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Songs of the season

The best sellers of Christmastime

by Violet Snow

FOR A QUIRKY lesson in U.S. history, consider the origins of the secular Christmas songs played on the radio and broadcast into the ears of harried shoppers every December. From war to racism to the tuberculosis epidemic, our national past crops up in startling ways through the stories of songwriters and performers.

"Jingle Bells" was apparently inspired by the annual sleigh races held around Thanksgiving in Medford, Massachusetts. Medford native James Lord Pierpont, the uncle of J. P. Morgan, composed the song in the 1850s, although it's not clear whether he wrote it in Medford or in Savannah, Georgia. Both cities have



PHOTOS BY PHYLLIS McCABE

posted plaques claiming to be the site of the composition, not surprising since the footloose Pierpont was hard to pin down.

The son of a minister, he ran away from boarding school at 14, found a job on a whaling ship, and spent a decade at sea. He returned to marry and have children, then abandoned his family to join the California Gold Rush. Failing to strike it rich, he wound up in Savannah, playing the organ in his abolitionist brother's Unitarian church. During the Civil War,

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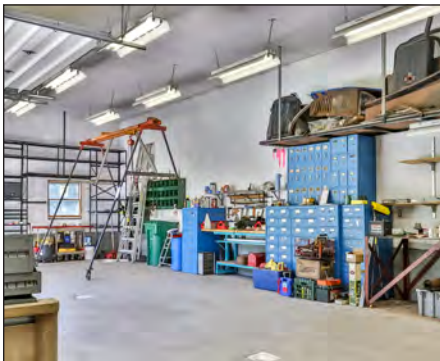
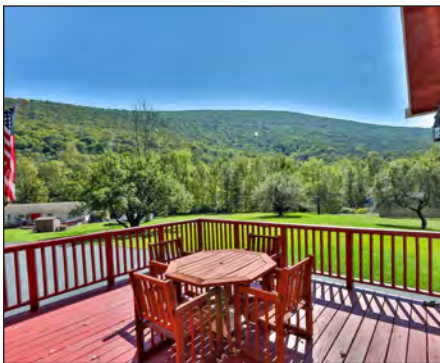


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Pierpont enlisted as clerk for a Southern cavalry company and wrote Confederate battle songs, while his brother fled north, and their father served as chaplain for the Union army.

Back in 1857, Pierpont's jolly winter song was published as "One-Horse Open Sleigh," but it soon became known by the words of the famous refrain. Just over a century later, in December 1965, "Jingle Bells" became the first song broadcast from space. After the two astronauts aboard Gemini 6 had completed their rendezvous with Gemini 7, the crew reported to Mission Control that they had spotted an unidentified flying object "up in a polar orbit." In the midst of the transmission, pranksters Wally Schirra and Tom Stafford broke into a rendition

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of "Jingle Bells," accompanied by a tiny harmonica and miniature bells they had smuggled onto the spaceship.

"WINTER WONDERLAND" STARTED AS A poem written by Richard Smith in the

winter of 1934, when he was a tuberculosis patient at a sanitarium in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. TB was the single greatest cause of death in the nation during the late 1800s and early 1900s. To occupy himself while under treat-

ment, Smith entered competitions to write jingles and ads for national companies. The poem is said to represent his longing to be healthy, a vision of happy times cavorting on the blanket of snow he could see from his window. His mu-

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sician friend Felix Bernard was moved by the poem and composed a cheerful melody to fit the words.

Smith died the following year, at the age of 34. Bernard went on to achieve success in the music business.

"RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER" was the creation of Bob May, an ad writer for the Montgomery Ward mail-order and department-store business. He lived in Chicago with his four-year-old daughter Barbara and his wife Evelyn, who was dying of cancer. Barbara asked her father why her mother was so different from other mothers, and he responded by making up a story about a reindeer whose difference turned out to be an indispensable virtue.

The little girl loved the story so much that she made him tell it every night before she went to sleep. Bob was deep in debt and couldn't afford to buy his daughter a Christmas present, so he made the story into a hand-drawn picture book.

Evelyn died in early December 1938. Just before Christmas, Montgomery Ward held a company party, where Bob's co-workers asked him to read the Rudolph story, which drew a standing ovation. To help Bob pay off his debts, Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book and gave six million copies away to shoppers over the next six years.

Publishing houses across the country were clamoring to acquire the book. It's to Montgomery Ward's credit that the company restored the rights to its author,

who soon became a millionaire.

Bob's brother-in-law, songwriter Johnny Marks, wrote a tune for the Rudolph story and offered it to Bing Crosby and other singers. They all turned it down. Although Gene Autry's "Here Comes Santa Claus" had been a hit, the cowboy singer was unimpressed by "Rudolph." But his wife Ina was so touched by the lines, "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph / play in any reindeer games," that she urged her husband to record the song. "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" became the nation's second-best-selling Christmas song.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS," THE TOP-SELLING Christmas song, was written in 1938 by Jewish composer Irving Berlin, who grew up on New York City's Lower East Side. His three-week-old son had died on Christmas Day in 1928, so it's possible that the wistful yearning of the song relates to mourning for the child. The composition was put to use when Berlin was hired by Paramount to write for a musical that became the film *Holiday Inn*, starring Bing Crosby.

"White Christmas" was first broadcast to the public on Christmas Eve, 1941, during Crosby's radio show, a few weeks after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. During the war, when he performed at USO shows, Crosby was reluctant to include the song because he didn't want to make the soldiers homesick. When he tried to cut it from his setlist, the men requested it anyway.



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 12.20: Module 3 Law 6-10:30

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Hudson Valley Holidays

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"THE CHRISTMAS SONG," popularly known by its first line, "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire," was written in Los Angeles on a sultry summer day in 1945. Crooner and composer Mel Tormé met

with lyricist Bob Wells to write a couple of songs for a musical. Hoping to cool himself off in the heat, Wells dashed off a few lines of poetry recalling his childhood winters in Boston, where vendors

roasted chestnuts over handcars on the streets.

When Tormé read the four lines, he immediately came up with a tune, and they completed the song together. A year later, Tormé offered it to his friend Nat King Cole, who recognized the song's commercial potential. However, Cole was not yet a household name, and all Christmas music was then recorded by white singers. His label, Capitol Records, initially turned down the song because they didn't think they could sell it to white buyers. Then Cole's "(I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons" became a smash hit, and six weeks later, he was able to record "The Christmas Song."

"I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS" was recorded in 1953 by 13-year-old Jimmy Boyd. The novelty record was banned in Boston and other places because of the possibility that the mother in the song was having an affair, although the lyrics imply that she's actually kissing her husband. Columbia Records asked the Council of Churches for assistance, and they sent Boyd around to convince the radio stations that the song was squeaky clean. It then became a solid Christmas hit, selling over three million copies.



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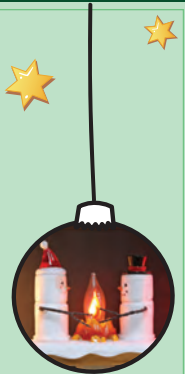
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Goodbye 2022!

Top eight New Year's Eve parties in Ulster County

by Zac Shaw

NEW YEAR'S EVE is for partying, and in Ulster County there's an event for every type of partier. Sure, you could stay cozy at home watching the ball drop amidst a sea of corporate sponsorship. You could splurge on a fancy prix-fixe dinner with a familiar champagne toast to the well-worn warble of Auld Lang Syne. But for the more adventurous among us, nothing less than a full-blown party will do. Below are eight events with the works: Dancing, DJs, live bands, and enough party power to last straight through into next year.

Bearsville Theater

7 p.m. • \$20 advance / \$25 at door
291 Tinker St., Woodstock

After the tragic shuttering of BSP in



Lady Verse joins a lineup of local DJ legends to perform at Bearsville Theater.

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Kingston, the Bearsville Theater has taken the mantle as the New Year's Eve venue to beat in Ulster County. Speaking of beats: As far as local DJ talent goes, we've seldom seen a lineup this impressive, including Lady Verse, Shaman Vybez, DJ Joey Hernandez, Magic Juan, and the enigmatically named Jungle Punk B2B

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The most Woodstock-y part? There will also be live drumming, bass and visuals meant to evoke “ancestral roots” amidst the “digital sounds of the future” blasting from the DJ platform. If your idea of the perfect New Year’s Eve is back-to-back sets of bass-heavy bangers and crazy dance-party debauchery, this is where you’ll be, hopefully making out with someone amidst the midnight balloon drop.

Keegan Ales

9 p.m. • free

20 St. James St., Kingston

Fans of danceable, original live music looking for an affordable night of excitement will flock to Keegan Ales this New Year’s Eve, as popular roots rockers Lara Hope and the Ark-Tones headline the brewery’s end-of-2022 bash. Lara Hope and crew tour all throughout the year. She’s the music director for the O+ Festival, and there’s no denying the band is one of our music scene’s crown jewels.

Greek Nite, a Sixties psychedelic Greek and Balkan band, will add to the diversity of the bill as special guests. A midnight toast will be accompanied by a keg drop to transition attendees to the new year. With no cover charge, you’ll be better prepared



The Midnight Ramble Band will usher in 2023 at Levon Helm Studios.

for whatever inflation may bring in 2023.

Colony

7 p.m. • \$20 advance / \$25 at door

22 Rock City Road, Woodstock

If you were at Colony for the recent Corey Feldman show, you might have caught Sean Matthew Whiteford and the House Party Band cranking out the hits from the Seventies and Eighties and nearly blowing the headliner off the stage.

Whiteford’s rich musical history has deep roots where Broadway meets rock and roll, which explains the showmanship and supreme vocal talent. If you’re looking to sing along at the top of your lungs to a professional-grade cover band, Colony will provide a rockin’ night to remember.

Levon Helm Studios

7:30 p.m. • \$75 standing / \$115 seated

10 Plochmann Lane, Woodstock

Few details have been released on the New Year’s Eve bash taking place at Levon Helm Studios, but when your venue has that pedigree of music royalty, the only details needed are when, where, and is it sold out yet?

Of course, the Midnight Ramble Band will headline, preserving Helm’s legacy of transforming countless lives with his music. Cindy Cashdollar and the Syncopators – no strangers to the venue – will energetically get the night started. This show is a must-make for fans of high-end live music productions featuring world-class musicians in an intimate setting.

The Falcon

8 p.m. • donation suggested

1348 Route 9W, Marlboro

This New Year’s Eve, The Falcon is delivering more funk than a trunk full of skunks smoking blunts. Headlining the night is Hudson Valley’s favorite reggae/ska band Big Takeover, which makes for a thrilling opportunity to witness this big-stage band in a more intimate atmosphere.

Intimate doesn’t mean relaxed here – the dance floor will be abuzz with the kind of daring dance moves one only makes on the last day of the year after a few cocktails. Also appearing will be What?, a Hudson Valley band based in funk but unbounded to explore adjacent genres.

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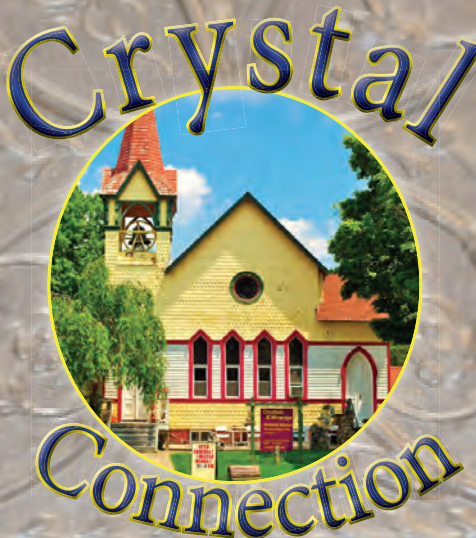
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Left, Teri Roiger brings her jazz stylings to Lydia's Cafe; right, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason will perform with Swingology at the Ashokan Center.

Lydia's Cafe

7 p.m. • \$20 suggested donation

7 Old US Highway 209, Stone Ridge

Local favorite Teri Roiger will take the stage with her "4tet" at Lydia's New Year's Eve celebration, making this the place to

be for Ulster County's jazz cats. A dance set by DJ Mark will follow the live performance, with beats bumping until the midnight climax.

Those looking for a night of live music and revelry in a laid-back atmosphere can't go wrong with this event.

Ashokan Center

5:30 p.m. • \$30 adults / \$15 children

477 Beaverkill Road, Olivebridge

New Year's Eve parties don't get more down-home Catskills than the festivities planned at the Ashokan Center at this year's end. Music will be provided by Ashokan favorites Jay & Molly with Swingology, Rose and the Bros. and The Russet Trio. Plus, there will be not one but two callers guiding the square and contra dances: John Krumm and Casey Carr.

Dinner (with a sing-along for dessert) is an extra \$30, and only a limited number of reservations were left at the time of this writing. If you miss the meal, there will still be a bountiful snack table and cash bar with locally-sourced libations. Ready to scoot into 2023 by throwing back to a simpler time? The Ashokan Center will be in full swing for you.

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It's not surprising that at the time of this writing Tubby's had just sold out its end-of-the-year party. Tubby's has been the hottest rising star of our county's music scene in 2022, drawing big indie acts and consistently packing the house.

Even though the show's sold out, you can still get on a wait list that will automatically purchase tickets when and if they become available. Homegrown country crooners Ulsterados headline alongside zany party-starters Brasskill, with a champagne toast at midnight.



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LAUREN THOMAS

A bountiful harvest of lights

Stone Ridge Orchard hosts Lumagica's Winter Garden through January 3

by Frances Marion Platt

ARE CHRISTMAS LIGHT displays a highlight of the season's magical allure for you? Do you make a point of find-

ing out which streets in which towns reliably put up the most extravagant illuminated holiday decorations, and then go see them in person?

If you're that kind of person, you've undoubtedly noticed in the past few years

an upsurge in the number of "light parks" hosted as seasonal tourist attractions in various locations. In the mid-Hudson, Headless Horseman Haunted Attractions in Ulster Park has been shifting gears each December to a less-scary immersive experience called A Frosty Fest. More recently, those willing to travel farther afield have been drawn to wintry light attractions at the Bronx Botanical Gardens in Manhattan, and to several sites in Connecticut created by a German company called MK Illumination.

Marketed under the label of Lumagica, the MK attractions first appeared in Hückelhoven, Germany in 2018 and quickly spread to other European sites. For 2022, the company is organizing major light parks in 23 countries, including Denmark, Sweden, the UK, Japan, Canada and the US.

Lumagica also creates smaller installations for town squares, building lobbies,

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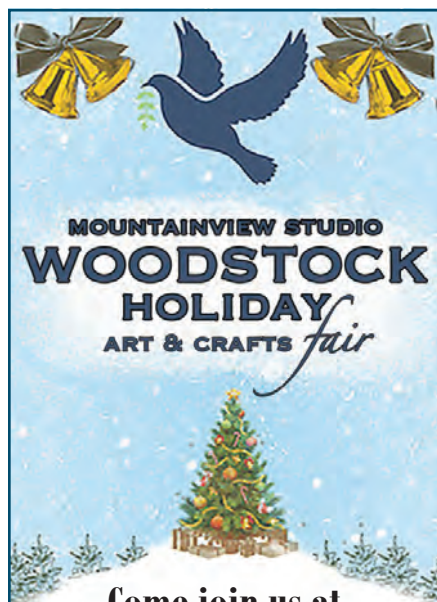
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airports, train stations and festivals – all featuring sculptures made from strings of LED lights.

The big holiday displays each have a theme. Enchanted Forest is this year's offering at Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard in the Westchester County town of North Salem, for example. Last year, Harvest Moon became the first farm to host a Lumagica holiday light park in the US.

This year, a new farm site has been added to the list – the first one in the mid-Hudson region: Stone Ridge Orchard at 3012 Route 213 in Stone Ridge, a little southeast of Route 209. The attraction,



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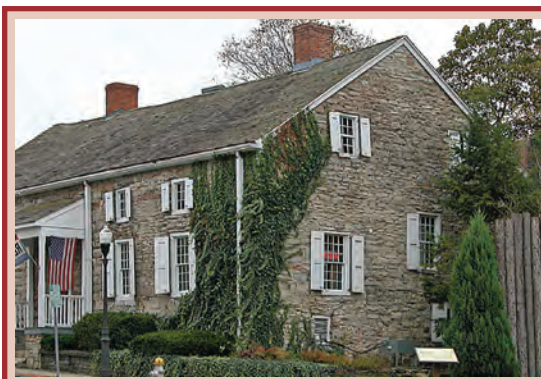
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dubbed Winter Garden, was unveiled at Stone Ridge Orchard on November 18 and will be open most nights through January 3.

Your hosts describe this attraction as "... a walking tour through a magical garden. A deep freeze has swept into the garden at Stone Ridge. You can help Zinnia, the colorful hummingbird, restore the color and life to the garden. As you make your way through, remember to make a wish with the shooting stars."

The trail is about a half-mile in length, over uneven terrain and rutted farm roads with wet spots. It requires at least 45 minutes to view at a leisurely strolling pace, allowing plenty of stops for photography. Comfortable walking shoes, preferably hiking boots, are strongly encouraged.

All the Lumagica light parks are site-specific in design, and the layout for Winter Garden takes advantage of the varying views offered by the orchard's rolling hillsides - not to mention the trees: The sculptural centerpiece of Zinnia the hummingbird and a delicate cluster of fluffy dandelions is positioned at the base of a majestic 360-year-old white oak, itself bathed in a floodlight whose colors gradually change.

Existing farm structures are incorporated into the layout of the light displays.

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*Donations are restricted to non-profit organizations located in the communities where Sawyer Savings Bank is active. Sawyer Savings Bank does not provide funding to individuals, political groups/ parties. Other restrictions may apply. Organizations need to complete the online grant application on or before January 31, 2023. Decisions will be made and announced on or before March 31, 2023. Donations will be awarded throughout 2023.



Thus, some of the sculptures are free-standing, such as the family groupings of foxes, deer, swans and penguins (not to mention a 14-foot-tall moose this five-foot-seven-inch reporter didn't need to duck to pass under), while other patterns of lights are held aloft by tree trunks and branches, tunnels and trellises. Clusters of sculptures represent "The Deep Freeze," "Tales of Time," "The Tree of Life," "Colorful Trees," "Nature by the Pond" and "The Shooting Stars."

The progression of lights – half a million of them all told – is designed to reinforce the Winter Garden storyline through color scheme as well, evolving gradually from chilly blues and whites at the outset to more varied and vibrant hues. By the time you reach the oak tree and the hummingbird at the top of the hill, you realize that now the colors are shifting through the entire spectrum.

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Your descent on the return loop wends its way through an allée of apple trees, from whose branches hang vividly colored orbs and blossoms of light. Before you reach the end of your exploration, you'll pass under an archway of "shooting stars," where you are encouraged to make a wish. If your wish is for hot cider and a cider donut, it will certainly be granted when you get back to the tasting room.

The press tour on opening night offered the opportunity to meet Juan Novoa, MK



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Illumination's lead designer and events manager for Lumagica USA. Recounting his first visit to Stone Ridge Orchards to review its potential for a light park with owner Elizabeth Ryan, he said, "I saw that

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tree [the gigantic white oak] and had this spiritual experience. Using a farm gives us more liberty to use the land as a canvas I use the natural landscape as my pattern for the design."

Ryan seemed delighted with the results of their collaboration. "It's definitely not kitsch!" she said as she took in the stunning light show in full darkness for the first time. "It's an immersive art experience."

Lumagica's Winter Garden walkthrough light park at Stone Ridge Orchards is open nightly December 2 through 4, 9 through 23 and January 1 through 3, with tours scheduled at half-hour intervals from 3:30 to 9 p.m. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.stoneridgeorchard.com/lumagica.html.



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Spend nothing this season!

Ingenious ideas are innumerable

by Sparrow

HOW ABOUT A moneyless Christmas – a holiday that costs you nothing? It seems like a shame to go into debt to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who said: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and dust doth corrupt ...” (All the other winter holidays also may be celebrated in this fashion.)

One idea: ask only for re-gifts (i.e. presents your friends previously received and didn’t want). Or for objects people find on the ground: a pretty rock (or even a rather inexpressive rock) or a flaming red-orange leaf.

Another possibility is conceptual presents. Yoko Ono’s classic book *Grapefruit* contains lots of intriguing gift ideas. For example:

Counting Piece III

Count the numbers of wrinkles on your face or your body or certain parts of your body. Send it to your friend in place of a letter.

There’s the old standby: the massage coupon. I suggest that you specify the type of massage – for example “foot massage” (or even more specific: “left foot massage”).

A piece of advice: Don’t use the massage as an opportunity to seduce the person. That’s technically known as “massage abuse.”

A poem makes an excellent gift. You can copy one out of a book, or write one yourself. Here it is a recent composition of mine that would suffice as a holiday present:

Massachusetts

Massachusetts
frightens me a little –
even the word.

If you’re left-handed, do you ever write



Don't buy wrapping paper.

with your right hand? And do you write lefthandedly if you're a righty? Try it! It makes a heartfelt gift. Copy out a poem with the opposite hand, then tell your gift receiver, "I became ambidextrous for you."

Or paint a small watercolor! An oil painting demands too much of a commitment from the recipient, but a watercolor may be lost among a pile of papers, or simply recycled.

For many years I would ask people to bring me cassettes they were sick of to my birthday party. Later, I amended this to include CDs. My favorite gift of this type was an album by the Turkish rock group Kurban. Also I discovered that I deeply love the song "Ventura Highway" by America, though I can't explain why.

Almost every book I read costs me nothing. I go to book exchanges (like that wooden box in the center of Woodstock full of castoff paperbacks), and the free shelves of thrift shops. I even look in garbage cans. (Once my neighbor threw away *Lobotomy*, a memoir by Dee Dee Ramone, and while reading it I realized that I worked with Dee Dee in the mailroom of an insurance company in 1971 – three years before The Ramones began.) So start scouring tables in church basements for nifty novels to offer your comrades.

But please wrap every gift, even if you found it on the sidewalk! People love unwrapping presents, a little more than they love the presents themselves. And don't buy wrapping paper! My wife and I have a bag of colorful gift wrap we've accumulated over the years.

When I'm in New York City I sometimes find a Chinese newspaper in the garbage which makes satisfying present-covering. And a couple years ago, I decided to discard an old paperback atlas. Now I rip out the pages and use them to clothe gift items. My recipients invariably become fascinated, after briefly examining their present, with the geography of Tunisia (or whatever nation they've been given).

Maps-as-gift wrap saves money and educates Americans about world geography!

AND HOW ABOUT LEFTOVERS? THEY don't cost anything. Place the remnants of a recent meal in a plastic container, wrap it, and hope for the best! Of course, not too many people want leftovers as a Hanukkah gift, unless they are extremely hungry, or you're an exemplary cook. But it's worth a try.

The fabric equivalent of leftovers is hand-me-downs. Find an article of clothing you no longer love, and give it to a person you still enjoy. Everything looks a lot newer when it's wrapped in decorative paper.



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Not every present is a physical object. A song makes a fine immaterial gift. A few weeks before the holiday, gently ask your friend about music. When she mentions a favorite song, make a mental note. Then go to the Internet, learn the song (including the lyrics) – and play it for her on flugelhorn, piano, castanets, or any instrument you choose. Your friend will be flabbergasted!

I'll tell you what I need – a person to scratch my back! My wife is unenthusiastic about this task, and though I have several elegant backscratchers of the wooden variety, a human is preferable.

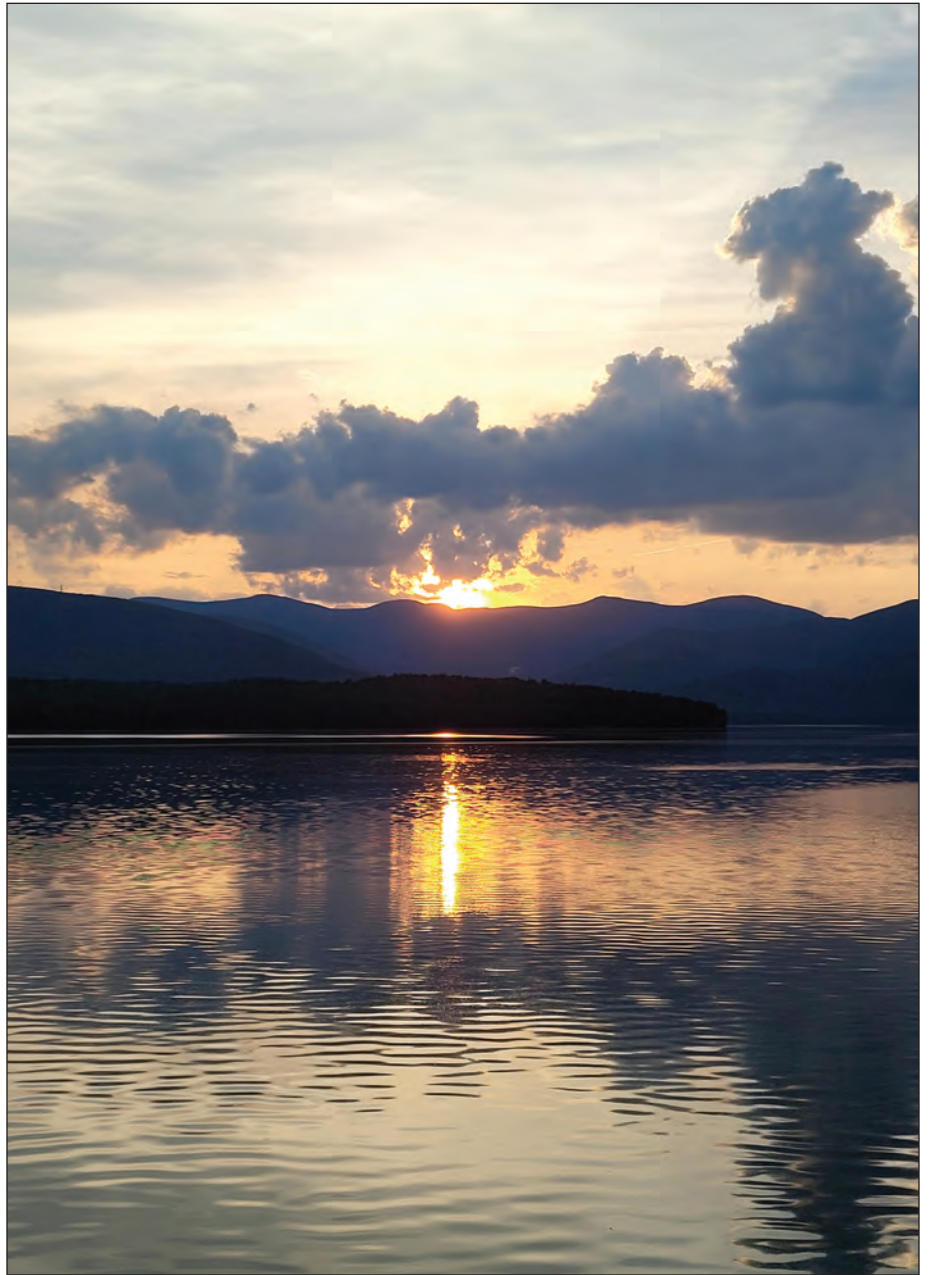
It's nice to make a donation to a benevolent nonprofit organization in the name of your friend, but that involves an expenditure of currency. Why not volunteer? That's free. Find a group your friend approves of, and donate your time to that cause. Then write: "I worked an hour at the Heifer Project for you" in pseudo-calligraphy, roll it up like a scroll, and present it to your Christmas celebrant.

How about a photograph? Take your iPhone (or a camera) and walk down your road for an hour, until you find a sacred grove or lilting stream. Capture it in your digital device, then email it to your pal.

Don't be afraid to mention that you spent an hour hunting out beauty for them. Some people (and very nice people they are) prefer an hour of aesthetic effort to a brand-new DVD player.

Laughter makes a nice gift. Do you know those yogic retreats where everyone laughs for hours, guided by an enlightened laugh-yogi? You can give your associate a free "laugh workshop," led by you.

OR TEARS! THE NEXT TIME YOU WEEP, save some of your teardrops on a tiny handkerchief. I know they'll evaporate, but a tear-stained cloth makes a truly



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sensitive gift.

According to Phillip Norman's biography of John Lennon, at the height of Beatlemania, "in New York, supermarkets reported a brisk trade in canned Beatle breath." Why not bottle your own breath (or that of your pet), wrap it, and place it under the Hanukkah bush? (For a number of years in my childhood, my family had a Hanukkah bush, which consisted of dried branches, painted white, arranged in a vase, and bedecked with a few Christmas ornaments.)

Skywriting is expensive. Hiring an airplane to write words in the air (if anyone still does this) can't be cheap. But using the latest – or not so latest – computer graphics program, you can produce a virtual skywriting message:

Have a blessed Kwanzaa, Angela!

and email it at no expense.

[If you have children, please ignore this essay unless they are saintly anti-materialists. There's no reason to make our progeny suffer for our high ideals.]

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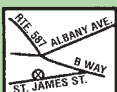
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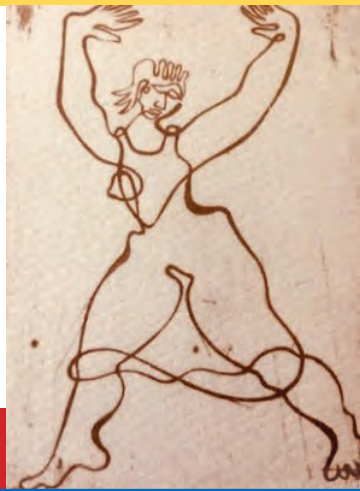
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PHYLLIS McCABE

education of the students at the school and also serve as a wonderful gesture of welcome and outreach to the greater community for which families serve as enthusiastic ambassadors. In this spirit, the Winter Faire Festival Committee prepares the annual Gift Making Faire and with the joyful participation of the parents of each class.

When: Sunday, December 11, 11 am-4 pm

Where: Mountain Laurel Waldorf School, 16 South Chestnut Street, New Paltz

More info: <https://mountainlaurel.org/events/>

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 7pm

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A Lessons & Carols Service to celebrate the holiday season

Woodstock Reformed Church
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to the North Pole. Guests will enjoy hot chocolate and cookies served by dancing chefs. Santa and his elves board the train to greet passengers and each guest is given the first gift of Christmas- a silver sleigh bell. Caroling and on board entertainment.

When: through December 28

Where: Catskill Mountain Railroad, 55 Kingston Plaza, Kingston

More info: <https://catskillmountain-railroad.com>

Lumagica Dazzling Winter Garden.

Create a brand new tradition and lasting memories. Spectacular light show timed to music and featuring over half-million lights including shooting stars, giant whimsical creatures and breathtaking surprises. More than 500,000 LED lights illuminate sculptures, holiday decorations and tunnels creating a holiday experience for old and young alike.

When: through January 3

Where: Stone Ridge Orchard, 3012 NY 213, Stone Ridge

More info: <http://www.stoneridgeorchard.com/lumagica.html>

A Miracle on South Street. Clara Nowack and her three grown kids have always known that they were special, ever since that night back in 1942 when the Blessed Mother appeared to Grandpa in his barbershop. Now, when daughter Ruth unveils her plan to write and star in a one-woman show about the miracle so 'the whole world will know!' - the family's faith is shaken to its core when a deathbed confession causes the legend to unravel in a hilarious and heartfelt twist.

When: Through December 18, Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm and 7 pm, Sundays at 2 pm. Please check for special holiday schedule.

Where: Shadowland Theater, 157 Canal Street, Ellenville

More info: <https://shadowlandstages.org>

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. The Kingston Mid-town Market Shop Local Event. Art, jewelry, crafts, self-care, food, unique gifts. Singers, dancers & more.

When: Saturday, December 17, 1-6 pm

Where: 10 and 16 Cedar Street, Kingston
More info: www.CCE4ME.org



DION OGUST



DION OGUST



PHYLLIS McCABE

Two Holiday Classics: A Charlie Brown Christmas and Frosty the Snow Man. Classic winter favorites the whole family can enjoy. A Festive Holiday Wonderland with family picture opportunities with characters from the show with decorations, lights and more!

When: Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11 at 7 pm, Sunday, December 12 at 2 pm

Where: The Woodstock Playhouse, 103 Mill Hill Road, Wood-

org/charlie-brown-and-frosty

Into the Light. The Vanaver Caravan, in collaboration with Arm-of-the-Sea Theater, will usher in the holiday season with a family-friendly performance. All the magic of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's giant puppets with the celebratory vision of the Vanaver Caravan's world dance repertoire. The fairytale-like story follows a young girl as she seeks to find joy and hope in the face of the waning winter light. The performance celebrates many of the world's traditions; bringing light, joy and beauty into the darkest time of the year. Into the Light honors such holidays as Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Yule, Winter Solstice, Sankta Lucia (Sweden) and Diwali (India) through dance and music

When: Saturday, December 10 at 2 pm

Where: The Rosendale Theater, 408

stock
More info: www.woodstockplayhouse.org

Main Street, Rosendale

More info: www.vanavercaravan.org

The Holly Berry Trail. The Junior League event has been going for two decades. Six Kingston homes decked out for the holiday make a trail of holiday cheer and splendor. It is sure to inspire your own decorating spirit.

When: December 10, 10 am-2 pm

Where: Trail-goers will be emailed their first home's address by 9 am on December 10.

More info and to purchase tickets: www.Kingston.jl.org or call Melissa (845) 594-6157 or Amy (845) 416-3006

31st Annual Unison Craft Art & Design Fair Fundraiser. 14 artists with their craft & fine art set-ups. Featuring a fun raffle filled with great prizes.

When: Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11, 10 am- 5 pm

Where: Unison Art Center, 68 Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz

More info: <https://www.unisonarts.org/events/31st-annual-craft-art-design-fair>

Paige Turner's DRAG Me to Christmas. NYC's drag Showbiz Spitfire is back to make your holiday season merry + gay with an evening full of jokes, songs & yuletide cheer.

When: Saturday, December 10, 8:30-10 pm

Where: Rosendale Theater, 408 Main Street, Rosendale

More info: <https://biggayhudsonvalley.com/about-us/events-by-bghv/>

Piano Christmas Concert. Classical, Holiday, and Standards

When: Saturday, December 10, 4-6 pm

Where: Christ the King Episcopal Church, 2 Eugene L Brown Drive, New Paltz

More info: www.newpaltzchurch.org

Holiday Swing Dance with ClubSwing and Dance Lesson with Got2Lindy. All are welcome! No partner or experience needed to attend. Join the fun!

When: Saturday, December 10, beginner lesson 7:30-8:00 pm, dancing until 10:30 pm

Where: White Eagle Hall, 487 Delaware Ave, Kingston

More info: www.got2lindy.com

Holiday Craft & Book Faire. Hand-made Crafts. Children's Book Sale. Make your own broom or tin/blacksmith project. Hot food & drinks. Free to attend.

When: Sunday, December 11, 10 am-2 pm

Where: the Ashokan Center, 477 Bea-

verkill Road, Olivebridge

More info: <http://ashokancenter.org>

Holiday cookie exchange class. Let the Ulster BOCES Adult Career Education Center help you make the most of your cookie trays with its Holiday Cookie Exchange class. Each participant will go home with batches of different cookies, along with their recipes. The cost is \$40 plus a \$15 (cash) food fee that is due the night of class. All who register are required

to wear a hair covering and to bring an apron. Please be advised that class start dates are based on sufficient enrollment. You will be notified in advance if we are unable to run a class.

When: Thursday, December 15, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center, 319 Broadway, Port Ewen.

More info: contact the Adult Education Office at 845-331-5050. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3S7m4I3>.

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