

Holiday Happenings

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY

Holden Chapel, 279 Reservoir St., will hold a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 346 Shrewsbury St., Holden, will hold a Thanksgiving Eve pot luck at 6 p.m., followed by a service at 7 p.m. Both senior and children's choirs will sing, and new members will be welcomed.

The Rutland Congregational Church, 264 Main St., will hold a Thanksgiving Eve Service at the church at 7:30 p.m. This is a community service open to all. Members of St. Patrick's Church choir will join the Congregational Church choir for this special service.

THURSDAY

Wachusett Fitness will host its sixth annual 5-kilometer "Turkey Trot" race on Main Street, Holden, on Thanksgiving morning, with proceeds benefiting the Wachusett Food Pantry. The race begins at 8 a.m. at Wachusett Fitness, with race day registration beginning at 7 a.m. Entry fee: \$20. Early registrants will receive a dri-wick event shirt. Last year, the race drew a record 508 participants and raised \$7,000 for the Pantry. Prizes donated by major sponsor, Sneakerama, will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers. To register, or for more information, visit wachusettfitness.com.

FRIDAY

Gardner's Festival of Trees reopens after Thanksgiving, with more than 100 artificial decorated trees, wreaths, themed baskets, tree skirts, wood crafted items and two furnished dollhouses to be raffled to benefit the Gardner Museum, a non-profit organization. Items may be viewed and raffle tickets purchased Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.; Fridays, 1-7 p.m.; or weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 28 Pearl St., Gardner. Admission is \$3; children under 12 are free if accompanied by an adult. The raffle is Dec. 5; winners need not be present. For more information, call 978-632-3277.

SATURDAY

The Princeton Boy Scout Troop will sell holiday wreaths on Saturday mornings, 8:30 a.m. to noon, today and on Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at Post Office Place, Worcester Road. Decorated and undecorated wreaths available. They may be pre-ordered by contacting Yvonne and Tom Pitzzi at typitzi@verizon.net by Nov. 27. Pre-orders will be delivered to your home (Princeton only).

Make a beautiful handmade present for family and friends at the "Handbag Workshop" from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Rollstone Studios, 633 Main St, Fitchburg. Learn how to make your own carryall out of upholstery cloth and other fabrics. For children ages 8 and up, teens and adults. Suggested donation is \$5. Children must be accompanied by parents. Call 978-407-6482.

SUNDAY

Pilgrim Congregational Church, 26 West St., Leominster, will celebrate the beginning of Advent with a special service at 9:30 a.m. Music will be enriched with a Brass Ensemble as accompaniment. The Rainbow Ringers, a bell choir, will also provide music. Childcare for age infant to two years will be available. Call 978-534-5164.

A concert of Advent and Christmas sacred music, featuring some of the area's finest singers and instrumentalists, will be held at 3 p.m. in St. Cecilia's Church, 180 Mechanic St., Leominster. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance at St. Cecilia's rectory, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or may be purchased at the door on the day of the concert; doors will open at 2 p.m. For information, call 978-537-6541.

Collection. This festive activity includes everything you need to make a one-of-a-kind holiday centerpiece, along with a delicious meal. For girls ages 8 and up. Cost is \$30; reservations required by calling 877-247-5223.

The Third Annual Holly Berry Craft Faire will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg. Enjoy a selection of crafters, each booth overflowing with one-of-a-kind gifts for the discerning people on your shopping list. Music and tempting treats available throughout the fair. Admission is free for members; \$7 for non-members, and \$5 for seniors and students. Call 978-345-4207.

The Rutland Historical Society's 8th Annual Festival of Trees begins the festivities with the Merrimack Valley Ringers Concert and Brownie Sundae Social at the First Congregational Church, 264 Main St. Cost is \$5 for adults, kids are free. Call 508-886-6264.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY

The Museum of Russian Icons, 203 Union St., Clinton, will open its gallery exhibition "Celebrating the Season: Icons of St. Nicholas" today through Jan. 9, 2010. Free with museum admission (\$5 for adults, free for children).

Santa will make a special visit from 1 to 7 p.m. at The Clayground, 65 James St., Worcester. Make a special "Santa and Me" cookie plate. Cost is \$25, plus tax per child (includes large dinner plate, snacks and a visit with Santa). Reservations required by calling 508-755-7776 or visiting theclaygroundma.com.

See spectacularly decorated holiday trees in a festive environment at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Elm Bank, 900 Washington St., Wellesley. Tree themes are intended to appeal to all ages. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m. today through Dec. 4. Admission is \$7 (under 12, free). Call 617-933-4995 or visit massshortfestivaloftrees.org

Mama Doni & The Mama Doni Band bring "funky music with a Jewish twist" in a free, all-ages, family Hanukkah show at 6:30 p.m. at the Worcester JCC, 533 Salisbury St. Call 508-756-7109, Ext. 232.

The Gold Ribbon Holiday Reception will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Embassy Suites Hotel, 123 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough. Enjoy a buffet, entertainment, special guests, magician show, caricature drawings, beautiful theme baskets, raffles, prizes and more. Proceeds to benefit Andrew's Helpful Hands. Tickets \$50 presale. For information, or tickets, call 978-375-3704, 508-380-1797 or 978-874-2000.

Wachusett Regional High School will present the comedy "You Can't Take it With You" tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m., in the auditorium. Tickets available at the door, at \$12 general admission, \$10 children 12 and under, and senior citizens.

The Barre Players present "It's a Wonderful Life" at their theater, 64 Common St., Barre, in performances Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13. Friday and Saturday curtain at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14 general admission, \$12 seniors 65 and over, \$10 students with ID, \$7 children 12 and under. Mastercard and Visa accepted. For reservations, call 978-355-2096 or 800-733-2096. The cast includes five residents of Holden and one from Rutland. (barreplayers.homestead.com)

WEDNESDAY

All Princeton seniors 55 and older are invited to a free luncheon at Heritage Bible Chapel, 182 Brooks Station Road, at noon. Call the church at 978-464-5100 for reservations.

THURSDAY

The Fitchburg Youth Library presents "Christmas Around the World" from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the library's garden room, 610 Main St., as part of its First Thursday program. Girl Scout Megan will be leading the craft activities. Free, open to all ages. No registration required. Call 978-345-9637.

Enjoy a free pizza dinner with hot chocolate, followed by indoor Christmas caroling, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Faith United Parish, 820 Main St., Fitchburg. Call 978-343-3307 or visit faithunitedparish.com.

FRIDAY

A holiday shopping event will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. at The Shops at Prudential Center, Boston. Support Starlight Children's Foundation and get your holiday shopping done early. Admission is \$5. Call 617-241-9911.

Make a Gingerbread House from 5 to 7 p.m. at The American Girl, Natick

SATURDAY

The Olde Stuff Shop on Worcester Road, Rte. 31, will hold a Holiday Open House today and Sunday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Antiques, consignments, handmade Christmas decorations old and new, wooden primitives and fresh greens, wreaths, swags, Chalkware Santa's with new designs, and homemade goodies. Coffee and baked goods will be available.

The Sterling Garden Club will hold their annual Holiday Greens Sale at 9 a.m. at the Sterling Historical Society's barn, Maple Street on the corner of Pine Street in Sterling. The club creates beautiful items including boxwood trees; decorated and undecorated wreaths, mailbox swags; single, double, and mini swags; kissing balls; indoor arrangements; outdoor and cemetery arrangements; flexible swags; boxes of greens; and a possible mystery item or two. Look for a holiday raffle and a great time. For more information, contact Jane Krantz at 978-422-7444 or Carol Ballard at 978-733-1264.

Authors Joyce Bailey Anderson, Sheila Dubman and Alexandra Fiandaca will be available to sign their book, "Princeton, Massachusetts, A History of Its Villages," at the First Congregational Church Fair, Princeton, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The book is \$20 and all proceeds benefit the Princeton Historical Commission.



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