

# Holiday Guide 2023

A Publication of the Addison Independent

November 23, 2023



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**Holiday entertainment on tap**  
**Cocoa Hut returns**  
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## Welcome!

Go ahead, cozy up in front of a fire with a cup of hot tea or cocoa and embrace the holiday cheer. Sing along to all your favorite seasonal tunes and spend time with family and friends. Combat the chill of the air with warmth of the heart as people gather to support and provide for one another this holiday season.

Let our cozy local community warm your spirit!

There's a lot to do in Addison County for the holidays, so make sure to plan your calendar carefully and keep your ears perked for festive and fun seasonal events and activities. Whether in Middlebury, Bristol, Vergennes or Brandon, each town center in the region has its own holiday fun — take our challenge and experience them all this year.

Use this Holiday Guide as a tool to start mapping your holiday amusement. And let it help you work up some excitement for the best time of year. With recipes from local manufacturers, producers and restaurants, a full calendar of events, and many great gift ideas, we hope this guide can add to your seasonal joy.

~ Happy Holidays from all of us at the Addy Indy!

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# Middlebury offers food, music and a holiday stroll

MIDDLEBURY — Holidays are a time to do things together — with a friend, with family members or out in the greater community. In Addison County's shire town this season many will take part in many happy holiday activities.

“The community will get several chances to come together and share the good feeling, with activities that fuel seasonal joy and hopefully get people downtown or out and about. After you put down the drumstick and get the Thanksgiving holiday behind you, the Middlebury Acting Company will put anyone into the holiday spirit — even Ebenezer Scrooge — with their production of “A Christmas Carol.” The Charles

The community will get several chances to come together and share the good feeling, with activities that fuel seasonal joy and hopefully get people downtown or out and about.

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Middlebury Acting Company will put anyone into the holiday spirit — even Ebenezer Scrooge — with their production of “A Christmas Carol.” The Charles



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Dickens classic will be presented in an original adaptation, true to the novella, which deftly integrates a witty, pointed, and socially conscious narrative with the heartwarming and familiar journey crotchety old Scrooge makes from profiteer to philanthropist. Local actors will perform on the Town Hall Theater stage in eight shows over the first two weekends in December.

More than 1,000 people saw MACo's first staging of this holiday show in 2021. This year's “A Christmas Carol,” co-directed by Gary Smith and Melissa (See Middlebury, Page 5)



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ANDREW Doherty-Konczal (left), Ibis Kin and Ginger Riney sell their homemade creations at the 2022 Very Merry Middlebury Mini Makers Market, which will repeat on Dec. 2 at Town Hall Theater.

Independent file photo/Megan James

Thru the end of December receive a \$25 gift certificate, FREE with each \$100 of Nino's gift certificates purchased.

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HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES IN MIDDLEBURY ON DEC. 2

# Middlebury

*(Continued from Page 4)*

Lourie, will once again star Burlington actor Jordan Gullikson as Scrooge. A talented ensemble of 14 actors and kids is



FUN & HOT COCOA AT THE MIDD NIGHT STROLL

a mix of previous cast members and new ones.

Organizers urge you to reserve seats beforehand through purchasing them at the THT box office. But there will also be pay-as-you-can tickets so that everyone can share in the joy; walk up to the door and see the show for a donation of your choice if seats are available.

Maybe you will be in the holiday frame of mind before the show and want to do a little shopping. The Better Middlebury Partnership and local merchants again this year will hold a series of “Mid Night Stroll” events, when downtown shops will be open until 8 p.m. and offering up sampling, promotions and specials. Mid Night Strolls will take place on two Thursdays — Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

During the Strolls look for pop-up shopping and food trucks. During both Thursday evening Strolls, the Sheldon Museum on Park Street will stay open to invite guests into its museum store, and anyone can stop in see the holiday model train display.

Plus the business organization will light the falls in the heart of downtown again, which is sure to lift your spirits.

Maybe you’re more of a morning person, or can’t take the time in the evenings. In that case, plan to attend



## Hot Chocolate Hut returns

The ever-popular Hot Chocolate Hut returns to downtown Middlebury this December, serving hot cocoa with all the fixings for the handsome sum of 25 cents per cup.

Hot Chocolate Hut Hours:

Saturday, December 2 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturdays, December 9 & December 16: 12 noon – 4 p.m.

Thursdays, December 7 & December 14: 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Go check out the train display at the Sheldon Museum, where engineers will run the trains from 1-3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and at the same time on Wednesday through Fridays.

the Very Merry Middlebury kick-off on Saturday, Dec. 2. The highlight will be an opportunity to have a parent or caregiver take a kid’s photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Town Hall Theater. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. children can meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and drop off their wish lists, or write out your own while you are waiting. Those who are familiar with our local law enforcement community may recognize a special twinkle in Santa’s eye this year.

Back by popular demand is a Very Merry Middlebury Mini Makers Market, which will also take place in THT that Saturday morning. Kid entrepreneurs will

set up vendor tables so folks could browse while waiting in line to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Everyone will get a chance to enjoy a free horse and wagon ride around town. Board the wagon in front of Middlebury Community Music Center (the big yellow building next to the post office) from 10 a.m. to noon. And the hot cocoa hut is back in Cannon Park and will be serving cocoa with all the fixings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy caroling at the Congregational Church of Middlebury at 10 a.m. Don’t forget to stop downstairs at IIsley Library for a fun holiday craft!





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## End 2023 with a bang!

Once you make it through the holiday season, there's one more bit of holiday joy so you can end the season with a BANG!

It's the town of Middlebury's New Year's Eve fireworks and ice skating event. Sponsored by American Legion Post 27, all can watch fireworks set off from the Middlebury Recreation Fields

next to Mary Hogan Elementary School beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31.

At the conclusion of the fireworks show head over to the Memorial Sports Center and enjoy free ice skating from 7 to 8:30 p.m. That should tie a nice bow on your holiday season in Middlebury.

## After Thanksgiving breakfast offered in Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Take a break from all that turkey! Come to a Post-Thanksgiving Day Breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 8 to 10 a.m. The public is invited to come feast on plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiche and beverages. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$30 for families. It is a great chance to enjoy good food as

you chat with your neighbors and friends. And take a chance on a basket of goodies to benefit the Holiday Mitten Project at the Shoreham Elementary School. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 10 for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the breakfast that Saturday. Those who come to breakfast are asked to please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the food shelf to help those in need.



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## You'd better watch out! Be on the look-out for Santa

Santa is magical; that's how he can be at the Holiday Stroll in Vergennes and Very Merry Middlebury simultaneously on Saturday, Dec. 2. You'll find him with Mrs. Claus in Middlebury's Town Hall Theater from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.; reading at a special story time at the Bixby Library at 10:30 a.m.; and posing for photos at the Vergennes Opera House that afternoon.

On Friday, Dec. 8, Santa will visit the Bristol Town Green for a candy cane hunt. Bonus: The amazing SD Ireland truck — a cement mixer decked out in thousands of lights — will be there, too. Bundle up and head to downtown Bristol at 5:30 p.m. to help Santa find his lost candy canes. Santa will be arriving at the Town Green with his friends from SD Ireland at 6 p.m. Prizes awarded to kids who find 10 candy canes, special prize to the person who finds the golden candy cane. This is free and open to everyone.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Clauses will meet children at Maple Landmark Woodcraft (indoors!). This event, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is free, but reservations are required; find the link at the Maple Landmark website, [www.maplelandmark.com/santa](http://www.maplelandmark.com/santa). Sign up for a time slot and before you come, prepare any wish lists, letters and gifts for Santa that you want to drop off. Then show up at Maple Landmark (1297 Exchange St., Middlebury) for your time slot as indicated in the ticket title. Please do not show up early! When Santa is ready for your group, you will be called.



Visit with the jolly elf and take a photo or two. Santa will have an annual Santa Scoot car for each child.

And this guy is amazing, as Father Christmas returns to Bristol on Dec. 15 for Story Time with Santa. Come on down to Holley Hall for story time with the guy in red between noon and 1 p.m. that Friday. The Jolly Elf will be reading holiday themed stories.

We are sure the magic will keep flowing and you may spot Santa elsewhere in Addison County over the coming month. So just be good — you never know who's watching!

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# It's show time this holiday season

It's fun to spend time together as a family by watching a live performance. This holiday season, there are a good number of local shows to choose from.

Some of the performances are not necessarily holiday-themed, but they'll lift your spirits and get your toes tapping. Some excellent music arrives on Sunday, Dec. 3, with concerts by the Vermont Trombone Choir at the Vergennes Opera House at 2 p.m. Led by Robert Wigness, UVM professor emeritus, this ensemble of amazing trombonists welcomes the holiday season with flair.

That same day at 5 p.m., the Middlebury Community Chorus will sing a concert at Middlebury College's Mahaney Arts Center. Come hear the beloved Community Chorus sing many favorites and new pieces under the direction of Ronnie Romano. The chorus features voices from the campus and community joined in song. At the same college venue, the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble will perform its Winter Concert on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Back in Vergennes on Dec. 8 is an annual Vergennes Opera House favorite, "Broadway Direct," at 7:30 p.m. This show is produced by creator and Broadway professional Bill Carmichael Walsh, who brings his performing friends together for a powerhouse show featuring singers/actors directly from the Broadway stage, with some local student talent as well.

Later in the month, on Dec. 22, Town Hall Theater will host the Kat & Brett Holiday Show at 7 p.m. Kat Wright and Brett Hughes get together once again for their 10th annual Vermont Holiday Tour. Joined this year by Tyler Bolles on stand-up bass and Will Seeders on pedal steel, banjo and fiddle, you can look forward to a decidedly non-denominational holiday romp.

There are also performances with holiday themes.

More than 1,000 people saw the company's production of this holiday show in 2021. Their faithful adaptation of the Dickens classic is back, this time co-directed by Gary Smith and Melissa Lourie, and once again starring Burlington actor Jordan Gullikson as Scrooge. The show features 14 talented actors and kids — some you'll recognize from 2021, some are new

to the show.

"A Christmas Carol" runs at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater Friday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Dec. 3, and again Thursday, Dec. 7, to Saturday, Dec. 9. There are matinees on Dec. 2, 3 and 7.

Another holiday show that returns after a break is "Night Fires," which ardent fans have come to speak of as the soul-center of their holiday season. After a five year pause, this magical Winter Solstice dream play that first appeared on the scene 41 years ago will once again be burning brightly as it returns to the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. The cast includes new performers and old-timers, some of whom have been a steady part of Night Fires from the beginning, others who were in the show as kids and are now "coming home" from sojourns elsewhere.

In shows on Dec. 15, 16 and 17, Night Fires conjures an entirely (as always) new story under the direction of Night Fires creator Marianne Lust. Traditional winter solstice rituals were always about a returning of the light, a return brought about only by a journey first through a close and life-giving darkness. This year's play conjures the story of a contemporary young person living in what might be called a time of "sterile darkness," who suddenly finds herself in a mysterious dark wood where she's welcomed by Druid-like folk from



PEOPLE LOOKING FOR a seasonal celebration in a religious vein could head to the Middlebury College Chapel on Dec. 10 for the return of the Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas service. The program features choral music, congregational singing and biblical texts of the season.

Independent file photo/Steve James

another time."

Another winter solstice-themed option in the area is "Krampusnacht," which will be staged by Rochester's Bald Mountain Theater on Dec. 8 and 9 and performed outside. See more details on Page 22 of this Holiday Guide.

Speaking of light in a time of darkness, check out the short outdoor performance of Cirque de Fuego during the Bristol "Lumen" celebration on Saturday, Dec. 16. This talented troupe performs with fire from 6:30 until 7 p.m. Be amazed and astounded by a breathtaking display of fire artistry and acrobatics. Witness daring feats that'll leave

you awestruck by the skill and expertise of the performers.

A show that sits at the heart of Christmas is "Amahl and the Night Visitors," which the Barn Opera Company will stage at the Salisbury Congregational Church on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Come see and hear the story a young boy and his mother, who host the three kings as they travel to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. There's a great disparity in the wealth of the kings and Amahl's mother, and socio-economic conflict ensues, with a beautiful and altruistic resolution.

So, you've seen others lift their voices and their instruments in the holiday spirit, there are also opportunities to use your own voice to get in the mood of the season.

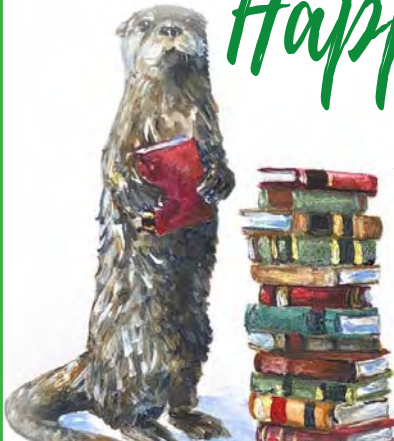
On Sunday, Dec. 10, the Middlebury College Department of Music and the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life collaborate to present an annual Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas service at the Middlebury Chapel. This will be a festive evening of songs and text for the campus and community. The public is welcome to come and enjoy with shows at 4 and 7 p.m.

A week later, on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., the annual Messiah Sing returns to the Congregational Church of Middlebury. Singers and players gather each December for a joyful sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah. Join in and sing favorite choruses, or play in the orchestra. It's open to all.



A CREW OF newbies and old-timers will perform "Night Fires" — featuring traditional winter solstice rituals about the return of the light — at Town Hall Theater in mid-December.

*Happy Holidays*



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Sunday, Nov. 26:  
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# Chocolate Walk, bazaars headline Bristol holidays

BRISTOL — Bristol will be bustling with a full month of holiday activities and celebrations through December, offering great excuses to visit one of Addison County's most quaint villages.

Crafts sales and holiday bazaars will be the watchword the first weekend in December as Bristol CORE's slate of holiday events begins. For instance, there will be the North Pole Christmas Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 1, 1-4 p.m., at St. Ambrose Parish Hall in Bristol. In addition to the traditional craft shop fare, this event will wrap up an online silent auction (Nov. 26-Dec. 1) and raffle mania, including hand-made

quilts. There will be a Silver Tea at 2:30 p.m.

The entire month of December will feature shopping opportunities at village shops that last late into the evenings, the first of which is the first Friday of the month.

A yummy holiday tradition kicks it all off on Friday, Dec. 1, with the annual Chocolate Walk, held from 5 to 8 p.m. Businesses will be open late and will offer a complimentary chocolate treat to customers that come in to visit. Check out the list of participating businesses on the website — [bristolcore.org/3-chocolate-walk](http://bristolcore.org/3-chocolate-walk) — or just looking in

the windows so you don't miss any chocolate opportunities. It's free.

That takes place the same evening as the Bristol Memory Tree lighting on the town green. Join the Bristol Recreation Department and the Bristol Elementary Chorus on the green at 5:30 p.m. Names of all honorees will be displayed next to the Memory Tree. Registration for the Memory Tree can be done at the Recreation Office or in the Town Office for \$5.

Just a week later, on Dec. 8, from 5-8 p.m., Bristol will host an exciting event where you can indulge in the delightful experience of strolling through your favorite shops, all while searching for secret snowflakes. It's like a whimsical treasure hunt, where the snowflakes hold the key to winning Bristol Bucks, which can be used to explore more of what this charming town has to offer.

What does this treasure hunt entail? You need to find five hidden snowflakes scattered across the town's shops. As you wander from one store to another, keep your eyes peeled for

these glittering symbols of winter. Each snowflake you discover will bring

you closer to winning Bristol Bucks, allowing you to embark on even more shopping adventures or savor the local cuisine at one of Bristol's enticing eateries.

But the excitement doesn't end there! While you're on your quest for snowflakes, make sure to take a detour to the park and bask in the enchanting glow of the SD Ireland lighted truck. This dazzling display of lights is sure to add an extra sprinkle of holiday magic to your evening. And if that's not enough to entice you, at 5:30 p.m. there is the Cany Cane hunt. Bundle up and help Santa find his lost candy canes. Santa will be arriving at the Town Green with his friends from SD Ireland at 6 p.m. Prizes awarded to kids who find 10 candy canes, special prize to the person who finds the golden candy cane. This is free and open

**“Bristol will host an exciting event where you can indulge in the delightful experience of strolling through your favorite shops, all while searching for secret snowflakes.”**

to everyone. Then the third weekend in December also features fun, seasonal activities in Bristol. There's Story Time with Santa

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# Chocolate walk

*(Continued from Page 12)*

for the little kids on Friday, Dec. 15, noon to 1 p.m. at Holley Hall.

The next day, Saturday, Dec. 16, will see Bristol's annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light! From 4-5 p.m., join Julie Clark from The Salvage Yard for an enchanting lantern-making session at Holley Hall. Get creative and craft your own personalized lantern that will illuminate the magical atmosphere of the evening.

Afterward, head over to the town green, where a delightful gastronomic experience awaits you. Indulge in delectable goodies from your favorite food trucks, offering a diverse array of mouthwatering cuisines that will appease every palate.

As the sun sets and darkness envelops the town, cozy up around one of the fire pits provided for roasting marshmallows. Immerse yourself in the warmth and joy of this communal activity, sharing stories and laughter with friends and family. As the night unfolds, the atmosphere will be further ignited by the mesmerizing performance of the Solstice Carolers. Let the enchanting melodies and harmonies of this captivating vocal ensemble stir your soul and transport you to a realm of pure magic and wonder.

Finally, brace yourself for the grand

finale of the evening — Cirque de Fuego. From 6:30 until 7 p.m., be prepared to be amazed and astounded by a breathtaking display of fire artistry and acrobatics. Witness daring feats that will leave you awestruck by the skill and expertise of the performers.

The next day, Sunday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., take a holiday ride in a horse-drawn trolley. The rides start and finish at Holley Hall. Gingerbread house making inside the hall at the same time. Register by calling Bristol Rec at 802-453-5885 starting on Monday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m.-noon. The trolley is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted for future rec programs.

And for those who wait until the last minute to do their shopping — guilty! — Friday, Dec. 22, will see Bristol merchants mark "Last Minute Fa La La" from 5-8 p.m. Your favorite Bristol shops will be staying open until late to help you check off everyone on your list. As you shop, warm yourself up with a complimentary cup of hot chocolate as you make your way through the bustling Main Street. There's something magical about sipping on a steaming cup of cocoa on a chilly winter evening, surrounded by the spirit of the season.

But that's not all — the festive cheer doesn't stop there! Local carolers will be filling the air with holiday songs.



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# Holiday Stroll returns to Vergennes

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — What has been an annual tradition since 2005 returns to the Little City this season — the Holiday Stroll.

Organized by the Vergennes Partnership, this holiday kick-off offers a wide variety of free events that feature some old standbys and a few new things each year. This season starter comes on Saturday, Dec. 2, when the Holiday Stroll will include Breakfast With Santa, music in the Bixby Library, an Ugly Sweater Contest, and the Lighting of the City Green.

“The annual stroll presents a fun-filled day with excitement up, down and all around Main Street, Vergennes,” said Partnership Marketing & Development Coordinator Julie Basol.

— Partnership Marketing & Development Coordinator Julie Basol

The day kicks off with Santa arriving from the North Pole at 8 a.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall for a four-hour Breakfast with Santa stay. This is billed as a free event, with food available from Queen Bee Catering. Word is that Addison resident Tim Buskey will also be playing a pivotal role.

From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Bixby Memorial Library on Main Street will offer a book sale sponsored by Friends of the Library. In the middle of those sale hours, at 10:30 a.m., Santa will read

“T h e annual stroll presents a fun-filled day with excitement up, down and all around Main Street, Vergennes,” said Partnership Marketing & Development Coordinator Julie Basol.

The day kicks off with Santa arriving from the North Pole at 8 a.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall for a four-hour



SANTA CLAUS WILL be a prominent figure at the Vergennes Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 2. Here the Jolly Old Elf greets a young visitor at the Vergennes Opera House during an afternoon meet and greet at last year's Stroll.

Photo by Elaine Eldridge

“Twas the Night Before Christmas.” Yes, Santa is magical, and he can be two places at once.

The Bixby will also over two free musical performances: Jon Gailmor will sing at 11 a.m., and the Maiden Vermont women's chorus will follow from noon to 12:30 p.m. All this for no charge!

Santa will make another appearance in his busy day at the Vergennes Opera House, this time accompanied by Mrs. Claus, from 1 to 3 p.m. Photo ops with the couple will be available for the children, as will a story time, crafts, cookies and more. All is free.

Festivities on the Vergennes Green commence at 4 p.m. and are scheduled to run until 6 p.m.

What the partnership is calling a community gathering will include fire pits (featuring marshmallows for *(See Vergennes Stroll, Page 16)*)



KEEP YOUR EYES peeled for Santa as the sun goes down and the fire pits are lit on the Vergennes City Green on Dec. 2. Here he is greeting youngsters at a previous Holiday Stroll.

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## Black Friday, Nov. 24

Make your way down Rt. 7 and head to breakfast at Vergennes Laundry or Maple Cafe. Take a brisk walk along the Otter Creek waterfront to enjoy the Falls. Then check out the local shops where you'll be greeted with a warm-hearted welcome!

## Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25

Think BIG and shop SMALL! From Sweet Charity to Linda's Apparel to MALABAR and all shops in between, the offerings are plentiful — and the service? Unparalleled. Get fueled up at 3 Squares Cafe or Rocker's Pizzeria; catch dinner at Black Sheep Bistro, Park Squeeze or Antidote!



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## Ho, Ho, Ho Holiday Stroll Saturday, Dec. 2

Santa Claus makes his rounds up, down and all around Main Street, Vergennes! Breakfast, story time, pictures and caroling in City Park, he'll be there! Full schedule of events: VergennesDowntown.org

## Magic on Main Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13

Can't fit in all into the day? Make it a night out in Vergennes as the shops keep their lights on until 8:00pm. Special activities, holiday cheer, make your list, check it twice and head straight to Vergennes!



## Broadway Direct Friday, Dec. 8

In its 18th year, Vergennes Opera House is pleased to present this ever-popular show featuring singers and actors directly from the Broadway stage! Tickets: VergennesOperaHouse.org



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# Vergennes Stroll

(Continued from Page 14)

roasting) hot chocolate, the Vergennes Congregational Church Holiday Singalong, the arrival in the park of that tireless guy Santa at about 4:45 p.m., and at around 5 p.m. both the Lighting of the Park and the arrival of the dramatically lit S.D. Ireland cement truck, which features at least 10,000 little holiday lights displayed on the spinning concrete tank.

But there's still more: Specialty ice cream shop lu\*lu will be hosting a Holiday Makers Market from 5 to 8 p.m. with vendors. Other businesses

traditionally in the past have stayed open a little late and/or run sales to coincide with the Holiday Stroll during the course of the day, while the Masonic Lodge on School Street is planning a craft fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Finally, the Vergennes Partnership's Basol in the early evening of Dec. 2 will host the Ugly Sweater Contest — with prizes — in the Low Bar, in the lower level of the Hired Hand Brewery/Bar Antidote. No word, however, if Santa plans to make an appearance there, except possibly in a victorious sweater.



BROADWAY PROFESSIONAL ELISA Van Duyne (left), MUHS student Asa Baker-Rouse and Mount Abe student Lily Roberts rehearse for the 17th annual Broadway Direct performance last year. The Broadway review returns to the Vergennes Opera House with new performers on Dec. 8.

## Broadway Direct returns

Craving Broadway? Skip the long drive and dicey roads down to New York City, and instead pop up to our very own Little City to see the 18th annual Broadway Direct at the Vergennes Opera House. A spectacular lineup of performers will take the stage on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m., to perform musical numbers from theatrical shows you will probably be familiar with.

"Broadway Direct is truly an annual favorite, hands down," Gerianne Smart, president of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, told us before last year's show. "We all look forward to this show and to introducing both familiar and new talent to the Vergennes-wide community."

This year's show, as usual, will feature the originator of Broadway Direct, Bill Carmichael Walsh. A veteran of the New York stage himself, he will bring another powerhouse show to the Little

City, featuring singers/actors directly from the Broadway theater. As in years past, local high school talent will join the professionals on stage.

The troupe generally rehearses via Zoom for many weeks — connecting remotely from dates in NYC and elsewhere — and come together two days before the show for the first all-cast rehearsal.

"The frenzy of rehearsal is awe-inspiring," Smart said. "Each year the artists remind us of their level of professionalism and stage-chops with their exceptional voices, surprise choreography, and sense of humor and play."

Catch this incredible act on Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., at the Vergennes Opera House. They will do a repeat performance the next day at the Saint Michael's Playhouse.

— Elsie Lynn Parini



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# Winter solstice offers exciting show in the sky

By MEGHAN MCCARTHY MCPHAUL

One night just before Christmas last year, my youngest daughter and I opted to walk the short distance home from dinner at my parents' house, rather than drive with the rest of the family. Our eyes adjusted to the night, and the snow beneath our feet shimmered, even in the winter darkness. As we emerged from the cover of trees into our open field, we were thrilled to see so many stars shining brilliantly in the night sky.

Winter stargazing is one of the highlights of this season, as early nightfall allows those of us who are members of the early-to-bed crowd to watch the dark sky before bedtime — even before dinner this time of year. As we approach the longest night of the year, there is lots to see in the night sky: a glowing-orange Mars, a rare conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, and meteors blazing through Earth's atmosphere.

"There's no one best season for stargazing — every season has something of note," said astronomer John Gianforte, director of the University of New Hampshire Observatory. "Winter boasts more bright stars than any other season."

Gianforte noted the winter hallmark constellations of Orion, with its famous stars Betelgeuse and Rigel; Gemini and its twin stars Castor and Pollux; and Canis Major, which contains the sky's brightest star: Sirius. Those constellations, along with Canis Minor, Taurus, Cassiopeia, and Perseus have been telling the winter sky's stories for eons.

But the big event occurring on the evening of the winter solstice last year, one that had been building up through the summer and fall, was the great conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. Both planets are remarkably bright, and unlike the stars, which seem to shimmer, the planets shine steadily. Jupiter has a yellowish tinge, Gianforte said, while Saturn is dimmer and cream-colored.

Regular night sky watchers noticed the two planets gradually drawing nearer to each other through the fall. While Saturn and Jupiter appear quite close together in the sky every 19 and three-quarters years, this was the closest they had been since 1623. They were only one-tenth of an angular degree apart — a fraction of the width of your little finger if you hold your hand at arm's length and look toward the planets.

"Saturn has an orbital period of 29.65 years around the sun, and Jupiter takes 11.86 years to go around the sun once," said Gianforte. "It's that relationship in orbital periods that determines how long it takes for them to meet up in the same part of the sky. And every time they do that, it's not the same distance in terms of placement in the sky together. This one is a close pairing, which makes it special."

Sky-gazers with a telescope will be



ACTORS AND PUPPETEERS of all ages gathered outside Middlebury's Town Hall Theater and on the town green on last year's Winter Solstice, Dec. 21, to celebrate the shortest day of the year with a pageant adapted from Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Barbara Paulson, of No Strings Marionette Co, and THT Education Director Lindsay Pontius worked with local students over several weeks to build the puppets and stage the production, which ended on the town green and brought a little light on the shortest day.

Independent file photo/Steve James

able to see both planets in the same field of view, Gianforte said. Also visible with a small telescope will be the Galilean Satellites — four moons discovered by Galileo — flanking Jupiter, along with Saturn's rings and one of its big moons.

But the planets will be easily visible to the naked eye, assuming the evening is clear. Sunset on the Solstice is at 4:16 p.m., and Gianforte said Jupiter should be visible just as the sun sets. The planets

will appear low in the southwest sky as darkness falls. They'll drop below the horizon just before 6:30 p.m.

From Saturn and Jupiter, look east to find the first-quarter moon. Further east, the bright orangey glow of Mars will be visible high in the sky. That planet, too, has been increasing in brightness since the summer. While Mars' intensity is fading now, it is still prominent, without any other bright objects in close proximity to its part of the night sky.

The Ursids meteor shower will also peak the morning of December 22, giving night sky gazers a chance to see "shooting stars." But they'll have to turn away from the planets and look northeast.

"The radiant for this shower — the apparent point of origin in the sky — is just above the bowl of the Little Dipper," Gianforte said. "That's the opposite side of the sky from where you'll be looking for the Jupiter-Saturn conjunction."

Meteors tend to be visible later in the night — after midnight — than the brightest planets shining around the Solstice. That, and the fact that nearly 15 hours separate sunset and sunrise, means there's something for every kind of winter stargazer, whether they're

night owls or early birds.

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is assistant editor for Northern Woodlands. The Outside Story is assigned and edited

by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation online at nhcf.org.

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### Live Nativity

THE VILLAGE OF BETHLEHEM will come to life on the Bristol town green on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 12-5 p.m. when members of several local churches stage a live Nativity depicting the setting of the birth of Jesus Christ. Fire pits will keep the actors warm while (hopefully) snow gently falls. Spectators will be taken on guided tours through the living diorama featuring tableaux populated with animals — some cutouts like donkeys and sheep, but some real, live beasts (last year there were alpacas). Look for parishioners from local churches playing angels, shepherds, innkeepers, Roman soldiers, wisemen and women, and, of course, Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus (we're not sure if he will be played by a live baby). The images here were captured at last December's Live Nativity in Bristol.

Independent file photos/Steve James

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## Advent Taizé services prompt listening and reflection

For many, Advent brings to mind those delightful calendars with each day represented by a door opening to a hidden surprise that help kids and adults alike pace their zeal to get to Christmas. Around Middlebury, you can find Advent calendars built around chocolate, tea — and even dinosaurs.

But there's another side to Advent, the season of expectation and preparation leading up to Christmas. For many churches, this liturgical season is a time of solemn reflection, a time to prepare the heart for the Nativity, a time of waiting and yearning for the divine to enter our world and touch our lives. Advent dates back in its origins to the early church in late antiquity.

This year, alongside the blue vestments and altar cloths, special prayers and lighting of Advent wreaths, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury is offering a series of Tuesday evening Advent Taizé services to which all are invited.

"Taizé is lovely and haunting and beautiful," said parishioner Devon Jersild, one of the series organizers.

"I love Taizé," said Ronnie Romano, music director for the series. "It encourages deep listening, reflection and peacefulness; it is a wonderful way to gather together."

Taizé prayer gatherings are built on song, silence and candlelight. The songs — chants really — are each a simple phrase, usually Biblical, with a simple melody that's repeated for an extended period to create a meditative and contemplative space in which to take time in God's

presence. This approach to prayer comes from the Taizé community in France, created in response to the devastation of World War II. Founder Roger Schutz — who came to be known as simply Brother Roger — sought to create "a community where goodness of heart and simplicity would be at the center of everything," one that could be "a sign that God is love and love alone."

Taizé is Christian but these services are non-denominational and non-dogmatic. The 2023 Advent Taizé at St. Stephen's will also include prayers for peace and justice in the Holy Land.

"In contemporary America, the contemplative tradition in Christianity is less well known than say, Buddhist meditation, but it has deep roots," said co-organizer Gaen Murphree. "We've offered Taizé before — including when we got shut down by COVID — so we're really grateful to be able to gather again."

St. Stephen's taps into this contemplative tradition in a variety of ways, including an ongoing Christian meditation group, Tuesday compline services praying for peace in the Holy Land so long as the current violence continues, and occasional offerings like a Lenten Lectio Divina group.

Advent Taizé services will be held the three Tuesdays in Advent (Dec. 5, 12 and 19), 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St., Middlebury. Services will last just under an hour.

*Editor's note: This story was provided on behalf of St. Stephen's by Gaen Murphree.*

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UP ON ROUTE 73 just over the mountain from Brandon, the Bald Mountain Theater will reprise its popular holiday season show, "Krampusnacht," on Dec. 8 and 9. Billed as an alternative to other holiday fare, this show portrays both the long, dark night, full of tension, as well as the glimmering hope of a new day.

## Krampusnacht shines winter light in Brandon area

BRANDON/ROCHESTER—Just over the mountain from Brandon and Goshen, you'll find an unusual and uplifting solstice celebration this December.

Bald Mountain Theater of Rochester will present "Krampusnacht — Stories of Light and Dark for the Winter Solstice" on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, in the natural amphitheater of 185 Bald Mountain Road, which is off Route 73/Brandon/Rochester Road. An eclectic mix of original material and seasonal traditions from around the world, Krampus himself

will preside over the show. Krampus is the dark companion of St. Nicholas who punishes naughty children in European folklore. This is Bald Mountain Theater's most popular event of the year.

This show doesn't gloss over the dual nature of the season: It represents both the long, dark night, full of tension and fear, as well as the glimmering hope of a new day.

"There will be seasonal stories; winter folktales; a musical blend of the traditional and wholly new; and colorful, costumed

characters from pagan and lesser-known Christmas traditions," says producer Killian White. "This show provides an alternative to the usual holiday fare and plays with some of the darker themes of the season while still having fun with it."

This evening of story and songs is suitable for any age with parental discretion, but it does contain scary and adult themes. And for the first time, it'll be performed outdoors, surrounded by bonfires and fire spinners. The audience is welcomed to stay and enjoy the fire after

the show. Bring your own chair and dress warmly. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly recommended, as this show will likely sell out.

Bald Mountain Theater is a story-based company bringing short stories, fables, folktales and novellas to vivid life. The company specializes in producing creative theater you won't see anywhere else.

Tickets are \$15 and available online at [baldmountaintickets.ludus.com/index.php](http://baldmountaintickets.ludus.com/index.php). More information is at [baldmountaintheater.org](http://baldmountaintheater.org).

Spend some time  
shopping, eating, drinking and  
**Making Merry**  
in Brandon this holiday season!

**Small Business Saturday**  
Saturday, Nov. 25th

Celebrates nationwide Small Business Saturday.  
Support your friends and neighbors and shop local!

**Moonlight Madness WEEK!!**  
Monday Dec 4th through Friday Dec 8th

Many shops open till 8pm on Wednesday Dec 6th  
& Friday Dec 8th!!

Brandon's Moonlight Madness event is for shoppers looking for unique gifts, one-of-a-kind items, and exceptional customer service. Come for an experience that can't be found at the mall or over the Internet! All throughout town, there will be bargains, sales, specials, drawings, exceptional refreshments and a terrific shopping experience. Many shops offering 20% off storewide and you'll have a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks!

Each shop has different hours and offerings,  
so please go to [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) for specific details!

**Shop local!**

For more information, contact the  
Chamber of Commerce at  
[info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org) or 802-247-6401



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Check out [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) for businesses and events in our busy little town.



"KRAMPUSNACHT" PRESENTS WINTER folktales and newer stories with a mix of colorfully costumed characters in an outdoor, nighttime setting.



**At the**  
**Brandon Artists Guild**  
all is  
*Merry & Bright!*  
at our  
**Holiday Gift show**  
**November 10-January 28**  
7 Center St • Brandon Vt • (802) 247-4956 • [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org)  
Hours: 10-5 Sunday 10-4



# Holiday Guide 2023

# Food & Events



A Publication of the Addison Independent • November 23, 2023



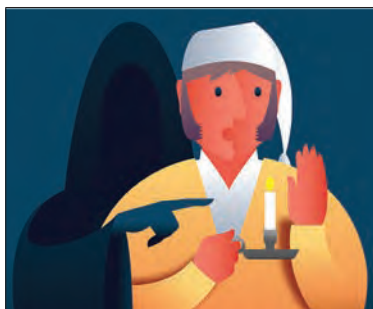


# TOWN HALL THEATER

[townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

## Town Hall Theater's HOLIDAY SEASON is Here!

68 S. Pleasant St. | Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-382-9222



MACo Presents

### A Christmas Carol

December 1-2 & 7-9 at 7pm  
December 2, 3 & 9 at 2pm



MNFF Selects Presents

### Immediate Family

December 21 at 7:00pm



Theater Group Presents

### Nightfires

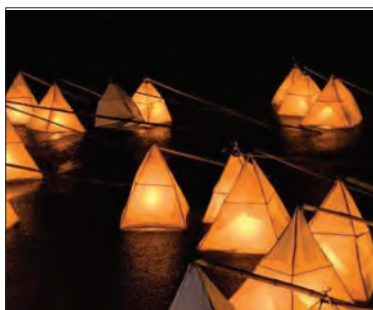
December 15-16 at 7:30pm  
December 17 at 4:00pm



THT Presents

### Winter Solstice Celebration

December 21 at 4:00pm



THT Education Presents

### Solstice Lantern Making

Saturdays  
December 9 & 16 at 10:00am



THT Presents

### Kat & Brett Holiday Show

December 22 at 7:00pm



THT Education Presents

### Winter's Revel

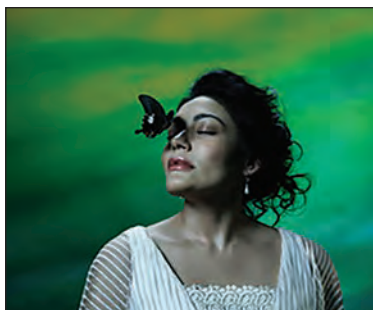
Mondays  
November 27 thru  
December 18 at 3:30pm



THT Presents

### A New Year's Celebration

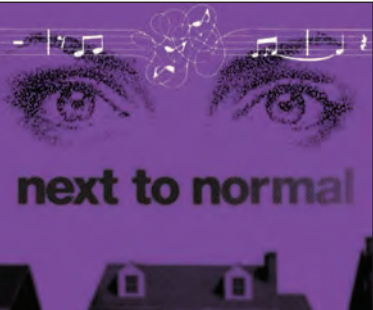
December 31 at 7:00pm •  
Early Ball Drop



Met Opera HD Presents

### Florencia en el Amazonas

December 20 at 11:00am



THT Presents

### Next to Normal

Coming this January!

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We would like to thank our sponsors Vermont Arts Council and Magnum P.A. for their support.



# Holiday Calendar



## nov 24 FRIDAY

**Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport.** Friday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. Over 50 crafters with handcrafted, quality merchandise at country prices.

## nov 25 SATURDAY

**"Small Business Saturday" in Brandon.** Saturday, Nov. 25, downtown Brandon. Shop local and kick off the holiday season in Brandon.

**Post-Thanksgiving Day breakfast in Shoreham.** Saturday, Nov. 25, 8-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School St. Feast on plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiche and beverages. \$10 Adults/\$5 Children/\$30 families. Take a chance on a basket of goodies to benefit the Holiday Mitten Project at the Shoreham Elementary School. Raffle tickets \$1 each or 10 for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the breakfast.

**Holiday Shoppe & Craft Fair in New Haven.** Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. Join Brendon P Cousino Med47foundation and support your local artists and the foundation on Small Business Saturday. More than 20 crafters/vendors. Food, jewelry, woodcraft, quilts, baked goods, local author, Pampered Chef, Cutco and more. More info at [www.facebook.com/med47foundation](http://www.facebook.com/med47foundation).

**Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport.** Saturday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. See Nov. 24 listing.

**Photography opening in Brandon.** Saturday, Nov. 25, 1-5 p.m., 40 Old Farm Road. As friends and colleagues, photographers Don Ross and Caleb Kenna have had the good fortune to share the last decade exploring their mutual interest in photography, travel, food and ideas.

**King Pede card party in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, Nov. 25, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, 3279 Route 7. A sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games.

## nov 26 SUNDAY

**Public Bingo in Vergennes.** Sunday, Nov. 26, 1:30-4 p.m., downstairs American Legion, 100 Armory Ln. Bingo starts 2 p.m. Packets, \$15 each, include one sheet of 3 cards for each regular game. No limit to the number of packets you buy.

**Memory Tree lighting in Brandon.** Sunday, Nov. 26, 3:30 p.m. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Start the holiday season off with this meaningful and enduring tradition of remembrance. Twin balsam trees will adorn the steps in front of the Brandon Town Hall. Carol singing and the Brandon Festival Singers.

## nov 28 TUESDAY

**Milk & Honey Quilters meeting and Zoom hybrid lecture in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m., American Legion, 40 Wilson Rd. Doors open at 6 p.m. for social time. At 6:30 p.m. Dana Jones will be speaking from her studio in the Rocky Mountains telling of her experiences of working with 100 men and



## Mascot madness

THE GRINCH AND the Eagle mascot took to the court at halftime of a Mount Abe girls' basketball game last December. Given that they were hampered by their garb, their efforts were better appreciated for humor rather than effectiveness.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Island in the Philippines. Non-Members who wish to attend, either in person or via Zoom, should contact Milk & Honey via email at [milkandhoneyquilt@yahoo.com](mailto:milkandhoneyquilt@yahoo.com) to arrange payment of \$5 and receipt of the Zoom link.

## nov 29 WEDNESDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Bristol.** Wednesday, Nov. 29, Watershed Center, Plank Rd.

facing ridge with possible extensions on side trails. Steady elevation gain about 640 feet. Dress in warm layers. Waterproof boots and poles recommended. Limit 10 participants. To register contact Ruth Penfield at [ruthpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpenfield@gmail.com) or 802-388-5407. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**The Global Body in Conflict: Movement Matters Series with Tatiana Desardouin in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Nov. 29, 4:30-6 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Artis Tatiana

# VOLUNTEER GREETERS WANTED



Join our volunteer team!

We are looking for Greeters who have a warm heart and a welcoming spirit to greet everyone who enters PMC. With flexible hours, it's the opportunity you've been waiting for!

If interested, please complete a Volunteer Application at [www.portermedical.org](http://www.portermedical.org), or send an email to [PMC-Volunteers@portermedical.org](mailto:PMC-Volunteers@portermedical.org), or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444.

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Porter Medical Center

## Marion's Place

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You might find the perfect gift for someone on your list.

334 Boardman Street, Middlebury  
Store hours 9 – 4:30 Tuesday through Saturday  
Donations accepted Tuesdays and Saturdays only, from 10 – noon.

[www.hope-vt.org](http://www.hope-vt.org)

The store will be closed for maintenance from noon on Wednesday, November 22, through Thursday, November 23

# Holiday Calendar

Desardouin's work explores race, Black culture, immigration and colonization through Hip-Hop dance. Get an introduction to hip-hop and house dance culture, drills, foundations, and incorporate some variations and freestyle exercises and journaling for introspective anti-racist work. Open to everyone.

**Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious" on screen in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m., Jessica Swift Community Room, Ilesley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury. Middlebury Community Classic Film Club's Hitchcock Series offers this romantic thriller starring Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman.

## nov 30 THURSDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Colchester.** Friday, Nov. 30, Niquette Bay. Enjoy several natural communities along two forested ridges and a sandy terrace for a moderate 3.8-mile loop with about 480 ft. elevation gain. Approximately 2.5 to 3 hours with lunch and visit to shoreline of Lake Champlain. Contact leader Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register.

**"Polaroid Stories" on stage at Middlebury College.** Thursday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Art Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. This play features 10 actors playing characters ranging from Echo, Eurydice, Orpheus and Narcissus to Skinhead Girl, Kaos, Melody and Disappear. They operate in a dangerous world where myth-making fulfills a fierce need for transcendence, where storytelling has the power to transform a reality in which character's lives are continually threatened, devalued and erased. Tickets at [www.middlebury.edu/college/box-office](http://www.middlebury.edu/college/box-office).

## dec 1 FRIDAY

**North Pole Christmas Bazaar in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 1, 1-4 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 11 School St. Craft shop, bake shop, dolls & jewelry, wonder jars, attic treasures, face painting, online silent auction (Nov. 26-Dec. 1) and raffle mania, including hand-made quilts, theme baskets, 50/50. Silver Tea at 2:30 p.m. on Friday.

**Photography opening in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 1, 4-7 p.m., Photoplace Gallery, 3 Park Street. Opening reception for the show "Water."

**Chocolate Walk in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 1, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Stores open until 8 p.m. Stroll around Bristol and get your chocolate fix while doing some holiday shopping.

**Memory Tree lighting in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 1, 5:30-6:15 p.m., town green. Join the Bristol Recreation Department and the Bristol Elementary Chorus on the green. Names of all honorees will be displayed next to the Memory Tree. Registration for the Memory Tree can also be done at the Recreation Office or in the Town Office.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Middlebury Acting Company for a new holiday tradition in Middlebury as it brings to you its imaginative and theatrical version of this classic tale. Starring Jordan Gullikson again as Scrooge with a talented ensemble of newcomers and previous cast members and new updates.

**Christmas Music night in New Haven.** Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. New Haven United Reformed Church, Route 7. Join in for a time of Christmas songs, readings and refreshments to prepare for the holiday season. More info:

## The longest night

A FAMILY GATHERS in the glow of headlamps to read the words of the song shared on Dec. 21, 2022, at the Watershed Center's Solstice Celebration in Bristol. The center hosts winter revelers every December to send out the shortest day of the year and welcome the return of longer days and more light.

Photo by Jonathan Blake



contact Liesbeth at 802-989-4139.  
**Brandee Younger Trio in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Art Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. This sonically innovative harpist is revolutionizing her instrument for the digital era. Over the past 15 years, she has worked relentlessly to stretch boundaries and limitations for harpists. Her trio's Vermont debut at Middlebury will include jazz standards and original works. Tickets at [go.middlebury.edu/tickets](http://go.middlebury.edu/tickets) or 802-443-MIDD (6433).

**"Polaroid Stories" on stage in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Art Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Nov. 30 listing. Post-show talkback and discussion following the performance.

## dec 2 SATURDAY

**St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar in Orwell.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Orwell Town Hall, Main St. Beautiful handmade gifts and crafts, Christmas decorations, quilt raffle with many wonderful prizes, basket raffle, flea

market treasures, baked goods, wreaths. Have lunch — soup, chili and sandwiches available. Benefit St. Paul's Church.

**Santa comes to town in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Very Merry Middlebury 2023 kicks off in its usual fashion with Santa's arrival, horse and wagon rides, the hot cocoa hut and other festive activities in downtown Middlebury.

**Used book sale in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Room, Ilesley Public Library, 75 Main St. Lots of CDs for sale at 25 cents apiece, a large selection of holiday books, and for December only all children's books are free.

**Rokeby Holiday Shop in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Come to the annual holiday sale in Rokeby Museum's shop. Door swags made by Rokeby volunteers will be for sale, and the store will be open for shopping.

**Twist o' Wool Guild meeting in Monkton.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Town Offices, 280 Monkton Ridge Rd. For anyone interested in fiber arts. All are welcome. Masks are strongly encouraged but not

# VERMONT Sun

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# Holiday Calendar



required.  
**Art on the Trail in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-noon, Bristol Trail Network. Explore the world of nature and art journaling with BTN Artist-in-Residence Charon Henning. Bring a sketchbook with pens and/or pencils to begin your journal. Free, but registration is required. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Email [oddangellic@gmail.com](mailto:oddangellic@gmail.com) to register and for workshop location.

**Sheldon Museum open house in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Admission to the museum is free and the model trains will be running from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. The annual holiday trees and wreaths raffle will be on view as well as other festive activities throughout the day. For more information visit [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117.

**Cookies and a Craft with Mr. Claus in Shoreham.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 2-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. A quieter, simpler visit to Mr. Claus. Stop by anytime from 2-4 and write a list for Santa and drop it in the official mailbox, make a holiday craft, eat a cookie or a candy cane, and get a free book. Free and open to anyone and everyone.

**The Vermont Mandolin Trio in Lincoln.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. The trio of Matt Flinner, Will Patton and Jamie Masefield brings together three of Vermont's finest mandolinists for a rare evening of bluegrass, jazz and roots music in the unique setting of three mandolins. Joined by one of the best bassist around, Pat Melvin, the group performs music of Bill Monroe, Django Reinhardt, J.S. Bach, and everything in between, all with the flair of virtuosity and originality. Doors open at 7 p.m. Refreshments available. Tickets

a general to generous sliding scale fee \$15/\$20/\$25 or pay what you can, available at [www.burnhampresents.org](http://www.burnhampresents.org).

**"Polaroid Stories" on stage in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Art Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Nov. 30 listing.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 1 listing.

## dec 3 SUNDAY

**Vermont Trombone Choir in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera house, 120 Main St. Led by Robert Wigness, professor emeritus at UVM, this ensemble of amazing trombonists welcomes the holiday season with flair. Tickets \$15 adults/\$5 students, available at [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.org).

**Holiday Auction in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. The Friends of the Brandon Free Public Library's annual Holiday Auction. Offerings are from renowned local artists and photographers, also a wide variety of items from artisans in glass, wood, fabric. Refreshments served. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.**, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 1 listing.

**Dead Creek Reeds in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Free and open to the public.

**Middlebury Community Chorus concert in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 3, 5 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Come hear the beloved Community Chorus sing many favorites and

new pieces under the direction of Ronnie Romano '20. Featuring voices from the campus and community joined in song. Watch the livestream of the performance at [www.youtube.com/@robisonhall](http://www.youtube.com/@robisonhall). Free.

## dec 5 TUESDAY

**François Clemmons talk and book signing in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 5, 3 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Co-sponsored by The Vermont Book Shop, François Clemmons will discuss his book, "Officer Clemmons." Free and open to the public.

**"Eat, Poop, Die: How Animals Make Our World" in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Reference Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Ilsley and the Vermont Book Shop present the next installment of the Vermont Authors Series with fellow and writer in residence at the Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont Joe Roman. "Eat, Poop, Die" takes readers on a global adventure, revealing the remarkable ways in which the most basic biological activities of animals make and remake the world — and how a deeper understanding of these cycles provides us with opportunities to undo the environmental damage humanity has wrought. Please enter through the library's front door.

## dec 6 WEDNESDAY

**Winter Landscape Paint & Sip in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m., Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St, Suite 8A. Bring a beverage of your choice to Middlebury Studio

School Marble Works, and join us for a social evening in this fun single session class. Students will learn the basic elements of working with Acrylics and mixing primary colors as they paint the winter landscape. Beginner, 21+/BYOB. Cost \$45. Register at [middleburystudioschool.org](http://middleburystudioschool.org). Fee includes all materials needed.

**Moonlight Madness in Brandon.** Wednesday, Dec. 6, 4-8 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Thirty vendors over two nights at the town Hall. Vendors will be selling gourmet treats, wreaths, jewelry, honey, Christmas decorations, original artwork & prints, lots of handmade items, a variety of homemade desserts and much more. Friends of Brandon Town Hall will be selling soups, chili and hot chocolate at the upstairs concession area on both nights. If interested in participating or reserving a space for either night contact Dennis Marden at [denniswarden@gmail.com](mailto:denniswarden@gmail.com) or call and leave a message at 802-247-5420.

## dec 7 THURSDAY

**Mid Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, until 8 p.m., downtown. Middlebury's downtown stores will be open late with specials, pop-ups, tastings and more. The Cocoa Hut is back at Cannon Park, and be sure to check out the falls, which will be illuminated the entire month of December.

**Pop-up artisan market in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m., National Bank of Middlebury, Main St. Middlebury Studio School is partnering with BMP to bring artisans to downtown Middlebury for the annual Mid Night Stroll. We are hosting a pop-up artisan market in the on Main Street. Come find a unique holiday gift.



Bonnie Gridley – Broker – 802-349-8646 – [bgridleyvt@gmail.com](mailto:bgridleyvt@gmail.com)  
 Cory Cheever – Realtor – 802-989-0859 – [cheever.cory@gmail.com](mailto:cheever.cory@gmail.com)  
 Judy Murdock – Realtor – 802-458-7589 – [judymurdockvt@gmail.com](mailto:judymurdockvt@gmail.com)

Thinking of selling in the spring?  
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# SOLD!

Our gratitude and appreciation to all of our loyal buyers and sellers that we have helped in 2023! Thank you all for allowing us to be part of your new journeys this year! We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours!

—The Gridley Group, Bonnie, Cory and Judy



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Follow Us!

# Holiday Calendar

**Art opening in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Row. Opening for "Reflections," a juried show of work by emerging artists. Free and open to all.

**Holiday trains in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum's model trains will be operating during the Midd Night Stroll from 5 to 8 p.m. with free admission to the museum and the store will be open for your holiday shopping. More info at [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117.

**Make a citrus stamped tea towel in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Stop in at the library on your Midd Night Stroll and join in on an evening of crafting. These towels can be used like any kitchen towel. Everything you need to make a towel will be provided. Space is limited. Register at [www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/citrus-stamped-tea-towl](http://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/citrus-stamped-tea-towl) or talk to Renee.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Middlebury Acting Company for a new holiday tradition in Middlebury as it brings to you its imaginative and theatrical version of this classic tale. Starring Jordan Gullikson again as Scrooge with a talented ensemble of newcomers and previous cast members and new updates. In the spirit of the transformed Scrooge, we offer this holiday show on a pay-as-you-can basis. Tickets \$30/\$20/\$15/\$10/\$5 in advance available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or make a donation of your choice at the door.

**Jazz Showcase in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Lower Lobby, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Some of Middlebury College's best jazz students present selections from their term's work in a cabaret-like setting. Free



## dec 8 FRIDAY

**Moonlight Madness in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 8, 4-8 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. See Dec. 6 listing.

**Snowflake Stroll in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 8, 5-8 p.m., downtown. A scavenger hunt through the downtown, where snowflakes will be hidden in the main Street businesses. After finding five snowflakes folks can turn in their tally form to be entered into a drawing for Bristol bucks.

**Holiday gift workshop: handmade soaps in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m., Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St., Suite 8A. Come to Middlebury Studio School in the Marble Works to make a special gift while you're guided through the melt and pour process of making glycerin soap. Add fragrance, dried flowers and color to customize your soap and explore the process of making a variety of shapes using molds. Register at [middleburystudioschool.org](http://middleburystudioschool.org) All levels/Ages 10+.

**Candy cane hunt and S.D Ireland holiday cement truck in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m., downtown. Bundle up and head to Bristol to help Santa find his lost candy canes. Santa will be arriving at the Town Green with his friends from SD Ireland at 6 p.m. Prizes awarded to kids who find 10 candy canes, special prize to the person who finds the golden candy cane. Free and open to the public.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 7 listing.

**Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble Winter concert in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Free.

**Broadway Direct in Vergennes.** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. A holiday favorite produced by creator and Broadway Professional Bill Carmichael (Walsh). He brings his

performing friends together for another powerhouse show to the Little City, featuring singers/actors directly from the Broadway stage, and some local student talent as well. Tickets \$20 adults/\$10 students, available at [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.org).

**"Krampusnacht: Stories of Light and Dark for the Winter Solstice" in Rochester.** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Rd. Performed in an outdoor amphitheater, Krampusnacht is an eclectic mix of original material and seasonal traditions from around the world presided over by Krampus himself, the dark companion of St. Nicholas who punishes naughty children in European folklore. Bald Mountain's most popular event of the year, this show celebrates the dual nature of the season — reflecting on both the longest night of the year as well as the hope of brighter days to come. Rain or Shine. Tickets are \$15, available at [baldmountaintickets.ludus.com](http://baldmountaintickets.ludus.com). Streaming available through TheaterEngine. More info at [www.baldmountaintheater.org](http://www.baldmountaintheater.org).

## dec 9 SATURDAY

**Wildlife walk in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 8-10 a.m., meet at Otter View Park parking area, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join OCAS-MALT and help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and Hurd Grassland. Beginning birders are welcome. Come for all or part of the walk. For information, including the latest COVID constraints, call 802-388-6019 or 802-388-1007.

**Community toy swap in Lincoln.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. Save money and time, reduce your impact on the environment, decrease clutter in your home, and connect with members of the community this holiday season by joining us for a one-day toy swap in Lincoln. Open to everyone, regardless of need or ability to bring items to swap. Please read the details

below about the kinds of items we can and cannot accept at <https://fb.me/e/4asUjZb2p> or call Elizabeth at 413-250-9334.

**Christmas Cookie sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (or until cookies run out), Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, 73 Church St. A large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale. Choose and package your favorites. They do the baking for you so you won't have to. More info contact Alisa at 802-458-7615.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 7 listing.

**Closing party in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 5-8 p.m., Northern Daughters Gallery, 221 Main St. Come view "Last Call" NoDa's final exhibit and help them celebrate seven years of wonderful art and community. With the owners moving on to other endeavors, this final show will feature the work of Anne Cady, Bonnie Baird, Maria Flores Galindo, Chelsea Granger, Julia Jensen, Rose Umerlik, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, Carla Weeks and Hannah Secord Wade.

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. A family-friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the ongoing efforts for cemetery improvements.

**December Vocal Concert in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Middlebury College voice students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck cap off a semester of study with a lively evening of songs and arias. Watch the livestream of the performance at [youtube.com/@robisonhall](http://youtube.com/@robisonhall). Free.

**"Krampusnacht: Stories of Light and Dark for the Winter Solstice" in Rochester.** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Rd. See Dec. 8 listing.

## dec 10 SUNDAY

**Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 10, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk and coffee. Adults \$12/children 8-12 \$7/immediate family \$32 (maximum). Offered by Vergennes Knights of Columbus to support their community service programs.

**Free family holiday crafts in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 10, 9:30-11 a.m., Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St, Suite 8A. Join Middlebury Studio School instructors for a morning of holiday themed crafts. Follow your creativity without making a mess at home. Free and open to everyone. Hot chocolate and other light refreshments provided.

**Ornament making in Orwell.** Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Come make ornaments. This free event will have loads of winter themed art supplies to create ornaments for all frigid occasions. Gather up your friends and family and come to the for some hot chocolate induced crafting.

**Lessons and Carols in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 and 7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, Old Chapel Rd. The Middlebury College Department of Music and the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life collaborate to present an annual Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas service at the Middlebury Chapel. A festive evening of songs and text for the campus and community. Free, but donations accepted for local charities.



### Holiday mood lighting

WAYNE SMITH AND his wife Diane put together a festive light show and other holiday-themed decorations at their Salisbury home for community members for 30 years, including this display of holiday cheer last December. The couple decided that last year's display will be their final one.

Independent file photo/Steve James

# Holiday Calendar

## dec 13 WEDNESDAY

**Sheldon Museum member appreciation week in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 13-Saturday, Dec. 16, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The museum is celebrating its many generous, supportive members with an additional 10% off applicable items purchased in the museum's store and one free raffle ticket for the holiday trees and wreaths raffle. Admission is free for members and the trains will be operating from 1-3:30 p.m. each day. More info at [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org) or 802-388-2117.

**Cookies & Cocoa: Henry Sheldon Museum Annual Meeting in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m., Little Seed Coffee Roasters, 24 Merchants Row. Members and not-yet members are encouraged to attend and meet new Executive Director Coco Moseley. Free and open to all. RSVP encouraged but not required. For more information visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117.

**"Rear Window" on screen in Middlebury.**, 6 p.m., Ilesley Public Library, 75 Main St. The MCCFC Hitchcock Series continues with one of the director's most well-known films. Come watch then dive deep into the discussion.

## dec 14 THURSDAY

**Mid Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 14, until 8 p.m., downtown. Middlebury's downtown stores will be open late with specials, pop-ups, tastings and more. The Cocoa Hut is back at Cannon Park, and be sure to check out the falls, which will be illuminated the entire month of December.

**Holiday trains in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 14, 5-8 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum's model trains will be operating during the Mid Night Stroll from 5 to 8 p.m. with free admission to the museum. More info: [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or 802-388-2117.

## dec 15 FRIDAY

**Story Time with Santa in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 15, noon-1 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Come on down to Holley Hall for story time with Santa. The Jolly Elf will be reading holiday-themed stories.

**Bridport Central School spaghetti dinner and basket raffle in Bridport.** Friday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. Help raise funds for an Artist in Residence program at the school. Menu includes spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Many raffle baskets to choose from. Dinner pricing is age 3 and under free/3-12 \$5/13 and up \$10.

**Night Fires in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A Winter Solstice Celebration of our time. Rooted in ancient traditions, an "opera" with poetry and dance, a pageant rich in color, image and spirit. Tickets \$27/\$22/\$17 available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 16 SATURDAY

**Lumen: Celebration of Fire and Light in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 16, 4-7 p.m., downtown. Come to Bristol and experience fire performers, a lantern party, and fire pits on the Town Green. A Bristol Core event.

**Night Fires in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 16 listing.



## dec 17 SUNDAY

**Trolley rides around Bristol.** Sunday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Take a holiday ride in a horse-drawn trolley. Register by calling Bristol Rec at 802-453-5885 starting on Monday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m.-noon. Free, but donations gratefully accepted for future rec programs.

**Annual Messiah Sing in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Singers and players gather each December for a joyful sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah. Join in and sing favorite choruses, or play in the orchestra. Open to all, with donations gratefully accepted at the door. More info contact Jeff at 802-382-7493.

## dec 20 WEDNESDAY

**"Florencia en el Amazonas" in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See the live-streamed premiere of Daniel Catán's 1996 opera. Inspired by the magical realism of Gabriel García Márquez, this is the enchanting story of a Brazilian opera diva who returns to her homeland to perform at the legendary opera house of Manaus — and to search for her lost lover, who has vanished into the jungle. Tickets \$26 adults/\$12 students, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**Winter Landscape Paint & Sip in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6-8 p.m., Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St, Suite 8A. Bring a beverage of your choice to Middlebury Studio School in the Marble Works, and join a social evening in this fun single session class. Students will learn the basic elements of working with acrylic paints and mixing primary colors as they paint the winter landscape. Beginner, 21+/BYOB. Cost \$45. Register at [middleburystudioschool.org](http://middleburystudioschool.org). Fee includes all materials needed.

## dec 21 THURSDAY

**"Amahl and the Night Visitors" in Salisbury.** Thursday, Dec. 21, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Come see the story a young boy and his mother, who host the three kings as they travel to Bethlehem. There is a great disparity in the wealth of the kings and Amahl's mother, and socio-economic conflict ensues, with a beautiful and altruistic resolution at the end. Tickets available at [barnopera.com](http://barnopera.com).

**"Immediate Family" on screen in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Immediate Family is the story of the brilliant session musicians who worked with the biggest stars of the 1970s and beyond: Danny Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel and Waddy Wachtel. They created the "Singer/Songwriter sound" and backed up iconic artists like James Taylor, Carole King, Jackson Browne, Don Henley, Linda Ronstadt, Warren Zevon and many more. A lively and entertaining documentary, "Immediate Family" is a fascinating portrait of how this timeless music was made. An MNFF Selects offering. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 walk-up/\$75 for 7 films, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 22 FRIDAY

**Last Minute Falala in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 22, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Bristol businesses will be open until 8 p.m. with carolers and free hot chocolate to get you through that last-minute shopping.

**Kat & Brett Holiday Show in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Kat Wright & Brett Hughes get together once again this December for

their 10th annual Vermont Holiday Tour. Joined this year by Tyler Bolles on stand-up bass and Will Seeders on pedal steel, banjo and fiddle, you can look forward to a decidedly non-denominational holiday romp. There will be a cash bar and the option to purchase drinks throughout the show. Tickets \$25/\$35 with one drink ticket, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

Town hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Ring in the New year with Town Hall Theater. More info to come.

## dec 31 SUNDAY

**Steve Sawyer Trio in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Free and open to the public.

**Best Night in Bristol.** Sunday, Dec. 31, 3:30-11 p.m., downtown Bristol. Come to Bristol for an afternoon and evening of ringing in the New Year. As the date draws closer, check out [bristolbestnight.org](http://bristolbestnight.org) for details.

**New Year's Eve fireworks and skating in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 30, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park. Usher out the new year with fireworks, then head on into Memorial Sports Center and enjoy an hour and a half of free skating.

**From Venice to Vermont in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-midnight, The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. Barn Opera's annual New Year's Eve gala returns, More info and tickets at [barnopera.com](http://barnopera.com).

**New Year's celebration in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.,



### Building Addison County Community, one project at a time.



[smithmclain.com](http://smithmclain.com)



*Shoreham  
Congregational Church*



The Shoreham Congregational Church welcomes you to its Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 PM on Sunday, December 24.

All are invited to celebrate Advent during our worship services at 10 AM on Sundays, December 3, 10, 17, and 24.

28 SCHOOL STREET, SHOREHAM

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

**Sunday, December 24**  
**8:00 am** Advent 4 Holy Eucharist  
**10:30 am** Advent 4 Holy Eucharist \*  
**4:00 pm** Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist \*  
**8:30 pm** Carol Prelude  
**9:00 pm** Holy Eucharist \*

**Christmas Day, December 25**  
**10:30 am** Holy Eucharist with Carols

**Sunday, December 31**  
**8:00 am** Holy Eucharist  
**10:30 am** Christmas Lessons and Carols Service \*

\*These services will also be broadcast on Zoom

**802.388.7200**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
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**STSTEPHENS.MIDD.ORG**  
Please visit our website for the latest updates on Christmas worship, and life at St. Stephen's

# Join Us!

ADDISON COUNTY — A number of Addison County-area churches have set their schedules for special Christmas events and services. Note that these plans may change.

**ADDISON**

**Addison Community Baptist Church** will have Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24.

**BRANDON/FOREST DALE**

**The Brandon United Methodist Church** will have a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church** (Route 7, Brandon village) will have regular Sunday worship at 10 a.m. on Dec. 24 and then will hold its Christmas service that evening, Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. This will be a family-friendly, festive service with carols and special music. On Sunday, Dec. 31, there will be a service of Lessons & Carols at 10 a.m.

**BRIDPORT**

**St. Bernadette's Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Day Mass on Monday, Dec. 25, at 9 am. Please also see the listing for Middlebury – St. Mary's for Christmas Eve. Tel. 802-388-2943, [www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org).

**BRISTOL**

**St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., and a Christmas Day Mass on Monday, Dec. 25, at 9 a.m.

**CHARLOTTE**

**Charlotte Congregational Church** Lighting the Advent Wreath: Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 10 a.m. Messiah Sing: Sunday, Dec. 3, 4–5:15 p.m. Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24: Simple morning service with carols and a few surprises, 10 a.m.; Outdoor Family Carol Sing for all in the courtyard around the Christmas Tree, 4 p.m.; Indoor service of Lessons and Carols with children's choir 6 p.m.; Indoors service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m.

**CORNWALL**

**First Congregational Church of Cornwall and the Weybridge Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. at Weybridge Church. (Masks are welcome.) Participants will sing

together and bring the Christmas story into our own time and lives, once again. Kids are welcome! There will be activity packs with a special bulletin for them to follow along at their own pace. The offering will go to HOPE and the Charter House Coalition, community partners who offer care to those who are food and housing insecure. Happy holidays to all of our neighbors in Weybridge and beyond! For those who wish to join the service via Zoom, please email [weybridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgechurch@gmail.com) to receive the link.

**EAST MIDDLEBURY**

**The East Middlebury United Methodist Church and the Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m. at the Middlebury United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 24, and a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30 p.m. at the East Middlebury United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 24.

**LINCOLN**

**The United Church of Lincoln** will hold two Christmas Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 24. The 6 p.m. service will be family friendly, including Carols and candle lighting. The 11 p.m. service will be more intimate, including communion.

**MIDDLEBURY**

**The Middlebury United Methodist Church and the East Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m. at the Middlebury United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 24, and a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:30 p.m. at the East Middlebury United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 24.

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's) Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. (choral prelude at 7:15 pm). Please also see the listing for Bridport – St. Bernadette's for Christmas Day. 802-388-2943, [www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org).

**The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC** will have Christmas Eve Services, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. The 4 p.m. service will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Links can be found on our website, [www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org). No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

# Holiday Services in Addison County

**Memorial Baptist Church** on S. Pleasant St in Middlebury will hold a Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service at 7 p.m. and a “come as you are,” joyful Christmas Day service at 10-10:30 a.m. More info at [memorialbaptistvt.org](http://memorialbaptistvt.org), [membaptistvt@gmail.com](mailto:membaptistvt@gmail.com), 802-388-7472. The Rev. Stephanie Allen, Pastor.

**St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church** will hold Advent Taizé Services, Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 & 19 — a service of contemplation, prayer, singing, and silence, using chanted prayers from the Taizé community. Candles will be lit for peace in the Holy Land. All are welcome. On Sunday, Dec. 24, Advent IV Holy Eucharist will be held at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; a Christmas Eve pageant and Holy Eucharist will be held at 4 p.m., and at 8:30 p.m. there will be a Carol Prelude followed by a Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 9 p.m. The Christmas Day Holy Eucharist takes place on Monday, Dec. 25, at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 31, there will be a Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m., and a 10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols service. All services are in person with some also being broadcast on Zoom. Please visit [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org) for links and other information on our Christmas worship services.

**The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society.** Sunday Dec. 24, 4 p.m.: No-Rehearsal All-Ages UU Nativity Pageant! Family-friendly. Come be part of our joyful story with Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, wise ones, stars, and a UU justice slant. Our casting is inclusive: anyone can play any part and we often have multiples and also unusual animals. Come in costume or wear one of ours. Or just sit, watch and sing along with the traditional carols. Sunday Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve Traditional Service: The Light of Jesus. Led by Rev. Christina Sillari. Special music. Readings from the Christmas Story. Both services take up collections for HOPE and end with traditional lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night. Attend either in person or online via Zoom link at [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org).

## RIPTON

**Ripton Community Church** will hold its annual candlelight Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. Carols, seasonal songs, and choral offerings. Light refreshment contributions encouraged.

## SHOREHAM

**Shoreham Congregational Church** will have Advent Services during worship at 10 a.m. during each of the first four Sundays of December. It will host a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

## STARKSBORO

**The Starksboro Village Meeting House** Christmas Candlelight service, Saturday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. with a program of lessons and All are welcome. This non-denominational service has been held for nearly 60 years. Holiday cookies and treats and hot cider will be available in the foyer at the end of the service.

## VERGENNES

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church** will hold a service of Morning Prayer on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 9:30 a.m., and a service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

**St. Peter’s Church** will hold Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. and midnight, and Christmas Morning Mass on Monday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m.

## WEYBRIDGE

**Weybridge Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church of Cornwall** will hold a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. at Weybridge Church. (Masks are welcome.) Participants will sing together and bring the Christmas story into our own time and lives, once again. Kids are welcome! There will be activity packs with a special bulletin for them to follow along at their own pace. The offering will go to HOPE and the Charter House Coalition, community partners who offer care to those who are food and housing insecure. Happy holidays to all of our neighbors in Weybridge and beyond! For those who wish to join the service via Zoom, please email [weybridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgechurch@gmail.com) to receive the link.

*If your holiday services are missing from this listing, send them to the Addison Independent and the paper will run them in upcoming editions. Submit holiday services via email to [sarahp@addisonindependent.com](mailto:sarahp@addisonindependent.com) or call 802-388-4944, ext 109.*



Assumption of the  
**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
ST. MARY’S - ST. BERNADETTE - ST. GENEVIEVE



## Solemnity of Christmas

Vigil Mass - Dec. 24, 4 pm - St. Mary’s  
Mass at Night - Dec. 24, 7:30 pm - St. Mary’s  
Mass During Day - Dec. 25, 9 am - St. Bernadette  
[www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org)  
Parish Office 802-388-2943

## The Vergennes Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

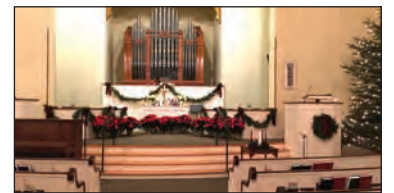
*We are an Open and Affirming Christian Community seeking to be a place of sanctuary, healing, inclusion, challenge and compassion. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.*



### CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

*Christmas Caroling on the Vergennes City Green 12/2 @ 5:00 pm*  
*Sunday Worship Service 12/24 @ 9:30 am*  
*Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service 12/24 @ 5:00 pm*

**Join us on Sundays for Worship and Children’s Sunday School @ 9:30 am**



*Worship with us in person or online. Check out the livestream on our Facebook page.*

**30 South Water St., Vergennes, VT • 802-877-2435**  
**[vucc@vergennessucc.org](mailto:vucc@vergennessucc.org) [www.vergennessucc.org](http://www.vergennessucc.org)**



THE CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC

We will have  
Christmas Eve Services at  
4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The 4 p.m. service will be  
live-streamed on  
Facebook and YouTube.

Christmas Day Service  
10:00 a.m.

Links can be found  
on our website.

[www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org)



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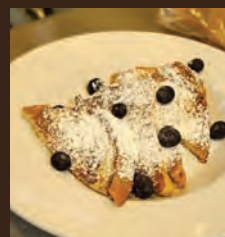
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## The Perfect Apple Pie

### INGREDIENTS

2.5 Lbs. Densely Fleshed Apples That Hold Their Shape, Such as Northern Spy, Belle de Boskoop, or Poundsweet  
 ¼ Cup Brown Sugar  
 ¼ Cup White Sugar  
 Cinnamon  
 Nutmeg  
 2.5 Cups Chilled All-Purpose Flour  
 1 Cup Chilled Butter  
 ¼ Cup Ice Water

### INSTRUCTIONS

**Crust:** Combine flour with butter until mixture clumps into pea-sized pieces. Add ice water little by little until the dough looks shaggy. Divide the dough in half, wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour before rolling.

**Filling:** Peel and slice apples and combine with brown and white sugar, adding cinnamon and nutmeg to taste.

**Baking:** Preheat oven to 425F. Roll out dough and assemble, baking for about 45 minutes or until crust just browns and apple juices bubble briskly.

Cool and enjoy with ice cream or sharp cheddar cheese.

## Maple Cranberry Sauce

### INGREDIENTS

12 oz Fresh Cranberries  
 1 Cup Apple Cider  
 1 Cup Pure Vermont Maple Syrup (Dark Robust works best)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place ingredients in a large pot over medium heat.
2. Allow the ingredients to simmer, stirring occasionally.
3. When the cranberries begin to pop and sizzle use a potato masher to crush the berries.
4. The sauce is ready when it coats the back of a spoon and begins to jell.
5. Serve warm from the stove or cool from the fridge.

## Lois's Maple Baked Beans

### INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. Dried Yellow Eye Beans  
 1 tsp. Dry Ginger  
 ½ lb. Salt Pork or Bacon  
 1 Medium Sized Onion, Quartered  
 ½ tsp. Baking Soda  
 2 Cups Pure Vermont Maple Syrup  
 1 tsp. Dry Mustard

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash and pick over beans. Cover with cold water, add baking soda and soak overnight.
2. In the morning, rinse beans and boil gently in fresh water until skins blow off the beans.
3. Preheat oven to 325 degrees or get the crock pot ready.
4. Drain off bean water and keep.
5. Place onion in the bottom of crock pot or casserole dish and add remaining ingredients.
6. Score the salt pork and place on top of beans. Pour in enough bean water to just cover the beans.
7. Bake covered in oven until done or in a crock pot for about 8 hours.
8. Check periodically, adding bean water as needed.



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## Marquette Beef Stew

### INGREDIENTS

3 Strips of Bacon, Chopped	1 tsp. Dried Thyme
2 Tbsp. Olive Oil	1 tsp. Dried Rosemary
2 Lbs. Beef Chuck Cut Into 1 1/2" Cubes	2 Cloves Garlic, Crushed
Salt and Pepper to Taste	3 Potatoes, Peeled and Cut Into 1 1/2" Cubes
1 Large Onion, Chopped	2 Carrots, Peeled and Roughly Chopped
1 Tbsp. Tomato Paste	2 Parsnips, Peeled and Roughly Chopped
2-3 Cups Marquette or Other Full-Bodied Red Wine	1/2 Lb. Crimini Mushrooms, Cleaned and Halved (or Quartered If Large)
1/4 Cup Cognac	
2 Bay Leaves	

### INSTRUCTIONS

In a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat, sauté the bacon until crisp. Remove and set aside in a large bowl. Discard most of the bacon fat, leaving about one tablespoon in the pot. Add the olive oil. Season the beef with salt and pepper. Add beef to the pot in a single layer; do not overcrowd or beef will not brown (two batches may be required). Brown the beef, turning occasionally until all sides are well-browned. Remove beef from the pot and reserve with the bacon. Add the chopped onion and tomato paste to the pot. Sauté until onion is translucent. Add one cup of the red wine and deglaze, scraping up all the bits from the bottom of the pot. Add Cognac and reduce slightly. Put beef and bacon back into the pot. Add bay leaves, thyme, rosemary, garlic and enough remaining wine to almost cover the meat mixture. Over medium-high heat, bring stew to a boil, then reduce heat to low and cook, partially covered and barely simmering for about 1 1/2 hours, until the meat is tender and liquid is reduced. Add the potatoes, carrots, parsnips and mushrooms. Add enough water to come about halfway up the stew mixture. Cover partially and cook at barely a simmer, stirring occasionally, for about one hour. Meat and veggies should be very tender.

Serves 6. A big beef stew calls for a big, bold red. Lincoln Peak Marquette, with its notes of black cherries and a bit of spice, is a perfect match.



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## Saison Scallops and Candied Bacon

### INGREDIENTS

10-15 Fresh Scallops  
 2-3 Tbsp Olive Oil  
 2 Tbsp Butter  
 1 Tbsp of Chili Flakes (optional)  
 Salt & Pepper (black or white pepper)  
 2-3 Shallots, Cut how you like  
 1/4 Cup of Parsley cut how you like (optional, garnish)  
 Juice of 1/2 Lemon, and wedges for serving  
 1/2 Cup Beer - Drop-In "Saison", or "Czech your Ego" Czech Pilsner 4-6 Strips of bacon  
 Brown sugar (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

**For the Candied Bacon:** heat oven to 400°F, Cut bacon strips into thirds, sprinkle with brown sugar on both sides. Bake bacon on a cookie sheet for 20 minutes or until caramelized, let cool, set aside.  
**For the Scallops:** Season scallops with salt & pepper.

In a medium-hot pan heat butter and Olive oil, add shallots, cooking for 2-3 minutes, until fragrant. Place scallops in skillet and let cook for 2 minutes. Flip scallops, cook for 1 minute. Deglaze with beer and lemon juice, add chili flakes if desired. Simmer for 1-2 minutes, basting scallops in the simmering liquid. Sprinkle parsley on the scallops if desired, remove from pan.

Serve with lemon wedges, candied bacon, and a Drop-In Pint.

## Niçoise Toast

### INGREDIENTS

4 Large Eggs  
 Juice from 1 Lemon  
 1 Lb. Tomatoes, Cut Into Bite-Size Pieces  
 1 Medium Shallot, Thinly Sliced  
 A Pinch of Sugar  
 Kosher Salt  
 1/2 Cup Mayonnaise  
 1 Small Garlic Clove, Finely Grated  
 1 1/2 tsp. Sherry Vinegar or Red Wine Vinegar  
 1/2 tsp. Hot Smoked Spanish Paprika  
 4 Tbsp. Extra-Virgin Olive Oil, Plus More For Drizzling  
 4 Slices of Sourdough Bread  
 2 (6-7-oz.) Jars Oil-Packed Tuna, Drained  
 Flaky Sea Salt  
 Freshly Ground Black Pepper  
 1/2 Cup Torn Mixed Tender Herbs (Such as Dill, Parsley, Basil, and/or Tarragon)  
 1/4 Cup Oil-Cured Black Olives, Pitted, Flesh Torn

### INSTRUCTIONS

Bring a medium saucepan of water to a boil. Gently lower eggs into pot with a slotted spoon and cook 8 minutes. Transfer to a bowl of ice water and let cool. Peel eggs; set aside.

Toss lemon juice, tomatoes, shallot, sugar, and a pinch of kosher salt in a medium bowl.

Whisk mayonnaise, garlic, vinegar, and paprika in a small bowl; season with kosher salt.

Heat 2 Tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium until shimmering. Add 2 slices of bread and cook, adjusting heat as needed, until bottoms are deeply browned, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a platter and sprinkle fried side with kosher salt. Repeat with another 2 Tbsp. oil and remaining slices of bread. Spread mayonnaise over toasted side of bread. Top with tuna and tomato mixture; spoon some of the juices over. Tear each egg into 3 or 4 pieces and arrange on top; season with sea salt and pepper. Scatter herbs and olives over; drizzle with oil. This can be done ahead of time.

Paprika mayonnaise can be made 2 days ahead. Cover and chill.

Serves 4.



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# Thai BBQ Chicken

## INGREDIENTS

1 Whole Chicken  
Sticky Rice

### Marinade:

1 tsp. Chopped Lemongrass  
1 tsp. Chopped Garlic  
1 tsp. Grated Orange Rind or Orange Juice  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
1/2 tsp. Black Peppercorns  
1 tsp. Cilantro Root  
1 tsp. Soy Sauce  
1 tsp. Oyster Sauce  
1 Tbsp. Brown Sugar

### Dipping Sauce:

1 Tbsp. Lemon Juice  
1/2 tsp. Brown Sugar  
1 Tbsp. Fish Sauce  
1/2 tsp. Chopped Cilantro or Spring Onion  
Chili Powder to Taste

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. For the recipe to be at its finest, it's best to marinate the chicken overnight and grill it the next day, but if you don't have the time, marinate the chicken for at least a few hours.
2. Mix marinade ingredients.
3. Butterfly cut the whole chicken, starting from the breast side down to the end. Flatten chicken out and lightly prick with a fork.
4. Rub the marinade into all parts of the chicken.
5. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
6. Grill over a low, even heat, turning every 20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through to the bone and the skin is dark golden brown — or bake into a 350° F oven until the internal temperature reaches 165° F.
7. After grilling, cut chicken apart. Cut off the drumsticks and wings, and chop the rest of the chicken into strips or pieces.
8. Serve with sticky rice and dipping sauce.



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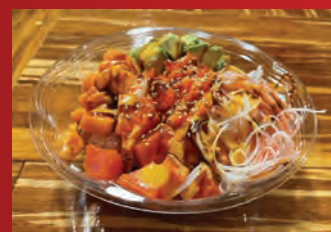
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# Rudolph's Spritz

## INGREDIENTS

1 dash Spiced Cranberry Bitters  
1 oz. Cranberry Simple Syrup  
2 oz. Club Soda  
1 oz. Aperol  
Garnish: Rosemary Sprig, 3 Cranberries

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine ingredients in mixing glass.
2. Pour over ice.
3. Garnish.



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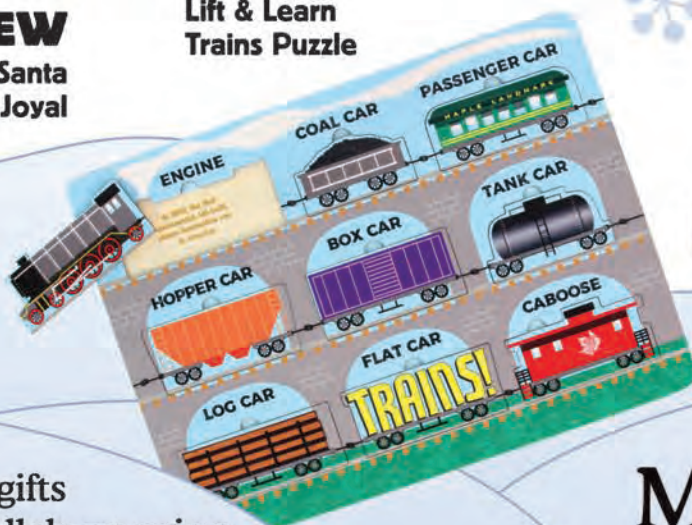
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