

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

SHOPPING  
LOCAL

HOLIDAY  
HAPPENINGS

RECIPES

**Step Back  
in Time**

Canal Towne Emporium

**Home for  
the Holidays**

'Meet your neighbors'  
at Signature Gifts

**German, Italian,  
Jewish and  
New Traditions**

**Hanukkah**

The Festival of Lights

**Oh, Christmas Tree**



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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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## SHARING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Every year around this time, the spirit of the holiday season befalls us. We decorate our homes, get together with our families and friends, neighbors and colleagues to make merry, and the religious among us observe the traditions of the faith that we practice. It seems like traditions are part and parcel of how we celebrate our holidays. Family traditions are observed; perhaps you get grandma's Christmas china out for a special meal with friends, or you make it a family outing when you go to choose a holiday tree, or maybe you just get in the right mood by turning on some of your favorite seasonal music and humming along.

Many of us observe the food traditions of our cultural heritage this time of year—perhaps an Italian Christmas Eve Feast of Fishes, or if your background

is Russian, presenting bowls of brilliant red borscht at your table, or serving little potato pancakes called latkes if you're Jewish.

Others among us start new traditions, including one that's been gaining in popularity in recent years—shopping locally during the holidays. What a wonderful gift you contribute to someone in your community when you do your holiday shopping from local merchants and artisans, or even from local farmers by purchasing ingredients for that special holiday meal at a winter farmers' market. (Yes, Virginia, we have winter farmers' markets here!)

However you choose to celebrate the holiday season, take note of and honor your traditions. They are what makes this time of year special from any other.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Jane Bollinger

## CONTENTS



4 **Holiday Events Calendar**  
Area events and happenings

7 **Step Back in Time**  
Canal Towne Emporium  
*Jonathan Fox*

9 **Shops and Studios**

11 **'Nothing here is made in China'**  
*Jane Bollinger*

11 **Home for the Holidays**  
'Meet your neighbors'  
at Signature Gifts  
*Isabel Braverman*

12 **German Food Traditions**  
*Sarah Flynn*

12 **Italian Food Traditions**  
Happy Holiday Memories  
*Barbara Matos*

13 **Jewish Food Traditions**  
*Isabel Braverman*

15 **Orthodox Christmas Traditions**  
*Jane Bollinger*

15 **Kwanza celebrates 46<sup>th</sup> year**  
*Fritz Mayer*

16 **Hanukah**  
The Festival of Lights  
*Jane Bollinger*

17 **Christmas Gifts for Children who  
Would Receive None**  
*Tom Kane*  
*Jane Bollinger*

19 **Santa's Express Expands**  
*Sandy Long*

21 **Local Food Sources for the Holidays**

22 **Oh, Christmas Tree**  
*Isabel Braverman*

# HOLIDAY EVENT CALENDAR



SAT., NOV. 17

**Cornucopia 2012: Artisan farm food, gifts and wine**

Loch Sheldrake — Visit the campus of SUNY Sullivan Community College from 10am-4pm to find farm fresh goods, sweet treats, crafts, artists displaying and selling their works, plus food, beer, and wine. Call 845/434-5750 ext. 4377.

SUN., NOV. 18

**Holiday craft fair**

Monticello — Shop for handmade and homemade items at the Monticello firehouse from 10am-4pm. Benefits the Literacy Volunteers of Sullivan County. Call 845/794-0017.

FRI., NOV. 23

**Christmas parade and tree lighting**

Honesdale — Annual Santa parade at 6pm. After the parade there will be a community blessing, a tree lighting ceremony, the lighting of the star on Irving Cliff, Christmas carols and refreshments.

**Holiday craft fair**

Callicoon — Craft fair featuring an assortment of merchandise for holiday shopping at the Delaware Community Center. There will be chainsaw carving demonstrations. Call 845/887-5634.

**Holiday festivities**

Jeffersonville — Take a sleigh ride down Main Street, join Santa for breakfast, skip the malls and do some local holiday shopping, or enjoy hot chocolate and cider at one of the many events until December 24.

**Honesdale for the Holidays**

Honesdale — Santa Parade on Main Street, 6 p.m., followed by tree lighting in Central Park. Shops and businesses hold open house all day. 570/253-5492.

**James Dworetsky memorial holiday parade**

Jeffersonville — Holiday parade with theme floats at 7pm. Following the parade is a visit with Santa and his helpers inside the firehouse. Call 845/482-4151.

SAT., NOV. 24

**Annual tree lighting**

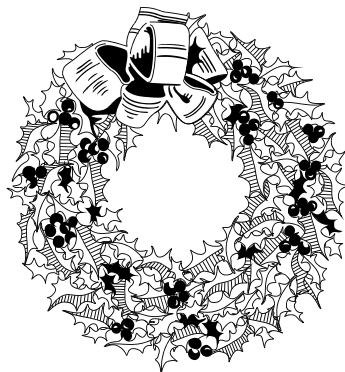
Lake Ariel — Hosted by the Lions Club of Lake Ariel at Rt. 191 at 4 pm.

**Dance performance of 'The Nutcracker'**

Milford — Delaware Valley Dance Company presents "The Nutcracker" at the Delaware Valley High School auditorium, Rt. 6 and 209, 12 noon and 7pm. Advanced tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for children and seniors. Tickets at the door, \$14 for adults, \$10 for children and seniors. Tickets available at The Dance Center. Call 845/856-3373.

**Holiday craft fair**

Callicoon — A craft fair featuring an assortment of merchandise for holiday shopping at the Delaware Community Center. There will be chainsaw carving demonstrations. Call 845/887-5634.



**Honesdale for the Holidays**

Honesdale — Craft vendors along Main Street, horse-drawn carriage rides, strolling Christmas carolers, activities for children and more. 570/253-5492.

**Holiday craft fair**

Beach Lake — Craft fair at the Beach Lake firehouse, 9am-4pm. Donation of \$1 per adult. Sponsored by the Beach Lake Fire Company Auxiliary. Food and beverages for purchase. Door prizes.

**St. Nicolas Faire**

Honesdale — Holiday cookies and sweets, Cathedral Shoppe goods, toys, children's photos with St. Nicholas, children's craft corner, attic treasures, Christmas decorations, luncheon and soup to go. Grace Episcopal Church, 9am-4pm. 570/253-2760.

**Toys for Tots holiday event**

Barryville — Bring in an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots and get free cookies and cocoa at The Rivermarket from 11am-6pm. 845/252-3088 ext. 18.

SUN., NOV. 25

**Honesdale for the Holidays**

Honesdale — Various events, shops hold open house throughout the day. 570/253-5492.

**Toys for Tots holiday event**

Barryville — Bring in an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots and get free cookies and cocoa at The Rivermarket from 11am-6pm. 845/252-3088 ext. 18.



**Wayne Choralaires**

Honesdale — Christmas concert at the Central United Methodist Church. Call 570/253-2782.

THURS., NOV. 29

**Holiday open house**

Honesdale — Holiday open house, complete with refreshments, at Smiles by Design from 6-8pm. 570/253-5000.

**Wayne Choralaires**

Carbondale — Christmas concert at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Call 570/253-2782.

SAT., DEC. 1

**Annual tree lighting**

Hamlin — Hosted by the Southern Wayne Chamber, Bold Gold Media, Easter Star, Weis Market and Hamlin Fire Company at the intersection of Rt. 191 and Rt. 590 (Pennstar Bank) at 3:30pm.

**Christmas in Callicoon**

Callicoon — Children's Christmas party with arts and crafts projects for holiday giving, cupcake decorating and photos with Santa (nominal fee) at the Delaware Community Center from 1-3pm. Call 845/887-5155.

**Bethany's 'Christmas in the Village'**

Bethany — Children's party with Santa at the public library; Christmas ornament making at Bethany United Methodist Church; carriage rides; tours of the library, the historical society and Methodist Church. Holiday open houses, 2:30-3:30pm, complete with seasonal food and beverages at E. Kellogg B&B with an art exhibit and sale; James Manning House B&B with Honesdale High School Chamber Choir singing carols; and the Mansion at Noble Lane, with rooms decorated by local businesses. 570/253-5573.

**Holiday festival and craft fair**

Newfoundland — 9th annual holiday festival and craft fair at the Wallenpaupack South Elementary School from 9am-3pm. There will be a children's craft table, pictures with Santa, cookie sale, refreshments and basket raffle. Children can shop and have their gifts wrapped.

**Holiday market**

Bethel — The market will feature artisan craft items, specialty foods, live music, a crackling fire and a newly expanded winter wonderland in the Special Exhibit Area at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts from 11am-4pm. Free admission. Call 845/583-2000 or 800/745-3000.

**Holiday open house**

Livingston Manor — Friends, old and new, gather in the museum to wind down another year and share the spirit of the season at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum at 4pm. Free admission. Call 845/439-4810.

**Holiday party**

Liberty — 16th annual holiday party at the Liberty Museum and Art Center at 6pm. Call 845/292-2394.

**Holiday open house**

Honesdale — 21st annual open house at Highlights for Children from 10am-4pm. Treats, entertainment, art show, craft room, storytelling, puppetry, sing-alongs and more. Surprise gift for kids and a free drawing. 570/253-1080.

**Hot cocoa and donuts**

Honesdale — Hot cocoa and donuts with Santa and some of his friends, 9am. Bring your camera. Papa's Primo Pizza. 570/253-4830.

**Journey through Bethlehem**

Bethany — A living nativity from 4:30-6:30pm. Special gifts for kids. Refreshments will be served. Bethany Presbyterian Church. 570/253-6316.

**Local Boys benefit concert**

Honesdale — Join the Local Boys for an evening of music and fun to benefit the Greater Honesdale Partnership's efforts to put gold stars on Main Street's holiday tree decorations. Music, Tricky-Tray, raffle, food available. Grace Episcopal Parish Hall, 7pm. Call Jackie at 570/253-6864 or Michele at 570/251-8994.

**Photos with Santa**

Salem — Salem Township Municipal Building, 2-4pm.

*Continued on page 5*

## SUN., DEC. 2

### Christmas choral concert

Milford — The Delaware Valley Choral Society presents "Christmas Olde and New" at the Milford Theatre. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Call 570/267-8773.

### Holiday market

Bethel — The market will feature artisan craft items, specialty foods, live music, a crackling fire and a newly expanded winter wonderland in the Special Exhibit Area at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts from 11am-4pm. Free admission. Call 845/583-2000 or 800/745-3000.

### Journey through Bethlehem

Bethany — A living nativity from 4:30-6:30pm. Special gifts for children. Refreshments will be served. Bethany Presbyterian Church. Call 570/253-6316.



### Theme tree exhibit

Hurleyville — Display of holiday trees decorated by county organizations and individuals at the Sullivan County Historical Society from 2-4pm. Call 845/434-8044.

### Wayne Choralaires

Hawley — Christmas concert at the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Church. Call 570/253-2782.

## MON., DEC. 3

### Holiday open house

Honesdale — A night of beauty and fashion at the Apple Day Spa from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Complementary mini-services, a trunk show featuring local artists and shops and a free spa service of your choice. RSVP by November 26. Call 570/25 3-4770.

## FRI., DEC. 7

### Holiday parade and tree lighting

Liberty — The Town of Liberty Parks and Recreation Department hosts its second annual holiday parade and annual holiday tree-lighting ceremony. Parade begins at 6pm, followed by the tree lighting at Town Hall and Liberty Main Street Stage. Light refreshments will be served. Email p.r.dept@townofliberty.org or call 845/292-7690.

### Holiday party

Bethany — The Greater Honesdale Partnership invites small businesses to its "Town-Wide Small Biz Holiday Party" at The Mansion at Noble Lane. It begins at 6pm with cocktails followed by a buffet dinner and dancing. \$45 per person, or \$40 per person for a table of six or more. RSVP by November 15: 866/466-3855.

### Hawley Winterfest

Hawley — The Hawley Winter Fest and Hawley Winterfest Arts and Crafts Show will be held at various locations throughout Hawley all day beginning at 9am. Visit [www.HawleyWinterfest.com](http://www.HawleyWinterfest.com).

## SAT., DEC. 8

### Introduction to snowshoeing

Dingmans Ferry — Learn the basics of using snowshoes at the Pocono Environmental Education Center from 9-11am. No experience necessary, they provide the equipment and teach you everything you need to know. \$10 fee. Visit [www.peec.org/events-date.html#december](http://www.peec.org/events-date.html#december) or call 570/828-2319.

### Opera

Bethel — "Amahl and the Night Visitors" presented by Delaware Valley Opera at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, 12:30pm pre-performance art activity, 2pm show time. Free admission, ticket required. This family-friendly opera about a young boy's special visit from the three magi. Gingerbread cookies to be served after the performance. Call 845/583-2000 or 800/745-3000.

### Ornament hunt

Honesdale — The Greater Honesdale Partnership presents its 18th annual children's ornament hunt in Central Park at 10am. The hunt is geared for children in pre-school to fourth grade.

### Photos with Santa

Honesdale — Have your pet's, child's, or family photo taken with Santa at The Cat's Pajamas, 11am-2pm. All proceeds to benefit Dessin Animal Shelter. Custom packages available. Pets attending must be well-behaved, crated or leashed and must have a current Rabies tag.. 570/647-0047. 5x7 instant photos cost \$10.



### Hawley Winterfest

Hawley — The Hawley Winter Fest and Hawley Winterfest Arts and Crafts Show will be held at various locations throughout Hawley all day beginning at 9am. Visit [www.HawleyWinterfest.com](http://www.HawleyWinterfest.com).

## SUN., DEC. 9

### Breakfast with Santa

Honesdale — Kid's menu: pancakes, juice, milk or hot cocoa. Parent's menu: 2 eggs with ham or bacon and toast or a breakfast sandwich, 8am and 10am. Free photo gift. Reservations required. Trakside Grill, 570/253-2462. \$6-adults, \$5-kids.

### Hawley Winterfest

Hawley — The Hawley Winter Fest and Hawley Winterfest Arts and Crafts Show will be held at various locations throughout Hawley all day beginning at 9am. Visit [www.HawleyWinterfest.com](http://www.HawleyWinterfest.com).

## FRI., DEC. 14



### Christmas play

Hurleyville — "The Little Town of Christmas," sponsored and presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, 8 pm, Sullivan County Museum. 845/436-5336 or [scdw.net](http://scdw.net).

## SAT., DEC. 15

### 11th Shower for Charity

Honesdale — Michael G. Stanton of Bold Gold Media will once again step into a claw foot tub and shower in public in an effort to raise money for the Wayne County Children's Christmas Bureau. This will be Michael's 11th "shower" in public for charity. Main St., by the Fred Miller Pavilion, 10am. Donations accepted.

### Celebrating the holidays

Roscoe — Come to Riverside Park at 6pm for a celebration of the holiday season. Follow the luminaries to a tree-lighting ceremony, caroling and singing of seasonal songs, plus hot drinks and cookies. Feel free to bring a flashlight or safe candle to help read the songs, and of course bring your singing voice as well.

### Christmas bird count

Hawley — Join the Audubon Society at Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Preserve. Email [pplpreserves@pplweb.com](mailto:pplpreserves@pplweb.com) or call 570/253-7001.

### Play: 'The Little Town of Christmas'

Hurleyville — Sponsored and presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, 8 pm. Sullivan County Museum. Visit [www.scdw.net](http://www.scdw.net) or call 845/436-5336.

## SUN., DEC. 16

### Christmas performance

Hurleyville — "The Little Town of Christmas," sponsored and presented by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, 8 pm, Sullivan County Museum. Visit [www.scdw.net](http://www.scdw.net) or call 845/436-5336.

### Holiday artisan's market

Honesdale — There will be local and regional vendors, fresh food from the kitchen and live music throughout the day at The Cooperage from 11am-8pm. Visit [www.thecooperageproject.org](http://www.thecooperageproject.org).

### Honesdale carol sing

Honesdale — Community carol singing, 7pm. A performance by the Handbell Choir will highlight the evening. First Presbyterian Church. 570/253-2530.

## WED., DEC. 19

### Winter concert

Roscoe — The Roscoe Winter Concert will showcase various musical performances by students in grades 5-12 at the Roscoe Central School from 7-8:30pm. Free admission. Call 607/498-4126.

### Annual chorus and band holiday concert

Honesdale — The Honesdale High School Chorus and Band will perform holiday favorites both old and new. HHS Auditorium, 7pm. 570/253-2046. \$5/adult \$3/students and seniors.

## SAT., DEC. 22

### Weekend of light and holiday sale

Wurtsboro — Come celebrate and be in the warmth of your community on this very special weekend at Crystal Connection. Call 845/888-2547.

## SUN., DEC. 23

### Weekend of light and holiday sale

Wurtsboro — Come celebrate and be in the warmth of your community on this very special weekend at Crystal Connection. Call 845/888-2547.

### Luminaries on Main

Honesdale — After dark enjoy 300 luminaries lining Honesdale's historic Main Street, from 4th St. all the way over the bridge.

## MON., DEC. 24

### Luminaria display

Jeffersonville — Enjoy this Christmas Eve tradition. At dusk drive the back roads beautifully lit with luminaries. Call 845/482-5013.

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# STEP BACK IN TIME

## Canal Towne Emporium

By JONATHAN FOX

For those who have yet to discover Christmas at the Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, NY, this year looks to be bigger and brighter than ever before. Proprietors Gary and Lyman Holmes have gone above and beyond to bring shoppers a holiday experience that harkens back to a simpler era, keeping a tradition alive that began with their great-great-grandfather in 1869 and has flourished over the course of four generations.

The Christmas Shoppe at Canal Towne is a permanent, year-round installation, added on to the original, historic building, which opened as a general store in 1838, owned and operated by H.R. Morris. Purchased by canal boat builder Joseph Holmes in 1870, the enterprise continued to expand, even after the canal closed in 1898. Operating through the years under the guidance of Joseph's son, Lyman, the store closed its doors in 1958, but remained in the family. Determined to keep

the tradition alive, Holmes matriarch Doris decided to reopen in 1976 and sought the guidance of designer Gary Eckhart, who removed past attempts to "modernize" the establishment and restored the original ambiance of a turn-of-the-century emporium.

"This was our mom's idea," the Holmes brothers informed, "and it's far beyond tradition at this point. Our entire family banded together to make the shoppe what it is today. Our desire has always been to make our customers feel the same way we do. Our guests are our family, too." Specializing in hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind gifts and furnishings, Canal Towne thrives all year 'round, but once holiday season arrives, the 5,000 square-foot showroom takes on a life of its own and has become not only a tradition, but a destination for visitors who often travel hundreds of miles to select treasures that the brothers present for their discerning customers. "We start decorating the second



TRR photos by Jonathan Fox

The Holmes brothers, Lyman, left, and Gary, keep holiday traditions alive at the Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, NY.



Thousands of ornaments from all over the world adorn the walls and Christmas trees at the Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, NY.



Hand-crafted holiday figurines spark imagination at the Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, NY.



The general store has been restored to its original design, down to the smallest detail at the Canal Towne Emporium in Wurtsboro, NY



Every holiday is represented at the Canal Towne Emporium with unique gifts from around the world, many crafted by local artisans.

week in November," they shared.

Master designer Eckhart was seen climbing ladders and putting final touches on trees as the brothers talked about the family's history. Asked how the traditions have grown through the years, Lyman Holmes grew excited when pointing out Canal Towne's newest installation, dubbed "Dance of the Light." Now in its fifth year, the shoppe presents a music and light display presented nightly outside of the building. Beginning the day after Thanksgiving and shown once a night, the show, which features thousands of lights dancing to coordinated music, is "different every year... and lasts for twelve to fifteen minutes." The holiday display was "the brainchild of Wurtsboro electrician Michael Roosa," Holmes informed. "Michael began this spectacular display at his own home, but it grew so large in scope that he came to us and asked if he could move the entire operation to Canal Towne."

Thrilled to become the new home of the illuminated holiday presentation, the brothers readily agreed and a new tradition was born. "Over a mile of wires is involved in the process of creating this magical display," Gary Holmes

observed. "It takes about three weeks, working around the clock to make the store and light show come to life." Once complete, a visit to Canal Towne is an incredible "step back in time" and offers the public an opportunity to embrace "old-fashioned service, holiday treats and country pleasures" wrapped in a glittery, homespun, stunning display.

"We search for, and discover, hand made gifts and furnishings from all over the world" the brothers shared "but we also take great pride in presenting many fine creations that have been crafted locally by American artisans." Scouring the countryside for unique offerings, the Holmes brothers begin their search in January every year and make every effort to present previously undiscovered items to their customers, who have come to expect surprises through the years. A visit to Canal Towne will reveal thousands of ornaments, hand-made Santas and wreaths as well as Hanukkah items, hand crafted furniture and decorative accessories.

Open 7 days a week, the Shoppe is located at 107 Sullivan St in Wurtsboro. For more information, call 845/888-2100 or visit [www.canaltowne.com](http://www.canaltowne.com).

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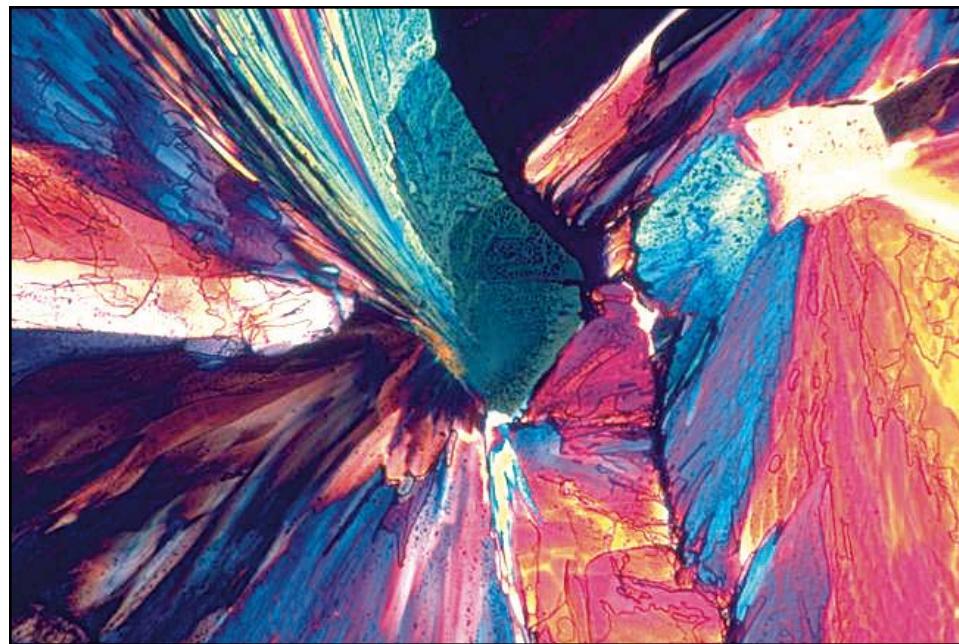
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info@artsalliancesite.org

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wcaa@waynecountyartsalliance.org

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## A SEASON WITH A REASON TO SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS

*On both sides of the Delaware River, there is a thriving artists' community of great diversity. Gallery/gift shops are operated by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in Narrowsburg, NY and by the Wayne County Arts Alliance in Hawley, PA. Both offer many opportunities for holiday shoppers looking for one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted gifts, and all of it's made locally. If you're not shopping, but just want to see what creative talent lurks in the Upper Delaware Valley, these shops would make a fine destination on any occasion.*

|||||

# 'NOTHING HERE IS MADE IN CHINA'

BY JANE BOLLINGER

One day not long ago, I wandered into a cute little gift shop in Hawley, PA full of one-of-a-kind artworks. Each piece here has been created by a local artist or artisan. The shop, named The Art Market, located in the Silk Mill, 8 Silk Mill Drive in Hawley, is run by the Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) as a place for the organization's members to show and sell their works. While you'd expect to find paintings and sculpture here (and you will), the shop also is full of hand-crafted holiday gifts in a wide range of prices.

From pottery tea pots to reversible patchwork caps to tapestry purses, from hand-crafted wooden boxes to knitted scarves to jewelry by very different artists and much more, the diversity of art surprises and delights.

During the holiday season the gift shop/gallery will host a special art show called "Solstice" featuring works such as a Victorian carved horse by Steve Layman, a circus painting by Gabrielle Feldman, Chagall-like sculptures by Richard Lichtenstein and a selection of drawings and paintings by Charles Woods.

"We love it when people discover our space and respond so favorably to it," said Tamara Murray, executive director of WCAA. "We have such diversity of artists and artwork. And nothing here is made in China," she added.

The Art Market welcomes shoppers and browsers alike. "One aspect of our mission is to enrich our community through the arts," Murray pointed out. "So, do come out and see us this holiday season."



Contributed photos

Tapestry purses by Fairy Tale Originals' Catherine Winerman of Milford, PA. \$38.



Pottery tea pots and mugs by Leni Gritz of Greentown, PA. Teapots from \$85 and \$90.



Knitted scarves by Regina Campbell of Beach Lake, PA and Candy Cimino of Tyler Hill, PA. \$25.

# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*'Meet your neighbors' at Signature Gifts*

BY ISABEL BRAVERMAN

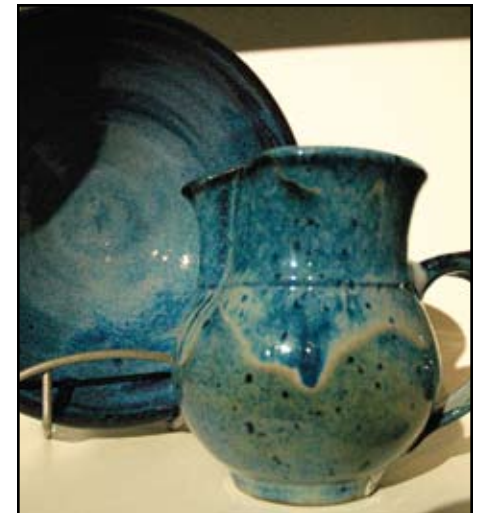
In all of my 22 years of living three miles outside of Narrowsburg I must humbly confess that I had never stepped foot inside the Delaware Valley Art Alliance's Signature Gifts shop on Main Street. Recently, when I paid them a visit, I saw what a fool I had been.

The gift shop is filled with books, furniture, toys and more, all made by local artists and community members. There's the amazing wooden table by Walter Stevens of Eldred and the pottery by Milanville resident Ed Nocera. It was a veritable who's who of our flourishing local arts community, comprised of little towns from both sides of the river. As Alice Ross, who volunteers at the shop, said, "It's where you meet your neighbors."

Now that the holiday season has begun, Signature Gifts has opened the store to accommodate more local artisans. On November 10, the store began its Valley Artists Holiday Sale. Both the shop and the Loft Gallery above it are stocked full with handcrafted works by nearly 100 artists and artisans. The sale will run until December 22 and the shop is open on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As I wandered through the shop, being especially careful not to break anything, I was pleased to find many options for children. Kids will love the harmonicas, wood toys, kazoos, coloring books and clay, along with stickers, yo-yos, and other great stocking stuffers. My favorites were the set of handmade pastels by Diane Townsend of Milanville and a wooden dinosaur piggy bank.

I asked Ross why people should buy local as opposed to, say, going to Walmart for holiday gifts. Her answer, "It's more fun!" In addition, it supports the local economy, it saves you gas money by not having to travel far and you sup-



TRR photos by Isabel Braverman

Glazed bowl and vase by Ed Nocera of Milanville, PA. Vase: \$45.

port the local community and the arts. Who wouldn't want that? The gifts are handcrafted and one-of-a-kind, not something mass-produced that everyone will have.

Have I said local enough yet? I'll say it one more time—for local, and signature gifts, check out Signature Gifts at 37 Main Street, Narrowsburg.



Yew shrub bowl by John Palanza of Fishs Eddy, NY. \$50.

# GERMAN

By SARAH FLYNN as told to *The River Reporter*

Christmas is my favorite time of year. I really look forward to baking Christmas cookies again.

Here at our bakery when we make stollen\* or other traditional German holiday specialties like macaroons, the sweet aroma takes me right back to my childhood and my great-grandmother's kitchen.

I grew up in East Germany, and the German tradition is to open gifts on December 24. To me, that is Christmas. In the afternoon, our whole family would go to church where we'd enjoy singing Christmas music. Afterwards my grandparents would come to our house for a simple supper of sausages and potato salad, and of course, just about everyone enjoys a little glühwein—what you call mulled wine. Then we'd gather around to open presents. This could take hours because presents were opened one at a time and each gift admired.

The next day, we all went to my grandmother's for a traditional mid-day dinner of goose or duck that she served with red cabbage, kale and round potato dumplings called klesse. Dessert was always a baked apple served with ice cream or

\*Christmas stollen is a sweet, yeast-risen bread filled with raisins and candied citrus peel.



TRR photo by Sandy Long

with vanilla sauce. Later in the afternoon, we'd have coffee and sweets, usually stollen and Christmas cookies. In the evening, if anyone was hungry, we'd eat leftovers.

I remember how we always had a fresh-cut Christmas tree. My mother liked to choose a theme and I remember one year when our tree was covered with red decorations and ornaments.

Since I got married, my husband and I open our gifts on December 25. Although I have to say that—like children—we often can't wait and each opens one gift the night before.

[Sarah and her husband Errol Flynn live in Kenoza Lake, NY and operate the Brandenburg Bakery in Jeffersonville, NY where they sell stollen, macaroons, Christmas cookies, chocolate truffles and more during the holidays. Orders taken up to two days before Christmas. Contact: 845/482-2537.]

## RECIPES

### Baked Apples

Serves 4

- 2 Tbsp raisins
- 3½ ounces of almond paste (marzipan)
- 3 Tbsp chopped almonds
- 4 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1/8 liter rum
- 4 large Honey Crisp apples

Hollow out the apples to remove the core, but don't peel. Combine all the other ingredients well, making a kind of marzipan "dough." Divide this into four equal parts and fill the apples.

Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes or more as needed.

Serve apples hot with vanilla ice cream of vanilla sauce.

### Vanilla sauce

In a heavy pot, whisk together: ½ cup light brown sugar, 1 Tbsp flour, a pinch cinnamon, 1 egg yolk, 2 Tbsp melted butter, 1¼ cups of milk and 1 pinch of salt. Whisk constantly over medium heat until sauce has thickened and coats the back of a spoon, 10 minutes. Add vanilla extract. Serve over hot apples.

### Glühwein (Mulled wine)

- 2 liters red wine
- ¾ liter rum (80 proof)
- 2 oranges
- 1 cup sugar (can adjust for taste)
- 5 whole cloves
- 1 whole cinnamon stick
- 1 pinch ground ginger
- 1 star anise

Slice the oranges and place all the ingredients in a pot. Warm up over low heat; don't let it boil.

# ITALIAN

BY BARBARA MATOS

A smile comes to my face as I remember past Christmases spent with my Italian family. We were lucky to have everyone—my grandparents, aunts and uncles as well as cousins from both sides—come together for the joyous occasion of Christmas Eve.

I still recall waking up to wonderful aromas escaping from my mom's kitchen. Her work began in the wee hours to prepare the magnificent Feast of the Seven Fishes, a family tradition going back generations. Long before everyone arrived, the table was set with fine china and fancy linens. My dad had the task of washing all the glassware, starting a fire in the fireplace, arranging all the candles and setting out dishes of candies.

In mid-afternoon, our feast always began with shrimp cocktail served in old fashioned champagne glasses followed by a wonderful tray of lasagna filled with sausage and meatballs. Then, the fish parade began: calamari frita with spicy sauce, fried flounder, linguine with clam sauce (and lots of garlic), mussels mari-



nara, baby lobster tails in sauce and scallops wrapped in bacon. Conversation ceased as everyone concentrated on the meal.

Later, bowls of nuts, fresh fruit and wine arrived on the table. My grandfather would peel and cut the apples for us children. Then, while the women adjourned to the kitchen to make coffee and espresso and to prepare a fabulous

## RECIPES

### Struffoli – Italian Honey Balls

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 3 tsp baking powder
- Oil for frying
- Warm honey and sprinkles for the topping

Put the flour into a mound, and then make a hole in the center. Put the sugar, eggs, vanilla, baking powder and cinnamon into this hole. Using a fork, begin to mix everything together by pulling the flour slowly into the egg mixture.

Once everything is well mixed, form the dough into rolls, about the width of your thumb. Cut each roll into 1-inch pieces. Fry each piece of struffoli in oil heated to 375°F until golden and puffed. Drain on paper towels and top with warm honey & add sprinkles for décor.

### Spicy calamari

- 1 pound calamari, cleaned
- ½ cup milk, only if needed
- 1 cup cake flour
- ¼ cup bread crumbs
- Oil for frying (about 2 cups for a 6-quart saucepan)
- Salt
- Lemon slices for garnish.

### Spicy marinara

- 1 cup basic marinara sauce
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic minced
- 2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/8 to ¼ teaspoons red pepper flakes
- 1 to 2 teaspoons lemon juice

To prepare the spicy marinara, add the extra virgin olive oil, red pepper and garlic to a sauté pan over medium heat. Sauté until the garlic is just fragrant.

Add the marinara sauce and continue to heat until the sauce is hot. Stir in the lemon juice, remove the pan from the heat and cover to keep warm.

To prepare the calamari, cut the calamari tubes into rings, about ¼-inch thick. Leave



# JEWISH

By ISABEL BRAVERMAN

Some people don't have warm and fuzzy feelings about the holidays. Some people aren't religious. My father is the first one and I am the latter. Now that the holiday season is approaching, what am I to do? As a daughter of a dad who is from a Jewish family, a mom from a Unitarian Universalist family and I not identifying with either, when I just want to enjoy some of the traditional foods associated with Hanukah? Answer: create my own "holiday."

And that's exactly what I did. I gathered those I love—my family

(dad Larry, mom Sarah and brother Henry), my boyfriend Timmy and my best friend since childhood Brianne and her boyfriend Boyd. We came together at my house to celebrate nothing at all but to enjoy each other's company and eat some delicious Jewish food.

My dad made his latkes, my mom made Tzimmes (pronounced: SIM-us) and Brianne (a professional chef) made a creamy leek soup. Tzimmes is a traditional Jewish stew of sorts (often made for Rosh Hashanah) with its sliced carrots representing gold coins, symbolizing the hope of prosperity in the year to come. My mom puts her own twist to it—mash-

ing sweet potatoes and carrots together and adding matzo balls. We have it every Thanksgiving. My dad puts his twist on the latkes too, using matzo meal instead of flour. The leek soup paid homage to my ancestors as it is popular in Romania, which is where many of my family members hail from.

We had all the ingredients for a holiday—family, friends and food. I cooked up a holiday and it was a success. A new tradition might sound oxymoronic, but they have to start somewhere, right? So, here's to new traditions.

[Isabel Braverman is editorial assistant at *The River Reporter*.]

## ONE FAMILY SHARES THREE HANUKAH RECIPES



### Larry's Latkes

6 medium potatoes  
1 onion, peeled and quartered  
2 large eggs  
¼ cup matzo meal  
salt, pepper to taste  
pinch of baking powder  
vegetable oil for frying

Peel potatoes and grate in a food processor. Drain in a colander, pressing out the liquid. Finely chop the onion using the steel blade in the processor.

Return potatoes to the food processor, add all other ingredients (except oil) and process until just smooth and evenly colored.

Heat 1/8 inch of oil in a large heavy skillet, preferably cast iron, until a drop of batter sizzles on the surface. Drop a large spoonful of batter into the skillet and flatten it with the spoon to make a thin pancake. Fry the latkes on both sides until brown and crisp, adding more oil if necessary. Drain the latkes on paper towels and keep them warm, in a single layer in a 200 degrees oven, until all the latkes are made. Serve with sour cream or applesauce.



### Sarah's Tzimmis

3 cups water  
6 yams  
6 carrots  
1 small onion  
1 small apple  
1 Tbsp. butter  
½ Tbsp. brown sugar  
salt, pepper to taste  
1 box of matzo meal with directions for making matzo balls + ingredients

Peel and chop the yams, carrots, onion and apple into bite-sized pieces. Put in large pot with butter, brown sugar, salt, pepper and water and simmer uncovered until mushy. While simmering, make the matzo balls. When the stew is finished, stir in the matzo balls.



### Creamy Leek Soup

1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
4 large leeks, white and light green parts only, cleaned and sliced  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
2 potatoes, peeled and chopped  
7 cups chicken stock, vegetable stock or water  
1 bay leaf  
salt, pepper  
½ cup cream

Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large, heavy soup pot and add the leeks and a generous pinch of salt. Cook, stirring, until leeks are tender, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and potatoes and stir for about a minute. Add the stock or water, bay leaf and salt. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Remove the bay leaf.

Puree the soup in a blender. Put in a serving bowl and stir in the cream and salt and pepper to taste. We garnished with some dried sage, but chives or croutons would be delicious.

Contributed photos

finale of dessert, the rest of us would sit around the Christmas tree and hear stories from Christmases past. For dessert, we ate ricotta cheese cake, apple and pumpkin pie and Pannetone, a sweet Italian Christmas bread. Homemade cookies were put out—pinnoli cookies, butter rum balls, crescents with powder sugar, sfogliatelle with honey and my absolute favorite was strufoli, which were Italian honey balls with multi-colored sprinkles. Cordials like Amaretto, Limoncello and Anisette were served in multi-colored little glasses.

After this amazing meal, the children were allowed to open one gift as a Christmas Eve tradition. Then, as soon as the gifts were open, another tradition began—the serving of Italian sausage and peppers before our guests would leave.

I remember falling fast asleep with a very full belly and dreaming about how Santa would soon arrive and how tomorrow would be another day of family fun.

[Barbara Matos is sales/advertising director at *The River Reporter*.]

the tentacles whole.

Combine the flour and bread crumbs in bowl and toss the cut calamari in the flour mixture to lightly coat it. If your calamari has been bought prepared you may need to first dip the calamari in milk to add a bit of moisture for the flour to stick.

While you are preparing the calamari, if you are using a deep fryer, heat the oil up to 350°F. If you do not have a deep fryer, you can use a small (6 quart) sauce pan just as well. Fill the pot with oil & heat to 350°F.

Working in a couple batches to avoid crowding, add the floured calamari and fry until just lightly golden—about 3 to 4 minutes depending upon the oil and thickness of the calamari. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on a paper towel or napkin covered platter to drain.

Pile the fried calamari attractively on a warm serving platter. Lightly salt the calamari with sea salt and a few squeezes of fresh lemon to taste. Place the warm spicy marinara sauce in small dipping bowl on the platter with slices of fresh lemon.

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# OBSERVING ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

BY JANE BOLLINGER

I once had a friend whose father was a Russian Orthodox priest, so I thought I knew something about Russian Christmas. Sometimes called Little Christ-



This icon of St. Nicholas is on display in the museum at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA

mas, it is celebrated according to the Georgian calendar 13 days after December 25th. Some other Eastern Orthodox Christians, however, follow the Julian calendar and celebrate Christmas is on December 25th as we do.

Wanting to know more about Orthodox Christmas, I paid a visit to the Very Reverend Archimandrite Athanasy at St. Tikhon's Monastery, America's oldest Orthodox Monastery, located in South Canaan, PA. Although it was founded by the Russian Patriarch of Moscow in 1905 in the Russian Orthodox tradition, the monastery is now simply an Orthodox monastery. Christmas is celebrated here beginning on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Fr. Athanasy took me to visit St. Tikhon's small museum where one exhibit is a table set for a Christmas Eve meal, which by tradition is called the "Holy Supper." Families gather together to share the last meal of a 40-day fast during which no meat is eaten. Customarily 12 dishes are served, symbolic of the 12 apostles. Foods range from bitter (symbolizing the bitterness of life before Christ was born) to sweet (symbolizing the sweetness of life that comes with His birth). A typical menu might include mushroom soup, kutya (a type of porridge made of various grains and cooked with honey and poppy seeds), a fish dish, a bowl of honey, fresh fruit or stewed dried fruits, vareniki (what Russians call pierogi), sauerkraut, potatoes,



TJR photo by Jane Bollinger

This exhibit in the museum at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA shows a holiday table set for the traditional "Holy Supper" served and celebrated on Christmas Eve.

beans, grated garlic, a Lenten bread called pagach and a bowl of salt.

Following the celebration of the Holy Supper, the faithful gather for Vigil (vespers and matins) at 7 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy is on the following morning, Christmas Day, at 9:30 a.m. Following liturgical church traditions, the 12 days of Christmas are then observed until the beginning of Epiphany.

# KWANZAA CELEBRATES 46<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

By FRITZ MAYER

REGION — In the middle of the turbulent 1960s, a new December holiday was born. It was a time when the civil rights struggle was in full bloom, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was well on his way to becoming a martyr and national hero, and many white Americans were trying to decide whether the Black Power movement was dangerous.

Against that backdrop the Kwanzaa celebration was created in 1966 as a means of giving African Americans a way of celebrating their African roots, created by a man who calls himself Maulana Karenga, The celebration for 2012 runs for seven days beginning December 26. In 2000, Karenga gave an interview to the website beliefnet.com, and said Kwanzaa was not meant as a replacement for Christmas or Hanukkah, and that people are free to celebrate one, two or all three. He said a central model for the celebration was the traditional first-fruit Zulu celebration in Africa, which, among other things, celebrates the first harvest of the season.

There is a wide range of estimates as to how many people celebrate Kwansaa. In 2006, Karenga claimed that 28 million people around the world do; other

estimates range from half a million to four million people in the United States. Regardless of how many people celebrate, it's clear that Kwanzaa has gained mainstream acceptance. The U.S. Postal Service issued the first Kwanzaa postage stamp in 1997, and additional stamps have since been issued.

Central to the celebration are the seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

According to the official Kwanzaa website, [www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org) there are specific traditions that go with the celebration. For instance, greetings are given in the language of Swahili, which the site explains, "is a Pan-African language and is chosen to reflect African Americans' commitment to the whole of Africa and African culture rather than to a specific ethnic or national group or culture."

The site also explains the tradition regarding gifts; it says, "Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt, and the



Contributed photo

heritage symbol to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history."

In the arena of decorations and colors the website says, "The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green and can be utilized in decorations for Kwanzaa. Also decorations should include traditional African items, i.e., African baskets, cloth patterns, art objects, harvest symbols, etc."

Now, 46 years later, there is little doubt that the holiday Keranga launched is recognized by mainstream America.

# HANUKAH

## *the festival of lights*

BY JANE BOLLINGER

I've eaten potato pancakes, called latkes, at my friend's Hanukah table and watched her light candles on her menorah, but I wanted to know more about the traditions of this holiday—called the Festival of Lights—so I called my friend Sue Rosenberg.

The word Hanukah, she explained, means “dedication.” And the celebration—for this is a joyous holiday—recalls the victory, more than 2,000 years ago, of the Jews over the Greeks and Syrians, who had taken possession of the Jewish Temple of Jerusalem and dedicated it to their god Zeus. When the Jews took back the Temple, they rededicated it to their God of Israel.

The reason the holiday is celebrated for eight days, my friend explained, is because of a miracle: the relit Temple lamp, which was supposed to burn for only one night, burned for eight nights. Hanukah celebrates this miracle, and this is why there are eight candles on a menorah, plus a ninth candle in the center. My friend Sue described the ritual she follows for lighting candles and offering prayers.

On the first night of Hanukah, one candle (the one all the way on the right) is lighted and a prayer said. This candle and the center one are allowed to burn down completely. On the second night new candles replace the ones that burned away, and this time two candles (all the way to the right) are lit. On the third day, three candles are lit and so on.

Another Hanukah tradition is the treat of potato latkes. Sue recalled the aroma of these little pancakes cooking in her mother's kitchen. She also remembered donuts. Both of these traditional foods are fried in oil, symbolizing the miracle of the oil lamp that burned in the Temple. Latkes are served with applesauce or sour cream.



Contributed photo

Either way, they're delicious.

During Hanukah, children often play a game with a dreidel, a little spinning top with Hebrew letters on four sides. A pile of candy or buttons or some other collectible—though never money—is placed before the players. If an “N” results from a child's spin, he or she takes nothing from the pile; however, one wins the entire pot by spinning a “G.” An “H” awards the spinner with half the pot, while an “S” means you have to add to the pot from your stash.

Today, people often have parties during Hanukah, and some display a menorah with electric lights in the window so everyone might know about the miracle of the lamp that burned for eight days.

This year, the first night of Hanukah is on December 8.

And to my friend Sue, here's a big thanks for helping explain the Festival of Lights—wishing you a Happy Hanukah.



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A room full of Christmas gifts! Toys, clothing and other items donated by local residents and businesses will be given to hundreds of Wayne County children who might otherwise receive no holiday presents at all. The program is run by the Wayne County Children's Christmas Bureau, a local non-profit organization.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN WHO WOULD RECEIVE NONE

By TOM KANE WITH JANE BOLLINGER

HONESDALE, PA — Every child deserves a visit from Santa. Recall your own childhood and what it meant to have presents to open on Christmas day. Now imagine if your parents couldn't afford to arrange that visit from Santa, or to buy any holiday presents. Sadly, this is a harsh reality for some families in our area.

Enter the Wayne County Children's Christmas Bureau (WCCCB). This is a local non-profit organization that raises funds and collects donated items to distribute to families who otherwise would have little or nothing to give. "It's a real community effort," explains Crystal James-Cobourn, president of the WCCCB, adding that every year the local community is incredibly generous. "It's amazing to see all the things that are donated. People give not only new toys, but new coats, boots, hats, scarves, just about everything from top to bottom. Receiving a new coat means the world to a child who doesn't have one," she continued. As for hats and scarves, a number of women from area churches knit these as presents for the children.

The Christmas Bureau assisted providing gifts of new and gently-used items to over 650 children in 2011.

The WCCCB is a long-standing tradition going back at least three decades. Today it is administered by the Honesdale Area Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Jaycees, working with the Wayne County Volunteer Program and the Wayne County

Chamber of Commerce.

Not surprisingly, the work of the WCCCB means a lot not only to those who receive its benefits, but also to those who give.

"For me, this really brings out the Christmas spirit every year, being able to give to someone who will really appreciate it so much more than we who take these things for granted," James-Cobourn remarked. She reports that a number of local businesses forgo having an office party and instead of buying presents for office colleagues, they made it a tradition to donate to the Christmas Bureau.

Distribution day can be quite overwhelming, James-Cobourn remarked. "People are very grateful. You can see how pleased and thankful they are for what they are given. All leave very well taken care of," she added. This year, distribution day will be on Sunday, December 2. Pickup times are assigned in advance and are strictly enforced. Children up to 16 are eligible; the deadline for their parents to sign up already has passed.

The need was especially great this year and no donation was too small. Donors could adopt a family, or make a single donation to help the cause. Every child that was helped was from Wayne County.

Your generosity will help make the holiday season bright for the families using the Wayne County Children's Christmas Bureau.



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Aboard the 50-foot sleigh will be many of Santa's North Pole friends.



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Santa's magical lighted finger will be on hand "for all children who are nice."



Frosty the Snowman waves to children from the decorated sleigh.

# SANTA'S EXPRESS EXPANDS

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — When Santa comes to Sullivan County, he makes a big splash with his fifty-foot-long Christmas scene featuring lights, music and many of his North Pole friends.

For seven years, Santa's sleigh has been visiting five Sullivan County towns to spread the magic of Christmas to children and families. This year, the colorfully bedecked sleigh will make its way through seven towns by adding a second night.

Santa's Express launched from Eldred in 2005 and has continually grown into an eagerly anticipated holiday tradition.

At each stop, Santa and friends will greet the children and parents, hand out candy canes and small toys, and conduct a holiday sing-a-long with the Snow Queen. There will be designated areas where kids can write letters to Santa, enjoy cookies and hot chocolate and make a sign or poster to give to Santa. Children can also choose to add their names to Santa's list.

Spectators will be invited to participate in festive

dancing in the streets. They will also witness the one-of-a-kind Christmas spirit meter and see Santa's magic key to get into houses with no chimneys.

The first trek takes place on December 8, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Corner in Eldred. Joining Santa from the North Pole will be Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Frosty, the Gingerbread Man, the Christmas Mouse, the North Pole elves and a host of other Christmas favorites.

The bedecked sled then heads down Proctor Road to Circle Park in Glen Spey. After stopping there, Santa will head to the River Market in Barryville. Then it's on to the four corners in Yulan. The final stop will be in front of the Narrowsburg School on Erie Avenue.

The second trek will occur on December 15 when the Santa Express heads to the town of Bethel, stopping at the Town Square at 5:30 p.m., before traveling to Main Street in Liberty.

Communities are alerted to be on the lookout for Santa. Signs and banners welcoming the Santa Express are encouraged. The all-volunteer effort

hopes to continue growing in the future in order to spread the Christmas spirit far and wide.

Visit [www.facebook.com/santaexpress](http://www.facebook.com/santaexpress) for more information.

## Santa's schedule

### DECEMBER 8

- 5 p.m. Santa's Village, Eldred
- 6 p.m. Circle Park, Glen Spey
- 6:45 p.m. River Market, Barryville
- 7:15 p.m. Crossroads, Yulan
- 8:15 p.m. Narrowsburg School, Narrowsburg

### DECEMBER 15

- 5:45 p.m. Bethel Town Square, Bethel
- 7 p.m. Main Street, Liberty

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www.neversinkfarm.com  
Owner: Conor Crickmore

### Willow Wisp Organic Farm (CO)

29 Stone House Rd., Damascus, PA  
570/224-8013  
www.willowwisporganic.com  
Established: 2007  
Owner: Greg Swartz & Tannis Kowalchuk

## BEEF, CHICKEN, PORK, GOAT

### Goat Sheep Shop

1221 Federal Hill Rd.  
Delhi, NY – by appt. only  
917/488-1015  
www.goatsheepshop.com  
Established: 2006  
Owners: Ildiko Repasi & Laszlo Sulyok

### Stone & Thistle Farm

1211 Kelso Rd., East Meredith, NY  
607/278-5800  
www.stoneandthistlefarm.com  
Established: 1994  
Owners: Denise & Tom Warren

### Stony Creek Farm

(also eggs)  
1738 Freer Hollow Rd., Walton, NY  
607/865-7965  
www.stonycreekfarm.org  
Established: 2005  
Owners: Kate Marsiglio, Patrick  
Hennebery, Eleanor Blakeslee-Frain

## MILK, CHEESE, YOGURT

### Sherman Hill Farmstead

(also eggs)  
Sherman Hill Farmstead  
9626 County Hwy. 21, Franklin, NY  
607/829-8852  
Established: Licensed Dairy 1988,  
Licensed for Cheese Making 1993  
Owner: Linda Smith & Morgan George

### Tonjes Farm Dairy

188 Tonjes Rd., Callicoon, NY  
845/482-5971  
Owners: Mary & Tim Tonjes

## BAKED GOODS

### Aunt Nenee's

Hurleyville, NY  
845/434-8090 or 646/784-5539  
Established: 2010  
Owner: Denise Larson & Cheryl Canter

### Brandenburg Pastry Bakery

4923 State Rt. 52, Jeffersonville, NY  
www.brandenburgpastry.com  
Established: 2010  
Owners: Sarah & Errol Flynn

### Jam Thyme

North Branch, NY  
845/482-4362  
Owner: Eileen Reimer

## COFFEE & HERBAL TEA

### Honey Bee Tea Farm

Smallwood, NY  
845/513-5411  
www.gardensbykelley.com  
Owner: Kelley Edkins

### Java Love Coffee Roasting Co.

10 Horseshoe Lake Rd.,  
Kauneonga Lake, NY  
Retail: 845/583-4082  
Wholesale: 845/707-2589  
www.javaloveroasters.com  
Established: 2011  
Owners: Jodie Dawson & Kristine Petrik

### Mount Pleasant Herbarry

31 Riverdale Rd., Forest City, PA  
570/448-3094  
www.mountpleasantherbary.com  
Established: 2009  
Owner: Gudrun Feigl

## MAPLE

### Muthig Farm

(also selling pottery, see below)  
681 Muthig Rd., Parksville, NY  
845/292-7838  
Owners: Dorothy & Raymond Muthig

## WINE

### Eminence Road Farm Winery

3734 Eminence Rd., Long Eddy, NY  
845/887-6280  
www.eminenceroad.com  
Established: 2008  
Owners: Jennifer Clark & Andrew Scott

## PASTA & PREPARED FOODS

### Northern Farmhouse Pasta

209 Rockland Rd., Roscoe, NY  
607/290-4041  
www.northernfarmhousepasta.com  
Established: 2011  
Owners: Jennifer & Bob Eckert

### Pika's Farm Table

Big Indian, NY  
845/254-5884  
www.pikasfarmtable.com  
Established: 2002  
Owner: Pika and Luc Roels

## SOAP & PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

### Heirloom Botanicals

Livingston Manor, NY  
917/657-8370  
www.heirloombotanicals.com  
Established: 2001  
Owners: Jamie, Gem, Haile & Osei Helper

### Honey Bee Tea Farm

(see above, herbal teas)

### Mount Pleasant Herbarry

(see above, herbal teas)

### Sherman Hill Farmstead

(see above: milk, cheese and yogurt)

### Windy Pond Farm

212 Poor Farm Rd., Lake Como, PA  
570/798-2457  
www.windypondfarm.com  
Established: 2009  
Owners: Tracy & James Fawley

## YARNS & FIBERS

Goat Sheep Shop  
(see above: beef, chicken, pork and goat)

## PLANTS & FLOWERS

### Ark Floral

157 Pleasant Valley Rd., Mount Vision, NY  
607/293-8128  
Email: megkennedy3@gmail.com  
Established: Selling at Farmers' Markets  
since 1979  
Owners: The Kennedy Family

## POTTERY & WOOD/CRAFTS

### Claryville Pottery

Claryville, NY  
845/985-2016  
www.annemariereemer.com  
Established: 1993  
Owner: Anne-Marie Kremer

### Muthig Farm

(see above: also selling maple syrup)

### Oakworks Studio

Hancock, NY  
607/637-3330  
www.wbce.etsy.com  
Established: 1980  
Owners: Bill Walsh & Barbara Consentino



# OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

By ISABEL BRAVERMAN

There's nothing like a holiday to remind us of the passing of time. And there's nothing like a tradition to remind us of family.

My family—my mom, dad, brother and I—have a lot of Christmas traditions. There's the same record of old Christmas songs that my dad plays on the record player and we dance around as we decorate the tree. There's his copy of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" that he had since he was a boy and that he reads to us every Christmas eve before we go to bed. These are things that, at my ripe old age of 22, I thought I would be sick of. But I'm not. That's the beauty of traditions, no matter how many times you do them they still feel fresh while providing a comfort in the familiar.

Then there's my favorite Christmas tradition—cutting down the Christmas tree.

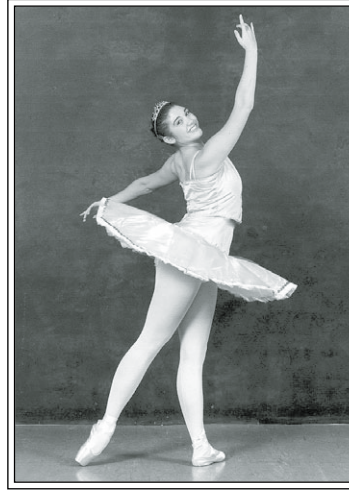
My house is a converted farm house from the 1800s. It sits on River Road in Milanville, PA and overlooks the Delaware River. The only thing separating my house from the river is a giant hill and a pine forest, for the former owners of our house operated a Christmas tree farm. From a distance the trees look like a messy mass of disorder, but upon closer inspection one can see that they are lined up in neat rows. We don't sell the trees, but each year we cut one down for our house.

Every Christmas, going as far back as I can remember, my father, brother and I trek down the hill to the Christmas tree forest. My younger brother, Henry, and I would scout the trees looking for the best one and argue over who found it first. (Yes, we still fight over petty things like this despite, or perhaps because of, our seven-year age difference). We would then watch in awe as our dad chopped down the tree with a chainsaw. We would yell "timber" and guess which way the tree would fall.

We put the freshly fallen tree on a sled and began the arduous task of dragging it back up the hill. When I was little, my dad let me sit in the sled, something I would still beg him to do years after I got too big. In a way, it was our own ritual—I was no longer a little girl when I was old and strong enough to help pull the sled up the hill.

As the years went on, the trees grew taller and taller, and soon what looked like the smallest tree would be brought home only to realize it couldn't fit in our living room. This required us to chop off the top of the tree, making it look funny and awkward. Another Christmas is coming and even with my "grown-up" age, I'm still living at home. Just like the tree becoming too big for the house, I wonder—when will I outgrow this house, my home?

Like all things, I grew up and so did the trees.



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Every once in a while you hear a story about someone who gave or received a life-changing gift during the year-end holiday season.

The River Reporter is looking for an individual with just such a heart-warming personal story to share.

We are calling this feature "A Gift from the Heart" and we want to tell several of these stories in our newspaper during December.

If you are someone with such a story to share or know someone, kindly contact Jane Bollinger at [jbollinger@riverreporter.com](mailto:jbollinger@riverreporter.com) or call 845/252-7414, ext. 29.

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