hollisluminaria.org

Information on the number of adults waiting involuntarily in the Emergency Department for an Acute Psychiatric Bed can be found under the Inpatient Care & Coordination tab of the Mission Zero Dashboard on the DHHS website. Visit dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/mental-health/mission-zero.

Holiday scams

According to a press release, the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau of the New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office is alert-

ing residents about potential scams this holiday shopping season, specifically with online shopping and gift card frauds. Shoppers are advised to verify websites and to be cautious of “too good to be true” deals, and use credit cards for added protection; never buy gift cards for someone you don’t know, and avoid sharing card details with anyone; and confirm charity registration with the New Hampshire Charitable Trusts Unit before donating, according to the website. 🐾

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- 2 oz pink grapefruit juice



Food for everyone

Keeping Granite Staters fed at the New Hampshire Food Bank

Nancy Mellitt is the Director of Development at the New Hampshire Food Bank, a program of Catholic Charities New Hampshire, and spoke to the Hippo about the organization and what they get done. Visit nhfoodbank.org for more information or call 669-9725.

Q: *What does the New Hampshire Food Bank do?*

The New Hampshire Food Bank is the only food bank in New Hampshire and we do quite a bit. We provide food to more than 400 partner agencies throughout the state. That's our primary purpose. We're providing approximately 60 percent of the food that the food pantries, soup kitchens, etc., are distributing to individuals in the state. Then we have some programs that are designed to address the root causes of hunger and to assist people in not being food-insecure.



Courtesy photo.

What is a mobile food pantry?

They are sponsored by a company and we are going to areas in the state that have low resources and high needs. We are bringing enough shelf-stable boxes and produce boxes for approximately 400 families.... We do a drive-thru mobile food pantry, so folks stay in their cars and they drive up and they are provided with a box of shelf-stable food and a box of fresh produce to take home.

What can people donate to the food bank?

Well, we are looking for shelf-stable foods for donation purposes. So low-sodium, canned vegetables, soups, stews this time of year, shelf-stable milk. We have a list on our website, nhfoodbank.org, that is our most-needed food items, so folks can go on and look at that. Protein like cans of tuna, cans of chicken ... peanut butter.

Would you want to mention some of the programs that you all do?

We have a culinary training program right here at the Food Bank in Manchester. It's a program for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed and the individuals come in, they apply, they get interviewed, they're accepted, they immediately learn knife skills, recipe conversions because they're preparing meals that are going out to Boys & Girls Clubs in Salem, Manchester, Allentown, Concord, Laconia. We do the nutrition incentive program. So folks that are on SNAP can go to farmers markets and ... they can double their purchasing power for fruits and vegetables. And there are also some grocery stores that participate in that program as well. We do SNAP outreach. We are trying to reach those folks who qualify for SNAP. SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, so trying to reach those folks who qualify to receive those benefits but

are not accessing them, to help them get through that process. We have a production garden, so we have an acre of land here in Manchester that the state allows us to use. During the growing season we are growing our own produce. We have Cooking Matters, which is a program that teaches folks how to eat healthy on a budget. We do a lot. We have New Hampshire Feeding New Hampshire, which is a very cool program that we are providing funding to our partner agencies to purchase dairy and fruit through New Hampshire farmers.

How does someone know if they qualify for SNAP?

They can go to the State of New Hampshire website, New Hampshire Easy, or they can give us a call and we can walk them through the qualifications.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention about the food bank?

People can also help the food bank by making monetary donations because



Courtesy photo.

we are able to purchase, our purchasing power is greater. So we can purchase by tractor-trailer load so it drives prices down. ... It means we need money. We can provide two meals for approximately \$1.28. —Zachary Lewis 🗨️

Area food pantries

Here are some area food pantries. See websites for donation information, hours of operation and information on how to access food assistance.

• **Bedford Community Food Pantry** 4 Church Road, Bedford, 867-1445, bedford-nhfoodpantry.org

• **Christ the King Food Pantry** temporarily at 219 S. Main St. in Concord during construction on a new food pantry building, slated to be open in the summer of 2025. Call 224-2328 or see christthekingfoodpantry.org.

• **Community Action Program** 225-6880, capbm.org/CAP-Area-Resource-Centers operates food pantries at locations in Concord, Franklin, Laconia and Suncook.

• **Corpus Christi Food Pantry** 3 Crown St., Nashua, 882-6372, corpuschristifoodpantry.org

• **Families in Transition Food Pantry** 176 Lake Ave., Manchester, 641-9441, fit-nh.org/services/food-programs

• **First Baptist Church** 4 Crystal Ave, Derry, 421-1897, fbcfoodpantry.org

• **First United Methodist Church Food Pantry** 961 Valley St., Manchester, 622-8863, fumcmanchester.org. Food pantry operates Tuesdays, 8 to 11:30 a.m.

• **Friends of Forgotten Children** 224 Bog Road, Concord, 753-4801, fofc-nh.org/food-pantry

• **Goffstown Network Food Pantry** 7 N. Mast Road, Goffstown, 497-3433, goffstownnetwork.org

• **Hooksett Community Food Pantry** Hooksett Town Offices, operated by the Kiwanis Club of Hooksett, 35 Main St., Hooksett, 485-7222, hooksettkiwanis.org

• **Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter** 2 Quincy St., Nashua, 889-7770, nsks.org

• **Sacred Heart Food Pantry** 247 S. Main St., Manchester, 668-4004, sacred-heartchurch-nh.com

• **SHARE Outreach** 1 Columbus Ave., Milford, 673-9898, sharenh.org

• **Shepherd's Pantry** 1 Church St., Windham, 432-2150, shepherdspacepantry.net

• **Southern NH Rescue Mission** 40 Chestnut St., Nashua, 889-3421, hope-4nashua.org. The Community Gift Center distributes clothes and food every other Tuesday, the website said.

• **St. Thomas Aquinas** 26 Crystal Ave., Derry, 432-5000, stthomasderry.org

• **Tolles St. Mission Food Pantry** 52 Whitney St., Nashua, 880-4984, thetollesstreetmission.org

• **The Upper Room Food Pantry** 36 Tsienneto Road, Derry, 437-8477, urteachers.org

• **NH Food Bank** distributes food to more than 400 partner agencies across the state. Visit nhfoodbank.org/find-food/food-map to find locations.

Upcoming NH Food Bank mobile food pantries

Colebrook
NH Liquor & Wine Outlet (16 Metallak Place, Colebrook)
Thursday, Dec. 12, noon to 1:30 p.m. (while supplies last)

Concord
NHTI, lots A/B (31 College Drive, Concord)
Friday, Dec. 20, noon to 2 p.m. (while supplies last)

Visit nhfoodbank.org or call 669-9725.



Courtesy photo.

Sox lose out on Soto



The Big Story – Soto Goes to the Mets: The **Juan Soto** sweepstakes ended Sunday with him getting the highest deal in history, an astronomical \$765 million for 15 years from the New York

Mets.

We'll never know if the talk of signing him was just Red Sox PR speak. But the good news is (a) he's not a big enough difference-maker to justify spending all their free agent money on when their biggest need by far is pitching; (b) it wounds the Yankees deeply, not just in losing him but in the top prospects they gave up to get him for just one year, and (c) since people here barely know the NL exists he'll rarely be thought of again.

Now open the checkbook for pitching.

Sports 101: Nine current NBA teams have failed to win even one league title. Name them.

News Item – Sox Sign Aroldis Chapman: It's nice to see them spending, but \$10.75 million for an eighth-inning set-up man seems pricey.

The good news is at 36 he struck out an astonishing 98 batters in just 61.2 innings, which says he still has major juice on the fastball. The bad news is the 3.79 ERA and 1.346 WHIP are the second-worst of his career. That suggests command is enough of an issue to make the Nation squeamish in tight games. But it's a one-year deal, so good move.

News Item – Alumni News: Among the recent Patriots I found most vexing was **Jonnu Smith**, who was a calamity waiting to happen. Balls he should have caught weren't just dropped, they bounced to defenders for interceptions or, worse, pick 6s, which happened twice. Think of his role in the humiliating loss on a bonehead series of final play laterals in Las Vegas that wouldn't have happened if his mindless motion penalty hadn't taken a TD off the board in lieu of a FG that kept it a one-score game.

And now he's in Miami, where his 61 catches are more than any Patriot has won and the meager 55 he had in two seasons in Foxboro. It includes 14 catches for 149 yards in two Miami wins over NE and his game-winning TD in OT vs. the Jets on Sunday.

The Numbers:

3.1 – million dollars bet on Philadelphia to beat Carolina by some guy in Kentucky for a \$422,000 payout that was in doubt

until a final-second Carolina TD was overturned on replay to make Philly the winner.

235 – most receiving yards ever in a first game against the team that traded the player by Cleveland's **Jerry Jeudy** in a 41-32 loss to Denver.

... Of the Week Awards

Doink of the Week – KC Chiefs: They lucked into another win. This time while down one to the L.A. Chargers when third-string kicker **Matthew Wright** hit the crossbar on a point blank FG try to give beyond belief lucky KC a 19-17 win.

Dumb Gamble of the Week – Dan Campbell: I know the analytics crowd will laud him for going for it on fourth down, especially because it worked. But while I like the faith he has in his team, passing on a 38-yard field goal attempt in lieu of going for it on fourth and one from the Green Bay 21 with 43 seconds left in a game tied 31-31 seemed like too big a risk. Especially when his kicker had two walk-off game winners already. Plus they nearly botched it when the center stepped on **Jared Goff's** foot and he had to lunge just to make the hand-off falling to the ground. So what did it gain?

Wow Moment of the Week – Ja Morant Dunk: Caught it in the corner, the 6'2" guard drives the baseline, goes up with back to the basket but pulls it down against a double team, then double pumps and dunks it *backward* on 7'4" **Kristaps Porzingis**.

I'm guessing only **Dr. J** and **Michael Jordan** could have pulled that off.

Those new Denver Broncos uniforms with the white helmets are You-gly.

Sports 101 Answer: The nine teams to never win a NBA title are the Magic, Jazz, Nets, Clippers, Hornets (originally Bobcats), Pacers, Grizzlies, T-Wolves and Pelicans (originally Hornets).

Thunder have never won, but they did as the Supersonics in Seattle.

Final Thought – Suspension Policy All Wrong: Sorry, folks, the three-game suspension given to Houston's serial cheap shot artist **Azeez Al Shaair** for the one that ended **Trevor Lawrence's** season was not outrageous. The penalty should be that if a guy hurts someone with an *intentional* cheap shot he should not play for as long as the player he hurt is out.

The QB is the most important player on every team, so why should the player who takes him out with an intentional cheap shot only miss three games while Jacksonville's QB misses the rest of the season? If you want this stopped make the penalty onerous.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Baffling the beavers

As reported in a Dec. 5 article by Nashua Ink Link (nashua.inklink.news) the City of Nashua is deploying technology in its ongoing battle of wits against beavers. In an effort to reduce beaver-related flooding, the article said, “after deliberation ... a pond leveler was installed at Mine Falls Park, near the entrance on Spine Road. Pond levelers are pipes that run underneath beaver dams that create a permanent leak to keep ponds at a controlled, safe level.” The pipes are fitted with baffles to prevent beavers from feeling the flow of water and kicking off a new spate of dam-building. Popularly referred to as “beaver deceivers,” pond levelers have been used successfully in several beaver ponds in southern New Hampshire.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Sustainability manager Deb Chisolm said in the article, “We really have no local data to indicate whether [pond levelers] work or don’t work. We’re just trying to test it out; we thought that the Spine Road area would be a good location.”*

Protecting against holiday scams

According to a recent study, Granite Staters were scammed out of more than \$27 million online in 2023. In a Dec. 3 press release, the Internal Revenue Service (irs.gov) warned consumers to protect themselves online this holiday season. “Taxpayers can be duped into unwittingly handing over their confidential tax and financial information,” the press release read. “Would-be victims could also get tricked into disclosing their addresses, Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or passwords, which can lead to tax-related identity theft and fraud.” The IRS recommends shopping at online sites with web addresses that begin with the letters “https:” (The “s” stands for secure communications.) Also look for a padlock icon in the browser window. Make sure that your security and anti-virus software is up-to-date, and use strong, unique passwords for online accounts.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *Better news is that New Hampshire ranked 47th in the United States in online scam victimhood. View the study at socialcatfish.com/scamfish/state-of-online-scams-2024.*

Wrong way

As reported by WMUR in a Dec. 2 online article, the number of New Hampshire drivers involved in driving in the wrong direction is increasing. “New Hampshire State Police said there have been 248 reported cases of wrong-way drivers and 17 related crashes on state roads this year,” the article reported. Although the number of accidents has decreased slightly — there were 26 last year — the overall number of wrong-way driving incidents has increased significantly. WMUR quoted Lt. Christopher Storm with New Hampshire State Police, who said that alcohol is a common denominator in most wrong-way crashes. “Number one, impairment,” he said. “Number two is people’s inattention or medical situations. And the third is our drivers that may not understand the language.”

QOL score: -2

Comment: *According to WMUR’s article, the State plans to form a commission to study this problem.*

Last week’s QOL score: 74

Net change: -2

QOL this week: 72

What’s affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire?

Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

75

50

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

DECEMBER 12 AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 12

The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) will stay open for **Art After Work** tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy live music from the band Cozy Throne, check out the galleries, take part in an art activity and more. Admission is free. The Winter Garden Cafe will be open — find the menu online.



every home is unique in size and style and each will be a surprise. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 on the day of the event. Visit ccamherst.org/cav for ticket-purchasing locations.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Join the world-famous **Boston Pops** led by conductor Keith Lockhart for their iconic holiday performance tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com). This yearly concert is legendary for its high-energy, deeply emotional immersion in traditional holiday music. Tickets start at \$33 through ticketmaster.com.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Mike Girard's Big Swingin' Thing will play at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashua-centerforthearts.com tonight at 8

p.m. Tickets are \$39.

Sunday, Dec. 15

The Wizards of Winter will play the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusic-hall.com) this afternoon at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$45.

Sunday, Dec. 15

The **Yule Light Up the Night** road race will take place at 4:30 p.m. at the New Hampshire Speedway in Loudon. Run the 2.1-mile course through the "Gift of Lights" display. Registration costs \$25 for adults (12+) in advance, \$30 on the day;

\$15 for youth (4 to 11) in advance, \$20 on the day, \$10 for kids (3 and younger), and \$20 for virtual runners. See millenniumrunning.com to register. 🏃



Save the Date

Saturday, Dec. 28

NHSCOT will hold its **Hogmanay Celebration** — a Scottish-style celebration of the new year — on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Pembroke Pines Country Club in Pembroke. Tickets cost \$40 for adults and kids age 6 and up (ages 5 and under get in for free). This family-friendly event will feature indoor and outdoor activities including live music from Rebel Collective, a performance by Pipes and Drums of NHSCOT, s'mores, a Highland Fling, street curling, a parade and more. See nhscot.org.

Saturday, Dec. 14

The New Hampshire Audubon Society (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org) will begin its annual **Christmas Bird Count** as early as today in some areas. Each count takes place in a designated "count circle" on a specific day. See the website for details.

noon at Gallien's Town Beach in Derry. The event raises money for the FBC Food Pantry. Find information on plunging yourself at pantryplunge.org.

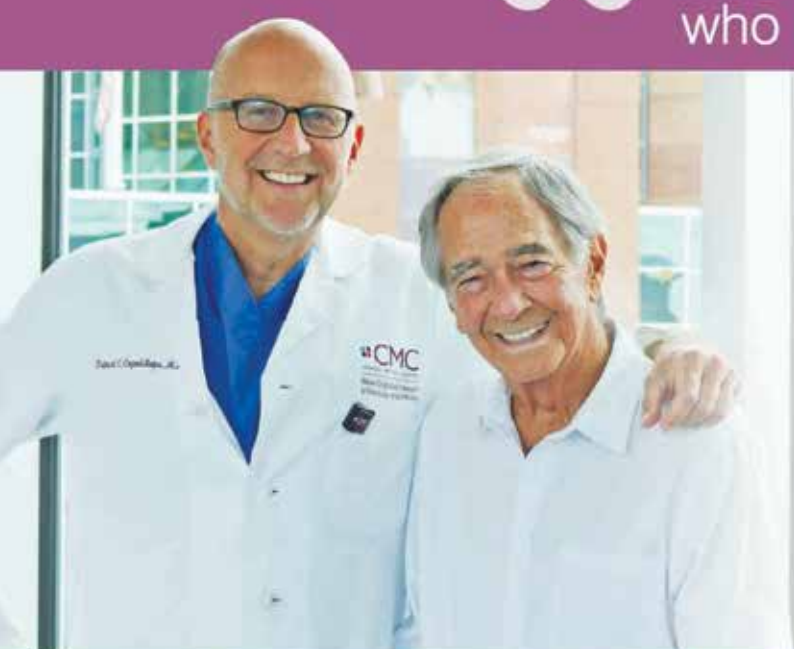
Saturday, Dec. 14

The **Christmas in Amherst Village House Tour** will take place today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Congregational Church of Amherst, this tour has become a favorite tradition. Ready for the holidays with traditional and unique decorating ideas,


Saturday, Dec. 14

Cheer on the brave souls "Freezin' for a Reason" during the 8th **Annual Pantry Plunge** today at

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Whose Carol is it anyway?

Improv fun with *What the Dickens*

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

What would happen if Ebenezer Scrooge were not miserly but instead always looking at his mobile phone? What if rather than sadness that he needed crutches, Tiny Tim's family mourned his inability to read an instruction manual? Those are some of the audience suggestions received by the cast of *What the Dickens*, an improv version of *A Christmas Carol* at Millspace in Newmarket on Dec. 13 and Dec. 14.

Seacoast-based *Stranger Than Fiction*, an improv group now in its 20th year, uses the Charles Dickens holiday classic as a template for comedy. The show is always different. One night, the Ghost of Christmas Past might have a Mickey Mouse voice; on another he could be Darth Vader. Some touches are written down by patrons as they enter the theatre; others are shouted out during the play.

The show began in 2022, said STF cast member and Marketing Director Dan Schiff-

macher in a recent phone interview, with a run at the New Hampshire Theatre Project in Portsmouth's West End. Last year, STF partnered with Players' Ring Theatre and did the show there, along with performances in Newmarket and Sanford, Maine.

"We wanted to do something for the holidays, something a little bit different, and one of our members came up with the idea," he said. "We started to craft [how] to mix what people know about the story and also have elements of improv.... We didn't want to pre-plan too much, because we still wanted to have that like spontaneity and fun to it."

Thus the principles of Dickens' tale remain — a boss, an employee, his family and some ghosts — but the elements change from night to night. For this year's opener at Portsmouth's Players' Ring Theatre, Scrooge's bad habit was stealing drinks at the pub he owned, where Cratchit tended bar, and one of the ghosts was Ronald Reagan. Other times, the ghosts spoke like Mickey Mouse or Scooby-Doo.

Audience "asks" are often challenging, Schiffmacher noted. When Scrooge & Marley became a Christmas tree company, the ghost character had to come up with a way to transport Scrooge from realm to realm. The solution was to make him climb into the twin-ing machine to be spun ahead.

Sometimes the mundane is quite funny. "When Darth Vader was the Ghost of



Courtesy photo.

Christmas Future, he cleared the scenes by force-choking us all off the stage," Schiffmacher said. "Our director was on the lights, and he turned everything red. It's a lot of fun when we're all on the same page and can do that."

The process of getting audience input is itself entertaining. When last year's Scrooge character asked for a 1980s movie actor suggestion, response began flying at him immediately, including Bruce Springsteen, as if his videos counted, along with Sean Connery and John Cusack. He ultimately chose Rodney Dangerfield and groused about getting no respect while talking to Marley's ghost.

Between an animated crowd and the venerable improv group always looking to top itself, each show presents many new opportunities

for hilarity. "We're always trying to find different ways to switch things up, make them a little more fresh," Schiffmacher said. "Like we're all different characters — the person who plays Scrooge in the first show won't play him in the second show. We all shuffle around ... everyone has their own approach."

Schiffmacher joined *Stranger Than Fiction* in early 2022, after moving to New Hampshire from Chicago. He has more than a decade of improv experience. He noted that anyone with an itch to try improv can take one of the classes the troupe offers.

"There's a 101 Intro to Improv that starts in January," he said. "We're working on the dates; people can find out more on our website." 🍷

What the Dickens

When: Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.

Where: Millspace, 55 Main St., Newmarket

Tickets: \$12 at portsmouthnhtickets.com

Art

Craft fairs

- **The Craftworkers' Guild shop in Bedford** (3a Meetinghouse Road, down the hill in the Library parking lot) is open for the holiday season. The shop is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 22. See thecraftworkersguild.org.
- **The Holly Jolly Craft Fair** will be held at the DoubleTree Hilton

(2 Somerset Plaza, Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 14, and Saturday, Dec. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. More than 75 artisans will be selling their holiday crafts, including holiday wreaths and centerpieces, reindeer and gnomes, country folk art and more. Visit joyescraftshows.com.

- **The Christmas Holiday Craft Fair** at Bazaar Craft Fairs will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nashua Bingo Hall

(166 DW Highway, Nashua). See Bazaar Craft Fairs' Facebook page.

- **The NH Audubon's Annual Holiday Craft Fair** is Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; nhoodubon.org) featuring 30 local crafters, a food truck, a raffle and more.

- **The 2nd Annual Manchester Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair** will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Club-

Canadian (128 S. Main St., Manchester, 623-9019, clubcanadian-inc.com). Santa will be there all day, taking pictures for free. Visit facebook.com/nevendorevents.

- **The 13th Annual Holiday Bazaar** from Wrong Brain is happening Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a new location, the Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket). There is a \$1 suggested donation. Visit facebook.com/wrongbrain.

Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford) and will run until Dec. 21. The gallery's hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500

- **"Small Wonders Miniature Art Show"** is at the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Manchester; mosaicartcollective.com) through Sunday, Dec. 22. The exhibition is described as a "celebration of small-scale art that packs a big punch," according to the website.

- **"A Celebration of Light"** Two Villages Art Society (846 Main St. in Contoocook; twovillagesart.org) will hold its 2024 Winter Members Show and Sale, "A Celebration of Light," through Saturday, Dec. 28.
- **Glimpse Gallery's** (Patriot Building, 4 Park St., Concord) newest exhibit begins on Monday, Dec. 9, and runs through Jan. 9, featuring works from artists Pat Arzillo, Byron Carr, Julie Daniels, Mark Ferland, David Wiggins, Barbara Morse and Michael McCormack,

as well as a selection from curator Christina Landry-Boullion. The opening reception will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m.; RSVP by emailing contact@theglimpsegallery.com. Visit theglimpsegallery.com or call 892-8307

Theater

- **A New England Christmas** presented by Pontine Theatre at the Plains School (1 Plains Ave., Portsmouth) through Sunday, Dec. 15, with performances on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are priced at \$32 for general admission and \$29 for seniors and students. Visit pontine.org.

- **Disney's Frozen** presented by Ogunquit Playhouse at the Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, the music hall.org) through Sunday, Dec. 22, with shows Wednesdays through Thursdays (except for Thanksgiving).

- **The Nutcracker** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth; seacoastrep.org, 433-4793) through Sunday, Dec. 22. Ticket prices range from \$37 to \$68.
- **A Christmas Carol** at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org) through Sun-

CONTINUED ON PG 14 ►

SURLY SANTA, VENGEFUL SHEEP

Bedford Off Broadway presents the final weekend of the production of the comedy *Christmas Belles* at the Bedford Old Town Hall (3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford) through Sunday, Dec. 15, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. "A church Christmas program spins hilariously out of control in this Southern farce about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santa, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator," according to a press release. Tickets cost \$15, \$12 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door or via Brown Paper Tickets. See bedfordoffbroadway.com.



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Upcoming Shows

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Compiled by Zachary Lewis
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- **Manchester Craft Market** (Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., manchestercraftmarket.com) On Friday, Dec. 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. "In My Cookie Decorating Era" Cookie Decorating Class will be presented by Sweet Treats by Emilee. Included in the ticket price is everything you need to fully decorate six professionally baked sugar cookies, according to the website. Tickets are \$65. On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Dash of Creativity will present Macrame Yarn Gnomes. Tickets are \$50. On Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon Fluid Art will be presenting their Ornament Class. Tickets are \$35. On Friday, Dec. 20, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sweet Treats by Emilee will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Decorating Class. Tickets are \$60. Also Dec. 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Fluid Art will hold their Fluid Art Christmas Ornaments Class.

- **Studio 550 Art** (550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com) Participants who make three crafts will receive a \$15 digital gift card. This applies to mosaics, paint-your-own, and any of the art-at-home-kits.

Art at Home Project Kits include Watercolor Bundles, which lead purchasers step-by-step through three paintings in a themed bundle with an introductory tutorial video and guided exercises; Open-Ended Clay, which includes a 1 1/2-pound ball of clay and basic tools; Mosaic Coasters, and Paint Your Own Pottery.

The Maker's Lounge service offers a making session with the final cost to be based on the pieces chosen. Base shapes range from \$7 to \$80 but most are between \$20 and \$30, according to the website. All youth must be accompanied by a responsible and watchful adult, and while directions for the steps will be provided, this will be unstructured making time without a guided lesson or teacher, according to the website.

Studio 550's Handmade Holiday Market will run the week of Monday, Dec. 16, through Monday, Dec. 23. Participants will find pottery, stained glass, ornaments, and more from noon to 8 p.m. The Studio will be closed Sunday, Dec. 22.

- **You're Fired** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-3473; 133 Loudon Road, Concord, 226-3473; and 264 N. Broadway, Salem, 894-5456; yourefirednh.com) Walk-ins are

always welcome at this pottery painting studio and various daily promotions are held, such as Mini Mondays (half off from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. they provide half off studio fees for children 12 and under), Ladies Night on Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m., Senior Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (seniors receive half off their studio fee) and Teen Fridays (from 5 to 9 p.m. when teens get half off studio fees).

- **The Canvas Roadshow** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, thecanvasroadshow.com, 913-9217) Workshops include sea glass art, canvas painting and wood crafts. Registration is typically required and closes a few days before the project date. Upcoming projects include: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Cozy Knit Blanket Workshop, \$95; Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Pick Your Project, \$45 to \$75; Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Resin Art Ocean Wave – Trays and Shapes, \$55 to \$75; Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 to 9 p.m.: Tumbled Sea Glass Holiday Tree, \$58 to \$72; Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Open Studio/Walk-in (no registration required, kid-friendly); Saturday, Dec. 21, 6 to 8 p.m.: Crushed Glass Ornaments, Snow Globes & Trees, \$35 to \$60; Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 to 4 p.m.: Sea Glass Creations, \$50 to \$60; and Sunday, Dec. 22, 6 to 8 p.m.: Resin Art Ocean Wave – Trays and Shapes.

- **Creative Ventures** (411 Nashua St., Milford, 672-2500, creativeventuresfineart.com) Creative Ventures offers multi-session art classes and workshops for all ages, taught by professional artists and art teachers. Call or check the website for the current schedule.

- **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) On Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. the workshop Tantalizing Textures with Rachel Montroy allows participants to "take a deep dive into the rich textures found within the realm of fiber arts," according to their website. Inspired by the Currier's current exhibition, "Olga de Amaral: Everything is Construction and Color," the class will explore a variety of textile media, including fabric, wool and yarn, to create a dimensional wall hanging, and students will be introduced to basics such as hand sewing, weaving and felting, and then be given the option to focus on one technique or combine them all. No experience is necessary and those with fiber/art knowledge will be creatively challenged. All materials and tools will be provided. Cost is \$144 for members, \$160 for non-members.

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December 14 & 15, 21 & 22 and Christmas Eve

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December 27, 28, 29 & 31 (NYE), 2024

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ARTS

Art that tells a story

Hannah Cole Dahar discusses her inspirations

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Hannah Cole Dahar is an artist and art educator whose studio is based in Manchester at Mosaic Gallery.

“Currently... through Dec. 22, Mosaic Art Collective has their small works shows called ‘Small Wonders.’ It’s a great way to come on in and find beautiful one-of-a-kind gifts for people. A lot of local artists and artisans have work of all price points and subjects and styles, so there’s a little bit of everything for everyone,” Dahar said.

Mosaic is also holding a couple of fundraisers. “There are two benefits that we are hosting. One is an ongoing raffle with weekly draws and the money will go directly to benefit the New Hampshire Reproductive Freedom Fund.” The gallery is also looking for unwanted paints and brushes. “The other thing that we’re doing is we are collecting art supplies for children at Waypoint. If you come to Mosaic ... during operating hours you can come on in, we will collect the supplies and make sure that it gets to Waypoint.”

Dahar is adept at many artistic media; for the Small Wonders exhibit she has a sterling silver pearl and cast necklace. “I call it Snowdrops,” she said. “Usually, my work is much edgier, but for the holiday season I decided to make something that was a little bit whimsical and fanciful You’ve got to have fun too. It’s made out of pearls, sterling silver and chalcedony.”



“Hecate The High Priestess.” Oil on Copper Plated Aluminum in an Architectural Frame. Photo by Zachary Lewis.

Dahar said that available time can often determine the direction of her creations.

“When I have more time I love to sit down with a very formal and elaborate painting. If I have a six-hour window, I’m going hyper-realistic scale. The icon paintings, they’re kind of in between. It combines a love of all of the mediums that I love to work with, and history and mythology. Lately I’ve really been getting into people’s stories. Instead of reinventing a historical or mythological people, viewing how they

see themselves through their own lens and having them tell their particular story.”

A recent example is about the story of her friend Jen and mockingbirds. Hannah uses various stones and natural materials to construct the piece. “She feels a very strong connection with mockingbirds and she has to be surrounded by mockingbirds. So we made that happen. There’s a tree outside their house where they nest. The neighborhood cat, Sumo, harasses them and unfortunately does their little fledglings in and so that was the story that she chose to tell. I have another one where ... I’m incorporating that idea of nests and home and the eggs...”

She invites everyone to experience what Mosaic and See Saw Art, the gallery next door, has to offer. “My door is always open when Mosaic and See Saw are open. Stop on by and enjoy the space, kind of pick and poke,” Dahar said. 🍷

Small Wonders and more

Small Wonders Miniature Art Show

Mosaic Art Collective, 66 Hanover St., Manchester

Now through Sunday, Dec. 22

Wednesdays through Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

coledahar.com

mosaicartcollective.com

See Saw Art

66 Hanover St., Manchester
seesaw.gallery

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 10

day, Dec. 29, with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays as well as Thursdays Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 to \$45.

• *Debbie Macomber’s A Gift to Remember* presented by Break a Leg Legally at The Strand (20 Third St., Dover). Performances

are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for evening shows and \$18 for matinee. Visit breakalegally.com or call The Strand at 343-1899.

• *A Christmas Story: The Musical* presented by Majestic Productions at Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry). Performances are on Friday, Dec. 13,

at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors 65+ and \$15 for children age 17 and under. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• *A Christmas Carol, A Musical Ghost Story* presented by Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative at Colonial Theatre in Laconia (609

CONTINUED ON PG 16 ▶

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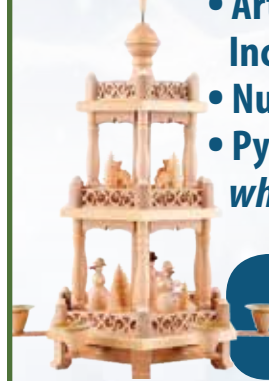
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The latest from NH's theater, arts
and literary communities

• **Show reception:** Glimpse Gallery's (Patriot Building, 4 Park St., Concord) newest exhibit begins on Monday, Dec. 9, and runs through Jan. 9, featuring works from artists Pat Arzillo, Byron Carr, Julie Daniels, Mark Ferland, David Wiggins, Barbara Morse and Michael McCormack, as well as a selection from curator Christina Landry-Boullion. The opening reception will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m.; RSVP by emailing contact@theglimpsegallery.co. Visit theglimpsegallery.com or call 892-8307.

• **Pops!** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra is holding its annual Holiday Pops Concert at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem) on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Visit nhphil.org or call 647-6476.

• **Christmas from the Cape:** At the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets. anselm.edu) catch A Cape Breton Christmas with Coig on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 14

Main St.; coloniallaconia.com) Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 & 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 through \$22.

• **The Nutcracker: Act II** presented by the St. Paul's School Ballet Company Friday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. at Memorial Hall, St. Paul's School (325 Pleasant St. in Concord). The show is free, first come first served.

• **The Nutcracker** presented by Turning Pointe Center of Dance at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 at the door or \$23 in advance. Visit turningpointecenterofdance.com or call 485-8710.

• **The Nutcracker** presented by New England School of Dance on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theater at Pinkerton Academy (5 Pinkerton St., Derry). Tickets cost \$30 and \$35 on the day of the performance. Visit newenglandschoolofdance.com or call 935-7326.

• **The Nutcracker** performed by Safe Haven Ballet Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4:30 p.m., at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main

St., Concord). Visit safehavenballet.org/events.

• **The Nutcracker Suite Acts I & II** presented by Dance Visions Network on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$25. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online or call 641-7700.

• **The Grinch** presented by Safe Haven Ballet and choreographed by Miranda Bailey, at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com) on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$31 to \$44. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

Classical

• **Holiday Recital and Singalong** At the Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St. in Concord; ccmusicschool.org), the Canterbury Singers will offer a Holiday Recital and Singalong on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 12:10 p.m. (free).

• **"Joyful!"** The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus will perform their holiday show, "Joyful!" Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road in Newington); tickets cost \$25 plus fees. The final performance in the

Nova Scotia's own Còig will bring their renditions of timeless Christmas classics in a Celtic holiday mix that includes everything folk, classical and swing, and will give favorite carols a fresh and original sound, according to their website. Visit tickets.anselm.edu.

• **Holiday show:** Peacock Players present their Holiday Spectacular at Court Street Theatre (14 Court St., Nashua). This musical cabaret features holiday favorites and musical-theater classics. Shows are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 and 7 p.m. The show is slated for a two-hour run time with one 15-minute intermission and the performance is rated PG. Tickets range from \$12 to \$18. Visit peacockplayers.org or call 889-2330.

• **You'll shoot your eye out:** Majestic Productions brings to stage *A Christmas Story: The Musical* at Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry). Performances are on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors 65+ and \$15 for children age 17 and under. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7469.

• **Handel for the holidays:** Saint Joseph Cathedral (145 Lowell St., Manchester) will present a performance of Handel's "Messiah" and Vivaldi's "Gloria" on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 per person online or at the door. Visit stjosephcathedralnh.org/cathedralconcert or call 622-6404. 🎵

series will be Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Rex Theatre in Manchester. See nhgmc.com.

• **Holiday Folk Concert** At the Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St. in Concord; ccmusicschool.org), On Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. the school will present a Holiday Folk Concert; tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$20 for students/seniors.

• **The Boston Pops Holiday Concert** comes to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000) on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m., conducted by Keith Lockhart. Tickets cost \$57 to \$92. Visit snhuarena.com.

• **The Tenors of New England** will be performing on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. at Saints Mary and Joseph Parish at St. Joseph Church (40 Main St., Salem). A free will offering will be accepted, no reservations needed, and all members of the public are welcome. Visit thenewenglandtenors.weebly.com.

• **Christmas with the Celts** will perform Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Colonial Theatre in Laconia (609 Main St.; coloniallaconia.com). Tickets cost \$39 to \$69.

• **Family Holiday Pops!** From the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portsmouth High

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Holiday gifts for the gardener

Books, seeds and tools for digging in the dirt

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

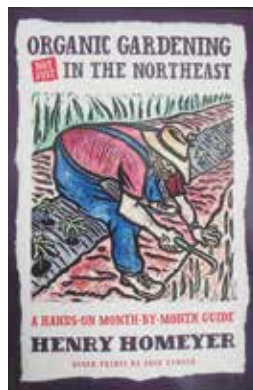
I am a bit embarrassed to admit this, but I believed in Santa Claus longer than anyone I have ever met. Fifth grade, maybe sixth. To this day, some 70 years later, I still believe in the mystery and joy of giving wonderful gifts that suit the receiver, things that will surprise and delight the recipient — just as Santa always did for me. Let's look at some great gifts you might consider for your loved ones this holiday season.

Books are always wonderful gifts. My favorite new book is by Barbara Damosch, author of the fabulous *The Garden Primer*. It is called *A Life in the Garden: Tales and Tips for Growing Food in Every Season*. It imparts lots of information from a lifetime of gardening and farming in Maine alongside her husband, author Eliot Coleman. Along with good information, it has delightful snippets about her life and views. I learned that I can plant rows of carrots just 2 or 3 inches apart — each carrot needs just 4 square inches. I've

been wasting space! Reading it is like sitting down with a knowledgeable Auntie and listening to stories and tips. Unlike most gardening books, it made me laugh out loud, too. Hardback \$40.

Another favorite this year is *Plants for the Winter Garden: Perennials, Grasses, Shrubs, and Trees to Add Interest in the Cold and Snow* by Warren Leach. Since we have five months or more of cold, this book is very useful. Leach is a prize-winning garden designer, and his book is nicely illustrated with lots of photos and useful information. Hardback \$40.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that I have re-printed my book *Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On Month-by-Month Guide*. It is a collection of my articles gleaned from 10 years of this column. Each of the 12 chapters has eight articles relevant to a



This is a reprint of Henry's 2011 book.

month in the garden. Get a signed copy by sending \$24 to Henry Homeyer, PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

It's not just regular visits to the garden that make a good gardener: It's also **tools**. Good tools make gardening more efficient, less work and more fun. Every year I mention my favorite weeding tool: the **Cobra-Head weeder** (www.CobraHead.com). It is a curved single-tine weeder that easily gets under weeds and allows you to tease out all the roots. Mine is a steel extension of my hand, and I use it for planting, weeding and more.

New to me this year is the **10-tine bedding fork**. The one I use is made by Ames and comes with a sturdy wooden handle (which is better than fiberglass, I believe). Originally made for cleaning manure out of stalls, it is perfect for moving mulch,



A metal watering can is better than plastic ones. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

wood chips, straw and compost. It can also be used to smooth out the mulch after spreading it.

Watering cans are often a disappointment. I no longer will buy plastic ones — the material often breaks down in the sun after just a few years. But good galvanized metal watering cans can be expensive and are not often sold at your local garden center or hardware store. Here's what to look for: Get one with a handle that runs from the front to the back of the can. This allows you to easily carry it and to water with one hand. Handles going from side to side require two hands. Size is important. I like big: 2.5 gallons. Smaller people may want smaller cans. Water weighs 8 pounds per gallon. Make sure the rose (nozzle) is removable for cleaning out leaves. Mine is antique, and you might find a good one in a second-hand store.

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Seeds are good stocking stuffers and offer friends new varieties to try. I started cardoon seeds indoors under lights this year, starting in early February. At maturity the plants stood up to 3 feet tall with handsome gray-green leaves. Best of all, the ribs of the leaves, when cooked properly, taste just like their relative, artichoke, and provide much more food. Got a favorite winter squash? Give a packet of seeds. Kohlrabi is another lesser-known veggie with seeds you might give to a friend to try.

Heirloom, self-harvested tomato seeds you saved can also be shared if your recipient is willing to start seedlings indoors. Or give seeds from your favorite annual poppies or morning glories.

My wife Cindy and I are committed to minimizing our use of plastic, both for the environment and for our health. Plastic is a petroleum product and has been found to exude micro-particles of plastic that we ingest. If you agree, think about



A cloth bread bag is great for homemade bread. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

buying glass containers for leftovers and store purchases. I get all my deli meats wrapped in paper and transfer them to glass containers when I get home. I recently solved the problem of how to keep bread fresh from the bakery without using a plastic bag for storage: **King Arthur Flour** makes cloth bags with an inner bag of waxed fabric. It really works!

Fend Off: Deer and Rabbit Repellent is another good gift. A package contains 25 small cylinders with a close pin attachment. They contain garlic oil and last all winter! These really work for me.

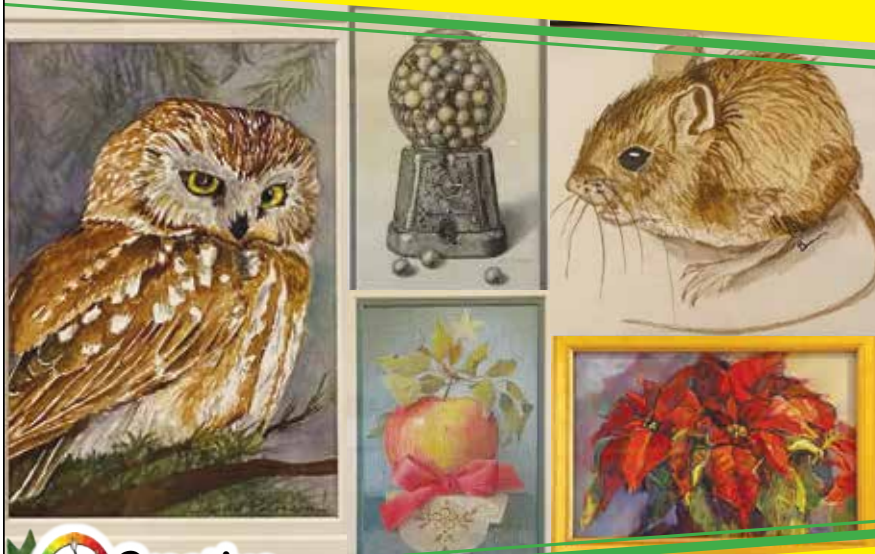
A gift certificate to your **local, family-run gardening center** is another great choice. It helps them make it through the winter, and it provides choice for your loved one.

Henry can be reached at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. His column appears here monthly. 🍄

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Give the gift of fun

Give memberships to local museums

Compiled by Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Give a year of experiences with membership to an area museum. Many of the museums listed here are geared to families or have family-fun activities, making membership a yearlong gift for families looking for something to do (and to maybe sneak in a little learning). Up the fun factor by adding a gift from the gift shop.

- **SEE Science Center** (see-science-center.org, 669-0400, 200 Bedford St., Manchester) Memberships are available as gifts and gift cards are available too. Membership plans range from \$30 to \$150 per year. All membership levels include priority admission and discounts to SEE special programs and summer camp; \$50 discount on a child's birthday party at SEE; 10 percent off purchases at the SEE gift shop over \$10; and reciprocal membership with the Millyard Museum, which is in the same building. Membership also includes occasional special benefits; for example, in January 2025 SEE members may save on admission fees at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, and in May SEE members can receive free admission for up to four people one time at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness.

The SEE Science Center is open from Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last admission 3 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with last admission at 4 p.m. SEE will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, but will be open on select Mondays and holidays/school vacations including Mondays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. The SEE Gift Shop has science souvenirs, books, science kids and other toys.

- **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord, starhop.com, 271-7827) Membership packages range from \$35 a year to \$300 a year depending on the level; a family membership, for example, admits a member and four guests and costs \$120 per year. All member levels are 10 percent off until Saturday, Dec. 14. They will have special shopping hours from Monday, Dec. 16, through Friday, Dec. 20, and the Science Store gift shop will be open from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day (the exhibits and planetarium will be closed on those days).

According to their website, all membership levels include free admission to the Discovery Center exhibit halls, the Science Playground, and regularly sched-



Santa arriving by helicopter at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire. Courtesy photo.

uled planetarium shows; free admission to their monthly Super Stellar Fridays series; and free or reduced admission to more than 300 science centers that are part of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) reciprocal program. Membership also includes discounts on Discovery Center workshops and programs, and discounts at the Science Store. For more information contact Kelly Thompson at kthompson@starhop.com or call 415-1657.

At the Science Store, find a variety of space- and science-themed toys and items including stuffed spacecraft and space-themed socks.

- **The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org) This museum dedicated to the science, technology, history and culture of aviation features interactive exhibits and educational programs. Youth programs include the 'Flights of Discovery' Summer Camp as well as the high school student plane-building project.

Membership is open to anyone, and membership benefits include free admission to the Aviation Museum; a subscription to the quarterly Aeronaut publication; borrowing privileges in the Slusser Aviation Lending Library; regular email updates about museum activities and events; and a 20 percent discount at the Aviation Museum store, according to the Museum's website.

Individual memberships are \$50 and a membership for two is \$100. Three premium levels of membership range from \$250 to \$1000.

The Aviation Museum is open Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. It is open to appointments or private group tours as well. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors age 65 and over, veterans, active duty and kids ages 6 through 12, and is free for kids age 5 and

CONTINUED ON PG 22 ►



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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 20

under, with a \$30 maximum for families.

The gift shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily Monday, Dec. 16, through Sunday, Dec. 22. The shop features airplane and aeronautical themed toys and stuffed animals as well as museum merch.

The museum also sells Heritage Trail passports which cost \$30 and offer one free admission each to 21 New Hampshire museums (see nhmuseumtrail.org).

• **The Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) This family museum features unique interactive exhibits with a focus on art, science and culture.

The Children's Museum has various membership levels, according to their website. A family membership is \$125 and allows unlimited visits to CMNH for one year for two parents and their dependent children under 18 living in the same household; 10 percent off museum shop purchases, classes, camps, and museum rentals; and pre-sale access and invitations to special events. Guest options can be added to a membership. You can also gift one-time passes for \$12.50 each.

The museum offers a variety of special programs throughout the year. Coming up: Jingle Bell Extravaganza will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 1 and 3 p.m. Participants will meet Santa for a photo opportunity and receive a special gift, and there will be hands-on holiday craft activities and a magical science experiment. Tickets are \$18 for members, \$22 for nonmembers, and free for kids under 12 months.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31, parents, children and extended families can "ring in 2025 together while the sun is shining" at the Museum's Family New Year's Eve Celebration. The countdown to midnight will be held at 10:30 a.m. during the morning play session and at 2 p.m. during the afternoon play session. Tickets are \$6.50 for members, \$13 for nonmembers, and free for kids under the age of 12 months.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon, with an additional session from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The gift shop features games, toys, a variety of kinds of putty, stuffed animals and more.

• **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) The Currier is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children 12 and under always have free gallery admission.

The second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. is designated for special art-making activities whole family designed to relate to an exhibition or

the collection, complemented by a 20- to 30-minute interactive family tour devoted to the month's theme.

Currier Museum membership grants special access to exhibitions, invitations to special events, and a behind-the-scenes look at art. Individual membership costs \$65 and includes unlimited free admission; invitations to member-only openings and events; 10 percent discount at the Museum Shop, café, and art classes; a special price for Frank Lloyd Wright tours; and one free admission pass for a friend. College students with a valid ID and seniors 65+ save \$5 on an individual membership.

Dual membership costs \$100 and applies to two adult cardholders. Seniors 65+ save \$10 on a dual membership.

Household membership costs \$120 and includes unlimited free admission for two adult cardholders and all family members under 18; two additional free general admissions for accompanying guests for each visit; invitations to member-only openings and events for the two cardholders; a special price for Frank Lloyd Wright tours; a 10 percent discount at the Museum Shop, café, and art classes; and two free admission passes for friends. Other membership levels range from \$300 to \$900. The museum shop offers gifts for all ages.

• **The Millyard Museum** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, manchesterhistoric.org, 622-7531) The Museum has two games that can be printed off or picked up at the museum: the Millyard Museum Fun Book, which has word searches, drawing, and more, and Mystery Objects, which is an I Spy-type scavenger hunt.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and college students, \$5 for children between the ages of 12 to 18, and free for children under 12; Manchester Historic Association members are admitted at no charge. The Millyard Museum is generally open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Membership categories range from \$40 to \$1,000. A family/duel membership (covering a household) costs \$75. Membership benefits according to the website include unlimited visits to the Millyard Museum and MHA Research Center; notice of exhibits, lectures, walking tours, concerts and special events; free or discounted admissions to MHA programs and events; special invitations to exhibit previews and special members-only events; 10 percent or greater discount on research services, photocopies and photograph orders and on purchases in the Museum Shop, and more. The museum shop sells a variety of items including Manchester and New Hampshire history-related books and souvenirs, old-fashioned kids' toys and the Association's 2025 calendar (which costs \$18).

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KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Santa at the farm

• Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia, visitthefarm.com) will hold **Santa's Christmas** runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 22, plus Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24. Pick a time when you buy tickets for either a four-person or a 10-person sleigh ride or an express option. The event includes a stop at the North Pole, Mrs. Claus' Bakery, a visit to the barnyard, an opportunity to shop for Christmas trees, a campfire, a special mailbox for letters to Santa and the big man himself, according to the website.

Santa on the air

• Londonderry Access Center TV (281 Mammoth Road) will host **Santa Live 2024** on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be present in the studio and the event will be broadcast live on television. The event is free

of charge and operates on a first come, first served basis. Refreshments and coloring activities are provided for children while they wait to meet the magical elf. Each child will receive a gift and candy cane. Parents are allowed to take pictures during the visit. Visit facebook.com/LondonderryAccessTV.

Santa in the air

• **Santa Claus will helicopter in** to make a stop at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, aviationmuseumofnh.org) on Saturday, Dec. 14, according to the Museum's website. Santa is slated for touchdown at 11 a.m. and is scheduled to stay for two hours and leave by fire truck at 1 p.m. The event will feature hot chocolate, coffee, doughnuts and other fun holiday treats. Those coming by to catch Santa at the Aviation Museum are asked to arrive at the museum by 10:45 a.m. The museum will be open and free to visitors from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. although admission will be charged from 1 to 4 p.m.

Santa from space

• Meet and get a photo with **Astronaut Santa** at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com) on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is open that day from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$13 for adults, \$12 for ages 13 through college and 62+, \$10 for ages 3 to 12 (general admission tickets do not include planetarium shows).

Holiday shows

• Get ready for the **Mr. Aaron Holiday special**. A holiday party from the local family entertainer will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m. at the BNH stage (16 S. Main St., Concord). This will be an interactive family concert great for kids ages 1 through 10. Songs will include holiday classics and Mr. Aaron originals, and participants will be able to "dance off some of that December-candy-canes-and-presents energy," according to the event's website. Tickets are \$16 online, including fees. Visit mraaronmusic.com or ccanh.com.

• Safe Haven Ballet presents **The Grinch** as a ballet, choreographed by Miranda Bailey, at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com) on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$31 to \$44. *The Grinch* is a unique interactive experience for audience members of all ages. In addition to the performance component of the production, according to the event's website,

audiences can look forward to a demonstration on different dance forms and theater etiquette. Visit ccanh.com or call 225-1111.

Meet the dancers

• Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St., Concord; kimballjenkins.com) will hold two **Holiday Tea Meet and Greet** events on Saturday, Dec. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. featuring a light lunch and tea, holiday crafts and dancers from Safe Haven Ballet holiday productions. On Dec. 14, meet *The Nutcracker's* Sugar Plum Fairy and friends. And on Dec. 15, meet The Grinch, as well as Cindy Lou Who and friends. Tickets cost \$40 for ages 13+ and \$30 for ages 2 to 12, and can be purchased via the Kimball Jenkins website under "events."

Save the date for princesses

• The Derryfield Restaurant (625 Mammoth Road in Manchester; thederryfield.com) will hold a **Royal Princess Breakfast** on Saturday, March 1, at 9 a.m. Tickets cost \$55 for adults and \$40 for children; a \$65 VIP ticket for kids will get early admission, a group photo opportunity with all of the princesses and their own tiara. See the website for a link to tickets.



Gift Adventures





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Flooring your EV is fun but not cost-free



By Ray Magliozzi
Dear Car Talk: I've always loved your radio show (now Car Talk podcast), and even visited your office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, once. You weren't there. Your staff said you were busy with your second afternoon nap. Anyway, as a driver, I have always tried to avoid jackrabbit starts to improve my fuel economy. I now drive an electric vehicle and wonder whether the laws of physics apply the same to how you accelerate with electric cars. Am I saving range by accelerating more slowly? It's more fun to step on it! — Chris

It is fun, isn't it? I have to admit that every electric car I've driven, I've floored, just for the thrill. A theoretical physicist would tell you that in an electric vehicle, how quickly you accelerate makes no difference. Whether you take one second or 60 seconds to get up to 60 mph — you'd be using the same number of kW to move the car's mass. End of story. But there's a reason the newspaper doesn't hire theoretical physicists to answer your car questions. In the real world, there are losses and inefficiencies, even in a bat-

tery-electric propulsion system. They're due primarily to things like heat and resistance.

You can experiment with this yourself, Chris. Top up the battery then drive the same route under the same temperature and weather conditions. On your first pass, do everything gently, and on the next, floor it each time you take off until you get to your traveling speed. Then see how much range you have left when you get home each time. I think you'll see some difference. Not as much as if you were flooring a gas-powered car because electric motors are much more efficient, but I think you'll see some loss of range.

Range aside, many of the other reasons why we advise against hard acceleration still stand. When you slam your foot on the accelerator, you start a chain reaction of force that stresses every connected part of the car, from the drivetrain right down to the screws that hold the dashboard together.

Now, it's less injurious in an EV because the electric motor doesn't care. It's just magnets spinning on a shaft, rather than pistons and connecting rods flying up and down. And there's no transmission in most EVs, so that's another thing you don't have to worry about. But you still have axles, a suspension system, and hundreds of body welds that

are stressed by hard acceleration. The acceleration on even the most pedestrian EVs is

pretty thrilling. But it's still not 100% cost-free. Visit Cartalk.com. 🗨️

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

*Dear Donna,
 This bowl belonged to my mother's mom. Inside was a paper saying 'brilliant cut glass bowl.' Also a brief story of how she got it passed down. I remember every holiday using it at the table for vegetables. Wondering what you might know about cut glass.*

Earl

Dear Earl,

Your mom did a great thing by putting information in the bowl for you to have. Along with the memories you have, it's nice to share even more with younger family members.

American brilliant cut glass bowls have a long interesting history. They've been around since the 1800s in several different patterns. I have never been in an estate that didn't have an assortment of cut glass. It's that sparkle that was loved. The sad part is today they



are not so sought after, though there are always exceptions for harder to find pieces in mint condition or by specific makers. Finding pieces with no chips or flaking around the top is tough. Remember they were used and loved for many years.

The value of a bowl like this one would be in the range of \$40 with no damage. To find chipping or flakes on your bowl, rub a cotton ball lightly across the top and raised edges along the pattern. It should not get stuck on any area. If it does you have some damage.

Donna Welch has spent more than 35 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing. Her new location is an Antique Art Studio located in Dunbarton, NH where she is still buying and selling. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550. 🗨️



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FOOD

Baskets of goodies

How to put together a gift basket

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Your in-laws own too much stuff as it is, and you can't think of something else they'd actually enjoy owning. Or maybe you want to send a seasonal thank-you to a client. Possibly, you have decent ideas for eight or nine little gifts but can't come up with one great present for somebody special. A holiday gift basket is an elegant solution to a lot of stressful holiday gift-giving impasses.

Steven Freeman has a lot of experience with designing food-based gift baskets. He is the owner of Angela's Pasta and Cheese Shop in Manchester and has been filling baskets for customers for a long time. "Angela's has been making gift baskets for, we're in our 45th year now," he said. How many has he made this season? "Three hundred thirty," he said, without hesitation.

According to Freeman, one of the nice things about a gift basket is that it allows somebody to pamper someone else with little

touches of luxury.

"I'm not going to buy cashmere socks for myself," he said. "I'm not spending that kind of money on a pair of socks. But I want them." Putting them in a gift basket is a way of indulging someone without making a big deal about it. He used the high-end candy that goes in some of his baskets as another example. "A customer may not spend \$5 on an adult Reese's, but once they try it and say, 'Wow, that was delicious!', they go to buy it. 'Oh, it's \$5? Well, it was really good, so I'm going to buy another one.'"

While almost anything smaller than a bowling ball can go in a gift basket, Freeman offered a few general guidelines to putting together one that makes an impact.

Include small bites of food that the recipient can eat immediately. "You want something you can instantly get in your mouth to feed on or snack on," he said. "Even if it's a pasta meal that you have to cook and spend time preparing, you can get something to snack on right away. In every one of our baskets, we put something that you can break right into."

The presents in the basket should follow a theme. "Our pasta baskets are a pasta meal," he said. "There's a bag of pasta in it, an equivalent size sauce to complement it, and then a snack, a beverage, and a sweet snack and a savory snack. So while you're preparing the meal you can be snacking and drinking other things. We try to tie it together."

Put a surprise in each basket. "One thing



Photo courtesy of Angela's Pasta and Cheese.

baskets allow us to do is to introduce customers to products that they wouldn't necessarily buy themselves," Freeman said. "Maybe it's something that they don't think is their flavor profile, or it's not a budget-friendly thing they would normally spend money on. It should be something that the recipient isn't likely to have tried on their own."

Make it easy to see everything in the basket. Freedman said Angela's usually uses shallow baskets that showcase gift items well. "The baskets [we use] are all tapered," he said, "so it gives you a larger surface to build on it, as opposed to trying to stuff it all in. They need some good padding. And it's very intentional that they're filled up that high so you see the product. It gives you visual volume. And then underneath them, we use recycled packing peanuts to raise everything up, because they're lightweight and they compress nicely. That's our base; then we put crinkle-cut paper on top of it, then fill it with the candies, chocolates and then the bigger things."

If you have a crisis of imagination, there's no shame in having someone put together a basket for you. "We have about 10 gift baskets we make year-round," Freeman said. "We

CONTINUED ON PG 27 ▶

News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **New Greek food spot:** A new branch of The Great Greek Mediterranean Grill (946 S. Willow St., Manchester, 932-2181, thegreatgreekgrill.com) will have its official ribbon-cutting at 4 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12. It will feature traditional Greek and Mediterranean dishes, some of which will be vegetarian and/or gluten-free.

• **Special cupcakes:** Queen City Cupcakes (816 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com) has released its menu of Special Holiday Cupcakes. All cupcakes will be festively decorated and "dressed in their holiday best," according to the bakery's website. Holiday flavors will include eggnog, gingerbread snickerdoodle, sugarplum fairy, and chocolate-peppermint. Pre-order your holiday cupcakes by Dec. 21 for pickup on Dec. 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Meet chocolate book writer:** Rowan Jacobsen, James Beard award winner and the author of nine books, will sign copies of his new book *Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas in Search of Cacao's Soul* on Friday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 5 p.m. at Dancing Lion Chocolate in Manchester (917 Elm St., 625-4043, dancinglion.us). Walk-ins are welcome for the book-signing and copies will be available to purchase. A chocolate tasting following the book signing is sold out.

• **Cookie tour:** The Currier and Ives Cookie Tour will take place Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature 16 stops at inns, restaurants, galleries and more in the Monadnock region. Cookie Tour tickets may be purchased at The Inn at East Hill Farm (460 Monadnock St., Troy, 242-6495, east-hill-farm.com) and Frogg Brewing (580 Sawyers Crossing Road, Swanzey, 547-7639, froggbrewing.com). Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased with cash only. Visit currierandivescookie tour.com. See the story in the Dec. 5 issue of the Hippo in the digital library at hippopress.com; the story is on page 22.

• **Save the date:** Chef Marcus Samuelsson will return to host the Steel Chef Challenge on Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester. The event benefits the New Hampshire Food Bank. Tickets cost \$150 general admission, \$250 VIP. See nhfoodbank.org/steelchef. 🍷

Angela's Pasta and Cheese

815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544

For a list of gift baskets available from Angela's Pasta and Cheese, visit angelas-pastaandcheese.com/gift-baskets. Until Christmas, Angela's will sell holiday gifts at a pop-up store at the Live Free Refillery (460 Route 101, Bedford, 488-2231, livefreerefillery.com)

FOOD

Putting your faith in cheeses

The art of designing a good charcuterie board

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

The twin secrets to a successful charcuterie board, according to Tom Bellemore, are putting a variety of contrasting flavors and textures on a board, and making it pretty.

Bellemore, who with his wife, Leah, owns Vine 32 (Bedford Square, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 935-8464, vinethirtytwo.com), a wine and small-bites bar, loves the way wine tastes completely different when it's paired with different foods. Which is why charcuterie boards are such a natural way of serving food in a wine bar. Each bite of food on the board brings out different notes in a wine, which make contrast so important.

"We include a spread of cured meats, cheeses, crackers, peak fruit, some jams and

tapas," he said.

"This," Bellemore said, indicating a cold cut on one of his charcuterie boards, "is a peppered salami. Normally we're going to have [a variety]. We get some chorizo in there; we have prosciutto, cheeses — we've got truffle cheddar and sweet onion cheddar. We kind of mix and match everything."

"This is a soppressata [a type of dried Calabrian salami from southwestern Italy]," he said, "and this is wild boar sausage. It's one of our favorites, that's always selling out."

Vine 32

Vine 32 Wine and Graze Bar (Bedford Square, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 935-8464, vinethirtytwo.com) serves charcuterie boards to dine-in customers or will prepare custom boards for delivery. A fully loaded board runs anywhere from \$85,

We like to slice it super-thin, one or one and a half [millimeters thick]. The weight's the same, but it looks really good on a board."

Fatty, spicy meats will bring out one set of flavors from a wine. Sharp, acidic flavors will bring out completely different characteristics. "We always have pickled vegetables," Bellemore said. "That's a must for me. Have you ever had caper berries? I found out about caper berries when we opened this place. They look appealing and

CONTINUED ON PG 46 ▶

which feeds six to nine people, to \$125, which serves 10 to 12.

It also hosts regular charcuterie board workshops to teach participants how to put together their own. Visit vinethirtytwo.com/charcuterieclasses.

Everybody likes cookies

Cookies that make good gifts

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Stephanie Errett is of the opinion that cookies are one of the best gifts.

“I think everyone kind of loves that white bakery box coming toward them,” she said, “because they’re not sure what’s in it, and then they unwrap the bow, and open it, and they see all these delicious treats just for them. I think that’s really nice. I think people get really excited because when they see that box they know it’s going to be something so delicious, no matter where it came from.”

Errett is the owner and head baker of the Dutch Epicure Bakery in Amherst, a from-

Dutch Epicure Bakery
141 Route 101A, Amherst
879-9400, dutchepicurebakery.com
Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

scratch European-style bakery. She said that true to her bakery’s name the most popular cookie she sells this time of year is a Dutch cookie. “I know that for us, our holiday cookie that we do only in December and every December is our speculoos cookie,” she said. “It’s my favorite cookie that we make, and unfortunately we do only make it in December, but it’s really good with tea or coffee. It travels really well, and it’s perfect for any time during the day, so morning, noon, or night.” (Speculoos are gently sweet, cinnamon, and extremely crispy cookies. The best known commercial brand of speculoos is Biscoff.) “I personally get two dozen at the end of the holiday,” she said, “and keep them until, I usually make it till about Valentine’s Day. They have a nice snap to them, but a little bit of softness in the middle, and they really work out very well for a duration.”

One of Errett’s other big sellers during the holidays is the star Linzer cookie. “It’s sim-

ilar to the speculoos but without as much spice,” she said. “We have Linzers year-round, but we do change the shape of them. So in December they’re a star and they have a nice white and red contrast with seedless raspberry jam inside. They just look Christmasy and wonderful, and they’re just really festive. They are a little bit hard to travel with because of the powdered sugar, but they are wonderful. And you also have all the points to kind of bite on, so it’s kind of fun.”

Errett said thoughtfulness is the key to a good cookie platter.

“First of all,” she said, “find out about any allergies your people might have; it’s about [respecting] your guests. And then you want to add color and a mix of a little bit of variety with the classics and some fun ones. If I see a cookie platter that doesn’t have at least one chocolate chip cookie, I’m going to be a little bummed. I like a little bit of assortment but not too much, so I’m not trying every sin-



Photo courtesy of Dutch Epicure Bakery.

gle cookie. But I think if you have a variety of either four to six types, that’s enough. I personally like modest-sized cookies — the smaller options, the little two-bite, three-bite ones ...”

When pressed, Errett said her personal favorite cookies this time of year are classics. “I’m always a sucker for the peanut butter blossom,” she said. “The ones with a piece of chocolate in the middle ... I do really enjoy the Linzer cookie, that is one of my tops. And then after that, I don’t remember the exact name of it, but my friend’s mother used to make these thick, fluffy waffle cookies. ... Frizzelles? They’re thicker, they’re fluffy, and they’re soft, and they have powdered sugar on top. They were fantastic ...”

◀ GIFT BASKETS FROM PG 26
revamp them every summer.” Angela’s sells 10 premade baskets that range in price from \$62.99 to \$166.99, from small and simple to

extremely luxurious. “At Christmastime we make 12 Tiffany baskets,” Freeman said. This year, one of the 12 baskets has a \$1,000 gift card to the Tiffany jewelry store. “Last year

we sold out; we had a lucky winner. This year, the winner last year bought the first Tiffany basket for us to donate to someone else. Win or lose didn’t matter, but she bought it.

She’s like, ‘I don’t want to win again,’ so we’re donating one Tiffany basket to a customer.’

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FOOD

Kitchen toys

Gifts for all budgets and levels of culinary nerdery

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

If you've been trying to think of a holiday gift for the cook, baker or mad scientist in your life, here are a few suggestions that you might not have thought of.

- **Anova Sous Vide** starting at \$69.99 at anovaculinary.com. A sous vide is a fun toy for a kitchen gadget enthusiast. Originally designed for use in science labs, it keeps a water bath at a constant temperature, allowing a cook to bring a food to an exact temperature. If, for instance, you want to have a boiled egg with a yolk at just the right level of runniness, this will help you do it. If you want to pasteurize a particular food at an exact temperature,

boom! Anova sous vides clamp onto the side of any deep vessel, like a soup pot, and are controlled via an app on your smartphone. Search for "sous vide" on YouTube, and you will be hooked.

- **Victorinox Swiss Classic 8-Inch Chef's Knife with Straight-Edge Blade and Black Handle** \$61 at victorinox.com. The best, most useful tool in any kitchen is a sharp, high-quality chef's knife. Watch any non-baking cooking competition, and most of the contestants will make a bit of a production of unrolling their canvas

knife carrier. Victorinox is the company that makes Swiss Army Knives, and this is their beginner's kitchen knife that is perfect for culinary students and 98 percent of the rest of us. It is comfortable in the hand, holds an edge well, and chops, cuts and slices like a dream. Send it out to be sharpened two or three times per year, and the cook on your list will be 15 to 18 percent happier in the kitchen.

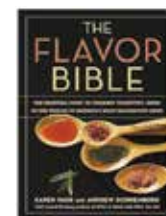
- **Apron.** A good apron is a necessity in any kitchen and probably gives a cook the most latitude for self-expression. There are classics, like a solid or pinstriped professional apron available from any restaurant supply store, or the iconic "Kiss the Cook" apron. You can easily find aprons designed to reflect any personality, from the NRA to NPR, from a favorite sports team to obscure anime characters. Personally, I love my shop apron, originally designed for woodworkers; it is made



from sturdy canvas and has more pockets than any one cook is likely to need.

- **Bar tools** about \$25 online or from a restaurant supply store. Almost any chef will tell you to buy your

pots and pans or knives individually, rather than in a set, so you get exactly the tools you need and very few of the ones that will sit around cluttering up your cabinet. If you are shopping for someone looking to learn how to mix drinks, there are four basic tools that will allow them to make virtually any cocktail: a Boston shaker (a two-part big cup and little cup for shaking drinks with ice), a long-handled bar spoon for drinks like martinis that shouldn't be shaken, a small strainer (I like a simple \$3 mesh drain strainer; it fits well over almost any glass) and a hand-held citrus juicer. Any of these will make good stocking stuffers, or as a set, with a bottle of liquor, they will be an excellent wrapped present.



- **The Flavor Bible: The Essential Guide to Culinary Creativity, Based on the Wisdom of America's Most Imaginative Chefs** by Karen Page and Andrew Dornenburg

(2008, Little, Brown and Co.) hardcover \$45. This reference book is the authoritative guide to pairing flavors with each other. It is perfect for the cook in your life who enjoys developing their own recipes.



- **The All-Purpose Baker's Companion** by King Arthur Baking Co. (2021, Countryman Press) hardcover \$40. Cooking is fun, because most of the time you can throw things

together on a whim and see how they work together (especially if you own a copy of *The Flavor Bible*). Baking can be intimidating, because recipes need to be exact to achieve the chemical reactions needed to produce proper cookies, cakes and breads. Every recipe in this book has been rigorously tested by the staff at King Arthur. There are chapters devoted to technique, and the science of baking, and useful, easy to understand charts and descriptions of tools and ingredients.

- **Cast-iron Dutch oven** starting at \$34.95 at lodgecastiron.com. A cast-iron Dutch oven is the Swiss army knife

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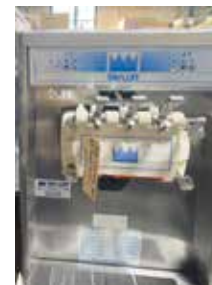
of kitchen pots. It is perfect for braising a pork shoulder, deep-frying corn fritters or baking a loaf of sourdough bread. Many cooks prefer Dutch ovens that have been coated with enamel, but properly seasoned, a plain iron one will give several generations' worth of service. Lodge is the go-to for cast-iron cookware. You could easily spend \$400 or more for a French, enameled Dutch oven and worry about damaging it, or you can spend less than \$100 for a no-nonsense one that you can break out the same morning you unwrap it.

• **An expensive, over-the-top kitchen**

gift: A KitchenAid Stand Mixer starting at \$249 at KitchenAid.com. A KitchenAid mixer is the gold standard of kitchen tools. It will probably work perfectly for 30 years or more, and if it ever does break down KitchenAid will happily repair it, often under warranty. They are available in a range of colors and sizes, and a short search online will reveal an infinite number of decals to personalize your mixer. This is a solid investment. KitchenAid sells reconditioned mixers for as little as \$200, and you can find them for even less at flea markets. Because of their sterling

reputation, an old used KitchenAid carries as much cachet as a new one, maybe more.

• **A completely ridiculously expensive holiday kitchen gift: A Reconditioned Taylor Commercial Soft-Serve Ice Cream Machine with Three-Flavor and Twist Capability** \$8,995 at New Hampshire Restaurant Equipment (783 Second St., Manchester, nhrestequip.com). Is it ridiculous to spend \$9,000 on a soft-serve machine? That depends. Is it more ridiculous than parking a new car with one of those giant red bows on it in your driveway? If you want a perfect, once-in-



a-lifetime present for the soft-serve extremist in your life, this is it. When other parents are bringing trays of brownies to a PTA fundraiser, your newly retired father will be selling his patented mango-fudge ripple ice cream and slipping freebies to kids when their parents aren't looking. 🍷

Cookbooks

Looking to give a cookbook? Here are a few standout recent releases.

• **America's Test Kitchen 25: 500 Recipes That Change the Way America Cooks** (2024, America's Test Kitchen) This book feels like it could be a winner with kitchen novices and your family's best cook — you get cast Q&As and discussions of some dishes as well as “why it works” explanations and thorough methods for every dish.

• **Bake Club, 101 Must-Have Moves for Your Kitchen** by Christina Tosi and Shannon Salzano (2024, Alfred A. Knopf) Tosi, of Milk Bar fame, is a fun baker who makes fun things — in this book that includes Ice Cream Loaf Cake, Cinnamon Buns with Brown Sugar Goo and Pop Rocks.

• **Easy Weeknight Dinners** from New York Times Cooking by Emily Weinstein (2024, Ten Speed Press) The New York Times Cooking recipes are almost as sure-bet as America's Test Kitchen; the pico de gallo (made to go with hot dogs) is already one of my go-tos.

• **Pan Y Dulce, The Latin American Baking Book** By Bryan Ford (2024, Voracious Books) Even breads and desserts that seem specific to one country or region — a Chilean bread, a Mexican cookie — have history that weaves together native ingredients and methods, colonial influences and often origins even beyond Spain or Portugal, as Ford explains.

• **My Mexican Kitchen** by Eva Longoria (2024 Clarkson Potter) Taking the Stanley-Tucci-in-Italy approach to food in

Mexico on her CNN show, Eva Longoria has become one of my favorite aspirational food exploration people, both on her show and in her podcast, *Hungry for History*.

• **Turkaz Kitchen, Traditional & Modern Dough Recipes for Sweet & Savory Bakers** by Betül Tunç (2024, Ten Speed Press) Tunç gained a following for her bakes on Instagram but what grabbed me about the book was that it both offers Turkish bakes (Turkish Pistachio Baklava, the sesame and molasses coated Simit) and things like Raspberry Key Lime Bars, Beef Empanadas with Salsa Roja and Salsa Verde, and Garlic Naan.

• **What Goes with What: 100 Recipes, 20 Charts, Endless Possibilities** by Julia Turshen (2024, Flatiron Books) On their own, this

book's charts are a valuable resource, breaking down something like a sandwich into its parts — bread, main thing, creamy layer, crunchy layer and extra acidic thing — and then giving suggestions for what each thing could be used to create, for example “Best Ham Sandwich.” We get her recipes to go with these charts.

• **When Southern Women Cook** edited by Morgan Bolling (2024, America's Test Kitchen) You normally don't read cookbooks cover to cover but this book, as much a history book as a cookbook, is an exception. You get the stories of a dish, and its many variations, and ingredients and their connections to Native, African, Latin, European and Asian cultures and specific women who had a hand in popularizing the foods. — *Amy Diaz*

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FOOD

Going out for Christmas

Where to find holiday meals & meals on a holiday

By John Fladd
 jfladd@hippopress.com

Here are a few of the places offering special holiday meals and that are open on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Know of another Feast of Seven Fishes or kitchen serving up meals on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Let us know at adiazz@hippopress.com for inclusion in next week's Weekly Dish.



pastaandcheese.com) will close at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Before Dec. 24

- Colby Hill Inn (33 The Oaks in Henniker, colbyhillinn.com) will hold a **Christmas High Tea** on Saturday, Dec. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 12:30 p.m. featuring teas and other beverages; salads and savories, such as mini beef Wellington, mini cucumber sandwiches and more, and sweets such as gingerbread scones, stollen, Christmas cookies and more.
- The Artisan Hotel at Tuscan Village (17 Via Toscana, Salem, tuscanbrands.com) will hold a **Brunch with Santa** on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The food offerings include omelet and prime rib stations; a buffet with salads, breakfast items, vegetables, pan-seared chicken, baked haddock and meatballs; sweets including chocolate fondue and croquembouche, and beverages. The cost is \$90 per person.

Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will also offer a three-course prix fixe menu on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., followed by a Grand Dessert Buffet and cash bar in the Great Hall. It will cost \$125 per adult, or \$75 for each child 12 and under.

- **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 DW Highway, Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreasteaks.com) is taking reservations for Christmas Eve.
- **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) will be open normal business hours on Christmas Eve — 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Artisan Hotel at Tuscan Village (17 Via Toscana, Salem, tuscanbrands.com) will hold a **Holiday Special Frank Sinatra Dinner** with the Strictly Sinatra Band on Sunday, Dec. 15. Dinner featuring a five-course Italian-inspired meal is at 5 p.m., showtime at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$198.

- **CR's The Restaurant** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972, crstherestaurant.com) will be open from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- **The Derryfield Restaurant** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **The Farm Bar & Grille** (1181 Elm St, Manchester, 641-3276, farmbargrille.com) will be open during regular business hours, noon to 11 p.m.

Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will host a **Feast of the Seven Fishes** on Monday, Dec. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. This traditional Italian celebration will feature a five-course plated seafood dinner with wine pairings. The cost for this 21+ event is \$125 per person.

- **Chen Yang Li** (124 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6922, chenyangli.com) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will offer a special menu on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day — see the website.
- **Chen Yang Li** (379 Amherst St, Nashua, 578-9888, chenyanglinh.com) will be open 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Greenleaf (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com) will host a **Feast of Seven Fishes**, Thursday, Dec. 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m., featuring six seafood courses as well as dessert. The cost is \$145 per person, through Greenleaf's website.

- **Chen Yang Li** (520 South St, Bow, 228-8508, chenyangli-bow.com) will be open Dec.24, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec.25, from 12 to 10 p.m

Christmas Eve

- **Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Alan's Restaurant** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Angela's Pasta, Cheese and Wine** (815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, [**The Common Man** restaurants in Concord \(1 Gulf St., 228-3463\) and Merrimack \(304 DW Highway, 429-3463\) are open from 11:30 to 3 p.m. Windham \(88 Range Road\) is open for gift card sales only from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See \[thecman.com\]\(http://thecman.com\).](http://angelas-

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- **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033, copperdoor.com) is accepting reservations at its restaurants until 8 p.m. and will be open until 10 p.m.

- **Epoch Gastropub** (90 Front St., Exeter,

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778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will offer a special price-fixed menu, \$70 per person, featuring starters, a main course and a dessert plus an intermezzo from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille** (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

• **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) is open from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St, Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• **Friendly Red's Tavern** (22 Haverhill Road, Route 111, Windham, 437-7251; 111 W Broadway, Derry, 404-6606, friendlyred-tavern.net) is open until 8 p.m.

• **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, auchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be open Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. with a final seating at 8 p.m. and on Christmas Day for brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Giorgio's** (707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; 270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323, giorgios.com) will be open from noon to 3 p.m. for dining and from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for pickup of pre-ordered (by Dec. 22) meals. See the website for details.

• **La Caretta Mexican Restaurant** (lacaretamex.com) will be open in the following

locations on Christmas Eve, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.: Manchester (1875 S Willow St, Manchester, 623-7705), Manchester (Livingston Park, North End Shops at, 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899), and Portsmouth (172 Hanover St, Portsmouth, 427-8319). The Nashua location (139 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-0055) will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. The Derry and Londonderry locations will be closed on Dec.24.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com/lakehouse-grille) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• **The Lucky Moose Casino & Tavern** (16 Gusabel Ave., Nashua, 864-0175, luckymooscasino.com) kitche is open until midnight on Dec. 24 and until 10 p.m. on Dec. 25.

• **Mr. Mac's Macaroni and Cheese** (497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **900 Degrees** (50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Puerto Vallarta Mexican Grill** (865 Second St, Manchester, 935-9182) and **Nuevo Vallarta Mexican Restaurant** (791 Second St, Manchester, 782-8762; vallarta-mexicannh.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

• **Red Arrow Diner** locations (112 Loudon

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FOOD



JOHN FLADD COOKS

Chocolate Raspberry Rugelach

- 1 cup (120 g) all-purpose flour
- 2 Tablespoons cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup (66 g) sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ½ cup (half an 8-ounce package) cream cheese
- 1 egg, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 Tablespoons + 3 Tablespoons seedless raspberry jam
- ¾ cup (4 ounces or 125 g) semi-sweet chocolate chips, chopped



Chocolate Raspberry Rugelach. Photo by John Fladd.

Whisk the dry ingredients — the flour, salt and cocoa — together, and set aside.

Right now you might be asking, “If I’m whisking the dry ingredients together, why not the sugar?” Interestingly enough, because it melts into wet ingredients so easily, it is usually considered a wet ingredient.

With a mixer, cream the butter, cream cheese and sugar together until they are light and fluffy. If your dairy is cold, it will cream up perfectly well, but clumps of it might stick in your mixer blade(s); knock it off with a rubber spatula, or turn up the speed and let centrifugal force do it for you. Attaining fluffiness should take two to three minutes. Beat in the egg yolk and vanilla.

Mix in the dry ingredients a spoonful or two at a time. If you try to do it all at once, a cloud of flour will poof up into your face. Remove the dough from the mixing bowl, and pat it into two slightly flattened disks on a floured countertop. Wrap the disks in waxed paper or plastic wrap, and leave it in your refrigerator to chill for an hour or so.

After your dough has had a chance to chill, preheat your oven to 350°F. Take one

of the disks out of the fridge, flip it over and press it down on a floured countertop a couple of times to coat it with flour, so it won’t stick, then roll it out into a 10-inch circle. It’s useful to keep a tape measure for baking situations like this.

Slather the rugelach disk with three tablespoons of jam, and sprinkle half of the chopped chocolate over it. Cut it into eight to 10 slices, the way you would a pizza. Roll each of the triangles up, starting with the wide end. They should look a little like crescent rolls. Put them on a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat. Repeat the process with the other disk of dough. Chill them in your refrigerator again for another half an hour or so, to discourage them from losing their shape as they bake.

Brush the rugelach with egg white, and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, switching and rotating the pans halfway through. Cool for 15 minutes or so on the baking sheets, and dust them with powdered sugar, if that’s a thing you feel compelled to do.

Chocolate and raspberry are a classic combination, and a faint hint of sourness from the cream cheese makes these excellent holiday cookies. 🍪

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 31

Road, Concord, 415-0444; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 149 DW Highway, Nashua, 204- 5088, redarrowdiner.com are open 24 hours including on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

• **Red Blazer** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when you can also pick up pre-ordered meals to go for Christmas.

• **Second Brook Bar & Grill** (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 935-7456, secondbrook.com) will be open in the restaurant until 4 p.m. and at the bar until 5 p.m.

• Shorty’s (1050 Bicentennial Drive,

Manchester; 48 Gusabel Ave., Nashua; shortysmex.com) locations will be open 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

• **Surf** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com/nashua) will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at both its Nashua and Portsmouth (99 Bow St.) locations.

• **T-Bones** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 404 Main St., Concord; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave., Laconia; 311 S Broadway, Salem, greatnrestaurants.com) closes at 5 p.m.

• **Tilt’n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, thecman.com) is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. 🍷

POP CULTURE

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Candy Whips, Artificial Melodies (Kitten Robot Records)



This northern California fivesome label their stuff “post-glam” or “accidental goth,” the latter of which is more fitting in my opinion. It’s quite angular, this; to me the tldr description would be Gang of Four sitting around smoking joints with Lord Of The New Church, what with the ’80s-cheesing, mellotron-emulating synth; the resolute, minimalist guitar-chonking and the Stiv Bator vocals of (male) vocalist Wendy Stonehenge. Formulaically, the recipe calls for an Aughts-era verse-bridge structure in the vein of early Cure and such, that is to say the tunes *want* to take us someplace but don’t always arrive, and yet

the journey is nevertheless pleasant enough (that’s especially true of “A Drop Will Do,” an alcoholism-admission story that’s the most phoned-in-sounding thing on board). But there are a lot of cool things in this set, such as “Strange Taste,” with its urgent, no-wave-ish anti-riff. Melodically on point, only rarely bogged down with performative subtlety.

A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Kilmara, Journey To The Sun (RPM Records)



The rise of “melodic power metal” is in sync with the same epic-ness we hear in nearly every musical genre nowadays (save for indie of course, whose soil’s been depleted since the 1980s owing to the majority of its bands having more disposable recording money than actual artistry). People don’t have time nor patience for buildup anymore; they want the show-stopping mega-melody *now* or they go back to social media. We’ve heard it for years from emo-rock bands, pop divas, etc. and now it’s even on the big screen: A year from now, no one will remember that aside from “Defying Gravity” the soundtrack to *Wicked*

is pretty awful (a friend remarked on Bluesky that Stephen Schwartz hasn’t written a decent score since 1970’s *Godspell*). Unlike *Wicked*, the fifth album from this Barcelona, Spain-based quintet, is wall-to-wall showstoppers, but sorry folks, sometimes you just have to wait for the big hook-gasm. In other words, conceptually and musically, it’s a fine tracing from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra template, but with more speed when they feel like going for it. I could picture some of this stuff bringing a tear to some metal-head’s eye; such a funny, funny world we live in now. A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• On Dec. 13, a few new albums will come out and be dumped into the Spotties and the retail stores that carry music CDs for purchase, do stores even do that anymore? I suppose they do, particularly stores that sell vinyl albums for 1890s Victrola record-playing machines, because they know that certain people fancy themselves as “audiophiles”; they enjoy listening to vinyl records so that they can hear mistakes in old recordings, like they like to go “Woop! Hear that, Petunia? Ringo hit the rim of the snare drum, not the head, lolol, he must have been drunk on the reefer, you know?” No, I’m just funnin’ with you vinyl junkies; by now everyone knows that CDs simply can’t capture many frequencies, like the sound of unintentional rimshots by Ringo or the dulcet tones of groupies power-barfing in the booth; instead, all the sounds get squished together in an aural trash compactor, so the only way you can detect that Jimmy Page has too much treble on his guitar (didn’t he always?) is to suffer through the vinyl versions of 55-year-old Led Zeppelin songs! Speaking of **Ringo Starr**, he has a new country album coming out Jan. 10, called *Look Up*, but I’ll save the snarky CSI on that for later, since chances are there won’t be much else for me to talk about in this award-winning column during the first two weeks of the new year. In the meantime, we can point and laugh at **Snoop Dogg**, whose new album is out this Friday. It is titled *Missionary*, because Snoop actually invented sex during the time of the pharaohs, and it is produced by famous producing producer Dr. Dre, because why not! One of the singles, “Another Part of Me,” features Police bassist and tantric-sexytime man Sting; the tune borrows Outkast’s steez, reimagining the Police’s “SOS” as a shuffle tune with lyrics about living in L.A. and dealing with people shooting at you because they’re bored or whatever. It’s actually a marked improvement over the original (I know, I know).

• Wait, don’t run off yet, here’s one that’s awesome, a posthumous album from a rapping feller I actually like, **DMX**! We all know that the D-Man was always big into spittin’ about his faith on his first six-or-so albums, but on this new one, *Let Us Pray: Chapter X*, there’s more prayin’ than rappin’! Grammy award-winning producer Warryn Campbell set DMX’s prayers to music for the first time on this groundbreaking project that fuses hip-hop to gospel; it includes features from Killer Mike, Snoop, LeCrae and MC Lyte. In “Favor,” DMX thanks the lord for blessing him with fame and such; there’s straight-up praying and some trademark rhyming, super cool stuff.

• I assume you may not know much about British indie-dance act **Saint Etienne** despite their being around for nearly 35 years. Their trip is blending velvet-rope dance stuff with ’60s pop and whatnot, but on “Daydream,” the single for their latest LP, *The Night*, you’ll hear straight-ahead trance stuff a la Oceanlab. It’s great, you should listen to it.

• We’ll end the week with *Rome*, the new live album from Cincinnati, Ohio, post-punk revival band **The National**! Includes a version of the (very) Kings Of Leon-like “I Need My Girl,” a sad and mawkish rawk ballad that may move you, I don’t know for sure. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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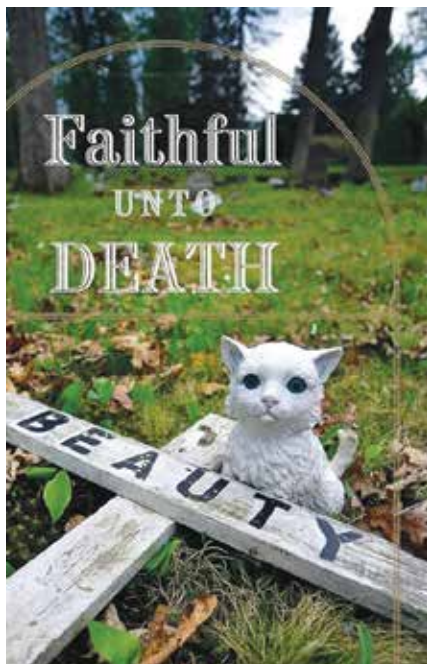
Faithful Unto Death, by Paul Koudounaris (256 pages, Thames & Hudson)

Traveling in rural Ecuador a few years ago, I looked out the car window to see a woman throw the corpse of a dog into a fire in her front yard. It wasn't an act of cruelty — the dog was clearly dead — but it was still shocking to see an open-air cremation about to take place.

It was likely the best and cheapest option the woman had, faced with a decision that has confronted families ever since we started viewing animals as companions: What do we do with their bodies? In *Faithful Unto Death*, Paul Koudounaris walks us through the macabre history, making clear that what seems like the obvious answer — bury or cremate them — wasn't often an option.

In Europe in the 19th century, many people took deceased dogs to rending sites where the bodies were broken down with chemicals, along with dead livestock. Terrible as that sounds, other people opted to throw their deceased animals into rivers. “In Paris, about five thousand dogs a year wound up in the Seine, the tragedy for their owners compounded by the civic cost, with the bodies polluting the river and resulting in 4,000 francs in annual cleanup fees,” Koudounaris writes.

When the rare individual tried to confer dignity on a deceased pet, things could get ugly. In 1855, a woman in Glasgow tried to inter her beloved cat in a cemetery plot she owned; an outraged mob gathered and broke open the cat's little coffin, and police had to be summoned. It was considered blasphemous to think animals warranted the same burial customs as human beings.



But cremation wasn't the answer either, as even for humans cremation was not yet widely accepted. So when an English family lost their beloved Maltese in 1881, they pleaded with the gatekeeper at a local park where they used to walk the dog and convinced him to let them bury him in his backyard garden. Word spread, and others began to make the same request. “Slowly his little plot was transformed into something that not only London, but also the entire Western world, had been unaware that it desperately needed.” Eventually there were more than 300 graves, animal corpses stacked on top of each other, in the gatekeeper's garden, and he kept up the burying until he himself died in 1899.

Around the same time, pet cemeteries began cropping up in other places in Europe. In the United States, the problem of what to do with animal bodies was not so

pressing, since there was plenty of undeveloped land, and you could bury anything you wanted on the frontier. Still, by the 1920s the U.S. had more than 600 pet cemeteries, and the U.S. today has more than the rest of the world combined, Koudounaris says — including one that is, bizarrely, only for coon hounds.

Some people are so enamored of their pets that they want to treat them like humans, even after death. Koudounaris tells the story of a mortician who was hired to embalm a dog that had been hit by a carriage (apparently streets were just as dangerous for dogs before cars) and bury him in a mahogany casket with a glass top. And at a mausoleum in New York, a metal box once came open, revealing not human remains but those of a parrot.

Earlier this year the New York Times published a fascinating piece about how a woman came to be buried at one of America's most famous pet cemeteries, which is in Hartsdale, New York. Hartsdale is among the pet cemeteries that Koudounaris looks at, along with Pine Ridge, in Dedham, Massachusetts, where the fox terrier of South Pole explorer Richard Byrd is buried. The dog's name was Igloo, appropriately enough, and his gravestone, larger than that of most humans, is shaped like an iceberg. Pine Ridge is also the resting place of three Boston terriers owned by Lizzie Borden.

Some of the most interesting stories in *Faithful Unto Death*, however, aren't told in words but through photographs of monuments and epitaphs: “In remembrance of Smut, for 12 years, our much beloved cat”; “Alas! Poor Triplet”; “Scott, who really smiled when pleased, faithful friend, guard of Anne”; “Witt - Best friend I ever

had, died June 1895”; “In memory of a loving pet, Judy, killed by a tractor”; “Bingo, 1934-1950 - Let a little dog into your heart and he will tear it to pieces.”

In fact, anyone who still harbors grief for a long-gone pet may be brought to tears in solidarity with the animals memorialized here. That said, there are also some pictures I would rather not have seen, such as the mummified corpse of a dog that was found stuck inside a tree by loggers. “Stuckie” is now a tourist attraction in Georgia.

Toward the end of the book Koudounaris takes a look at what happens to pets of celebrities and animals that are celebrities in their own right. You'd think the dog that was Toto in *The Wizard of Oz* would have had one of those glass-topped mahogany caskets, but in fact the cairn terrier was buried at the home of her trainer, which later was razed when the Hollywood Freeway was built. “Cars now speed by above the gravesite, which is trapped under tons of concrete,” Koudounaris writes.

Grumpy Cat, the internet sensation who died in 2019, fared better and has a memorial (with a photo) at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City, Arizona. (Even in death, Grumpy Cat has 1.4 million followers on X.)

Credit is due to Koudounaris for taking this macabre subject matter and making it engrossing; the only thing perplexing about the book is its presentation: It's a heavy doorstop of a book, dictionary-like in heft, and maybe not the thing most people would want to display on a coffee table. That said, for people with good arm strength who don't mind encountering a photo of a dead animal every now and then in a book, it's a surprisingly compelling read. Kleenex recommended. **B** —Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **Rowan Jacobsen**, James Beard award winner and the author of nine books, will sign copies of his new book *Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas in Search of Cacao's Soul* on Friday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 5 p.m. at Dancing Lion Chocolate in Manchester (917 Elm St., 625-4043, dancingleon.us). Walk-ins are welcome for the book-signing and copies will be available to purchase. Following the book signing, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. there will be a tasting of rare chocolates, limited to 12 guests, by reservation only, \$135 per person.

• **Sylvie Kurtz**, author of *Love in Brighton Village*, and **Linda Reilly**, author of *You Feta Watch Out*, will be at Balin Books (375 Amherst St. in Nashua; balinbooks.com) on Sunday, Dec. 15,

at 1 p.m.

• **Joe Pace**, a New Hampshire author, will talk about his new novel *When the Fall is All There Is* at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com) on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m.

• **Ty Gagne** will talk about his new book *The Lions of Winter: Survival and Sacrifice on Mount Washington* at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com) on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.

• **Peg Fitzpatrick**, a New Hampshire author and social media expert, will talk about her new book, *The Art of Small Business Social Media*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

• **Madison Rene** will talk about her fantasy romance *She Who*

Chose War at Barnes & Noble in Manchester (1741 S. Willow St., 668-5557, bn.com) on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

• **Veterinary Episodes** presented by Charles Devinne on Friday, Jan. 3, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.

• **Why Democracy** presented by Dr. Joshua Duclos of St. Paul's School on Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.

• **Japanese House in New Hampshire** presented by Paul Tuller on Friday, Feb. 7, from

5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.

• **Vanished Veterans: An Illustrated Introduction to NH's Civil War Monuments and Memorials** presented by George Morrisson, a Bow resident, on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.

• **Stories from Producing on Broadway: How Creative Process Works** presented by Michele Steckler on Friday, March 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.

com/stories to reserve a seat.

• **Songs of Old New Hampshire** presented by Jeff Warner on Wednesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.

• **Stories from Around the World** presented by Mariposa Museum founder David Blair on Friday, April 4, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.

• **Last of the Granite State Rattlesnakes** presented by Dan Dillon on Tuesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.

Poetry

• **Poetry Night**, an ongoing poetry open mic series, takes place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Stark Brewing Co. (50 N. Commercial St., Manchester). Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates on upcoming events and appearances.

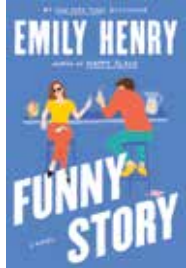
Writer events

• **“Getting into Print: Solving the Mysteries of Publishing.”** presented by Deidre Randall, CEO of Peter E. Randall Publisher, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Books to give

Looking to gift a book? Here are some of the books our reviewers loved this year:

William, by **Mason Coile** I don't like horror, but I loved this absorbing, disturbing little book. —*Jennifer Graham*



Funny Story, by **Emily Henry** This isn't all fluff and love, and I don't think I rolled my eyes once. It is definitely funny, but it's so much more than that, too: It's a story of human relationships and all of the messiness and intensity that come along with them, how they can start and end in the most unpredictable ways, and how we all have the capacity to overcome heartbreak and learn to love again. —*Meghan Siegler*

Playground, by **Richard Powers** This novel wants us to think deeply about the unintended consequences of the development of AI and human dominance of the planet as we wade through the events of each character's life, laid out in constantly changing points of view. For those willing to rise to the challenge *Playground* is a wholly immersive experience [that] gives the reader a mental workout. —*JG*

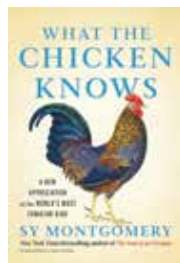
The Women, by **Kristin Hannah** Hannah superbly blends the heaviness of war with the frailty of humans at their most vulnerable — and often at their best. —*MS*



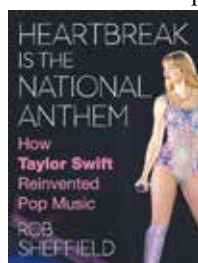
Bird Milk and Mosquito Bones, by **Priyanka Mattoo** Mattoo's writing is exquisite It's been a while since I enjoyed a collection of essays so much. —*JG*

The Demon of Unrest, by **Erik Larson** Larson tells stories that explain the onset of the Civil War better than any AP history course ever could. Nobody does it better when it comes to putting readers in the trenches of history, in this case with cannonballs whizzing over our heads. —*JG*

And here are a few more recent releases that may make good gifts.



What the Chicken Knows: A New Appreciation of the World's Most Famous Bird, by **Sy Montgomery** (96 pages) Montgomery is also the author of *The Soul of an Octopus* and other books about animals. She lives in New Hampshire.



Heartbreak is the National Anthem: How Taylor Swift Reinvented Pop Music, by **Rob Sheffield** "An impassioned dissertation on (almost) all things Swiftian," says the Washington Post of this book by a veteran Rolling Stone writer.

Atlas Obscura: Wild Life, by **Cara Ciaino and Joshua Foer** A guide to giant Gippsland earthworms, hot springs snow monkeys, vampire finches and other amazing creatures of the world. "The perfect tome to get lost in on a rainy day," said Taste of Home. Check out AtlasObscura.com.

Webb's Universe, by **Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock** A catalog of images from the James Webb Space Telescope along with backstory on the science behind them, from a British space scientist. 🍷



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North Country land struggle

Filmmaker looks at colonial territories

Jay Craven is an award-winning veteran New England filmmaker. He spoke with the Hippo about his 10th narrative feature film, *Lost Nation*. Craven is known for making Northern New England Westerns. His titles include *Where the Rivers Flow North* with Rip Torn and Michael J. Fox, *Disappearances* with Kris Kristoferson, and *Northern Borders* with Bruce Dern. He has taught for 25 years at Marlboro College in southern Vermont as well as Sarah Lawrence College. At Marlboro he educates students on how to make movies by involving them in the movie-making process. *Lost Nation* will kick off a series of New Hampshire screenings at Red River Theatres on Friday, Dec. 13, running through Thursday, Dec. 19. Craven will be appearing at select showings that opening weekend. Visit redrivertheatres.org for more information.



A scene from *Lost Nation*: Lucy Terry Prince at Packer's Corner. Courtesy photo.

Would you like to give a brief overview of the film?

It's basically a historical action drama and it's set in the North Country during the period of the American Revolution. It involves the fact that the huge territory that is now considered Vermont was contested territory at that time between New York and the territory. Meanwhile, a scrappy and some could argue somewhat corrupt New Hampshire governor, Benning Wentworth, started issuing titles to poor farmers and settlers coming out of southern New England, New York claimed. It precipitated an intense struggle between the settlers who were settling the land and New York, which late in the game decided they'd better start settling the land or else it was going to disappear.

A drama unfolded where the New Hampshire grants holders, led by Ethan Allen and others — Ethan Allen considered sort of a founding father of Vermont — resisted New York encroachments on the land that they were settling. It's the drama of this land conflict between New Hampshire and New York, led by the settlers on the New Hampshire grants. Ethan Allen is a central character, and also Lucy Terry Prince, who was a pioneering Black poet who settled with her family on a New Hampshire grant in southeastern what is now Vermont, Guilford, near Brattleboro, an area that was a stronghold of New York sentiment. It was a very turbulent setting for them to try to both settle their homestead, also as Black people. The film captures the drama of land and freedom — in the case of Ethan Allen,

on a huge scale, involving the entire state of Vermont, which frankly he and his brother ended up owning 200,000 acres, because they were land speculators, too. And on a smaller scale, the Prince family, which was trying to simply secure and develop their 100-acre homestead using a New Hampshire grant. It's a historical action drama around the high-stakes land struggle between New Hampshire and New York, which resulted in that contested territory becoming at first the independent republic of Vermont and later the state of Vermont.

Would you want to go more in depth on Lucy Terry Prince?

Yeah, Lucy Terry Prince was enslaved at the age of 3 to a family in western Massachusetts for 30 years, serving that family, but she also was a poet, and only one of her poems actually survives, which is called 'Bars Fight,' about the 1746 Deerfield Massacre, where indigenous fighters allied with the French attacked settlers in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Her poem told the story and was known far and wide and was passed on orally, but it's the first known work of African American literature. And she was known for convening sort of story soirees on the porch of the family that she was working for, of their house, and would bring by storytellers and poets and people making up stuff as they went along. Another former slave, Abijah Prince, married her and bought her freedom with money that he earned fighting in the French and Indian War, and he was gifted this 100-acre plot of land in Guilford, and over five years developed [it] and brought his family here. When they brought their family here, their closest neighbor became an antagonist, wanting their land and also just sort of harassing

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A scene from *Lost Nation*: Ethan Allen at Packer's Corner Tavern. Courtesy photo.

them and making their life very difficult. You know, spoiling their crops and scattering their feed to the wind and letting their animals loose and, you know, attacking and beating them and burning their hay rake and stuff like that, so Lucy developed a strategy essentially to defend her family in the moment but more so in court all the way to what was called in Vermont the governor's supreme council. [She] prevailed, you know, which would have been extremely unusual, frankly, for a woman, let alone a Black woman, to accomplish during this time. She was smart, and she was not going to take it lying down, and she, in what was already a very turbulent, deeply divided political situation, was able to push through and assert her family's rights and two of her sons fought the American Revolution. Only one of her poems survives, but ... she was definitely known as a storyteller and to a certain extent a visionary. ... So it's two different stories of the struggle for land and freedom, one on a big scale, one on a small intimate scale, but they are parallel and they overlap briefly.

With Ethan Allen, could he be considered a founding father of New Hampshire as well?

Well, he was working under New Hampshire jurisdiction when he started the struggle, so absolutely he would have been considered a New Hampshire pioneer because it was New Hampshire territory that he was defending against New York, so in some ways Vermont was born out of New Hampshire and was born out of a sort of, we could call solidarity, generosity, imagination, greed, whatever you want to call it. But no, there's no question that when Ethan began his land struggle against New York, he was doing it on behalf of the New Hampshire granted territory.

How did this whole specific situation arise?

Benning Wentworth, the New Hamp-

shire governor, commissioned 131 towns in that territory and he kept parcels of land in each town that were his, but they were running a pretty active land business. If it weren't for this land struggle, the territory of Vermont would be New York. Although, what we also show in the movie is that when things got tough in this land struggle, Ethan Allen and his brother entered negotiations with the British during the American Revolution to actually deliver that territory to the British. So it could have also ended up part of Canada because there were some attacks coming from Quebec into Vermont. The Americans were not defending them and the Continental Congress did not like what Ethan was doing, because New York had a lot of power in the Continental Congress, including the fact that Alexander Hamilton was a representative from New York. Likewise, the governor of New York, George Clinton, was a very powerful figure. Ethan went to the Continental Congress twice begging the case of Vermont or the territory against New York and was rejected.

What area of land is this referencing? What would it have made the United States look like today?

Well it would have been the whole state of, the area that is currently the whole state of Vermont would have been New Hampshire, all the way over to Lake Champlain. Because it's interesting, New Hampshire Gov. Benning Wentworth, the New Hampshire governor, claimed he settled it first and established political control on the entire western part of the state. So it was odd. The area that was closest to New Hampshire was controlled by New York. The area that was closest to New York was controlled by New Hampshire. ... I mean, it was intense. But then the film goes over how all the colonies came into their own statehood. —Zachary Lewis 🍷

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Juror #2 (PG-13)

A juror realizes he has a pretty significant connection to the case he's on in the Clint Eastwood-directed courtroom thriller *Juror #2*, a competent, enjoyable movie.

Justin Kemp (Nicholas Hoult) attempts to get out of jury duty by explaining that his wife Allison (Zoey Deutch) is in the final weeks of a high-risk pregnancy, but the judge (Amy Aquino) says nice try and thus Justin becomes juror #2 on what he learns is the trial of James Sythe (Gabriel Basso), accused of murdering his girlfriend Kendall (Francesca Eastwood). As prosecutor Faith Killebrew (Toni Collette) starts to describe the crime in her opening arguments, Justin realizes that Kendall was killed at roughly the same time, in the same general area, where he "hit a deer" (a deer, he assumes) with his car on a rainy night after leaving a bar. Several years sober, Justin didn't drink at the bar, but just stared down the drink he bought while wrapped up in grief over his and Allison's previous pregnancy loss. But still, as his AA sponsor and lawyer Larry (Kiefer Sutherland) explains, his history of DUIs and the politics of the case, coming as Faith is running for district attorney, means there will be no going easy on Justin should he turn himself in. Will Justin let the jury convict James? Will anyone figure out that this guy acting squirrely during the whole trial is more involved than he lets on?

Chris Messina plays the defense attorney and the jury members include characters played by J.K. Simmons, Cedric Yarbrough and Leslie Bibb, all bringing nice character notes to their relatively minor roles. *Juror #2* across the board has a John Grisham-lite sheen and does a good job balancing a few serious thoughts with character drama. It takes itself just seriously enough but not too seriously and is neither too clever nor too silly. It is an interesting story, with good performances — an entertaining movie even if it isn't setting the world on fire. Which makes the most unsettling aspect of this suspense film the movie itself. If you've heard anything about it, you've probably heard about its half-hearted theatrical release, quick move to VOD (where it seems to be doing well) and its scheduled Dec. 20 release on Max. I'm not sure what this movie's weird release trajectory means for the future of solid, non-awards-seeking dramas but, I guess, enjoy 'em while we've still got 'em? **B**

Available for rent or purchase.

Conclave (PG)

The pope-picking process is filled with intrigue and a fun amount of cattiness in *Conclave*.



Juror #2

An old (fictional) pope dies and the Vatican machinery gears up for the election by the cardinals of a new pope. Even as the pope's close associates — such as cardinals Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes), Bellini (Stanley Tucci) and Tremblay (John Lithgow) — pray over his very recently deceased body there is political jockeying. Three weeks later when the cardinals from all around the world arrive to be sequestered in conclave to pick a new pope, all the men standing in clumps outside, getting in a smoke, have a real Tammany Hall vibe. An Italian cardinal, Tedesco (Sergio Castellitto), seems to be working hard for the top spot, letting anyone who will listen know what a conservative, traditional guy he is, looking to make Latin great again and whatnot. Also a frontrunner is Adeyemi (Lucian Msamati), an African cardinal who seems friendly and popular and has very hardline social views. Bellini doesn't want to be pope — and tells everybody that doesn't want to be pope, while also letting fly his opinions about openness and tolerance and, gasp, the involvement of women. And then there's Tremblay, who seems to be a consensus candidate for the "least worst choice." As everybody tries to Nate Silver about whose support will go where, a mystery cardinal shows up, Benitez (Carlos Diehz). Born in Mexico, Benitez has served in hot spots — Congo, Iraq — and was recently named the Cardinal of Kabul. He is the new kid everyone in this very clique-y lunch room is whispering about.

A "woo-hoo!" from me came during one of the too-few scenes with Sister Agnes (Isabella Rossellini), a nun from the order of Our Lady of Mess Around and Find Out. Shortly after Benitez arrives, Lawrence asks him to say grace before the meal and when he gives a shout out to the Sisters who prepared the food Agnes gives a little snort-chuckle, which feels like it just wraps up all sorts of things about her relationship with the church and the priests. It was a well-crafted moment (and not even the one I woo-hoo-ed about).

Maybe you're sick of anything election-y,

but *Conclave* is an engaging dishy drama, particularly if you have some CCD in your past. Stanley Tucci may not be at full speed here but he's fully compelling as a man wrestling with how much he wants this job he knows he has only a slim chance at getting. Fiennes is also fun to watch as he has to deal with one person and their problems after another while seemingly getting sucked in deeper to his own crisis of faith and maybe just a little bit giving into ambition. And all over, the air is thick with side-eyes, enjoyable soap-opera-esque close-ups and little nuggets of the driest humor. I don't know that this is necessarily a great movie but I

had a great time watching it. *Available for rent or purchase.*

Megalopolis (R)

Put the TV show *Succession*, Julie Tambor's 1999 film *Titus* and Baz Luhrman's Red Curtain movie trilogy in a blender and sprinkle that glittery, stilted-dialogue smoothie with vibes from the old Emo Kylo Ren Twitter account and you get the general idea of Francis Ford Coppola's *Megalopolis*, just a weirdo trip of an "I'm using my own money, nobody can say 'no' to me" visual project.

New York City is here called New Rome, ruled by Mayor Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito), who I think is supposed to represent the tired status quo. Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver) is sort of a tech bro-ish inventor of a Vibranium-esque does-everything material called Megalon. Cesar is also an architect type who is part of the Design Authority that is building/seeking to build a bunch of Dr. Seuss twisty nonsense that somehow represents society's improvement. Party girl Julia Cicero (Nathalie Emmanuel) takes a shine to Cesar but, like, shouldn't — it feels like one of those "he's a genius, I can fix him" situations that just makes you sad for women in film. (This whole movie is filled with female

Gifts for movie-lovers

- **Oscar Wars: A History of Hollywood in Gold, Sweat and Tears** by Michael Schulman. This 2023 book is a delight for movie history fans. It looks at different periods of Oscar races, from the silent film years through a coda on *The Slap*, and uses Oscar campaigns as a way to look at the movie industry and wider culture. My current read is November 2024 release *Box Office Poison: Hollywood's Story in a Century of Flops* by Tim Robey, an interesting examination of eras in movies through the lens of box office bombs.

- **This Had Oscar Buzz** Now that Patreon allows you to gift memberships, you can give a fellow movie lover a subscription to this podcast hosted by Joe Reid (who does the Cinematrix game and Movie Fantasy League, both over at Vulture.com) and Chris Feil (an excellent freelance writer and thinker about movies). The show produces one regular episode a week plus bonus episodes for subscribers, which in this award season include quick-hit looks at award nominations. Make it a deluxe gift by also giving a subscription to *Dem, Myself and I*, a Patreon-subscription podcast where Joe Reid looks at the films of Demi Moore.

- **Movies at Red River Theatres** This downtown Concord theater sells gift certificates, gift memberships (which, depending on the level, can come with discounts, movie passes, free popcorn and more) and Dinner

and a Movie packages, which feature two movie passes plus a \$25 gift certificate to a participating restaurant for \$40, according to redrivertheatres.org.

- **Movies at O'neil Cinemas** The O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square in Epping sells gift cards, which can be purchased online at oneilcinemas.com.

- **Movies at Chunky's** If you like to give a physical thing with your gift card, Chunky's Cinema Pub in Manchester offers gift boxes (with a gift card, movie pass and popcorn pass) themed to look like movie candy and gift baskets (with a gift card, admissions and popcorn passes and theater candy, all in a popcorn bag or bucket, depending on the size). See chunkys.com.

- **Movies and more at Smitty's Cinema** Gift cards to Tilton's Smitty's Cinema also cover purchases in the GameLAB with its arcade and other attractions. See smittyscinema.com.

- **MUBI** You can gift the streaming service that offers a changing roster of independent, international and other not-your-standard blockbuster films. A big deal film currently streaming is this year's Demi Moore stand-out *The Substance* — you can even get a "We are sorry you didn't appreciate your experience with The Substance" T-shirt (that's a particularly chilling phrase from the movie) to level up your gift. 🍷

characters that seem to only exist in relation to the male characters, with no independent motivations or thoughts.) Cesar's uncle Hamilton Crassus (Jon Voight) is the richest man in the, let's say, world and helps to fund Cesar's vision. Also a Crassus nephew is Clodio Pulcher (Shia LaBeouf), a weaselily fail-son with an interest in fascism. And then you have Aubrey Plaza as a TV money honey with gold digger ambitions, Grace VanderWaal as a pop girlie vestal virgin, Jason Schwartzman I think still playing his *Hunger Games* character, Laurence Fishburne as a narrator and, why not, Talia Shire and Dustin Hoffman. Plus Cesar and Julia can sometimes stop time — figuratively or literally, you decide!

If all that sounds like a bunch of unconnected words, that is a pretty good sense of what it's like to watch *Megalopolis*. The most consistent element of the movie is the visuals, in particular the way the clothes are designed to sell a "Rome but make it modern" fashion aesthetic. Lotta belted drapiness — but I'm not mad at it! The movie's costume designer (Milena Canonero, according to IMDb, who has done some costume design in Wes Anderson movies) seems to be having fun with the idea of, for example, translating Rome senate robes to male business looks. It may even be worth a costume design Oscar nomination.

Then there's the Adam Driver of it all — taking this whole thing very seriously. Maybe a little too seriously? But occasionally you get moments of him making the whole ridiculous Shakespearean vibe legitimately funny (Google "Adam Driver back to the club") or making it feel like an actual human is involved (a few but not all of his scenes with Emmanuel), which feels like a real accomplishment for a movie this turned-up-to-11 at all times.

Megalopolis is long and rambling, though you get the sense that Coppola would tell you every minute is intensely necessary. I don't feel like it's intensely necessary for anyone to watch it but, some day when its rental price comes way down or it shows up on some streaming network, this experiment in an almost comic book movie approach to Ideas-based filmmaking is worth a viewing as a curiosity. **C+** Available for rent.

Spellbound (PG)

A 15-year-old princess is trying to keep up family appearances after her parents, the king and queen, turn into giant destructive monsters in the animated musical *Spellbound*.

I'm going to spoil the end of the movie because the "what it's all about" might hit some families harder than others: "My parents are monsters" is clearly fairy tale metaphor territory. In this case, it's a couple that have

stopped operating successfully as a couple or even a team of co-parents but have become, literally, trapped in their own anger. The movie does a good job of addressing what that means for adults and how parents who don't have the same love they once had for each other can still work together to make their child feel unconditionally loved and supported. And how kids can trust that love as a forever thing, even if their parents' marriage isn't. All of this is I think pretty well told but I can also imagine that for families going through it this might not be a fun movie night.

With the help of royal advisers like Nazara (voice of Jennifer Lewis) and Bolinar (voice of John Lithgow), Princess Ellian (voice of Rachel Zegler) has done a good job of making sure the right things get signed and the right people get enough proof of life that the kingdom generally thinks the royal couple are alive, well and in charge. And while they're alive, King Solon (voice of Javier Bardem) and Queen Ellsmere (voice of Nicole Kidman) are not well or in charge. They are giant, brightly colored fuzzy-and-feathery monsters who don't recognize Ellian or anyone else and who crash through the palace knocking things over and smashing holes in walls. This can't go on, Nazara and Bolinar say, and convince Ellian that if they can't change her parents back then she will become queen.

Ellian agrees because she has a plan that involves a pair of Squishmallow-esque oracles — Luno Oracle of the Moon (voice of Nathan Lane) and Sunny Oracle of the Sun (voice of Titus Burgess). The Oracles are sort of horrified that the royals are literal monsters but eventually explain the quest Ellian must take her parents on to turn them human again.

Along the way, Bolinar accidentally trades bodies with Ellian's pet rat, the palace guards chase the family in order to catch the monsters they don't believe are the king and queen and there's a lot of completely acceptable singing that I don't remember a single tune from.

Spellbound is a perfectly cromulent example of the mid-level animated feature. *Spellbound* doesn't break new ground but it does tell a story with well-crafted emotional beats and enough fuzzy creature goofiness to satisfy kid viewers. **B-** Streaming on Netflix.

Piece by Piece (PG)

The life and musical career of Pharrell Williams gets the autobiography documentary treatment in the animated Lego movie *Piece by Piece*.

In some ways this is a fairly straightforward look at Williams' life and impact on music, with discussion of his longtime love of music and talking heads telling their parts.

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- ▶ Try your hand at street curling

DETAILS & TICKETS AT NHSCOT.ORG



CONTINUED ON PG 45 ▶

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Movement:** When he's not playing an eclectic mix of acoustic rock covers, **Joel Begin** is a physical therapist. He finds that music is a good way to help many patients, and he's lectured on its intersectionality with movement and healing from stress and trauma. His set list draws a lot from the 1990s. Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., The Local, 15 E. Main St., Warner; more at facebook.com/joel.begin.music.

• **Vocalizing:** Before *Straight No Chaser*, *Pentatonix* and the *Pitch Perfect* movies, **Rockapella** were primary purveyors of a cappella music. The New York vocal group had forebears, but as the house "band" on the PBS series *Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?* its unique human beat box harmonizing entered the mainstream. Their annual holiday show is a Derry favorite. Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Stockbridge Theatre, 44 N. Main St., Derry, \$20 and up at pinkertonacademy.org.

• **Traditional:** Few New England events approach the venerability of the **Boston Pops Holiday Concert**, led by maestro Keith Lockhart. What began in 1973 as *A Pops Christmas Party* evolved over the years into what Lockhart recently called "a balancing act [with] things people want to come back to [while] always adding new musical experiences from across cultures." Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., SNHU Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester, \$33.50 and up at ticketmaster.com.

• **Rockebral:** From a Trans-Siberian Orchestra covers show intended as a one-off, **Wizards of Winter** has grown into a phenomenon all its own. The group melds Christmas music and grandeur while leaving out the smoke bombs, lasers and other gadgetry of arena shows. The effect is equally majestic, as they let musicality move front and center. These days, they're a top concert draw. Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$45 and up at tupelohall.com.

• **Evergreen:** Celebrate the holiday in an Irish way with **Cherish the Ladies** performing *A Celtic Christmas*. The show includes a six-piece band with three vocalists and four step dancers backing the influential female group — flute player Joanie Madden, guitarist Mary Coogan, accordion player Mirella Murray, pianist Kathleen Boyle, fiddle player Nollaig Casey and guitarist Kate Purcell. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m., BNH Stage, 16. S. Main St., Concord, \$64 at ccanh.com. 🍷

NITE

Gifts for music fans

Cool stuff to light up the season

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

From vinyl to attire, books and trinkets, there are many ways to make a music fan happy with the perfect holiday gift. Here are some ideas crossing genres and eras, including a few for local music aficionados.

Making music is fun, especially when it's easy. One option is the **Otamaton**, which is shaped like an eighth note and sounds like the spawn of a synthesizer and a slide guitar. The emotively adorned Aggretsuko Rage version is \$44.99 at hamee.com.

Or spring for the \$159 **Orba 3**, Artiphon's latest iteration of its music-in-the-palm-of-your-hand

synthesizer, which starts with a massive library of drum sounds and adds sampling for miniature magic. Artiphon also makes the keyboard-shaped **Chorda**, both a standalone synthesizer and MIDI controller (\$249.99 at artiphon.com).

For listening to music, headphones are a great gift that can range in price from the reasonable and well-regarded **Status Audio 3ANC**, the first in-ears with a dedicated bass speaker (\$179, status.co). Audiophile legends Bang & Olufsen just introduced its high-end **Beoplay H100** cans (\$1,549, bang-olufsen.com) for the truly nice person on your list.

Affordable tabletop surround sound is available with the **Ultimate Ears Wonderboom 4** portable Bluetooth speaker, a compact yet powerful unit costing \$80 at most stores. For heavier listening, the 6-pound **Marshall Acton III** is a boomer that will evoke the giant amp it's named after (\$227.99 at amazon.com).

For something completely different in the portable speaker category, Uncommon Goods has a combination water bottle and Bluetooth unit that's perfect for pop-up parties. It's quite popular, though, and as of this writing it was sold out on the store's website. Check for restocking at uncommongoods.com, a great stop for other gifts.

Speaking of one-stop shopping, it's axiomatic that the best way to support local music is buying direct from your favorite artists. For those who can't attend every show, the best alternative is the **Bandcamp** website (bandcamp.com). There, area bands make most of the money, unlike Spotify, where the CEO is richer than any musician on his site.

If your list includes a dedicated collector of vinyl albums, consider gifting them a Spin-Clean cleaning kit. Its \$125 price tag may be too lofty; if so, there are some cheaper options available. The **Discwasher D4+ Record Care System** is the granddaddy of the bunch, dating back to the '60s. It's \$25.

Of course, your giftee will need records to clean with their new gear. 2024 doesn't disappoint. For the Swiftie on your list, Target offers a bunch of exclusives, including a double album of songs from *The Tortured Poets Department* with a bonus track ("The Manuscript") on clear vinyl for \$32.99. Give it with a copy of the massive *Official Taylor Swift The Eras Tour* book (\$39.99) and you'll be a hero.

For fans of an earlier era, the debut LP from an influential New Wave band recently received a deluxe treatment. *Talking Heads: 77* introduced songs like "Psycho Killer" and "Uh-Oh, Love Comes to Town" while hinting at adventurous music to come. The four-CD set has goodies including outtakes, Atmos mixes and a full-length CBGB show from October 1977.

Elvis Costello was another artist who evolved from that period, moving from angry young man to reverent roots-music



adherent. The six-CD **King Of America & Other Realms Super Deluxe** begins with the 1986 album and includes new songs, along with beauties like a Grand Ole Opry performance of "The Scarlet Tide" from the *Cold Mountain* soundtrack accompanied by Emmylou Harris, Gillian Welch and Dave Rawlings, and duets with Ralph Stanley and Larkin Poe.

While physical tickets have mostly been displaced by cell phone barcodes, dedicated concertgoers usually have a big collection of stubs. For those, consider a Ticket Stub Diary for preserving those memories. It will give them something to share with their children and grandkids one day (\$29, uncommongoods.com).

Finally, let's not forget stocking stuffers. Uncommon Goods is a great source for things like music playing cards with drawings of David Bowie, Jimi Hendrix and other rock stars. **Mistaken Lyrics Coasters** are fun if you've ever misheard this U2 song: "It's alright, it's alright, it's alright / Shamu, the mysterious whale." Or get a mahogany thumb piano for your favorite fan. 🍷



December Project

A wintry afternoon with Mary Fahl in Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com



Mary Fahl. Courtesy photo.

Most musicians find their way to making a Christmas album, but for singer Mary Fahl, holiday tunes triggered thoughts of shopping mall sound systems assaulting her senses. When Fahl finally released *Winter Songs and Carols* in 2019, it was because she'd found a collection of songs that suited her idea of the season.

The are nods to tradition like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "What Child is This," along with the haunting medley of "O Holy Night/Silent Night." The rest of the record is best listened to while sipping cocoa and staring pensively out the window at a snowy horizon.

As an interpreter, Fahl is in a class by herself, breathing new meaning into Joni Mitchell's "Urge For Going." She reshapes Vince Guaraldi's "Christmas Time is Here" into an evocative blend of hope and wistfulness, commands the operatic "Ave Maria," as she does songs from Sandy Denny, Leonard Cohen, and the 19th-century chestnut "In the Bleak Midwinter."

Fahl explained by phone the day after Thanksgiving that the album came about for selfish reasons. Recently reading Rick Rubin's book *On Creativity* validated her decision, she added. "He said, you have to do things for yourself, not anybody else, just you. That's why I made that Christmas record ... and it ended up being my favorite that I've ever done."

In the spirit of the season, a Dec. 15 show at Concord's BNH Stage will feature the disc while also drawing from a catalog reaching back to her days with October Project. The early '90s band hit with songs like "Bury My Lovely" and "Return to Me," but when their label dropped them in 1996, she left.

"I knew I had another destiny," she said. "I had to make my own mistakes and grow ... try different things. They went their way, and did what they wanted. It all

Mary Fahl

When: Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

Where: BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$43.74 and up at ccanh.com

worked out in the end." Fahl then spent the rest of the decade developing her skills as a songwriter — new and unfamiliar territory for the singer.

"It was terrifying ... and I was determined," she said. "You have to have the courage to be bad at something, and my first few songs weren't good. But it's a muscle, and you learn to use it. I got some great tips. I started writing with other

very good writers, like Ramsey McLean, who wrote all the lyrics for the early Harry Connick records."

McLean told Fahl to keep notebooks, because any scrap of thought might be a building block. "He also taught me that even if a song is bad, save it, keep it, because you can harvest it for parts later." She began weekly writing sessions with another songwriter, Bob Riley. In five years, she produced a long list of songs.

In 2001 she was signed by Sony Records to make her first solo album, *The Other Side of Time*. Her audition happened a few days after 9/11 in midtown New York City. It was a magical experience that included an impromptu performance of an aria, a request by one of the suits sitting in the boardroom.

She'd learned it years earlier, while trying to not think about her poverty and a brutally hot city summer. "I was just out of college, teaching myself some Pavarotti," she said. "There was no air conditioner, and it's sad, I had two broken television sets, one with sound and one with a picture. If you turned them on at the same time, you could watch."

The youngest in a family of music-loving siblings, Fahl taught herself to sing, inspired by her sister's Dusty Springfield and Petula Clark records, one brother's Bob Dylan and another's prog rock — the Moody Blues and Pink Floyd. She'd later record her own version of the classic album *Dark Side of the Moon*.

The lack of formal training did not keep Fahl from finding her place as a singular vocalist who puts a unique stamp on everything she performs, even classics like "Both Sides Now" that have been done to death. "Especially with Joni, you'd better make it your own, you'd better find a way in," Fahl said. "If I can't, then I don't do the song." 🍷

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Foster's Tavern 403
Main St., 875-1234

Auburn
Auburn Pitts 167
Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Bedford
Copper Door 15 Leavy
Dr., 488-2677

Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101,
488-5875

Bow
Chen Yang Li 520 S.
Bow St., 228-8508

Bristol
Kathleen's Irish Pub
90 Lake St., 744-6336

Brookline
The Alamo Texas Bar-
becue & Tequila Bar
99 Route 13, 721-5000

Concord
The Barley House 132
N. Main St., 228-6363

Feathered Friend 231
S. Main St., 715-2347

The Forum Pub 15 Vil-
lage St., 565-3100

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave.,
224-5669

Lithermans 126B Hall
St., 219-0784

Tandy's Pub & Grille
1 Eagle Square, 856-
7614

Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort
Eddy Road, 226-8667

Contoocook
Contoocook Farmers
Market 896 Main St.,
746-3018

**Gould Hill Farm &
Contoocook Cider Co.**
656 Gould Hill Road,
746-3811

Deerfield
The Lazy Lion 4 North
Road, 463-7374

Derry
Fody's Tavern 187
Rockingham Road, 404-
6946

Dover
Auspicious Brew 1
Washington St., 953-
7240

**Cara Irish Pub &
Restaurant** 11 Fourth
St., 343-4390

Epping
Holy Grail 64 Main St.,
679-9559

**Telly's Restaurant
& Pizzeria** 235 Calef
Hwy., 679-8225

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724
Dover Road, 736-0027

Gilford
Patrick's 18 Weirs
Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main
St., 497-8230

Hampton
CR's The Restaurant
287 Exeter Road, 929-
7972

The Galley Hatch
(Tino's Kitchen is

upstairs) 325 Lafayette
Road, 926-6152

L Street Tavern 603 17
L St., 967-4777

Smuttynose Brewing
105 Towle Farm Road

Wally's Pub 144 Ash-
worth Ave., 926-6954

**Whym Craft Pub &
Brewery** 853 Lafayette
Road, 601-2801

Hudson
The Bar 2B Burnham
Road

Luk's Bar & Grill 142
Lowell Road, 889-9900

Lynn's 102 Tavern 76
Derry Road, 943-7832

Jaffrey
Park Theatre 19 Main
St., 532-9300

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon 92
Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
Defiant Records &
Craft Beer 609 Main
St., 527-8310

Fratello's 799 Union
Ave., 528-2022

High Octane Saloon
1072 Watson Road, 527-
8116

The Goat 50 Old Gran-
ite St.

Great North Aleworks
1050 Holt Ave., 858-
5789

KC's Rib Shack 837
Second St., 627-RIBS

Keys Piano Bar & Grill
1087 Elm St., 836-7796

Olympus Pizza 506
Valley St., 644-5559

Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St., 644-3535

Pizza Man 850 E.
Industrial Park Drive,
623-5550

Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm
St., 625-0246

**Shopper's Pub & Eat-
ery** 18 Lake Ave., 232-
5252

South Side Tavern
1279 S. Willow St., 935-
9947

Stark Brewing Co. 500
Commercial St., 625-
4444

Strange Brew 88 Mar-
ket St., 666-4292

Fratello's 155 Dow St.,
624-2022

Stumble Inn 20 Rock-
ingham Road, 432-3210

Manchester
Backyard Brewery
1211 S. Mammoth
Road, 623-3545

BluAqua 930 Elm St.,
836-3970

Bonfire 950 Elm St.,
663-7678

**Derryfield Country
Club** 625 Mammoth
Road, 623-2880

The Foundry 50 Com-
mercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's 155 Dow St.,
624-2022

Strange Brew 88 Mar-
ket St., 666-4292

Meredith
Giuseppe's 312 DW
Highway, 279-3313

Twin Barns Brewing
194 DW Highway, 279-
0876

Merrimack
Homestead 641 DW
Highway, 429-2022

Tortilla Flat 595 DW
Highway, 424-4479

Milford
Riley's Place 29 Mont
Vernon St., 380-3480

Stonecutters Pub 63
Union Square, 213-5979

Moultonborough
Buckey's 240 Govern-
or Wentworth Hwy., 476-
5485

Nashua
Casey Magee's Irish
Pub 8 Temple St., 484-
7400

Fody's Tavern 9 Clin-
ton St., 577-9015

San Francisco Kitchen
133 Main St., 886-8833

**Shorty's Mexican
Roadhouse** 48 Gusabel
Ave., 882-4070

New Boston
Molly's Tavern &
Restaurant 35 Mont
Vernon Road, 487-1362

Newmarket
Stone Church 5 Granite
St., 659-7700

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar 351
Pembroke St., 485-7777

Pembroke City Limits
134 Main St., 210-2409,
pembrokecitylimits.com

Penacook
American Legion Post
31 11 Charles St., 753-
9372

Pittsfield
Over the Moon 1253
Upper City Road, 216-
2162

Portsmouth
The Gas Light 64 Mar-
ket St., 430-9122

The Goat 142 Congress
St., 590-4628

Grill 28 Pease Golf
Course, 200 Grafton
Road, 766-6466

**Mojo's West End Tav-
ern** 95 Brewery Lane,
436-6656

Thursday, Dec. 12

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7
p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: open mic with Travis
Rollo 6 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Savor, Adult-
ing, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

Epsom
Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer
Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: D-Comp, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Just The Two of Us, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Smuttynose: Dave Clark, 5:30
p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: live music, 7 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George
Bisson, 8 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30
p.m.
High Octane Saloon: karaoke w/
DJ Tim, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh, 7
p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: Nate Ramos Band, 9
p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Mary Fagan, 5:45
p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Dave Zangri, 5:30
p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Dani Sven, 6 p.m.

Milford
Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30
p.m.
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30
p.m.
Shorty's: Stephen Decuire, 6 p.m.

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar: Richard
Wallace, 6 p.m.
Pembroke City Limits: Paul
Driscoll, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
The Press Room: Pomeroy's &
Them Dewlap Boys., 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13

Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern: Tom Boisse, 6
p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Andrea Paquin, 6
p.m.

Bristol
Kathleen's: Irish Session, 7 p.m.

Concord
Forum: Pete & Re-Pete, 8 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Queeraoke w/
Lezhang Seacoast, 8 p.m.

Cara Irish Pub: Max Sullivan,
9 p.m.
Revo Casino: AlterEgo, 9 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Dave Clark, 8 p.m.

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: Holy Cow music
bingo, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Chuck and Vin-
nie, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m.
Galley Hatch: Jordan Quinn, 5

Music, live and in person

These listings for live music are compiled from press releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Call the venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions. Get your gigs listed by sending information to adiaz@hippopress.com.



FROM BOSTON WITH LAUGHS

Matthew P. Brown has been doing standup for about a decade, but he's already won the hearts of New Hampshire fans. His recent sold-out shows at the Music Hall will be edited into a comedy special that will premiere in early 2025. Don't miss his show at McCue's (580 Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Portsmouth, mccuecomedyclub.com) on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

Rochester
Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964

Salem
Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

Par28 23 S. Broadway, 458-7078

Sayde's Bar & Grill 136 Cluff Crossing Road, 890-1032

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581

Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421

Sunapee
Sunapee Community Coffee House 9 Lower Main St., 398-8214

Suncook
Oddball Brewing 6 Glass St., 210-5654, oddballbrewingnh.com

Warner
The Local 15 E. Main St., 456-3333

p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: Stephain Jasmine Band, 9 p.m.

Whym: Jonny Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: Tom Hsu, 6 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: LU NH Music, 7:30 p.m.

Laconia
Defiant Records: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

Litchfield
Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Kat Ivy, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Another Shot, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Phil Maurice, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Souled Out Show Band, 8 p.m.

The Foundry: Temple Mountain, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Dani Sven, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Pop Daddy, 9 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: open mic, 5:30 p.m.

Keys Piano Bar: dueling pianos, 7 p.m.

Olympus Pizza: Jamie Hughes, 7 p.m.

Revo Casino: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m.

Shaskeen: Paper Monsters, Malory Weiss, Jumpface, 8 p.m.

South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.

Strange Brew: Lisa Marie, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 5:45 p.m.

Twin Barns: Garrett Smith, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Mark Apostolides, 6 p.m.

Milford
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough
Buckey's: Red Hat Band, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Ralph Allen, 6:30 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Holy Fools, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Chad Verbeck, 9:30 p.m.

Grill 28: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Mojo's: Tim Thereault, 6 p.m.

Salem
Sayde's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Mugsy, 8 p.m.

Sunapee
Community Coffee House: Holiday open mic, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern: Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

Concord
Eagle Square Farmers Market: Lynda Nelson, 9 a.m.

Feathered Friend Brewing: live music, 6 p.m.

Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.; Don Bartenstein, 8 p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocook Cider Co.: Chris Lester, 1 p.m.

Contoocook Farmers Market: Brad Myrick, 9 a.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Rick Rude, Ezra Cohen & The Big City Band, Hedge, 8 p.m.

Revo Casino: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m.

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CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

For many music fans, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was their first exposure to jazz music. **Eric Mintel**, a jazz pianist who has played at the White House and the Kennedy Center, will bring Vince Guaraldi's score to the stage at the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$29 plus fees.

the Y

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

- Epping**
Holy Grail: Circle duo, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.
- Gilford**
Patrick's Pub: Henry Laliberte, 6 p.m.
- Goffstown**
Village Trestle: The 603's, 6 p.m.
- Hampton**
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Nu Metal Night, 9 p.m.
- Hudson**
Luk's Bar: live music, 7 p.m.
Lynn's 102: Night Owls, 8:30 p.m.
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: Project 416, 8 p.m.
- Laconia**
Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.
- Londonderry**
Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Last Kid Picked, 8 p.m.
- Manchester**
Backyard Brewery: Ian Archibald, 6 p.m.
Derryfield: The Slakas, 8:30 p.m.
Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Mike Jetti, 10 a.m.; The Far, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Kevin Horan, 4 p.m.
Keys: dueling pianos, 8 p.m.
Shaskeen: Sound Off Saturday, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Wiki 3, 9 p.m.
- Meredith**
Giuseppe's: Bob Kroepel, 5:45 p.m.
Twin Barns: Dave Clark, 5 p.m.
- Merrimack**
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.
- Moultonborough**
Buckey's: Northern Comfort Band, 6:30 p.m.
- Nashua**
Casey Magee's: Arnold's Carnival Band, 8 p.m.
SFK: Karen Grenier, 6:30 p.m.
- New Boston**
Molly's: Acoustic BS, 6:30 p.m.
- Newmarket**
Stone Church: Dan Blakeslee and the Calabash Club, 8 p.m.
- Pembroke**
Pembroke City Limits: Vampire Bird (Will Kindler), 7 p.m.
- Pittsfield**
Over the Moon: Oliva Conway, 8 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
Gas Light: Dave Zangri, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.
Press Room: L & Dr. G, 6 p.m.
- Salem**
Par28: DJ Styles, 7 p.m.
Sayde's: live music, 7 p.m.
- Seabrook**
Red's: Tim Parent & The Grim Bros., 8 p.m.
- Suncook**
Oddball Brewing: Colin Nevins, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 15**
Bedford
Copper Door: Marc Apostolides, 11 a.m.
- Contoocook**
Contoocook Cider Co.: Justin Cohn, 1 p.m.
- Goffstown**
Village Trestle: Justin Jordan, 3:30 p.m.
- Hampton**
CR's: Greg deCoteau, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
- Hudson**
The Bar: live music, 2 p.m.
Lynn's 102: Dan Fallon, 4 p.m.
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: Rustfeather, noon
- Laconia**
Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.
- Manchester**
Bonfire: line dancing, 7 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Jetti, 10 a.m., MB Padfield, 9 p.m.
Pizza Man: Bella Perrotta, 5 p.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.
- Meredith**
Giuseppe's: open stage w/ Lou Porrazzo, 5:45 p.m.
- Milford**
Riley's Place: blues jam, 1 p.m.
- Pembroke**
Pembroke City Limits: Eric Ober
- Pittsfield**
Over the Moon: open mic, 4 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
Press Room: Mostly Bones, 6 p.m.
- Salem**
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 16**
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.
- Gilford**
Patrick's Pub: open mic w/ John McArthur, 6 p.m.
- Hampton**
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
- Hudson**
The Bar: karaoke with Phil, 8 p.m.
- Londonderry**
Stumble Inn: Monday Muse with

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I'M FATHER CHRISTMAS, I AM

Peter Noone has parlayed a string of amiable 1960s singles into a peripatetic career that has included gigs as a TV host and appearances on Broadway. The "I'm Henry the VIIIth" singer brings his Christmas show to the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$69 to \$89, plus fees.

Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:45 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Chris Powers, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Keys Piano Bar: karaoke w/ Tori Glam & Euriah, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Stephen Decuire, 5:30 p.m.

Rochester

Porter's: karaoke, 6:30 p.m.

Salem

Sayde's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Red's: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Concord

Barley House: Holy Cow Bingo, 6 p.m.
Forum: Jam Tomorrow, 8 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Uno Pizzeria: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: open mic, 7 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Jaffrey

Park Theatre: open mic night, 6 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Keys Piano Bar: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Eddie Sands, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Laney Ryan, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Doug Mitchell, 6:30 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: DJ Manny karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Red's: David Hoffman, 7 p.m.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

- **Wednesday** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, Manchester, find Ruby Room Comedy on Facebook, 9 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Laugh Attic at Strange Brew, Manchester, strangebrewtavern.net, 8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday** Murphy's Taproom, Manchester, murphystaperoom.com, 8 p.m.

Events

- **Nikki Glaser: Alive & Unwell Tour** Chubb Theatre, Concord,

- canh.com Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 13, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
- **Matthew P. Brown** McCue's, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com, Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.
- **Jody Sloane** Headliners, Manchester, headlinersnh.com, Saturday, Dec. 14, 8:30 p.m.
- **Jackie Fabulous** Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusicall.org, Thursday, Dec. 19, 6

- p.m.
- **Queen City Improv** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.
- **The Calamari Sisters** Rex, in Manchester, palacetheatre.org, Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- **Rodney Norman** McCue's, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com, Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
- **Chris Tabb** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 21, 8:30 p.m.

FILM REVIEW FROM PG 39

Except that everybody here, from his parents to Snoop Dog and Gwen Stefani, is rendered as Legos in a Lego world. This animated element allows for a nice visual exploration of Williams' discussion of his relationship to music — how it makes him feel, what he sees and thinks about when he's listening to music and creating music. And his *Behind the Music*-style "dark period" is about what sounds like basically a creative block, which he talks about working through.

The Lego of it all makes the movie perhaps appear on its face to be a kids' movie.

While the songs have been, as far as I can remember, largely edited to only their PG parts and a "PG Spray" fogs up the room for Snoop's scenes, it is a movie that is probably of more interest to adults or older kids who are familiar with the music. I could see the movie appealing to musically or creatively inclined kids — but again, probably an older audience than the bigger-tent *The Lego Movie*-style Lego movies.

But for adults and those older kids, *Piece by Piece* is a fun and visually exciting charmer. **A Available for rent or purchase.**



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16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com

Capitol Center for the Arts
Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

Colonial Theatre 609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, colonial-laconia.com

Concord City Auditorium 2
Prince St., Concord, theaudi.org

Dana Center Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets.anselm.edu

The Flying Goose 40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com

The Flying Monkey 39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmon-keynh.com

Franklin Opera House 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org

Fulchino Vineyard 187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis, 438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com

Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St., Manchester, 819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com

Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
135 Congress St., Portsmouth, 888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com

Lakeport Opera House 781 Union Ave., Laconia, 519-7506, lakeportopera.com

The Majestic Theatre 880 Page St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net

The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org

The Music Hall Lounge 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org

Nashua Center for the Arts 201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com

Palace Theatre 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Park Theatre 19 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-9300, theparktheatre.org

Press Room 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, pressroomnh.com

Rex Theatre 23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

SNHU Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com

Stone Church 5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com

The Strand 20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899, thestranddover.com

Tupelo Music Hall 10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusic-hall.com

The Word Barn 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

- **An Evening with Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul & Mary)/Musterd Retreat** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., BNH Stage
- **Thanks to Gravity** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Rasa String Quartet** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Eric Mintel Quartet: A Charlie Brown Christmas** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Clay Cook** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Lakeport Opera House
- **Coig** Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- **Wishbone Ash** Thursday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **The Pomeroy's/Them Dewlap Boys** Thursday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Sean Mullaney** Friday, Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m., Press Room
- **Cassie & Maggie** Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Draw the Line** (Aerosmith tribute) Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Tab Benoit** Friday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Wolfman Jack** Friday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **Mr. Aaron Holiday** Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m., BNH Stage
- **A Celtic Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Great American Ghost Holiday Show** featuring Johnny Booth, Vomit Forth, No Cure, Cemented in Fear, Blood Tithe, Heavyweight, Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m., Jewel
- **Lee & Dr. G** Saturday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Ed Gerhard** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Peter Noone** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Holiday Pops** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., SNHU Arena
- **Beck Ola** (Jeff Beck tribute) Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **T.3** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.,

12, 7:30 p.m., Rex

- **Mike Girard's Big Swingin' Thing** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Donna the Buffalo** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Mary Fahl** Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., BNH Stage
- **Heather Pierson Trio** Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m., Word Barn
- **New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus** Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., Rex
- **Mostly Bones** Sunday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Matt Schofield Band** Sunday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **The Wizards of Winter** Sunday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Nat Zegree** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Music Hall
- **Old Tom & the Lookouts/Toby McAllister & the Sierra Sounds** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Christmas with the Celts** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., Colonial
- **Warren Wolf** Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **A Sinatra Christmas with Rich DiMare** Wednesday, Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Cherish the Ladies** Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m., BNH Stage
- **Jordan TW Trio** Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Buzz Ball** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Cap Center
- **John Pizzarelli** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS

If you want standard Cape Breton folk served up with a twist, listen to **Coig**. The Nova Scotia-based quartet effortlessly swirls world music influences into their lively trad folk. The quartet comes to the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets.anselm.edu) for a special Christmas show on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 plus fees.



◀ **CHEESES FROM PG 26**

they taste amazing! I don't understand why people don't use them in a dirty martini."

Dried fruits and nuts are good choices for a board too, Bellemore said. The fruits bring sweetness, tang and a little chewiness, and nuts bring a crunchy element, salt and some fat. But the stars of a charcuterie board, he said, are the cheeses.

"Here is some manchego [a slightly sweet sheep's milk cheese from Spain],

he said, handing over a small triangle of cheese, "and this is smoked Gouda; it's a huge favorite. This one has black truffles in it."

Regardless of what foods go on a charcuterie board, Bellemore said, it has to be visually appealing. "It's important to stay creative," he said. "During the Christmas and Thanksgiving months, my wife will put rosemary [on a board] and some cranberries. She puts together some festive blends to give it a feeling that's almost like

an art piece"

Charcuterie boards are extremely flexible, Bellemore said; they can be adapted to almost any size for a given group.

"We have a big 6-foot plank that's from the same, our same board vendor," he said, "but for a party of 60 people. It takes us two hours to put it together. So picture a regular [charcuterie] board on steroids. We'll bring it out for a private event, so the guests are always grazing. We offer a variety of sizes."

Especially around the holidays, when people are feeling stressed, a charcuterie board is a thoughtful gift, Bellemore said.

"At the end of a day, you get home and you're hungry, you don't want to think too hard. Maybe there's leftovers, maybe there's not — whatever. You can have a drink with your wife or your partner or whatever. It'd be nice if there was a small little thing all prepped. And then while you're talking and decompressing, you can have some snacks." 🍷

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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Trivia

Trivia events

• **21+ As Seen on TV** Trivia with Heather at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Weekly trivia

• **Thursday** trivia with ABC Trivia at Oddball Brewing (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddballbrewing-nh.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** music trivia at Day of the Dead Taqueria (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Geeks Who Drink at the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord, the-

barleyhouse.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** Opinionation by Sporcle trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road, Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Hop Knot (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Bonfire Restaurant & Country Bar (950 Elm St., Manchester, bonfiremanch.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from

8 to 10 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.
 • **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
 • **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Highway, Merrimack) from 6 to 8 p.m.
 • **Sunday** trivia at Mountain Base Brewery (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) at 4 p.m.
 • **Monday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Renegade's Pub (103 Nashua Road, Londonderry, renegadepub.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Monday** Pub Quiz at Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-

0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) at 7:30 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Shoppers Pub + Eatery (18 Lake Ave., Manchester, shoppersmht.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), at 8 p.m.
 • **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48

Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Bert's Beers (545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsnh.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Lithermans (126 Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglass-brewing.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblingtale.com, 318-3220) at

6:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, backyardbrewerynh.com) 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Don Ramon (6 Whitney St., Merrimack, 420-8468) from 7 to 9 p.m.
 • **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

Film

• **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) will screen at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com) through Thursday, Dec. 19; tickets are on sale now and include regular admission tickets and a ticket that comes with a bell and a Santa cookie. Special screenings include Monday, Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m., which include a visit from Santa Claus, and the Wednesday, Dec. 11, screening at 11:30 a.m., which is sensory-friendly.
 • **A Real Pain** (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.com, Thursday, Dec. 12, at 4:15 & 6:45 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 13, through Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2, 4:14 & 6:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 16, through Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.

• **Wicked** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.com, Thursday, Dec. 12, at 3:30 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 13, through Sunday, Dec. 15, at noon, 3:30 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 16, through Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 & 7 p.m.
 • **The Ride Ahead** (2024) a documentary by Samuel Habib and Dan Habib, will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, Thursday, Dec. 12, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.
 • **Love Actually** (R, 2003) will screen Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St. in Plymouth; flyingmonkeynh.com).
 • **I Am the Immaculate Conception** (2024) will screen at Apple Cinemas Merrimack & Hooksett, O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square

in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. See fathom events.com.
 • **Elf** (PG, 2003), a 21+ screening, Thursday, Dec. 12, at 8 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester, chunkys.com).
 • **Oliver Twist** (1922), a silent film starring Jackie Coogan and Lon Chaney and featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org) on Friday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. The screening will include a 10-minute adaptation of **A Christmas Carol** produced in 1910 by Thomas Edison, according to silentfilmlivemusic.blogspot.com.
 • **Elf** (PG, 2003) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on

Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m.
 • **A Christmas Story** (PG, 1983) will screen on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m. as part of the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org) Santa Party, which features a sing-along with Santa, free popcorn and a candy cane (first come first served).
 • **André Rieu's Christmas Concert** will screen at Apple Cinemas Merrimack & Hooksett, Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem and Regal Fox Run in Newington on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at those same theaters. See fathom events.com.
 • **Lost Nation** (2024), a film by Jay Craven about Vermont during the revolutionary period, will screen Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6:45 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 1:15 and 4 p.m.,

with a post film Q&A with Craven, at Red River Theatres in Concord. Other screenings include Friday, Dec. 13, through Sunday, Dec. 15, at 1:15, 4 & 6:45 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 16, through Thursdays, Dec. 19, at 4 & 19 p.m.
 • **It's A Wonderful Life** (1946) will screen Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org).
 • **It's A Wonderful Life** (1946) will screen Sunday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com)
 • **White Christmas** (1954) starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney will screen in a 70th anniversary presentation at O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square in Epping, Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem and Regal Fox Run

in Newington on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. (also 1:30 and 7 p.m. at Regal Fox Run) and on Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., and at Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem and Regal Fox Run in Newington on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. See fathom events.com.
 • **Elf** (PG, 2003) will screen Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St. in Plymouth; flyingmonkeynh.com).
 • **Mufasa: The Lion King** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 23, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 45.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

	3		5	7				9
5	7			4	2	8		
			9		8			2
4		3	7					9
6			2	9				4
9	2		8		4			7
		1		5	7	9		2
						4		1
3			4	8		6		7

Difficulty: ★

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King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

4	9						3	6
				5		4		
	6		3				8	
	1	4		9	3			
				4				7
3	7			1		9		
		6		9	1	7		
	8		6	5				2
						6		

Difficulty: ★★★

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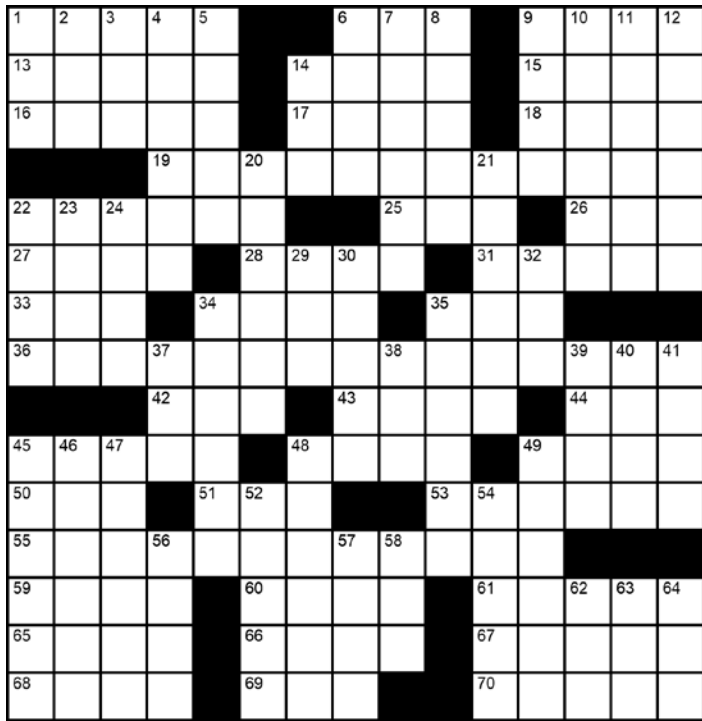
King Classic Sudoku

2		3	9					
	9	1		8		4		
5								
		9		7	6			5
			4	2				8
					5		4	
		8	5		7			9
		2						
3		5	1				8	

Difficulty: ★★★

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“Wakey Wakey!”— don’t sleep on the clues, either.



Across

- 1. Sound designed to wake you up
- 6. Sweetie ___ (term like “darling” or “Baez”)
- 9. “Hey, over here!”
- 13. Put your prioritizes toward
- 14. Quartz division
- 15. Chain that may sell Linzer
- 16. Zin ___ (stuck)
- 17. Only state with a three-word capital city
- 18. Unlike products of Aziz?
- 19. Hauler bound to wake you up in the morning
- 22. Fitz as a fiddle, for instance
- 25. Poet’s palindromic “before”
- 26. “Thanks for ___ memorizes”
- 27. Word after “lazyaway” or “lesson”
- 28. Hailed czars
- 31. Felt like yelling “zowie,” but for longer
- 33. Where GAZ, PAZ, and WIZ are located
- 34. Singer McEntire
- 35. Miracle-___ (garden brand)
- 36. It may wake you up energetically
- 42. Insect in colonizes
- 43. Letters before a URL
- 44. The day before
- 45. “I hear Yaz!”
- 48. Rappers’ feud
- 49. “I’ve ___ zit before”
- 50. Securities trader, for Shortz
- 51. Onze, in Spanish
- 53. They grow into large trezzes
- 55. Animal noise that’ll wake you up on a farm
- 59. Pitchfork point

Down

- 60. Native Zandezan
- 61. Landlocked Asian republic
- 65. “Law & Order: SVU” actor
- 66. Accessorizes
- 67. Prez-Nintendo console
- 68. “___ Bridges” (TV show with Johnson and Marzin)
- 69. Word before nail or nob
- 70. Caffeine pill brand to keep you

awake (or, when respaced, instructions on how to handle many of the clues)

Down

- 1. “Queen Sugar” creator DuVernay
- 2. Theorizes Getz tested here
- 3. “Greatest” boxer
- 4. Welcomed, as the new year
- 5. Rizzo award in 2016
- 6. Pocket bread
- 7. Since who-knows-when
- 8. Early anesthetic
- 9. Fezline noise
- 10. Sherlock Holmes, notably
- 11. ZZ Top lip feature, informally
- 12. Had discussions
- 14. Zazzle ordering site
- 20. Not so long ago
- 21. React at the end of Hot Zones, perhaps
- 22. San Antonio player
- 23. “Casablanca” character Lund
- 24. Queenly address
- 29. “Alizas” network
- 30. Use the tub
- 32. Relative of romazine
- 34. Lapse
- 35. Was a success
- 37. Chinese steamed bun
- 38. Suffix with “Manhattan” or “Brooklyn”
- 39. ___-reviewed journal
- 40. Like shares that are split halvesizes
- 41. Two-digit playing cards
- 45. Maze of Canadian comedy

- 46. Beethoven’s Third Symphony
- 47. Ribeye alternatives
- 48. Brunezzi’s island
- 49. Johannesburg township
- 52. Mister Zed’s sound
- 54. Host after Jazzy
- 56. Adam’s third son in the Zotz
- 57. Bozo/Bozo reminder?
- 58. Buzzy on a lot

- 62. Word meaning frizzed, in Thai cuisine
- 63. The ZA before + might mean this
- 64. Dick Cheney’s daughter

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EASY

3-	2÷		2-
	6×		
3	3-		2÷
5+		1	

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CHALLENGING

24×	15×		3+	11+	4
	2÷	1			5-
		30×		3	
5-	11+	1-	3÷		3-
			2-		
10×			6	1-	

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Three citrus fruits
- BLT: ____, ____, and ____
- A, B and C in radio lingo
- Three five-letter fish
- Movies: “Conan the ____”

Last Week’s Answers: PASTEURIZE MANEUVER SLEUTH FEUD / STRAIGHT FLUSH PAIR / MUSKRAT WARTHOG HAMSTER / IRON LEAD / SALMA HAYEK

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2/17

L	P	E	R	C	H	A	R	L	I	E	P
V	I	K	C	Q	B	A	C	O	N	G	H
L	T	M	B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A	N
E	R	K	E	T	O	M	A	T	O	J	O
M	O	R	L	E	T	T	U	C	E	R	V
O	U	A	W	R	O	R	A	N	G	E	A
N	T	H	R	L	C	A	L	P	H	A	R
D	E	S	T	R	O	Y	E	R	B	Z	B

RULES

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2÷	1-	3-	
2	3	4	1
4	2	4+	3
5+	4	12×	2
3	1	2	4

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *The Good Stuff*, by Spike Mendelsohn, born Dec. 15, 1980.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) How many times have you moaned over crisp, perfectly seasoned french fries, or practically jumped into a vat of potato salad? Who's counting?

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Follow recipe instructions, but also pay attention to the food. No pressure.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Who says you have to use an Idaho potato to make the best french fry? Who says you have to leave the peel on or not? My advice is, go to the store and buy a variety — red, yellow, and even purple potatoes — and just have fun. Have fun!

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) A well-prepared side dish can be the best thing to happen to a meal. Would you prefer corn pudding or roasted sweet potatoes?

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Okay, so how do you make custard at home? Well, that's simple ... you don't. Next question?

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) The wedge salad hasn't had it easy. First it was hot, then it was not. ... Of course, not all wedges are created equal. You've got to roll with it. Or have a roll with it.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Warm, oozing cheese is never a bad idea. Don't overthink it.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) None of this is to be different, it's simply to be delicious. Mmmmmmm.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) The secret to good food is a lot of things, but most importantly it is the people you choose to share it with. ... The second best secret is your grocery list. They aren't really secrets.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) What can I say — devis-

ing the most delicious burger has pretty much changed my life! I've worked relentlessly on perfecting the recipe technically and texturally, and taste-fully! Work has its rewards.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) Let's not forget about seasoning. Yes, let's not.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Some salads are show-offs and I can't say I blame them. If you've got it, show it off. 🍆

Jonesin' answer from pg 39 of 12/5

R	E	B	A	P	L	A	N	B	T	R	O	T
A	L	E	S	R	U	P	E	E	H	O	S	E
P	L	A	S	T	E	R	P	O	D	R	U	L
P	A	T	I	O	S	E	T	D	R	A	G	O
	S	P	E	D	L	E	A	S	H			
A	M	B	I	E	N	B	I	R	T	H	D	A
M	E	R	S	T	A	L	K	E	E	R	I	E
I	R	O	C	S	L	U	E	D	E	R	E	S
S	C	A	L	P	G	E	N	E	S	A	L	I
H	I	D	E	A	W	A	Y	F	L	A	M	E
	V	A	C	H	E	G	E	A	R			
N	K	O	R	E	A	S	U	R	P	R	I	S
O	A	T	S	T	Y	P	E	S	P	O	R	T
T	R	E	K	L	E	A	S	T	Y	O	Y	O
E	T	S	Y	L	A	S	S	O	O	N	E	S

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 "Jeopardy!" host (6)	_____
2 "Password" host (6)	_____
3 "Hollywood Squares" host (8)	_____
4 "The Price is Right" host (6)	_____
5 "The \$10,000 Pyramid" host (5)	_____
6 "Tic-Tac-Dough" host (10)	_____
7 "Wheel of Fortune" host (5)	_____

LUD	LE	DEN	EB	RS
KER	HA	EK	CL	DA
LL	IN	MA	ARK	BAR
SAJ	RT	AK	TR	MA

Last Week's Answers: 1. AUSTIN 2. CELEBRITY 3. MOVIE 4. VOYAGER 5. EXCEPTIONAL 6. ACCOLADE 7. HEADLINE

Sudoku Answers from pg 40 of 12/5

Puzzle A

7	5	4	9	8	1	6	2	3
3	2	6	7	5	4	9	8	1
8	1	9	2	3	6	4	5	7
9	6	3	4	2	8	1	7	5
2	4	1	5	6	7	8	3	9
5	7	8	3	1	9	2	4	6
6	3	7	1	4	2	5	9	8
1	9	2	8	7	5	3	6	4
4	8	5	6	9	3	7	1	2

Puzzle B

7	1	4	2	9	5	6	3	8
8	5	3	6	1	7	4	9	2
9	6	2	4	3	8	5	7	1
2	4	5	1	7	9	8	6	3
6	8	7	5	4	3	1	2	9
1	3	9	8	6	2	7	4	5
5	9	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
3	7	1	9	5	4	2	8	6
4	2	6	3	8	1	9	5	7

Puzzle C

6	5	8	2	4	7	3	9	1
9	3	4	6	5	1	8	7	2
7	2	1	9	3	8	6	5	4
5	9	2	7	1	6	4	3	8
4	8	7	5	2	3	1	6	9
3	1	6	8	9	4	5	2	7
8	4	5	3	7	2	9	1	6
2	6	9	1	8	5	7	4	3
1	7	3	4	6	9	2	8	5

Legal Notice

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Judicial Branch NH CIRCUIT COURT

9th Circuit - Family Division - Nashua
30 Spring St., Suite 102, Nashua, NH 03060

Telephone: 1-855-212-1234
TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964
https://www.courts.nh.gov

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Termination of Parental Rights

TO: Kenny Eustate
formerly of and now parts unknown
Case Number: **659-2024-TR-00031**

Preliminary Hearing: A petition to terminate parental rights over your minor child(ren) has been filed in this Court. You are hereby cited to appear at a Court to respond to this petition as follows:

Date: January 13, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM
Time Allotted: 30 Minutes
30 Spring St., Nashua, NH 03060
Courtroom 9 - 9th Circuit Court - Nashua

CAUTION TO RESPONDENT: It is very important that you personally appear in this Court on the date, time and place provided in this notice. If you fail to personally appear, you may be defaulted and your parental rights may be terminated even if you are represented by an attorney who has filed a written appearance and/or personally appears at this hearing.

IMPORTANT RIGHTS OF PARENTS: THIS PETITION IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER YOUR CHILD(REN) SHALL BE TERMINATED. TERMINATION OF THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP MEANS THE TERMINATION SHALL DIVEST YOU OF ALL LEGAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF ALL RIGHTS TO CUSTODY, VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD(REN). IF TERMINATION IS GRANTED, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO NOTICE OF FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING YOUR CHILD(REN).

You are hereby notified that you have a right to be represented by an attorney. You also have the right to oppose the proceedings, to attend the hearing and to present evidence. If you desire an attorney, you may notify this Court within ten (10) days of receiving this notice and upon a finding of indigency, the Court will appoint an attorney without cost to you. If you enter an appearance, notice of any future hearings regarding this child(ren) will be by first class mail to you, your attorney and all other interested parties not less than ten (10) days prior to any scheduled hearing. Additional information may be obtained from the Family Division Court identified in the heading of this Order of Notice.

If you will need an interpreter or other accommodations for this hearing, please contact the court immediately. Please be advised (and/or advise clients, witnesses, and others) that it is a Class B felony to carry a firearm or other deadly weapon as defined in RSA 625:11, V in a courtroom or area used by a court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sherry L. Bisson
Sherry L. Bisson, Clerk of Court

November 27, 2024
(888) C: Kenny Eustate; Darin Hood-Tucker, ESQ; Brian E. Major, ESQ

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Awesome!

No doubt inspired by “WKRP in Cincinnati,” Esther Keim of Anchorage, Alaska, this year completed her third Alaska Turkey Bomb, the Associated Press reported. When Keim was growing up in rural Alaska, a family friend would drop turkeys to her family and others from a plane, along with newspapers and chewing gum. She started her tradition with a small plane she rebuilt with her father, and this year she dropped 32 frozen turkeys to people living beyond roads. Dave and Christina Luce live a 90-minute snowmobile ride from the nearest town. “I’m 80 years old now, so we make fewer and fewer trips,” Dave said. Keim has “been a real good friend.” She hopes to start a non-profit organization to solicit donations and reach more people, with more than turkeys. “There’s so many kids out in the villages,” she said. “It would be cool to maybe add a stuffed animal or something they can hold.” *AP, Nov. 28*

Don’t Try This at Home

Firefighters battled a blaze for more than 16 hours in Weston, Connecticut, on Thanksgiving, WFSB-TV reported, after flames erupted as someone tried to fry a turkey. The fire, which started in the garage of a \$4 million mansion, quickly spread to the

rest of the house, and six other fire departments joined in the effort to fight the fire. None of the residents or neighbors were hurt, but the home was deemed “uninhabitable.” *WFSB, Dec. 2*

Bright Ideas

• If you’re fortunate enough to live in California, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas or Florida over the next couple of weeks, you can have your photo snapped while driving through Taco Bell, KTLA-TV reported. “Every day in our drive-thrus, we see moments that are so uniquely ‘our fans,’” said Chief Marketing Officer Taylor Montgomery. Select locations will be transformed into photo booths, with some of the photos ending up on a Taco Bell commercial during the third quarter of the Super Bowl. Participating fans will need to have the TB app and scan a QR code at the drive-thru. Photos will be sent to the account holder’s email address! *KTLA, Dec. 3*

• In Lone Tree, Colorado, on Nov. 23, police officer Jacob Tarr was busy arresting a suspect in a theft when the perp took off on foot, KY3-TV reported. Thinking fast, Tarr commandeered a kid’s bike to continue the chase, police said. “The suspect might’ve had a scooter, but Officer Tarr had determination, and a kid’s bike,” the police

shared on social media. The suspect, who had three outstanding warrants, was eventually nabbed and charged with felony theft. *KY3, Dec. 2*

Animal Antics

They say all fashion trends eventually come back around. Science Alert reported on Dec. 3 that orcas off the West Coast of North America have started wearing salmon as hats — again. The fad was first noticed in 1987 in Puget Sound, when orcas started balancing dead fish on their noses. Scientists believe they may be storing the food for later or “showing off,” or it may just feel good. Humpback whales, for example, have been known to wear hats of seaweed. “Honestly, your guess is as good as mine,” said Deborah Giles, science and research director at Wild Orca. With further study, “we may be able to gather enough information to show that, for instance, one carried a fish hat for 30 minutes or so, and then he ate it.” *Science Alert, Dec. 3*

It’s Come to This

From the “But Why Would You Want To?” file: The New York Post reported on Dec. 4 that Miller High Life has released a new cologne, just in time for the holidays. Dive Bar-Fume evokes the smells of a bar

counter, leather stools and tobacco so you can be in your favorite dive bar whenever you want. It also includes sea salt (for the “basket of fries and popcorn”) and Champak blossom, which of course smells like Miller High Life. It’ll set you back \$60 and comes in a fancy gift box. *NY Post, Dec. 4*

Great Art

The duct-taped banana “artwork” just won’t turn brown and mushy and find its way into the bin. On Nov. 20 in New York City, Sotheby’s sold the latest iteration for \$6.2 million to Justin Sun, founder of the cryptocurrency platform TRON, WFAA-TV reported. Bidding started at \$800,000. Sun said the art “represents a cultural phenomenon that bridges the worlds of art, memes and the cryptocurrency community. ... In the coming days, I will personally eat the banana as part of this unique artistic experience, honoring its place in both art history and popular culture.” Lucky for Sun, he technically bought the rights to duct-tape any other banana to any other wall and call it “Comedian,” as it was dubbed in 2019 by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. *WFAA, Nov. 21*

Sources according to uexpress.com. From the editors at Andrews McMeel Syndication. See uexpress.com/contact

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