THE MANCHESTER CRICKET

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

Local Holiday Traditions

Local Shopping | Gift Guide

Rosalie Harrington Talks The Holidays

Nov / Dec 20

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Remembering the Personal

T's that time again. Cue the twinkling lights, festive cheer, and the promise of cherished moments with loved ones. Pure enchantment.

The older I get, the more I think the best part of the holidays is the personal ways that different people choose to slow down and celebrate this time with family and friends. I'm more interested in how they are creating their idea of enchantment. Despite what the ads or catalogs present as the aspirational holiday, personal traditions have a way of trumping all that. That's a good thing. Why do what everyone else is doing?

In this edition of the **2023** Cricket Holiday Book, Kris McGinn again explores holiday traditions of some locals, like Mark Stolle of Manchester by the Book who reads the same holiday story every Christmas Eve. Or the Warrens who every year bag the biggest tree they can and rise to the challenge of squeezing it into the family living room. Or Jade Gideon's biannual rhythm of springing her family from Essex to experience a radically different location to spark learning and creativity. Annie Cameron carries on her mother's tradition of pie baking for the community, and the Schmidt family's holidays include mixing Mexican cultural traditions with a German holiday game.

This year we spoke to Rosalie Harrington, the chef whose namesake restaurant in Marblehead still makes mouths water. The Beverly Farms resident has a surprising take on holiday hosting and entertaining. Then, Manchester interior designer Jen Coles soulfully shares a Christmas tree memory from childhood. (She also gives us tips on holiday decorating.) And, thankfully, Hannah Harlow of The Book Shop in Beverly Farms returns with a deep dive into all the great new books out this season.

Finally, there's shopping. This is the third year we've compiled a list of quirky and enviable gift ideas, from jewelry to playing cards, toys (for the old and the young), apparel, lovely home items, and more. The idea started as a simple effort to support local retailers during the pandemic. And it's stuck.

So, enjoy this season with your family and friends. Get out to some of the many holiday events happening all over Cape Ann from now through January. Meet up with your neighbors and explore something new around Cape Ann. Keep it local. Because, after all, there's no better place to be than right here.

Erika Brown

Editor, The Cricket

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YOURS & MINE : Holiday Traditions

There are holiday traditions in aspirational books and television shows. Then there are the real family traditions to celebrate the holiday season. Here are some good ones shared by local familiar faces. From an annual Christmas Eve date with a book to baking countless pies, locals celebrate this season their own ways.



By Kris McGinn

uminarias. Little brown paper bags filled with a scoop of sand and a carefully placed votive candle right in the middle of the sand. I know exactly how to make them. I could make them in my sleep.

When you light the candle, the bag transforms into a beautiful little lantern, or luminaria. I grew up trailing behind my dad and our red wooden Radio Flyer wagon filled with all we needed to make each little bag, and then another, and then another, to line our entire driveway and both sides of the street leading to our house. I grew up in Arizona where making luminarias and placing them out on Christmas Eve was a beloved holiday tradition. At twilight dad would light

them. Magic. Later I would do this with my children in California. And again, in Essex. I hope that they too will make magical luminarias with their loved ones one day.

Holiday traditions are so wonderfully unique to each of us and, like the holidays, come only once a year. This year, we decided to see what some of our friends and neighbors are up to as we all begin to look head to the holiday season.

Annie Cameron is a force of awesomeness in Essex, from town business to community organizing, she makes it happen. She is also number 11 of 12 kids. For her, growing up, the holidays meant lots of people and *lots* of food. "Think *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder," she says. Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, Annie and her family had to make pies, pumpkin and apple, with a few mincemeats as well (because, her mother explained, old people like them) for a very large crowd. They lived in a big old house that had huge built-in refrigerators, so they had plenty of space to make plenty of pies. If you were in the house, you had to help. Bigger kids made the dough and sliced apples, while the younger kids had the happy job of peeling bags and bags of apples. Annie recalls that her mother was amazing, making 20 or more of each kind of pie to give away to family friends and still have enough for the holiday. "Her apple pie was spicy and flavorful - her secret was always to double the spice."

To this day, Annie makes pies. Because Christmas is so busy, she bakes pies before Thanksgiving and gives them to anyone she thinks needs a pie, every year is different. Her grandmother was said to have a "pie hand," so Annie has been striving to nail the perfect crust, and thinks she just might have.

"It's my thing that makes me think of a very happy childhood," she explains. But adds, "If you're waiting for me to tell you about how my kids join me in baking, or that we had a dance party and laugh, that's not going to happen because they flee when I'm baking!"

Bruce and Dede Warren are arguably the nicest people in Manchester. (Wouldn't you agree?) They are also, lucky for us, the owners of the Laughing Gull Cafe in Manchester.



Dede and Bruce Warren with their extended family.

Courtesy image

Continued from page 6

It says something about Bruce and Dede that they were quite convinced that they did not actually have any holiday traditions when I approached them. But sure enough, while leaning over the bakery case at the cafe and chatting, out came more than a few - I am guessing that lovely events are just so normal for this close-knit family that they no longer seem special; what a wonderful way to be.

The first tradition to come out was The Christmas Tree. When Bruce began speaking of the yearly tree standing event, I was a little nonplussed-then I saw the images. The tree is massive. I mean really, really big. Like whatever you are thinking, way bigger. They estimate that it is around 25-30 feet most years. They find it, they get it to the house, and then they erect it. It's a thing. Always with a tinge of joyful recklessness, they have been doing this for as long as Dede can remember. It takes no less than four people to pull it through the door. And again to get it out. I can only imagine the needle vacuuming that has to take place once it's gone.

Besides the world's largest Christmas tree, Dede and Bruce spoke of how the 16 family members all have stockings hand knitted by Dede and her mother. They each buy small inexpensive gifts to fill one another's stockings. They call it "paper bag stockings." They also organize a Secret Santa and a Yankee Swap. It came up that everyone in their family has a Christmas get up of some kind. I was shown images of three of them in full-on inflatable holiday suits. Gargantuan tree aside, I am feeling like the Warren's holiday tradition may simply and wonderfully be just having a marvelous time together.

Please be warned: The next holiday tradition may cause acute envy. Jade Gedeon, jewelry designer and owner of We Dream in Colour in Essex, and her family have created a holiday tradition to, as she puts it, "be untraditionally traditional and seek out different food/gifts/activities." Growing up in Trinidad, Jade's family would often hop on a flight and spend Christmas wherever her mom fancied or, in fact, pointed to on a map. Jade and her husband have adopted this

tradition with their own family, alternating years - one spent with family at home, then to another in a place that offers an entirely new experience. She notes that it "1000%" takes the pressure off the holiday and allows her to appreciate time spent together much more than going overboard on gifts or hosting. It also offers amazing inspiration for them as a creative couple and introduces the kids to all kinds of new foods, cultures and traditions elsewhere.

Over the years they have visited Vienna, Mexico City, Marrakesh, London, Quebec, Bordeaux, Paris and Cape Town. This year they are heading to Milan, Venice, and Zermatt. Right. I am definitely thinking I need to add this to my holiday traditions.

Anyone who knows Maria Schmidt knows that she is all about family.

...Continued on page 8



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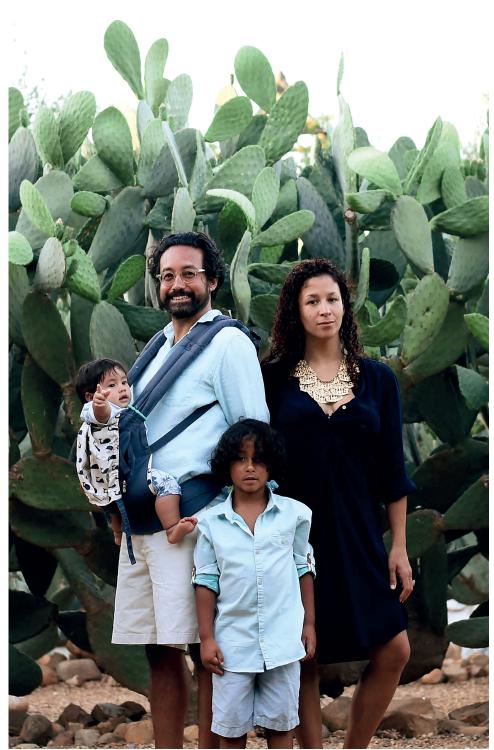
A traditional German holiday game of finding the hidden pickle for a prize. Courtesy image

The Schmidts kick off the holiday season with a new set of matching holiday pjs for the whole crew. Sometimes coordinated and sometimes not. But always mandatory attire for Christmas Eve when one gift can be opened early. Said gift is always (always) selected by Maria making sure to curate it such that the photo taken to send out on Christmas morning to family far away is perfect!

Christmas gift opening is followed by a Mexican brunch to celebrate Maria's heri-

tage. This includes: Chilaquiles (fried corn tortilla chips smothered in spicy tomato sauce and melted cheese), Huevos con Chorizo (eggs scrambled with soft, Mexican chorizo), chorizo, tortillas, and Atole (a sweet, thickened beverage steeped in cinnamon). Yum!

In looking to Maria's husband Gary's German heritage, they play pickle hide-and-seek. Right. Pickle hide-and-seek refers to the German tradition of hanging a pickle ornament on the tree after all the gifts have been



Jade Gideon and family in South Africa.

opened. The first person to find the pickle receives a special gift.

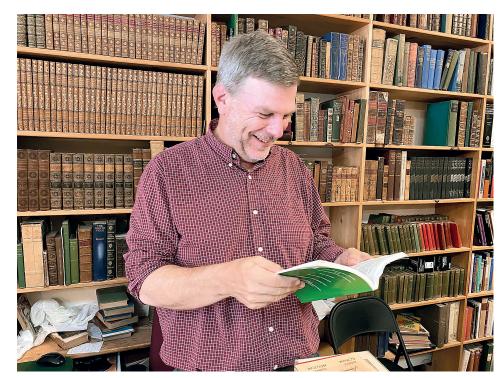
And finally, our beloved bookstore owner, **Mark Stolle**, who is, in my experience, endlessly wonderful of course has the most charming way to kick off the holiday season.

"At the start of every Christmas season I have a tradition of reading Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. But I need the

Courtesy image

mood to be Christmassy. So, after work, on the day I set up the lights in my Christmas window, I shut off all the rest of the lights and sit on the couch and squintilly read 'One Christmas was so much like another, in those years around the sea-town corner now and out of all sound except the distant speaking'" What better way to quietly welcome in the holidays than this.

Wishing you and yours a beautiful holiday ...Continued on page 9



Mark Stolle in his book store, Manchester by the Book. (Photo: Kris McGinn)



Atole, a traditional Mexican hot drink, is enjoyed by the Schmidts each holiday season.

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season as we all look forward to our own traditions. Happy holidays!

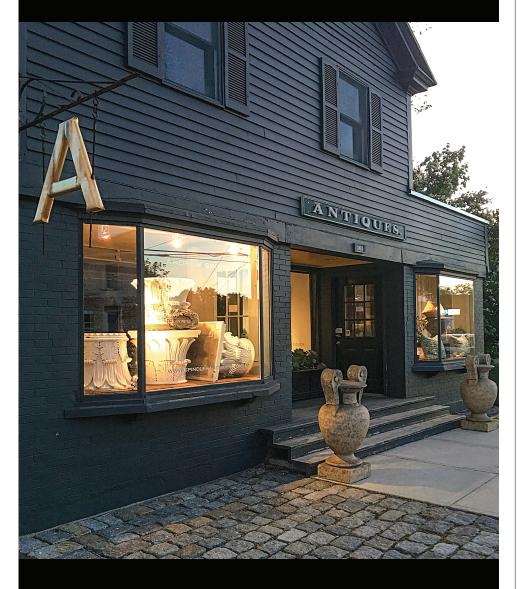




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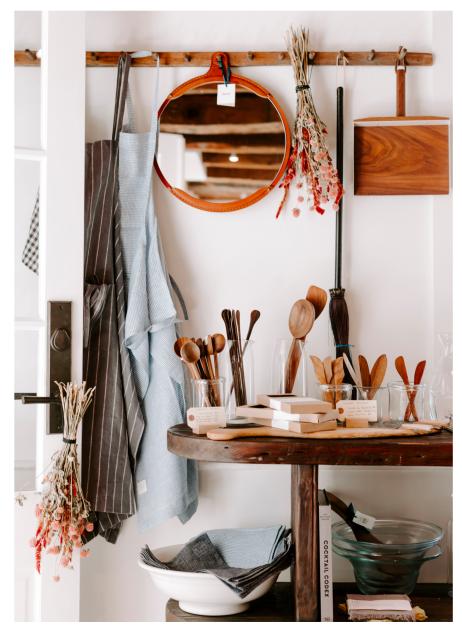
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Unforgettable Holidays Are About Remembering What's Important

By Erika Brown

Rosalie Harrington is a local chef with a storied career. As the founder of Rosalie's in Marblehead. she was one of the country's first chef-owners. Her restaurant was the focus of a national Super Bowl ad campaign for Visa. She helmed one of the first cooking shows on the Food Network, served as the head of catering at Tufts University and has taught cooking classes for the last 20 years. A Beverly Farms resident, we sat to discuss holiday hosting and what's really important this time of year.

You say people often overthink the holidays, correct?

Yes, that's right. Over the years many people have approached me to say, Tve got a nice new recipe for the holidays,' or they want to reconstruct an old recipe that brings back a family memory. Those are wonderful ideas, for sure. But I tell them the holidays are not a great time to experiment. Save that for another time.

What are your family holidays like?

Well, for many years, when I ran Rosalie's, I invited anyone who didn't have a place to go for the holidays to the restaurant. That was always fun because all I had to do was cook five extra turkeys and I had plenty of help. But in the last 20 or so years we've been going to the home of (my husband) Todd's cousin. She's a lovely, lovely hostess who knows how to not overthink the holiday meal. She is relaxed and welcoming, and doesn't put a lot of pressure on guests and what to bring. You want to bring a dessert? Fine. You want to bring a pie? She doesn't tell what kind to bring. That's the way to do it. The host needs



to enjoy the holiday too!

What do you typically bring for the holidays?

So, of course, I'm the only chef in the family so I do get a job, and that's to make the gravy, which everybody loves. Now, don't confuse this with the 'Sunday gravy' that some Italians call tomato sauce for pasta. I'm talking about gravy for turkey and mashed potatoes!

Can you share your recipe for turkey gravy?

I start with the beautiful drippings in the pan from the turkey and make the gravy right in that same pan. Then I have key ingredients-chicken stock, apple cider, a little flour, salt, pepper, herbs, and any type of sweet liqueur, like Grand Marnier. I skim off the fat, then put in a little flour as a thickener and as I cook the flour I add the chicken broth, stirring the whole time. I add the Grand Marnier and the cider. Sometimes I put in sauteed turkey giblets for flavor. As it thickens, I taste and season it with salt and pepper. I'll add fresh herbs, like rosemary or thyme. If the gravy is too light, I might add a splash of soy sauce which adds a nice flavor. In the end, I'm looking for a gravy that is silky and velvety, not thick or glutinous. You want it to slide over the turkey and mashed potatoes.

Speaking of simple, do you have a favorite simple recipe?

My grandparents had a beautiful garden in Beachmont, which is part of Revere, that was owned by the people next door who let my grandfather garden on the land. He loved to grow anything in the squash family. This year I discovered a recipe that reminds me of my grandparents using Delicata squash, which are small and pretty and have a delicate, edible skin that doesn't need peeling. I cut them into rings and roasted them flat with brussels sprouts. The last time I made them I added some Marsala wine to the pan juice at the end and cooked it off with almonds, which gave them a nice flavor and I used them to top the finished dish. It only took about 30 minutes.

It sounds so simple. How do you handle a small holiday dinner?

A couple of years ago Todd and I took our grandsons to New York for the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. We stayed in Brooklyn, and the local butcher prepared a simple turkey breast cut. Then I purchased prosciutto (a delicate dry-cured Italian ham). The shopowner was very smart to have roasted vegetables that were heat-and-serve, which is a great option. We wrapped the turkey breast in the prosciutto, roasted it for about an hour



Rosalie Harrington, getting pumpkins off the trucks at Henry's Market in Beverly. Photo: Todd Fienberg

and then I made the same gravy I make for large gatherings. It was easy and delicious. Grocery and specialty stores now offer specialty turkey cuts, like thighs or breasts or drumsticks that are perfect for smaller holiday meals. Bacon is an easy substitute for prosciutto, and it keeps the meat moist.

What about leftovers? I know you encourage students to get creative with what's on hand.

Well, first, just a reminder that food should be hot or cold. Don't leave food out for a long time hot and then use it later. I'm a stickler for food safety from my years in the restaurant business and catering at Tufts. Now, for leftovers, my personal favorite is a simple turkey sandwich with cranberry sauce with just a little bit of mayonnaise. Maybe I'll add pesto to the mayonnaise to give it a fresh flavor. But you can do anything. I encourage people to make more than they need on the holidays. You can sauté turkey with broccoli, oil and garlic with pasta. You can do a stir-fry. Let your imagination go.

What about decorating?

Sometimes when people host a holiday meal, they pressure themselves to have big, dramatic décor. But it's really just about warming up your house. If digging out your best china is a lot of work and aggravation, don't do it. When I opened my first restaurant I had no money, so I went to thrift shop after thrift shop and just mixed and matched everything, and it was beautiful.

Recently my daughter Kathy told me her neighbor in Florida had given her a collection of owls, which she had placed around her home. And I said, 'Honey, I hate to tell you how to decorate, but you should gather them and place them together." That's how I feel about decorating, especially for the holidays. Pull together items of the same color or theme and create a moment of drama.

What about decorating the holiday table?

So, for the holidays, get some autumn leaves and lay them along the center of the table and mix them with a flower arrangement. Or I love using food items as a lush dis-



play. Years ago, I would return from Europe wishing we had bakeries like that here. Well, now, we have them. We have A&J King (Salem). Mayflour (Essex). Bonne Breads (Beverly) and Source Bakery (Gloucester), and many others. Why not place your holiday loafs in a basket as a lovely centerpiece? Or a collection of fruit can be a colorful display with flowers.

I love this philosophy. Keeping it simple and really enjoying the holidays.

That's right. It's about being creative and having fun. And more than anything, be relaxed. Really, the older I get the more I see that the holidays are a time to remember and just let the emotions that come with memories happen. I recently ran into a friend I hadn't seen in 40 years-a beautiful person and a beautiful teacher I knew at Tufts. When we first met, I joined her and a group for a walk on Nahant Beach and she made us bring bags because she said if we were going to the beach, we should pick up trash and leave the beach prettier than we found it. I started doing it whenever I'd go to a beach, including once on a beach in Sicily! Well, I told her about this and she actually cried because she never imagined having an impact on someone's life. Now, during the holidays, I'm thinking about her response. It makes me a little sad, but also very grateful and happy. That's the thing about the holidays. It's not about the food or the décor. It's about remembering. And being grateful for what you have.

Wow, what a story. It's true; the holidays are about being grateful.

Well, that, and the leftovers!

Roasted Delicata Squash Rings with Brussels Sprouts

By Rosalie Harrington

This easy and beautiful holiday side dish reminds me of my grandfather, an avid gardener who loved growing all manner of squash. I use Delicata squash because it's pretty and its skin is edible and doesn't require peeling.

Buy squash and the smallest and freshest sprouts you can find. Some markets, like Crosby's, Market Basket, and the Common Crow, offer them cleaned and trimmed. Start by mixing together the following:

- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 5 tbsp. olive oil
- 5 tbsp. real maple syrup
- 3 tbsp. brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 tbsp. chopped thyme, preferably fresh

Divide these into two bowls.

Then, choose a good sized squash, about eight to ten inches would be perfect, or two smaller ones if you have difficulty finding them. Wash and wipe dry. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Use upper and lower racks of oven.

Whisk ingredients in both bowls. In one bowl place the brussels sprouts and stir to coat evenly. Pour onto a baking sheet and arrange in one layer. Position the sheet on the lower rack.

In another bowl, whisk together ingredients and with a pastry brush coat the squash and place on another roasting pan and place in the upper rack.

Roast veggies for 15 minutes and then rotate the pans and roast another 15 minutes, or until squash is easily pierced with a fork. Remove racks from oven and set aside. The brussels sprouts should have a golden look to them.

On a cutting board slice threequarter-inch slices of squash. You should have about 10 to 12 rings. Arrange on a stainless or Pyrex pan sprinkled with a small amount of the maple syrup glaze.

Brush rings with the extra glaze. Place a brussels sprout in the center of each ring. Any extra sprouts can be placed in a small dish at serving time. In the photo, I have roasted almonds which I tossed with the extra glaze. They took about five minutes in the hot oven. Store covered in the fridge until ready to serve. You can prepare this dish a day or two ahead. At serving time, heat until hot in a 325 oven. It will only take about five minutes. Remove from oven when you are getting ready to serve.





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A Ghost of Christmas Past

"Did I say perfect tree? I really meant that any old tree would do. And thank goodness I felt that way because decision by committee does not always reap the finest results. Just ask my cat we collectively named "Meatball." ... I'm a designer, but I've never really had a designer tree. But honestly, it just doesn't matter. Just sparkle it up, add your own messy mix of love and tradition, hug your mom close if she's still alive, and set that bar low for what you take on with the rest of the family."

By Jen Coles

hen I was a kid, my mother loved Christmas. I see now it was fitting because Carolyn liked sparkly things all year round, and she kind of lived in this world with fairy sprites and earthen spirits. "Isn't it terrible," she once said, "how every Christmas we chop down all those majestic pines in the prime of their lives?" I was next to my older sister, and I watched her eyes narrow. She knew when a storm was brewing.

"Wouldn't you rather," she asked with a big smile, "have a Christmas twig? Something that fell naturally to the ground, that we would give a second life to in our living room?"

Without even moving my head, I stole another look at my sister. Because she already knew what was just starting to dawn on me. Our parents just didn't fit in. I mean, we were new in town, just starting to make friends, and couldn't we PLEASE just have a normal tree like everyone else??

But we knew that Carolyn's question wasn't really a question. Our fate had already been determined.

I tried making the best of it though. "Okay," I said, "I'll look for the twig." We lived on a wooded lot and I thought it would be easy enough, but I came home despairing. All the twigs I found were crumpled on one side, or too small, or too prickly to even touch. And besides that, they were TWIGS!

"Don't worry," my mother said cheerfully. "Your father will take care of it." My father was not a tall man, but he was compact and strong. On any given day, he might find my mother either mildly entertaining or completely exasperating. And thinking about it now, I'd say he felt that way about most things. But sure enough, a few days later I spotted him out the back window.

He was at the edge of a bank of trees struggling to pull the stump end of our Christmas twig beyond the branches of its neighboring pines. His face was red, and he kept losing his footing until he dug his heels in and gave that twig a final, mighty tug. It broke free suddenly, which threw him down hard. I winced behind the window as I saw him cursing. But even worse, as he picked himself up and collected his tools. I realized that he was holding a small saw. A SAW? Weren't we supposed to be saving the majestic pines? Well, how about those plucky young saplings? Weren't their stories just as tragic? I knew better than to mention it, but I know my mother ended up seeing it too.

I caught her having a quiet moment with that twig, and when I asked what she was doing she said she was just thanking it for its service.



Regardless, we propped that tree up in a bucket in our living room. We sprayed some fake snow on it, wrapped a blanket around the base, strung it with lights and silver tinsel, and added our odd assortment of ornaments. And honestly, it wasn't so bad. My sister never really came around, but I grew to like it. But I've got some of my mother in me. Anything strung up with fairy lights and dangled with sparkly ornaments can't be all bad. And now, with all the twinkle that marks this holiday season, I think of Carolyn frequently.

Jumping ahead about 25 years, I realize my own tree expeditions were marked with their own strife. For a number of years, we went to a tree farm to find our perfect tree. (You see, Carolyn? They replace them!) But getting four kids to agree on anything was difficult in the cereal aisle, and just impossible when the stakes were so high. And did I say perfect tree? I really meant that any old tree would do. And thank goodness I felt that way because decision by committee does not always reap the finest results. Just ask my cat we collectively named Meatball.

And our trees? Oh, we had some real clunkers. Once, we found a large tree at the farm and out of desperation just chopped the top off of it and dragged it home. (Shhhh... I think that's Carolyn rolling in her grave.) It

seemed like a good idea at the time, but leaving behind that butchered half-tree just didn't feel right. And when we got the other half home it sat squatly in our living room looking more like a shrub than a majestic pine.

Another year, we unwittingly bought a tree that, on day two, began aggressively losing its needles and rejecting water. Every time I walked by, I'd hear that cartoon-like tinkle-tinkle of the needles hitting the wrapped presents below. I hauled that thing out bright and early on December 26th, and with that final effort it was practically naked on the curb. It bore a troubling resemblance to the Christmas twig of my past.

The last few trees we got while I was still married came from the farm stand down the road. Just me and my ex meeting after work. A fist bump to mark the occasion. So easy! The kids had lost interest. They were at the stage where they just wanted Christmas to magically appear in the living room, all dressed up and ready for action. And so that's what we did.

But you know what? I loved all those trees, even the twig. I'd dressed them up in the holiday sparkle, sat next to them while anticipating the season, and even took quiet moments to thank them for their service.

I'm a designer, but I've never really had a designer tree. Do I have words of advice



as to how you can create one? Well, I suppose I do. But honestly, it just doesn't matter. Just sparkle it up, add your own messy mix of love and tradition, hug your mom close if she's still alive, and set that bar low for what

you take on with the rest of the family. Just be there, and the rest will follow.

Jennifer Coles is a local interior designer. Her website is: colescoloranddesign.com



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Some holiday decorating tips



By Jen Coles

choose some, and save some others for something different in the years to come.

Too much stuff? Reign it in! No one likes a room that feels cluttered and chaotic. So,

hing different in the years to come.

Focus on a few locations and do them

up big. Maybe it's your mantle, your dining room table, your half bath (always fun), and your patio table which you will light up. Having a few areas of WOW is better than spreading all your stuff out evenly.

Establish a design theme, not just your tree, but for your whole home. Perhaps you focus on red lights, gold balls and votif holders, and you showcase your fabulous collection of snow globes. Stick with that theme for all locations, and then change it up next year.

Don't forget your ceiling. Do something unexpected! Hang branches topped with some out-of-the-can snow, or dangle home-made snowflakes, or golf balls. Anything goes!

Curate your own string of lights. For instance, you can swap out every fourth bulb to be a different color. It's a nice way to add some color without overwhelming.

Ornaments are not just for trees. Try them in glass bowls or tall vases, lay them down your table runner, hang them from your can-



delabra.

Get the whole family involved. No designer display is worth it if little hands can't participate, or if you are displaying only meaningless items you picked up at Home Goods. The best displays are from the heart!

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Out Shopping, Right Now

The Holidays!

Welcome to the Cricket's third annual Holiday Gift Guide. This year we've found so many amazing goodies. For animal lovers, the kiddos, outdoorsy types, homebodies, jewelry lovers, and entertainers. As usual, our shopping guide takes us all over, from Rockport to Essex, Ipswich, Gloucester and Manchester. All local on Cape Ann, all good.

Follow Your Bliss

It's the go-everywhere, take-itanywhere, all-terrain folding mountain eBike. Mountains, camping, college, or work, this folding electric bike is perfect. Load it up and go. Available accessories include: fenders, rear rack, front light and back brake light. \$2,299 at **Happy EBikes**, 21 Lexington Ave., Magnolia | happyebikes.com





Reports are that this toy, Wilma the Whale, is one of the hottest toys being picked up this year and it's at Tooteloos!, the toy store in Gloucester. Plush, and comfy for kids aged 0+ years. Embordered eyes, double layer fabric for durability and soft as can be. \$27.99 at **Tooteloos!**, 142 Main St, Gloucester | (978) 281-2011



A Local Favorite

For 50 years, Salem-based chocolatier Harbor Sweets has offered crave-worthy staples, including their "Sloops" sailboat buttercrunch candies dipped in chocolate and dusted with nuts. \$89.50 for the 90-piece variety assortment that includes the Sloops. **Harbor Sweets**, 140 Rantoul St., #4, Beverly | (978) 969-2779 or harborsweets.com

Going Big

This elegant Julie Vos "Cannes" bracelet of lightly hammered golden links has a

pierced design on the inside and is finished with a toggle. 8.5 inches long, 24K gold plate. \$330 at **Juel and Company**, located in Chapman's Greenhouse, 58 Hort St

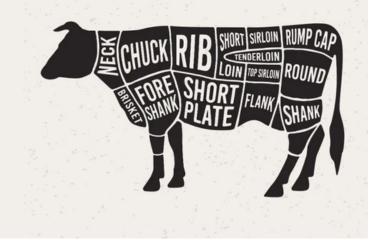


58 Hart St., Beverly | (978) 927-0153



There's the Beef

Fill your freezer with half a steer of premium steaks, hearty roasts, ground beef, and specialty cuts like brisket and osso buco to enjoy all year long. Made all the better because it comes from a local source. Price is calculated from hanging weight, but it will run between \$1,198 and \$1,797 for an estimated final weight between 200 and 300 lbs. At **Seaview Farm**, 38 South St, Rockport | (978) 546-2418





Now That's the Spirit!

Locals have come to love the experience of getting upto-the-minute stylish women's clothing and accessories at Amy Lage's Style Snoop in Manchester. This cozy set says it all ... keep it light and fun this season. Hat (\$24), mittens(\$24) and seasonal jumper (\$68). **Style Snoop**, 19 Central St., Manchester |(978) 704-9881



Happy Home For Your Money

These handmade soft leather credit card holders and change purses are modern, stylish and come in happy bright colors with offset top stitching. They're pretty to look at, and you'll never lose sight of them in your purse or car. Perfect to house a gift card gift! \$24 wallet, \$26 change purse, at **4 Beach Gifts & Goodies**, 4 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7333

What Does Your Drink Wear?

We wish we'd thought of this one. Puffin Drinkwear has created a line of outerwear inspired koozies for your 12-oz. canned beverage of your choice. In puffer jacket or vest styles to plaid lumberjacky look. \$19.99 at **Ace Manchester Hardware**, 35 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-4000



An American Original

The best ever stocking stuffer can be easily had with these wool socks from an American classic, Pendleton socks. They'll make you look great around the house, or out in the wild lands (of downtown!) Styles start at \$14, at **John Tarr Store**, 49 Main St., Rockport | (978) 546-6524



Your Cup Bubbleth Over

Make fresh sparkling water at the push of a button with this Sodastream Terra sparkling water maker. Includes a Co2 cylinder that will spritz up to 60 liters of water. While you're at it, pick up some flavor drops, like Bubly or Pepsi (diet or regular) and many more. Great for the planet. \$99.99 at **Ace Manchester Hardware**, 35 Beach St., St, Manchester | (978) 526-4000



Lush Light

sodastream

These tapered candles at Found Design in Essex come in a variety of styles and colors. Each candle is hand poured and individually finished in New York State. Lovingly made from 100% pure North American beeswax. Square Tapers are sold in pairs and come in a sweet gift box. At **Found Design Studio**, 67 Main St., Essex | (978) 890-7180

Channeling Steve McQueen

Another authentic original, with this Aran Knitwear-Irish wool sweater. Since being featured in *Vogue* in the 1960s, Aran of Ireland sweaters have made fans of Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and, yes, Steve McQueen. Made in Ireland. \$110 and up, at **John Tarr Store**, 49 Main St., Rockport | (978) 546-6524

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Season's Greetings

Community success stands on a healthy economy, allowing our Main Streets to grow and remain vibrant. By shopping and dining locally, we keep our money in Cape Ann and empower local businesses to succeed.

When you Keep It In Cape Ann, you enable Cape Ann Savings Bank to provide loans to our local business community, new business owners, and allow us to give back through charitable giving. We are proud to give back by financially supporting local non-profit 501c3 organizations through charitable giving and volunteer hours, and we have you to thank for that.

We at Cape Ann Savings Bank are grateful for you-our community and customers who support our local banks, retailers, charities, and other small businesses. Wishing you a healthy, safe and joyful holiday season.



Marianne Smith

Marianne Smith, President Cape Ann Savings Bank www.KeepltInCapeAnn.com





Grown-Up Ice Cream



This Nima Oberoi ice cream server is made by hand using a centuries old technique of sand-casting aluminum from a mold by artisans in California. Each holds a pint of your favorite ice cream, features its own scooper, and is available in an array of enameled colors. \$86 each, at Juel and Company, located in Chapman's Greenhouse, 58 Hart St., Beverly | (978) 927-0153





Like a Wearable Teddy Bear

This "Chilly Nights Fleece" lounge set is made of a 60-40 poly cotton blend and is cozy for cold winter days. Made for lounging around the house, but its classic design means you can head out lookin' great. \$64 pants, \$56 crewneck pullover. At Luxa, 27 S Main St, Ipswich | (978) 358-1220 or luxajewelry.com



Gold & Turquoise Green

MAHRI is a jewelry, fashion and home goods store that has been in Manchester since 1972, with so many of its jewelry designs feeling as modern today as they did decades ago. Here's a classic MAHRI design - large linked necklace and bracelet in solid 14K gold fill. They're shown beautifully against these turquoise green Lauren HB Studio Pottery Flock Bowls. Necklace, \$1,200; link bracelet, \$400; Flock Bowls in medium (\$68) and small (\$38). All at MAHRI, 11 Beach St., Manchester (978) 526-7241



The Best Bloody Mary. Period.

McClure's Bloody Mary Mixer is a cult favorite among hair-of-the-dog and brunch fans. It's spicy, sweet and packed with vinegar from McClure's spicy pickle brine, tomato paste, fresh pressed cucumber juice, and seasoning. Yum! A great little hostess gift, or a stocking stuffer. \$11.95, at Lula's Pantry, 5 Dock Sq., Rockport | (978) 546-0010

A Classic For Always

Pretty Time

This Men's Pack Pullover Hoody from Patagonia is one of those forever gifts. And while it says men's, is it really? We think not. Lightweight, stretchy, breathable, weather-resistant, insulated hoody with a 90% recycled polyester/10% spandex double-weave shell made in a fair-trade certified factory. \$199 at **Surfari**. 88 Bass Ave., Gloucester (978)283-7873 or surfcapeann.com



Advent Calendar for Little Ones

The yummiest holiday countdown ever with the PlayIn Choc, eco-friendly 12-day or 24-day advent calendar. Behind each window is a super-cute festive toy, one dreamy, creamy chocolate and fun facts card. That's three treats every time! Vegan, organic, and plastic free. \$50 and \$90, at We Dream in Colour, 166 Main St., Essex (978) 594-1425





The Finest Symbols of Protection

Tell a unique, personal story with symbolic handcrafted charms and talismans from Erica Molinari fine jewelry at GLADSTONE. Discover the many themes to choose from in combinations of gold, oxidized silver, vitreous enamel, and gemstones. While you are there, make your holiday wish list! \$155 to \$4,235, at **GLADSTONE**, 36 1/2 Union St., Manchester | gladstonejewelry.com.



Green with Envy

Eagerly sought by collectors, Miriam Haskell designed and sold her costume jewelry from the 1920s through the 1960s. Here is a perfect set of jade green art glass Russian golf and faux pearl brooch, neck-lace and earring. Full set, \$750 at **The Stock Exchange**, 3 Beach St., Manchesterby-the-Sea | (978) 526-7569



Me, Or Someone I Love

These delicate, gold-fill necklaces feature pendants with a simple capital letter initial in sans serif, making it a modern and clean design. The gold fill means it will never tarnish. Just \$58, at **4 Beach Gifts & Goodies**, 4 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7333



Mycological Poker

These playing cards from the New York Puzzle Company are designed using beautiful French vintage illustrations of mush-rooms (er, we mean "champignons"). And each standard deck features a different and labeled type of mushroom on each card. Just \$10.50, at **4 Beach Gifts & Goodies**, 4 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7333



Ah, Hermes!

Hermes 90 scarves are legendary for their style and versatility because the large (36"x36") can be worn in countless ways-a neck or head cover or even a wrap-around summer blouse. These feature the French company's classic horse bit design. \$200, at **The Stock Exchange,** 3 Beach St., Manchester-bythe-Sea | (978) 526-7569



Name Dropper

The emblematic "Double G" belt by Gucci was reintroduced in 2020 in a luminous gold-tone, set on a smooth black leather belt. \$425, at **The Stock Exchange**, 3 Beach St., Manchester-by-the-Sea | (978) 526-7569



Big Art, Small Package

Artist Robert Hanlon of Walker Creek Artworks paints charming scenes of Cape Ann and Essex, where he worked for more than two decades before moving his studio to Gloucester. His work at Muzio is a curated selection painted on wooden panels. The largest painting depicting a charming rural way (\$400) is a two-sided painting, 6"x 10". With the smaller two paintings, Essex Boatyard (\$295) and High Tide (\$195) you can create an exceptional set. At **Muzio Designs**, 55 John Wise Ave., Essex | *muziodesigns.com*





A guide to picking the perfect fresh Christmas tree



ome the holiday season, perhaps no tradition evokes the warm and fuzzy "feels" more than a family outing to pick a Christmas tree. Whether it's a trek to a live Christmas tree farm or a short drive to the nearest pre-cut tree lot, the process of selecting a tree that will serve as the crown jewel of the entire season is a great way to make lasting memories.

Selecting a tree is a yearly ritual and each person has his or her set of criteria for what makes the ideal Christmas tree. These tips can help families find the right tree.

Choose your species

Do some homework on the type of tree you want prior to buying the tree. Balsam fir and fraser fir are popular Christmas tree varieties, but there are many others, such as noble fir and Norway spruce. Balsams are known for having the most fragrant smell, but frasers tend to keep their needles the longest. For those who prefer a douglas fir, keep in mind that they sometimes drop their needles prematurely due to foliar diseases like needle-cast fungus.

Space for ornaments

In addition to aroma and needle longevity, look for trees that have a desirable shape and allow for adequate



space between branches, advises the home and garden resource The Spruce. Trees groomed to be lush and full will look beautiful unadorned, but once ornaments are added, full branches may cause those ornaments to hang low or even fall off. Trees with sparse branches allow for ornaments to hang straight.

Measure your space

Trees in the field or in a lot may look much smaller than they do when brought into the living room. Don't make the mistake of selecting a tree that is too large for your home. Be sure to measure the room from floor to ceiling and subtract the height of the tree stand and tree topper. It's equally important to measure the width of the area where the tree will stand and to allow for ample space for foot traffic around the tree.

Perform a needle check

Every tree will drop some needles, and most evergreens hold their foliage. Modest needle loss is not an indicator of a poor tree. But if 50 percent of the needles are lost when you swipe your hand down three to five different branches around the tree, the tree likely is not a good choice. Also, avoid a tree that has glaring defects in the trunk as it can impede water flow through the tree.

Heavier is better

A heavy pre-cut tree means it is full of water and has been cut more recently. A healthy, fresh tree will require an effort to lift. Older, dried out trees will not be heavy. Upon arriving home, make a fresh cut off the tree trunk and get it in water as soon as possible – even if that's a bucket – until the tree stand can be set up.



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Leashing Around

Preston Dog Collars and Leashes come in all manner of color and design from a brand that's been around since 1947. There are holiday designs and lots more, all with sizing/length options. Colorful ribbon stitched into tough and durable nylon webbing. Collars \$15.95, leashes \$16.95, at **Essex Bird & Pet Supply**, 121R Eastern Ave, Essex | (978) 768-7408





The Perfect Nighttime Companion

From legendary German stuffed toy company, Steiff, meet Jimmy the Bear from the company's "Soft Cuddly Friends" line. Plush, ultra-soft and cuddly. \$42 at **4 Beach Gifts & Goodies**, 4 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7333





Poochie Poochie Poo!

For the elegant dog in your life, this plaid Blanket Dog Coat from Chilly Dog Coat will keep your pet toasty warm-and looking good-all winter. Lined with thick fleece and easy on/ off Velcro straps on the chest and girth to adjust to a perfect fit. Available in six sizes (XS-XXL) and made in following fairtrade guidelines. From \$38.95, at **Essex Bird & Pet Supply**, 121R Eastern Ave, Essex | (978) 768-7408



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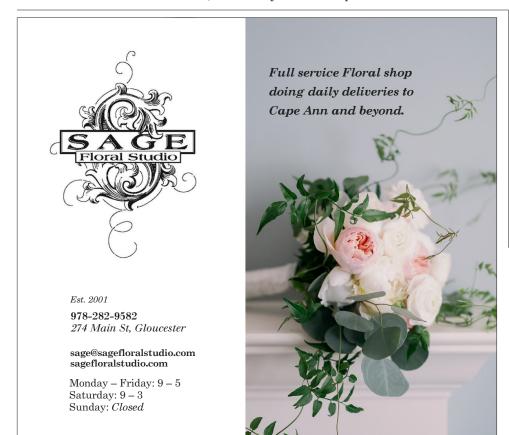
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Cape Ann holiday wreath making events



D veryone loves holiday wreaths. It is believed the first wreaths date back to ancient Greece and Rome. Members of the Greco-Roman society were

known to hand-make ring-shaped items using fresh tree leaves, small fruits, flowers, and twigs. Often these headdresses symbolized a person's social status. Oth-



ers suggest wreaths evolved to become a Christian symbol of immortality. Whatever their history or back story, wreaths are a signal of warmth and welcoming.

Workshops to make your own holiday decorations have become more popular than ever. If you're interested in jumping in yourself on a local wreath making class, there are some great options around Cape Ann.

Many have returned by popular demand, so be warned: all require reservations because they sell out fast. And what better feeling than to make a unique decorative piece that everyone will enjoy.

First up on the calendar is the **Essex Shipbuilding Museum**, which will host "Wreath Decorating with Susie Talbot" that has become an annual popular event with floral designer Susie Talbot. The workshop is 5-7 p.m. **Wednesday, November 29** at the museum. Tickets \$50, at 28 Main St., Essex.

Then, on **Thursday, December 7**, the **Beauport Hotel** in Gloucester (55 Commercial St.) will host its "Holiday Wreath Making Class" with the hotel's floral designer, Meredith McCarthy. The class goes from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and tickets are \$85 each.

Also on **Thursday, December 7** at **Anna Hardy Design** in Essex, interior designer and UK native Anna Hardy will host "Holiday "Wreath Making, Sip & Shop: Creativity and the Joy of Decorating" as part of the studio's Holiday Open House event program featuring a slate of fun holiday pop-up shopping events and activities. Ms. Hardy will co-host the Wreath Making class with florist Frankie Walsh to create a longlasting seasonal wreath in the comfort of their showroom. Event is 4:30-2:30 p.m. at 117 Eastern Ave.. Tickets \$125 each.

Finally, on **Saturday, December 9**, The Trustees offers a "Natural Wreath Making



Workshop," from 11 a.m.-noon at its **The Trustees' Appleton Farm** property (219 County Rd., Hamilton) where participants will create their own beautiful wreath made from local materials, including a variety of natural materials such as berries, pine cones, and dried forage. Tickets \$60 for Trustees members and \$75 for non-

Hair service, nails, facial care, waxing

services, massage, and more. Give vourself the time to relax and unwind.

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2023 Holiday Book 29



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Shop Thoughts: Holly Jolly Book Season



By Hannah Harlow

hristmas is my favorite time of the year. The lights, the good will, the food, yes, I love all of it. But it's also the time of year when traffic in the bookstore doubles, even triples, and I get to do that much more of one of my favorite pastimes: talking about books. Here's my list of the books I think I'll be talking about the most.

For anyone

Two years ago, after it was released on November 30, 2021, I recommended Claire Keegan's *Small Things Like These* to anyone who would listen. The content of its 128 pages is nearly perfect. The following year, Grove Press released another novella by the Irish author, Foster. Both of these stories had been published to great acclaim in her home country years before. But still our discovery of Claire Keegan feels fresh and I'm delighted to report that a collection of three more of her stories, So Late in the Day, is being released this November. All three books are slim, a small trim size, and feature gorgeous cover art similar in style. They make lovely hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, book club gifts, teacher's gifts, or really anyone, any time gifts. You'll want to pick up two copies of each one set to keep for yourself.

For the home chef

Erin French owns the popular restaurant The Lost Kitchen in Freedom, Maine (now also the subject of a television show of the same name airing on Max). She's the author of the cookbook The Lost Kitchen and the memoir Finding Freedom. Her new cookbook, Big Heart, Little Stove, hits shelves on October 31 and features over 75 recipes for meaningful but simple dishes. French also gives ideas for creating moments of connection around the table through decorations and thoughtful gestures. Other new cookbooks to consider include More is More: Get Loose in the Kitchen by Molly Baz, who wants to make cooking fun, and Seafood Simple by Eric Ripert. A good back-up is the newest Best American Food Writing, this year edited by Mark Bittman.

For the music lover

2023 seems to be the year of the musician biography. Britney Spears' new memoir, The Woman in Me, will likely end up being the bestselling of the bunch, and I've read it and I can recommend it - it's got bombshells galore, and her story deserves to be heard. But wait, there's more: Barbra Streisand's longawaited memoir, My Name is Barbra, finally hits shelves in November. Dolly Parton's MyLife in Rhinestones is a big, beautiful, blingedout affair. Willie Nelson gives us Energy Follows Thought: The Stories Behind My Songs. Jeff Tweedy is back with World Within a Song: Music That Changed My Life and Life That Changed My Music. There are also new biographies of Madonna, George Harrison, Lou Reed, and Tina Turner. Laura Flam and Emily Sieu Liebowitz have compiled an oral history of 60s girls groups called, But Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? Or take a different route and pick up This is What It Sounds Like: What the Music You Love Says About You by Susan Rogers and Ogi Ogas, which will help anyone understand how music, emotion, and the brain work together to form love.

For the fiction lover

One of my favorite books of the year is *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. It's simply a good story well told. I also loved *Night Watch* by Jayne Anne Phillips, a novel set during the Civil War that shows women enduring and healing, alone on the land and together in an asylum. It's a novel that offers plenty of surprises and beauty amidst the horrors of war. Other favorite reads in the Book Shop this year by



Hannah Harlow, co-owner, The Book Shop

big-name authors include The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward, The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese, The Fraud by Zadie Smith, and Absolution by Alive McDermott. For genre readers, The Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros was an instant bestseller when it came out in May and has been hard to keep in stock since then. Believe the hype and get it for your favorite dragon-loving reader in your life. A special edition releases in early November with sprayed black edges and two bonus chapters. Reliably John Grisham is back with The Exchange, a follow-up to The Firm, and Ken Follett returns with The Armor of Light, a sequel to A Column of Fire and the fifth in the Kingsbridge series, which began over 30 years ago with The Pillars of the Earth. If you're looking for something a little different, Dayswork by Chris Batchelder and Jennifer Habel, a husband-and-wife team, is a meditative, gorgeously written novel of a marriage - and also the weirdest Melville biography you'll ever read.

For nonfiction readers of all stripes

What makes a better gift than delight? The poet Ross Gay's *The Book of (More) Delights* contains micro essays detailing a year of daily observations of things that bring joy. Legendary producer Rick Rubin said he set out to write a guide to creating great art and instead "it revealed itself to be a book on how to be." Give *The Creative Act* to your creative friend or to a young person just starting out in life. Liza Mundy, author of the bestseller *Code Girls*, has written a history of women in the CIA, *The Sisterhood*.



It should surprise no one that women made good spies, but the book still has many reveals and unknown stories to tell and makes a great gift for history buffs. *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast takes readers on a wild ride in her new graphic memoir *I Must Be Dreaming*, a surreal journey into dreams. Finally, for sports fans wondering who the best football players of all time are, there's *The Football 100* from the sports publication *The Athletic*, which offers 100 profiles

for readers to debate.

For the kids

You'll notice a lot of familiar names and faces in this year's crop of kids holiday picture books. For starters, there's *How the Grinch Lost Christmas!* I'm not kidding. It's written in the style of Dr. Suess and takes place a year after the events of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. When the Grinch tries to win at Christmas by creating the best Christmas tree ever, he needs to be reminded once again what Christmas is really about. Dasher: How a Brave Little Doe Changed Christmas Forever by Matt Tavares is a more modern classic, and now it has a follow-up: Dasher Can't Wait for Christmas. With artwork that is subtly realistic with a whiff of nostalgia and plenty of snow, Tavares' newest book celebrates the season by showing the joy of helping others. If Mo Willems' Pigeon books are a staple in your household (Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late, etc.), don't miss Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh. Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen make a great picture book duo (*Extra Yarn* is one of my all-time favorites), and they've once again teamed up on *How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney*? This book is full of humorous conjecture as it attempts to answer that age-old question. For a non-holiday themed picture book, poet Amanda Gorman and illustrator Christian Robinson have created a beautiful story about change and hope.

Some of the most exciting new books for older kids also have a lot of recognizable names.







The Wild Robot Protects is the third book in Peter Brown's Wild Robot series and it sees Roz on an underwater journey in an attempt to save her beloved island and the ocean itself.

Carl Hiassen provides the wild ride you'd expect in a familiar Florida setting in *Wrecker*, replete with smugglers, grave robbers, and pooping iguanas (naturally). And for those who worried the Percy Jackson series was over, rejoice, for the original heroes of The Lightning Thief are back, and they're trying to help Percy get into college in spite of the gods: he must complete three quests in order to get the three letters of recommendations necessary for his application.

For you

While shopping for others, it's hard not to treat yourself. And you deserve it! Plus it's nice to let the holidays seep into your own reading to get you into the spirit. England has been producing Christmas murder mysteries since the Golden Age of mystery writing in

eries been producing Christmas murder myste es of since the Golden Age of mystery writir Proud Winner Boston Gift Show's

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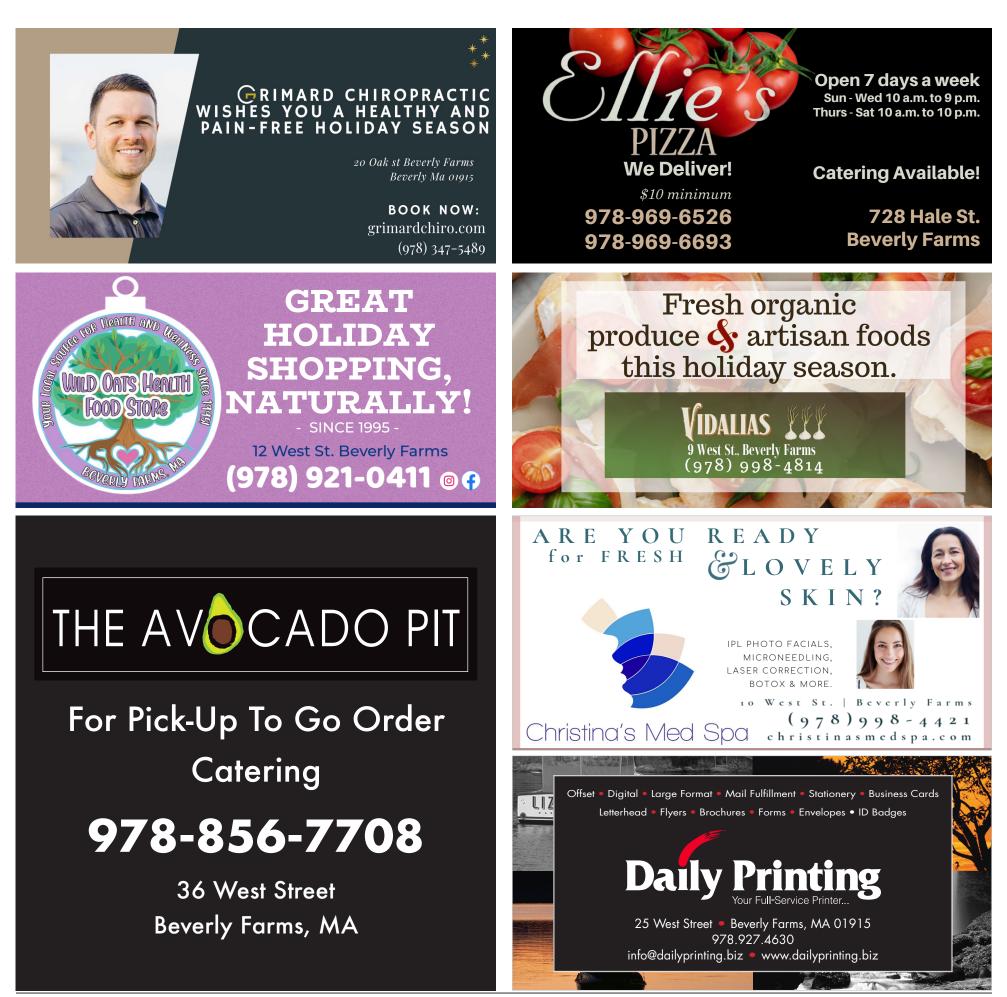
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the 1930s. Finally the U.S. is starting to catch on. Check out North Shore author Peter Swanson's *The Christmas Guest*, a novella about an American student in London who accepts an invitation to spend the Christmas holiday at a classmate's Cotswold country manor. As secrets are revealed, this idyllic setting unravels into a terrifying week - and a satisfying thriller. For those who like their holiday reads less spine-tingling and more like a mug of hot chocolate, the ever reliable Scottish author Jenny Colgan returns with Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop. Am I biased because it's set in a bookstore? Perhaps. But Colgan has a knack for charm and in her newest book a newly single bookstore manager lets an

American production company film a cheesy Christmas movie in her store because she needs the money. It can be hard to find time to read this time of year, so let me remind you that poetry exists. *A Nature Poem for Every Winter Evening*, edited by Jane McMorland Hunter, can help you get through some long nights-and when you're done with it, pass it along. It, too, makes a great gift.

Hannah Harlow is owner of The Book Shop, an independent bookstore in Beverly Farms. Harlow writes biweekly recommendations in her column "Shop Thoughts" in the Manchester Cricket. See more of what she recommends reading at thecricket.com.





Out & About Holiday Highlights 2023



MANCHESTER

Christmas by the Sea

Thursday, November 30 to Sunday, December 3

It's the weekend long celebration in Manchester from the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce. The event formally kicks off Thursday with the **Chamber's Manchester Division Holiday Party** (5 to 7 p.m.) at Bravo by the Sea. Come on down and enjoy food, friends, and a cash bar. Then, the following day is the **Holiday Downtown Stroll** (Friday, 1 Dec. 4-8 p.m.).

There are several events within the Holiday Stroll evening, so be sure to check out the full schedule on the Chamber's website. The Manchester Historical Museum will host an open house from 4 to 8 p.m. (worth it just for the décor!), and businesses will be open late with treats to welcome shoppers to the season. Be sure to punch your Chamber Holiday Stroll Passbook to be entered to win a prize! From 5 to 8 p.m. the Cornerstone Church will host Parents Night Out. Drop your kids (pre-K to Grade 5) off in their holiday pajamas for an evening of fun activities, free pizza, and a showing of a holiday movie. Then from 4 to 8 p.m. it's the Friends of the Library Holiday Book Fair at the First Parish Church Community Hall on Chapel Street behind Santander Bank, hosted by the Friends of the Manchester Library to peruse the hottest new book titles from The Book Shop in Beverly Farms. There will also be stocking stuffers, wrapping paper, cards, and more for sale.

The fun continues on Saturday, Dec. 2 with the Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the First Parish Church Community Hall, hosted by the Friends of the Manchester Public Library. After the show, head to the Manchester Public Library for treats. Following this, head to Masconomo Park for Santa Claus and the Jingle Bell Walk (Saturday, 2 Dec. 1-3 p.m). Santa will arrive by boat and lead the children in a parade around the park and then be available for pictures. There will also be a petting zoo, crafts, face painting, a candy cane hunt, refreshments and a visit from Mrs. Claus! This is all sponsored by the Manchester Community Center, the GCACC and the Manchester Mother's Club. Rounding out Saturday is the Night of the Stars Talent Show at the ME Regional High School (4 p.m.), which will feature programs from local youth talent.



The weekend ends with a high energy program, starting with Breakfast and Photos with Santa (Sunday, 3 Dec. 9 - noon) at the Manchester Masonic Lodge, a Manchester Library Meet and Greet (1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) and then the ever-popular Community Carol Sing (2:30 to 3:15 p.m.) followed by the epic annual Friendship Tree Lighting at the Town Common (Sunday, 3 Dec 3:30 p.m.), hosted for decades by the Manchester Women's Club with community hot cocoa provided by the Manchester Masons. The outdoor program this year will include a concert by the ME High School Band and the Memorial School Chorus, and a dance performance by students of Manchester's Ballet de Mar School.

ESSEX

A Very Essex Christmas Celebration

Wednesday, November 29 thru Sunday, December 3

The weekend in Essex will be packed with holiday fun. Starting Wednesday, November

29 (5 - 7 p.m.) there's the **Wreath Decorating Workshop** that has become an annual popular event with floral designer Susie Talbot at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

On Friday, December 1 it's the **Essex Christmas** Celebration, featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus who will arrive by boat to the Shipbuilding Museum (they arrives around 5 p.m.). Be sure to get to the museum earlier for snacks, music and fun. That night, the town will host the **Lighting of the Memory Tree in Honor of Lost Loved Ones**, tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Essex Public Safety Building.

Then, on Saturday, December 2 the fun keeps going. Start your morning at the Essex Elementary School for the annual **Winter Wonderland Pancake Breakfast** (8 - 11 a.m.) and then you can head to the Essex Shipbuilding Museum for its annual **Holiday Market at the Shipyard** sale by craftspeople and more from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rounding things out, head down to Woodman's on Wednesday, December 6 for the **Chamber's Essex Division Holiday Party** (5 to 7 p.m.). Come on down and enjoy food, friends, and a cash bar.

WHAT'S GOING AROUND THE HOLIDAY AROUND CAPE ANN:

ROCKPORT

Christmas In Rockport December 2, 1-5 p.m.

It's a cherished Rockport tradition! **Santa's Arrival by Boat** at T-Wharf on Rockport Harbor on Saturday, December 2 between



Christmas-by-the-Sea

1:15 and 3:30 p.m. following his brisk lobster boat ride across Sandy Bay. Then Santa will ascend the platform with Mrs. Claus to greet the crowd and kick off the Tree Lighting festivities, before they climb onto the fire truck to begin their return journey to the North Pole. The **Tree Lighting Ceremony** gets underway at 4 p.m. welcoming Santa and the public at the tree in Dock Square.

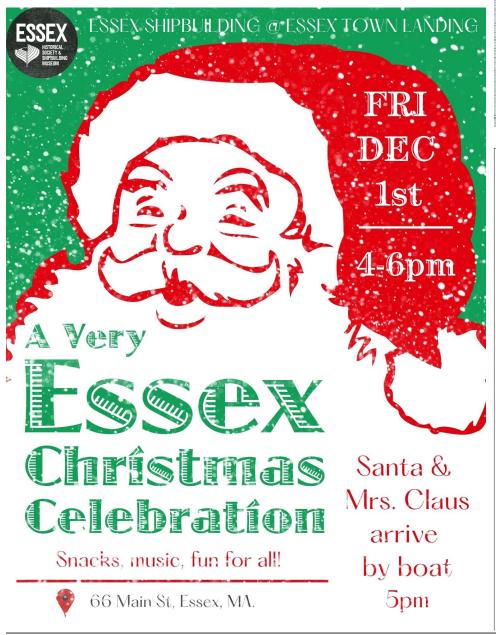
After Santa and the tree lighting kicks off the season, the program continues. On Thursday, December 7 (6 p.m.) it's the **Menorah Lighting at Barletta Park**.

The following night downtown businesses will host **Holiday Shopping Night** from 4 to 8 p.m. On Saturday, December 16 the North Shore Christian Men's Choir at Rockport Baptist Church (2:30 p.m.) and the **78th** Annual Live Christmas Pageant (5 p.m.). Finally, on the weekend of Saturday, December 23 it's **Last-Minute Stocking Stuffer Weekend**.

GLOUCESTER

Gloucester will kick off its holiday celebration on Sunday, November 26 with the **Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting** (3 to 4 p.m.). There are two community shopping events, including the **50th Annual "Ladies Night" All Day** on Saturday, December 9 (all day!) and the **46th Annual "Men's Night"** the following Saturday, December 16 (all day!). On Saturday, December 9, **The Middle Street Walk** celebrates Middle Street kicks off in the historic center of Gloucester with coordinated events from a wide variety of organizations. Look for fun activities (like the 25th Annual Gingerbread House contest!) and programs from the Sawyer Free Library, Cape Ann Museum and the Judith Sargent Murray House. Then, on Wednesday, December 20 (5 p.m.) it's the **Yule Ceremony at Fisherman's Statue** on the Gloucester Boulevard.

Want more information? Check out details on these events and more at the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce events website, **capeannchamber.org**. It's a great organization that supports business and community life!





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Chapman's Greenhouse, 58 Hart St., Beverly | (978) 927-0153

Christina's Med Spa | 10 West St., Bev Farms | (978) 998-4421

Daily Printing | 25 West St., Bev Farms | (978) 927-4630

Ellie's Pizza | 728 Hale St., Bev Farms | (978) 969-6526

Girard Chiropractic, 20 Oak St., Beverly Farms | (978) 347-5489 and grimardchiro. com

The Book Shop | 40 West St., Bev Farms | (978) 927-2122

Vidalia's | 9 West St., Bev Farms | (978) 998-4814

Wild Oats | 12 West St., Bev Farms | (978) 921-0411

Essex

Andrew Spindler Antiques, 163 Main St., Essex | (978) 768-6045

Anna Hardy 117 Eastern Ave, Essex | (978) 504-2054

Essex Bird & Pet Supply, 121R Eastern Ave, Essex | (978) 768-7408

Essex Exchange, 101 John Wise Ave., Essex (978) 768-6868

Found Design Studio, 67 Main St., Essex | (978) 890-7180

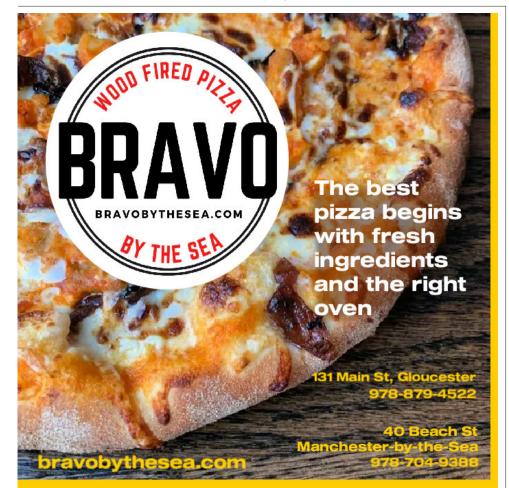
Homewood House Antiques, 55 John Wise Ave., Essex | homewoodhouseantiques.com

Muzio Designs, 55 John Wise Ave., Essex | *muziodesigns.com*

Sea Meadow Gifts, 7 Main St, Essex | (978) 768-3441

The Mill, 121 Eastern Ave., Essex | (978) 890-7139

We Dream in Colour, 166 Main St, Essex | (978) 594-1425





Gloucester

Beauport Hearing | 8 Lexington Ave., Magnolia | (978) 525-2300

Cape Ann Food Bank/The Open Door, 28 Emerson Ave., Gloucester | (978) 283-6776

Cape Ann Marina/Milemarker 1, 75 Essex Ave., Gloucester | capeannmarina.com

Cape Ann Olive Oil Co. | 7 Main St., Gloucester | (978) 281-1061

Cape Ann Savings Bank, Manchester, Rockport & Gloucester | *capeannsavings.bank*

Design of Mine | 33 Main St., Gloucester designofmine.com

Good Linens Studio, 130 Main St., Gloucester | goodlinensstudio.com.

Jennifer's Hair Studio & Spa | 23 Lexington Ave., Magnolia | (978) 525-3612

Mark Adrian Shoes, 103 Main St., Gloucester (978) 283-4343 and markadrianshoes.com

Pauline's Gifts | 512 Essex Ave., Gloucester-Essex line | (978) 281-5558

POP Gallery | 67 Main St., Gloucester | (617) 458-9345

Sage Floral Design, 274 Main St., Gloucester | (978) 282-9582

Sample This, 116 Main St., Gloucester | samplethisclothing.com

Shackteau Interiors ,15 Lexington Ave., Suite 1, Magnolia |shackteauinteriors.com

Source Bakery, 3 Duncan St., Gloucester

(978) 515-7151 and sourcebakery.com

The Cave, 44 Main St., Gloucester (978) 283-0896 and thecavegloucester.com

Tooteloos!, 142 Main St, Gloucester | (978) 281-2011

Ipswich

AnnTiques, 47 Main St. (Rte. 133), Ipswich | (978) 502-5594

Luxa, 27 S Main St, Ipswich | (978) 358-1220 or luxajewelry.com

Wolf Hill, 104 Eastern Ave, Gloucester | (978) 281-4480

Manchester

4 Beach Gifts & Goodies, 4 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7333

Ace Manchester Hardware, 35 Beach St., St, Manchester | (978) 526-4000

Bravo by the Sea, 40 Beach St., Manchester (978) 704-9388

Coles Design, Manchester-by-the-Sea | (978) 808-7481 and colescoloranddesign. com

> ummer Street, Naughinggullcafe 978-704-9392

> > TM

on Su www.la **GLADSTONE**, 36 1/2 Union St., Manchester | gladstonejewelry.com.

Gray House, 38 Union St, Manchester | grayhouseantiques.com

Laughing Gull, 4C Summer St., Manchester (978) 704-9392

MAHRI, 11 Beach St., Manchester | (978) 526-7241

Style Snoop, 19 Central St., Manchester | (978) 704-9881

The Stock Exchange, 3 Beach St, Manchester-by-the-Sea | (978) 526-7569

Rockport

John Tarr Store, 49 Main St., Rockport | (978) 546-6524

Rockport Music/Shalin Liu Performance Center, 37 Main St., Rockport | (978) 546-7391

Seaview Farm, 38 South St, Rockport | (978) 546-2418

The White Seagull, 7 Bearskin Neck, Rockport | (978) 546-3449

Willoughby's, 20 Main St., Rockport (978) 546-9820

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