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Holiday Fun

Prelude, Christmas by the Sea
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December 9-22, 2021

Volume 63, Issue 18



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Publisher's Note

The only thing more amazing, in a sensory kind of way, than living in a postcard is living in a postcard during the holiday season.

Actually, it's kind of overwhelming.

In the best of ways, of course.

As I strolled through an uber-crowded Dock Square last Friday evening – okay, I didn't exactly stroll, I sort of pushed my way along the sidewalk as if it were a New York City rush hour - my senses were completely and utterly over-stimulated. I was giddy and excited and energized – and kind of freaked out.

In the best of ways, of course.

I thought about our local businesses and how amazing these throngs of revelers will be for them. I also wanted to run home and hide under a blanket.

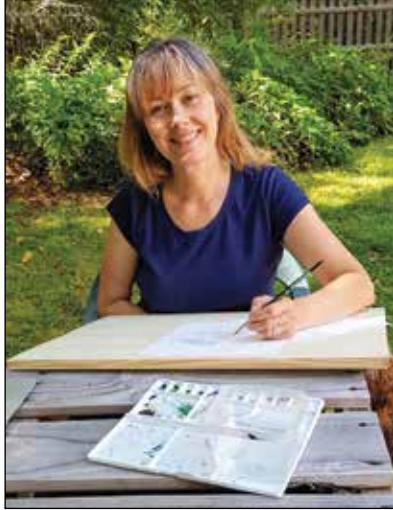
The one feeling that rose to the surface, however, and always does this time of year, was JOY.

It seems our secret – you know, the one we boldly proclaim each holiday season – is out in a BIG way this year. And it's a wonderful thing.

Enjoy the activities of the season, everyone. They might be a bit daunting for the senses, and don't be afraid to take them in doses, but they will be well worth it.

Kingsley Gallup,
Publisher

Cover Artist Piper Castles



I am Artist and teacher living in Kennebunk, painting nature and scenes of Maine. My work is a joyful celebration of nature and color, expressed through realism. Nature fills me with awe and peace. That's what I want to capture in my paintings and share with the world. There is so much that is beautiful here in Maine. It's hard not to see paintings everywhere. I graduated from Pratt Institute and have been very fortunate to work with many amazing clients over the years including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Wells Reserve, Gary Pike House, Blacksmith's Winery and New Hampshire State Parks. I owned my own gallery for many years but now show my work online which allows me the freedom to spend more time outside with my daughter, husband, and two dogs. You can view my work on Instagram at [instagram.com/fireflyfieldprints](https://www.instagram.com/fireflyfieldprints/) or on Etsy at [fireflyfieldprints.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/FireflyFieldPrints)

Getting to know our writers just a little bit more...



Faith Gillman is contemplating decorating a tree before December 20th this year. A little more cheer, a little more holiday sparkle might be just what the doctor ordered. Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night!



Val Marier is looking forward to taking a long winter's nap...but first, the eggnog! Wanderingwithval.com



Steve Hrehovcik's last name is difficult to pronounce. To help remember it, think of a "HERO giving you a CHECK" – or "HERO-CHECK." It's not only a fun memory peg, it's also a good idea. There's more about Steve on his website: www.kennebunkartstudio.com. Come visit.



The holidays are a creative time for me as the seashore provides great inspiration for my seasonal crafts. This time of year, I create and sell my driftwood trees sea glass art. It's the most wonderful time of year.



Now that it's officially Fireside Reading Season, Dana Pearson of Kennebunk has every intention of finishing Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*.



Please see page 23 for a heartfelt tribute to Tourist & Town's wonderful contributor Dean Johnson, who passed away unexpectedly this past week.



Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season from our home to yours!



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Ogunquit's 35th Annual Christmas by the Sea Friday-Sunday, December 10-12

The holiday spirit will be alive and well in Ogunquit with festivities including parade, fireworks, Santa, tree lightings, artisan craft fair and more!

Friday night's events include:

Carol sing and s'mores in Perkins Cove, 4:30 PM,
followed by a tree lighting at 6 PM
A cappella concert at the Baptist Church at 7 PM
Town tree lighting at Veteran's Park at 8:15 PM

Saturday events include:

Artisan Craft Fair at the Dunaway Center,
9:30 AM-2 PM
Story Hour at the Memorial Library,
2-3 PM
Annual Christmas Parade, 3 PM
Ogunquit Ocean Rescue Polar Plunge
for Toys for Tots, 4 PM
Bonfire on the beach, 4:30 PM
Fireworks display at Main Beach, 5 PM
Barbershop choir concert at the
Baptist Church, 7 PM

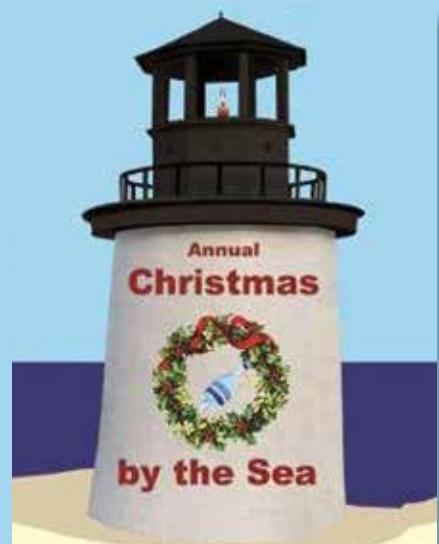
Children can visit Santa in person at the annual arts & crafts show at the Fire Station from 9-11 AM. For a socially distanced visit with Santa, children can visit him at Bangor Savings Bank's drive-thru window from 12:30-2:30 PM.

The Reindeer Round-up Scavenger Hunt and the Seaside Scavenger Hunt will give friends and families alike plenty of opportunity to explore Ogunquit's local independent retail and restaurant businesses.

Sunday events include:

Annual Christmas Parade
just a bit north of town, in Wells, 2 PM

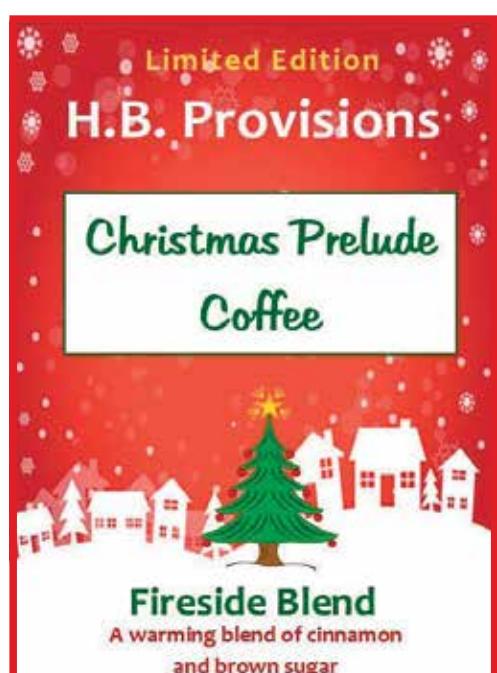
Area businesses are also celebrating the weekend with goodie bag giveaways, book signings, a lobster learning lab, seasonal treats during the parade, live theatre and comedy performances, and more. You can download a full schedule of events at ogunquit.org or pick up one of the Chamber's program guides at the Chamber office at 36 Main Street, and at participating businesses throughout Ogunquit.



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A season filled with giving, love and hope

by Faith Gillman

"Giving connects two people, the giver and the receiver, and this connection gives birth to a new sense of belonging." – Deepak K. Chopra, physician and writer

A sense of community, that each person belongs and is loved and valued, is at the core of the annual Children's Christmas Party hosted by the Rotary Club of Kennebunk. The club works hard to live up to its 'service above self' motto, which the party, held for local children who might not otherwise have the merriest of holidays, embodies.

For more than two decades Kennebunk Rotarians have worked with local schools to recognize children that could use an extra boost during the holidays. With permission of the child's parents or guardian, volunteers shop for clothes and toys that each participant would like to have.

"Families don't want to ask for help but help is needed, and if can be given in a way that helps them to see they are valued and loved – and that neighbors help each other – then we are all better for it," said Rotary member Heidi Maynard.

This year the event sponsored by the Kennebunk Rotary and Community Strong, Character Strong, Children Strong (CS-3) – a

group formed within the club that partners with others to help local kids – will serve 60 to 75 children and their families. With the pandemic the party has become a drive-thru event.

"In the past the party was strictly a Rotary event but we needed extra help, so we reached out to other non-profits and businesses for their support," said Lesa Kraft Angelos, Rotary member and one of the founders of CS-3.

Some of those non-profits include Community Outreach Services, Above Board, and the Sand Witches, along with Kennebunk police and fire departments. Volunteers from each organization provide the additional hands needed to make the event happen.

This year's party takes place on Saturday, December 18. Children and their families will be greeted by Kennebunk police officers who will have donuts and hot cocoa on hand.

Participants will then make their way from table to table, receiving cookies, gift bags, treats for their pets, among other items. New this year is a "shopping table" that will offer kids a chance to pick out some presents for their loved ones. Bill and Anna Gallant, owners of Shoppers Village Card and Gift at Mail-It Unlimited provided an array of gift items, along

with holiday bags to carry the treasures home.

At the end of the holiday drive, children are greeted by Santa and Mrs. Claus who distribute wrapped presents to partygoers that include toys, clothing and gift cards.

Over the years the Children's Christmas party has proven to be the catalyst for individuals joining the Kennebunk Rotary Club.

"It's the reason I became a Rotarian," said Kraft-Angelos. "It is one of the most heartwarming events that we do. And it is why we created the whole CS3 program. We came to better understand the need in the community. These are our neighbors, we help each other. We want to help children have an even playing field, to feel loved and valued in the community."

The Kennebunk Rotarians are committed to helping wherever there is a need, which is why they have joined forces with other non-profits and the local police force to find ways to help all members of the community – and to help children avoid problems later in life.

"Our tag line is we want to 'put (Kennebunk Police) Chief Mackenzie out of business,'" said Kraft-Angelos. "Being involved with Rotary and CS3 has given me purpose."

Maynard agrees.



Santa and Mrs. Claus are on hand to help celebrate the joy of the season at the annual Children's Christmas Party hosted by the Rotary Club of Kennebunk. Courtesy photo

"I also got involved with Rotary after attending a holiday party. My heart was overflowing – to be part of it is very inspiring. Now with the drive-thru, we have the entire family coming, which is great. If we can take care now, bring some hope and joy

to children, it can help set a better course for life," said Maynard. "Adverse childhood experiences, like not receiving any gifts at Christmas can lead to hopelessness for kids and have negative effects as they grow up, creating all kinds of issues, such as drug ad-

diction. Participating in the Christmas party and other Rotary projects gives me hope. We have a chance to give our neighbors some joy and make them feel loved and valued."

FMI see kennebunkrotary.com or CS3 Connection on Facebook



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From farm to table - with gratitude

The Spiller family and a dedicated corps of master gardeners

by Valerie Marier

For more than a century, the Spiller family has grown and gleaned vegetables and fruits on their 110-acre farm in rural Wells. During the growing season, residents and visitors of all ages enjoy hiking through the farm's designated "u-pick" areas to fill their baskets with juicy red strawberries or plump orange pumpkins. Hardly anyone drives away without purchasing fresh corn or

tomatoes at the well-stocked Spiller Farm Store. And families especially enjoy wagon rides through the orchards and rolling fields, often ending these visits with a picnic in Spiller's "play area" that features a cornstalk teepee.

Less known about this iconic 127-year-old farm is the dedication of owners Bill and Anna Spiller to easing hunger insecurity throughout York County. Over the past 20 years, more

than 246,688 pounds of fresh Spiller produce has been gleaned and distributed to local food pantries, assisted by a dedicated corps of Master Gardeners trained at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension based in York County.

"Currently we have about 170 Master Gardeners who work with the Spillers," says Frank Wertheim, state coordinator for the Maine Harvest for Hunger program and Associate Extension Professor of Agriculture Horticulture with U-Maine Extension. "This past summer, working in groups of six to eight, they gleaned almost every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 to 10 AM, no matter what the weather or temperature was - hot, rainy, misty or cold."

In addition to managing York County's Master Gardener Volunteer program, Wertheim also spearheads Kids Can Grow (an innovative youth gardening program) and the Garden Angel program, which assists seniors and persons with disabilities to be able to continue gardening. He is addi-

tionally a founder and active planning team member of the York County Farmers Network, a community of farmers that promotes, supports and strengthens local agriculture through informal gatherings, demonstrations and information and resource sharing.

"Starting around 2000, food insecurity became an issue here in Maine and local gardeners began growing 'extra rows' that they shared with hungry neighbors and food pantries," Wertheim says. "The Spillers noticed this too and generously invited gardeners to work some of their acreage, specifically to cultivate 'keeper crops' like potatoes and carrots that last longer in food pantries. The whole project just took off from there."

Becoming a Master Gardener is no easy row to hoe. Training entails numerous

classes and lectures where aspirants receive extensive education in horticulture, food growing, planting with natives and sustainable gardening. Initially, this was all done in person but, Wertheim says, "Covid changed that. So we tried zoom classes but, frankly, they were

too long and tedious." Today's crop of Master Gardeners learn asynchronously, working off-line through the course schedule, completing lessons and taking quizzes on their own time.

When the volunteer gardeners first started gleaning at Spiller's, they also used their own gas money, and time, to deliver produce picked that morning to the various pantries located between Berwick and Kennebunk. "Many days they were weeding in exceptionally hot weather, or it might have been lightly raining.

Expecting them to then deliver the produce became an extra task that was a bit of a burden for all of us."

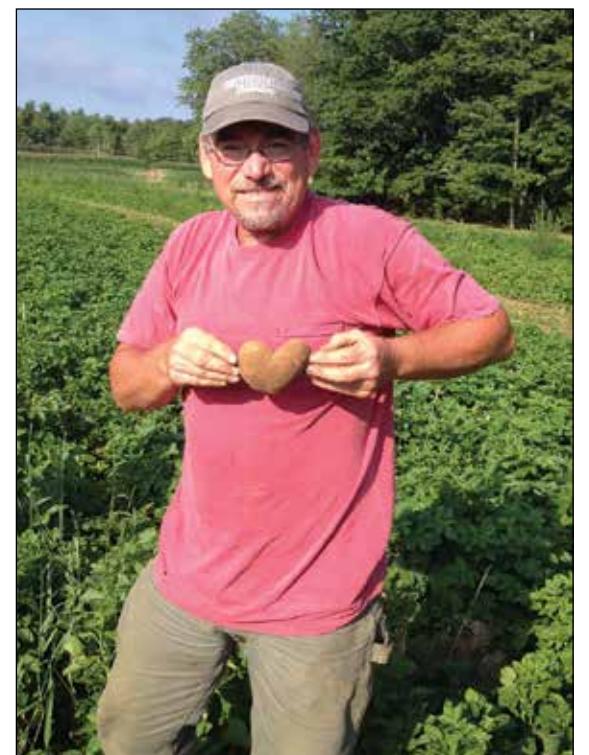
Fortunately and smartly, one of the Master Gardener volunteers suggested inviting the directors and staff from all local food pantries for coffee and conversation to discuss the delivery issue. Wertheim says, "Most of the people running the pantries didn't even know each other, so two developments occurred after this meeting: people from the pantries began coming to Spiller Farm to collect the produce themselves and, simultaneously, they developed a spirit of collaboration and communication with each other. It was a win-win all around."

Over the years, Spiller Farm has also been a scouting site for UMaine Extension Pest Management offices. "They allow insect traps to be placed on the farm so that our IPM (integrated project management) scouts can monitor for pest control and give early detection warnings to farms

-continued on next page



Anna and Bill Spiller pose in front of one of the "tools of their trade" at Spiller Farm. All photos on this page by Frank Wertheim



From left to right: Master Gardener Zelda is part of the group that comes every Tuesday and Thursday, between 8 and 10 AM, to cultivate and glean veggies on the 110-acre Spiller farm; Master Gardener Terry poses happily holding a bunch of fresh carrots at Spiller Farm, one of the items distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays when local food pantries arrive at Spiller Farm to collect their share; this gardener discovered and dug up a heart-shaped potato, perhaps a symbol of the love and dedication demonstrated by Anna and Bill Spiller and the gleaning crew of gardeners that voluntarily work twice a week at the farm.

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Bill and Anna Spiller have generously welcomed local Master Gardeners to their rural Wells farm every summer to cultivate and glean vegetables for dozens of local food pantries. Bill Spiller says, "It's what we want to do and it's the right thing to do." Photo by Teri Lee Jackson:

across Maine," Wertheim says. "The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is so grateful to the Spillers for this partnership and support."

In the two decades since the gleaning program was developed at Spiller Farm, nearly 250,000 pounds of fresh produce have been donated to dozens of local food pantries where it was then distributed to thousands of people experiencing food insecurity. And typically, a harvest celebration was held every October. Frequently, it was a pot luck dinner in the York County Shelter Program or in a function room at the Cooperative Extension offices. This year,

however, the celebratory event took place at Spiller Farm.

On November 8 at 1 PM, volunteers and coordinators gathered to share stories and appreciation for Anna and Bill Spiller on their iconic homestead. "We wanted to celebrate the harvest but also recognize the incredible generosity of Anna and Bill," Wertheim says. "What they have done in the past two decades – at their own expense – has been simply amazing. They donated several special rows and areas just for our gleaning, and even let us put up a canopy for our carts and tools."

Forty-five Master Gardeners attended the cel-

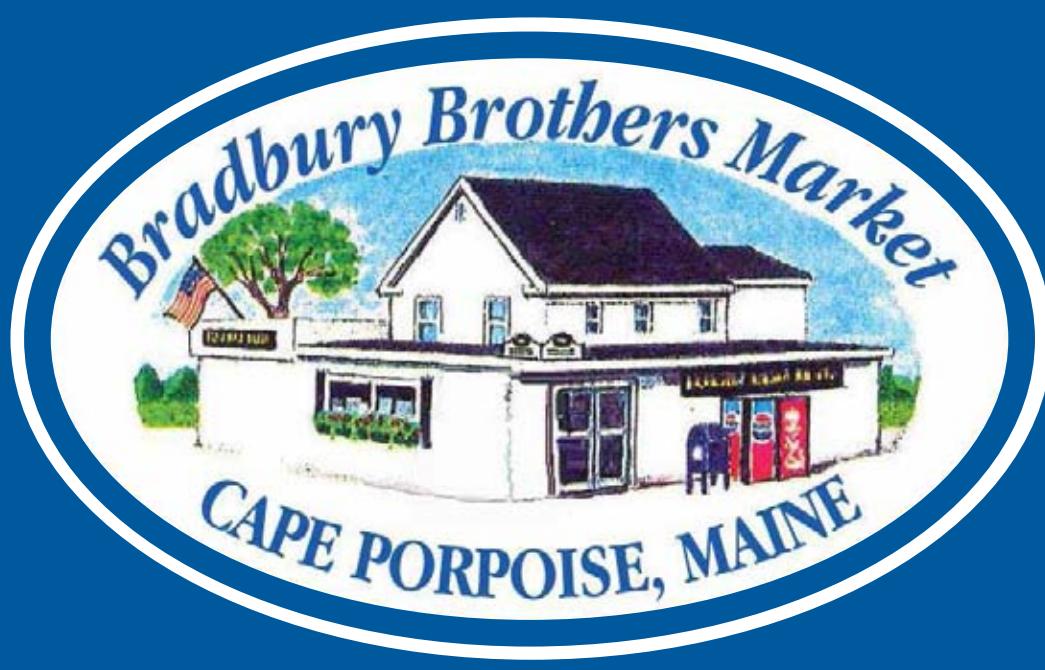
ebration, along with several Wells citizens instrumental in protecting the farm by supporting a conservation easement that preserves this special farmland for eternity. Additionally, the Dean and staff members from U-Maine Extension, including Frank Wertheim, joined the throngs to thank Bill and Anna Spiller for their help in easing food shortages throughout York County.

Bill Spiller spoke simply yet poignantly about what the experience has meant to him and his family. He said, "This celebration is wonderful and it means a lot to us. But it's what we want to do and we're happy to do it."

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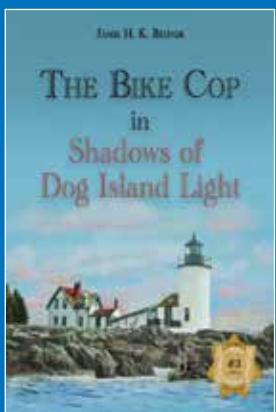
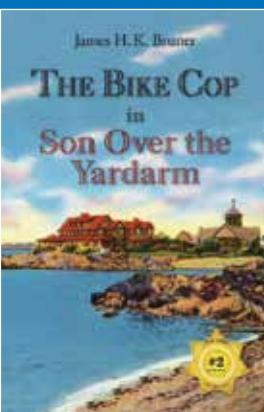
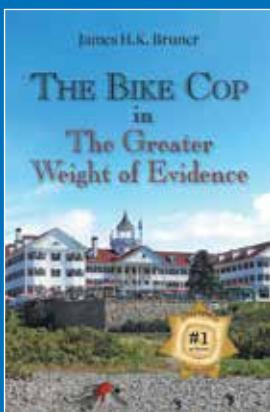
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Biddeford's City Theater celebrates Christmas with production of *Miracle on 34th Street*

by Steve Hrehovcik

If you have any problem getting into the holiday mood, take a sleigh ride to the Biddeford City Theater to see *Miracle on 34th Street* – A Live Musical Radio Play.

This imaginative production pays a faithful tribute to the popular 1947 film starring Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Edmund Gwenn and Natalie Wood, which won several Academy Awards. The recreation of this classic will enchant you, rekindle your spirits and remind you what an important part Santa Claus has played in the lives of youngsters around the world and those blessed to stay young-at-heart. The musical was adapted by Lance Arthur Smith with songs by Jon Lorenz from a 1947 Lux Radio broadcast. Through the years, it also became a Broadway musical, television program and a puppet show.

The action of the story takes place in a 1947 in the fictional New York radio station studio, KSDMT. It recalls a completely different tale of a young boy who asks his grandfather, "Which do you like better, radio or television?" The grandfather answers, "Radio." The boy asks, "Why radio?" The grandfather says, "On the radio, the pictures are better."

The talented cast of the City Theater production



The cast of *Miracle on 34th Street – A Live Musical Radio Play* at the Biddeford City Theater: Juliet Rice, Lilly Collins, Alyssa Forcier, Robert Gerold, Jackie Grigg, Mark Nahorney, Owen White. Photo by Rick Obrey

creates something of a theatrical miracle that could melt even a Scrooge-like heart. It begins with the legendary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the appearance of a white-bearded gent who claims he is the real Santa Claus. It pokes fun at the spirited shopping rivalry between Macy's and Gimbel's department stores, along with a cliff-hanging courtroom trial to settle the legal matter: Is Kris Kringle the real Santa? Adding to the hilarity are the doubts rational adults have about Santa's existence and the complicated confusion of a romantic entanglement.

With a change of hats, costumes and voice inflections, seven actors create a multitude of personalities who populate New York City and move the story forward at a bouncy energetic pace.

The cast features Mark Nahorney as Kris Kringle, aka Santa Claus, Alyssa Forcier as Doris, the Macy's practical parade organizer, Juliet Rice as Doris'

daughter Susan, a non-Santa believer, and Robert Gerold, the lawyer who defends Kris in court and is the love interest of Doris. Making the quick character changes before our eyes are Jackie Grigg, as a city mother, judge and shopper; Lily Collins as a doctor, priest and child; and Owen White, who plays a Macy's supervisor, both Mr. Macy and Mr. Gimbel with the quick switch of a cigar and mustache, plus the unfortunate prosecutor who matches legal maneuvering with lawyer Gerold in the highly publicized case against Santa.

The quick action of Patrick Martin provides piano accompaniment throughout the show along with serving as the show host that kept the listening audience out in radio-land creating the vivid pictures in their imagination. As if this weren't enough, Martin also plays the ill-fated psychiatrist who tangles with Santa.

The cast, with their excellent singing voices – both with their solos and close

pitch-perfect harmony – perform the show's original songs as well as updated versions of traditional Christmas carols.

Their ensemble is punctuated with fanciful choreographed movements created by Mariel Roy that make the plot unfold at an entertaining pace. The set design by Karl Carrigan gives a realistic view of a typical radio studio with microphones, a sound effect station and "Applause" and "On the Air" lighted signs.

Linda Sturdvant, the Producer/Director at the City Theater, continues to bring together a talented cast, crew and support staff that make each show a treat to see. She also takes pride that more than 120 volunteers help behind the scenes.

Miracle on 34th Street – A Live Musical Radio Play continues through Sunday, December 19, with shows Friday and Saturday at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2 PM.

For ticket information visit the website www.city-theater.org or call 207-282-0849.

*Tourist & Town's last issue of the year
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*Prelude 2021 might be underway,
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Christmas Prelude 2021 • December 2-13
A Special Pullout Guide for Week 2

See christmasprelude.com
for updated information

Christmas Prelude 2021

Wednesday, December 8

Historic Inns of Kennebunkport Scavenger Hunt. FMI: Visit www.historicinnsokennebunkport.com or Facebook for more details and locations

Lobster Buoy Take Home Bags & Decorating Kits, River Tree Arts. FMI: rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/

Prelude Postcard Raffle, River Tree Arts FMI: rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/

More Dueling Pianos! Old Vines Wine Bar. Seth and Jimmy will be back with holiday fun, proving that two guys, two pianos, and two microphones can do a lot of damage! FMI: www.oldvineswinebar.com/prelude

Candles & Cookies, Sea Love, 10 AM-12 PM. Deck the Halls, Tour White Columns, 10 AM-4 PM. www.christmasprelude.com.

The Small Works Show, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Warming Station, Sea Love, 10 AM-6 PM. Come get toasty by an outdoor heater and enjoy a cup of warm cider. FMI: sealovecandles.com.

Progressive Christmas Tea, Historic Inns of Kennebunkport, 2-4 PM. FMI www.christmasprelude.com

A Very Merry Mid-Week Christmas Concert, Townhouse School, 7 PM. Dana Pearson and Mark Gunter present "A Very Merry Mid-Week Christmas Concert" at the Townhouse School. FMI: kporths.com

Thursday, December 9

Historic Inns of Kennebunkport Scavenger Hunt. FMI: Visit www.historicinnsokennebunkport.com or Facebook for more details and locations

Lobster Buoy Take Home Bags & Decorating Kits, River Tree Arts. FMI: rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/

Prelude Postcard Raffle, River Tree Arts. FMI: <https://rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/>

Candles & Cookies, Sea Love, 10 AM- 12 PM.

Deck the Halls, Tour White Columns, 10 AM-4 PM. www.christmasprelude.com.

Bavarian Christmas Market, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com. FMI: www.maine-art.com

The Small Works Show, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Food & Toy Drive, Happynest, 10 AM-6 PM. Bring a non-perishable food item or new unwrapped toy and receive 20% off your entire purchase.

Warming Station, Sea Love, 10 AM-6 PM.

Come get toasty by an outdoor heater and enjoy a cup of warm cider. FMI: sealovecandles.com.

Sculpt Your Own Chocolate Confection, 12-2 PM, Auntie's House Bakery & Gift Shop. RSVP info@auntieshouse-maine.com

Progressive Christmas Tea, Historic Inns of Kennebunkport, 2-4 PM. FMI www.christmasprelude.com

Holly Jolly Hour, Stripers Waterside Restaurant, 3-5 PM. Holiday Happy Hour with carols, specialty cocktails, and festive bites.

Children's Nutcracker Tea, White Columns, 4 PM. Elegant afternoon tea with a Nutcracker theme and story. Fun for all ages! FMI www.christmasprelude.com

Holiday Ornament Workshop (Kids), Nonantum Resort, 4:30-5:30 PM. \$15 (includes materials). FMI rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude

Holiday Ornament Workshop (Adults) Nonantum Resort, 6-7:30 PM. \$30 per person (includes materials fee). FMI [rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/](http://rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude)

Friday, December 10

Historic Inns of Kennebunkport Scavenger Hunt. FMI: Visit www.historicinnsokennebunkport.com or Facebook for more details and locations

Lobster Buoy Take Home Bags & Decorating Kits, River Tree Arts. FMI: [rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/](http://rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude)

Prelude Block Party, Take 2, Old Vines Wine Bar. More fun inside, outside, and under the tent, food and drink specials, and music. FMI www.oldvineswinebar.com/prelude

Prelude Postcard Raffle, River Tree Arts

Art Guild of the Kennebunks Holiday Exhibit, Masonic Lodge, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI www.artguildofthekennebunks.com/

The Small Works Show, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Bavarian Christmas Market, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-6 PM. S FMI: www.maine-art.com. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Meet the Artists, Seaside Gallery & Gifts, 10 AM-6 PM. Come meet the artist behind Seaside Gallery and Gifts and creators of the popular Kennebunkport-Lower Village map. Free 12x16 signed map prints raffled off throughout the day!

Prelude Trolley Rides, Seashore Trolley Museum, 10 AM-6 PM. FMI trolleymu-seum.org.

Deck the Halls, Tour White Columns, 10 AM-8 PM. www.christmasprelude.com.

Warming Station, Sea Love, 10 AM-6 PM. Come get toasty by an outdoor heater and enjoy a cup of warm cider. FMI: sealovecandles.com.

Selected Cheese and Mead Pairings, HoneyMaker Mead Room, 12-6 PM.

Fire & Ice Twilight, Nonantum Resort, 3:30-6:30 PM. Award-winning food, creative craft cocktails, stunning ice sculptures, and a fire! \$100 per person, Adults only, 21+. IDs Required. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite by visiting nonantumresort.com/activities/fire-and-ice/

Coffee and Cookies, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 4-5:30 PM. Join Sandra Duckett, Owner of Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, and Hana Pevny, Owner and Chef of the Waldo Emerson Inn for a tasty coffee and cookie pairing. \$10 per person. FMI www.christmasprelude.com

Charcuterie To Go by The Port Box Company, Maine & Vine, 4-7 PM..

Frost Fest, Stripers Waterside Restaurant, 4-8 PM. www.christmasprelude.com

Patio Hot Chocolate Bar, Mornings In Paris, 4-8 PM.

Spiked Cider & Hot Chocolate Bar, The Pilot House, 4-10 PM. Food specials & live music will pair perfectly with your winter warmer!

Sounds of Christmas Concert, Village Baptist Church, 5-5:45 PM.

Festive Crepes, Mornings In Paris 5-8 PM. Specialty French crepes on the patio by Crepe Elizabeth Food Truck. FMI: <https://morningsinparis.com/>

Prelude Family Festival, Dock Square, 6-8 PM. Along Western Avenue, from Beach Avenue in Kennebunk to Spring Street in Kennebunkport. Block-long family-friendly celebration with live music, street performers, fire baton performances and more! Surprise fireworks during this event. Prelude 40 Trees Trail light up at 6:30 PM.

Prelude 40 Trees Trail, Mornings In Paris, 6:30 PM.

Fire & Ice After Dark, Nonantum Resort, 7:30-10:30 PM. Award-winning food, creative cocktails, stunning ice sculptures, and a fire to turn up the heat! Adults only, 21+. IDs Required. Tickets at nonantum-resort.com/activities/fire-and-ice/

Saturday, December 11
Historic Inns of Kennebunkport Scavenger Hunt.

Lobster Buoy Take Home Bags & Decorating Kits, River Tree Arts. FMI: [rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/](http://rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude)

Prelude Block Party, Take 2, Old Vines

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Wine Bar. FMI www.oldvineswinebar.com/prelude

Prelude Postcard Raffle, River Tree Arts. FMI: <https://rivertreearts.org/kennebunkport-prelude/>

Children's Book Readings & Signing, Townhouse School, 10 AM-12 PM. Children's book readings and signing by local author, Jocelyn Lacey.

Art Display, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 10 AM-3 PM.

5th Annual Christmas Prelude Boat Rides, The Pilot House, 10 AM-4 PM. Call 450-1831 or see www.noreasterfishing.com

Art Guild of the Kennebunks Holiday Exhibit, Masonic Lodge, 10 AM-5 PM. Fine art exhibit. FMI www.artguildofthekennebunks.com/

The Small Works Show, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Bavarian Christmas Market, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-6 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Prelude Trolley Rides, Seashore Trolley Museum, 10 AM-6 PM.

Deck the Halls, Tour White Columns, 10 AM-8 PM. www.christmasprelude.com.

Warming Station, Sea Love, 10 AM-6 PM. Come get toasty by an outdoor heater and enjoy a cup of warm cider. FMI: sealovecandles.com.

Gingerbread House Making, Nonantum Resort, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. All materials provided. Tickets are \$5 per person. For tickets: nonantumresort.com.

Prelude Lunch, Nonantum Resort, 11 AM-2 PM. Reservations are requested. Visit nonantumresort.com.

Selected Cheese and Mead Pairings, HoneyMaker Mead Room, 12-6 PM See previous listing for details.

Coffee Roasting Demonstration, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 1-2 PM.

Storytime with Mrs. Claus, White Columns, 1-2 PM.

Inter-generational Crafts, White Columns, 1-3 PM. FMI www.christmasprelude.com

Charcuterie To Go by The Port Box Company, Maine & Vine, 1-6 PM.

Kokedama & Kocktails, Snug Harbor Farm, 2-4 PM. Make your own kokedama while enjoying some seasonal "kocktails". \$55 per person. FMI www.snugharborfarm.com/contact-us

Prelude Wine Tasting, Maine & Vine, 2-5 PM.

Sounds of Christmas Concert, Church On the Cape, 2:30-3:15 PM. Come and enjoy this free concert by the musicians of Church on the Cape.

Fire & Ice Twilight, Nonantum Resort, 3:30-6:30 PM. For tickets: nonantumresort.com/activities/fire-and-ice/.

Christmas Prelude Block Party & 50% Off Sale! Chris Becker Photo, 4-7 PM.

Spiked Cider & Hot Chocolate Bar, The Pilot House, 4-10 PM. Food specials & live music will pair perfectly with your winter warmer

2nd Annual Christmas On the Porch, 1802 House, 5:30-7 PM. Hot roasted chestnuts, mince pies and mulled wine served on the front porch.

Fire & Ice After Dark, Nonantum Resort, 7:30-10:30 PM.. Tickets at nonantumresort.com/activities/fire-and-ice

Sunday, December 12
Historic Inns of Kennebunkport Scavenger Hunt.

Lobster Buoy Take Home Bags & Decorating Kits, River Tree Arts.

Prelude Postcard Raffle, River Tree Arts.

Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Nonantum Resort. \$30 per adult, \$10 per child. Reservations required by visiting nonantumresort.com.

Live Music with Ocean Ave. Band featuring Lisa Mills, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 10 AM-12 PM.

Art Display, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 10-3.

5th Annual Christmas Prelude Boat Rides, The Pilot House, 10 AM-4 PM. FMI call 207-450-1831 or see www.noreasterfishing.com

Art Guild of the Kennebunks Holiday Exhibit, Masonic Lodge, 10 AM-5 PM. Fine art exhibit. FMI www.artguildofthekennebunks.com/

Bavarian Christmas Market, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM.

The Small Works Show, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com

Prelude Trolley Rides, Seashore Trolley Museum, 10 AM-6 PM.

11th Annual Pooch Parade, Dock Square, 11 AM. Bring your pooch wearing their favorite holiday attire! The parade starts at Consolidated School (School Street, Kennebunkport), down Maine Street, through Dock Square, and onto Ocean Avenue.

Coffee Roasting Demonstration, Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks, 1-2 PM.

Santa Arrives by Fire Engine, Cape Porpoise Square, 2 PM.

Christmas Prelude Block Party & 50% Off Sale! Chris Becker Photo, 4-7 PM.

Christmas Karaoke, The Pilot House, 8:30-11:30 PM. Come take over the mic as DJ Nate finds your favorite Christmas tune to sing to the crowd! Even better when you can get the crowd to join in! Indoor occupancy will be limited.

Monday, December 13
Bavarian Christmas Market, Maine Art Hill, 10 AM-5 PM. FMI: www.maine-art.com. FMI: www.maine-art.com

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Those who know me at a certain level know how I feel about exclamation marks! They know that I consider them the fire extinguishers of punctuation; it's nice to know they're around if you really, really need them, but otherwise it's best to go about your business as though they don't exist! But I can't help myself because I am so excited! And I am so excited because I have just received an offer so amazingly straightforward and helpful that I can't believe my good fortune!

Okay, now that the preamble is over, I will do my utmost to dispense with the exclamation mark; after all, they can be distracting! See?

Let's carry on, shall we?

I opened my mailbox the other day and withdrew, among the useless crap that often finds its way to my address, a simple white postcard – a simple white postcard that was about to rock my world. My name and address had been printed in what almost appeared to be actual penmanship – you know, written by a human hand – and even though I believe it was actually generated by a software program, I appreciated the lame attempt at humanity.

On the reverse of the card, in faux handwriting, and eschewing small talk, the sender had written: "Hi, I am Janine and I would like

to buy your house."

I was immediately interested in what she had to say. I mean, the type of person who can get right to the point is the type of person who can be trusted, am I right! Oops, sorry about that one. Couldn't help myself.

Now, I wasn't even thinking about selling my house. I had been of a mind to remain in my house until the day I die, even determining the exact location of my demise (chair by the fireplace). But then Janine's postcard arrived, and all bets were off. Who knew that the words "I would like to buy your house" would make me think I should sell it?

With less than three dozen well-selected words, she opened up my mind to the possibilities of selling my greatest asset to a complete stranger making an unsolicited offer via a mass-produced postcard (though I'd like to flatter myself and believe she was singling me out with her attentions, it's more than likely that others have received similar amazing proposals).

Janine continued: "If you would like a quick, no-hassle sale at a fair price, please text or call us direct so we can talk." Would I? Who wouldn't like a quick, no-hassle sale at a fair price? I mean, sure, market values have become so grossly overinflated that most houses can fetch roughly double their assessed value, but

hey, I'm all for returning to fair prices. For Janine. After all, she signed it, "Warm regards."

I was mildly troubled by her use of the pronouns "us" and "we." I thought that any real estate transaction was going to happen between me and Janine; now it appeared she was part of a company – or at least an outfit. Maybe an organization. Or an LLC. Perhaps a cabal.

But the funny thing was, Janine did not mention her last name, nor the name of the group she was either heading up or working for. Just being coy, I suppose, like most people in real estate. The only clue was the return address, the location of which I found using the always handy Google Maps. Come to find, 9 North River Road in Auburn, Maine is the location of a "friendly

neighborhood shipping center," no doubt with rental post boxes, with the catchy name of Goin' Postal. (I can't quite put my finger on it, but I feel that news events from the hazy past have lent the phrase "goin' postal" a somewhat negative connotation. But then again, Goin' Postal is headquartered in Florida, so...)

While presenting itself as a rather forlorn prefab shoebox of a structure in dire need of an infusion of character, Goin' Postal is nonetheless bona fide riverside property, so it follows suit, naturally, that anyone renting a box at such an establishment has some serious street cred. Like Janine! (That deserved the exclamation mark! (As did that.))

I sat down in my chair by the fireplace to contemplate Janine's effective postcard, and what my next steps

should be. Should I text or call her and reach a reasonable agreement? Should I invite her to come visit my house? After all, I am no real estate expert, and surely Janine would know best, but I've always thought it wise, before buying something, to know what it is I'm buying.

The crackling of the logs

distracted me. Come to find, my next steps were drinking hot chocolate, munching shortbread cookies, alternately reading Dickens and staring at the fire, and forgetting all about...what's her-face.

Dana Pearson can be reached at dana@touristandtown.com

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FatFace Comes to Kennebunkport offering authentically British clothing

by Jo O'Connor

Such an unusual name. Such a cool and hip store. There's a groovy little back story too. 1988-two friends Jules Leaver and Tim Slade-one campervan-and boundless drive and spirit. These two ski-bums were skiing the Alps, but running out of money, so they devised a plan to print some T-shirts and sweatshirts to sell to other skiers. Sounds good right? Ski during the day, sell at night (aka: funding to ski another day). The idea took off. The name is inspired by the name of the black mountain ski run in Val d'Isère, La Face and FatFace was born.

They currently have more than 200 stores across the UK, Ireland and US (the Portland store was the first in the US; they also have a Camden shop) with a wide range of womenswear, menswear, kidswear, footwear and accessories. It's cool meets quality. Its target demographic is 30- and 40-something men and women, who increasingly shun formal clothes for work and want a relaxed lifestyle with their kids on the weekend. Let's not forget the teen population, who groove out with the FatFace merch.

Ain't life grand? It opened this spring in Kennebunkport, right in the heart of Dock Square.

"Our biggest sellers are our women's jacket, The Sussex and our men's coat called The Broadsand," said Brendan Ouellette, the Kennebunkport store manager. "We love offering quality products that you can't find anywhere else for this price point."

Maine native Ouellette knows his stuff as he worked at Vineyard Vines for six years before mov-

ing into managing the FatFace shop here.

"We use only high-quality fabrics and materials, making the clothing comfortable and long lasting," said Ouellette.

Ho! Ho! Ho! FatFace should be high on your list of a must-shop store for the holidays. Tell 'em Tourist & Town sent you.

Store Hours are Sunday-through Thursday, 9 AM to 7 PM and Friday through Saturday, 9 AM to 9 PM.

FMI: 16 Dock Square, Kennebunkport, <https://us.fatface.com/>



FatFace in Dock Square, Kennebunkport. Photo credits, clockwise from top left: Ken Janes, Jo O'Connor, and Ken Janes.

Local artist rases funds for families in need

For the month of January, 2022, Kennebunk artist and frame-maker John Forssen is holding a one-man show of his work at the Speers Gallery in the Kennebunk Free Library.

Paintings in this year's show will range in price from \$200 to \$350, eas-

ily within the reach of most budgets, and half the proceeds of all sales will go to Community Outreach of the Kennebunks, a tri-community program offering aid to families in need. During a similar promotion last year, Forssen contributed nearly \$1000 to the program.

"Most people appreciate fine art," he says, "and this approach gives them a really good reason to pursue that appreciation."

A retired teacher and public affairs writer, Forssen speaks of his art as a life-long interest...accelerated several years ago by his social contact with other artists in the area.

"Actually, he says, "It began with a cartoon on an Easter egg, a nebbish-like character with skinny legs and a drooping belly. One of the women, also decorating eggs, remarked that the cartoon looked so much like her husband that she would like to take it with her...properly labeled, of course."

The husband, the artist in the family, noted the quality of the cartoon, at which point Forssen began a series of serious pencil drawings, moving eventually to painting in oil and joining both the Art Guild of the Kennebunks and Maine Women in the Arts.

In recent months he has been writing an ongoing series of articles on local artists which appears monthly in the Village magazine.

"Truth is," he says, "I've been a doodler all my life, my earliest recognizable drawing being a stylized ram mounted on the side of a free-standing floor ashtray in my parents' summer camp. I was as surprised as anybody that it actually looked like the ram. From there I was hooked."

His current work consists principally of landscapes derived chiefly from a combination of memory and imagination.

"I admire the 'plein air' crowd," he says, for their ability to capture the 'look' and 'character' of a place in an immediate and spontaneous fashion. The look of the thing right in front of me, however, I find both confusing and intimidating. I don't copy well. Back in my studio, a tiny corner of a spare bedroom, I rummage through my memory for possibilities and then, layer upon layer, bring them to life on the canvass."

As for discipline, when there's work to be done, the day begins at 4:30 AM because, as he says, "that's when the muse is waiting for me."



Courtesy photo

"Home for the Holidays" Basket Auction to benefit Graves Library

The Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library will be hosting an online auction during Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude to help with budget shortfalls due to canceled events earlier this year.

"Home for the Holidays" consists of themed baskets that will be for sale through 32auctions.com/HOMEFOR21. Bidding opened on November 30 and runs through December 12.

Thirty-two baskets filled to the rim with goodies are being designed and donated by friends of the library and 100 percent of the sales will directly benefit the library. A few choices to consider: Fireside Fun, Farm to Table, For Tiny Tots...and We Know Lots, Games With Friends, and many more.

Once the auction closes at 8 PM on December 12, winners will be notified and arrangements can be made for pickup. Some perishables will need to be added prior to pick up for freshest content.

FMI call 967-2778. Again, the action can be accessed at 32auctions.com/HOMEFOR21.



Be sure to pick up Tourist & Town's Holidays 2021 magazine, on stands now!

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Enjoy Prelude shopping in a "Christmas Town"



Jo O'Connor sells sea glass art, driftwood Christmas trees and more at Atlantic Hall's holiday fair. Photo by Bob Dennis

by Kaia Wirth,
Tourist & Town Intern

Kennebunkport is nationally renowned for being one of the best towns to visit during the holiday season. In fact, according to HGTV, Kennebunkport is ranked the #2 Christmas Town in America!

It probably goes without saying that Christmas Prelude – the annual celebration that jump starts our holiday spirit – has a lot to do with this title.

Prelude 2021 is officially underway, and this year locals, visitors and seasonal homeowners are coming together to commemorate Prelude's 40th anniversary. At the heart of the festivities is the beautiful tree perched in the center of Dock Square, decorated with colorful buoys. When the tree is at last illuminated, we know the holiday season – and Prelude – are underway.

Each year, Prelude brings together countless community members, including a wide variety of beloved small businesses, many of which are nestled in and around Dock Square. Prelude as we know it would not be the same without our local businesses. Leading up to opening weekend, these shops, restaurants, coffee houses and candy

stores were abustle ensuring everything would be perfect for two of the busiest weekends of the year!

Since the start of the pandemic, many cherished traditions have had to be modified. Last year's Prelude festival took a very different form in order to protect all guests from the virus. As responsible and essential as this choice was, many (including myself) were crest-fallen at the lack of "traditional" traditions that had become favorites. For small businesses, the absence of shoppers had a detrimental impact. This year's return to some normalcy excites us all.

As Melissa Heseltine, manager of the popular confectionery The Candy Man, geared up for opening weekend, she said this season felt a good kind of different. "It does feel like we're slowly, but surely going back to normal," she said. Heseltine recounted the bestselling candies that were purchased in bulk by sweet-toothed Preluders in

years past, and predicted that the sea-salted chocolate turtles and seasonal flavors of fudge including chocolate candy cane, eggnog, and divinity (a fluffy marshmallow fudge containing nougat, walnuts, that resembling a taffy) would find their way into many mouths this year.

A few shops over, you'll find yourself surrounded by clothing styles unique to this area, brought to you by Dock Square's delightfully fresh addition – the British retailer Fat-Face. Though at the time of this interview, m a n a g e r Brendan Ouellette had yet to experience the magic of Pre-

"People came out en masse and in a good mood, and we did our best to craft their drinks as fast as it was humanly possible. Cheers to Prelude 40 and our hard working dream team!"

Annette Barba,
Owner,
Dock Square
Coffee House

lude, he certainly knew of its reputation. "Everyone's always talking about how [Prelude] is the biggest holiday festival in the United States!" he said. In preparation for opening weekend, Ouellette was running back and forth to the sister branch on Exchange Street

–continued on next page



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Tide Chart

December 8-22

Wednesday, December 8

High 01:49 AM 9.33
Low 07:39 AM 0.22
High 01:56 PM ... 10.43
Low 08:23 PM ... -0.87

Sunrise: 7:01 AM

Sunset: 4:06 PM

Thursday, December 9

High 02:49 AM 8.97
Low 08:40 AM 0.74
High 02:57 PM 9.67
Low 09:23 PM ... -0.22

Sunrise: 7:02 AM

Sunset: 4:06 PM

Friday, December 10

High 03:52 AM 8.68
Low 09:47 AM 1.18
High 04:02 PM 8.97
Low 10:27 PM 0.35

Sunrise: 7:03 AM

Sunset: 4:06 PM

First Qtr: 8:37 PM

Saturday, December 11

High 04:57 AM 8.53
Low 10:59 AM 1.41
High 05:12 PM 8.44
Low 11:32 PM 0.75

Sunrise: 7:04 AM

Sunset: 4:06 PM

Sunday, December 12

High 06:01 AM 8.56
Low 12:11 PM 1.36
High 06:21 PM 8.13

Sunrise: 7:05 AM

Sunset: 4:06 PM

Monday, December 13

High 09:58 AM 9.55
Low 04:23 PM ... -0.12
High 10:33 PM 8.39

Sunrise: 7:09 AM

Sunset: 4:07 PM

Saturday, December 18

Low 04:21 AM 1.05
High 10:33 AM 9.63
Low 04:59 PM ... -0.22
High 11:10 PM 8.41

Sunrise: 7:09 AM

Sunset: 4:07 PM

Full Moon: 11:37 PM

Sunday, December 19

Low 04:56 AM 1.06
High 11:08 AM 9.63
Low 05:34 PM ... -0.23
High 11:46 PM 8.38

Sunrise: 7:10 AM

Sunset: 4:08 PM

Monday, December 20

Low 05:31 AM 1.12
High 11:42 AM 9.54
Low 06:08 PM ... -0.14

Sunrise: 7:10 AM

Sunset: 4:08 PM

Tuesday, December 21

High 12:22 AM 8.28
Low 06:06 AM 1.24
High 12:18 PM 9.37
Low 06:42 PM 0.02

Sunrise: 7:11 AM

Sunset: 4:09 PM

Wednesday, December 22

High 12:59 AM 8.14
Low 06:42 AM 1.40
High 12:54 PM 9.13
Low 07:18 PM 0.21

Sunrise: 7:11 AM

Sunset: 4:09 PM

Note: The number for each high and low tide indicates the height in feet above or below sea level. This chart shows tides for the mid-coast of York County; tide times are a few minutes earlier to the north (Old Orchard Beach) and a few minutes later to the south (York Beach). Tides are affected by the weather and cycles of the moon; the actual times and tide heights can differ slightly from the predictions above.

The options abound in Dock Square – and beyond

in Portland, grabbing best-seller products to ensure there wouldn't be any shortages. During Prelude, the store is offering free cocktails for adults to sip inside the store as they shop as well as cake pops for sale.

Joshua Hrehovcik of Retro Roadtrip Ltd. said, "I was fortunate enough to set up shop by Coffee Roasters of the Kennebunks while the hat parade was in full swing. It was so busy. And so awesome!"

Local Color is another small business that can be found in Dock Square, chock full of lovely coastal-themed items spanning from home decor to t-shirts – to dog beds. Manager Cynthia Rhea announced the return of the Prelude anniversary t-shirt, which this year contains a special

40th anniversary decal. In addition, the trendy "Go Fish" t-shirt has some holiday flair this year and other festive items such as light-up Santa hats and tinsel suspenders are available for purchase.

Rhea says that customers shopping for gifts should also be on the lookout for Local Color's array of designs, fragrances, kitchen textiles, and melamine dishware.

Sister stores Daytrip Society and Daytrip Junior are other fan favorites of Dock

Square. Daytrip Society is well-known for gift ideas ranging from Chappywrap blankets and Maine-themed sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats, to custom Sea Bags and Sara Fitz watercolor designs. At Daytrip Junior, there are various warm winter clothing items for little ones as well as perfect stocking stuffer ideas.

Owner Jessica Jenkins will be continuing the tradition of individually wrapped Andes Mints at her stores, as well as a surprise fun pack at Daytrip Junior for purchases over \$20.

Shopping during Christmas Prelude this year is certainly a reason for excitement, especially after the world was hit hard by the pandemic. Festivities fill the town square and the beauty of past traditions are blossoming once again.

If you have not yet experienced Prelude 2021, be sure to do so. It's a splendid opportunity to finish some Christmas and holiday shopping early, as well as to take advantage of the seasonal offerings exclusive to our wonderful local shops.

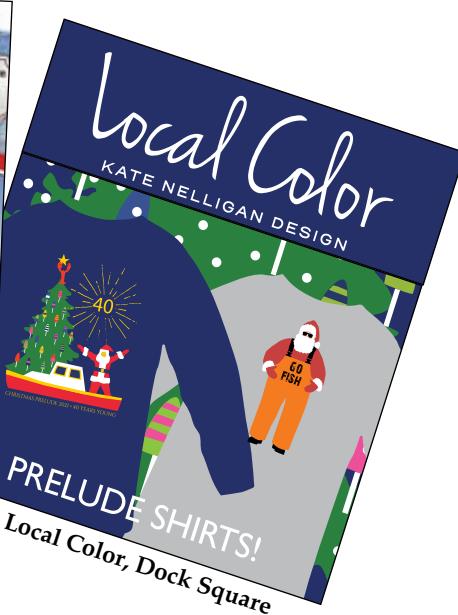
FMI about Christmas Prelude, visit www.christmasprelude.com



Squish KPT, Dock Square



The Retro Roadtripper series

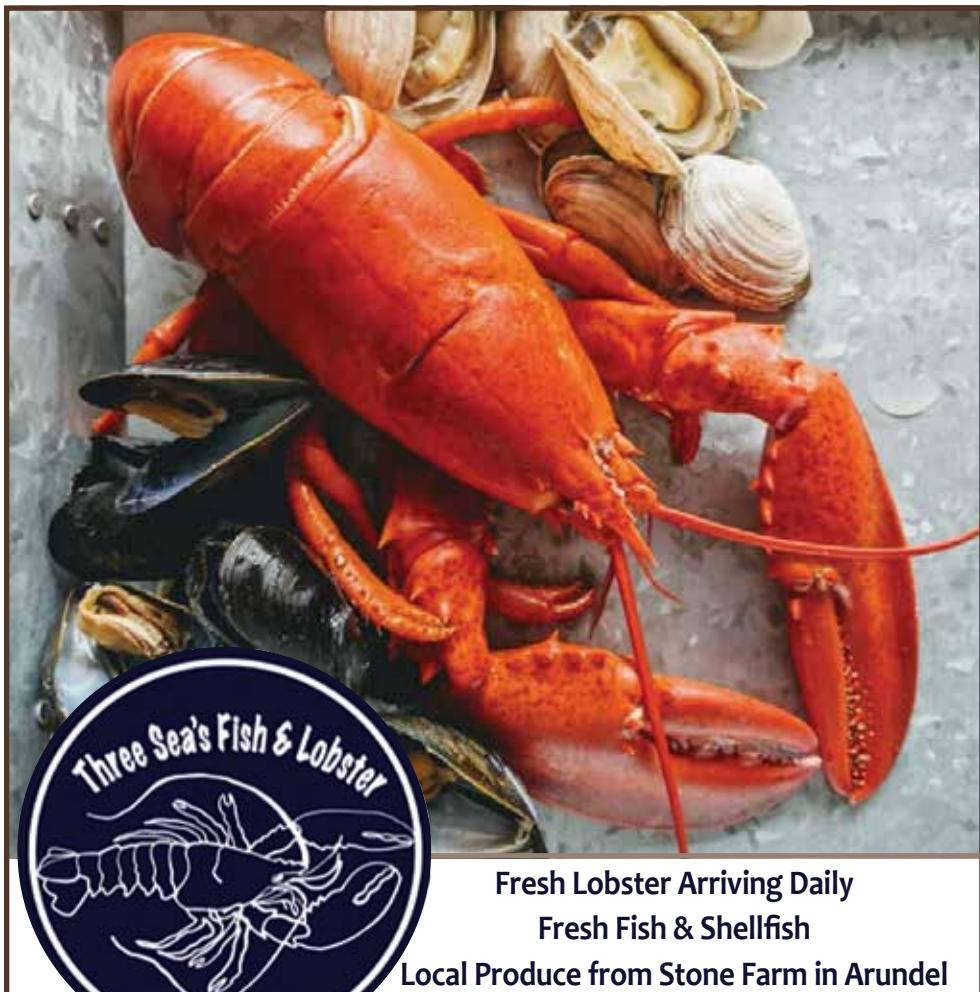


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Three Seas Fish & Lobster

Three Seas Fish & Lobster</



Coming soon! The Wine House on 17 Main Street in downtown Kennebunk will open on December 13 and will feature wines from all regions, along with tastings, classes and community fun. Stay tuned for events with visiting winemakers and local artists.

MAINELY MURDERS BOOKSTORE

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10 AM-3:30 PM

From the recent to the hard-to-find, 1000s of mysteries. From classics and cozies to tough guys and thrillers.

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Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM

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www.TullysBeerandWine.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 8

"A Very Mid-Week Music Christmas," presented by the Kennebunkport Historical Society, in partnership with Kennebunk musicians Dana Pearson and Mark Gunter, Town House School, 135 North Street, Kennebunkport, 5 PM. FMI visit www.kporths.com/buy-tickets, email info@kporths.com, or call (207) 967-2751.

Thursday, December 9

Home For the Holidays Online Auction (through Sunday, December 12 at 8 PM). The Louis T. Graves Memorial Public is hosting an online fundraiser to help with budget shortfalls due to canceled events earlier this year. "Home for the holidays" consists of themed baskets that will be for sale through 32auctions.com/HOMEFOR21FMI visit graveslibrary.org or call 207-967-2778

Morning Book Group, Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport. 9:45 AM. This group meets the second Thursday of every month. For December, the group is discussing *The Unredeemed Captive* by John Demos. FMI visit graveslibrary.org or call 207-967-2778

Gingerbread House Decorating Night, hosted by the Saco Parks and Recreation Department. Saco Community Center, 75 Franklin St. Saco. 5:30-7 PM. This gingerbread house decorating night is for teens only, grades 6-9. Drop your teens off for a night of festive fun and gingerbread house decorating. \$10 per person. FMI or to register visit www.sacorec.com

Friday, December 10

Elks Giving Trees at the Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St. Sanford. 4-8 PM. Come tour the festive displays, enjoy cocoa and cookies and stop by the Make-A-Christmas Card for a veteran table. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 a sheet, which gives you 25 chances to win your favorite decorated tree, wreath, or decoration, each uniquely decorated. FMI: (207)-324-8184 or email elks1470@myfairpoint.net

Saturday, December 11

Prelude Holiday Market, Infinity Center, 1 Alewife Park Road, Kennebunk, 10 AM-4 PM. The event will be held indoors and masks are encouraged. The market will include pottery, jewelry, paintings and more. FMI contact Melanie Smith at 207-4670-3757 or melanie@spurlingfitness.com.

Santa Claus to Arrive by Helicopter at the Aviation Museum, 27 Navigator Rd, Londonderry, NH. Touchdown is scheduled for 11 AM outside the museum. Bring the kids to see Santa arrive by helicopter, a free event. FMI: visit www.aviationmuseumofnh.org or call (603)669-4820

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207-967-2081

Family Photo Day at the Kennbunk Free Library, 112 Main St. Kennebunk. 10 AM-2 PM. Come to the Kennebunk Free Library for a free family photo. The library will have a photo area set up inside the library with a winter backdrop and props. Photos will be taken by a KFL staff member and will be emailed to you. FMI or to register for a time slot (registration is necessary for this event.) call (207)-985-2173 or visit www.kennebunklibrary.org

Prelude Lunch at the Nonantum Resort, 95 Ocean Ave, Kennebunkport. 11 AM-2 PM. Come enjoy a delicious meal and live music to celebrate the 40th Annual Christmas Prelude. FMI or to make reservations visit: www.thenonantumresort.com and click on the Events tab.

Gingerbread House Making at the Nonantum Resort, 95 Ocean Ave, Kennebunkport. 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. Make your very own gingerbread house and have a jolly good time. All materials provided, registration required. FMI: visit: www.thenonantumresort.com and click on the Events tab.

Ogunquit Fire Company Holiday Craft Fair, 15 School St. Ogunquit. 10 AM-3 PM. Head to the fire station for a Holiday Craft Fair, featuring a visit from Santa himself from 9-11 AM. FMI: Call the Ogunquit Fire Department (207) 646-4947

Sunday, December 12
A Photography Exhibit of Hidden Kennebunkport, Lois T. Graves Memorial Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport. 11 AM-3 PM. Stop in the library for a special open house featuring the talent of Steve Roscoe Ross. Photographs by the artist will be both on exhibit and sale at Graves Library throughout the holidays.

Prelude Holiday Market at the Infinity Center, 1 Alewife Park Road, Kennebunk. 10 AM-4 PM. Join Spurling Fitness for a Prelude Holiday market supporting local crafters and vendors. FMI contact Melanie Smith (207) 467-3757

Ogunquit Performing Arts Classic Film Series, the S. Judson Dunaway Center, 23 School Street, Ogunquit, 2 PM. With films playing every week, this week the Ogunquit Performing Arts will be showing *I'll Be Seeing You*. FMI: opa@ogunquitperformingarts.org

Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Nonantum Resort, 95 Ocean Ave, Kennebunkport, 7:30 AM-12 PM. Bring the kids for breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will have the opportunity to deliver their Christmas lists to the North Pole, share their Christmas wishes with Santa and receive a commemorative photo to capture the moment. Reservations are required. FMI: Visit www.thenonantumresort.com or call 207-967-4050

Wells Christmas Parade, hosted by the Wells Chamber of Commerce, 2 PM. This Christmas Parade sets off at 2 PM from the Wells Plaza and proceeds north on Rt. 1 to the Wells Junior High School. FMI: call 207-646-2451 or visit www.wellschristmasparade.com

Candlelight Restorative Yoga, Hopespring Holistic Health Institute. 1013 Old North Berwick Rd. Alfred. 4-5 PM. Now more than ever we need to take time for self-care, join for this gentle flow practice as we as time for restorative forms. \$30 per person. FMI: info@hopespringholistic.com or visit www.hopespringholistic.com

Monday, December 13
Mother Goose Storytime, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells. 10:30 AM. Children ages 0-24 months and their caregivers are invited to engage in lap activities, rhymes, songs and fingerplays. FMI: Contact Allison Herman at aherman@wellstown.org or call the library at 207-646-8181

Small Mammal Ecology's Effect on Ticks, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Rd, Wells, 12-1 PM. Chuck Lubelczyk has studied ticks in Maine for more than 20 years. In his work at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute, he is involved in statewide surveillance programs for ticks and mosquitoes, as well as monitoring programs for small mammals and migratory birds. This is a free virtual presentation hosted by the Wells Reserve. Registration required at wellsreserve.org/calendar.

What's Your Story? Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 7 PM. Each week, our library director Mary-Lou Boucouvalas sits down with a

DECEMBER 8-22

community member and talks to them about where they came from, what they do, their interests, etc. Tune in on the Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library's Facebook page or YouTube channel, or watch on the Town of Kennebunkport's cable channel 1301. FMI call 967-2778.

Tuesday, December 14

Miss Lyn Likes! Hosted virtually by Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, 10 AM. Join for a new program (virtually) with Miss Lyn who will feature various picture books that she loves for a plethora of reasons. Tune in on Facebook or YouTube. FMI call the library 207-967-2778

Wednesday, December 15

Middle School Book Club – The Page Turners, Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, 2:15 PM. This group will meet via ZOOM. Copies of the chosen book will be provided ahead of time at either Kennebunk Free or Graves Memorial Library. FMI call the library 207-967-2778

Winter Walk, Wells Reserve at Laudholm, 342 Laudholm Farm Rd, Wells 11 AM-12:30 PM, Meet on the Wells Reserve's Laudholm campus to explore nature through a creative lens. Free. Registration required at caryn@wellsnerr.org or 207-646-1555 ext 110. FMI wellsreserve.org/calendar.

Toddler Storytime, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells, 10:30 AM. Children ages 2-5 years old and their caregivers are invited to meet at the library for stories, songs, and movement, all followed by a craft. FMI: Contact Allison Herman at aherman@wellstown.org or call the library at 207-646-8181

Teen Game Tournament, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells. 1 PM. Each month the library will have new competitive games for you to try your hand at, from board games to DS marathons to Nintendo Switch. FMI: Contact Meghan Osmolski at mosmolski@wellstown.org or call the library at (207)-646-8181

Portside Readers, Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 7 PM. Listen to stories, poems, tales, essays, drama, songs and more by the Portside Readers. Tune in on the Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library's Facebook page or YouTube channel or watch on the Town of Kennebunkport's cable channel 1301. FMI call 967-2778.

Thursday, December 16

Wine On-line with Maine & Vine, hosted by the Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, via Zoom, 5:30 PM. Join Lani Dietz of Maine & Vine and guest Sommelier Betsy Ross for an hour long program with ideas, pairings, and educational tidbits as you sip wines selected by the two experts. FMI call the library at 207-967-2778 to register by Wednesday, December 15.

Holiday Party at the Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Rd. Wells. 6 PM. Come listen to classic holiday music while creating crafts and participating in holiday themed activities. Special guest Santa Claus will be available for photos. FMI: Contact Allison Herman at aherman@wellstown.org or call the library at 207-646-8181

Conversational French Language Group, Wells Public Library. 1434 Post Rd. Wells, 6:30 PM. Join in for an informal approach to practicing or re-learning French. FMI: email Cindy at cappleby@wellstown.org.

Friday, December 17

Lego and Rubik's Cube Club, Wells Public Library. 1434 Post Rd. Wells, 3 PM. Participants are invited to build master creations with Legos provided by the library. Rubik's cubes will also be on hand with instructions for how to solve the cube. All ages are welcome. FMI: Contact Meghan Osmolski at mosmolski@wellstown.org or call the library at (207)-646-8181

Fiber Arts, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Road, Wells. 10:30 AM. For all ages and abilities. FMI:

Contact Stefanie Claydon at sclaydon@wellstown.org or call the library at 207-646-8181

Winter Solstice Reflect and Renew, Hopespring Holistic Health Institute, 1013 Old North Berwick Road, Alfred. 4-6:30 PM This workshop will help you to reflect on the past year, release what no longer serves you, and rest in renewal. Participants will be led through gentle yoga, mindful breathing, outdoor nature connection exercises and a fire ceremony. \$50 pp. Bring a friend for free! FMI: info@hopespringholistic.com or visit www.hopespringholistic.com

Saturday, December 18

That's a Funky Ugly Sweater Party, Funky Bow Brewery. 21 Ledgewood Lane, Lyman, 12 PM. Come show off your ugliest Christmas Sweater, eat, drink, and be merry. FMI: call (207) 423-9348

Sunday, December 19

Ogunquit Performing Arts Classic Film Series, the S. Judson Dunaway Center, 23 School St. Ogunquit, 2 PM. With films playing every week, this week the Ogunquit Performing Arts will be showing The Sleeping Beauty. FMI: opa@ogunquitperformingarts.org

Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Nonantum Resort, 95 Ocean Ave, Kennebunkport. 7:30 AM-12 PM. Bring the kids for breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Reservations are required. FMI: Visit www.thenonantumresort.com or call 207-967-4050

Holiday on the Farm with Santa & Mrs. Claus, River Winds Farm & Estate, 121 Loudon Road, Saco, 2-3:30 PM. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride and the Thornton Academy Chorus singing you all your favorite holiday songs. Complimentary Hot Cocoa and s'mores. \$10 per person (Children under 5 are free). FMI: (207) 415-2110 or email events@riverwindsfarmandestate.com

Monday, December 20

What's Your Story? Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 7 PM. Each week, our library director Mary-Lou Boucouvalas sits down with a community member and talks to them about where they came from, what they do, their interests, etc. Tune in on the Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library's Facebook page or YouTube channel, or watch on the Town of Kennebunkport's cable channel 1301. FMI call 967-2778.

Tuesday, December 21

Wishful Reading,, Wells Public Library, 1434 Post Rd, Wells, 2 PM. All are welcome join this monthly fiction book group. The next book discussion will be about *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris. Reserve a copy by calling the library or using the online catalog. No registration necessary. FMI contact Stefanie Claydon at sclaydon@wellstown.org or call 207-646-8181

Wednesday, December 22

Portside Readers, Graves Memorial Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Kennebunkport, 7 PM. Listen to stories, poems, tales, essays, drama, songs and more by the Portside Readers. Tune in on the Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library's Facebook page or YouTube channel or watch on the Town of Kennebunkport's cable channel 1301. FMI call 967-2778.

Thursday, December 23

Outta the Box, 8 York St., Kennebunk Open 7 Days a Week 10-3

Donations Sat & Sun
by appointment; call 604-5050



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Wishing for a Squish? Come on over. Now open in Dock Square Kennebunkport, as the exclusive Squishables retailer in southern Maine, we welcome "Squish." What the heck are Squishables? They are plush, overstuffed creatures, animals, foods and beverages with the cutest smiles! They are sure to bring a smile to your face.



Thursday, December 9
Talula's Gingerbread & Cookie House
Cottage 6, 10 AM-5 PM

Friday, December 10
Talula's Gingerbread & Cookie House
Cottage 6, 10 AM-5 PM

Talula's Wine Tasting
Cottage 8, 2-5 PM

Seacraft's S'More Station
Patio of Cottage 4, 10 AM-5 PM

Talula's Pet Photos with Santa
Cottage 8, 10 AM-1 PM
Benefits AWS

Saturday, December 11
Talula's Gingerbread & Cookie House
Cottage 6, 10 AM-5 PM

Talula's Wine Tasting
Cottage 8, 2-5 PM

Seacraft's S'More Station
Patio of Cottage 4, 10 AM-5 PM

Sunday, December 12
Talula's Gingerbread & Cookie House
Cottage 6, 10 AM-5 PM

Talula's Wine Tasting
Cottage 8, 2-5 PM

Seacraft's S'More Station
Patio of Cottage 4, 10 AM-5 PM

Live Music

Bentley's Saloon
1601 Portland Road, Arundel
Live Music every Friday and Saturday
www.bentleyssaloon.com | 985.8966

The Brunswick
39 West Grand Avenue, Old Orchard Beach
Live Music Thursday through Sunday
www.thebrunswick.com | 934.2171

Cowbell Burger Bar Biddeford
140 Main Street, Biddeford
December 10: Joan Kennedy 7PM
December 11: Justin Carver 7PM
December 17: The Barmen 7PM
December 18: Chris James 7PM
www.eatatcowbell.com | 284.2355

Féile Restaurant & Pub
1619 Post Road, Wells
Live Music Mondays Irish Music 6:30-9:30PM
Saturdays 7:30-11:30PM
www.feilerestaurantandpub.com | 251.4065

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Live Music seven days a week.
Thursday & Friday 4 – 11PM
Saturday 4-9PM & Sunday 2 -9PM
www.thefrontporch.com | 646.4005

Funky Bow Brewery and Beer Company
21 Ledgewood Lane, Lyman
Live Music every Fri-Sat-Sun.
www.funkybowbeercompany.com | 409.6814

Hurricane Restaurant
29 Dock Square, Kennebunkport
www.hurricanerestaurant.com | 967.9111

Kennebunkport Inn – The Burleigh
1 Dock Square, Kennebunkport
December 10: BillyBilly 5PM
December 11: BillyBilly 2PM (outdoors) School's Out 6PM
(indoors)
www.kennebunkportinn.com | (800) 207-7415

Nikanos Mediterranean
173 Main Street, Ogunquit
December 10: Mark LaPointe 7:30PM
December 11: Beau Dalleo 1:30PM
December 12: Maher and Mazola Duo 12PM
www.nikanos.com | 646.1112

Old Vines Wine Bar
173 Port Road, Kennebunk
December 9: Dueling Pianos w/Seth & Jimmy 7PM
December 10: The Dapper Gents 3PM, Fog Ave. 7PM
December 11: Bread & Circus 11am, Mike Pierce & Rob
Bellamy 3PM, Radio Revival 7PM
www.oldvineswinebar.com | 967.2310

The Pilot House
2 Harbor Lane, Kennebunk
December 10: Pieces of Eight 6PM
December 11: The Dock Squares 4PM
December 12: Radio Revival Duo 1PM
www.thepilotouseme.com | 204.0709

Ryan's Corner House Irish Pub
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Live Music every Wednesday through Sunday
967.3564

It's a Very Mid-Week Music Christmas!

The Kennebunkport Historical Society, in partnership with Kennebunk musicians Dana Pearson and Mark Gunter, presents "A Very Mid-Week Music Christmas" on Wednesday, December 8 at 5PM. It is the fifth in the monthly concert series held at the Town House School at 135 North Street in Kennebunkport.

For this special Prelude concert (with the earlier starting time of 5PM), Gunter and Pearson will be joined by John Kumnick on the upright bass. The trio will perform a range of holiday songs, from "O Holy Night" and "What Child is This" to Chuck Berry's "Run Rudolph Run" and Elvis Presley's "Santa Claus is Back in Town." Some singing along will be required, so remember to do some vocal exercises beforehand.

Tickets are \$18 in advance and at the door for the general public, and \$15 for Kennebunkport Historical Society members. This BYOB event is for people 21 and older, and masks will be required. For more information and tickets, visit www.kporths.com/buy-tickets, email info@kporths.com, or call (207) 967-2751.



Q: We are Maine residents looking to relocate to another town. Our search has been frustrating as we have been out bid several times from buyers from out of state. What is going on as we have never experienced that kind of competition from out of staters? Glen and Betty

SIMONI
Says

A: Yes we are seeing a lot of that. It appears that many folks want to relocate to Maine and as a result they are aggressively negotiating to get the homes they want. Many of them are coming from locations where real estate prices are higher than ours and so they are comfortable raising their offers in order to get the property. There is no clear picture of how long these market conditions will continue but it is definitely part of our real estate environment right now.

Q: My kids are going to be buying a house in the next few months. We are all pretty uneducated as to what they should do as they begin their search. Do you have suggestions? Appreciate your help Mark

A: Their first step should be to get pre-approved for their mortgage. They should talk with several lenders and compare the loan costs, etc. Once they have the right fit for their needs they should get the pre approval in writing so that they can include it with their offer. They also need to find a broker who is knowledgeable and experienced and

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rsmimon@legacysir.com | <http://www.legacysir.com>



Letters From Santa!

When the Kennebunk Police Department saw Santa, they agreed to collect letters from kids for him. The department helps get letters to Santa and makes sure he replies to them all. He's put his magic mail chute in the lobby of the Police Department in Kennebunk. So kids, get those letters in by the deadline of December 13 to hear from Santa!

FMI: email Officer Candice Simeoni at csimeoni@kennebunkmaine.us or call 207-604-1365.

36th Annual Wells Christmas Parade Sunday, December 12, 2 PM



The parade steps off at 2 PM from the Wells Plaza and proceeds north on Route 1 to the Wells Junior High School. Families, youth groups, civic groups, businesses and individuals are cordially invited to join us. There is no charge to participate.

Wells Police Chief Jo-Ann Putnam has been selected as the Grand Marshal for this 36th Annual Christmas Parade. Eleanor Vadenais, President/CEO of the Wells Chamber of Commerce stated "In selecting the Grand Marshal for the Parade every year, we look for someone who has a long-standing commitment to the Wells community. Chief Putnam celebrated 35 years of service with the Wells Police Department this year and the Wells Chamber of Commerce wished to honor her years of dedication and support to both the town of Wells and our organization."

Wells Chamber of Commerce
207-646-2451 • www.wellschristmasparade.com

Good-bye , dear friend

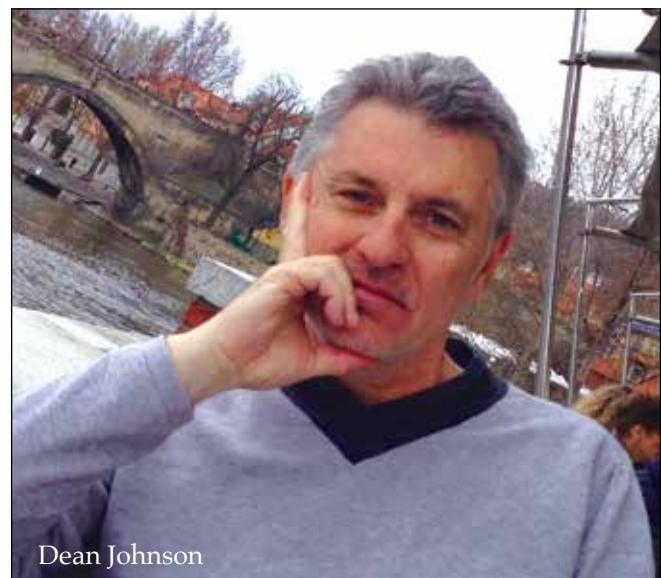
by Jo O'Connor

My very dear friend and storied *Tourist & Town* writer Dean Johnson has passed and I am gutted. This one hurts deeply. Age 67? Seriously? That's just too young. I want to scream. I want this to be "fake news." I want one more spectacular meal with him. I want to have one last conversation with him.

As a feature writer for our newspaper and magazine, Dean's second love (next to his equally amazing wife) was language, both written and spoken. His way was poetic, lyrical and humorous. His resume was more than impressive, it was incredible. He was an award-winning journalist at the *Boston Herald* for 25 years covering the concert, radio and comedy beats. He was also an occasional stringer for *The Boston Globe*, *York Coast County Star* and *Rolling Stone Magazine*. He was the restaurant reviewer of *Merrimack Magazine*.

For years, Dean hosted his own radio show on WBZ-AM in Boston. He is a part owner of Lowell-based radio station WCAP. Of course, he loved writing for *Tourist & Town*, because he was that rare combination of folksy and sophisticated.

Born and raised in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he married his childhood sweetheart Denyse, Dean had deep roots in Maine. His mother was Bessie of Ogunquit's famed restaurant of



Dean Johnson

the same name. He spent all his summers in southern Maine working there and eventually purchased a beautiful saltbox house on the marsh in Cape Porpoise.

How can I let him know how much he meant to me? He knew my twins well. He saw me through me through my dating life, marriage, divorce, surgery and numerous jobs. He was a guest lecturer while I taught at Boston University. He was my advisor, confidante and mensch.

Over the years, there was some regularity of our relationship: Dean would pull into my driveway just to say "hi" and then we would end up having porch cocktails – there was never a lag in the conversation. Reciprocally, I

would pop into his house in the estuary on Mills Road,

famed for numerous pink flamingos, and we would pick up where we left off. We talked to each other like we had catching up to do; we didn't. You see, we could talk every day and there was no content repetition. There simply wasn't a topic he couldn't handle.

There aren't enough tears I could shed for him. I am grieving for the cavernous loss I feel.

DeanO, you affected so many people in such a delightful and witty way. You were interesting and interested. Please make this pain go away. I have so much more I want to talk to you about.

My takeaway: tell EVERYONE you love just that: you love them.

Rest in peace my wonderful friend. #holeinmyheart



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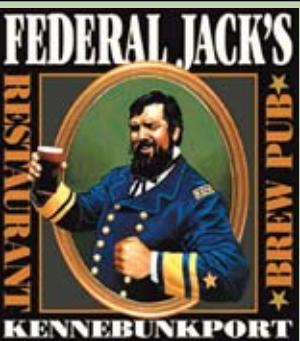
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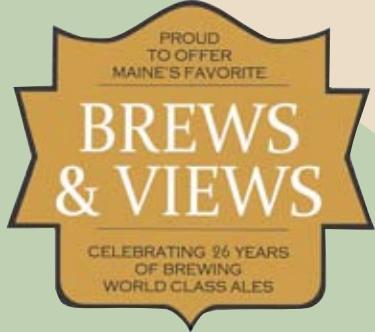
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