



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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December Edition

Volume 2 • Issue 45 | Month of December, 2025

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THE FIRST ANNUAL DECEMBER EDITION OUR BIGGEST, MERRIEST, JOLLIEST GAZETTE YET!



Marketing Director
Shannon Nixon

We're doing something we've never done before this December, and we have a feeling you're going to love it!

For the first time in Chautauqua Gazette history, we're publishing one

big, beautiful, full-month holiday edition: a single, joy-packed Gazette designed to carry our community through the entire season.

Why? Because December in Chautauqua County is magical, and we wanted to give our team the chance to create something truly special: a moment to pour our whole hearts into a festive edition worthy of our community. This is our supercharged, holly, jolly edition!

You'll find everything you need for a month filled with celebration: local stories, community traditions, holiday happenings, spotlights, memories, and more. Think of it as the county's

cozy winter companion made with a blend of Chautauqua pride, holiday sparkle, and the kind of spirit only our community can produce.

To our readers, our partners, our advertisers, and everyone who hands out or picks up a copy each week: thank you! Your support is the reason we get to do this work and the reason we're able to dream big.

So here it is: one joyful, jam-packed edition built to make December brighter, warmer, and just a little more magical.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Chautauqua Gazette.

~ COMMUNITY HOLIDAY EVENTS 2025 ~

Christmas in The Village of Lakewood
December 3, 5-6
Facebook: Lakewood Community Development Corporation

Dunkirk Christmas on Central Holiday Spectacular & Parade
December 6 | 11 AM - 7 PM
Facebook: Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events

Fredonia Miracle on Main Street
(Main St/Downtown Fredonia)
December 6
Info: festivalsfredonianyny.org

Light Up Cassadaga
December 6
Facebook: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

Randolph "Light Up The Night" Christmas Parade
December 6 | 7:30 PM
Facebook: Enjoy Randolph

Jamestown The Magic of Holiday Movies Parade
December 6 | 6 PM - 8 PM
Facebook: Collaborative Children's Solutions

Sherman Christmas in The Village
December 7 - 13
Info: Sherman Chamber of Commerce on Facebook

Christmas in Clymer
December 13 | 8am-9:45pm
facebook.com/events/clymer-ny/christmas-in-clymer

Christmas thru The Village Findley Lake
December 6 - 7 | 10am-5pm
visitfindleylake.com

Mayville Holiday Market
December 13-14 | 10 AM - 4 PM
Facebook



SEASON OF GIVING



Featured Writer
Sheila Webster

Gift giving is one of the greatest joys of my life. I love to see someone's face light up when they have received a great gift. Giving something to someone who will truly appreciate it makes me feel warm inside because it demonstrates a strong connection with that person. It's not really about the gift you gave or what they received, but rather the time and consideration you have paid to them. It can be challenging to pick out the right gift. It can require watching and listening and paying attention to the people on your gift list throughout

the year. Sometimes it can require remembering (or making notes about) something someone said or something they looked at in a store.

The best gifts are given from the heart and from personal connections between the giver and the receiver. Sure, wish lists are fine, but when you don't need the list because you know someone that closely, the giving becomes a shared moment of friendship, love, or respect.

My favorite places to shop are small, locally owned stores which are abundant throughout Chautauqua County. In pretty

much every community you can find outstanding shops that feature beautifully curated merchandise – from clothing to books to household items. I won't name drop here but do encourage you to seek out these exceptional little shopping venues in Bemus Point, Chautauqua, Clymer, Dunkirk, Falconer, Fredonia, Frewsburg, Jamestown, Lakewood, Mayville, Sherman, Silver Creek, Westfield, and additional locations. You'll know them when you see them – little places where you'll often be waiting on by an owner who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

**Live CHQ. Love CHQ.
Read CHQ.**

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~ DECEMBER 2025 AROUND TOWN ~

Monday, December 1

One Laugh at a Time: Memory Cafe | 10 AM
National Comedy Center
Jamestown
For Info: comedycenter.org

Tuesday, December 2

Mozart Chorus Free Concert | 4 PM-5 PM
James Prendergast Library
Fireplace Room | Jamestown
For Info: prendergastlibrary.org

Wednesday, December 3

One Stop Christmas Shop 5:30 PM-8:30 PM
The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Caroling in Allen Park 6 PM-7 PM
Allen Park | Jamestown
For Info: Allen Park Women's Club Facebook Page

Movies at The Reg: Blue Moon | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Wednesday, December 3 - Saturday, December 6

Christmas in The Village
Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: lcdcny.org

Thursday, December 4

CHQ Professionals Group: Jingle at the Rocks | 5:30 PM-7:30 PM
Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club
Fredonia
For Info: choosechq.com/CHQProfessionals

Friday, December 5

First Friday: "Fleeting Moments" A Collection of Wildlife Photographs 11 AM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

A2Z Apparel Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting 12 PM
61-63 Lake Shore Dr. W. | Dunkirk
For Info: NEckman@chqchamber.org

The Reindeer Who Saved Christmas | 6:30 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Holiday Kaleidoscope Night | 7 PM
Infinity Arts Cafe | Jamestown
For Info: infinityperformingarts.org

Friday, December 5Annual Christmas Bazaar 9 AM-5 PM
Chautauqua Fire Hall
Chautauqua
For Info: 716-357-3473

Saturday, December 6

Annual Christmas Bazaar 9 AM-4 PM
Chautauqua Fire Hall
Chautauqua
For Info: 716-357-3473

Miracle on Main Street
Downtown Fredonia
For Info: festivalsfredonia.org

Christmas on Central Holiday Extravaganza & Parade | 8 AM-7 PM
Central Avenue (from Third Stn to Fifth St.) | Dunkirk
For Info: cityofdunkirk.org

Fourth Annual Empty Bowls Project | 11 AM-2 PM
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Jamestown
For Info: 716-483-6405

Holiday Joy Featuring Harmony Production Company 11:30 AM & 2 PM
The Marvin House | Jamestown
For Info: marvinhouse@marvinhouse.com

Old-Fashioned Christmas Sing-a-Long | 1 PM-3 PM
Camp Street United Methodist Church | Jamestown
For Info: 716-488-4085

Light Up Cassadaga | 4 PM
Cassadaga
For Info: facebook.com/cbcassadaga

Jamestown NY Holiday Parade | 6 PM
City Hall | Jamestown
For Info: Collaborative Children's Solutions Facebook Page

Union Relief Association of Westfield Charity Ball 2025 7 PM
Eason Hall | Westfield
For Info: unionreliefwestfield@gmail.com

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

Christmas Through The Village
Findley Lake
For Info: visitfindleylake.com

Christmas in Randolph
Downtown Randolph
For Info: Enjoy Randolph Facebook Page

Sunday, December 7

Chicken & Biscuit Lunch 11 AM-2 PM
Stanley Hose Company | Sherman
For Info: Stanley Hose Company Facebook Page

"Picture Your Pet With Santa" Fundraiser 11 AM-3 PM
Lakeshore Humane Society Adoption Center | Dunkirk
For Info: lakeshorehumanesociety.org

First Sunday Storytime 12:30 PM-1 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Just Desserts Holiday Open House | 2 PM-4 PM
McClurg Museum | Westfield
For Info: cchsmcclurg.org

Sunday, December 7-Saturday, December 13

Sherman Christmas in the Village
Main St. | Sherman
For Info: Sherman Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page

Tuesday, December 9
Founders Day | 5 PM-7 PM
Robert H. Jackson Center
Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/events

Wednesday, December 10

Brio Bells Free Concert 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
James Prendergast Library
Fireplace Room | Jamestown
For Info: prendergastlibrary.org

Thursday, December 11

Build a Raven & Thorn Ornament | 7 PM
Raven & Thorn | Fredonia
For Info: Raven & Thorn Facebook Page

Holiday Recital | 7 PM
Infinity Arts Cafe | Jamestown
For Info: infinityperformingarts.org

The Doo Wop Project: A Doo Wop Christmas 7:30 PM
Harry A. King Concert Hall
Fredonia
For Info: fredonia.edu/about/ticket-office

Friday, December 12-Sunday, December 21

A Christmas Carol
Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/events

Saturday, December 13

Christmas in Clymer
Clymer
For Info: Clymer Area Business Association Facebook Page

Infinity's Annual Art Market | 10 AM-4 PM
Infinity Arts Cafe | Jamestown
For Info: infinityperformingarts.org

Little Explorers: Under The Snow | 10 AM-11:30 AM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Sensory Sensitive Santa 4 PM-6 PM
Fenton History Center
Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org

Saturday, December 13 Mayville Holiday Market 10 AM-4 PM

Town of Chautauqua Offices
Mayville
For Info: 3rd Annual Mayville Holiday Market Facebook Event Page

Lunch with Santa 11 AM-1 PM
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Live at The Met: Andrea Chenier | 1 PM
1891 Fredonia Opera House
Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

Saturday, December 13 (7 PM) & Sunday, December 14 (3 PM)

The Nutcracker | 7 PM
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Sunday, December 14

Mayville Holiday Market 10 AM-4 PM
Town of Chautauqua Offices
Mayville
For Info: 3rd Annual Mayville Holiday Market Facebook Event Page

The Nutcracker | 7 PM
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Brunch with Mr. & Mrs. Claus | 10 AM-1 PM
Wicked Warren's | Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-4070

The Nutcracker | 3 PM
The Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Thursday, December 18 - Saturday, December 20

St. Susan Center 13th Annual Holiday Haul
Jamestown Cycle Shop
Jamestown
For Info: stsusancenter.org/haul

Thursday, December 18 - Saturday, January 3

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest
Guppys
Bemus Point
For Info: guppystavern.com/events

Friday, December 19

Wine on The Trail | 3:45 PM
Dobbins Woods | Ashville
For Info: chautauquawatershed.org

Dinner with The Grinch & Santa | 4:30 PM-8:30 PM
Pearl City Hops | Jamestown
For Info: facebook.com/pearlcityhops

Saturday, December 20

Breakfast with Santa 9 AM or 10 AM
Northwest Arena | Jamestown
For Info: northwestarena.com/calendar

Christmas in a Barn | 10 AM
Alpacaville | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-664-0663

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party | 6 PM-9 PM
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Onesie Christmas Party 7 PM-11 PM
Raven & Thorn | Fredonia
For Info: Raven & Thorn Facebook Page

Sunday, December 21

3 C's Catering Christmas Breakfast | 8 AM-11 AM
Falcon's Nest | Falconer
For Info: 716-267-4403

Monday, December 22

Cantata | 10 AM
Christ First United Methodist Church | Jamestown
For Info: 716-664-5803

Wednesday, December 24

Tom and Jerry Party 12 PM-3 PM
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

Monday, December 29

Christmas with The Critters 10 AM-11:30 AM & 12:30 PM-2 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Community Messiah Sing 7 PM
St. Luke's Episcopal Church | Jamestown
For Info: 716-483-6405

Tuesday, December 30 & Wednesday, December 31

Holiday Camp 9 AM-3 PM
Audubon Community Nature Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Dinner Celebration | 5 PM-9 PM
Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com

New Year's Eve Party | 9 PM
DoubleTree by Hilton
Jamestown
For Info: eventbrite.com/e/jamestowns-new-years-eve-party-presented-by-dh-entertainment-tickets



Editorial with Lori Cornell

The Holidays Take Flight



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

I recently had the pleasure of flying into Buffalo during our first snowstorm of the year. I'm not normally a nervous flyer, but I've also never had an emergent in-air experience like that day. The pilot and flight attendants repeatedly forecasted our imminent approach to Buffalo throughout the two-hour duration of our flight from Orlando, setting our expectations and nerves for the worst.

Over the loud speaker: "The winds are very strong across Lake Erie... we may likely experience a difficult landing. We will do our best to get you home on time, etc, etc..."

As we flew closer to the airport, passengers braced to their seats firmly and the plane noticeably fought the high winds, teetering back and forth. We were only a few short feet from finally touching ground when the plane suddenly re-ascended and the pilot announced that he was unable to land. Long story, short, we circled around Western New York for another nail-biting, snowy half hour and finally did hit the Buffalo landing strip with a very jerky, ungraceful lurch.

I woke up the next day to an email from the airline company that made me laugh out loud. It read: "How was your flight experience?"

My point: Perspective.

Quite obviously, there are two ways I could have answered that question:

1) I could be thankful I was able to get home on time and impressed with the pilot for having braved and tackled that stormy, challenging landing to bring his passengers in safely. Or, 2) I could be disgusted that the airlines had even allowed for us to venture out amid such dangerous weather and question the aptitude of the pilot with his failed first-try land.

Perspective. It can make or break us. It can conjure happiness or hate. It can induce endorphins or angst.

And so, too, with the holidays. Right?!

We fly around December, most of us frantic and frenzied with long to-do lists that blur between the lines of fun and chores. It can be turbulent. It can be high-altitude bliss as you teeter back and forth between shopping lines and reminding yourself to re-focus on the true meaning of the season. The winds of demand prevail: to check your lists and check them twice; to deal with so many both naughty and nice; to send cards, trim the tree, hang lights, bake cookies, buy gifts, ready our homes and, whew, don't forget - ready our hearts. We buckle up and fly as fast as we can with a hot cocoa and/or a very hard eggnog in hand.

When you finally land your plane - or shall we say sleigh! - this December-end, what will your perspective be? How was *your* flight experience?

I hope you look back with the peace of the Season. I hope you look back with many memories to cherish. And I hope you look back, grounded in resolute notion, that despite your holiday frantic flight, "There's no place like home for the holidays" — here in Chautauqua County.

Happy Holidays to all!

Fessenden, Laumer
& DeAngelo, PLLC

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In Loving Memory

November 21

Michael A. Lundsten, 56
Ellington
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November 25

Jack S. Saullo, 71
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November 22

Arthur L. "Art" Hodges, 100
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Keith W. Kroenke, 86

Jamestown
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November 26

William H. Fairbank, 102
Panama
Lind Funeral Home

Mary Evelyn Gerace, 94
Lakewood
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What Christmas Means to Me



Contributing Writer

Ryan Chambers-Leonard

Every year when December arrives, I find myself circling back to the same question: Are we forgetting what this time of year is really supposed to represent? Christmas at its core is meant to reflect giving, gratitude and a sense of shared goodwill. Yet, it often feels like the season has become less about any of those things and more about consumption. The world today, especially America, moves in a constant cycle of marketing and buying, and once the holiday rush begins, stores seem to rotate merchandise faster than the days on the calendar. It is a loop that keeps us focused on what we can get rather than what the season asks us to give.

but the more we lose sight of giving and gratitude, the more disconnected and unhappy we seem to become. When we reduce Christmas to shopping, wish lists and consumption, something meaningful gets lost. Still, I think social media deserves some recognition here. Whether it is Instagram or Snapchat, you can scroll through the holidays and see people sharing traditions, memories or small moments that reflect genuine appreciation. Some of those trends are really just thankfulness in disguise.

In the end, it is a privilege to celebrate holidays that have lasted for hundreds of years. We simply have to remember what they are meant to represent. I know I sound old and cranky saying that, but the world is a scary place, and taking time to be grateful for what you have and what you may be giving or receiving this Christmas might make it feel a little less overwhelming. We have an opportunity to enjoy the holidays in a way that reflects gratitude instead of only consumption. I am not saying you should not be excited for gifts, because I know I am, but we could all do a little more to help each other this month.

From my perspective as a high school student, most of what I hear is friends saying they do not care much about the holidays or that they only look forward to receiving gifts or enjoying the food. It might sound like a small complaint during what should be a joyful month,

Among our impressive team of contributing writers is Ryan-Chambers Leonard. At only 17-years old, this Chautauqua County student writes well beyond his years and takes great care to research interesting topics for our readers. We are proud to showcase his talents.

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Happy Holidays
from our family to yours

Join Me in the Holiday Kitchen!!

Featured Writer

Vicki McGraw
Elegant Edibles

Well, friends, ready or not, Christmas is almost upon us! While much of what we expect of the holiday season seems to have changed over the years, the one constant is (hopefully!) a delicious platter of homemade Christmas cookies sitting upon your kitchen table. I believe homemade treats are always nice to give (and especially nice to receive!) because they have been made with love sprinkled on top.

When baking cookies to give as gifts, you will want to keep in mind how they will be delivered to the recipient. If you will be hand-delivering them, simply placing them on a pretty tray and wrapping with plastic wrap will work.

If, however, you plan to ship them out of town, here are a few tricks to keep in mind: Shape is important! Small, firm, round or flat cookies will pack most easily. Texture of the cookies also makes a big difference, so try to avoid very soft, tender types. Whenever possible, separate each variety by packing them in separate zipper bags to keep the flavors from mingling. Layer bagged cookies in your box with alternating bubble wrap, packing them as closely as possible to avoid “wiggle-room” and crushing. Expedited shipping methods work best - you don’t want the recipient getting stale, weeks-old treats!

While the season flies by, I recommend finding a few minutes for yourself when you can to sit back, grab a Gazette, a cup of coffee and a few cookies and savor the season! My wish for you all is a very Merry Christmas Season and a most HEALTHY New Year!

Toffee Crack-Up

- 50 saltine crackers
- 1 C butter
- 1 C brown sugar
- 2 C chocolate chips
- ½ to 1 C mini M&M’s, crushed peppermints or holiday sprinkles



Pre-heat oven to 325*

Line a 9x13 pan with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray. Line pan with the saltines.

Place butter and brown sugar in a medium pot and heat to a boil for 2-3 minutes.

Carefully pour hot mixture over saltines. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over crackers. Return to oven

for 5 minutes. Remove and let sit until chocolate melts, then carefully spread to cover. Top with desired toppings.

Once cool, break apart to serve. Store in air-tight container.

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Monday- Wednesday
11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Thursday
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Friday & Saturday
11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Sunday
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

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Faith Matters



HOLIDAY PERSPECTIVES

Buddhism and the Holidays



Featured Writer

Jo Hyatt

As a local Buddhist leader within Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a lay Buddhist organization, I am proud to be a part of this special December edition of the Chautauqua Gazette. As Buddhists, we use the holidays to focus on World Peace, starting with our interpersonal relationships. Changing the destiny of humankind begins with prayer, respect and willingness to dialogue with those we care about, even when they are challenging. Our practice is based on the teachings of Nichiren Diashonin, a 13th-century Buddhist reformer, who established the practice of chanting Nam Myoho Renge Kyo as a means for all people to bring forth their Buddha nature, a life state characterized by limitless courage, wisdom and compassion.

"Our Chanting of Nam Myoho Renge Kyo is the ultimate sound of respect for the dignity of life and universal harmony, Ikeda Sensei wrote in the World Tribune in November 2023. "It is the fundamental driving force for achieving security of the land and world peace." Ikeda Sensei was our long-time SGI president, who recently passed away. Ikeda Sensei

dedicated his life to spreading a message of peace and respect for the dignity of life throughout the world.

"To pray for others, making their problems and anguish our own; to embrace those who are suffering, becoming their greatest ally; to continue giving them our support and encouragement until they become truly happy. Nichiren Buddhism lives and breathes in such humanistic actions." Ikeda Sensei said at the January 27, 1993, General SGI-USA meeting in Santa Monica at the World Peace Ikeda Auditorium.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and in the new year, may you bring forth your limitless courage, wisdom and compassion.

Jo Hyatt was born and raised in Erie, PA, but has traveled and lived extensively throughout the United States. She has been a member of the Soka Gakkai International since 2002 and was asked to be a group leader when she moved to Jamestown several years ago. She became a Buddhist in her early twenties when she was living in New Jersey, in the midst of her Stand-up Comedy Career. In 2006, Jo went back to college as a nontraditional student and graduated Magna Cum Laude as a member of Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Since College, she has had numerous leadership roles for a multitude of companies and organizations throughout different industries and forums. Jo moved to Jamestown from Denver, Colorado to be closer to her family. She currently works as a Specialist/Designer at our local Home Depot.

'Tis the Christmas Season



Featured Writer

Pastor Shery Mahar

Christ First United Methodist Church

'Tis the season to be...

Well, the next song lyric says "jolly," yet if we aren't careful, this season can easily become something very different. Instead of joy, it can feel **stressful, debt-inducing, anxiety-filled, consumeristic, envy-laden, chaotic, crazy busy, and exhausting.** The world around us pushes us toward a mindset and pace that is counter to the heart of this season. It can make the season of light feel strangely dark.

In the church, the season we are entering is called **Advent**- a time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, and a time when we prepare for the second coming of Christ. Truly, "Jesus is the reason for the season." Christians have been saying this phrase for many years, reminding themselves and others to keep the focus on Jesus during the season of Advent and Christmas. It's been used so often that it can sometimes feel cliché, but it's a reminder we truly do need. Jesus is the One who brings **light into our darkness.** Jesus is our reason to celebrate. Jesus is our reason to prepare our hearts with expectation for the coming of our King.

'Tis the season to be jolly, yes- but also the season to be hopeful, peace-filled, joyful, and loving. 'Tis the season to hold on to our faith- no matter what's going on in our lives, because we remember that **Jesus was born for us**- the Light of the World, Emmanuel, which means, "God with us." As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed,

*"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned"*
- **Isaiah 9:2**

As believers, the light of Christ is within us. We carry the light of Christ into the darkness of the world. Christmas lights, candles, and our cherished traditions remind us of this reality. We tell the story of Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem. We give to others to celebrate and honor God, who gives generously to us. We sing songs, bake cookies, and have many traditions for celebrating the birth of Jesus- shining Christ's light everywhere we go!

So keep Jesus as your reason for this season, and may Christ's light within you burn brightly! 'Tis the season to **light up the world**, to carry hope, and to celebrate the One who came to save us!

Rev. Sherry Mahar has served as head pastor at Christ First United Methodist Church in Jamestown since relocating there last spring. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theater Arts from Binghamton University and a Master of Divinity Degree from United theological Seminary. Rev. Mahar and her husband, Don, have two adult children.

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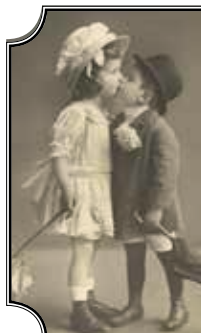
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Chanukah: One Light Can Transform Darkness



Featured Writer

Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin

Executive Director
Chabad Lubavitch of Chautauqua

This year, as all living Jewish hostages have finally been reunited with their families in Israel, Chanukah arrives with an especially deep sense of gratitude, relief and renewed hope.

Amid all the stories shared during these emotional weeks, one has stood out around the world — the story of Sapir Cohen, whose quiet courage brought light to one of the darkest places on earth.

Sapir was kidnapped from the Nova festival and taken into the tunnels beneath Gaza — narrow, airless passageways engineered to crush the human spirit. She lived for weeks without sunlight, freedom or dignity, surrounded by fear and uncertainty.

And yet, even in that darkness, something extraordinary happened.

One day, one of the terrorists guarding her sketched a small picture of a candle and wrote her name beside it. Confused, she asked him why. His answer was blunt and unsettling:

“I don’t like you. You’re my enemy.

But when you’re here... there is light.”

Sapir later explained that throughout her captivity she repeated the meaning of her own name. Sapir — like a sapphire’s radiance — is associated with brilliance and light.

“I kept telling myself, my name means light,” she said. “I have to hold on to my light and radiate.”

Somehow, in a place designed to extinguish hope, her inner flame remained steady. Even someone trained to hate recognized it. We are left with a powerful image: a young woman, imprisoned but unbroken, shining so strongly that even her captor sensed her light.

Chanukah teaches this same timeless truth.

When the small band of Maccabees reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE after their miraculous victory over the mighty Assyrian-Greek empire, they faced overwhelming devastation. The Temple was desecrated, the menorah

extinguished and Jewish spiritual life nearly crushed. Yet, they searched until they found one small vial of pure oil — a tiny spark of hope. It held only enough oil for a single day.

But the menorah burned for eight.

That moment became the heart of Chanukah: the belief that even the smallest spark, when nurtured, will grow into a more powerful, enduring light and illuminate far more than anyone imagined.

Each year we relive this miracle by lighting our menorah, adding an additional candle every night. We continuously increase the light, reminding ourselves that goodness will always grow and move upward. We place our menorahs in our windows and doorways, allowing the light to shine outward — because light is not meant to be hidden. Light exists to illuminate.

We light the menorah after sunset, not in broad daylight, demonstrating that it is precisely in times of darkness that light matters most. Each candle becomes a quiet promise: to rise, to hope, to brighten the world around us.

Chanukah is more than a memorial to a historical event. It is a living message about resilience, freedom and the unstoppable force of inner light — the same light shown by the Maccabees, and the same light Sapir carried through the tunnels of Gaza. A small flame — a single act of courage, kindness or faith — can spread farther than we ever imagine.

We celebrate the miracle of the oil with foods fried in oil, like latkes and donuts. Children spin dreidels, recalling a time when young Jews risked their lives to study the Bible, disguising their studies as play. Every custom is a reminder: Spiritual light has survived the darkest moments of history because we keep choosing to kindle it.

As families reunite and communities gather to light their menorahs this year, we hold close the message at the heart of Chanukah: one light can transform darkness — for ourselves, for those around us and for the world. Sapir’s courage, the miracle in the Temple and the small acts of goodness we bring into our own lives all point to the same truth:

Your light matters.

This Chanukah, may we each shine brightly — and may our light illuminate the world. To find a Chanukah event near you please visit: Chabad.org/chanukah

Rabbi Zalman Vilenkin is the Spiritual Leader of the Chabad Jewish House at Chautauqua Institution and enjoys summering locally each year. He also teaches Jewish Philosophy at the Talmudical Seminary in Brooklyn, NY.

Raspberry Pistachio Wreath (Babka)

Featured Writer

Nikki Pierce

Persnikkity Pies

Wreath (Dough) Ingredients:

- 2 ½ - 3 cups (315 - 375g) all-purpose flour
- ⅔ cup (165g) milk, warm (95-120°)
- ½ cup (115g) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons (40g) granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon (10g) instant dry yeast
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Pinch of salt, if not using salted butter
- *2 cups raspberry jam, reserved*

TO DECORATE:

- ¼ cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons (30g) water
- ¼ cup shelled pistachios, rough chopped
- liberal sprinkling of large crystal sugar

TO MAKE THE DOUGH:

Add all ingredients in a large bowl or stand mixer and mix until it comes together. Knead the dough for 5-10 minutes or until the dough becomes soft and stretchy. The dough should be tacky but shouldn't stick to the side of the bowl. If the dough is sticky, add a little more flour and knead again. If the dough is dry (where cracks are showing on the surface), add a dash of milk and knead again.

Leave the dough in the bowl or stand mixer, cover with a tea towel and place it in a warm place for at least 1 hour or until the dough doubles in size. If it doesn't double in size, place it in a WARMER spot and wait until it does.

Spray a clean surface and a rolling pin with non-stick spray or Pam

and roll out the dough into a rectangle shape around 25 x 45 cm large (10 x 20 inch). Spread the jam onto the dough so it's close to the edge.

Starting from the long side of the dough, farthest away from you, roll it into a log. Use a sharp knife to cut the log in half, length ways, creating two long 'strips' of pastry.

Carefully twirl the two halves together.

Place the dough on a parchment lined baking tray. Connect the two ends of the dough together to form a wreath. Cover the wreath and let it rest in a warm place for at least 1 hour or until increased in size by at least 20%. You can also let the wreath rest in the fridge overnight.

BAKING THE WREATH:

If you chilled your wreath overnight, let it come to room temperature. When you are ready to bake, preheat the oven to 170°C (340°F).

Bake the wreath for 20-30 minutes. (The amount of time will depend on your dough and how you made the wreath.) The wreath is ready when the surface is slightly golden brown and if you press the surface, it should feel firm and bounce back quickly. Allow the wreath to cool on the baking tray.

DECORATING THE WREATH:

To make a sugar glaze, add the sugar and water to a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir until the sugar has dissolved. While the babka is still hot, brush the sugar glaze on top with a pastry brush. Sprinkle the pistachios on the wreath followed by the Crystal Sugar to add holiday sparkle!

The wreath is best eaten the day it is baked. Alternatively, store it in an airtight container at room temperature for 1-2 days.



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MARTZ-KOHL OBSERVATORY

Night Skies in December

Contributing Writer

Andy Felong

Public and Media Relations
Martz-Kohl Observatory

December in Chautauqua County is a fantastic time to gaze at the night sky, with some truly spectacular views.

The highlight of December is the spectacular Geminid Meteor Shower, peaking on the night of December 13th into the morning of the 14th. This shower is often considered the best of the whole year, with the potential for over 100 colorful shooting stars per hour! This year is special because the Moon will be just a thin sliver (a waning crescent), so its light won't wash out the faint meteors, giving us a perfect opportunity for a fantastic viewing night. The best advice is to bundle up warm, bring a comfy lawn chair, lie back, and simply watch the whole sky. You don't need binoculars for meteors—just patience, a clear sky, and maybe a wish or two for these shooting stars!

Also in December, looking up in the early evening, the giant planet Jupiter is the star of the show, shining brilliantly in the eastern sky. It's so bright you can't miss it. If you have a pair of binoculars, point them its way, and you might just spot its four largest moons appearing as light "dots" near the bright planet. Further to the southwest, the beautiful ringed planet Saturn is also visible, appearing as a steady, yellowish "star."

As the evening gets later, the famous winter constellations start to rise. The most recognizable is Orion, the Hunter, with his distinct three-star belt shining in the south-southeast. A nebula is hidden among the stars of his "sword". Through



Submitted Photo

View the Orion Constellation and the brightest star, Sirius, in the South-Southeast sky in the month of December after 10 p.m.

binoculars, the Orion Nebula appears as a small gray-green triangular cloud. You can also use Orion's belt as a pointer to find Sirius, the brightest star (not planet) in the night sky. Imagine a line through the 3 belt stars pointing down to the left. Follow the line to the brightest star. In the east, spot the compact star cluster called The Pleiades or Seven Sisters. With binoculars, it becomes a field of dozens of blue stars.

The Martz-Kohl Observatory welcomes the public to our Open Observatory nights every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Admission is always free, though we genuinely appreciate any voluntary donations made at the door. Your generosity helps the all-volunteer team run our public programs, educational outreach, and exciting citizen science projects. The Observatory, located at 176 Robbin Hill Rd, Frewsburg, NY 14738, is managed by the Marshall Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc.—a non-profit organization made up of amateur astronomers dedicated to observational astronomy and sharing the wonder of the night sky.

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Johnny's Lunch: A Legacy of Family, Flavor, and One Remarkable Man



Contributing Editor
Katrina Fuller

For nearly 90 years, Johnny's Lunch has been a landmark in Jamestown. It is the kind of place where the sauce never changes, the faces at the counter feel like family and customers feel at home.

That sense of welcome has everything to do with the late Augusto "Gust" Calamunci, who passed away in September, and the incredible legacy he left behind. Gust spent a half-century building a life, a family and a community around the restaurant he ran with his wife, Dianne.

Gust was born in Villa Regina, Argentina, in 1934 and raised in Italy before immigrating to the United States in 1954. He wasted no time getting to work, first at Maddox Table and later at Crawford Furniture, where he formed lifelong friendships. He became a U.S. citizen in 1955. His sisters and mother later joined him here in 1956 and 1958.

In 1962, Gust married Dianne Colera, and the two began the kind of partnership most people only hope for.

"He was the best husband, father,

grandfather you could ever ask for," Dianne said. "He was just a great guy all around; everybody was his pal, his neighbor. That was how he treated everybody."

The couple purchased Johnny's Lunch from Dianne's parents in June 1975. It became a defining chapter not only for their family but for Jamestown itself.

Dianne described a life built side by side, from their first Valentine's Day together in 1962 to their 63 years of marriage.

"Our whole life was together," she said. "Every day, truly from morning to night."

Their days followed a steady routine. Gust woke at seven in the morning and got to the restaurant by 7:30 a.m. to begin the sauce. He returned home for breakfast, then went back to the restaurant with Dianne. When their children were little, the routine stayed the same. The business was woven into the family and the family was woven into the business.

Even into his 90s, Gust remained active at Johnny's. As recently as this past May, he supervised the back kitchen a few days each week, making the sauce exactly the way Dianne's father taught him.

Dianne explained that her father experimented with the recipe in the early days of the restaurant.

"One day, he came home excited and said, 'I think I got it,' and from then on nothing changed," she said.

Dianne said Gust honored every step of that original method. The sauce served today is the same one customers tasted generations ago.

The Calamuncis believe in keeping things simple. Treat employees like family. Treat customers like family. Keep the food consistent and delicious. Dianne said they often recognize customers by their orders and often know their names. Dianne believes that familiarity is a major reason people return year after year, especially during the holidays.

"Former locals stop in as soon as they arrive in town and sometimes joke, 'Don't tell Mom I stopped here first,'" Dianne said.

Johnny's Lunch continues today as a fourth-generation family business. Dianne works alongside her grandson, Robert Yezzi, who is preparing to take over the restaurant one day. Her granddaughter, Gioconda and her daughter-in-law, also named Gioconda, help carry the tradition forward.

One factor that Dianne and her family work to manage is pricing. "My father always used to tell me it was better to make a fast nickel than a slow dime, and



Augusto J. "Gust" Calamunci

treat your people well," she said. "And that's what we do." Fairness matters more than anything, and she and Gust tried to live by that principle.

As Johnny's approaches its 90th anniversary next year, the foundations Gust helped build remain strong. Family, loyalty and pride in the work continue to shape the restaurant.

Johnny's Lunch is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering the same beloved menu locals have grown up with. Although Gust is no longer in the kitchen, the heart of the place lives on. The warmth, the welcome and the sauce stirred with the same care as it was decades ago all carry his legacy forward.

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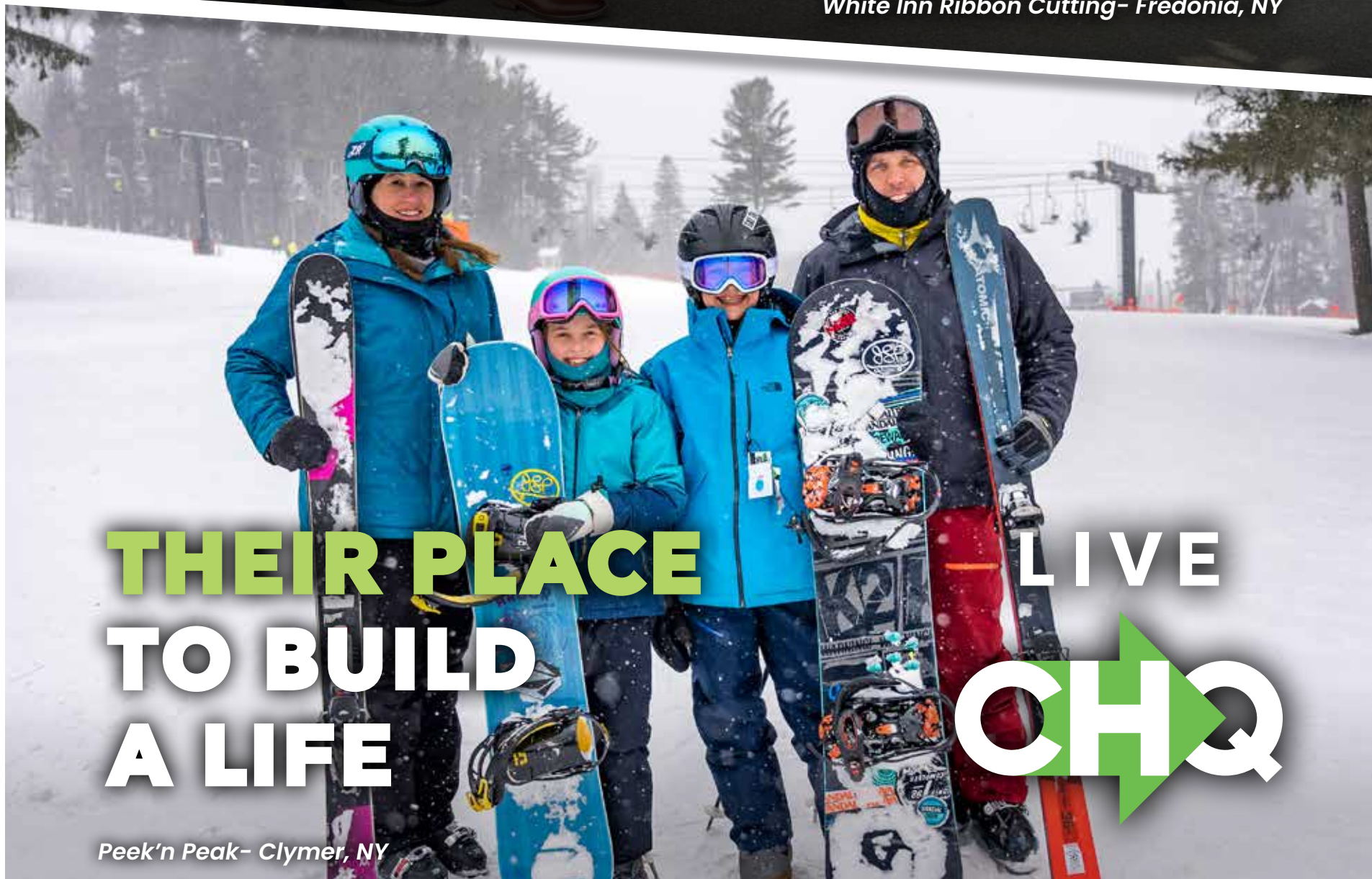
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Zonta Club Campaigns to End Violence Against Women



Contributed by
Zonta

The Zonta Club of Jamestown is joining Zonta International and thousands of advocates worldwide in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, observed from November 24 through December 10, 2025. The campaign raises awareness of violence against women and girls and calls for collective action to protect human rights and create safer communities. The campaign theme, “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women,” reflects Zonta’s global mission to envision a world where no woman lives in fear of violence. Throughout the 16 days, Zonta advocates for legislative change, education, and community action to influence the attitudes and behaviors that allow gender-based violence to continue.

In support of the campaign, the lights at Jamestown City Hall will illuminate in the colors of activism, symbolizing solidarity with survivors and a commitment to ending violence. On December 8, the lights will shine orange, followed by purple lighting on December 9. On December 10, in recognition of International Human Rights Day, City Hall will be lit in both orange and purple. The color orange represents a brighter future free from violence, while the color purple has long symbolized justice, dignity, and the courage of survivors. Throughout the 16-day campaign, public libraries across Chautauqua County will host educational displays



featuring resources on domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and local support services. These displays are designed to raise awareness and guide community members to places where they can seek help or assist others who may be in danger.

Violence against women and girls continues to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide. Nearly one in three women experiences abuse during her lifetime, and women remain the primary victims of domestic violence. In the United States alone, more than six women are killed every day by intimate partners. These numbers represent far more than statistics—each life lost or harmed is someone’s mother, daughter, sister, partner, or friend.

The Zonta Club of Jamestown challenges everyone in the community to take a stand, speak out against gender-based violence, and support public policies that protect survivors and their families. Together, we can build a future where all women and girls live in dignity, safety, and peace. Zonta says NO to violence against women, and invites the community to join the movement. If you or someone you know is experiencing violence, support is available. The Chautauqua County Domestic Violence, Rape & Sexual Assault Hotline can be reached at 1-800-252-8748 or locally at 716-661-3897. Connect with the Zonta Club of Jamestown at www.zontajamestown.org or on Facebook.



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CHAMBER CORNER

Thankful for Local Businesses

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

In addition to kicking off the shopping season season, the holidays are also a time for gratitude. That's true in many households, and certainly true in our local businesses.

Here at the CHQ Chamber we have much to be thankful for. First and foremost, we are thankful for our members. The over 900 local businesses that maintain a membership in the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce are really at the heart of everything we do. These member businesses cross all economic sectors, provide employment opportunities for local residents, and provide service all year round for people who live here as well as tourists that visit our area. Their membership in the Chamber of Commerce demonstrates a choice to be part of our community and to make our county stronger by connecting with other like-minded businesspeople.

We are grateful for our sponsors – a group of local businesses and organizations that see the value in the work we do as a business association. Sponsorship with the Chamber demonstrates their commitment to community and connectivity. The programs we provide and services we offer for local businesses simply could not happen without sponsorships, and we are thankful year-round for their support.

In addition, we are thankful for the numerous partner organizations that work alongside us day in and day out to create a stronger economic climate here in our county. These are the people who help businesses build from the ground up, find just the right locations, get started on the right foot, grow and expand, and more.

The CHQ Chamber also gives thanks for our community. The people in Chautauqua County are among the best anywhere. Our residents are happy to give to others and eager to support local businesses. While our county features outstanding natural resources and local attractions, it is the people that build community and we salute them.

The CHQ Chamber is a non-profit business association. Our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. Our team works all year

long to provide services such as our ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card, networking opportunities, workshops, and much more – all focused on our mission and on boosting our local businesses. Thank you for being part of the CHQ Chamber.

Join us for the CHQ Chamber 25th Annual Meeting

The CHQ Chamber is celebrating 25 years, and we hope you'll join us! Each year the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce holds its Annual Meeting and goes through some of the key steps for every annual meeting: election of board and officers, some special presentations, and a keynote address.

Our board roster for 2026 includes a broad variety of businesspeople from an array of economic sectors across Chautauqua County. The proposed slate includes Chair Heather Brown, The Resource Center; Vice Chair Emily Reynolds, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Treasurer John Felton, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union; and Secretary Robert Mazza, Mazza Chautauqua Cellars and Five & 20 Brewing and Spirits. New board members on the slate are Deborah Ferrer, Deborah Ferrer Design Studio; Angelo Marra, West Main Mercantile; Ken Morris, Brooks-TLC Hospital System; Dawn Murphy, Whizz-n-Smash; and Joe Sanfilippo, Sanfilippo Solutions. Returning directors are Jon Davis, Ashville General Store; Larry Fiorella, HBKS Wealth Management; Stephen Kolison, State University of New York at Fredonia; Vicki McGraw, Elegant Edibles Catering; Brian Pender, Northlake Development; Kristofer Sellstrom, Jamestown Board of Public Utilities; and Monica Simpson, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth.

Keynote speaker for the CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting will be Ronald Richard, the retired president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation. With an extensive background in both non-profit and for-profit work, we expect his message will resonate with many in Chautauqua County.

The Chamber will present the Pam Lydic Coalition Builder Award for 2025 to Aimee Rogers, the founder and president of Imagine Forestville. The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting will be held at noon, Friday, December 12, upstairs at Wicked Warren's, 119 West 3rd Street, Jamestown. The CHQ Chamber Annual Meeting is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Meals on Wheels Seeks Community Volunteers to Deliver Essential Meals This Winter

Contributed by
Meals on Wheels

As winter soon arrives in Chautauqua County, Jamestown Meals on Wheels has expanded its volunteer route system, and is in need of community volunteers to help deliver meals to senior citizens. "This time of year is a great time to think about delivering meals for Meals on Wheels," said Barrie Yochim, executive director for Meals on Wheels of the Jamestown Area. "The weather is turning cold and the snow starts to fall, we have an opportunity to ask new volunteers to come forward and safely deliver meals to seniors for us."

Meals on Wheels volunteers assist the community by delivering essential and nutritious meals each weekday to seniors within their own homes. Accepting seniors remain happy and healthy as a result of their daily meal deliveries. Statistics show that these seniors live longer, and are kept out of more costly hospitals and nursing homes, as the result of receiving home-delivered meals from Meals on Wheels and its volunteers.

Meals on Wheels has added three additional volunteer routes each day, Monday through Friday, in the community. Those routes, combined with seven other daily delivery routes which have existed for years, give community volunteers a large opportunity to help their community and get essential home-delivered meals into the hands of seniors who need those meals.

The additional routes will bring the total routes to be delivered each week to fifty

routes. These routes consist of between five and 12 meal recipients, and take up to a half hour to deliver.

Yochim said that a staff member accompanies the volunteer on the route the first time the volunteer delivers meals. This gives the volunteer the chance to understand the delivery system and the Meals on Wheels program.

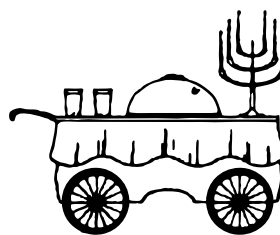
"A volunteer could easily deliver that first time without our help, but we know the volunteers are more comfortable this way," he said. "The volunteers get to understand how to deliver meals to each individual client, and there are no surprises."

Volunteers can volunteer one day a week or less frequently, as schedules allow, he said. Businesses and companies are encouraged to volunteer as a group, to allow many different individuals the chance to deliver to the area's senior citizens. Volunteers use their own cars to deliver meals.

Yochim said there are also plans to expand the volunteer route offerings even more in the community, after the current roster of volunteer deliver routes are filled by volunteers.

Jamestown Meals on Wheels provides heatable, supplemental, frozen and boxed bundle meals to seniors who qualify for home meal delivery. Meals on volunteer delivery routes are generally delivered between 10 a.m. and noon each day.

Jamestown Meals on Wheels is a United Way partner agency. Jamestown Meals on Wheels also utilizes volunteers from RSVP to deliver meals in the community.



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Chamber Corner

Continued from page 13

sponsored by Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Jamestown Community College, Media One Radio Group, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and Wicked Warren's. Our program booklet is sponsored by DFT Communications, M&T Bank, National Grid, Shults Auto Group, and UPMC Chautauqua. Our favors sponsors are Brooks-TLC Hospital System, LaBella Associates, and Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. The cost of lunch is just \$35 for this event and registration is open online now at www.chamberrsvp.org.

Holiday Window Decorating Contest Underway

The CHQ Chamber is proud to help promote local businesses in a variety of ways throughout the year. During this holiday season we are once again running a countywide Holiday Window Decorating Contest, and you can help your favorite local businesses win!

There are 34 businesses participating throughout the county. They have each done an amazing job of decorating their windows or storefronts for the holiday season and are ready to show them off. Each one submitted a photo to the CHQ Chamber for the contest, and we have created a Facebook gallery of those images, as well as a Google map showing all the locations. We urge you to check out the map online, then like or love your favorites in our gallery.

Visit www.facebook.com/CHQChamber and find our photo gallery. Only reactions on the original photo by the CHQ Chamber will be counted. The contest is open through December 17. Please support locally owned businesses this season and enjoy the holiday cheer!

If your business still wants to get in on this contest you can do so by contacting Carrie Swanson at cswanson@chqchamber.org.

Season of Giving

Continued from Front Page

knows their merchandise and takes pride in featuring quality goods. And don't overlook the amazing array of museum gift shops dotted throughout Chautauqua County where you can find items related to local history, nature, comedy, and so much more.

We are fortunate in our county, too, to have a wide variety of pop-up holiday markets featuring local artisans and crafters where you can find unique and locally made items. Many local organizations host these holiday vendor markets, and it can be a great opportunity to find gifts you'll never see anywhere else.

Experiential gifts are sometimes the best gifts. You can give tickets to upcoming shows, or memberships to local museums, historical societies, or nature centers.

You can also give directly to the community you love. The season is always right to give a donation to a nonprofit. It's especially easy this time of year when you just have to drop a few dollars into a Salvation Army red kettle or a new unwrapped toy into a Toys for Tots collection box. We are so fortunate here to have

an amazing array of nonprofits in Chautauqua County that are hard at work year-round to build the fabric of this community we cherish. They aid those in need, provide after-school programming for children, services for seniors, and important connections for all of us. Even if you can only afford a small donation, those small amounts collectively create a big impact.

Community is at the heart of this season of giving, and your gift of time to others may be one of the most valuable things you give during the holidays. Take some time to go to a school concert, a church pageant, or just carve out some time to have coffee with friends. Enjoy one of the numerous holiday parades or tree lighting nights with your family. I promise you; those memories you're making together will one day be seen as the greatest gift you gave – the gift of yourself and your time. Enjoy this season with family, friends, and community. Happy Holidays!

Sheila Webster is Director of Marketing, Communications and Governmental Affairs for the CHQ Chamber.


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End-of-Year Medicare Guide: What Beneficiaries Need to Know

Contributed by
**Chautauqua County
Office for the Aging**

As the year comes to a close, Medicare beneficiaries have an important opportunity to review their coverage, make adjustments, and prepare for the year ahead. Whether you're enrolled in Original Medicare, a Medicare Advantage plan, or a standalone Part D prescription drug plan, understanding what actions to take at year-end can help you avoid unexpected costs and ensure that your health coverage meets your needs.

Each fall, Medicare plans send out an Annual Notice of Change outlining updates for the coming year. This document explains changes to monthly premiums, deductibles and copays, provider networks, drug formularies and any additional or benefits that have been removed. Even small adjustments may impact your out-of-pocket costs.

The end of the year marks the final chance to change your Medicare coverage for the upcoming year. During Open Enrollment, individuals were able to review their current plans, and make changes if necessary. Some of these options:

- Switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage (or vice versa)
- Change Medicare Advantage plans
- Join, switch, or drop a Part D prescription drug plan
- Changes made during this period take effect on January 1.

For individuals that did not make a change during the annual open enrollment you may still be able to do so. Individuals enrolled in the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program or the New York State's Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (SPAP), can still make that change before the end of the year. You can join or switch a Medicare Part D plan or Medicare Advantage plan **once per calendar year**, using this Special Enrollment Period (SEP) instead of waiting for the usual open enrollment.

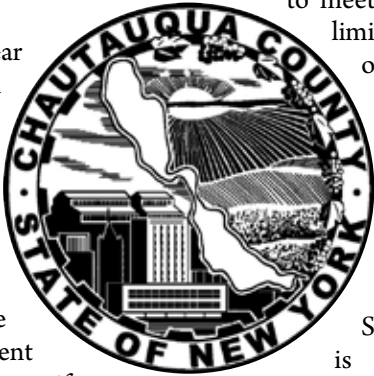
The **Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period** (MA OEP): For those already on a Medicare Advantage plan, each year from **January 1st to March 31st**, you can make a one-time change. You have the ability to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan or go back to Original Medicare (with or without a stand-alone Part D plan). If you experience certain qualifying life events (move, lose other coverage, etc.), you may get a broader **Special Enrollment Period** (SEP), allowing plan changes mid-year.

Make Use of Your Remaining Benefits before December 31st. Consider taking advantage of any unused benefits such as the Annual wellness visit, Preventive screenings (mammogram, colorectal cancer screening, flu shot, etc.), Dental, vision, or hearing benefits (Medicare Advantage plans) and Over-the-counter (OTC) allowances, if included in your plan. Many of these benefits reset annually, so using them now may help you save money. If you are close to meeting your out-of-pocket limit (Medicare Advantage) or your deductible (Part D), year-end may be a good time to schedule additional care or refill prescriptions before amounts reset.

Watch out for Medicare Scams. The year-end is a common time for fraudulent calls or mail about Medicare. Please remember Medicare will never call to ask for personal or financial information. Staying vigilant helps protect your identity and your benefits.

In conclusion, the end of the year is the ideal moment for Medicare beneficiaries to evaluate coverage, understand upcoming changes, and take full advantage of available benefits. With a little planning now, you can enter the new year confident that your coverage supports both your health and your budget.

Great resources for Medicare assistance is 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227), Medicare.gov or your local State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP). If you need any further assistance please reach out to the Office for Aging Services and NY Connects either by stopping at one of our office locations, via email at ccnyc@chqgov.com or by phone at 716-753-4582.



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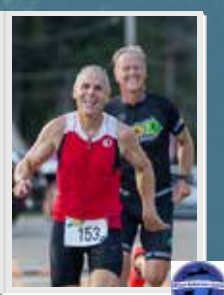
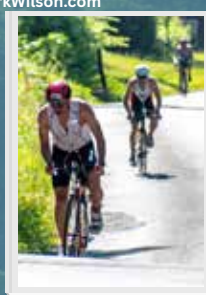
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Photo by: Kim Weber



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JPS Musicians Selected for All-State Ensembles

Seven students perform among New York State's most talented musicians

Submitted photos



JHS Sr High All State: From left to right, Rya Giuffre, Hayden Langford, Gina Delgado, and Zoey Shimmel represented Jamestown High School at NYSSMA's Zone 1 Senior High Area All-State Festival on Nov. 21 and 22.



JHS Jr High All State: From left to right, Aristeia Theofilactidis, Melina Singleton, and John Nelson represented Jamestown's middle schools at NYSSMA's Zone 1 Junior High Area All-State Festival at Pioneer Central School on Nov. 8.



JHS Conference All State: Rya Giuffre, left, and Hayden Langford, right, will represent Jamestown High School at NYSSMA's Winter Conference All-State festival from Dec. 4 to 7 in Rochester, where they will perform in the festival's Mixed Chorus with students from all 15 zones across New York state.

JHS A Cappella Choir Alumni Refurbish Rehearsal Piano



Submitted Photo

Alumni of the Jamestown High School A Cappella Choir came together ahead of the choir's 100th Anniversary A Cappella Alumni Vespers last December to raise funds to refurbish the ensemble's Baldwin rehearsal piano.

Illos Piano Restoration of Buffalo completed the refurbishments over the summer and early fall before returning the piano to JHS A Cappella Choir Director Lauren Scharf last week. Pictured with Scharf are directors emeritus Norm Lydell and Brian Bogey, who helped organize the effort in collaboration with the A Cappella Choir Alumni Committee and JHS Choral and Band Association.



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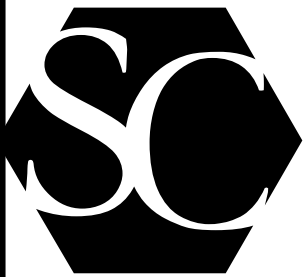
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Artscape Fredonia Issues Call for Artists and Sponsors



Contributed by
North Shore Arts Alliance

Artists from throughout the Tri-County area (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany) are invited to submit images of their artworks to be considered for **Artscape Fredonia**, a new public art banner program that will bring original works to the streets surrounding Barker Common in downtown Fredonia.

The submission period for artists is **December 6, 2025 - January 10, 2026**. Businesses, individuals and organizations are also encouraged to participate as Sponsors within that timeframe as well. Sponsors’ names will appear on the banners, showing community support for the arts and downtown revitalization.

Artscape Fredonia offers a vibrant new platform for regional artists to share their creativity with residents and visitors alike. The project aims to enliven public spaces, celebrate local talent, and strengthen the cultural and economic vitality of the Fredonia area.

Submission Guidelines: Artists should submit vertically oriented images with a 4:3 aspect ratio, or cropping may occur to fit banner dimensions. Entries are welcome

Sponsor Registration



SCAN ME

Artist Registration

SCAN ME



from artists aged 18+ and at experience levels.

A **\$10 jury fee** for submitting 1, 2 or 3 artworks will help offset program costs.

Program Schedule:

- Artwork Submissions and Sponsorship Opportunities Open: December 6, 2025, and Close: January 10, 2026
- Sponsors Notified Upon Receipt of Form
- Artists Notified Upon Completion of Jurying: February 1, 2026
- Accepted Artwork Originals Delivered: February 8-10. Location in Fredonia TBA
- Accepted Artists’ Originals Pop-up Exhibition and Sponsors Reception for the Public, April 24 2026, 5 - 7pm, in Fredonia
- Banners Installed: Throughout May 2026

Coordinated by the **North Shore Arts Alliance**, Artscape Fredonia is modeled after Jamestown’s banner program developed by Chautauqua Art Gallery and the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation. NSAA’s new initiative in Fredonia extends the county’s commitment to art and community collaboration by transforming public spaces into open-air galleries that inspire connection, pride, and creativity. Artscape Fredonia is generously supported by The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation.

Please click on the QR codes below to apply or sponsor.

For more information:
sarabmichalak@gmail.com.

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10							
11					12							13					
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49					50	51				52		53	54	55			
	56						57		58							59	
				60				61									
					62								63				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour

5. Rise

11. Gratitude

14. A low wall

15. Kidnap

18. A cup golfers want to win

19. Outgoing

21. “Partner” to flow

23. Former Michigan coach Brady

24. Proverb

28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

29. Helps a body recover

30. Baseball Cy Young winner

32. Very fast airplane

33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water

36. Record of one’s heartbeat

39. Signs a contract

41. Atomic #24

42. Bind securely

44. French Jesuit theologian

46. Fragrant brown balsam

47. Post office box

49. Sells tickets at inflated prices

52. Places to hang coats

56. Jewish salutation

58. Yellow fruits

60. Poorly educated

62. Microorganism

63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan

2. Three-banded armadillo

3. Mobile

4. Romanian city

5. Making sour

6. Take a seat

7. “The Golden State”

8. When you hope to arrive

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. Extinct flightless bird

12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword

13. Nape of neck

16. Problems (Spanish slang)

17. Narrow carpet

20. To avoid the risk of

22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)

25. Equally

26. Traditional cars still need it

27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part

34. Referee-declared outcome

36. Means to moving money

37. Popular footwear brand

38. Cockatoo

40. NFL’s big game

43. Botswana currencies

45. News-reporting organization

48. Batman villain

50. Urgent request

51. Not all

53. Hallmark’s specialty

54. Knot in a tree

55. Satisfy

57. Notable space station

58. Baby’s dining accessory

59. Stitch clothing

61. ___ and behold

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The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (OFAS), together with dozens of generous partners and volunteers, is once again spreading holiday cheer through the annual Santa for Seniors campaign—an initiative that ensures isolated older adults throughout the county are remembered, celebrated, and supported during the holiday season. This year’s effort will unfold through several weeks, culminating in a countywide delivery day:

- **Package Organization Day:** Dec. 2
- **Setup Day: First Baptist Church Mayville:** Dec. 7
- **Gift Bag Packing Day:** Dec. 9
- **Countywide Delivery Day:** Dec. 11

Hundreds of donated items—including practical necessities, comforting treats, and thoughtfully packaged meals—will be sorted, packed, and personally delivered to seniors living alone or with limited support systems across Chautauqua County.

“Santa for Seniors is so much more than a holiday project—it’s about honoring those who have contributed so much to the fabric of our community,” said **Dana Corwin, Director of the Office for Aging Services**. “These visits provide joy, reassurance, and a moment of meaningful connection. Watching volunteers from all backgrounds work hand-in-hand each year is deeply inspiring.”

Longtime event organizer **Debbie Perry**, who has helped lead Santa for Seniors for many years, shared how meaningful the project has become.

“What keeps me coming back year after year are the stories — the smiles, the tears, and the heartfelt gratitude from the seniors we meet,” said **Perry**. “For some, this is the only visit they receive during the holiday season. To know that we can brighten even one day makes every ounce of work worthwhile.”

This year’s campaign is headquartered

at **First Baptist Church in Mayville**, allowing volunteers and community groups to come together in an organized and welcoming space. Support is also made possible by dedicated partners, including the **Rev. J. Paul Womack Christmas Basket Fund at Hurlbut Memorial Community United Methodist Church**, along with numerous families, civic groups, businesses, churches, and county employees.

To give residents a look behind the scenes, OFAS encourages the public to view a short highlight video showing how Santa for Seniors comes together each year:



Watch here:
<https://youtu.be/6R9odgNIYAI>

Each carefully curated gift bag includes comfort items, hygiene supplies, seasonal treats, and a hand-packed meal. Volunteers—ranging from multigenerational families to service groups and public employees—will personally deliver the gifts to seniors throughout the county on December 11.

Corwin expressed her gratitude to everyone involved, saying “every donor, volunteer, driver, and supporter makes this possible. Your kindness directly touches a senior’s heart and reminds them that they are valued and remembered.”

How to Help: Community members interested in volunteering, donating, or referring a senior for next year are encouraged to contact OFAS for participation details. For more information, visit chqgov.com/office-aging or follow **Office for Aging Services** on Facebook.

About the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services: Under the leadership of Director Dana Corwin, the Office for Aging Services provides essential programs, resources, and supportive services that empower seniors, caregivers, and families to live safely, independently, and with dignity. To learn more, visit chqgov.com/office-aging.



Chautauqua County Announces 2026 Tourism Grant Awardees

Funding to Boost Local Tourism, Cultural Experiences & Sustainable Travel Initiatives

Contributed by
Chautauqua County

Chautauqua County has awarded \$135,349 in 2026 Occupancy Tax Tourism Development Grants for Tourism Product Development, supporting innovative projects that elevate visitor experiences, strengthen regional attractions, and drive long-term tourism growth. After an extremely competitive application process where the County received a record number of applications, 14 projects from across Chautauqua County were selected for their creativity, community impact, and alignment with the program’s goals. Each project represents the spirit of innovation and collaboration that makes Chautauqua County Tourism thrive.



“By supporting projects that enhance attractions, improve visitor engagement, and build long-term value, we are investing in the future of tourism in Chautauqua County,” said PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive. “This year’s awardees are leading the way with fresh ideas that will help position our county for sustained growth and increased visibility on a regional and national stage.”

The Occupancy Tax Grant for Tourism Product Development was established to support projects that attract new visitors, extend stays, and highlight the diverse attractions unique to Chautauqua County. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$1.5M to more than 220 local initiatives across the County. For more information about the Tourism Grant Program and past awardees, visit: planningchautauqua.com or contact Steph Nick, Special Projects Coordinator – Economic Development, Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Development nicks@chqgov.com.

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- Events:**
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 - Festival’s Fredonia – Ice Wine Festival
- Placemaking:**
- Findley Lake Forward – Findley Lake I-86 Tourism Attraction Project
 - Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – Marden Cobb Waterway Trail – Wayfinding and Informational Kiosks: Phase II
 - Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency – Discover & Explore, Jamestown Pictorial Map
 - Scott’s Peek n’ Peak – Multi-Purpose Sports Complex Feasibility Study
- Marketing:**
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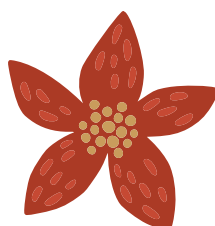
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New Local Author: Book Release

Contributed by

Good Neighbor Book Store

Local readers now have the opportunity to explore a heartfelt new release, *Anchored: A Father's Reflections on What Matters*. Dr. Kenneth Erickson holds a PhD in Health Science from Lancaster University England, has lectured internationally on Health and has taken his first steps in authorship by writing his first book.

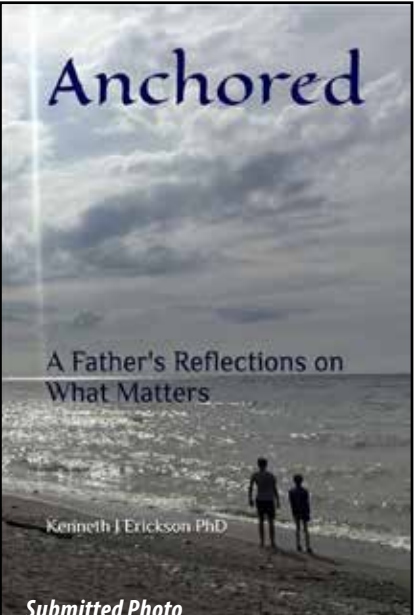
Anchored: A Father's Reflections on What Matters focuses on: what do we leave behind when the noise quiets and the dust settles?

For Dr. Erickson, a devoted father, health professional and reflective teacher, the answer is simply this: We leave behind who we are, how we lived and what we stood for.

Anchored is more than a book, it's a heartfelt offering. Written as a legacy for his sons, Dr. Erickson shares the lessons that shaped his life. Insights learned through personal failures and triumphs, drawn from history, philosophy and the wisdom of lived experience. Each chapter is grounded in timeless principles and emotional intelligence. The book concludes with a deeply personal reflection titled, "From Father to Son."

But this book isn't just for his sons. It's for anyone who has ever asked themselves, "What truly matters?"

It's for readers who value truth over trend, and depth over distraction. Whether you're a parent, a seeker or simply someone trying to live with more intention and integrity, *Anchored* offers a steady compass.



Anchored

A Father's Reflections on What Matters

Kenneth J. Erickson PhD

Submitted Photo

Anchored is available at Dr. Erickson's practice location in Jamestown (Erickson Chiropractic), at Pea Pod & Juniper, Good Neighbor Book Store and Chautauqua Book Store on the grounds of Chautauqua Institution.

About Ken Erickson, PhD, DC, DACNB


Ken Erickson brings a rare blend of real-world grit, academic depth and clinical insight to the field of health and human performance. Beginning his professional journey as a master electrician, Ken later followed a deep curiosity about the human body and brain - earning a Bachelor's degree in Human Biology, a Doctorate in Chiropractic, and a Post-Doctoral Diploma in Clinical Neurology. He holds a PhD in Health Science from Lancaster University in Lancaster, England, where his research focused on applied neuroscience and integrative health strategies. Currently, Ken has a full-time practice at Erickson Chiropractic in Jamestown.

ANCHORED
A Father's Reflections on What Matters Most
by Kenneth J. Erickson


Local chiropractor, internationally recognized health expert and proud father of two sons, releases his first book in their tribute.

Challenge your perspective. What truly matters? What will you leave behind when the noise quiets and the dust settles?

This book is for readers who value truth over trend, and depth over distraction. Whether you're a parent, a seeker or simply someone trying to live with more intention and integrity, *Anchored* offers a steady compass.




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"Yes! Yes I do! I like Christmas!

I love Christmas!"

- Ebenezer Scrooge, *A Christmas Carol*

E2CCB Celebrates Holiday Season with Fitness and Culinary Fun



Contributed by
Erie 2–Chautauqua–Cattaraugus BOCES

Erie 2–Chautauqua–Cattaraugus BOCES highlight community, collaboration, and hands-on learning as students take part is several local holiday traditions.

Annual Turkey Trot
The LoGuidice Educational Center and WNY P-TECH recently took part in their annual 1.5 mile Turkey Trot. The event was organized by the Sports Conditioning & Exercise Science program with support from Construction Technology, Conservation/Natural Resource Management, Criminal Justice, and Health Careers.

New York State Holiday Cookies
A long-standing partnership between E2CCB and the Chautauqua Lake Central School District once again brought something sweet to fourth-grade students: sugar cookies shaped like the state of New York. The annual New York State Cookie Project began about 25 years ago when former teacher Ed Carutis introduced it as a fun way to teach geography. Later continued by Margie Weise, the tradition now falls under the guidance of fourth-grade teacher Denny Morrison, who

incorporates the cookies into social studies lessons. This year, under the direction of Chef David Caccamise, juniors in the Culinary Arts program at the LoGuidice Educational Center baked 45 sugar cookies. Students used frosting and candy pieces to mark rivers, mountains, lakes, and cities across the Empire State.

Empty Bowls Project
The LoGuidice Culinary Arts students also put their skills to work for a local hunger-relief effort. E2CCB partnered with the Empty Bowls Project, giving Career & Technical Education students hands-on experience in preparing baked goods for the community. Over several mornings, juniors baked 600 cookies — 200 each of chocolate chip, peanut butter, and snickerdoodle. Under Chef Caccamise’s guidance, who has volunteered with the Empty Bowls Project for more than 15 years, students contributed to the event for the second consecutive year. Chautauqua County features two Empty Bowls fundraisers. One was held at Wheelock School in Fredonia this past November and another will be held Dec. 6 at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Jamestown. Proceeds from the fundraisers will benefit FeedMore WNY.

For more information on E2CCB and its Career & Technical Education and P-TECH programs, visit e2ccb.org.

NCCF Supports Local Food Pantries’ Urgent Needs

Contributed by
Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation



It’s not unusual to see an increase in demand for food assistance during the holiday season. However, the increase this year has been, and is expected to continue to be, far greater than is normally seen. Much of this is due to rising food prices across nationwide and the impact of the government shutdown. According to Diane Hannum, Executive Director of Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation (NCCF), “Local pantries are seeing more neighbors turn to them for food. This increase began even before the SNAP pause. Seeing this level of need is heartbreaking, but it is exactly why the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation exists. When our neighbors are struggling, we step forward. Supporting our local pantries and the families they serve is at the core of our mission.”

In response to documented need and the increasing demand for food throughout the area, the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation will award emergency response grants totaling \$53,000 to FeedMore WNY, local food pantries, soup kitchens, school pantries and backpack programs to help them provide sufficient amounts of nutritious food to ensure all people in northern Chautauqua County are adequately fed. The Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation’s Board of Directors has approved allotments of \$32,000 for FeedMore of WNY to restock local pantries and \$23,000 to be disbursed directly to local pantries and other food assistance programs located throughout northern Chautauqua County.

Pantries directly receiving funds include the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, Salvation Army, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Closet in Dunkirk; Brocton-Portland Food

Pantry; Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry in Forestville; Forestville Food Pantry, Inc.; The Fred Basket in Fredonia; Ripley Community Council Food Pantry; and the Silver Creek Food Pantry. Local residents experiencing food insecurity can locate a food assistance program near them in the “Find Resources” section on the 211wny.org website. They need only to type “food” and enter their ZIP code to show programs near their home.

The NCCF is a tax-exempt charitable organization inherently committed to enhancing the northern Chautauqua community and encouraging local philanthropy. As a nationally accredited community foundation, the NCCF has proven compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, demonstrating integrity, equity, accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in meeting the needs of its community.

This emergency response funding is made possible through the generosity of the many donors who have established Community Funds at NCCF. Contributors can assist their neighbors and positively impact northern Chautauqua County communities by making donations to the funds. Since its incorporation in 1986, the NCCF has invested over \$23 million in northern Chautauqua County through strategic grantmaking, targeted scholarships, and leadership and community collaborations. To learn more about the campaign or make a contribution online, visit our website at nccfoundation.org. To create your own Community Fund at NCCF, email nccf@nccfoundation.org or call our office at 716-366-4892 for more information.

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Volume 2 • Issue 45 | Month of December, 2025

HOPE LIVES IN THE DARKNESS

A December reflection on what holds us together when life falls apart.



Featured Writer

Adam Rohler

Seven years ago, at our holiday dinner table, I sat across from a relative who was deep in a fight with stage-four cancer. His body was exhausted from treatment. His smile was thin, but it was there. He laughed at small jokes and listened closely to people around him. I left that table wondering how someone carrying so much could still be present to all around him.

As a pastor and therapist, I've spent years watching people move through depression, trauma and loss. The consistent thread among the resilient is not positivity; it's presence. They stay engaged with their lives even when their hearts feel heavy. That night with my relative reminded me that hope does not always come with trumpets. Sometimes, it sits quietly beside the pain and refuses to leave. Most of us are not fighting cancer, yet many of us are carrying our own shadows. Stress that doesn't let up. A marriage stretched thin. A child drifting off-course. A job that drains more than it gives. Health concerns that scare us. Money pressure that steals sleep. Loneliness that lingers. There are seasons when everything feels dizzying and we're just trying to keep our balance.

During those seasons, hope can seem like a fickle companion. Some days it feels sturdy. Other days it disappears. People often assume that means something is wrong with them, but

psychologists see this as normal. Hope is not an emotion you're born with. It's a skill that rises and falls depending on connection, meaning and whether we believe change is possible.

If hope is so fragile, how do some people manage to carry it even in their darkest hours?

The answer is not denial. It's not blind faith. It is that hope often begins inside the darkness, not after it. We don't need hope when life is already going well. We need it when the story feels uncertain.

My relative wasn't hopeful because he knew that everything was going to be okay. No. He was hopeful because he hadn't disconnected. He was still in the room. Still in relationship. Still reaching for meaning in small, ordinary ways. Connection is one of the strongest predictors of resilience we know in mental health, and it often acts like a lifeline in the dark.

Around this time of year, people feel pressure to look joyful, grateful and emotionally available. But many walk into December carrying grief, fear or fatigue. In reality, simply showing up becomes a quiet act of courage. Sitting at a table with people while your chest feels heavy is an act of hope. Reaching out when you'd rather withdraw is an act of hope. These small, human movements keep us tethered to life instead of drifting away from it.

There is a hope that human beings have leaned on since the beginning, sometimes knowingly, sometimes by instinct alone.

In the mental health world, we talk about resilience, about the natural capacity people have to adapt, heal, and find their footing again even after something shakes them to their core.

In the Christian tradition, that same idea shows up as a blessing and grace. Whether we name it faith, resilience, or simply the stubborn will to keep going, it is real, and it is working in us even when we cannot feel it.

People do this, not by pushing away the pain or pretending everything is fine, but by allowing themselves to be human. By naming what hurts. By leaning on each other. By remembering. By crying when they need to cry and laughing without guilt when a moment of joy sneaks back in. Healing looks less like a heroic moment and more like one small honest step followed by another.

I think that is where faith has something useful to offer, even to people who do not think of themselves as particularly religious. At its best, faith teaches that light is more powerful than the dark, but also, hope is not something we create by force of our own will. Instead, hope is often a gift that meets us where we are. And it shows up in the dark places first. The story of Jesus begins in the quiet margins of the world, not the spotlight, and that matters. It suggests that God does not wait for us to be okay before drawing near. For many people, that belief becomes another source of steadiness. Not a perfect answer, but a reminder that darkness is not the end of the story; instead, it might be the beginning.

From a mental health perspective, even a small belief in the possibility of change shifts how the brain works. The nervous system calms. Problem-solving improves. Emotional regulation opens up.

Whether that belief comes from community, faith, or the simple decision to keep trying, the effect is the same. Hope gives the mind room to breathe.

If you're in a painful season, this doesn't mean you need to be cheerful all the time and put on a good show for everyone. It also doesn't mean that you have to disconnect and be on your own. Practice hope, even in small ways. Stay connected to someone. Let a friend or family member sit with you. Let yourself rest. Sit in the back row of a church and listen to the choir sing. These are deeply valid ways to practice hope. If you're in a steadier place, you can become a quiet anchor for someone else. You can lend them a little light until they find their own again.

In the end, hope lives in the dark because that's where it's needed most. It grows when we choose connection over isolation, honesty over pretending, and compassion over shame. Live into this hope this holiday season and remember: You're not walking alone.

Adam is a licensed mental health counselor, pastor, and musician who helps people find steadiness when life gets overwhelming. Known for his grounded, hopeful approach, he works with all ages in the community. He lives locally with his wife, Amy, and their kids.

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Christmas, they're
cutting down trees.
They're putting up
reindeer and singing
songs of joy and
peace."*

- Joni Mitchell, *River*



*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

- Luke 2:10



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December Worship Schedule
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Brian A. Bogey, Organist & Choir Director
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Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

Sunday, December 7th

Advent II 9:00 & 11:00 am Worship Services

Holy Communion. The Rev. Adam Rohler, Pulpit Guest

Sunday, December 14th

10:00 a.m. Combined Advent III Service

Children's Pageant and First Lutheran Choir

Sunday, December 21st

Advent IV 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

With The Rev. Lee M. Miller, Bishop Upper N.Y.S. Synod

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

4:00 pm – Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

Sacred Fire Praise Team

10:00 pm Instrumental & Vocal Preludes

10:30 pm – Traditional Festive Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 28th

Combined Worship Service at 10:00 am

"Come and Worship the Newborn King!"





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"Picture Your Pet With Santa"

Contributed by
Lakeshore Humane Society

The Lakeshore Humane Society's "Picture Your Pet With Santa" fundraiser will be Sunday, December 7 from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Lakeshore Humane Society Adoption Center, 431 E. Chestnut Street in Dunkirk. Pets, children, and/or family photos with Santa Claus will be taken by a photographer and available for purchase to benefit the Lakeshore Humane Society. The cost is \$15 for one pose; \$20 for three



poses. The digital photo(s) will be sent via email. Cash, check, or credit card payments are accepted. Pets must be vaccinated, friendly and on a leash or in a carrier. Multiple pets and children are welcome. (No sick, aggressive, or exotic animals, please.)

Also, come shop at the "Cats Meow" boutique in the LHS Adoption Center lobby. It is a great source for gifts!

More information can be found at the Lakeshore Humane Society's Facebook page, the LHS website www.lakeshorehumanesociety.org, or call 716-672-1991.

Seasonal Themes at UUCJ

- Does John Lennon's iconic "Imagine"---"the most recognized peace anthem in the world"---still resonate today? Rev. Alex Holt explores this question at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown's hybrid service on **Sunday, December 7**.
- Warren's Ruby Wiles addresses "**Loving Our Family Just The Way They Are**" on **December 14**. The former Lutheran pastor contends that learning how to love our family, "can help us love the other people in our lives---whether these folks are our friends or others in our community who don't agree with us." **Wiles returns January 11**.
- In addition to carol singing, poems and readings, on **December 21 "A Very Merry Unitarian Christmas!"** features a short video about Unitarians' contributions to the holiday, from Christmas trees to Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.
- Chalice lighting, sharing, and discussion at the **Circle Service on December 28** aims to build community, foster personal growth, and provide mutual support.
- **A Unitarian Fire Communion opens the new year on January 4**.



All are welcome at these 10:30 a.m. Sunday services at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. To participate virtually, use the link at UUJamestown.org/calendar.

EVENTS SCHEDULE



Join us this fall & Winter

FALL & WINTER LINE-UP & EVENTS

- Nov. 13: Deer Hunters Eve Eve Wild Game Feast & Party | 5-8:30PM
- Nov. 21: Country Night & Line Dancing w/ Allie Perrin | 8:30-10:30PM
- Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Eve | Randy Graham & Jamie Henderson | 6-9PM
- Nov. 28: Black Friday Specials All Day | 15% OFF Golf Season Passes
Ion Sky Acoustics | 6-9PM
- Dec. 3: One Stop Christmas Shop | 5:30-8:30PM
- Dec. 13: Lunch with Santa | 11AM-1PM
- Dec. 20: Ugly Christmas Sweater Party | DJ Felix | 6-9PM
- Dec. 24: Tom & Jerry Party | 12-3PM
- Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Dinner Celebration | 5-9PM
- Jan. 10: Winter Festival & Christmas Tree Bonfire | 12-6PM
Black Widow Band | 1PM

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CHRISTMAS *in the* VILLAGE

December 3-6, 2025



Christmas in the Village Returns to Lakewood, NY!

Contributed by
**Lakewood Community
Development Corporation**

Light up the village with holiday cheer! The Lakewood Community Development Corporation (LCDC) invites residents and visitors to celebrate the season during Christmas in the Village, taking place Wednesday, December 3 through Saturday, December 6 in the heart of Lakewood.

The celebration begins Wednesday, December 3 at 5 p.m. with the official tree lighting ceremony on Chautauqua Avenue, featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus. Gather with family and friends as the village comes alive with twinkling lights, holiday music, and the warmth of community spirit. A Memory Tree will be featured at the Four Corners of Lakewood, where visitors are invited to adorn it with an ornament in memory of a loved one.

The festivities continue on Friday, December 5 from 5 to 8 p.m., when families can enjoy horse drawn sleigh rides, caroling, and photos with Santa along Chautauqua Avenue.

Saturday, December 6 brings a full day of family fun. From 10 a.m. to noon, guests can enjoy a buffet breakfast with Santa at the Lakewood Legion for just \$6 per person, with children 10 and under eating free. Local vendors will be set up throughout the Legion, offering handcrafted gifts, home decor, and unique finds perfect for holiday shopping.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., families can stop by Santa's Corner at the Lakewood Library for holiday crafts and letters to Santa. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., sleigh rides will once again make their way through the village, and visitors can browse the charming shops along Chautauqua Avenue.



As part of Christmas in the Village, the Holiday Shop Around Giveaway will run Wednesday, December 3 through Monday, December 22. Visitors can pick up a giveaway card at any participating business and are encouraged to visit all the businesses listed on the card. Once completed, the card can be returned for a chance to win a grand holiday prize package featuring products, gift certificates, and more from local Lakewood businesses. The winner will be drawn on Tuesday, December 23.

In the spirit of giving, toy drive drop-off boxes will be available at participating businesses throughout the village for the month of December. View the full list of participating businesses at lcdcn.org.

This year's Christmas in the Village is proudly sponsored by: **Jamestown Area Community FCU, Century 21 Turner Brokers, Fredonia Ford, Home Depot, JMI, Shults Auto Group, Brigiottas Farmland Produce, Krenzer Family Christmas Tree Farm, and the Village of Lakewood.**



CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

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DEC 3 5 PM | ON CHAUTAUQUA AVE
OFFICIAL TREE LIGHTING
w/ Santa & Mrs. Claus



DEC 5 5 PM - 8 PM | ON CHAUTAUQUA AVE
VILLAGE FESTIVITIES
Sleigh Rides, Caroling, Photos w/ Santa

DEC 6 10 AM - 12 PM | LAKEWOOD LEGION
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Breakfast Buffet, Local Vendors
10 AM - 2 PM | LAKEWOOD LIBRARY
SANTA'S CRAFT CORNER
Make & Take Crafts, Letters to Santa
11 AM - 2 PM | ON CHAUTAUQUA AVE
SLEIGH RIDES & SHOP STOPS
Tour the Village, Visit Local Shops

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

- 1. What country started the tradition of the Christmas tree?
- 2. What plant is known as the “Christmas flower”?
- 3. In what month was Christmas officially declared a federal holiday in the U.S.?
- 4. What was the first U.S. state to make Christmas an official holiday?
- 5. What Roman festival inspired early Christmas celebrations?
- 6. What country is St. Nicholas originally from?
- 7. What is the most famous Christmas carol written in Austria in 1818?
- 8. What Christmas decoration was once made from real silver?
- 9. What ancient language is the word “Christmas” partly derived from?
- 10. What is the name of the holiday that marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas?



1. Germany 2. Poinsettia 3. June 4. Alabama 5. Saturnalia 6. Turkey 7. Silent Night 8. Tinsel 9. Old English (Cristes mæsse) 10. Epiphany

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HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR & PARADE



Saturday, December 6, 2025

Presented by our title sponsors:



8 AM to 7:00 PM



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DUNKIRK HOLIDAY PARADE - Entries Needed!
Saturday, December 6, 2025 on Central Avenue
Parade Marshal - Bob Patterson
5:45 p.m. - Parade Starts

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Breakfast with Santa

Hosted by Clarion Hotel & Conference Center
8 AM - 11 AM (Call for pricing/RSVP by 12-4-2025 at 716-366-8350)
Pancakes/Sausages/Refreshments/Santa Visits/Kids' Gift

Merchant/Vendor Holiday Shopping & Food Trucks
Downtown Dunkirk | 11 AM - 7 PM

Santa Claus/Mrs. Claus/Rudolph/Elves Visits

City Hall | 1:00 PM Arrival - 5 PM
Sponsored by Putnam Record Agency & J.F. Grant Consulting Services
Bring your cell phone for photos!

Free Horse Drawn Wagon Rides

Provided by Double C Ranch
Sponsored by Nestle Purina, Central Station Restaurant & The Botox Barn
City Hall | 12 PM - 5 PM

Holiday Ice Sculpture Carving Demonstration

Provided by Jamestown Ice & Storage
Stearns Court | 11 AM - 2 PM

Free Hot Cocoa & Food Available For Purchase

Central Station Restaurant | 7 AM - 7 PM

Free Children's Activities (Cookie Frost & Craft-Making)
Stearns Building | 12 PM - 4 PM

Live Music at City Hall

11 AM - FootSteps | 1 PM - Slim & Red | 3 PM - DJ Joe Gould

Dance Party w/Rudolph

City Hall | 5 PM - 5:20 PM

Holiday Dance Performances at City Hall

5:20 - 5:30 PM - McKenna Academy of Dance
5:30 - 5:40 PM - Danza! Performing Arts Academy

Annual Tree Lighting at City Hall

Sponsored by VanDette Law PLLC

5:40 PM w/Mayor Kate Wdowiasz & Officials

Dunkirk Holiday Parade

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Central Avenue | 5:45 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (716) 366-9848 | smekus@cityofdunkirk.com | Visit www.cityofdunkirkny.gov



CHRISTMAS ON CENTRAL

DUNKIRK HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR & PARADE

Saturday, December 6 • 8am - 7pm



DUNKIRK TO HOST CHRISTMAS ON CENTRAL EVENT

*Contributed by
City of Dunkirk*

Mayor Kate Wdowiasz and the City of Dunkirk Festivals and Special Events Department are excited to announce Dunkirk's Christmas on Central Holiday Spectacular and Parade.

This year, both the Christmas on Central festive event and holiday parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Dunkirk, starting with Breakfast with Santa at the Clarion Hotel.

The indoor and outdoor pop-up shopping event is presented by Special Metals, Community Bank, Refresco Beverages, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. Other sponsors include Nestle Purina, VanDette Law PLLC, Dunkirk Rehabilitation; Nursing Center, Cattaraugus County Bank, Central Station Restaurant, Putnam Record Agency, The Botox Barn, North County Landscaping, Brooks-TLC Hospital System/LEMS, JCC, J.F. Grant Consulting Services, Fun-B-Que, Access to the Arts, Chautauqua Opportunities, Lil Ginger's Deli and This Is It Nutrition.

Local vendors and activities will be inside the Elks Club, Stearns Building, former P&G grocery, former M&T

Bank, First United Presbyterian Church's Westminster Hall, St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, P*dubs and other locations, along with other holiday elements outside on Central Ave. from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will also be live music at City Hall with FootSteps (11 a.m.), Slim & Red (1 p.m.) and DJ Joe Gould (3 p.m.). If you are interested in being a sponsor or a craft, gift, or kids' activity vendor, please visit the city website at www.cityofdunkirkny.gov or their Facebook page at Dunkirk Festivals & Special Events for the registration form.

The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center will host a Breakfast with Santa event from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. that morning featuring pancakes, sausages, refreshments and Santa visits with a complimentary gift for each child. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$7 for kids and free for kids 5 years of age and under. Pre-register by calling the hotel at 716-366-8350 before Dec. 4.

Other activities include complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides provided by Double C Ranch from 12 noon to 5 p.m., visits with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph and elves from 1 p.m. arrival to 5 p.m. at City Hall, ice sculpture carving demonstrations by Jamestown Ice & Storage in Stearns Court starting at 11 a.m., children's holiday cookie frosting and craft-making from 12 noon

- 4 p.m. inside the Stearns Building and complimentary hot cocoa and food available for purchase from the Central Station Restaurant.

A new unwrapped toy drive conducted by Chautauqua County Rural Ministry is also being held to support the local families in need. Drop off sites will be at their Dunkirk facility and Dunkirk City Hall and during December.

The event will feature pre-parade entertainment with a DJ Dance Party with Rudolph from 5:00 to 5:20 p.m. at City Hall.

Holiday dancers from the McKenna Academy of Dance will perform a holiday routine in front of City Hall at 5:20 p.m., followed by Danza! Performing Arts Academy's "Santa Stop Here" routine at 5:30 p.m.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held at 5:40 p.m. on the steps of Dunkirk

City Hall with Mayor Wdowiasz, staff, community members and friends. "This free event is always well-attended and a great kickoff to the holiday season," said Mayor Wdowiasz. "It's fantastic to see people in downtown Dunkirk shopping, mingling and enjoying all the planned activities."

Following the tree lighting will be the Dunkirk Holiday Parade, beginning at 5:45 p.m. along Central Avenue.

Bob Patterson will be the parade marshal. As a former Dunkirk athlete, coach, official, city staff member and community volunteer, Mr. Patterson is a true representative and supporter of his hometown.

Parade line-up will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Third Street, between Robin Street and Central Avenue. All parade entries must check in on the corner of Robin and Third Street by the tunnel before going to their designated spot.

The parade will begin promptly at 5:45 p.m., traveling south toward City Hall and end at the corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street. Andy Bohn will be the parade announcer.

Corporate event sponsors are available at the following levels: \$1,000 - Overall Sponsor, \$500 - Tree Lighting Sponsor, \$250 - Horse-Drawn Carriage Sponsor, \$100 - Santa Set Sponsor and \$50 - Parade Supporter.

For more information, contact Scott Mekus, event specialist, at the City of Dunkirk at (716) 366-9848 or smekus@cityofdunkirk.com.



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- January 31st
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UPCOMING MOVIES AT THE REG INCLUDE:

- **Blue Moon** (Ethan Hawke as Broadway lyricist Lorenz Hart in Richard Linklater's biographical comedy)Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.
- **Nuremberg** (special engagement showing of the historical war/legal drama followed by a live conversation with the author of "The Nazi and the Psychiatrist - Jack El-Hai, presented in partnership with The Robert H. Jackson Center.) Jan. 30 at 6 p.m.

Tickets for most Movies at The Reg are \$8 in-person at the box office and \$10 online (reglenna.com) & by phone - 716.484.7070. Family showings are \$7 in-person at the box office and \$9 online & by phone. Special engagements are priced differently. The theater and box office at The Reg are located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The box office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 - 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events.



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"Christmas was on its way. Lovely, glorious, beautiful Christmas, upon, which the entire kid year revolved."

- Ralphie, *A Christmas Story*

Pat's Pen with Pat Locke

Christmas Movies



Contributing Writer
Pat Locke

Stole Christmas." Believing in "Elf." Honesty and integrity in "Home Alone." These films reflect the season's deepest messages that people can change, that community matters and that there is magic, ordinary or otherwise. As life grows more complicated, the stories remain steady reminders of what truly counts.

Christmas movies offer something increasingly rare and that is a deliberate slowdown. They're paced differently, acted differently, lit differently. Watching them forces us to soften the edges of our December to-do lists and sit, really sit, for two hours. Wrapped in blankets, surrounded by twinkle lights, we allow ourselves a moment of quiet that feels almost sacred. These movies create connection. Whether it's a family tradition to watch "The Bishop's Wife" starring Cary Grant every Christmas Eve or a spontaneous gathering to laugh through "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" starring Chevy Chase, classic movies provide a shared language. They spark conversations that start with "Remember when..." and end with stories that bind people together.

As families evolve, these movies remain one of the few constants that can bridge generations among grandparents, parents and children, all laughing, singing or wiping away the same tears. Perhaps the reason these movies hold such meaning this time of year is because December reminds us how much we've lived, what we've gained, what we've lost and what we're still hoping for in the new year. Beloved Christmas movies let us feel the bittersweet edges of the season in a way that is gentle, familiar and safe.

In the end, we return to the beloved Christmas movies not because they change, but because we do. Each year, we bring a new version of ourselves to the story, discovering new meanings in old lines. Maybe that's the real magic in that these films meet us exactly where we are, offering warmth when we need it most.

At their core, they tap into something simple yet powerful. That something is nostalgia. "It's a Wonderful Life" and "White Christmas" transport us to a more gentle world. A world where problems can be solved with community, compassion and a well-timed musical number. For many, these two classics reconnect us with childhood memories, with people no longer here or with versions of ourselves we sometimes miss. In a season that can feel emotionally charged, nostalgic stories offer grounding and can remind us of what once brought joy and what still can.

Timeless Christmas movies have universal themes that never expire. Though decades have passed since these films debuted, their themes land just as strongly today. Heartwarming in "White Christmas." Hope in "It's a Wonderful Life." Redemption in "A Christmas Carol." Belonging in "Miracle on 34th Street." Kindness in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Faith in "The Polar Express." Transformation in "How the Grinch

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City of Jamestown • December 6 at 6pm

The Magic of Holiday Movies Parade

Jamestown is gearing up for its biggest community celebration of the year with the 2025 “Magic of Holiday Movies” Parade,” set to light up downtown on Saturday, December 6 at 6 p.m. More than 125 dazzling floats will roll through the city streets, joined by crowds of neighbors, festive performers and a special visit from Santa himself. The parade will conclude with a fireworks show launched from the Spring Street Parking Ramp beside City Hall, closing the night with a burst of holiday sparkle.

“Let It Snow” Christmas Open House

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Holiday Haul Returns Dec. 18–20 to Support St. Susan Center

New Parade Partnership with Cummins Brings Early Donation Opportunity for St. Susan Center

Contributed by
St. Susans Center

The St. Susan Center is excited to announce the 13th Annual **Holiday Haul**, returning **December 18–20, 2025**, at the Jamestown Cycle Shop parking lot. This cherished community tradition continues to support the Center’s mission of providing food, fellowship, dignity, and respect to neighbors in need.

Last year, the Holiday Haul collected more than **\$11,700 and 6,700 pounds of food**, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of residents, businesses, and volunteers. Organizers hope the community will once again come together to help meet the rising need this holiday season.

In addition to in-person drop-offs of canned goods and other items, monetary donations can be made securely online at stsusancenter.org/haul. Every gift helps provide meals and essential support to neighbors in need and will be included in this year’s Holiday Haul totals.

A New Opportunity to Give: The “Forever Rising” Parade Truck

For the first time, the Holiday Haul will begin early with a special kick-off during the **Jamestown Christmas Parade** on Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. The Cummins

“**Forever Rising**” truck—an impressive symbol of community pride—will travel down Third Street collecting canned goods and monetary donations along the parade route.

At the end of the parade, the truck will park at **Third and Spring Street**, where community members can walk up and drop off additional canned goods or cash donations. All parade donations will be added to the Holiday Haul’s final three-day collection total.

This effort highlights the long-standing and deeply valued partnership between St. Susan Center and **Cummins**, whose employees donate countless volunteer hours and logistical support each year. The Holiday Haul committee at Cummins—**Jen Lundmark, Dan Keefe, Deb Jordano, Brandie**

Sischo, Melissa Hagberg, Melissa Pollino, Nathan Montayne, Starr Ryder, and Brandon Chase—plays a crucial role in organizing, staffing, and energizing this event, helping ensure its continued growth and success.

“Community at Its Best”

“The Holiday Haul is one of the most uplifting traditions in Jamestown,” said **Cherie Rowland**, Executive Director of St. Susan Center. “The support from Cummins and the generosity shown by our community—whether at the parade or during the event itself—reminds us what’s possible when we come together for a common cause.”



Longtime Holiday Haul organizer and newly seated St. Susan Center Board Member **Dan Keefe** shared similar thoughts: “Year after year, this event proves how strong our community truly is. The addition of the ‘Forever Rising’ truck gives people even more ways to give, and we’re looking forward to an incredible turnout.”

Continuing a Legacy of Service

Founded through the vision of community leader **Keith Martin**, the Holiday Haul continues to thrive thanks to dedicated organizers like Keefe, strong corporate partners like Cummins, and the many local businesses and volunteers who support the effort. This year’s event is especially meaningful as St. Susan Center continues raising funds to renovate its future home at the former Jamestown Business College building.

Event Details

Holiday Haul 2025

Location: Jamestown Cycle Shop parking lot
Dates: Thursday–Saturday, December 18–20
Hours:
Thursday: 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

How to Help

Donate canned goods, pantry staples, or monetary gifts during the parade, at the end-of-route drop-off point at Third & Spring Street, or at the Holiday Haul event site during operating hours.

For more information or to support St. Susan Center year-round, visit StSusanCenter.org.

13TH ANNUAL
HOLIDAY HAUL

The 13th Annual Holiday Haul is coming Dec. 18–20! 🍎
Donate food or funds on-site — or during the Jamestown Christmas Parade with the Cummins “Forever Rising” truck!

Learn more and get involved at StSusanCenter.org/haul

UNION RELIEF PRESENTS
A Hometown Holiday Charity Ball

DECEMBER 6TH
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"Christmas sweaters are only acceptable as a cry for help."

- Andy Borowitz



MTA PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Robert H. Jackson Center's Cappa Theatre, December 12–21

MTA PRESENTS! Brings Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol to Life

Contributing Writer

Katrina Fuller

The Mike Thornton Agency is bringing a new adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" to the Robert H. Jackson Center's Cappa Theatre in Jamestown from Dec. 12 to 21.

Producer, artistic director and lead actor Mike Thornton said this staging differs from the larger production he directed in the 1990s.

"The last time I directed and produced 'A Christmas Carol,' back in the 90s, it was in a cavernous theatre in the Berkshires. We had a two-level set, tons of people, kids... everything but the kitchen sink," he said.

This year's version uses a cast of six actors who take on many of Dickens' characters.

"This version of the novella is special because it is streamlined," Thornton said. "Stephen Stout, my buddy and a Broadway veteran, not only plays the ghost of Jacob Marley, but comes back as the Spirit of Christmas Present. A fun change and a drastically different character for him to portray, which makes it really fun for him and for us." Thornton plays Scrooge.

The Cappa Theatre recently completed a \$300,000 upgrade to lighting, sound and projection. Thornton said the team is using all the new tools.

"We'll have fantastic scenery projected from the rear projector that we could not do in the past as effectively, and it will really make for some fun, effective images, sounds and sound effects," he said.

He credits his design and tech staff for raising the quality of the production. "I've got a wonderful team of designers

for sound, lights and set, and these are really making the difference in the quality of the production. It will be tight and effective," he said.

Thornton said Dickens' story still resonates today. "Charles Dickens was a master author and humanitarian, but I'm not sure even he would know how far-reaching this story would be, and how it would resonate throughout the decades," he said. "Economic inequality hasn't gone away. If anything, it's grown. Dickens wrote the novella during a period of extreme industrial-era poverty. That world feels surprisingly familiar: a working class struggling to get by; employers deciding whether to treat people as humans or expenses; social systems often failing the most vulnerable, to name a few similarities."

He said these feelings and observations ring true for many today. However, the classic holiday masterpiece also offers

an opportunity as well

"Basically, at its core, it's a story about seeing others clearly," Thornton said. "If you truly look at other people: neighbors, coworkers, strangers — you will treat them better."

He hopes audiences leave with a sense of renewal. "I hope that we all walk out of the theater feeling that true joy can happen only when a person learns forgiveness, mercy and generosity."

Performances will take place on the following dates and times:

Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.

For tickets and information:
MTAPresents.com.

MTA PRESENTS A Christmas Carol

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MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

December 6, 2025 • Fredonia, NY



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MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

December 6, 2025 • Fredonia, NY

Festivals Fredonia, Inc. presents Miracle on Main Street
A fun week of shopping and a day of Miracles, family fun and shopping throughout the Village of Fredonia

Contributed by
Festivals Fredonia

Festivals Fredonia's annual "Miracle on Main Street" festival is set for Saturday, December 6 from 10 AM to 7 PM! End a great Small Business Week with the "Miracle on Main Street" festival. After the FREE movie (must be accompanied by an adult), generously sponsored by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, in the 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center featuring "The Polar Express", join us for the official lighting of the tree by Santa Claus at the gazebo in Barker Common!

Come celebrate all of the MIRACLES of the holiday season in downtown Fredonia. Santa and Mrs. Claus come to town on this special day with activities and fun times for kids and the whole family including caroling, the official Village holiday tree lighting, food vendors and craft vendors starting at 10AM at the Fredonia First Methodist Church (25 Church Street), breakfast with Santa at all day at Domus Fare, lunch with Santa starting at 11:30AM at DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti

House and gingerbread decorating starting at 11AM at The White Inn, sponsored by The Cakery (fee), basket raffle, shopping and much more. A fun, family festival!

The MIRACLES throughout the day include:

- **The Miracle of SHARING** (supporting the Salvation Army "Red Kettle" campaign)
- **The Miracle of THE HOLIDAY** (Santa lighting the tree; 6:00PM)
- **The Miracle of GIVING** (all of the community organizations and volunteers who selflessly give their time and talents to our festivals)
- **The Miracle of GENEROSITY** (All of those who generously support Festivals Fredonia throughout the year and during this special festival)
- **The Miracle of LIFE** (supporting your local blood drive)

The festival and events kick off at 10 AM with activities throughout the village, Fredonia First Methodist Church, The White Inn, Next Chapter Bookstore, Christ Community Church, The 1891 Fredonia

Opera House Performing Arts Center, Darwin R. Barker Library and Museum, Harvest Chapel Church, DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti House and Domus Fare. There will be story time with Santa for youngsters at Darwin R. Barker Library, as well as story time with Mrs. Claus at the Next Chapter Bookstore (12 Park Place).

Craft vendors, photo booth pictures, cookie decorating (thank you Chai's Chocolates!) and pictures with Santa will be set up in the Fredonia First Methodist Church, gingerbread house decorating at The White Inn, kid's crafts at Next Chapter Bookstore respectively, starting at 10 AM; visits with Santa will take place 2 PM – 4 PM. Festivals Fredonia is hosting a basket raffle, and ornament and merchandise in Fredonia First Methodist Church as well.

There will also be food vendors and wineries in Barker Common as well as family friendly menus at Domus Fare and DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti House. Santa will also be visiting Domus Fare from 10 AM to noon, and 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM at DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti House. Attend the free movie at

4 PM, with goodies provided by Harvest Chapel Church, followed by the tree lighting by Santa at Barker Common gazebo at 6:00 PM.

Santa ends his visit at 4:00 PM at the Fredonia First Methodist Church, but returns at 6:00 PM, to light the official holiday tree in Barker Common. This will be followed by caroling to round out the days' events. Come on out and kick off the holiday season!

Special thanks to all our sponsors and donors. Donations for this event have been provided by Tim Hortons, Southern Chautauqua FCU, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, The Fredonia Beaver Club, DFT Communications, Harvest Chapel Free Methodist Church, The Barn 3521, Chai's Chocolates, Christ Community Church and Fredonia First Methodist Church. Many thanks to the SUNY Fredonia women's soccer team for their help and support. For more festival information and the list of events and times, please go to www.festivalsfredonian.org, facebook.com/festivalsfredoniaofficial

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET



A day of Miracles and family fun
throughout The Village of Fredonia

**"The Miracle is THIS-
the more we share the
more we have."**

Fredonia, New York

More information on all events, to learn more
and volunteer

Website: festivalsfredonian.org

Email: festivalsfredonian@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/festivalsfredoniaofficial

X (Twitter): [@fredoniafest](https://twitter.com/fredoniafest)

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Activity Guide

**Saturday,
December 6th 2025**

Fredonia First Methodist Church

25 Church Street

10am to 4pm

Craft Vendor Show

Basket Raffle

Merchandise Available

Ornament Sale by Church Youth Group

11am to 2pm

Holiday Cookie Decorating brought
to you by Chai's Chocolate & Gifts with
Harvest Chapel Church

11am to 3pm

Photo Booth with Jermaine James

2pm to 4pm

Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus with Brooke Erick

The White Inn

52 E Main Road

11am to 3pm

Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop
with The Cakery

Small: \$18 Medium: \$23 Large: \$28

Domus Fare

41 West Main Street

All Day

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Literacy Volunteers/Next Chapter Bookstore with Christ Community Church

12 Park Place

10am-1pm

Kids Craft Workshop

12pm to 12:30pm

Story time with Mrs. Claus

Please consider supporting your local Blood Drive

The Miracle of LIFE

and

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

The Miracle of Sharing

Darwin R. Barker Library & Darwin R. Barker Museum

7 Day Street

12:30pm to 1pm

Story time with Santa

1pm to 2:30pm

Holiday card making

Angel necklace making and tree decorating

DeJohn's Italian Spaghetti House

26 West Main Street

11:30pm to 1:30pm

Spaghetti Lunch with Santa

1891 Fredonia Opera House

9 Church Street

Starting at 4pm

FREE Movie Showing: "The Polar Express"

Sponsored by Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union

Fredonia Presbyterian Church

219 Central Avenue

Friday, December 5, 2025 3:30pm to 6pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025 9am to 3pm

Sunday, December 7, 2025 12pm to 1pm

Nativity Display

Alternative Market

Barker Commons

10am to 6pm

Paul's Rocket Stoves-Hot Cocoa

Clarksburg Cider Co.

Mystic Smoke BBQ

Mazza Winery

21 Brix Winery

Tree Lighting at the Gazebo

with Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6pm
with The Fredonia Central School Carolers

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET

December 6, 2025 • Fredonia, NY



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Danzaco, the dance company of Danza! Performing Arts Academy of Fredonia, performed two new pieces at Buffalo's annual "Dancers Give Back" charity showcase, an event that has raised over \$860,000 for Roswell Park patient support and cancer research. Dancers from across Chautauqua County participated in the two-day fundraiser.



Front row; Cadence Draggett, Adriana Blair, Isabella Draggett, Autumn Clark
Row 2; Zuleymarie Torres, Hannah Kuras, Savannah Stein, Morgan Kuras



Front row; Zuleymarie Torres, Savannah Stein, Hannah Kuras, Morgan Kuras
Row 2; Autumn Clark, Adriana Blair, Cadence Draggett, Isabella Draggett, Danza! Artistic Director Krista Taylor



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Thursday
3pm - 2am
Friday - Saturday
11:30am - 2am
Sunday
11:30am - 12am

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CHQgazette.com

St. Luke's Announces December Community Events Focused on Service, Celebration and Seasonal Tradition

Contributed by

St Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host a series of community-centered events throughout December, offering opportunities for spiritual reflection, generosity and holiday celebration.

Empty Bowls Jamestown – December 6

St. Luke's is partnering with the Jamestown Farmers Market and the Lake Erie Area Potters to host the Fourth Annual Empty Bowls Project on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Luke's, 410 N. Main Street. Attendees may choose from handcrafted ceramic bowls offered at donation levels of \$10, \$20 and \$30, with free homemade soup and bread available. Last year, more than 350 participants helped raise over \$14,000 to support the Jamestown Mobile Market and St. Susan Center. To donate bowls or soup, volunteer or learn more, visit stlukesjamestown.org or call 716-483-6405.

Christmas in a Barn – December 20

On Saturday, December 20, at 10 a.m., Dan and Shauna Anderson of Alpacaville farm in Bemus Point will open their farm for Christmas in a Barn, a brief church service surrounded by the farm's alpacas. Guests may visit with the animals and stop by the Alpacaville store for last-minute Christmas gifts. The event is free and open to the public. Alpacaville is located at 4463 Mahanna Rd., Bemus Point. For more information, contact Alpacaville at 716-664-0663

or St. Luke's at 716-483-6405.

Community Messiah Sing – December 29

The annual Community Messiah Sing will take place on Sunday, December 29, at 7 p.m. in the church. The event features Part I of Handel's "Messiah" and the "Hallelujah Chorus," conducted by Phillip McMullen and accompanied by organist Brian Bogey on St. Luke's Aeolian-Skinner organ. The performance is free for singers and audience members. A rehearsal for interested singers will be held Saturday, December 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. Call time on December 29 is 6:15 p.m. Scores will be provided, although participants may bring their own.



St. Nicholas Shoe Drive – November 30 through January 6

In honor of St. Nicholas' legacy of generosity, St. Luke's will collect gently used shoes for those in need from the beginning of Advent (November 30) through Epiphany (January 6). The effort will officially kick off during the St. Nicholas Celebration Service on Sunday, December 7, at 10 a.m., led by the children of the parish. The service will feature a children's sermon, a song by the Children's Choir and a visit from a special guest, followed by St. Nicholas-themed crafts and activities. Children will also take part in the "St. Nicholas Surprise Shoes" tradition, leaving their shoes in the church to be filled with small gifts.

For questions or additional information about any December events, please contact St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 716-483-6405 or email stlukes@stlukesjamestown.org.

Join us to Celebrate!
"This is Christmas"

★

December 22 at 10am
Cantata
Sanctuary

December 24 at 7pm
Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service
Sanctuary

December 28 at 10am
Worship Service
Lessons & Carols - Darrah Hall

★

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**"It is Christmas in the heart
that puts Christmas in the air."**

- W.T. Ellis

Free December Concerts



Submitted Photo

Contributed by Prendergast Library

The James Prendergast Library is hosting two free music concerts in December. On Dec. 2 from 4:00-5:00 pm, celebrate the season with the Mozart Chorus and on Dec. 10 from 5:30-6:30 pm, listen to the magic of a handbell choir with the Brio Bells. The music concerts are funded by the Murray L. Bob Educational Initiative, created in memory of Murray L. Bob, long-time Director of the James Prendergast Library, and the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System.

On Dec. 2 at 4:00 pm, the Mozart Chorus will perform a selection of seasonal songs. The Mozart Chorus is a volunteer women's choir associated with The Mozart Club and directed by Danica Olson.

On Dec. 10 at 5:30 pm, the Brio Bells will perform. Brio Bells is a community handbell choir from the Corry, Pa. area. The choir participates annually in the

Corry Community Christmas Music Festival and other community events, playing a variety of traditional carols and holiday music. Both concerts will take place in the library's Fireplace Room and are free and open to the public.

Also, in December, the library's quarterly Half-off Booksale returns! Running from Dec. 1-6, the half-off sale includes 50% off all books all week. On Thursday, Dec. 4, and Friday, Dec. 5, fill a bag for \$10.00, and on Saturday, December 6th, you can fill a bag for \$5.00. For the whole month of December, the library will hold a special book sale in the front lobby. Special Book Sale prices are marked, and these items are not included in the half-off sale or bag sale. Special items include new books, gift books, puzzles, and more!

The James Prendergast Library is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Visit the library's website at prendergastlibrary.org or the Facebook page @prendergastlibrary for more information on programs and events.

Treat Yourself: Experience Audubon Community Nature Center!



Contributed by Audubon Community Nature Center

Whether you are seeking quiet or activity, you can find it at Audubon Community Nature Center (ACNC).

Escape the hustle of the season and discover the serene magic of nature, winter wonders and quiet beauty on the nearly 600-acre nature preserve. You can hike, snowshoe, or cross country ski the more than five miles of trails or find an outdoor spot to sit and enjoy the stillness or visit the birds of prey, any day from dawn until dusk—for free.

Need something to do with your kids during their holiday break? At Audubon they can play, learn, and explore, indoors and out.

Audubon is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren. The three-story Nature Center building houses interactive displays and a collection of live animals including the hellbender exhibit. Visitors are welcome Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 1–4:30 p.m. Nature Center members and SNAP/EBT and Arts Access cardholders have free building admission daily. Building admission is also free every Sunday for non-Nature Center members.

Haven't finished your holiday shopping, especially for those special "have-everything" friends and family? The Blue Heron Gift Shop Gift has unique gifts that could please anyone—from cuddly stuffed animals to locally-made honey, beeswax candles, and soaps. Become a member and you'll receive 10% off all your purchases. Don't forget Audubon Holiday Gift Memberships, and check out our participation in the CHQ Chamber Holiday Window Decorating Contest while you're visiting the Nature Center.

In December, Audubon has delightful activities for both adults and children, some that recur monthly, some that are distinctive to the season.

For First Friday on December 5, Warren's Mark Evans will present "Fleeting Moments," a collection of photographs from his 60+ years as a wildlife photographer. Return on January 2 for "The Birds of Southern France" with Audubon Nature Educator and Animal Care Specialist Charlotte Schmaltz. First Friday runs from 11 a.m.–noon; bring lunch and stay after for conversation.

Bring your favorite 2–8-year-old(s) to First Sunday Story Time on December 7 (and January 4) at 12:30 p.m. The half-hour of reading adventures connects children to nature and helps establish a strong foundation for their educational journey. And it's free!

At Little Explorers on Saturday, December 13, 10–11:30 a.m., 3–8-year-olds and their grown-ups will head outside after an indoor lesson to investigate what is "Under the Snow."

Christmas With The Critters is ACNC's special holiday event, with morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, December 29. Each session begins with a live animal presentation, followed by time to explore the building and grounds or participate in another craft or activity.

Like other day camps planned for school holidays, Holiday Camp on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31, are an opportunity for children ages 4–12 to explore outdoors, play, climb, run, and engage their senses as they discover what the season embodies.

It's not too early to put Audubon Lights on your 2026 calendar. On the last two weekends in March and the first weekend in April, ACNC will be ablaze with a stunning display of lights along a half-mile luminary-lit trail through the woods and around ponds. After your breathtaking walk, enjoy a warm fire, hot drinks, popcorn and live entertainment.

Consider Audubon in your year-end giving, investing in the future of local nature education and helping others connect with nature in our community. With ACNC's more than 14,000 annual visitors, over 900 members, almost 200 volunteers and 11 staff, your gift ensures nearly 1,000 nature-based programs throughout Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Warren counties each year, reaching over 18,000 people.

Looking ahead, we at Audubon wish you a year that will spark wonder and strengthen your connection to nature. We extend best holiday wishes to all and a huge "Thank you!" to everyone in our broad community—visitors, volunteers, donors and partners like the Chautauqua Gazette—for their wonderful support.

To learn more, call (716) 569-2345, find Audubon Community Nature Center on Facebook or Instagram, or visit AudubonCNC.org. Check out AudubonCNC.org/about for a quick fly-by.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
11:00 AM - 2 PM
\$15/meal
Chicken and gravy over biscuits,
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Dine in or take out available.

FULL DETAILS ON FACEBOOK: SHERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SUNDAY

CHICKEN & BISCUITS 11:00 TO 2:00 (STANLEY HOSE)

TOYS FOR TOTS BINGO 3:00 (THE COOLER)

OLD FASHIONED CHURCH. SERVICE 6:00 (BAPTIST CHURCH)

MONDAY

COOKIE DECORATING 5PM SHERMAN HOTEL

TUESDAY

MAMA'S PIZZA WITH SANTA CORNERSTONE 5-6:30

WEDNESDAY

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA AT THE COOLER 6:00

THURSDAY

SCAVENGER HUNT AT MINERVA LIBRARY

FRIDAY

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES 6-9 / COOKIES & COCOA PROVIDED BY THE COMMUNITY BANK

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST AT COOLER 8:00

SATURDAY

LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE 6:00 PM

COOKIES & COCOA AT MISS LAURAS

SHERMAN LIGHTED TRACTOR PARADE
Second Saturday of December
Presented by the Chamber of Commerce and Sponsors
Where: Main St. Sherman, NY
When: 6 pm
More details on Facebook, Sherman Chamber of Commerce, Sherman, NY.

Enjoy Randolph Christmas Season

Come Experience the Holiday Season
in Downtown Randolph

December 6th

Holiday Craft Show - Randolph Central School
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Magical Christmas Show - Randolph Library
10:00 am

Visit w/Santa - Raw Juice & More
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

“Light Up the Night” Parade
7:30 pm

December 7th

Breakfast w/Santa Claus - Randolph American Legion
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Enjoy
Randolph



More Information on the
Enjoy Randolph Facebook Page

Enjoy Randolph Christmas Season

Come Experience the Holiday Season
Downtown Randolph

December 6th & 7th
More information on the Enjoy
Randolph Facebook page



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HOLIDAY CHECKLIST:

Presented by Eventz by Scott

- ☐ Send out cards to family, friends and military
- ☐ Put in for days off at work
- ☐ Finalize any travel plans
- ☐ Buy an advent calendar for Christmas countdown
- ☐ Attend holiday parties and festive community events
- ☐ Put up your Christmas tree
- ☐ Decorate your home and/or business
- ☐ Buy presents (including experience gifts) and wrapping supplies - don't forget your pets, mail carrier, neighbors, hair stylists and others!
- ☐ Bake cookies
- ☐ Play Christmas music
- ☐ Prepare dinner and drink menus and grocery shop early
- ☐ Donate or volunteer at a local charity
- ☐ Organize childcare for days off from school or pet care for trips
- ☐ Make time for watching holiday movies
- ☐ Mail out any out of town presents
- ☐ Visit elderly neighbors and/or nursing homes
- ☐ Organize letters to Santa from the kids
- ☐ Engage in family/friend holiday traditions like Secret Santa, caroling, sledding & snowman building
- ☐ Prepare holiday attire including matching pajamas and/or ugly sweaters
- ☐ Shovel/plow driveway and walkways don't forget the salt!
- ☐ Call distant loved ones
- ☐ Clean house for holiday guests
- ☐ Wrap presents and fill stockings
- ☐ Attend holiday church services
- ☐ Leave out cookies, milk and carrots for Santa and his reindeer
- ☐ Let the children open one gift on Christmas Eve
- ☐ Take photos
- ☐ Wish everyone Happy Holidays and prepare for 2026!

Eventz by Scott

Scott Mekus • 716-720-0564 • smekus@eventzbyscott.com
Find us on Facebook at Eventz by Scott

MAYVILLE HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday Dec. 13 · 10am - 4pm

Sunday Dec. 14 · 10am - 2pm

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**“Celebrations of Winter”
Fenton Mansion-Wide
Exhibit Opens**



Contributed by
Fenton History Center

This year’s 47th annual holiday exhibit, Celebrations of Winter, highlights the snow related clothing and winter activities of Jamestown’s past and present. Featured artifacts are fur outerwear, sleds, skates and skis from years past.

The 4-story Civil War era mansion is filled with decorated trees from the mid 1800s, the Victorian era through the 20th century. One of the favorite trees is the upside-down tree in Mrs. Fenton’s sewing room. The Swedish Heritage room has one of the oldest Swedish Juskrona in the eastern United States. The exhibit also teaches about the holiday in the Italian community as well as Hannukah, Los Posados, Three Kings and Kwanzaa. The favorite aluminum Christmas trees are featured in the tower.

Many elementary classrooms have booked holiday tours of the exhibit. Executive Director Joni Blackman who curated the exhibit says, “The exhibit meets a number of the NY State social studies curriculum standards for the elementary grades. Kwanzaa, Hanukah and the celebration of the Three Kings are part of the exhibit. It is a fun field trip for the classes. They seem to really enjoy the size of the Mansion and the beauty of the exhibits. Trained docents lead the educational tours.” Classroom



teachers for all ages are encouraged to schedule a field trip by calling the museum at 716-664-6256.

The exhibit is open through January 10, 2026. Admission is \$10 for adults and children under 18 years old are free with an adult. Members are always free. For more information visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org.



**“It is Christmas in the heart
that puts Christmas in the air.”**

- W.T. Ellis

Celebrations of WINTER

See How Jamestown Bundles Up,
Plays, and Enjoys Winter

Visit the Holiday Exhibit

at the Fenton History Center's Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion
67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Nov. 29, 2025 - Jan. 10, 2026

Pearl City Clay House: Handmade Holidays and Creative New Beginnings in the Heart of Downtown

Contributed by
Pearl City Clay House

There's a joyful kind of hustle happening inside Pearl City Clay House this season! Cheerful conversations over paint palettes, sparks of inspiration at the wheel, and customers discovering gifts that feel as meaningful as the people they're made for.

As snow begins to blanket downtown Jamestown, our studio has become a warm, creative gathering place for friends, families, and visitors who want to add something special to their holiday season.

This December marks the opening of our **100 Gifts Under \$100** gallery; a curated showcase of handmade artwork and functional ceramics created by artists from right here in Western New York. It's the perfect way to shop small, support local talent, and surprise someone with a gift that's truly one-of-a-kind.

The gallery is part of the larger **Infinity Holiday Art Market** celebration on **Saturday, December 13**, spanning both Pearl City Clay House and the Infinity Center just across the street. One day, dozens of artists, and endless inspiration. Holiday shopping has never felt better.

Of course, some of the best gifts you can give are the ones you make yourself. Throughout December, our studio is open for **walk-in creative experiences** including Paint Your Own Pottery and Bucket Projects. No appointment needed! Just drop in, choose a project, and enjoy some well-deserved time making something with your own two hands. We're also offering **seasonal classes and workshops** focused on ornaments, cold-weather comfort crafts,

and other festive pieces that are as fun to create as they are to give.

And for those looking to celebrate together with a twist, we still have a few spots left for **private holiday parties**. Whether it's coworkers gathering for a memorable night out or friends wanting to start a new annual tradition, Pearl City Clay House is a delightful place to raise a mug and dive into creativity.


While December is always a whirlwind of holiday excitement, we're also looking ahead to a happy new year. **Trimester 2 classes**, running January through April, are now open for early registration. From beginner wheel classes to new explorations in hand-building and ceramics, there's something for every maker looking to start the new year with creativity.

These classes often fill quickly, so reserving a spot now ensures your winter months are filled with inspiration, not cabin fever.

Pearl City Clay House is still writing the beginning chapters of its story in Downtown Jamestown, and we are continuously amazed by the community that has grown around us. Every class registration, every pottery piece painted, and every handmade purchase does more than you might imagine. **It helps support Infinity Visual and Performing Arts' mission to provide life-changing arts education for young people.** When you create with us, you're also helping a child explore a talent, build confidence, and discover a place to belong in the arts.

Thank you for embracing this creative adventure with us. We cannot wait to see what you'll make next.

Explore classes, studio hours, and holiday happenings any time at www.pearlcityclayhouse.org.



Infinity Visual and Performing Arts: A Season of Spark, Celebration, and Community Creativity

Contributed by
Infinity Visual and Performing Arts

There's a special kind of excitement in the air this time of year at the Infinity Center. Students are polishing their holiday songs, art projects are drying on the racks, and the Infinity Arts Café is gearing up for evenings filled with proud smiles and enthusiastic applause.

For 27 years, Infinity has given young people a place where creativity feels like home, and this December, our community has more ways than ever to be part of that magic.

One of our favorite holiday traditions returns on **Friday, December 5** with **Holiday Kaleidoscope Night**. Kaleidoscope Nights are Infinity's version of a community variety show. Packed with performances by student bands, soloists, vocal duos and trios, small ensembles, and more. You never know what's coming next, and that's part of the fun. It's an energizing

evening that showcases the creativity and collaboration happening in our studios all year long.

The celebration continues on **Thursday, December 11** with our **Holiday Recital** featuring private lesson students sharing what they've been working on with their instructors. From first-time performers to advanced students, audiences get to witness those incredible moments where students surprise even themselves.

Both performances take place at **7:00pm in the Infinity Arts Café**, and are **free and open to the public**. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase, and free-will donations are always appreciated.

On **Saturday, December 13**, Infinity's Annual Holiday Art Market brings another highlight to the season. Local artists and makers will fill the



CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Infinity's Holiday Art Market

TWO LOCATIONS
Infinity Visual and Performing Arts
& Pearl City Clay House
301 East 2nd St
220 East 2nd St
www.infinityperformingarts.org
www.pearlcityclayhouse.org

SAT DEC 13
10am-4pm

FREE ADMISSION
Shop 20+ Local Artist Vendors at Infinity

100 Under \$100 Gift-Giving Gallery Exhibition at PCCH

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INFINITY visual and performing arts

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All proceeds support youth arts education experiences at the Infinity Center



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8AM - 11AM

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Rockefeller "Holiday Pops" Features The Doo Wop Project

Submitted Photo



The Doo Wop Project returns to Fredonia on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. for "A Doo Wop Christmas."

Contributed by
SUNY Fredonia

The Doo Wop Project is returning to the State University of New York at Fredonia for another DFT Communications Pops Series concert event.

Rockefeller Arts Center presents "The Doo Wop Project: A Doo Wop Christmas" on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Harry A. King Concert Hall. Tickets are available online at <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/ticket-office>. They may also be purchased on Monday, Wednesday or Friday by phone at (716) 673-3501 or in person at the Fredonia Ticket Office in the Williams Center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Doo Wop Project is a group of talented, charismatic and engaging Broadway stars from smash hit shows like "Jersey Boys," "Motown: The Musical," "Beautiful" and "A Bronx Tale." The group was an instant hit after performing in September of 2024 as part of the pops series, with many audience members asking for them to be invited back. Backed by an all-star

band, The Doo Wop Project vocalists will get everyone into the holiday spirit with old school classics like The Drifters' version of "White Christmas," The Temptations' take on "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," the Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons' version of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

The Doo Wop Project was developed by inner city African Americans performing tight harmonies on a street corner to the biggest hits on the radio today. Their journey started with foundational tunes from groups like the Crests, Belmonts and Flamingos through their influences on the sounds of Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, and The Four Seasons and grew to encompass "DooWopified" versions of modern tunes. The group brings unparalleled authenticity of sound and vocal excellence to recreate — and in some cases entirely reimagine — some of the greatest music in American pop and rock history.



Infinity Visual and Performing Arts: Season of Spark, Celebration, and Community Creativity

Continued from page 23

Infinity Center with handmade gifts that shoppers can feel good about choosing. Just across the street, Pearl City Clay House will debut the new **100 Gifts Under \$100** gallery show, featuring local art for sale for holiday shoppers. A variety of activities will also be available for local children and families during the event, including face painting, holiday crafting, and a gift-wrapping station. A purchase at the market doesn't just cross a name off a list. It invests directly in the local arts community that helps young people thrive.

This month also marks the launch of Infinity's **End-of-Year Campaign**, a critical effort that sustains everything we do, from private lessons and group classes, to instruments, supplies, mentorship, and so many of the everyday things that help students feel supported and ready to explore. Paired with our **Holiday Art Supply Drive on Giving Tuesday**, there are multiple ways to help spark new opportunities

for the next generation of creators. And because fresh starts feel especially exciting after the holidays, Infinity is opening **January enrollment** now. Families looking to kick off the new year with music and art can secure lesson times early, giving students something to look forward to long after the decorations come down. Register online by December 18th to be scheduled for lessons starting in January!

As Infinity celebrates more than two decades of creative youth development in Jamestown, we are filled with gratitude. Our students are bold, imaginative, and determined — and because of our supporters, they have a place to grow. Thank you for helping us continue to change lives through the arts.

To learn more, get involved, or make a gift, visit www.infinityperformingarts.org.



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Sensory Sensitive Santa

Sat., Dec. 13, 2025
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

at the Fenton History Center's
Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion
67 Washington Street,
Jamestown, NY 14701

Free to the public; there will be refreshments and a gift for all children!





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December 20th

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SANTA'S HELPER SPONSOR: 125



Northwest Arena *scan for tickets*

Have a Fun-Filled Holiday

Holiday Public Skate & Ice Bumper Car Schedule

Please note, skating and ice bumper cars are only offered to the public at the times listed below. Inquire about private rentals!

DEC. 22	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
DEC. 23	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
DEC. 24	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
Tis the Season Christmas Day - CLOSED	
DEC. 26	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
DEC. 27	• Drop In Hockey 11:00am-12:30pm • Public Skating 1-5pm Ice Bumper Cars 1:30-4:30pm
DEC. 28	• Drop In Hockey 11:00am-12:30pm • Public Skating 1-5pm Ice Bumper Cars 1:30-4:30pm
DEC. 29	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
DEC. 30	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12:00-4:00 Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
DEC. 31 NEW YEAR EVE	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12:00pm • Public Skating 12-4pm Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm
JAN 2	• Drop In Hockey 10:30am-12pm • Public Skating 12-4pm Ice Bumper Cars 12:30-3:30pm

Sensory Sensitive Santa at the Fenton History Center

Contributed by
Fenton History Center

The Fenton History Center is once again holding its Sensory Santa event on Saturday, December 13 from 4-6 PM. It is a time for families to enjoy a visit with Santa in a low level of noise and light, yet festive, environment. This event is tailored for children and families who may find traditional Santa Claus encounters overwhelming. In addition, Santa is well-versed in working with individuals with disabilities.

Parents or caregivers are required to accompany their child or children,

and the event is open to all community members free of charge.

At the Fenton, we are dedicated to ensuring that all our visitors have a safe, enriching, and delightful experience. For more information visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org or call 716-664-6256.



Harmony Production Company to be featured at Holiday Joy

Annual Christmas luncheon fundraiser to benefit The Marvin House

Saturday, December 6
11:30 & 2:00 seating

\$35 fee



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY
CALL 716.488.6206 OR EMAIL
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The Marvin House invites you to join them for their favorite holiday tradition, Holiday Joy, featuring Harmony Production Company. Enjoy delicious Food, Door Prizes and Raffles!

Luncheon served will be a pork loin stuffed with a cranberry sage stuffing with a winter berry glaze, mashed potatoes and green beans. For dessert they will serve a whipped cheesecake parfait with gingerbread crumble. coffee and tea.

They invite you to enjoy the city's architectural masterpiece decked out in her holiday splendor!

Dancing With Victoria Proudly Presents The Reindeer Who Saved Christmas

Tickets Now On Sale at The Reg Lenna Center For the Arts



A handful of Santa's reindeer pawing up for a spectacular performance



The magical elf choir practicing for Santa ahead of a big night at the Reg Lenna



Submitted Photos

Contributed by Dancing with Victoria

More than a hundred young, bright and talented performers from Dancing With Victoria in Jamestown are gearing up to present a heartwarming journey about the world's most famous reindeer.

The Reindeer who Saved Christmas tells the story of this timeless family classic sure to brighten your holiday season and remind audiences of all ages that it's okay to be different. The dynamic dance production features a number of magical holiday favorites including Run, Run Rudolph, Let it Snow and Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

The curtain opens on Friday, December 5th at 6:30 PM on the stage of the historic Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in festive downtown Jamestown.

"We are extremely proud of our performers. These remarkable children have added many hours each week to their regular dance schedules all while continuing to participate in other extra-curricular activities. Their commitment is commendable and we're excited to show the community what these young people can do," said Jaclyn Haskell-Ferraro, Director, Dancing With Victoria Performing Arts Center.

The production is being presented in partnership with Collaborative Children's Solutions, a nonprofit organization designed to bring the community together for the betterment of children.

"It's an honor for Collaborative Children's Solutions to partner with such an incredible community resource like Dancing with Victoria, and having the chance to see the incredibly talented performers on stage in one of Western New York's most beautiful and historic venues in the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts makes it that much more special. What a way to start the holiday festivities," said Pat Smeraldo, Owner, Collaborative Children's Solutions.

"Reg Lenna Center for the Arts is happy to host Dancing with Victoria this holiday season. The Reindeer Who Saved Christmas is a great event to bring families to as we head into the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," said Len Barry, Director of Marketing and Communications.

Tickets are now on sale at the Reg Lenna Box Office, either online or in person. Reserve your seat today!

You can also see many of the dancers put their holiday spirit on display as they make their way down Third Street, on Saturday, December 6th for the 2025 Jamestown Holiday Parade, entitled Holiday Movie Magic.

CHQ Professionals Group and Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club Jingle at the Rocks 2025

Annual event will once again benefit local Toys for Tots effort



Submitted Photos

Jingle at the Rocks 2024 Group Photo.

Contributed by CHQ Professionals Group

The CHQ Professionals Group, in partnership with the Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club, will host its annual Jingle at the Rocks event on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The holiday-themed gathering will bring together professionals from across Chautauqua County for an evening of networking, entertainment, and seasonal cheer for a good cause.

The event is open to ages 21 and older and will benefit Toys for Tots. Admission is \$10 with a new unwrapped toy or \$20 without a toy. Attendees can enjoy music, appetizers, raffles, and an Ugly Sweater Contest.

"This is our signature event for the year, and all proceeds go directly to Toys for Tots," said Monica Simpson, co-chair of the CHQ Professionals Group. "We appreciate the continued support from our members and the community."

"We are grateful for partners like CHQ Professionals and the Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club," said Lauren Boyle, Toys for Tots representative. "Their commitment helps ensure local children wake up to a brighter, more joyful holiday season."

The CHQ Professionals Group also distributes a monthly newsletter, shares local job postings, and continues to expand volunteer opportunities related to workforce and career development.

For more information or to purchase tickets, email CHQProfessionals@gmail.com or call 716-363-3770. Event details are available at ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

About the CHQ Professionals Group - The CHQ Professionals Group, housed under CCPEG, aims to provide social, civic, educational, and networking opportunities for professionals at every stage of their careers. For more information, visit ChooseCHQ.com/CHQProfessionals.

About CCPEG - The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) serves as the main convener of economic development partners and resources in Chautauqua County. As an initiative of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC), CCPEG acts as the catalyst for advancing economic



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Countdown to Christmas

Pastor Sherry Mahar, Christ First UMC

Advent is an annual season between Thanksgiving and Christmas- a time of preparation and reflection. Each day invites us to grow deeper and share wider. It is a time when we are even more intentional about doing good works, serving, loving, being generous, and expressing kindness and compassion with others. The weeks of Advent are divided into Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. May this Countdown to Christmas encourage us to live out our faith in an even greater way, making a beautiful and lasting impact on ourselves and on those around us.

- HOPE** - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19
- Dec. 1 - Intentionally encourage someone today. Hope lifts up.**
- Dec. 2 - Write a note to someone, expressing gratitude for who they are. Hope embraces.**
- Dec. 3 - Believe that change in the world is possible. Pray for that change, and watch for opportunities to be a part of that change. Hope believes in possibilities.**
- Dec. 4 - Expect that something wonderful will happen today, watch for it, be a part of it, and give thanks. Hope is expectant.**
- Dec. 5 - Share with someone a positive and uplifting story of faith. Hope spreads the good news of God's faithfulness and love. Watch expectantly for "God Moments"- moments of witnessing God moving in many ways in your life- and journal your daily God Moments. Read them again if you are ever feeling down or distant. Hope remembers.**
- Dec. 6 - Choose to serve others in some way, so people may experience God's care through you. Hope inspires.**

- PEACE** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7
- Dec. 7 - Breathe deeply, inhaling gratitude and exhaling negativity. Peace reflects trust in the goodness of God.**
- Dec. 8 - Choose to be a gentle and peaceful presence for someone who may feel overwhelmed. Peace supports and calms.**
- Dec. 9 - Pause 10 seconds before speaking, and check your spirit. Take those moments to confirm that the words you will use will be a kind and thoughtful response, and not a harsh reaction. Peace sets the tone for healthy conversation.**
- Dec. 10 - Choose to walk in forgiveness. If any irritation or upset arises, choose to respond and not react. Prayerfully release any unhealthy feelings, and if possible, reconcile. Peace seeks forgiveness.**
- Dec. 11 - Pray for those with whom you may have conflict, and if the Spirit leads, reach out. Peace connects and reconnects.**
- Dec. 12 - Choose to slow your pace, even when there's much to do. Go through the day mindful and not hurried. Peace is being present.**
- Dec. 13 - Make sure to get enough rest- get to bed at a good hour at night and maybe take a nap. Use rest as a form of strength, resting in God's grace. Peace rests in God.**

- JOY** - Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10
- Dec. 14 - Serve in the community, helping others who may be struggling, and experience the joy of serving, as we are blessed to be a blessing. Joy serves.**
- Dec. 15 - Give with generosity to someone without expecting anything in return, and experience the joy of giving. Joy gives.**
- Dec. 16 - With the darkness of days, watch for anyone who may be feeling dark or depressed. Reach out and lift up. Joy observes.**
- Dec. 17 - Check your attitude throughout the day, ensuring your inner joy is being expressed in kindness toward all others. Joy is contagious.**
- Dec. 18 - Notice the Christmas lights decorating the neighborhood. Remember that the light of Christ is in you and shine brightly- sharing a smile, being light-hearted and accepting, and express appreciation for others. Joy brightens.**
- Dec. 19 - "Pay it forward," creating unexpected joy for someone else. Joy celebrates others.**
- Dec. 20 - Approach your day with an intention to experience laughter and fun- bake cookies, drink cocoa, watch a beloved Christmas movie, sing some Christmas carols, and enjoy the day. Joy is fun.**

- LOVE** - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17
- Dec. 21 - Love your family, biological or not, by spending intentional quality time together. Put the phones away, have a meal together, and lovingly listen to and appreciate one another. Give thanks. Love takes the time.**
- Dec. 22 - Love your friends- schedule a friend get-together to celebrate the season and one another. Love is intentional.**
- Dec. 23 - Express love to others in the community by watching for ways to help and give- assist an elderly person walking, or a family who needs an extra set of hands, or- ask God to show you the needs and step into the opportunity to love others. Love takes the effort.**
- Dec. 24 - Love God. Attend a Christmas Eve service to express your love for God. Love knows God, for God is love.**

Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet NUTCRACKER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 - 7:00 PM • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 3:00 PM • TICKETS 716.484.7070

Photos: Rob Sigler Photography



Cate Walter (2019)



Tavares White and Paisley Wilson (2025)

CRYB's Beloved Holiday Tradition — *The Nutcracker*

Contributed by

Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet

The magic of the holidays returns to The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts as the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet (CRYB) presents its enchanting annual production of *The Nutcracker*, under the direction of Monika Alch! Performances take place Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. A special school performance will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m.

For many families across Chautauqua County, CRYB's Nutcracker has become a cherished holiday tradition — a dazzling celebration of dance, music, and imagination that delights audiences of all ages. This year's production promises to whisk audiences away on a magical journey filled with twinkling snowflakes, mischievous mice, and the unforgettable Sugar Plum Fairy.

The story follows young Clara, who drifts into a dream after receiving a mysterious nutcracker from her eccentric godfather, Herr Drosselmeyer. Her adventure unfolds with a thrilling battle against the Rat King and a wondrous voyage to the Kingdom of Sweets, where dancers from round the world perform in her

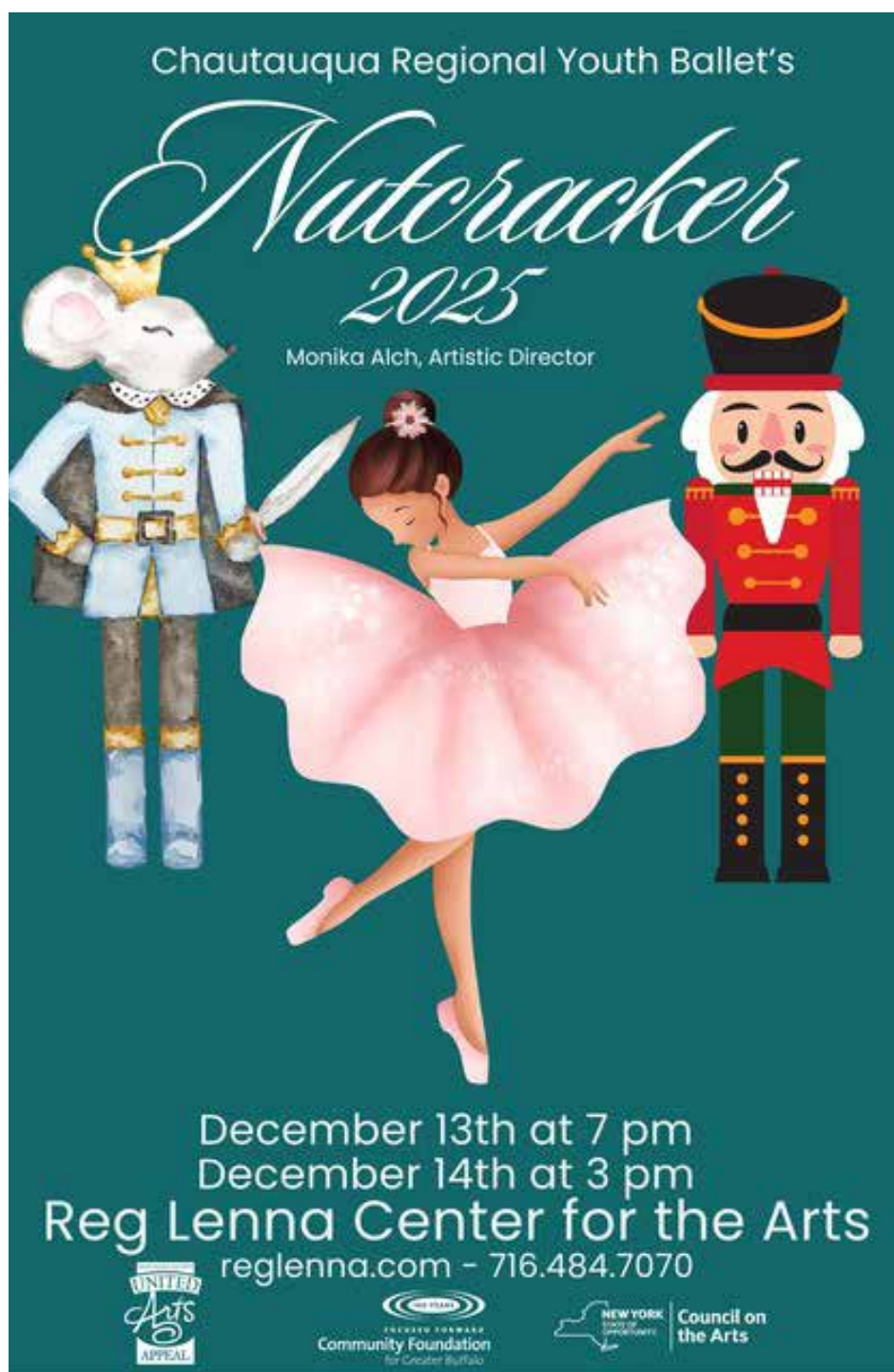
honor.

This year's Clara and Nutcracker Prince will be performed by Paisley Wilson and Tavares White, with featured soloists Annie Johnson, Charley Marshall, Reagan Howard, Gracie Watkins, Isabella Wilder, Hadley Olson, and Oakley Wilson. All are upper level students at CRYB.

Adding to the sparkle are special guest performers: Michael Patterson as Herr Drosselmeyer, Elizabeth Raible as the Grandmother, Grace Gibbons as the Rat Queen, and Nigil Weinman as the Battle Prince. Nearly 70 dancers from CRYB, Patterson School of Ballet, The Studio, and the wider community will bring this holiday classic to life on stage.

Tickets are available now at reglenna.com or by calling the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts Box Office at 716-484-7070.

CRYB's programming is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Additional support for CRYB's classical ballet performances is provided by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the Oliver G. & Sarah Sloan Bauman Fund for the Arts, The Lenna Foundation and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.



“For many, Christmas is also a time for coming together. But for others, service will come first.”

- Queen Elizabeth II



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