

Holiday Guide

and

Kids Activity Pages

2023



The Yankee *Xpress*
BLACKSTONE VALLEY *Xpress*

local **town** pages 

FREE  PRESS

Holiday Events

AUBURN

• 2023 Santa Tour, Saturday, December 16
For over 65 years the Auburn Fire Rescue Department has brought Santa around town in the Fire Truck to visit children and adults throughout the community. It has become a tradition that has been shared in families for generations. Please check out the route below. The route will start at approximately 11:00 am from the Drury Square Fire Station on Auburn Street. Some approximate times are listed next to some places or streets on the route. Please be patient as this is all dependent upon traffic and times are subject to change.

• The Farmer's Daughter Holiday hours and events: Beginning Nov. 25, daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. – 1p.m.; closed Christmas Day. Visit with Santa, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26; Sunday, Nov. 27; Saturday, Dec. 3; Sunday, Dec. 4. Delicious apple cider donuts are made daily starting Saturday, Nov. 26.

BELLINGHAM

• Bellingham Police Toy Drive
Toy drive will be at Walmart on 11/25, 11/26, 12/2, 12/3, 12/9 and the last day

12/10 from all 10-4. Toys are given to Bellingham-area children, with excess donated to Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF).

• Bellingham Police to Host Munchkins with Santa, December 2, 2023
Families! Come enjoy some holiday treats and crafts and an opportunity to meet Santa! The Bellingham Police Association will hold this annual event at the Bellingham Police Station, 30 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, on December 2nd, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

GRAFTON

• Grafton Celebrates the Holidays Sunday, Dec.3 from 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Join us for the 28th year as more than 30 businesses, churches and organizations come up with a host of delightful seasonal activities. Keep an eye out for the "Frosty Stop" snow bear logo that marks fun spots like the Polar Express Trackless Train Ride, photos with Santa and the Craft and Vendor Fair at the Municipal Center Gym. The day starts with a pancake breakfast at North Grafton Elementary School. In other stops, enjoy hot soup, pizza or a grab and

go craft for kids. The Baptist Church will display its traditional crèche from 1-5 p.m. Head to the Common at 4 p.m. to join the Grafton Girl Scouts for seasonal songs and a lighting of the community menorah. Santa arrives on the Common at 4:30 p.m., with the lighting of the Common to follow.
• The Unitarian Church at 3 Grafton Common is having a traditional Church Faire on Sunday December 3, from 11:30-3:00. Enjoy a hot lunch including chili, cornbread, hot dogs and apple crisp; Attend a family friendly performance of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas at 1:00 featuring our hand bell choir; enjoy free kids crafts and shop at our local holiday market.

FRANKLIN

• Franklin Garden Club to Sell Decorated Holiday Wreaths and Arrangements on Saturday, December 2, from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Daddario's Hardware Store, 528 West Central Street, Franklin, MA. The sales will benefit several different club activities. In addition, holiday fresh floral arrangements will be sold on Instagram and Facebook beginning December 16. The Franklin Garden Club Instagram handle is

Holliston Chosen Again For Location Of Wreaths Across America

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) announced that Lake Grove Cemetery in Holliston has once again joined in the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for 2023. This is the second year that the cemetery will participate in this national program.

Wreaths Across America started as a simple gesture of thanks that has grown into a national, yearlong movement of dedicated volunteers and communities coming together to not only remember the nation's fallen and honor their service but to teach the next generation about the value of freedom. This year, there will be more than 3,700 participating locations placing veterans' wreaths on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023 – with more than two million volunteers coming together.

@franklingardenclubma. Payment for all purchases can be made with cash, check, credit card or Venmo. The real wreaths will be decorated in a variety of colors and styles and will include eye-catching bows and other ornamentation. Many will include a variety of greens, as will the cemetery boxes. All items will be reasonably priced.

• Get a head start on your holiday shopping at St. John's Episcopal Church Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 237 Pleasant Street, Franklin. You will find lots of gift cards from popular restaurants and stores. Browse among many silent auction and raffle items.

There's something for everyone among the gift baskets like sports; spa, health and wellness; food and wine; coffees and teas; games and toys; pet items. For those who appreciate unique items hand-made with love, you'll find decorative holiday greenery, scarves, mittens, hats and blankets. Pick out your favorite treats like cookies, fudge, and other baked goods at the Cookie Walk. Food and drinks will be served during the fair. For more information: Call (508) 528-2387, Facebook at St John's Episcopal Church, or visit www.stjohnsfranklinma.org.

• December 3, 2023, Santa and Mrs. Claus will take over the Chief's Office for pictures

WCC
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1923-2023
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WINTER WARMUP OPEN HOUSE

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60 Main St. Whitinsville, MA 01588
www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com

at the Franklin Police Department, 911 Panther Way, Franklin. For more information: Contact Officer Rosa at 508-528-1212 ext. 1556 or arosa@franklinma.gov

- Santa Claus Pizza Party, Franklin Recreation Program, 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 8 - Franklin Recreation Gymnasium, 275 Beaver St., Franklin, <https://franklinma.myrec.com> to register.

- Franklin Police Holiday Toy Drive: The Franklin Police will be collecting new and unwrapped toys until December 17. The drop-off location is the lobby of the Franklin Police Department, 911 Panther Way, Franklin. You can also visit Franklin PD's Amazon list, where you can purchase and get them shipped directly to the station, by going online to <https://a.co/86Wf4eE>. For more information, contact arosa@franklinma.gov
- The First Universalist Society in Franklin (FUSF) will hold their first annual "Holiday Cookie Walk" on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Come and stroll through the festively decorated Meetinghouse at 262 Chestnut St, Franklin, as you select from a delicious assortment of homemade treats provided by more than 30 bakers. You are sure to find the perfect confections for your holiday table, a hostess gift, or your next party. Cookies will be available for sale by pound. Containers, decorated with your choice of holiday sticker, will be provided. Make this event part of your holiday fun!

- Friends of Franklin Elders and Franklin Senior Center present Winter Wonderland: a Community Holiday Light Event. Come out for an evening of holiday cheer to see a display of beautifully decorated Holiday Trees and décor while enjoying Live Entertainment, Hot Cocoa & Cookies, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus! Fun for the whole family! Thursday, December 14th, 4:30-7 p.m., 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, (508) 520-4945

HOLLISTON

- Exsultet! holiday concert "Listening to the Snow," Dec. 9, 7 p.m. First Congregational Church, 725 Washington St. Tickets \$20; students & seniors (65+) \$15; children 12 and under free at www.exsultet.us or call Stacey at (508) 395-5600.

HOPEDALE

- Winter Stroll (sponsored by the Friends of Historic Hopedale) – Saturday, December 2nd, Noon until 6 p.m. Volunteers needed to staff the Little Red Shop Museum. hopkinton
- Holiday Stroll - Dec. 2: It's Holiday time again! Let's celebrate at our 2023 Hopkinton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Stroll. It will be a great way to get all of your shopping done and have a fantastic time doing it. Go from store to store by foot or cover much more mileage by taking your car. Most of our local businesses will be participating with sales, specials, contests, treats and promotions to make your holiday shopping easy and fun.

MEDWAY

- Medway Holiday Light Fight Thursday, Nov. 23 - 6: p.m. to Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 9 p.m. Do you enjoy decking the Halls? You could be the winner of Medway's Great Holiday Light Fight. To participate in this ALL-OUT-LIGHT-FIGHT contest, register at <https://medwayma.myrec.com/> Light displays should be lit up and ready for our judges viewing on December 6th from 6 pm-9 pm. Judges will use the following categories when deciding on a winner: holiday spirit, use of lights, and overall design. The winner will be awarded a trophy and, most importantly, bragging rights. Participants will have an option of adding their address to the list of Holiday light displays for December.
- Breakfast With Santa! The breakfast will be December 2nd: 7:30am to 11:00am at Saint Joseph's Parish Center 145 Holliston Street Medway. As always we will have great food, activities & crafts for the kids, our silent auction, and of course picture with Santa. The cost this year is \$9 for Adults, Senior & kids \$7, kids under 3 are free, max per family \$26. Pictures with Santa are \$15 and each family will receive a thumb drive with 3 to 5 photos on it.
- Joy to the World, Celebrations around the Globe, Dec. 10, 2 p.m., presented by Charles River Chorale, Medway High School Auditorium, 88 Summer St., Medway, Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors, <https://www.charlesriverchorale.com/tickets>

MENDON

- 7th Annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting, Friday, Dec. 1: 6 p.m. Come help the Mendon Brothers of the Brush welcome the Holiday Season. The parade will kickoff from Northbridge Rd at 7PM and end on Main St. We will have fireworks and a tree lighting. Burgers, hot dogs, and other refreshments will be available.
- Winter Wonderland Holiday Spectacular is back! at Southwick's Zoo through Dec. 31. Experience the holiday lighting amazement of Winter Wonderland, a festive tradition enjoyed by guests of all ages at Southwick's Zoo. southwickszoo.com

MILFORD

- Holiday Pop, Dec. 9, 7:30-10 p.m., presented by the Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra, Milford Town Hall, 52 Main St. Come celebrate winter's magic with the CHSO and Greater Milford Community Chorus where The Grand Ballroom is transformed into a winter wonderland! The warm sounds of the holidays will fill the hall with festive seasonal favorites, including a holiday sing-along and a visit from jolly ol' St. Nick! Let's ring in the Holidays together with The Greater Milford Community Chorus, under the direction of Mark Schiappucci, joining CHSO for their sixth year! <https://www.clafinhill.org/symphony-series/symphony>

MILLBURY

- Chain of Lights, Sunday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. Join the 24th annual, town-wide event to celebrate the holidays with local food, shopping and entertainment! Enjoy nearly 40 stops in town for live music, holiday shopping, holiday figures like Buddy the Elf and the Grinch, raffles and food. Old-fashioned trolleys provide free transportation throughout the day. The event is sponsored by local businesses and concludes with a tree lighting and appearance by Santa Claus at the Millbury bandstand.

MILLIS

- Santa's Parade to the Bandstand - Dec. 2 - 5 p.m. Main Street (Rt. 109), From Rt. 115 to Spring Street. Meet Santa and grab some hot chocolate! (Rain plans - Meet Santa inside the Millis Veterans Memorial Building)

NORFOLK

- Holiday on the Hill. Dec. 3-Jan. 20. "Take a holiday stroll to kick off the season and enjoy the display of decorated trees. Don't forget to cast your vote for your favorite tree on Dec. 3 when Santa comes to town!" On Town Hill behind the library, 2 Liberty Lane. Free.
- Santa Parade. Dec. 3 at 3:30. Starting at Hillcrest Village, traveling down Rockwood Rd. and ending at the library, 2 Liberty Lane. Santa will be available for photos. Tree lighting follows and hot chocolate and cookies will be available.

SUTTON

- The Sutton Chain of Lights Saturday December 2nd from 10 am to 4 pm Spend a day with your family and friends at the Town of Sutton's Annual Holiday Chain of Lights Event. Free trolleys and buses will transport visitors over rolling countryside to participating locations throughout historic Sutton. Farms, unique specialty stores, church fairs, and area businesses welcome the holidays with musical entertainment, children's activities, food, fun and Holiday characters. Route information, maps, location descriptions and brochures are available at www.suttonlights.com
- Manchaug Stroll: Saturday, December 9, 2023 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Celebrate Sutton's Historic Village of Manchaug with a traditional Christmas stroll bringing together food, history, shopping, and holiday merriment.
- Enjoy Breakfast with Santa! Waters Farm, 53 Waters Road, West Sutton Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

UXBRIDGE

- 12th Annual Christmas Brass Concert: The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a concert at Valley Chapple in Uxbridge on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. The brass ensemble, directed by William Moffett, is made up of 35 student and professional musicians from area towns including Uxbridge, Upton, Hopedale, Mendon, Northbridge and Milford. This concert will feature Christmas

music from around the world and is free and open to the public. The concert is funded in part by the Mendon, Milford, Hopedale, Northbridge and Uxbridge Cultural Councils.

WHITINSVILLE

Light It Up: A Christmas Concert with WCS Alumnus Jay Bragg Basiner Saturday, Dec. 9: 7:30 - 9 p.m. 279 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville Christian School, Nehemiah Center for the Arts and Worship, Northbridge, Tickets \$17 From Whitinsville Christian School alumnus to Nashville star. Stories, songs and a whole lot of Christmas cheer from a career musician, songwriter and '99 WCS alumnus.

WRENTHAM

- SAFE Coalition Jack Frost Jubilee, 4-8 p.m., Dec 8 - Proctor Mansion, 36 Common St., Wrentham, MA, includes santa, reindeer, stories, sweet treats, \$20 adults, kids free, www.safecoalitionma.org/jubilee
- Giant Menorah Lighting at Gilly's House, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m., 1022 West St. Chanukah donuts, hot apple cider, chocolate gelt, lively Chanukah music, free raffle

'Tis the season to dress your windows



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Brunch with Santa

Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern is excited to announce the return of the beloved holiday

of savory breakfast dishes and creative twists on traditional favorites.

ites. Savor the offerings of our freshly carved station and made-to-order omelets or treat yourself to the delectable dessert and waffle bar. If you're in the mood for something more traditional, don't miss out on timeless classics like eggs benedict, home fries, and much more!

"Brunch With Santa" brings families, friends, and loved ones together to celebrate the spirit of the season. Whether visiting with the whole family, having a cozy brunch date, or gathering with friends, Galliford's Restaurant

brings the magic of the holidays. To make your reservation please call 508.928.0928.



tradition, "Brunch With Santa." Indulge in a delightful culinary experience as this festive celebration returns, featuring a spread

Indulge in an array of breakfast options that cater to all tastes, from savory breakfast dishes to innovative spins on classic favor-

Hopedale Winter Stroll & Shop Hop

Dec 2, Noon to 7pm

The 12th Annual Hopedale Winter Stroll will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, in downtown Hopedale.

New this year— Friends of Historic Hopedale have added a Shop Hop to the event to include any Hopedale businesses and organizations that would like to take part but are not located downtown.

The stroll takes place at many stops along Hopedale Street and Dutcher Street, including many historic buildings such as the Draper Gym, Hopedale Community House, Bancroft Memorial Library, Hopedale Unitarian Church, Union Evangelical Church and the



Little Red Shop Museum.

The Shop Hop list will also include stops all over Hopedale for you to visit, shop, eat and enjoy!

Multiple vendor locations will showcase work from local vintage vendors, hand makers, artisans, food vendors and mobile shops. Many businesses will take part in the Stroll and Shop Hop with special offers for customers.

Past years have included performers setup along the route like live music at the park, costumed characters, outdoor movies and carolers roaming the route, while guests stroll. All of this ending in the long standing and popular town tradition of the tree lighting and Santa visit at the Hopedale Community House.



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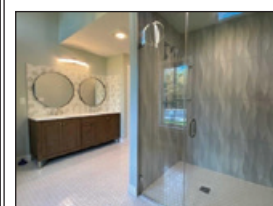
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Craft Fairs & Bazaars

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

• The First Congregational Church of Dudley, serving members from Dudley, Webster, Charlton, Oxford and surrounding area, will be having our 18th Annual Christmas Fair on December 2nd, 2023 at 135 Center Street in Dudley from 10a - 2p. We will have craft tables, entertainment, a cafe, homemade clamchowder, bbq pulled pork sandwiches and buffalo chicken sandwiches, basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, a Christmas themed throw raffle, sweet treats from cookie corner, a Christmas centerpiece workshop, a live auction and yes, a visit by Santa Claus. We hope you can join us!

• St. Denis Church Holiday Fair, Douglas will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Purchase crafts, enjoy baked goods or try our raffles. Have lots of fun at the Kids' Table. Luncheon served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit SaintDenisChurch.com for more info and updates

• The Jolly Holly Fair is a Millis tradition of more than 70 years! Join us at Church of Christ in Millis (142 Exchange St.) on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00-2:00 to shop from local vendors, bid in the Silent Auction, enjoy fresh wreaths and greens decorations, and more! Santa will be there for pictures with the kids, plus visit the "kids only" shopping room, and face painting! For more information, call 508-376-5034 or visit www.millisucc.org

• Annual Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 68 Central St., Auburn. Come and enjoy an old fashioned Christmas Bazaar and check out the Collectibles, Attic Treasures, Jewelry, Plants, Knit Goods, Holiday Décor, Toys, Candy & Baked

Items and so much more! Take a chance on one of our many raffles. There is something for everyone! Free Admission. Plenty of parking available. Handicap accessible.

• First Congregational Church of Oxford presents their Annual Christmas Tea. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.. Keepsake photo experience, Gift Center & Granny's Attic. Assorted desserts and teas served all day. Luncheon begins at 11:30. firstchurchoxford.com

• St Christopher Church Christmas Festival. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fun for the Whole family. Games, raffles, food from the Boulevard Diner, baked good, white elephant and more! 950 W. Boylston St., Worcester.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

• The Unitarian Church at 3 Grafton Common is having a traditional Church Faire on Sunday December 3, from 11:30-3:00. Enjoy a hot lunch including chili, cornbread, hot dogs and apple crisp; Attend a family friendly performance of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas at 1:00 featuring our hand bell choir; enjoy free kids crafts and shop at our local holiday market.

• stART at the Station: 9 a.m.-5p.m. stART on the Street brings its 16th annual gifting-themed arts and crafts festival to Worcester's Union Station at 2 Washington Square. Support your local economy this holiday season, and buy handmade!

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

• Auburn Recreation and Culture is hosting its 10th Annual Holiday Craft Fair from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 (snow date Dec. 10) at Auburn High School, 99 Auburn Street, Auburn. 150+ Craft Vendors will

help you get into the spirit of the holiday season. Santa will be making an appearance from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., so bring the

kids. There will be activities, food, drawing, face painting and much more. For more information please Contact the Recreation

& Culture Division or call 508-832-7736.

Fatima Shrine Of Festival Of Lights Begins Dec. 7

Our Lady of Fatima Festival of Lights 2023 open through Dec. 27.

Join Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Holliston for the traditional Christmas lights as they prepare this Advent for the Christmas season.

Hot chocolate, donuts, and more will be available. The lights are on from 5 to 9 PM every night. The event is wheelchair accessible, with a path that winds throughout the exhibit.

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is located at 101 Summer St., Holliston. There is no charge for this event.



Greater Milford Community Chorus Brings Joy this Season

The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC), a group of talented singers from Milford and surrounding towns, is excited to celebrate the holiday season this month with festive songs for all to enjoy. From well-known song medleys sure to get you singing along, to traditional pieces like the Wexford Carol, some classic Hannukah songs, and more contemporary pieces, the performance is great for all ages and sure to delight.

The GMCC, under the direction of Mark Schiappucci, will perform at Milford Town Hall on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, December 3rd at 1:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$12 at the door and children ten and under are welcome for free. Additionally, the group will be performing with the Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra for their Holiday Pops concert on Saturday, December 9th at 7:30 p.m.

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THURSDAY
MUSIC BINGO
7:30pm

FRIDAY
LIVE BANDS

SATURDAY
MUSIC BINGO
8:00pm

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Kitchen Hours: Closed Monday & Tuesday; Wednesday & Thursday open at 4pm; Friday & Saturday at 2pm; Sundays at 11:30am
Lounge remains open later for Cocktails and Entertainment



Winter Class Schedule

- **Mondays**
9 am - 10 am Booty Barre
5-6 pm & 6:30-7:30 pm Restorative Yoga
- **Tuesdays**
10:00 am 11:00 am Vinyasa Yoga
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Vinyasa Yoga
- **Wednesdays**
9 am - 10 am Barre Sculpt
5 pm - 6 pm Barre Strength Cardio
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Hatha Restorative Yoga
- **Thursdays**
9 am - 10 am Barre Strength Cardio
6 pm - 7 pm Slow Flow Yoga
- **Fridays**
9:15 am - 10 am Curls & Crunches
- **Saturdays**
8:30 am - 9:30 am Hatha Yoga
10 am - 11 am Vinyasa Yoga
- **Sundays**
8:30 am - 9:30 am Weekly Rotate Between Barre and Yoga

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Happy Holidays
from the staff of

The YankeeXpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY **Xpress**

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

Kids Activity Pages

Holiday Sing-Alongs

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight, oh!

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight
Sing this sleighing song
Get a bobtailed bay
Two forty for his speed
And hitch him to an open sleigh
And you will take the lead

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In one horse open sleigh!

Dreidel Song (I have a little dreidel)

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel, I shall play

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of clay
And when you're dry and ready
Oh Dreidel we shall play

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of wood
And when you are all ready
I'll play you when I could

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of glass
And when you are all ready
I'll play you on the grass

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of gold
And when you are all ready
I'll play you in the cold

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

You know Dasher and Dancer
And Prancer and Vixen
Comet and Cupid
And Donner and Blitzen
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed
Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it

You would even say it glows
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

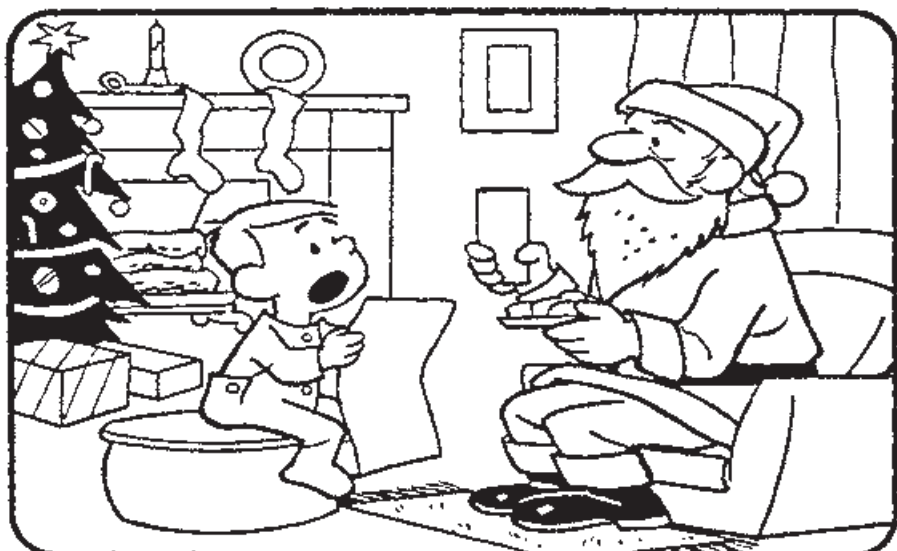
Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
"Rudolph with your nose so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee (yipee)
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
You'll go down in history"



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Log is missing. 2. Box is smaller. 3. Stocking is reversed. 4. Glass is smaller. 5. Hug is missing. 6. Sleeve cuff is missing.
New! 24 HOCUS FOCUS puzzles \$3.50 • 24 Volumes • Order at: rbmamall.com

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Did you know Santa knows Karate? He has a Black Belt.



Where does a snowman keep his money?

A snow bank.



Which Two Gifts Are The Same?

Coloring Fun



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

HOLIDAY WORD FIND!

C	N	T	R	E	E	T	R	O	S
I	A	E	T	L	S	A	S	K	T
K	M	N	R	F	N	N	T	Y	A
V	W	H	D	E	O	G	O	I	R
W	O	G	S	Y	W	K	C	P	E
I	N	C	A	T	C	I	K	I	S
A	S	P	S	M	P	A	I	A	S
C	D	O	I	E	U	G	N	S	T
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	G	E	A
F	N	E	W	O	A	L	A	H	C

- SNOW
- FROST
- SANTA
- ELF
- TREE
- STOCKING
- CANDY CANE
- PRESENT
- SNOWMAN
- STAR

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Santa's boots are black. 2. Building is shorter. 3. Brick pattern is different. 4. Car wheel is black. 5. Boy's coat has pocket. 6. Santa's beard is longer.

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What does the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

Cookie sheets!

HOLIDAY FUN FACTS

'The Grinch' is the highest-grossing Christmas film of all time. The 2018 computer-animated film brought in \$512,858,819 worldwide. The runner-up? Home Alone, the Christmas classic from 1990.

Alabama was the first U.S. state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. Seriously! In 1836, Alabama declared it a holiday. Oklahoma was the last state to recognize Christmas as a holiday (in 1907).

President Grant declared Christmas a federal holiday in 1870.

The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany out of goose feathers dyed green!

Thomas Edison and his friend Edward Johnson invented Christmas lights.

Before electric lights were invented, people decorated their Christmas trees with fruit, popcorn, and even candles!

Santa receives more than 8 million letters every single year from children all around the world.

There are approximately 2.1 million reindeer in the world.

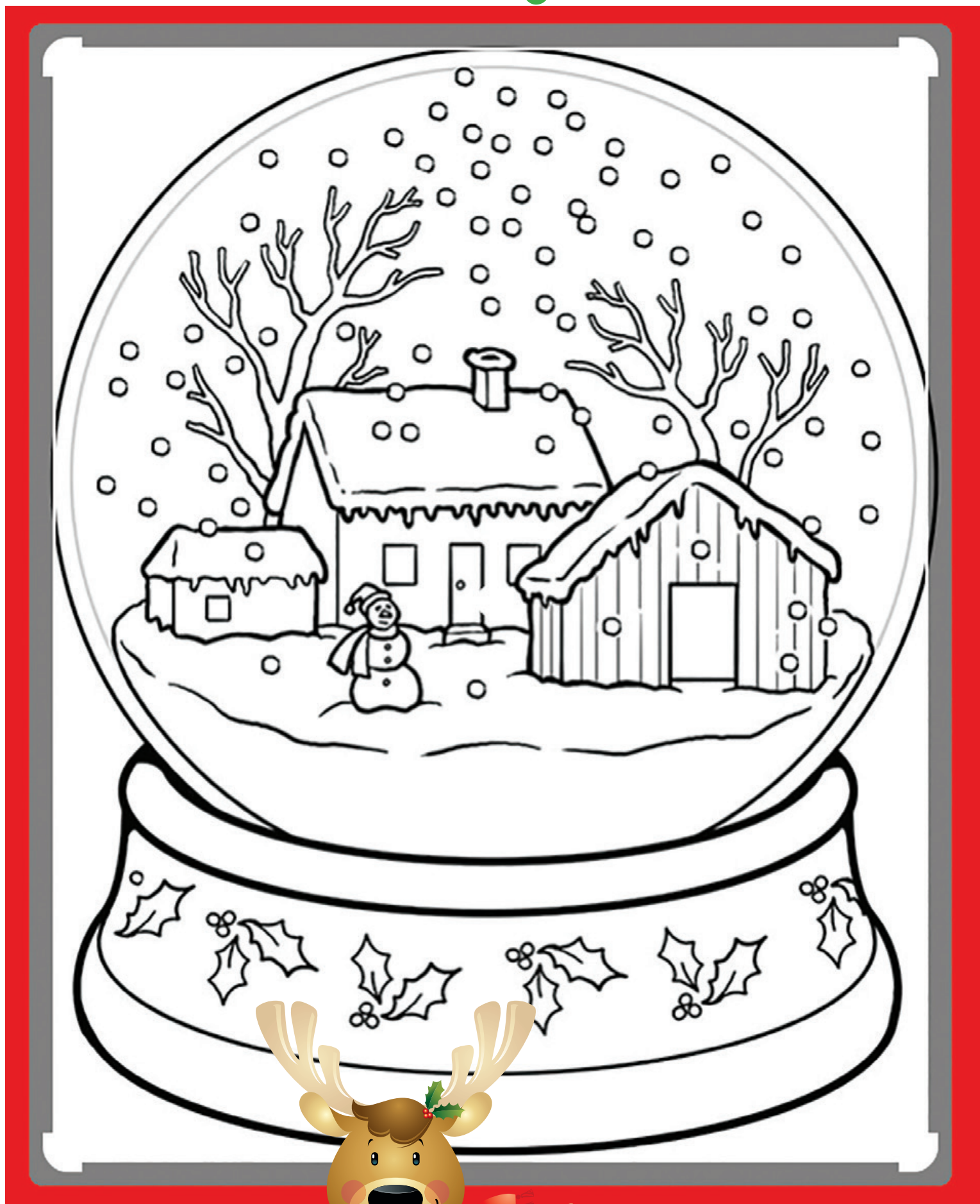
The classic Christmas song Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song.

Eggnog has been around since the 13th century! Monks enjoyed this festive drink in medieval times.

Every single U.S. state grows Christmas trees.

Tinsel used to be made of real silver.

Coloring Fun



What do reindeer say before they tell a joke?
"This will sleigh you!"

Why didn't Roudolph get a good report card?
Because he went down in history!

Cook — Bake — Celebrate!

Fun recipes to make with the kids

RUDOLPH NOSES

Ingredients

- Rolos - 1 Bag
- Holiday M&M's - 1 Bag
- Pretzels - 1 Bag

Instructions

- Preheating oven to 170 degrees or the lowest setting on your particular oven.
- Meanwhile, unwrap Rolos and separate M&M's.
- Cover a cookie sheet with a silpat or parchment paper and place pretzels in rows. Top each pretzel with a Rolo and bake for @ 4 minutes or until the Rolo is soft.
- Remove the warm pretzel/Rolos from cookie sheet to a room temperature surface. Push one red M&M (M side down) into each nose. Let your completed noses sit out until they have hardened.



SANTA HAT BROWNIE BITES

Ingredients

- 1- 8x8 pan of your favorite brownies, cooled (or store-bought)
- 16-20 small strawberries, cleaned and hulled
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 8 ounces mascarpone cheese, room temperature
- 2-1/2 to 3 cups powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- pinch of salt

Instructions

- Use a small circular cookie cutter to cut the brownie bites
- Using a stand mixer or hand mixer (I used a hand mixer), beat the butter and mascarpone cheese until light and creamy, about 2 minutes. Add vanilla extract and salt. Add 2-1/2 cups of sugar, half a cup at a time and continue beating until smooth. Add more sugar, if needed, to reach desired consistency and sweetness.
- If you have disposable decorating bags and piping tips, put half of the frosting into the bag, and use a circle tip with a wide opening. Otherwise, use a ziploc bag as a makeshift decorating bag: Put the frosting into the bag, zip the bag, and snip a tiny bit off of one corner.
- To assemble the Santa hat brownie bites, pipe a ring of vanilla buttercream on top of each brownie.
- Top the tip of the strawberry with a dot of buttercream (or mini marshmallow) to finish the Santa hat.



PIZZA CANDY CANE CRESCENT

(Food Network Kitchen)

Ingredients

- One 8-ounce tube refrigerated rolled crescent dough
- 1/3 cup prepared pizza sauce, plus more for dipping
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella
- 24 slices pepperoni
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 2 large fresh basil leaves

Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
- Unroll the crescent dough and separate the triangles along the perforated lines.
- Cut the triangles in half lengthwise so that you have 16 triangles.
- Overlap 2 pieces of parchment to make a 24-inch-long piece.
- Arrange the crescent triangles lengthwise in a long row on top of the parchment, with the pointy ends upright and the flat ends



overlapping just slightly (the row should be as long as the parchment paper). Gently press the overlapping pieces of dough together so to seal.

- Spread the pizza sauce over the thickest part of the strip of dough (about 1 1/2-inches). Sprinkle the cheese over the sauce and top with a layer of pepperoni.
- Fold the pointy ends of the dough over top of the pepperoni tucking them under the dough to enclose the filling. Gently curve the top end of the dough to the left to make a candy cane shape that is the length of the back of a baking sheet.
- Transfer the parchment onto the back of a baking sheet.
- Sprinkle the sesame seeds on top of the dough.
- Bake until the dough is golden brown and the cheese is melted, 8 to 10 minutes.
- Tuck the basil leaves into the candy cane to make a bow. Serve with more sauce for dipping.

Holiday Performances & Winter Fun

Hanover Theatre

2 Southbridge St., Worcester
thehanovertheatre.org

SATURDAY, DEC 2: 8 P.M.

THE 2023 BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY TOUR

Join the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and conductor Keith Lockhart for their sparkling and beloved Holiday Pops concert. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will perform holiday classics and new arrangements of seasonal favorites. They are joined by the Metropolitan Chorale, known as one of Metro Boston's premier choral ensembles. Santa Claus himself will make a guest appearance during the concert's finale.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3: 4 P.M.

A MAGICAL CIRQUE CHRISTMAS

Embrace the holiday spirit with A Magical Cirque Christmas, a variety show full of nostalgia, charm, and awe-inspiring performances for all ages. Get ready to be dazzled, enchanted, and filled with holiday cheer as you witness the incredible talents of world-class entertainers performing to your favorite holiday music. Celebrate the magic of the season with the entire family at A Magical Cirque Christmas.

DEC. 16 - 23

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by the president and CEO Troy Siebels and featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, our annual production returns to the main stage with timeless music,

colorful costumes and spectacular lighting and scenery. New and returning cast members tell the tale of curmudgeonly miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the Spirits of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come.

The show is refined and revised each year to feature more magic than ever before, with an array of spectacles from smoke and fog to spectacular flying stunts.

Dec. 16: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Dec. 17: 1 p.m. *Sensory Friendly Performance*

Dec. 17: 6 p.m. *Audio Description and ASL*

Dec. 20: 7 p.m.

Dec. 22: 7 p.m.

Dec. 23: 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Mechanics Hall

321 Main St., Worcester
mechanicshall.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 2: 8 P.M.

THE WORCESTER CHORUS: HANDEL MESSIAH

Directed by Chris Shepard, The Worcester Chorus is one of America's oldest and longest-running choral ensembles. Attending their annual performance of Handel's Messiah at historic Mechanics Hall on the first weekend of December each year is a holiday tradition for many families and choral music fans in the Greater Worcester community and beyond.

The chorus will be joined on stage by vocal soloists and the Worcester Festival Orchestra.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3: 7 P.M.

BOSTON CONSERVATORY ORCHESTRA

'TIS THE SEASON – ANNUAL TRADITIONS

A symphonic celebration of the December holidays. Just as operas perform Hansel and Gretel, ballets perform The Nutcracker, and New Year's Eve brings Die Fledermaus, so symphony orchestras perform Christmas and Chanukah music for young and old! Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Christmas Overture and Robert Wendel's arrangement of Chanukah music begin a program that includes selections from traditional holiday repertoire and concludes with a rousing suite of favorites from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. This performance is suitable for music lovers of all ages.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9: 8 P.M.

43RD ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

Balcony Seating Only

After 42 years of sold out performances, Holiday Pops once again comes to Worcester's Mechanics Hall. As a beloved tradition, this annual holiday extravaganza features the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, with conductor Jorge Soto, performing traditional favorites of the season, light classics and holiday gems.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10: 1 P.M. & 5 P.M.

THE NUTCRACKER: PRESENTED BY DANCE PRISM

Dance Prism's presentation of The Nutcracker is a fully staged professional production featuring lively choreography, Tchaikovsky's beloved music, and the traditional delights of this holiday family favorite. The ballet follows Clara's magical journey from a warm 19th century Christmas party at which she receives the mysterious gift of wooden Nutcracker, through a fantastic battle of toy soldiers and giant mice and a voyage through the ethereal kingdom of Snow, arriving finally at the Land of the Sugarplum Fairy where sweets from all lands come to life and dance in her honor. In her travels she is enchanted by a growing Christmas tree, a reindeer drawn sleigh amid a swirling snowstorm, and the clash of swords as a menacing Rat King battles the valiant Nutcracker. Young audience members are invited to meet selected principal characters following most performances.

Old Sturbridge Village

1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge
osv.org

THROUGH DEC. 30: 2-8 P.M.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

Come experience the history of Christmas traditions at Old Sturbridge Village. Relish old traditions and create new ones as you

The classic Charles Dickens' masterpiece, A Christmas Carol, returns to The Hanover Theatre mainstage this December 16-23, generously sponsored by Assumption University.

Alexis Anu Thakkapalli is a student at Whitinsville Christian School, where she has appeared in several musicals. She is thrilled to reprise her role of Belinda Cratchit for a third time in A Christmas Carol at The Hanover Theatre. Lexie has also performed in productions at Apple Tree Arts and Skyrise Theater, most notably as Genie in Aladdin Kids. She is a proud member of the competitive dance team at Jo Ann Warren Studio.



watch demonstrations of classic Christmas projects, stroll through the decorated Village and Christmas Tree Trail, listen to stories and live music, sample sweet treats, ride the horse-drawn carryall, and more. We hope your family will join ours, as we celebrate a very special time of year. Nov. 24, 25, 26, and Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2023

Southwick's Zoo

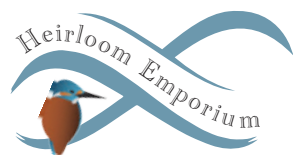
2 Southwick St., Mendon
southwickszoo.com

THROUGH DEC. 31 WINTER WONDERLAND

"Winter Wonderland" at Southwick's Zoo is a holiday tradition that promises to shine brighter than ever. With larger-than-life dazzling displays, this event is sure to leave visitors in awe and bring holiday cheer to those far and near. Featuring more than 4 million illuminated lights and displays over 40 acres of illuminated pathways, Southwick's Zoo will be transformed into a whimsical winter wonderland. Visitors are invited to indulge in a hot toddy or hot chocolate, get into the festive spirit with live entertainment and carolers, and have a meet and greet with Santa Claus himself. Santa Claus will make a special appearance each day during Winter Wonderland, welcoming children of all ages to share their holiday wishes and take memorable photos. Visit southwickszoo.com for more information

Christmas in New England

Christmas in New England will be performing three concerts this Holiday Season. Saturday December 2 at the Rockdale Congregational Church, 42 Fowler Road Northbridge, MA, Saturday December 9 at the United Church of Christ Congregational, 723 Massachusetts Ave Boxborough, MA, and Saturday December 16 at the Rehoboth Congregational Church, 139 Bay State Rd Rehoboth, MA. All concerts will take place in the sanctuaries and begin at 7:30 PM. Admission to shows is \$15 at the door only. Doors open at 6:45 PM. Our local concert in Northbridge will also feature our chili, soup, beverages and desserts ahead of showtime and during intermission, and our annual "Cookie Walk" during intermission. CINE has been together for over 20 years combining original, contemporary, and classic Christmas music performed on acoustic instruments with vocals. The group consists of Amy Gallatin and Roger Williams from Glastonbury CT, Karen Wilber from Stow MA, JD Williams from Manhattan NY, Dave Orloski from Barkhamstead CT, and Krissy & Bob Dick from Northbridge, MA. Each year these friends look forward to getting together and adding a few more new songs to the group's expansive repertoire. More information can be found at www.christmasinnewengland.net.



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facebook.com/TheFarmersDaughterAuburn/
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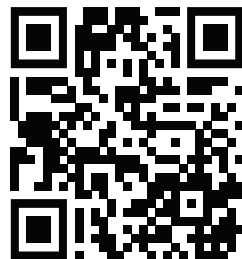


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