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ARTicles
December
2022



*Be merry all, be merry all, with holly dress the festive hall;
Prepare the song, the feast, the ball to welcome Merry Christmas!*

-WILLIAM ROBERT SPENSER, shared by Claire Suminski

Nov. 29
Tuesday
7:00 PM

[CHRISTMAS WITH FIDDLER FINN, First Presbyterian Chapel, 26 Church St., Franklin](#)

The Arts Council's holiday gift to you is lilting music of the season, some with a distinct Celtic flavor, by All-Ireland Fiddle finalist Andrew Finn Magill, plus a visual arts exhibit by ceramicist Kay Wolf and fellow artists from Franklin's Uptown Gallery. Pay-what-you-can admission; more below.

Dec. 2
Friday
6:00 till...

[Local Songwriters Perform Original Music, Lazy Hiker Brewery, West Main St., Franklin](#)

Eight members of our Songwriters Collective sing and play their original works for an enlightening and entertaining evening; details on this and other music events at davestewartsongs.com.

3
Saturday
10:00-3:00



5:00-6:30

[Cowee Christmas & Balsam Bee, Cowee School Arts & Heritage Center, Hwy. 28N](#)

Free activities inside and out for all ages with live music, locally-made decorations and gifts for sale. Kids create evergreen swags, sew small gift bags, decorate cookies, and enjoy free face painting (Macon Faces 10:00-noon sponsored by the Arts Council); more at coweeschool.org.

[COUNCIL'S CAROL-ALONG AT WINTER WONDERLAND #2, Wells Fargo Bank Main Street Door](#)

Sing familiar carols with us at Franklin's annual winter fest, stroll the shopping district till 8:00, buy handmade gifts, sample the wares of Main Street eateries, and catch the holiday spirit.

Cancelation

[No First Saturday Contra Dance at Macon County Public Library](#). See below.

4
Sunday
3:00

[Piano Concert to Feed the Hungry, First Presbyterian Church, 26 Church St., Franklin](#)

Gifted pianist Frank Armato, the Church's Director of Music, plays classical, gospel, folk, and show tunes, with cookies & cider reception following. Free; an offering for CareNet will be taken

6
Tuesday
10:00 AM

[Family Storytime & Cookies with Santa, Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Farm Rd.](#)

Santa visits the Library for holiday stories, list-whispering, photo ops, crafts and snacks, co-produced by the Library and Friends of the Library; fontanalib.org or 828-524-3600.

7
Wednesday
6:00 PM

[Storytelling with Gary Carden, Macon County Public Library Meeting Room](#)

Storyteller, author, playwright, and visual artist Carden tells humorous and educational stories about childhood, family, heritage, and local history; fontanalib.org or 828-524-3600.

8
Thursday
7:00 PM

[A Mountain Voices' Christmas, First United Methodist Church, 66 Harrison Ave., Franklin](#)

The 50-voice community chorus and ensembles sing sacred and secular songs of the season. Beverly Barnett directs; Mary Pittman accompanies on piano, along with a variety of instrumentalists. An offering will be taken. Venue is wheelchair accessible; 828-524-3644.

10
Saturday
7:00 PM

[Brasstown Ringers' We Need a Little Christmas, First United Methodist Church, Franklin](#)

Thrill to the beauty and depth of handbell music as 18 advanced ringers from GA, NC, and TN demonstrate various ringing techniques on five octaves of bells and six of chimes. Linda Sterrett directs; an offering will be taken. For details or to become a Ringer email 1kmsterrett@gmail.com.

11
Sunday
2:30

[Lara Jackson in Mother Jones, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 89 Sierra Dr., Franklin](#)

Gary Carden's one-woman play (see Dec. 7 above) is based on the life of this famous union organizer. \$20 suggested donation, \$15 with reservation at robby.concerts@gmail.com.


15 through
Jan. 7


[Listening to the Land Photography Exhibit, The Bascom, 323 Franklin Rd., Highlands](#)


Works by members of Kinship Photography Collective focus on the Bartram Trail, launching a nine-month series of Trail photo exhibits. More at TheBascom.org or 828-526-4949.


<p>16-17 Fri. 7:00 PM Sat. 2:00 and 7:00</p>	<p><u>Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts</u> Scotty Corbin directs Overlook Theatre Co. in this hour-long musical adapted from the popular TV show that teaches us all how our differences make us special. \$13 at the 1028 Georgia Rd. box office, smokymountainarts.com, or 828-524-1598. (Save March 4 for Lyle Lovett LIVE!)</p>
<p>16-31 Wed.-Sun.</p>	<p><u>Home for the Holidays, Highlands Playhouse, 362 Oak St., Highlands</u> Sing along to holiday hits with the cast and musicians and delight in the dynamite dancing and colorful costumes; \$45, times & tickets at highlandisplayhouse.org or 828-526-2695.</p>
<p>Beyond Macon County (but within easy reach!):</p>	
<p>Dec. 9-10 Fri.-Sat.</p>	<p><u>Nutcracker Ballet with Ballet Conservatory of Asheville, WCU's Bardo Arts Center, Cullowhee</u> \$25 adult, \$20 senior citizen; times/tickets at bardoartscenter.wcu.edu or 828-227-ARTS. BFA Fine Art Portfolio Exhibit from WCU's School of Art and Design hangs through Dec. 9.</p>
<p>10 Saturday 6:00-8:30</p>	<p><u>A Celtic Christmas with Rainbows End, Parker Ranch, 95 Parker Lane, Clayton GA</u> An evening of music, story, and dance with Rainbows End and other area musicians; \$25; ticket information and details at davestewartsongs.com.</p>


Dec. 3 Contra Dance cancelled: We regret that our regular dance caller can't be with us and we couldn't find a replacement. We'll resume dances at the Macon County Public Library Jan, 7, 2023, with beginners' lessons at 6:30 and dancing 7:00-9:00. Save the date and come contra dance in the New Year!


 Macon County Art Association's [Uptown Gallery](#), 30 E. Main, Franklin, is the perfect place for stocking up on stocking stuffers or big-item holiday gifts, offering affordable works by local artists in painting, sculpture, textiles, jewelry, glass and clay; you'll see some at Nov. 29's *Christmas with Fiddler Finn*. They're open daily 10:00-5:00 (except Wed. and Sun., 1:00-5:00). Be sure to wish them a happy **60th birthday** and many, many more!

 [Lots of hands-on happenings at the Macon County Public Library](#) – pARTicipate in [First Thursday Art Afternoons](#) at 3:30, and [First Saturday Fiber Arts Group](#) 10:00-2:00. While you're there, buy tickets for a chance to win a handmade quilt (on display, drawing Dec. 16), a Friends of the Library fundraiser to support our excellent Library's diverse programs. Visit the user-friendly calendar at fontanalib.org or phone 828-524-3600.

 [More on Fiddler Finn](#) - Award-winning violin virtuoso Andrew Finn Magill grew up studying Irish, old-time, and bluegrass music, and performs in concert halls around the world. He has appeared on NPR, TEDx, and MTV-U, composes film scores, and has taught traditional and old-time music at fiddle camps across the U.S. and abroad. He'll spend the school day Nov. 29 exploring the roots of Mountain music with Cartoogechaye Elementary students. Learn more and hear Finn fiddle at andrewfinnmagill.com.

 [Many hands make light work:](#)
[Dance ARTSaturday](#) – Teachers Danny Antione, Cheryl Conner, Bill Dyar, and Sarah Shepard; Debra Rose Lewis, Dave Stewart; Macon County Public Library and Kelly Burrows; Macon County News.
[November Contra Dance](#) - Marce Lacouture, Chris Sobek, and Tom Tyre; Library Adult Services Assistant Kristina Moe; our many media friends, and The James Edward Hudock Trust, project sponsor.

 If you're interested in giving a new home to an upright [Story and Clark piano](#) in good shape, phone Bill Schultze, 970-692-3865. (A holiday gift for a musical family member or church, perhaps?)

 [Last but certainly not least:](#)
The Arts Council and Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts will proudly co-sponsor the 50-member [US Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band](#) in a free program of classic, popular, and patriotic music [Sunday March 12 at 3:00](#). Save the date; more in future ARTicles!