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NOVEMBER 28, 2024

2024

HOLIDAY  
GUIDE

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Very Merry in Middlebury.....	4
Pros consider holiday music.....	9
Bristol showcases the holidays.....	11
Candlelight service.....	13
Vergennes is seasonally festive.....	15
Local artisan makes possible gifts.....	17
Trees and wreaths.....	20
Cut your tree in the national forest.....	22
Holiday calendar.....	25-29
Religious services.....	30-32
Fabulous recipes.....	34-38



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Fridays: 11:00am -3:00pm

Saturdays: 11:00am -3:00pm

### Special free admission days:

Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 7th: 10am-4pm.  
The trains will be running all day!

Mid Night Strolls - Thursday, December 5th & Thursday, December 12th: 5-8pm. The trains will be running!

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



AMAYA MORGAN OF Pantton is quite pleased to get a warm, sweet drink from the Hot Cocoa Hut in Middlebury's Cannon Park this past December during the Very Merry Middlebury activities. The Hot Cocoa Hut returns to Middlebury this holiday season.

Independent file photo/Steve James

# HOLIDAY MAGIC COMES TO SHIRE TOWN

## It's going to be a Very Merry Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Holiday magic returns to Middlebury with a festive and fun-filled month of December, complete with visits from Santa, horse drawn wagon rides, special event shopping nights, the Hot Cocoa Hut and activities for kids and adults alike.

The Better Middlebury Partnership gets things rolling on Thursday, Dec. 5, with the first of two Midd Night Strolls — that's an evening when shops in downtown Middlebury are open late, from 5 to 8 p.m. and you'll find specials, promotions, food trucks and pop-ups around the downtown. The Sheldon Museum will be open late, too, and look for a pop-up artisans market (produced by the Middlebury Studio School) at the National Bank of Middlebury. The Midd Night Stroll repeats on Dec. 12.

The Stroll on Dec. 5 is open to everyone, but is specifically marketed as College Night — all Middlebury College students will receive Middlebury Money to spend in town!

Free Gift Wrapping available for any gifts bought downtown during the Thursday Midd Night Strolls at National Bank of Middlebury.

As is tradition, downtown Middlebury will be bustling with activities on the first Saturday of December — the 7th. First, come get your photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus that morning from 10 a.m. to noon indoors at Town Hall Theater. Children can fill out a Letter to Santa (an activity while you wait!) to share their wish lists and then get their photos snapped by parents or caregivers.

(See Stroll, Page 5)





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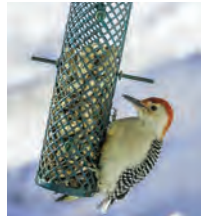


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# Middlebury

(Continued from Page 5)

events on stage at Town Hall Theater. Kids are invited to the Middlebury theater on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. for a matinee

screening of “The Polar Express,” the classic film about a boy and a train. Pajamas are encouraged, and there will be a build-your-own hot chocolate bar.

Live actors and singers will perform “Night Fires” at THT on Dec. 13, 14 and 15. It is a magical Winter Solstice dream play that conjures an entirely new story every year for the past four decades. A tale of the exquisite beauties of both darkness and light unfolds with music and dance cradled in the humor, magical thinking and heart-felt, bone deep words of grand writers like James Baldwin, Mary Oliver, Denise Levertov and more.

The fun isn’t over after Christmas. New Year’s Eve at Town Hall Theater will see a performance by Joe’s Big

Band, a 17-piece jazz ensemble made up of talented, fun-loving musicians from all over the Champlain Valley who faithfully reproduce the timeless sounds of the masters like Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stevie Wonder, Brian Setzer and many more.

That same night, Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department will host fireworks in the Rec Park near Mary Hogan School at 6:30 p.m. Directly after, you can top off your year with free public skating at Memorial Sports Center



BODHI KENNA MANIPULATES a marionette during the solstice pageant, “A Winter’s Carol,” at Town Hall Theater this past December.

Independent file photo/Steve James





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## EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

*December 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>*

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**PHOTOS WITH SANTA + MRS CLAUS ON DECEMBER 7**

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# WHAT MAKES A GOOD HOLIDAY CONCERT?

## Pros say music helps us all come together

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

There's something that makes the holidays a perfect time to enjoy music. For some people they make music themselves, either singing out loud or playing an instrument. For some, they are content to listen to others make music — bobbing their head, humming along and smiling.

Almost everyone finds their way to music of some sort during this time of year.

People who know about musical performance and engage in music education say there's something special about coming together as a community to appreciate or participate in music between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

"Holiday music, in particular, is ritualistic and comforting," said Liz LeBeau, the choral music director at Middlebury Union High School. "It has a unique ability to evoke memories, often positive ones, of time spent with loved ones and the shared experience of music."

Allison Coyne Carroll, the Performing Arts Series director for the college's Middlebury Arts Center, points out that most of us hear a wealth of holiday music from our earliest years, so when we hear it again later in life it evokes wonderful memories and feelings of nostalgia. And getting that nostalgia fix in the presences of family and friends just deepens the experience.

"Just like gathering around the holiday table, music gives us a chance to gather and have a shared experience," she said.

Friends and neighbors as well as other folks we may not know — people of different backgrounds — can come together for a holiday music performance and put aside division and strife, darkness or fear, said Jeff Rehbach, the longtime choir director of the Middlebury College Community Chorus who also conducts the annual Messiah Sing at the Congregational Church of Middlebury.

Coming together to share music and experience this type of balm may be particularly important this holiday season, he added.

"As we share music, that uplifts our spirits and offers a sense of hope and light and peace to all," Rehbach said.

But this year is no different than many that have proceeded it, in that anyone who programs a public performance nowadays is naturally cognizant that the holiday season encompasses more than



**JEFF REHBACH CONDUCTS** a hall full of singers and instrumentalists from around the county in the annual Messiah Sing at the Congregational Church of Middlebury a few years back. The choir director of the Middlebury College Community Chorus says that when people share music in a public forum like this, it uplifts their spirits and offers a sense of hope.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

the Christian holiday.

Bill Bowers remembers when he was the music director at Mount Abraham Union High School a few decades ago, his holiday performances were a balance of sacred and secular music that celebrated not just the Christian holiday but also Hanukkah and Kwanza. He says Christmas has become so commercial that its meaning is gone for many. But music is a place where we can tap into the holiday's roots.

"I believe a holiday concert should include some sacred music for its historical significance and be explained in the program notes," Bower said. "There are some very fine classical selections of a sacred nature that could be performed without the audience ever knowing. Just get

out some Bach and Handel." Rehbach also personally prefers holiday music from historical times, in particular Renaissance a cappella choral music that was originally composed for church settings.

"Beautiful contemporary music," (See Concerts, Page 10)



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MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC Center Director Sadie Brightman, a professionally trained pianist, says holiday musical performances give us a chance to pause and appreciate the beauty of what we're doing and the connections we're making with others.

## Concerts

(Continued from Page 9)

coming from the classical tradition, can be heard on the concert stage as well as in services, by composers such as Morten Lauridsen, John Rutter, Ola Gjeilo and Rosephanye Powell, to name just a few," he noted.

Other music professionals have their holiday favorites. Coyne Carroll enjoys the traditional Catalan Christmas song "El Noi de la Mare," or "In the Bleak Midwinter," though she acknowledges it is an awful title for the holidays. LeBeau likes the more modern — though not too modern — "Walking in a Winter Wonderland." Sadie Brightman, executive director of the Middlebury Community Music Center, singles out her own timeless favorite, "Silent Night."

Bowers mentioned "White Christmas," and "Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire." Though, he acknowledges that, like some people, he is pretty well sick of all the holiday tunes even before Dec. 26 arrives.

"It is funny how the genre feels irrelevant on Jan. 1!" Brightman said. "I'm usually ready to turn the page."

But first, everyone has to get through the holiday season with its myriad commitments to family, job and any number of friend connections. That also applies to musicians who have to balance making holiday music and taking part in all of the other seasonal activities.

Coyne Carroll recalled that during her years in vocal performance as a soloist and choir member it was a struggle during the holidays to perform in concerts while also participating in a busy life.

"I'd always run myself down singing every weekend and end up sick with a 'Christmas Crud,'" she said, referring to the awful combination of sore throat, runny nose and cough. "Just working a day job and attending holiday work has helped in that respect, but I do miss the joy in music making at the holidays."

For Brightman, a noted pianist and vocalist, it's about remembering what the season is really about.

"I try to create space to pause and appreciate the beauty of what we're doing and the connections we're fostering. Those quiet moments of gratitude make the busy ones feel worthwhile," she said.

And she comes back to that aspect of a holiday concert where everyone — musician and layman alike — experience the generosity of the moment together, when there is an unspoken agreement between the performers and the audience to share in something meaningful.

"The air feels different — more charged, more tender," Brightman said. "It's a chance to celebrate the season's beauty, joy and stillness all at once."

"A holiday show isn't just a performance, it's a shared experience."



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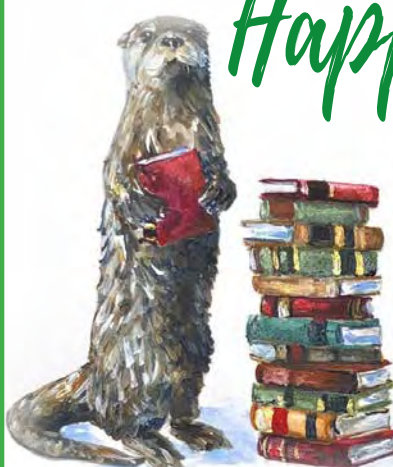
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# BRISTOL EVENTS SHOWCASE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND TOGETHERNESS

BRISTOL — This Holiday Season, Bristol's picturesque streets and artistic flair will showcase the holiday spirit with events designed to celebrate community and togetherness. Bristol's small-town charm shines during its Small Business Saturday promotions, featuring festive sales and cheerful decorations.

Bristol will be bustling with holiday activities and celebrations that kick off even before the month of December arrives.

First up this year is the Holley Jolly Holiday Market, which will transform Bristol's Holley Hall into a vibrant hub of artisanal talent on Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Showcasing a curated selection of high-end handmade goods, the market features an array of talented vendors from Addison County and beyond. The inviting atmosphere, filled with festive cheer, will make the Holley Jolly a must-visit destination for those seeking to embrace the holiday spirit in style.

Promoters are inviting people to make a day of it, and visit all that Bristol has to offer, downtown shops and eateries that are just steps away.

Less than a week later, Bristol will celebrate a spiritual tradition and a delicious tradition on the same evening.

Friday, Dec. 6, will see the lighting of the Memory Tree. The Bristol Recreation Department and the Bristol Elementary Chorus group invite everyone to join

them on the Town Green at 5 p.m. to light the tree.

You can get the name of a friend

or loved one included by providing it to organizers; the fee is \$5 per name.

Register a name on the rec department

website, [bristolvt.myrec.com](http://bristolvt.myrec.com), or bring them to the town office at 1 South St.

That same evening will see the annual



**SAINT NICHOLAS AND** an elf assistant took a break from gathering Christmas gifts one day this past December to read some holiday-themed stories at Bristol's Holley Hall. Here 2-year-old Prewitt Jimerson-Smith, left, 4-year-old Harvey Morrison and 3-year-old Benjamin Schultz pay close attention to Santa.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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## Night light

**GEOFF DAVIS OF New Haven feeds the fire at Bristol's Waterworks property to keep the light going this past Dec. 21 — the longest night of the year. It was part of the annual Winter Solstice celebration.**

Photo by Jonathan Blake

Chocolate Walk in Bristol. 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. Spend the evening browsing the stores, nibbling a delicious chocolate indulgence, and getting the holiday shop on at more than 20 unique vendors at multiple Main Street locations.

That same weekend, St. Ambrose Parish Hall in Bristol will host the "Gnome for Christmas" bazaar. It's scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. It will feature crafts shop, bake shop, doll and jewelry shop, wonder jars, attic treasures, face painting, online silent auction, raffles and more. Silver Tea Friday at 2:30 p.m.

The sweetness continues in Bristol on Friday, Dec. 13. At 5 p.m. there will be a fun Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt on the green. Santa's helpers will hide candy canes all around the park. Bring your flashlight and help find them.

Santa will be arriving at the Town Green for the Candy Cane Hunt at 5 p.m. Kids who find five candy canes will win, and a special prize will be awarded to the person who find the rainbow candy cane!

This event is free and open to the public.

Santa will be available for photos afterwards.

Head to Bristol for the annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light on Saturday, Dec. 14. Experience fire performers and a lighted walk down Main Street from 4-7 p.m.

There's another chance to enjoy the fresh air and holiday feeling on that

Sunday, Dec. 15.

The Bristol Recreation Department has invited Pat Palmer and his team of magnificent horses to provide a free winter trolley ride around town from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rides start and end at the Holley Hall. Reservations are required; to make one call 802-453-5885 starting on Monday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m.-noon, through Friday, Dec. 13 at noon.

Donations will be appreciated, donations will go towards future programming. Maximum of 15 per trolley ride.

In the last week before Christmas, the Rec Department has planned an event with a special guest. On Tuesday, Dec. 17, our youngest kids can look for Story Time with Mrs. Clause at Holley Hall, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

There's still more holiday joy to spread in Bristol. The SD Ireland Holiday Truck — a cement mixer decorated with 10,000 little lights — will be at the Bristol Town Green on Dec. 20 at 5:15 p.m. and then will drive around the streets of Bristol neighborhoods before it makes its way back North.

Get those last-minute gifts from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, during Bristol CORE's "Last Minute Fa La La" promotion. Your favorite Bristol shops will be staying open until late to help you check off everyone on your list. As you bop in and out of shops, you'll be delighted to know that there's more than just shopping to enjoy.

5 Town Friends of the Arts will have you covered with a gift wrapping station that evening.

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## BRISTOL SUITES

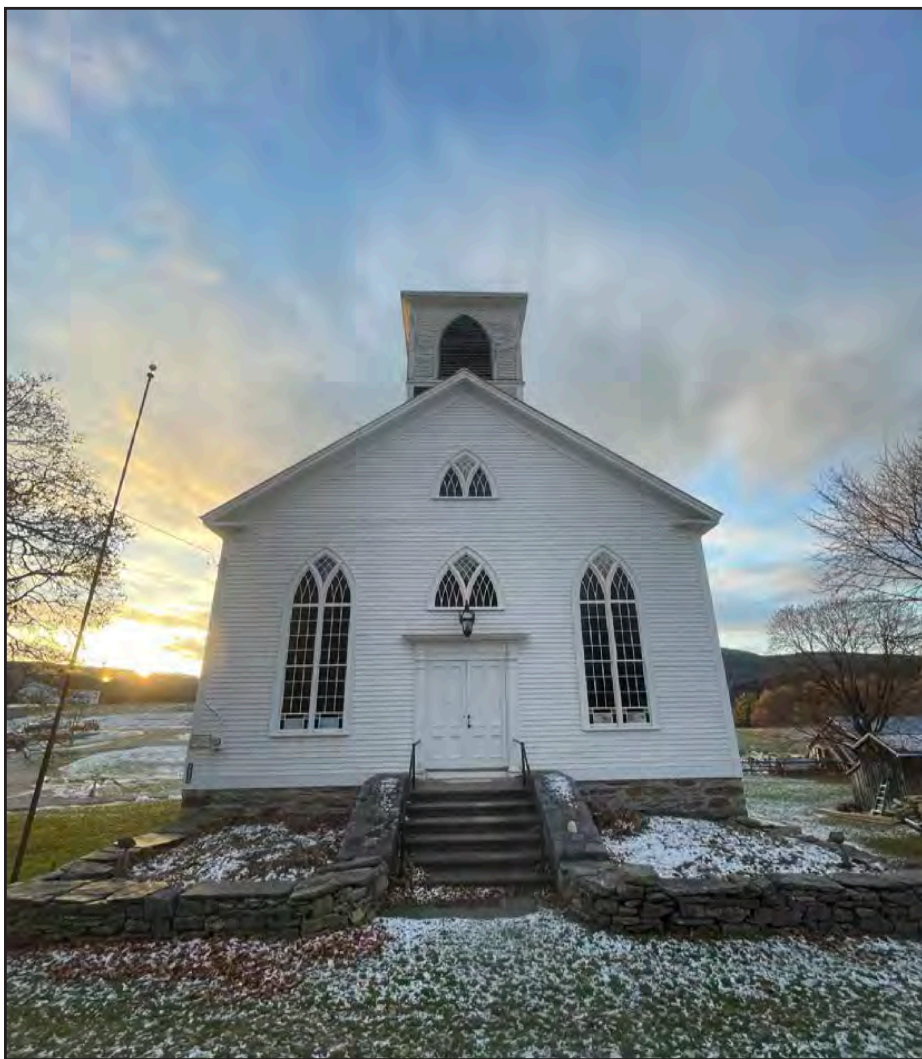


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THE 180-YEAR-OLD Starksboro Village Meeting House will host an old-fashioned service of lessons and carols on Dec. 20. This historic venue will be lit by candles and kerosene lamps.

## ANNUAL SERVICE GOES BACK IN TIME

STARKSBORO — A tradition for around six decades will continue this holiday season at the Starksboro Village Meeting House.

A non-denominational Christmas Candlelight service will be held there on Friday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The program of lessons and carols will also feature other special music.

The service is centered around the Christmas Story and the popular candle lighting ceremony in a sanctuary where little has changed from when it was last used as an active Church in the early 1900s, offering a nostalgic glimpse into the past.

The Gothic Revival-style Meeting House was built in 1838-40 and is listed

in the National Register of Historic Places.

In the sanctuary electric lights are a secondary way to light the space; the primary light source for this service is a kerosene lamp chandelier.

Many families treasure it as a holiday tradition. The colored glass windows have been restored and the sanctuary walls repaired — the hall is looking the best it has in many decades. The sanctuary is lit by the mirrored oil lamp chandelier, dating from 1884, and many candles.

The Meeting House is located in the center of Starksboro village on Route 116, just north of the town offices. Parking is available to the rear in the town center parking area.

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DEC 13TH, CANDY CANE HUNT WITH SANTA, TOWN GREEN 5:00PM  
CHILDREN'S THEATER PERFORMANCE, HOLLEY HALL 6:30PM, SAT 14TH AT 12PM

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DEC 20TH, S.D IRELAND TRUCK TOWN GREEN 5:15PM



[www.BristolVtRec.com](http://www.BristolVtRec.com)

Bristol Recreation Department





# Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll

**Downtown Vergennes Saturday, Dec. 7**

## Breakfast with Santa

9:00-11:30am

United Methodist Church 129 Main Street

Begin your day with a ho ho jolly good breakfast with Santa! Presented by the Lions and the Rotary, proceeds will be used to reestablish a memory tree in City Park and help fund the annual Kids Shopping Night. \$10/person, \$6/6 and under.

## Pictures, Crafts & more

1:00-3:00pm One Credit Union

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Pictures with Santa, along with story time with Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating with Northland Job Corp students, crafts and more!



## A Winter Wonderland at the Bixby!

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9:00 -1:00pm Friends of the Library Book Sale

10:30am Santa Reads 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

11:00AM Va-et-Vient Performance 12:00PM Maiden Vermont Performance

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A second show beyond the night before, the 19th annual Broadway Direct is doing a double take in the Little City this year!

Tickets:

VergennesOperaHouse.org

## Lights & Song in the Park

4:45pm into the Evening

Holiday Stroll continues in the heart of Vergennes at City Park.

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



# VISIT VERGENNES FOR A VERY FESTIVE HOLIDAY!

VERGENNES — The Little City of Vergennes will host its annual Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll on the 7th of next month — the usual first Saturday of December. But there's a lot more activity for the holidays in Vergennes this year.

In fact, even during these coming few days, the Vergennes Partnership is promoting the new Grand Thanksgiving Weekend on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 29 and 30. It combines Black Friday and Small Business Saturday into one grand giveaway. The message is "Shop local this holiday season," and city businesses are encouraging that by giving away money. Well, not actual U.S. currency, but \$100 in Vergennes Green gift certificates. Look for the blue boxes throughout the downtown where you can enter your name for a chance to win at each establishment. They will be giving away 10 of them, so that's a lot of money to be spread around.

The following weekend, there will be plenty of opportunities to shop locally in Vergennes, and a lot going on at Dec. 7's Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll at the Bixby Memorial Free Library at 258 Main St. The guest of honor that morning will be none other than Santa Claus, who will be on hand for story time with the children at 10:30 a.m. The Jolly Old Elf will read the classic "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Then there will be two first-class, feel-good musical performances. The female trio Va-et-Vient will sing and play music at 11 a.m. in the library. This well-practiced group celebrates the many colors found in music from several French cultures. Va-et-Vient is Carol Reed from Leicester (voice, guitar and mandolin), Suzanne Germain from Lincoln (voice and percussion) and Lausanne Allen from South Starksboro (voice, fiddles, flute, penny whistles, harmonica and mandolins).

After that, at noon, the women's a capella chorus Maiden Vermont performs at the Bixby. This large collection of talented local singers specializes in barbershop-style harmonies.

In between these structured activities,



**THE MAIDEN VERMONT women's a capella chorus, shown here at an earlier performance, will perform a sampling of songs that emphasize barbershop-style harmonies during a concert at Bixby Library during Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll at noon on Dec. 7.**

you can browse at the Friends of the Bixby book sale downstairs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be festive bites and beverages to graze on, and a puzzle swap. Plus, the Bixby will feature a sport for young ones and everyone else to make holiday cards.

But the Holiday Stroll isn't limited to the library. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children at 48 Green St., One Credit Union, that day; the details of the schedule for that were still being worked out as this publication went to press — look for details online at [vergennesdowntown.org](http://vergennesdowntown.org).

Also on that Saturday, the Order of the Eastern Star will hold a Craft Fair in Vergennes beginning at 9 a.m. Come to the Masonic Lodge, 54 School St. in Vergennes, to check out local crafters and their wares. Stop by for lunch.

The fun goes into the early evening too at the City Green, where the Partnership will set up firepits and host caroling for revelers to engage in while they await the arrival of the famous SD Ireland lighted

cement truck.

That's the same weekend as a premier holiday extravaganza at the Vergennes Opera House. The 19th annual Broadway

Direct show is produced once again by Bill Carmichael Walsh, Broadway veteran and VOH board member. Bill (See *Vergennes*, Page 16)



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# Vergennes

(Continued from Page 15)

will be joined by friends directly from the Broadway stages, as well as some amazing local talent to bring yet another powerhouse show to the Little City. It will be on the stage in the opera house on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. This show is so popular, it always sells out — so get your tickets while you can.

The Bixby will turn up the dial on holiday crafting with a wreath-making workshop at the library on Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m. Join in for an evening of holiday crafting as participants create

unique evergreen wreaths with greenery from Pete's Pines along with festive bits and bobs to accessorize your wreath. Adorn your home with a handmade winter wreath. Space for the workshop is limited, so email [cedar.winslow@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:cedar.winslow@bixbylibrary.org) to reserve your spot today.


Father Christmas returns to Vergennes on the second weekend of December at the Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 14, 8 a.m.-12 noon. St. Peter's Catholic Church at 85 South Maple St. will be the venue for enjoying eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, fresh fruit, assorted juices and milk. There will be arts & crafts and face painting for the kids while

they are waiting to take pictures with Santa. Food will be provided by Queen Bee's Snack Bar. Message organizers on Facebook today to get your tickets ahead of time or at the door day of!!

That same day, you'll have an opportunity stop by the 30th annual Christmas Cookie sale at the Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church on Church St. in Vergennes. They promise a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. — or

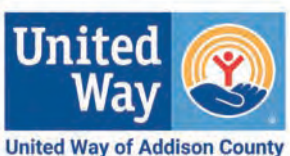
until the goodies run out. Choose and package your favorites. Enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop. Their tagline is, "We do the baking for you so you won't have to."

Finally, the monthly Fiber Arts Circle at Bixby Library takes on a holiday theme in December. On Saturday, Dec. 21, noon-2 p.m., celebrate the last Fiber Arts Circle of 2024 with a cookie swap. Bring a batch of cookies, if you'd like. They will have tea and plenty of yarn to go around!



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**DURING THE VERGENNES Partnership's Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll, a reveler warns himself — and his marshmallow — in a firepit on the City Green. The firepits will be back for this year's Stroll on Dec. 7.**

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ONE OF ARIEL Ogden's chickens tries to get in on the action at the Middlebury workshop where she produces durable gear for cycling using natural and recycled materials. Photo by Tim Farrell/tim.j.farrell.com

## ARIEL OGDEN MAKES STYLISH, DURABLE BIKE GEAR FROM NATURAL AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

By MEGAN JAMES

MIDDLEBURY — Ariel Ogden loves to scavenge. Her sister jokes that she's a "minimalist hoarder," and when you step into her cozy workshop on Elm Street in Middlebury, you can see why.

It's a little like stepping back in time. With a bit of imagination you can fancy yourself in one of Santa's workshops, but with a twist.

A wall of shelving near the door is packed tightly, and neatly, with hemp and cotton webbing, dead stock Harris Tweed, woolen water bottle sacks, adorable metal maple syrup jugs in the shape of sugar shacks, baskets of waxed canvas scraps, a stack of Bag Balm tins. Everything has the muted earth tones of a bygone era — browns, deep blues, rusty reds, burnt yellows — except for a huge red "OPEN" sign propped up on the top shelf.

On another wall, there are bins towering with rolls of canvas as tall as people. There's a vintage Singer sewing machine.

And, on the opposite wall, you see the stylish and durable bike bags Ogden produces here as part of her one-woman business, Fifth Season Canvas.

At the center of it all, a wide, heavy, mint green metal table (which once lived in the

MCTV studio at Ilsley Library) supports two industrial Japanese-made Juki sewing machines, non-computerized models from the '80s, ready to make some bike bags — plus seat covers, ear muffs for bike helmets, wallets and hot water bottle covers. And the smell — it has the fragrant aroma of bee's wax.

Want to see it in person? Ogden is hosting an open house at her workshop, at 9 Elm St., on Thursday, Dec. 5, 4-8 p.m. in conjunction with Mid Night Stroll.

In the year or so since she started her business, which she took over from her partner, James Johnson, who runs a cycling shop in Poultney, Ogden has sewn and sold some 800 bike bags, sending some as far away as Japan.

Her bags and gear are designed "to last for years but break down when you're done with them," she said. She aims to make tough products that will weather anything, but the natural materials she uses — waxed canvas, wool, hemp, metal and wood — mean that when you're ready to get rid of a bag, you can actually just toss it in your compost pile.

"A lot of inspiration comes from old military stuff," Ogden said, pointing to a (See Bike bags, Page 18)

# VERMONT Sun

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## Bike bags

*(Continued from Page 17)*

rack of vintage army bags, flask pouches and ammo belts she has collected. These kinds of bags don't mind being left out in the rain, or trampled on, or caught in a thicket of brambles. She's especially inspired by the different kinds of analog fasteners used in the military gear. "I'm trying not to use zippers," she said, noting that zippers often break long before the rest of an item has worn down. She's interested in incorporating a cool metal fastener called "lift the dot" into future bags.

Ogden loves to sew; she's been doing it since she was 9 years old. And much of her day is spent at the sewing machine. But a lot of the business is keeping up with the supply chain, she said. "I spend so much more time sourcing materials than I ever thought I would," she said.

Fortunately, she has some local help. Maple Landmark is making her custom wooden toggles, and she sources wool from Johnson Woolen Mill. Dan Freeman, who runs the Leatherworks shop in downtown Middlebury, helped her procure a cool vintage kick press that she uses to stamp her logo onto little circular leather tags.

Occasionally she uses non-compostable materials, like coroplast (the stiff plastic of an election sign, for example) or cut-up yoga mats. The former is inserted into the base of some bags to help give them structure; the latter used inside her woolen bike basket cushions. But these materials she collects

secondhand from folks on Front Porch Forum, delaying the yoga mats' eventual trip to the landfill.

Ogden grew up in Middlebury, was a theater kid in the Addison Reparatory Theatre program at the Hannaford Career Center. She studied graphic design in college, and after 15 years or so in Oregon working in theater, she moved back East during the pandemic and got a job at a friend's upholstery shop in New Hampshire, where she learned the art of sewing heavy fabrics.

But she hated working with nasty materials like foam and vinyl. And she wanted to move home to be close to her family in Middlebury. So she got a job at an apparel-making shop called Fourbital Factory in Burlington, where she further honed her skills and got inspired by the resurgence of manufacturing in Vermont.

Then last year she took over Fifth Season Canvas, a pursuit near to her heart as a lifelong, year-round cyclist. She knows a thing or two about the durability of bike gear. "The idea is, if it can last through mud season, it can last through anything," she said.

If you don't make it to Ogden's Dec. 5 open house, you can see her work in a holiday pop-up market at Analog Cycles in Poultney on Dec. 13, 4-8 p.m. Come see what she's up to and get some gift ideas for all the bike lovers in your life.

# Happy Holidays!

from

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Join our volunteer team! We need you - Volunteers support our staff, patients, and families. If you are looking to engage in your community, we will find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests. From greeters to crafters, there are so many ways you can be part of our Volunteer Team!

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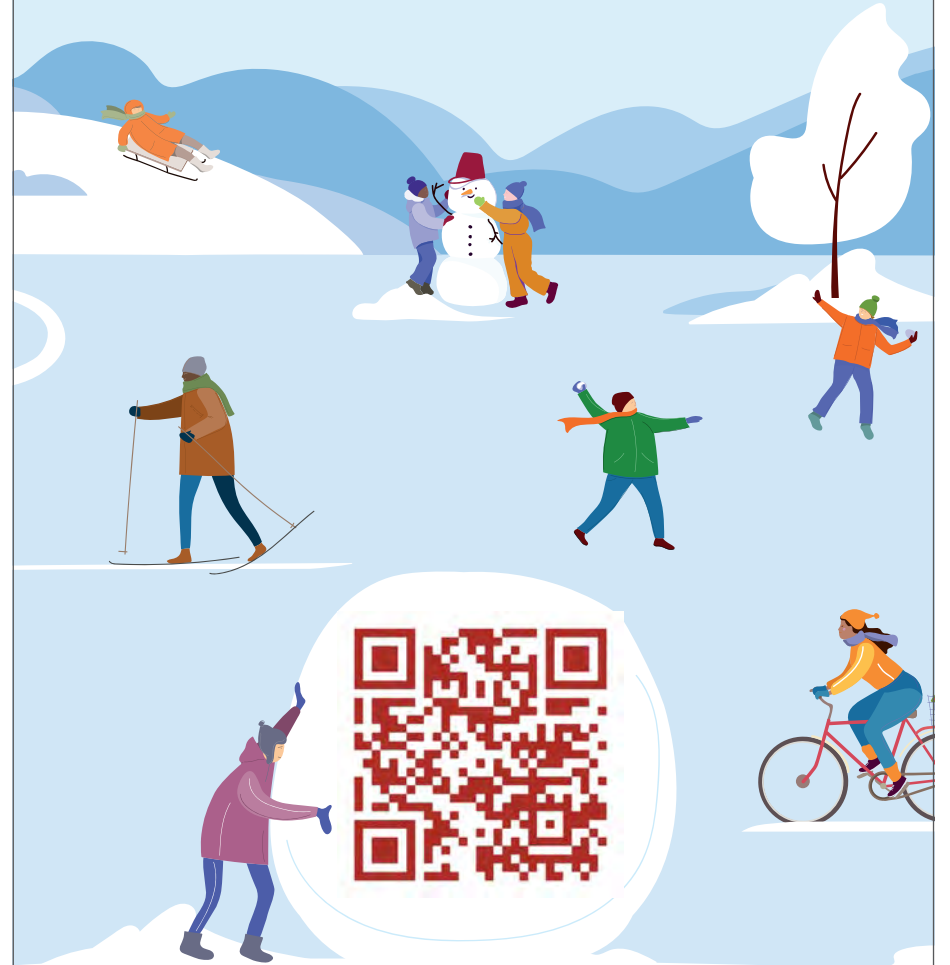
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# PURCHASE A PERMIT, CUT A TREE IN THE NATIONAL FOREST!

MENDON — U.S. Forest Service officials in Vermont welcome the public to select and cut a Christmas tree on the Green Mountain National Forest with the purchase of a \$5 permit. Permits are now available for purchase either on-line (an additional \$2.50 service fee applies) or in-person at GMNF offices in Mendon, Manchester or Rochester, Vt.

In support of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, this year the Forest Service will again provide fourth grade students with a free Christmas tree voucher by registering at [everykidoutdoors.gov](http://everykidoutdoors.gov). Fourth-graders who register must present a printed voucher to redeem a Christmas tree permit. Christmas trees for personal use may be cut on the GMNF, subject to the following conditions:

#### FEES AND AVAILABILITY

- Permits can be purchased either online or in-person at a GMNF office.
- Purchasing permits in-person can be done by calling one of our offices located in Mendon, Manchester or Rochester. Please confirm that our office locations are open by making an appointment prior to travel.
- Permit cost is \$5 and is non-refundable. On-line permits require an additional \$2.50 service fee.

- Two permits are allowed per household per year.
- Trees obtained under the Christmas tree permit may not be resold.

#### RULES FOR HARVESTING

- Trees may only be cut within

designated areas as indicated in the Christmas Tree Harvest Maps (link available below).

- Trees over 20 feet tall are not covered by the permit.
- The tree must be cut at a point no higher than 6 inches off the ground.
- Permit holders must remove all trash and litter resulting from their activities. This includes removing all woody debris from road surfaces, ditches, and culvert openings where cutting took place.

#### PERMIT CONDITIONS

- Permit is not valid in: Congressionally designated wilderness areas; active timber sale areas; and developed recreation sites including campgrounds, picnic areas, and day use sites; and the following management areas as designated by the 2006 Forest Plan: ecological special areas, existing and candidate research natural areas, alpine/subalpine special areas, and the Robert Frost Recreation Special Area (see maps).

- Orange tag permits must be attached to the tree before transporting it from the site where it was cut.

- Recreation.gov permits must be placed and clearly visible on dashboard facing up.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING AREA MAPS

Go to [www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/bd0cdc60-e636-11ea-bfd0-660a8c194aab](http://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/bd0cdc60-e636-11ea-bfd0-660a8c194aab) and scroll down to access Christmas Tree Harvest maps for the Manchester Ranger District (South) and

Rochester-Middlebury Ranger District (North).

#### PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- Before you leave home, be sure to measure the space where you plan to place the tree in your home (height and width) and measure the space in your vehicle where you will be transporting the tree.

- Cell service may be spotty or unavailable. Be sure someone knows where you are and when to expect you back.

- Check the latest weather conditions, forest warnings and road closures before you leave on your trip.

- Bring a map with you. Do not rely on GPS because it may not be up to date with Forest Service roads. Roads may not be plowed. Carry tire chains, shovel(s), and a tow chain. Be sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas. Bring a spare key and give it to someone else in your party. Do not get locked out of your car. Park in areas so that traffic can get by safely, and do not block gates.

- Dress warmly and take extra dry clothes. Be visible to others that may also be in the area that you are visiting. Expect winter weather, including cold temperatures, snow and winds.

- Start your day early. Be sure to find your tree and leave the woods before dark.

#### HELPFUL TIPS

- Tools you might want to consider bringing with you include a measuring

tape to ensure you select a tree that fits in your home; handsaw to cut your tree; gloves to protect your hands; boots to protect your feet; a tarp to sit on and/or to move your tree once it's cut; and rope or straps to secure your tree to your vehicle.

- Choose a tree from a dense forested area, which will give the remaining trees more space to grow.

- Cut the leftover branches from the stump and scatter them.

- Carry your tree carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.

- If the tree is too big to transport inside of your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.

- Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water occasionally.

- If storing your tree outside for a few days before putting it in the house, keep it in an area protected from the wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.

#### U.S. FOREST SERVICE OFFICES IN VERMONT

Mendon Headquarters: 4387 Route 4 East, Mendon, 802-747-6700.

Manchester Ranger Station: 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, 802-362-2307.

Rochester Ranger Station: 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, 802-767-4261.

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**Moonlight Madness WEEK!!**  
 Monday Dec 2nd through Friday Dec 6th  
 Many shops open till 8pm on  
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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!

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# 2024 HOLIDAY DINING & EVENTS





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December 20 at 7pm  
Tickets \$20 & \$30



THT WINTERTIDE SERIES  
**KAT & BRETT HOLIDAY SHOW**  
December 7 at 7pm  
Tickets \$25 & \$35



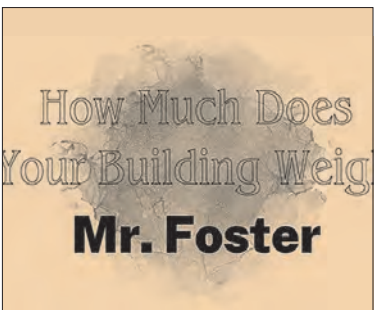
THT PRESENTS  
**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION**  
December 21 at 1pm  
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THT PRESENTS  
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December 13-15 at 4pm  
December 13 & 14 at 7:30pm  
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# CALENDAR



## nov 29 FRIDAY

**Holiday Shoppe and craft fair in New Haven.** Saturday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. Shop and raise funds for the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation at its annual Holiday Shoppe and Craft Fair. Maple products, stained glass, quilts, baked goods, jewelry and so much more.

**Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport.** Friday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. Over 50 crafters with handcrafted, quality merchandise. Continues on Saturday.

**Rolling Down the Tracks: Holiday Trains! opening day in Middlebury.** Friday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual tradition, delighting all ages. The assemblage stands three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel O27 gauge trains, and an upper track running HO trains. Exhibit will run every day the museum is open from Nov. 29, through Jan. 4, 2025. More info at [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/holidaytrains](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/holidaytrains) or call 802-388-2117.

## nov 30 SATURDAY

**Holley Jolly Holiday Market in Bristol.** Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Showcasing a curated selection of high-end handmade goods, the market features

an array of talented vendors from Addison County and beyond. Make a day of it, and visit all that Bristol has to offer, downtown shops and eateries are just steps away.

**Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport.** Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. See Nov. 29 listing.

**Clint Turns 50! in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Legendary local musician Clint Bierman is turning 50, and Vermont music all stars are honoring him in an epic concert. Featuring past and present members of The Grift, alongside other Vermont Music All-Stars, including Peter Day, Ben Lively, Ryan Clawson, Neil Matthews, Rian Alfiero, TV's Josh Panda, Mihali (from Twiddle), Evan Jennison, Matt Schrag, Ty Bierman, Instagram's Sam Bierman and Rhonda Jean. All are welcome, and the show is free, but reservations are required. More info at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 1 SUNDAY

**"The Polar Express" on screen in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join us at Town Hall Theater for a matinee screening of the classic film about a boy and a train. Pajamas are encouraged, and there will be a build-your-own hot chocolate bar. Tickets \$10 adult/\$5 children 12 and under. More info at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 2 MONDAY

**Composers in Concert in Middlebury.** Monday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Come hear exciting new works by student composers from Music 209. Open to the public.

## dec 4 WEDNESDAY

**Outdoor Winter Village in Brandon.** Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m., Central Park, 1 Carver St. An open air market during Moonlight Madness. 20 vendors. Santa from 5-6:30 p.m., carolers, hot chocolate and more. Rain, snow or cold.

**Green Burials in Orwell.** Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Join a virtual presentation on green burials from Vermont Forest Cemetery, then participate in a conversation about green burials in Orwell with the Mtn. View Cemetery Commission.

**Bria Skonberg Jazz Quintet in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. New York-based, Canadian-born musician Bria Skonberg stormed onto the jazz scene with her smoky vocals, blistering trumpet and compelling compositions and arrangements. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5; info at [go.middlebury.edu](http://go.middlebury.edu).

**Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble in Bristol.** Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30

p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium. Kick off the holiday season with the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jerry Shedd and featuring special guest artists Francois Clemmons (narrator) and Mary Bisson (horn). This 40-member ensemble will present a broad range of wind ensemble repertoire, including Aaron Copland's homage to Abraham Lincoln and the world premiere of a work written in memory of Lindi Bortney. Free.

## dec 5 THURSDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Crown Point, N.Y.** Thursday, Dec. 5, Coot Hollow. Take a short, easy hike of about two miles to an overlook of a glacial chasm. Stunning views across the lake to a patchwork of fields and the Green Mountains from Killington peak to Mt. Mansfield. The trailhead is about 20 minutes from the bridge at Chimney Point, where we will carpool. Group limit is 8. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**Robert Ludwig, organist in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green. An advent concert with music by Bach, Dethier, Muhly and D'Aquin.

**Henry Sheldon Museum evening hours in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Come to the Sheldon during Middlebury's Midd Night Stroll. Enjoy our exhibitions, and the model



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# CALENDAR

trains display. See The museum's annual decorated Christmas Tree and Wreath Raffle and purchase tickets and browse the museum store.

**Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Shop local this holiday season and support local businesses.

**Artisan Market in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. National Bank of Middlebury, Main St. Middlebury Studio School will hold its annual holiday market. Come find a unique gift and meet local artists.

**True Crime Podcast discussion group in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Iisley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion "They Walk Among US Bennington Triangle." Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. This program is for participants 18 and over.

**Middlebury Union High School Music Department concert in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. Join us for a concert featuring the MUHS Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Camerata Singers. Free

and open to the public.

**Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts School, 72 Porter Field Rd. Kick off the holiday season with the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jerry Shedd and featuring special guest artists Francois Clemmons (narrator) and Mary Bisson (horn). This 40-member ensemble will present a broad range of wind ensemble repertoire, including Aaron Copland's homage to Abraham Lincoln and the world premiere of a work written in memory of Lindi Bortney. Free.

## dec 6 FRIDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Salisbury.** Friday, Dec. 6, Mills Preserve. Enjoy walking this outdoor "museum" that details the history of land use from sawmills and the iron industry to the production of thimbles and bobbins for

the textile industry. Beautiful, easy walk of 1.7 miles along the Leicester falls and river, which were used to power water wheels and the variety of industries of the area. Contact David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**Museum Lecture and Lunch series in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 6, 12:30 p.m., Lower Lobby, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Curator Josephine Rodgers will discuss the "Dance of Life: Figure and Imagination in American Art, 1876-1917" exhibition on view at the Yale University Art Gallery. The exhibition explores the American Renaissance, a pivotal yet neglected period in American history, that inspired an ambitious generation of American artists to develop a movement in mural painting that captivated a divided nation. Open to the Public.

**"Gnome for Christmas" bazaar in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 11 School St. Featuring crafts shop, bake shop, doll and jewelry shop, wonder jars, attic treasures, face painting, online silent auction, raffles and more. Silver Tea Friday at 2:30 p.m. Bazaar continues on Saturday.

**Artist's reception in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 6, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, Mill St. An opening for "Color Dance," Edgewater's second annual juried art competition will feature the work of a small group of artists chosen by Terry Norton-Wright. More info at 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

**Chocolate Walk in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Spend your evening browsing stores, nibbling on a delicious chocolate treat (or two or three), and getting your holiday shopping on.

**Jazz in the Living Room in Orwell.** Begins Friday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. An 8-week series where local teens can explore jazz's deep cultural roots, develop critical thinking, and experience musical improvisation with guest musicians. Through hands-on sessions, participants will learn about the history of jazz and its place in African American heritage while discovering music's role in shaping our shared history. Taught by local Jazz musician Robert Scarpulla.

**Christmas Music night in New Haven.** Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Ethan Allen Hwy. Join in a time of Christmas songs, readings and refreshments as we prepare for the holiday season. All are welcome. More info contact Liesbeth at 802-989-4139.

**"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" holiday pantomime in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford

Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre will present its annual pantomime. It's a family-friendly slapstick comedy, and a traditional offering in the U.K. around the holidays. This year, ART's third year presenting one, will feature the fast-paced farce. Repeats on Saturday.

**Brian McCarthy Jazz Orchestra in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. THT presents Brian McCarthy Jazz Orchestra featuring Ray Vega. This 18-piece jazz orchestra features a guest artist and all new arrangements. The orchestra brings together Vermont's local talent and highlights the evolving jazz community. Tickets \$50 for table seating/\$40 general admissions, available at townhalltheater.com.

**December vocal concert in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Voice students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck cap off a semester of study with a lively program of classical and Broadway repertoire. Open to the public.

**Broadway Direct in Vergennes.** Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. The 19th annual Broadway Direct show is brought to you once again by Bill Carmichael Walsh, Broadway veteran and VOH board member. Bill will be joined by friends directly from the Broadway stages, as well as some amazing local talent to bring yet another powerhouse show to the Little City. Tickets \$20 adults/\$10 students, available at vergennesoperahouse.com.

## dec 7 SATURDAY

**Mountain View 4-H craft/vendor sale in Bridport.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3443 Route 22A. Mountain View 4-H is hosting their annual craft/vendor sale at the Bridport Central School this year. Crafters, vendors, a basket raffle, a 50/50 raffle, lunch available and a bake sale. Please help support a great group of kids and a bunch of local sellers.

**"Gnome for Christmas" bazaar in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 11 School St. See Dec. 6 listing.

**Order of the Eastern Star Craft Fair in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 54 School St. Come check out local crafters and their wares. Stop by for lunch. The Vergennes holiday stroll is happening the same day.

**First Saturday festivities in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., downtown. This year's Very Merry Middlebury kicks off with a day of festive events. Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 10 a.m.-noon at



### Found the right tree!

**WILLIAM WERNER FASTENS** a tree onto a customer's car at Werner Tree Farm last December. The Middlebury tree farm is one of many popular local places to get some greenery for the holidays.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Celebrate **Sustainably!**

*Avoid holiday food waste:*

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- Use your leftovers to create a new dish
- Send leftovers home with friends and family
- Freeze leftovers
- Donate food that meets guidelines
- Dispose of any food waste properly (compost!)

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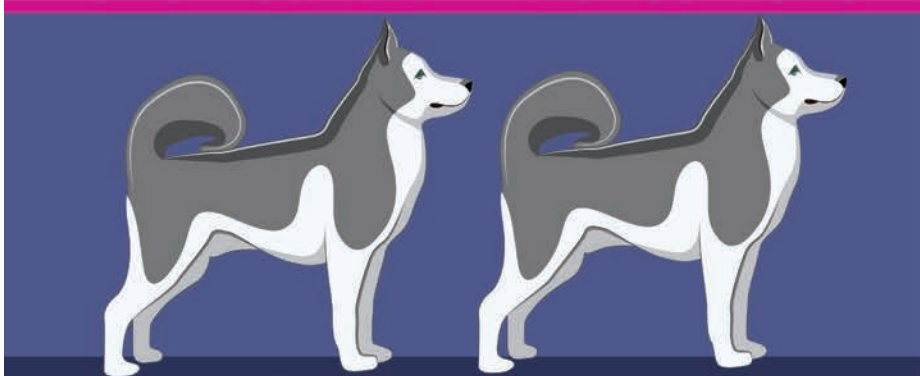
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DEC. 14 & 28**



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# CALENDAR

Town Hall Theater. Write a letter to Santa. Free horse and wagon rides 10 a.m.-noon, Hot cocoa hut 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Caroling on the steps of the Congregational Church, trains at the Sheldon Museum, holiday crafts at Isley Library and more.

**Museum open house in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Enjoy live holiday music, the museum's annual decorated Christmas Tree & Wreath Raffle, and visit the model trains exhibit. The Kids' Makerspace will feature seasonal crafting activities, and the Museum Store features many new items that are perfect for all your holiday shopping needs. Free. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events) or 802-388-2117.

**Middlebury Community Music Center 10th Anniversary Celebration open house in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m., Middlebury Community Music Centers, 6 Main St. Bring your kids and little ones for a fun-filled day of music, exploration, and celebration. Hands-on musical activities, live performances, giveaways, and special surprises. Donations are welcome to support our scholarship program. No registration is required, but please RSVP if you'd like to attend one of our demo classes. More info at [www.mcmcv.org](http://www.mcmcv.org).

**Family holiday crafts in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St., 8A. Join us for a morning of festive crafting. Create cards, ornaments, and more while enjoying some light refreshments. All ages welcome. Free and open to the public.

**Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., downtown. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children at 48 Green St. and happenings at the Bixby Memorial Free Library too. The fun goes into the early evening at City Green — lighting of the trees, firepits, caroling and the arrival of the famous SD Ireland lighted truck. Stay tuned for further details.

**"To Render This Place as Tenable as Possible" living history event in Ticonderoga, N.Y.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Witness a pivotal moment in the American Revolution — the winter of 1776. Following the Continental Army's victory at Ticonderoga, the event explores the challenges and triumphs faced by the soldiers as they prepared for a long, harsh winter and the uncertain future of the war. More info at [www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org).

**Cookies and a craft with Mr. Claus in Shoreham.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join us for a quieter, simpler visit to Mr. Claus! We're pleased that our special guest is back again. Write your list for Santa to drop in our official mailbox, make a holiday craft, eat a cookie or a candy cane, and help yourself to a free book. All in the cozy warmth of the Platt Library. This program is free and open to anyone and everyone.

**Broadway Direct in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See Dec. 6 listing.

**"Dido and Aeneas" in Bristol.** Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. The Youth Opera Company of the Opera Company of Middlebury, in collaboration with the Vergennes, Mount Abraham, and Middlebury choruses, presents "Dido and Aeneas," a 17th-century opera by Henry Purcell. Directed by Sarah Cullins, conducted by Jeff Buetner, and accompanied by Ronald Romano.

**Seamus Egan, Moira Smiley and Yann Falquet in Lincoln.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Burnham Presents hosts this trio, sometimes known as the Seamus Egan Project, for its December concert. A show not to miss with this incredible group of artists. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available.

Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at [burnhampresents.org/](http://burnhampresents.org/).

**Kat & Brett Holiday Show in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Kat Wright and Brett Hughes, two of Vermont's most beloved songbirds, get together once again in 2024 for their 11th annual VT Holiday Tour. The show, featuring Tyler Bolles on upright bass and Will Seeders on pedal steel guitar, banjo and fiddle, offers up an array of songs of holiday heartbreak and holiday cheer. Table seats \$35/regular seats \$25, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org). Cash bar available throughout the show.

**ART's "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" holiday pantomime in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See Dec. 6 listing.

**"Sky Was Possible" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join us for the Vermont premiere of "Sky was Possible," a song cycle for soprano, flute and piano composed by Middlebury's own Fletcher Professor of the Arts and Music Department Chair Su Lian Tan, with texts by Middlebury President and Professor of Religion Laurie Patton. Free. More info at [www.middlebury.edu/events/event/sky-was-possible](http://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/sky-was-possible).

## dec 8 SUNDAY

**Breakfast buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 8, 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. Tickets \$13 adults/\$8 children 8 to 12 years. No cap/cost on family cost.

**Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 8, 4 and 7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, Old Chapel Rd. An annual celebration of traditional Christmas music and biblical texts of the season. Led by Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life Mark Orten, and Middlebury College Choir Musical Director Jeffrey Buetner. Donations will be accepted for local charities. Large print programs available. American Sign Language interpretation at the 4 p.m. service only.

## dec 12 THURSDAY

**Peter Stolfus Berton organist in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 12, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green. An advent concert with music by Bach, Heiller, Brahms, Dupré and Rheinberger.

**Henry Sheldon Museum evening hours in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Come to the Sheldon during Middlebury's Midd Night Stroll. Enjoy our exhibitions, and the model trains display. See the museum's annual decorated Christmas Tree and Wreath Raffle and purchase tickets and browse the museum store.

**Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Shop local this holiday season and support local businesses.

**Artisan Market in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. National Bank of Middlebury, Main St. Middlebury Studio School will hold its annual holiday market. Come find a unique gift and meet local artists.



**dec 13 FRIDAY**

**Holiday movie night in Ferrisburgh.** Friday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Join the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall. Entry is free. Concessions, such as popcorn, candy and drinks, will be available for purchase. More info at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

**“Dido and Aeneas” in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. The Youth Opera Company of the Opera Company of Middlebury, in collaboration with the Vergennes, Mount Abraham, and Middlebury choruses, presents “Dido and Aeneas,” a 17th-century opera by Henry Purcell. Directed by Sarah Cullins, conducted by Jeff Buetner, and accompanied by Ronald Romano.

**Night Fires in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 13, 4 and 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Night Fires is a magical Winter Solstice dream play that first appeared on the scene 42 years ago. With a cast of new performers and “old-timers,” this year’s production conjures, as always, an entirely new story. A tale of the exquisite beauties of both darkness and light unfolds with music and dance cradled in the humor, magical thinking and heart-felt, bone deep words of grand writers like James Baldwin, Mary Oliver, Denise Levertov and more. Tickets \$35/\$25/\$20/\$15, available at townhalltheater.org.

**dec 14 SATURDAY**

**Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8-10 a.m., intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info call 802-388-6019.

**Green Mountain Club hike Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 14, Ridge Trail, Watershed Center, Plank Rd. Moderate 4.75-mile hike of the East Ridge Trail with 574 feet of elevation. Meet at Watershed parking area. Bring a snack or lunch, water, and dress to the weather in thermal layers. Ankle gaiters and hiking poles are recommended. Be prepared for ice & snow w/boot traction, aka microspikes.

Contact leader Ruth Penfield at 802-458-1116 or ruthpenfield@gmail.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**Christmas Cookie sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 10-1 (or until sold out), Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, Church St. We will have a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale. Choose and package your favorites. Enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop. We do the baking for you so you won’t have to. More info call Julia at 802-759-3311.

**Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 4-7 p.m., downtown. Join us in Bristol on for Bristol Core’s annual holiday celebration, with fire performers, lantern party and fire pits on

the green.

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 5 p.m., St Peter’s Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. A family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter’s Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the ongoing restoration efforts for the bell tower and the church.

**Contra dance in Cornwall.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Mary Wesley will be calling with live music by Red Dog Riley. Beginners welcome. All dances will be taught. \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

**“Dido and Aeneas” in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. See Dec. 13 listing.

**Night Fires in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 14, 4 and 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 13 listing.

**dec 15 SUNDAY**

**Darkness to Light: A Carol Service for Advent in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m., St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, on the green. Music by Palestrina, Parry, Aspaas, Manz, Hogan, Poston, Tavener, Muhly and Handel.

**Night Fires in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 13 listing.



**Special delivery**

**FIVE-YEAR-OLD TWINS** Charlotte, left, and Poppy Hanson of Middlebury mail a letter to Santa during a Very Merry Middlebury event at the Town Hall Theater this past holiday season.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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# CALENDAR

## dec 16 MONDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Goshen.** Monday, Dec. 16, Blueberry Hill, Ripton-Goshen Rd. Hike or snowshoe at Blueberry Hill outdoor center around Hogback Mt. Small trail fee may be required. Moderate pace over a 2.5-mile loop with beautiful views. Contact Morris Earle at [morisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984 for information or to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## dec 18 WEDNESDAY

**"How Much Does Your Building Weigh, Mr. Foster?" on screen in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 18, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The film traces the rise of one of the world's premier architects, Norman Foster, and his unending quest to improve the quality of life through design. A Great Art Wednesday offering. Tickets \$15, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**"Hundred Foot Journey" on screen in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Community Classic Film Club presents this film about an Indian restaurateur who finds work with his dad's culinary foe across the street.

## dec 19 THURSDAY

**Community carol sing with Robert Ludwig in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec 19, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green. An Advent sing-along of favorite sacred and secular songs of the season, including entertaining stories and histories of the carols.

**"Jim Henson: Idea Man" on screen in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. MNFF Selects offers this special holiday screening of this Disney+ documentary, directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ron Howard. A fascinating film, "Jim Henson: Idea Man" takes us into the mind of this singular creative visionary, from his early years puppeteering on local television to the worldwide success of Sesame Street, The Muppet Show and beyond. Tickets \$17, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 20 FRIDAY

**Green Mountain Club walk or snowshoe in Ripton.** Friday, Dec. 20, at Spirit in Nature, Ripton-Goshen Rd. Easy 2-3 miles depending on the number of paths we choose to explore. Gently rolling terrain at a moderate pace. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 for more information. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**Last Minute Fa La La in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Get those last-minute gifts when your favorite Bristol shops will stay open until late to help you check off everyone on your list. There's more than just shopping to enjoy. 5 Town Friends of the Arts will offer free gift-wrapping station.

**Christmas candlelight service in Starksboro.** Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m., Starksboro Village Meeting House, 2875 Route 116. A non-denominational program of lessons and carols. Area residents will read the lessons. All are welcome. Holiday cookies and treats and hot cider at the end of the service. Parking available to the rear in the town center parking area.

**Winter Solstice Celebration with Low Lily in**

**Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. American Roots band Low Lily celebrates the Solstice. This high-energy show will feature instrumentals alongside impeccably arranged songs to honor the season. Between them, the musicians play mandolins, guitars, fiddle and banjo and sing in three-part vocal harmonies. Tickets \$30 table seating/\$20 general admission, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## dec 21 SATURDAY

**Jazz brunch in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Edgewater on the Green. Live music, brunch fare, and an exhibition of paintings by Ted Walsh. Free and open to all.

**Winter Solstice celebration in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Celebrate the longest night of the year and more light to come. Free.

## dec 22 SUNDAY

**Messiah Sing in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 3 Main St. Join the annual gathering of Middlebury singers and players to sing along with selections from Handel's Messiah. 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.

**"Shall We Dance: A Night of Piano Duets" in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 22, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In their program "Shall We Dance?," pianists Mairi and Nathan Harris Grewar bring a world of dance-inspired piano duet music to the Town Hall stage. Five greats of Romanticism — Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, and Dvorak — whirl from the ballroom to the folk gathering and back again, with cameos by Ligeti and Debussy. Tickets \$25 table seating/\$20 general admission, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org). Join the artists after the show at Edgewater Gallery on Merchants Row for a reception and mingling.

## dec 29 SUNDAY

**Holiday movie in Salisbury.** Sunday, Dec. 29, 2 p.m., Salisbury Town Hall, 918 Maple St. A holiday movie showing plus refreshments.

## dec 31 TUESDAY

**Fireworks and ice skating in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Dr. Fireworks begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by free ice skating at Memorial Sports Center.

**New Year's Eve Joe's Big Band in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-midnight, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Since his passing in 2004, Joe's Big Band has carried on in Joe Levesque's memory, continuing to evolve into the high-energy force it is today. The band is made up of talented, fun-loving musicians from all over the Champlain Valley who faithfully reproduce the timeless sounds of the masters like Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Woody Herman, Stevie Wonder, Brian Setzer and many more. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets \$40, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## jan 1 WEDNESDAY

**First Day Walk in Ferrisburgh.** Wednesday, Jan. 1, 9-11 a.m., Button Bay State Park, 5 Button Bay State Park Rd. New Year's Day birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. We have combined that tradition with the more recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at state parks across the country. Meet us at Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh as we search for overwintering birds.

## jan 4 SATURDAY

**Letterpress printing in Middlebury.** Saturday, Jan. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. A hands-on printmaking activity with John Vincent from A Revolutionary

Press, who will have his press set up and will guide participants through the letterpress printing methods used in the 19th century. Come to the Kids' Makerspace and make a print to take home with you. Free admission for all.

**Mike & Ruthy in Lincoln.** Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. When it comes to chemistry, Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar have plenty to spare. Onstage, they are Mike + Ruthy, a husband-and-wife duo setting the folk scene ablaze. Singers and storytellers, poets and parents, the two tour with their children in tow, embodying a down-home approach to Americana that is honest, beautiful and raw. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at [burnhampresents.org](http://burnhampresents.org).



### Seasonal celebration

A 20-MINUTE, OVER-THE-TOP fireworks display introduced night skiing at the Middlebury College Snowbowl this past December. Look for fireworks in Middlebury this New Year's Eve.

Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

# HOLIDAY SERVICES



## Weybridge Congregational Church Celebrate Advent and Christmas on Weybridge Hill!

**Advent Worship**  
is at 10am on Sundays December  
1, 8, 15, and 22

**Christmas  
Eve Worship**  
is at 5pm on  
Tuesday, December 24

Services are in person  
at 2790 Weybridge Road  
and on Zoom - email  
weybridgechurch@gmail.com  
for the Zoom link.



Visit [weybridgechurch.org](http://weybridgechurch.org)  
for more info  
about our church.



**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 Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**West Addison United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. This service replaces the regular morning worship service that day. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

### BRANDON/FOREST DALE

**St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church** (Route 7, Brandon village) Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 p.m. This will be a family-friendly, festive service with carols and special music. On Sunday, Dec. 29, there will be a service of Lessons & Carols at 10 a.m.

### BRIDPORT

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

### BRISTOL

**Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. Christmas morning Mass will be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25.

### CHARLOTTE

**Charlotte Congregational Church** Lighting the Advent Wreath, Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 10 a.m.; Messiah Sing, Sunday, Dec. 1, 4-5:15 p.m.; Taizé Service of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.; Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, Outdoor Family Carol Sing, 4 p.m., Indoor service of Lessons and Carols with children's choir and Christmas bells for the children, 5 p.m., Indoor service of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Special offering taken at 4, 5 and 7 p.m.; First Sunday after Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 29, 10 a.m.

### EAST MIDDLEBURY

**East Middlebury United Methodist Church and Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury United Methodist Church.

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

**Sunday, December 15**  
4:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols

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

**Christmas Day, December 25**  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Carols

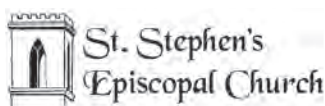
**Sunday, December 29**  
8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Christmas Lessons  
and Carols Service \*

\*These services will also be  
broadcast on Zoom



802.388.7200

3 Main St. on the Green • Middlebury, VT  
**STSTEPHENS.MIDD.ORG**  
Please visit our website for the latest updates on  
Christmas worship and life at St. Stephen's



## Shoreham Congregational Church



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

All are invited to celebrate Advent during our worship services  
at 10 AM on Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22.

28 SCHOOL ROAD, SHOREHAM

**FERRISBURGH**

**North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church** will hold its Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. and a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. Both services will be streamed on the church's YouTube channel. To join, search "North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church" on YouTube.

**MIDDLEBURY**

**Middlebury United Methodist Church and East Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury United Methodist Church.

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary's) Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Eve Masses on Tuesday, 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).

**Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC** will have Christmas Eve Services, Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. The 4 p.m. service will be livestreamed 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!

**Memorial Baptist Church** on South Pleasant Street in Middlebury Will hold a Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day Celebration at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 25.

**Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church** will hold Advent noontime concerts on Thursday, Dec. 5, 12, and 19, at 12 noon. Free. All are welcome. Sunday, Dec. 15, Advent Lessons and Carols service at 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve pageant and Holy Eucharist, 4 p.m., Carol Prelude at 8:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 9 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist; Sunday, Dec. 29, Holy Eucharist 8 a.m., Christmas Lessons and Carols service. 10:30 a.m. All services are in person with some also being broadcast on Zoom. Visit [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org) for Zoom links and more information

**Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society.** Tuesday, Dec 24: 4 p.m., No-Rehearsal All-Ages UU Nativity Pageant. Family-friendly service. 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. Ends with group candle lighting and singing of Silent Night; 7 p.m.: Christmas Eve Traditional UU Service. Sing along, carols readings from the Christmas Story and traditional lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night. Attend in person or online via Zoom link at [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org).

**ORWELL**

**Saint Paul's Catholic Church** will hold Mass on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m., and on New Year's Day, Feast of the Holy Family, Wednesday, Jan. 1, at 10 a.m.



*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



**HAPPY CHANUKAH**

*This year Chanukah runs from the evening of Wednesday, December 25, 2024 through Thursday, January 2, 2025*

**WHO WE ARE**

We are a volunteer-driven, non-denominational, inclusive Jewish community for individuals, couples, and families, including multifaith and LGBTQ+.

**HAVURAH**  
OF ADDISON COUNTY

56 North Pleasant St., Middlebury  
[havurahaddisoncounty.org](http://havurahaddisoncounty.org)

**Memorial Baptist Church**

97 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT

10am Sunday Worship (*childcare available*)  
9am Sunday Classes for all ages  
Wednesday 7-8pm Devotions  
Thursday Noon-1pm Bible Study

**Special Christmas Services**

4pm Christmas Eve Candle Lighting  
10am Christmas Day Celebration



[MemorialBaptistVT.org](http://MemorialBaptistVT.org)  
[membaptistvt@gmail.com](mailto:membaptistvt@gmail.com) / 802-388-7472

# HOLIDAY SERVICES



## RIPTON

**Ripton Community Church** will hold its annual candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 8:30 p.m. Bill McKibben will preside over an hour of Lessons and Carols and seasonal music. Light refreshment; contributions encouraged. 802-388-0338.

## SHOREHAM

**Shoreham Congregational Church** will host a traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24, in the Sanctuary. Advent services will be held during worship at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays: Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. All are invited to attend.

## STARKSBORO

**Starksboro Village Meeting House** will hold a Christmas candlelight service in Starksboro. Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m. — A non-denominational program of lessons and carols.

## VERGENNES

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church** will hold a service of Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

**Saint Peter's Church** will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 6 p.m. and midnight on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10:30 a.m.

**Vergennes United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

## WALTHAM

**Victory Baptist Church** holiday activities include Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m., The Ark Preschool/Kindergarten Christmas Program; Friday, Dec. 13, evening, Ladies Christmas Fellowship Meeting; Sunday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m., Children's Christmas Program; Sunday, Dec. 22, 6 p.m., Cookies and Carols; Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m., Candlelight Service.

## WEYBRIDGE

**Weybridge Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, 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. Kids welcome — activity packs provided with a special bulletin for them to follow along at their own pace. The offering will go to HOPE and the Charter House Coalition. For those who Zoom link to service, please email [weybridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgechurch@gmail.com).

## WHITING

**WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH** will hold Advent services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in December and a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

*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.*

# Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalists



Our vision is to be a truly Beloved Community - welcoming people of all backgrounds, all religious and spiritual inclinations, and every age. Bring yourself, your family, and all your questions. Join us for a joyful, music-filled celebration of life and hope!

**NURTURE** your spirit.  
Help **HEAL** our world.

**Sunday worship at 10 am onsite and online.**

Stay for Social Hour in Fellowship Hall.

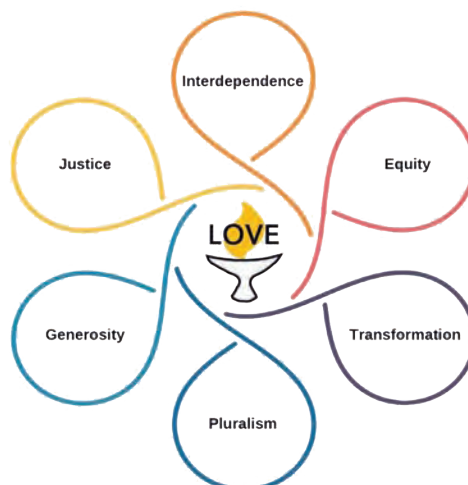
See [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org) for pathways to connect, more on our award-winning religious exploration programs for children and to reserve space.



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Rev. Tricia and Rev. Christina



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## SAMPLE MENU

- CURRIED PUMPKIN BISQUE** *toasted pepitas*
- BLACK SHEEP WALDORF SALAD** *bacon, cheddar, candied walnuts, dried cranberries, apple*
- STEAMED PORK DUMPLINGS** *maple soy demi glaze*
- THAI BROILED HADDOCK** *toasted almonds, coconut curry sauce, creamed spinach*
- BRIE & BACON CHICKEN BREAST** *balsamic cream, garlicky green beans*
- DUCK LEG CONFIT FIG** *demi glaze garlicky green beans, pickled red onion*

253 Main Street • Vergennes, VT • 802-877-9991 • [blacksheepbistrovt.com](http://blacksheepbistrovt.com)  
TUES. - SAT., 4:00PM - 8:00PM • Reservations Accepted

## HOUSE FAVORITES

**Venison Eggrolls**  
Chef Michel's Recipe!  
roasted garlic venison • maple dijon demi

**Bacon Roasted Brussels Sprouts**  
roasted Brussels sprouts • crumbled bacon • chipotle aioli

**Autumn Harvest Salad**  
baby field greens • apples • dried cranberries • crumbled blue cheese • toasted almonds • balsamic vinaigrette

**Butternut Squash Ravioli**  
balsamic brown butter sauce • baby kale • sun dried tomato • asiago cheese

**Pork au Poivre**  
seared pork tenderloin tips • cracked pepper brandy cream sauce • porcini mushroom • baby kale • warm bread

**The Squeeze Burger**  
pickled onions • roasted peppers • greens • bacon • cheddar cheese • fried egg

*A*  
**HOLIDAY GIFT**  
*for you...*



TUES.- SAT., 4PM - 8PM  
Order by phone or online for take-out  
UPSTAIRS IN-PERSON DINING AND FULL BAR

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*Park*  
**SQUEEZE**

## MESQUITE PENICILLIN

### INGREDIENTS:

2 ounces Lost Lantern Gentle Giant Texas Single Malt Whiskey  
3/4 ounce honey-ginger syrup (see below)  
3/4 ounce fresh lemon juice  
1/4 ounce Lost Lantern Flame Mesquite-Smoked Whiskey

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine Gentle Giant, honey-ginger syrup, lemon juice, and ice in a cocktail shaker  
Shake and strain into a rocks glass filled with one or two large ice cubes  
Float Flame and garnish with candied ginger

### Honey-Ginger Syrup

1/2 cup honey  
1/2 cup water  
3-inch chunk of ginger

Combine ingredients in a small pan, bring to a boil, then simmer for 5-10 minutes. Chill in fridge for several hours, then strain out ginger.

## FIRE & ICE FETTUCCINI ALFREDO

### INGREDIENTS:

8 oz pasta of choice  
2 Cups Monument Farms Heavy cream  
1 Tbs chopped garlic  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
1/2 tsp black pepper  
Kraft grated parmesan cheese

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cook the pasta and set aside. In a sauté pan add two cups Monument Farms heavy cream, a tablespoon of chopped garlic, half teaspoon of kosher salt and half teaspoon of fresh cracked black pepper. Bring to a full rolling boil, add cooked pasta, and a half cup of grated Kraft parmesan cheese, stir until thickened. Serve in a bowl with garlic butter.

This holiday season, give the gift of whiskey exploration!



**LOST LANTERN**

Whiskey Flights + Bottle Sales

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Vergennes, VT

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HOURS: WED-FRI 4-8PM, SAT & SUN 12-8PM

26 SEYMOUR ST., MIDD., VT  
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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.



**Celebrate your holidays with us!**

**LUNCH!**  
**Wed-Saturday 11-2**  
fireside seating available

Dinner:  
**Tues-Thur 5-9 & Fri-Sat 4:30-10**

**SPECIAL EVENTS PACKAGES**  
**TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS**

• see our website for details •

[americanflatbread.com](http://americanflatbread.com) 802-388-3300  
@ f marble works, middlebury

## DROP-IN PUB CHEESE

### INGREDIENTS

8oz (1c) Cheddar (We like Cabot)  
 4oz (1/2c) Cream Cheese  
 4oz (1/2c) Drop-In Lager (Any Drop-In Beer will work well in this!)  
 .5oz (1tbs) Mustard (Ground or Prepared)  
 .5oz (1tbs) Paprika  
 Pinch of Salt & White Pepper to taste

**Optional additions:** Roasted Garlic Clove(s) or 1tbs Garlic Powder, Chives or Green Onions, 1tbs Caraway Seeds, 1tbs+ Horseradish, Splash of Hot Sauce, Splash of Worcestershire, Splash of Sherry.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a Food Processor, add chunks of cheddar cheese, Pulse until broken into smaller pieces.
2. Add Cream Cheese, Drop-In Beer, Mustard, Paprika, White Pepper, and any optional addition(s).
3. Puree until completely smooth to achieve desired consistency. Taste to check salt level, add salt to taste if needed.  
 If too thick, add a splash of beer.  
 If too thin, add more cheese, shredded.  
 Not creamy enough? Add more cream cheese.
4. Serve with Crackers, Crusty Bread, Crudités. Pair with a Drop-In Beer!

This Pub Cheese may be served right away, or made ahead of time, allowing the flavors to marry. You may also finish this under the broiler in an oven safe dish, until golden brown. This will keep up to one week in the fridge.

## 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.

## LOIS'S MAPLE BAKED BEANS

### INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. Dried Yellow Eye Beans  
 ½ lb. Salt Pork or Bacon  
 ½ tsp. Baking Soda

1 tsp. Dry Mustard  
 1 tsp. Dry Ginger  
 1 Medium Sized Onion, Quartered  
 2 Cups Pure Vermont Maple Syrup

### 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.  
 Serves 10 or more



# DROP-IN

## Brewing Company

Addison County's Local Brewery

*Now Open Sundays*  
-Starting In December-

### Book Your Holiday Party

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Catering available from the Grapevine Grill

### Open on Christmas Eve

Cask Ale, Amuse-Bouche, & Good Cheer

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 Sunday 12-4 • Monday-Thursday 12-5  
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**MapleMeadowFarmEggs.com**



The Devold Family  
Since 1946

# 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.



# Fresh and Sumptuous Thai Cuisine

dinner • dine in • take out



Egg Rolls



Pad Thai with Chicken & Shrimp



Poke Bowl

appetizers • soups  
Thai salads • stir-fries  
curries • noodles  
daily specials  
poke bowls  
signature sushi rolls  
no msg added  
vegetarian options  
gluten free options

**SELECT WINES & BEER ON TAP**

**HOUSE SPECIALS...**

Choose from Duck or Fish Specialties, prepared in a variety of Thai Sauces.

**DAILY SPECIALS...**

Sensational Thai flavor in an off-the-menu Thai Surprise dish!

**OPEN:** Dinner 4:30-8pm Wednesday - Sunday

**CLOSED MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS**

*Please make reservations for parties of 6 or more.*

**We will be Closed Thanksgiving Day through Dec. 3rd, and Re-opening on Wednesday, December 4th.**

[www.SabaiSabaiThai.com](http://www.SabaiSabaiThai.com)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Sabai Sabai Thai Cuisine

OR ON INSTAGRAM: Sabaimidd



**22 Merchants Row • Middlebury, VT • 989-7376**

## SHEET PAN PASTA (WITH KALE)

### INGREDIENTS

12 ounces short pasta, such as gemelli or penne  
 Kosher salt  
 1 cup Panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)  
 1 cup grated Parmesan (about 3 ounces), divided  
 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
 ¾ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided  
 1 bunch curly kale, ribs and stems removed, torn into bite-sized pieces  
 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved  
 1 cup sour cream or crème fraîche  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 4 cups shredded cooked chicken (from 1-2½ pound rotisserie chicken)  
 ½ cups shredded mozzarella (about 6 ounces), divided

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Arrange a rack in top of oven; preheat to 450°. Cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water according to package directions.
2. Meanwhile, mix Panko, ¼ cup Parmesan, 2 Tbsp. oil, ¼ tsp. salt, and ¼ tsp. pepper in a medium bowl.
3. Toss kale and tomatoes with ½ tsp. salt and remaining 2 Tbsp. oil on a rimmed baking sheet.
4. Drain pasta, reserving ½ cup pasta cooking liquid. Return pasta to pot. Add sour cream, mustard, 1 tsp. salt, ¼ cup pasta cooking liquid, and remaining ¾ cup Parmesan and ½ tsp. pepper; stir until smooth. Stir in chicken and 1 cup mozzarella, adding more pasta cooking liquid if needed, until evenly coated. Transfer to sheet with kale and tomatoes and toss to combine. Top with Panko mixture and remaining ½ cup mozzarella.
5. Roast pasta mixture until cheese is melted and top is lightly browned, 5-7 minutes.

## 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.



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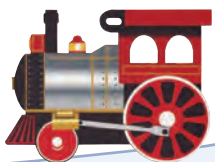
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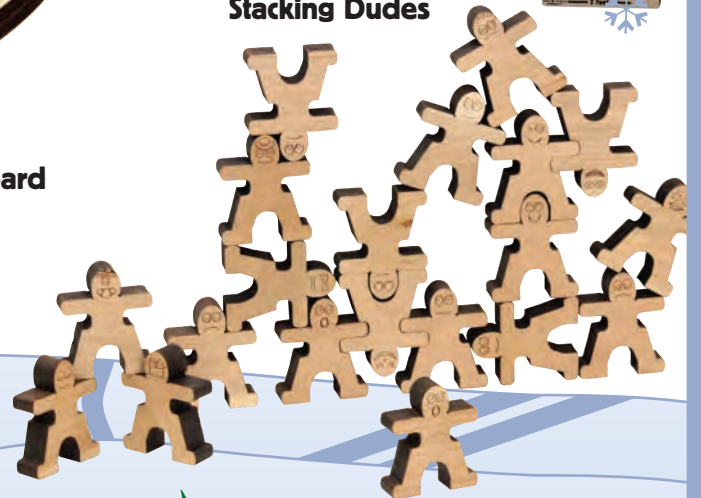


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