

# Holiday Happenings

ceremony, a 6:15 p.m. holiday music concert and more. For more information, call 508-867-4201 or 508-867-8609.

## THURSDAY

A Christmas Tea for women of all ages will be held at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1218 Main St., Holden. RSVP by calling 508-829-4329.

The Townsend Recycling Committee is hosting a free workshop "Greening Your Gifts" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Meeting Hall, next to the Townsend library, 12 Dudley Road. Learn how to keep your family safe, while choosing eco-friendly gifts. Speakers will be Victoria Bender of Vscentials and Patty Gale of Barn Swallow Botanicals. Free. Call 978-597-9191.

A Christmas Tea for women of all ages will be held on Thursday, December 10 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1218 Main St., Holden. RSVP to the First Baptist Church office at 508-829-4329 for the Christmas Tea.

Holden seniors will be served a breakfast of eggs, sausage, danish, fruit, coffee and juice by Mountview Middle School students at 9 a.m. at the school. Music will be performed by the Mountview wind ensemble, string orchestra and small chorus. Call the Senior Center at 508-829-0270 to make a reservation.

Holden's The Gale Free Library and BilBar Productions present, "Two for Christmas," performed by Susan Nest and Bill Sigalis: a reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas and "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the library program room. Free, no registration required.

Cape Cod Panache will host an open house 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Meadowbrook Orchards, 209 Chace Hill Road, Sterling. Meet the artists and their jewelry, glass, pottery and photography collections. For more information, call Rosanne at 978-660-9886.

## FRIDAY

Come to the First Congregational Church, Princeton, at 6:30 p.m. to share stories of last year's Dec. 11-12 ice storm. Bring your pictures, remembrances and a potluck dish to share.

Thayer Symphony Orchestra's 15th annual Holiday Pops Concert will be held at 8 p.m. in Clinton Town Hall, 242 Church St. Alyson Sutherland of Holden is this year's featured soloist. Balcony tickets available at Sunrise Boutique, 62 High St., Clinton. Call 978-368-0227.

## SATURDAY

Holiday Jazz Concert will be held at 8 p.m. in the Rufus Putnam House, 344 Main St., Rutland. Three Grammy Award-winning musicians will play: soprano Kim Nazarian of N.Y. Voices, trombonist Jay Ashby and pianist Mark Shilansky. Tickets are \$50; call 508-886-0200.

Heifer International hosts the "Celebration of Living Gifts" at the Heifer Learning Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Sunday, Dec. 13, at Overlook Farm, 216 Wachusett St., Rutland. Visitors can meet and interact with many of the animals, including sheep, pigs and goats that Heifer provides to families around the world. Make gingerbread animal cookies and enjoy hot cider or cocoa. Free. Visitors encouraged to bring canned food to donate to the Worcester County Food

Bank. Call 508-886-2221.

Living Nativity at Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopauge Road, Rutland, will be held at 5 and 7 p.m. both Dec. 12 and 13. The hour-long shows include carol singing, narration and re-enactment of the Nativity story in a barn with live animals. There is no charge; attendees are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share. Hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. Saturday evening performances will have sign language interpretation. For more information, call 508-886-6898 or e-mail dale.mesafarm@gmail.com.

Thayer Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Family Concert with the Salisbury Singers will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Dukakis Performing Arts Center at Montachusett Technical High School, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg. Tickets are \$28 to \$35 (\$25 to \$32 for seniors and children). For more information, call 978-466-1800, ext. 11, or visit thayersymphony.org.

Holiday Nature Crafts Open House, (snow date Dec. 13), for all ages, will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Broad Meadow Brook visitor center, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester. See a tree decorated with ornaments handcrafted from all-natural materials, and then make your own in the program room. Volunteers will guide you through the process of creating several ornaments, or create your own design. Complimentary holiday goodies and music. Fee: adults \$4 members/\$5 non-members, children \$3 members/\$4 non-members. For more information, call 508-753-6087.

Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra 30th annual Holiday Pops Concert will be held at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, 8 p.m. Joining the orchestra will be the combined choruses of Anna Maria College, Assumption College, Clark University, Worcester State College and WPI, as well as Boston's Ace Entertainment Dancers and tenor Richard Monroe and soprano Jane Shivick. The concert has sold out every year. Floor table seats are \$43, balcony seats \$37, available by calling the box office at 508-752-0888 or the Symphony at 508-754-1234, or visit masymphony.org. All concert attendees will receive a \$25 transferable voucher for air travel on Direct Air, which flies out of Worcester Airport.

The Friends of Richards Memorial Library

will sponsor its annual Christmas party at the library, 3:30-5 p.m. There will be snacks, crafts and a visit from Santa. Paxton children are invited. Free.

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


Christmas Tea will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at Memorial Congregational Church, 4 Memorial St. on Baldwinville Common. Take a little time to sit and relax during the busy season with sandwiches, desserts and assorted hot beverages. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children. For more information, call 978-939-5950 or 978-297-2988.

Boar's Head Festival, will be held at 4 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main St., Worcester (snow date is Dec. 13). Worcester Children's Chorus, Shrewsbury Ringers and mummings players will join the Worcester Master Singers and instrumentalists in Renaissance period costume, to celebrate the passage of the winter solstice. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors, \$10 for children under 16. Advance purchase is recommended; call 508-842-1349.

## SUNDAY

Our Lady Of The Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart Of Jesus Parishes will present their Annual Advent/Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. in Our Lady Of The Holy Rosary Church 135 Nichols St., Gardner. Admission is free. A canned good may be brought for a donation to the St. Vincent De Paul Society for distribution to the needy.

The Greater Gardner Community Choir will perform Handel's "Messiah" at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Church, 28 Green St., Gardner. The 80-voice choir directed by Diane Cushing will be accompanied by a string orchestra. Suggested donations are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors. E-mail info@ggchoir.org.



### Come In During The Holidays To Craft!

Now through December 23 every time you craft You get a free raffle ticket to win an autographed Derek Joslin Bobble head and 4 tickets to a Worcester Sharks game. Hands on 4 Kidz is North Central Massachusetts stop for all your Sharks Items! Come in and check out our new "retail" area for all things SHARKS!

Visit us on the web at [www.handson4kidz.com](http://www.handson4kidz.com) for more info! Come in and purchase a helping hand for our tree. All proceeds to go to local food pantries. This is a \$1 donation or a non-perishable food item.

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