

# Holiday Gift Guide 2024 #2

A Special  
Section  
of the  
Sullivan  
County  
Democrat  
December 2024



# How to keep guests entertained this holiday season

Gatherings with loved ones are a big part of what makes the holiday season such a special time of year. As families grow and spread out across the map, they may not get too many chances to spend quality time with one another. But the holiday season is a time each year when families make a concerted effort to get together.

As families get together under the same roof during the holiday season, individuals tasked with hosting gatherings tend to have a lot on their plates. Memories tend to be made around the holiday dinner table, but the season also presents ample opportunities to create nights to remember outside the house as well. Hosts can keep the following ideas in mind as they look for ways to entertain guests this holiday season.

- Take a turn as a tour guide. Locals may not make the rounds of nearby tourist destinations too frequently, but the holiday season is a great opportunity for hosts to show guests what makes their towns so unique.

Serve as a tour guide for guests on a sight-seeing day with visits to local monuments or museums. Wrap the day up at a holiday bazaar where local small business owners have set up shop. This affords guests a chance to tour a new community or a hometown they haven't visited in awhile, and also makes for a great chance for all to squeeze in a little last-minute holiday shopping.

- Plan an ugly sweater bar crawl. If hosts and their guests are all of age, an ugly sweater bar crawl can make for a fun night out on the town. Encourage guests to wear an ugly holiday sweater and map out a route and schedule of visits to local bars and restaurants. Hosts must prioritize safety on these types of excursions, so arrange for a bus to take guests from one spot to the next if establishments are far away from one another. If Main Street has a local bar district, arrange for transportation downtown at the start of the crawl and home when the night ends.

- Take in some local entertainment. Whether it's a holiday lighting display show

or a local theater performance of a classic holiday tale like Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," a night of local live entertainment is a great way for hosts and their guests to get out of the house. Hosts can even book a reservation for a pre-show meal at a local restaurant so they can be free of cooking and give guests their undivided attention.

- Host a holiday movie night. Weary travelers who want to stay in may appreciate a holiday movie double feature. Hosts can let guests pick a pair of holiday films and then host a double feature, complete with traditional movie fare like popcorn and candy. Hosts can even offer adult guests a glass of homemade eggnog during the films to up the holiday ante even further.

Holiday hosts can embrace various ways to entertain guests during a time of year when there's no shortage of fun ways to spend a night.



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## Gift Guide No. 2

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# Find this year's tree at Maplehorst Farm Nursery

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY VINCENT KURZROCK

If you are in search of the perfect tree this holiday season, look no further than Maplehorst Farms.

Located at 151 Rapp Road in Monticello, this farm has been a staple of the holiday season all the way since the late 1940s and has been providing Christmas trees since the 1940s and holiday ornaments since 2004.

The signature trees Maplehorst is well-known for had their up-bringing in 1967 when the Rapp family started selling fresh cut Christmas Trees obtained from area growers.

Outside of the Christmas tree business, there is also The Christmas Shoppe located right next door within the original 1939 Rapp Farm House.

This Farm House has a wide variety of offerings from pet-related ornaments and shelf items to or-



Employees lend a deft hand in supplying the farm with its familiar trees.

naments related to all sorts of professions.

According to Jonathan, one of their employees, their hottest sellers are 'tis the season snowglobe ornaments.

Their hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and they are open seven days a week.

"We are one of the few farms that is open seven days a week," noted Rapp.

Rapp himself is the owner of the farm and is a fourth-generation farm owner as of 2019.

Rapp is not alone in continuing the long legacy. He is also helped by his good friend Anne Dolan.

He is joined by his son John William and Karen - alongside her husband Arnold - who all lend their deft hand in ensuring the



A lot of work goes into prepping the trees for the farm.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6G



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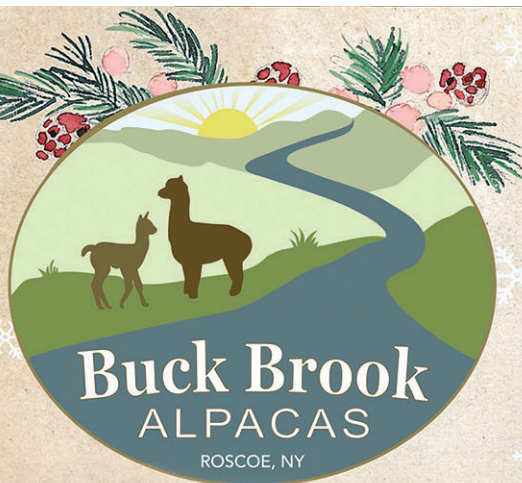
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4G

Rapp legacy continues serving families to this day

Coming to Maplehorst will be a treat for the entire family, as not only will you be able to select the tree you desire, but the Maplehorst staff are great and welcoming people who guarantee that you will receive a high-quality tree.

Maplehorst sits on 165 acres including 40 acres dedicated to their popular trees and families are encouraged to make memories with their kids by picking out the one they like.

Outside of Christmas trees, Maplehorst is also proficient in offering custom wreaths as well.

"Maplehorst is very important this holiday season because people come as per their tradition," said Jonathan. "They bring their kids to have wonderful memories as well."



Shevaun searches for the perfect holiday gift at the Christmas Shop.



Maplehorst offers high quality service with confidence.



John Rapp is a fourth-generation owner of the farm.



Maplehorst has 40 acres dedicated to their popular trees that customers can pick out for themselves.

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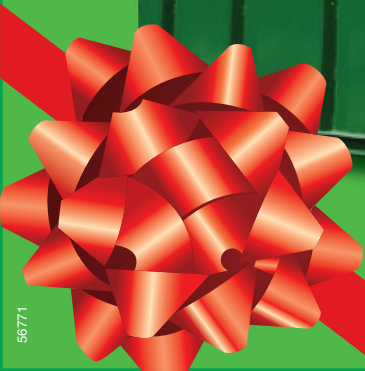


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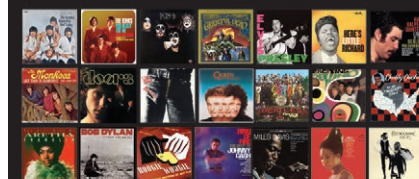
days of yore, shopkeepers will be dressed in Victorian garb, along with a holiday photo studio, caroling, live music, a holiday market, activities for children, horse and buggy rides, free theater and dance performances, hot chocolate, eggnog, spiced wine, seasonal treats and so much more. You won't want to miss this special day!

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Scenes from past years of Dickens on the Delaware by Nyssa Calkin

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Special thanks to the restaurants taking part – BVH Sports Bar (Barryville), Mountain View (Bloomingburg), Local Pizza, Western Inn (Callicoon), Casa Mia,

Forage and Gather Café, Tango Café (Hurleyville), The Cabin, Lorenzo's Bistro (Jeffersonville), Casi's Family Diner & Restaurant, Chick-E-Ribs, Liberty Diner, New Munson Diner, Star Bar and Grill (Liberty), Woodstock Way (Mongaup Valley), Bella's Café, Ciao Bella, DeFillipi's Bakery, MT Plate Monticello, Miss Monticello Diner, Monticello Bagel Bakery, Salt & Pepper – The Kitchen, Siena's Pizza, Solaia, Tilly's Diner, Yanni's (Monticello), Basbousa (Mountandale), Blue Fox Restaurant (Narrowsburg), Neversink General Store (Neversink), The Brew, Dutch's, El Sombrero, Kevin's Valley Table, Pizza the Rock (Rock Hill), Courtyard, Roscoe Beer Company, Roscoe Diner, The Spotted Owl Café and Grill (Roscoe), Big Kev's (Swan Lake), Las Mananitas and Pasta D'Oro (Wurtsboro).

Cards can either be purchased online with PayPal, debit or credit card or you can send in a check. They can be picked up in person or mailed to you.

To purchase your card(s) online, visit [namisullivan.org](http://namisullivan.org) – or send your check (made out to NAMI Sullivan) in the amount of \$25 per card and include your mailing address and phone number so that we can get the cards to you. Mail to: NAMI Sullivan, 20



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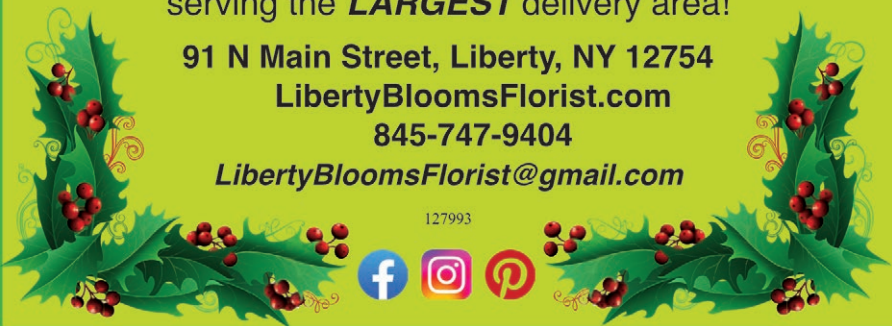
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# The Season for Love Lites begins in Honesdale, PA



HONESDALE, PA – The warmth and peace of the moment triumphed over the cold as loved ones were honored and memorialized as the trees outside Wayne Memorial Hospital were lit this past week.

The annual Love Lites ceremony Monday evening December 2nd was hosted by the Wayne Memorial Hospital Auxiliary with many in attendance. The event included a blessing by Pastor Mary Bryant of Cold Spring Chapel, Pleasant Mount, remarks from hospital CEO Jim Pettinato and holiday music presentations by the Honesdale High School Chorus and Marching Band.

Love Lites was launched in 1991 as a fundraiser and a way to bring the community together during the holiday season. A "Memory Book" listing all the names honored with lights can be found in the hospital lobby.



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# Senator Oberacker launches first annual District 51 winter coat drive

BY ALEX KIELAR

Late last month, New York State Senator Peter Oberacker announced the launch of a district-wide winter coat drive to benefit the families and individuals of the 51st Senate District. Oberacker and his team will be accepting new or gently used winter coats and jackets in any size for distribution to families throughout the winter.

"As we enter the holiday season, we're giving back to make this festive season a little warmer to those who may be in need," said Oberacker's Communications Director, Daniel Koerner, in a press release.

Nine facilities will collect coats

every Monday through Friday in the winter from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as part of the first annual Senate District 51 Coat Drive. Five of those facilities are in Sullivan County, collecting in collaboration with the Monticello Rotary Club, with coats to be donated to the United Way of Sullivan County.

Those five facilities in Sullivan County are Jeff Bank at 18 Anawana Lake Road or 19 Forestburgh Road in Monticello, the Sullivan County Government Center at 100 North St. in Monticello, the Liberty Police Department at 159 N Main St. in Liberty and Callicoon Town Hall at 19 Legion St. in Jeffersonville.

There is one facility in each of Ostego, Delaware, Broome and Schoharie Counties collecting for the drive. They are as follows:

**Otsego County**

*In Collaboration with the Angel Network, supported by Sheriff Rich Devlin:* Senator Peter Oberacker's Office, 41 S Main St, Oneonta

**Delaware County**

*In Collaboration with Delaware Opportunities, supported by District Attorney Shawn Smith & Sheriff*

*Craig DuMond:* Delaware County Office Building, 111 Main St, Delhi

**Broome County**

*In Collaboration with the United Way of Broome County, supported by Sheriff Fred Akshar:* United Way of Broome County, 101 Jensen Rd, Vestal

**Schoharie County**

*In Collaboration with The Joshua Project, supported by Assemblyman Chris Tague:* The Laundry Basket, 131 Granite Dr, Cobleskill

## WINTER COAT DRIVE

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**SENATOR PETER OBERACKER**

Senator Peter Oberacker has launched a Senate District 51 Winter Coat Drive with nine facilities across the district collecting.

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# Temple Sholom to host Chanukah Celebration

All are invited to Temple Sholom, 5 Dillon Rd, Monticello, NY, at 2:00 pm on December 22, for a gala Chanukah celebration. The event will feature Chanukah songs led by outstanding guitarist Steve Schwartz. Michael Zalkin, our local guitarist, will accompany Steve. Janna Pelle will lead the attendees in song, and Stacey Sharoff will MC the event.

Bring your menorah – The temple will supply candles. Volunteers will prepare potato latkes and donuts for all to enjoy. Candles will be lit at 2:15 pm, followed by songs and latkes.

Please RSVP by as soon as possible to 845-794-8731 or templesholom1954@gmail.com. Admission is \$13 for adults and children under 13 are free.

Registration will be easy for

those who pay with Zelle. The QR code is accessible on the temple website, templesholomNY. In case of serious snow, the event will be held on December 29.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WJFF's Jason Dole recording Temple Sholom's Chanukah celebration two years ago.



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Celebrants at Temple Sholom's Chanukah party two years ago.



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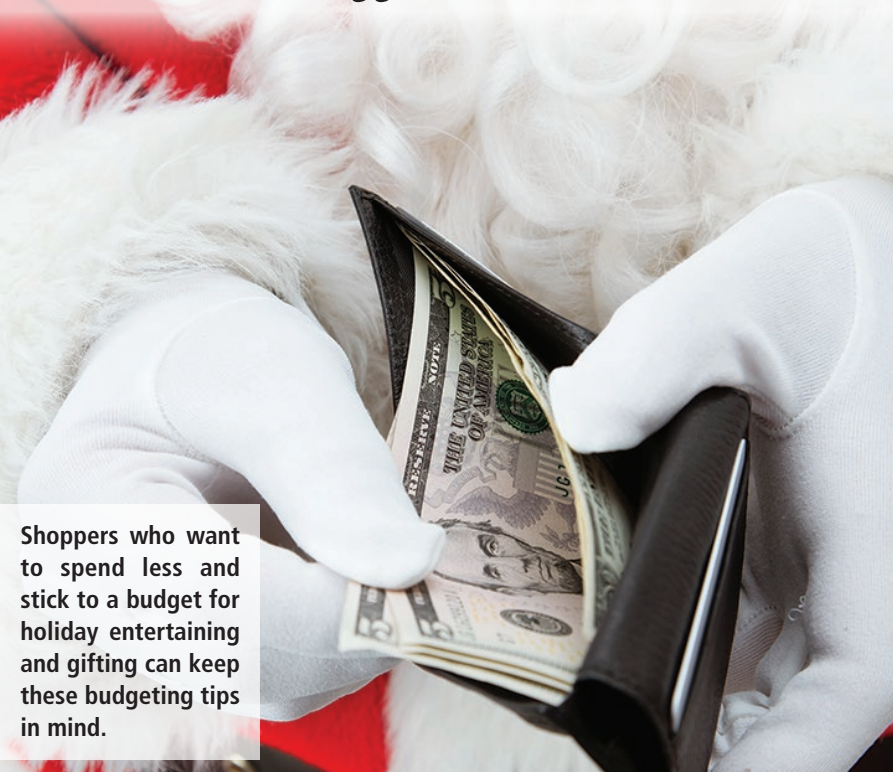
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# Holiday shopping tips you can't afford to miss



Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

The festive and fun nature of the holiday season can make it easy to forget the benefits of being frugal. Many people go overboard on holiday spending, making this time of year costly for consumers.

Sales between the beginning of November 2023 and Christmas Eve 2023 climbed 3.1 percent from the year earlier, according to the Mastercard SpendingPulse. The National Retail Federation reported in November 2023 that holiday spending was expected to reach between \$957 and \$966 billion. Trading Economics, a financial market indicator and forecast provider, said personal spending in the United States only rose 0.2 percent in May 2024 from the previous month, which marked the lowest increase since January 2024.

Shoppers who want to spend less and stick to a budget for holiday entertaining and gifting can keep these budgeting tips in mind.

Set a value to gift recipients. It may sound harsh, but certain people on holiday shopping lists

may be assigned a higher value than others. For example, you wouldn't necessarily spend the same amount on a gift for a child's teacher as you would for a grandmother. Putting a dollar figure next to each name on the shopping list helps you identify your expected spending and where you can cut back, if necessary.

Establish your overall budget. Once you have an idea of your potential holiday expenditures, set a firm budget. Avoid the temptation of impulse buys, which can make it easy to go over budget.

Begin shopping early. Start scouring ads and looking for deals prior to Thanksgiving or Black Friday. Keep a running list of gift ideas and when the price is right, purchase those items.

Price check "perfect gifts." If you've spotted the perfect gift for someone but it's beyond budget, see if you can find a better price elsewhere, says Better Money Habits. There are apps that allow users to scan barcodes and check items across various retailers. Many stores also have price-



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match policies that can save shoppers money.

• Look for deals all of the time. Many people get hung up on perceived deep discounts from Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers. However, industry experts say there often isn't a huge difference in markdowns between these promotions and those during other sales. Some retailers even increase prices on goods only to mark them down for Black Friday to make it appear that there is a discount. Only by knowing the average price for items can you know if a sale is legitimate.

• Sign up for store rewards. If you don't want your regular email inbox inundated with offers, set

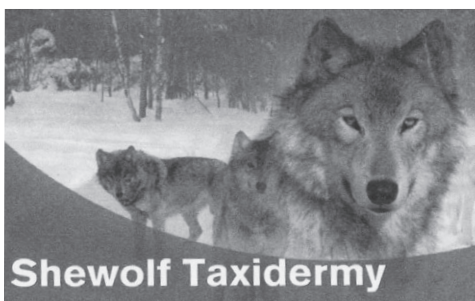
up a separate email account for in-store and online shopping. Then you can sign up for the rewards programs at checkout. Utilize the coupon codes and advertisements for sales to save money without having your primary email data shared with other marketers.

• Track spending carefully. If you don't know how much you're spending, then you cannot possibly stick to a budget. After each purchase, keep a running tally of all holiday spending to see how far you are from the finish line.

The holidays can be expensive, but with smart budgeting and dedication to savvy shopping, it's possible to stay out of financial trouble.



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# Amazing recipes to spice up your holiday

## Impress guests with this flavorful appetizer

**A**ppetizers can make a strong first impression when eating at a restaurant. Indeed, a flavorful appetizer can give diners a taste of what's to come throughout the rest of the meal, creating a sense of anticipation that will linger all the way to the last bite.

Appetizers may be most associated with restaurants, but holiday hosts can go the extra mile and prepare some flavorful apps at home as well. As hosts prepare to welcome loved ones into their home this holiday season, they can treat guests with these "Stuffed Mushrooms" courtesy of Lines+Angles.



### STUFFED MUSHROOMS MAKES 28 SERVINGS

28 mushrooms (2 1/2 inches in diameter), stemmed  
1/2 cup butter (1 stick)  
1 small onion, minced  
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and minced  
3/4 cup Italian breadcrumbs  
1/2 cup Romano cheese, grated  
3 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, chopped  
Salt, to taste  
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
Olive oil, to coat baking sheet

**Preparation time: 15 minutes**  
**Cooking time: 35 minutes**  
**Total time: 50 minutes**  
**Difficulty: Easy**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Drizzle olive oil on baking sheet and coat thoroughly.
2. Gently clean the mushrooms and remove stems. Finely chop stems. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add stems, onion and garlic, and sauté until stems and onions are soft and garlic is fragrant.
3. In a mixing bowl, add bread crumbs, cheese and parsley. Season with salt and pepper and stir to combine. Add sautéed mixture to bread crumb mixture and mix well.
4. Spoon filling mixture into mushroom caps. Arrange on prepared baking sheet, stuffed side up. Bake about 20 to 25 minutes, or until the mushrooms are tender and the tops are golden. Cool for several minutes before serving. Arrange on serving tray or platter.
5. Serve.



## Keep it simple with ham this holiday season

**H**oliday hosting is a big responsibility. While nothing quite captures the essence of the holiday season like a home filled with family and friends, those doing the hosting have a lot on their plates, and a lot to put on others' plates, once guests arrive.

Busy hosts can free up more time for family and friends by making a

concerted effort to get out of the kitchen. Simple cooking can be just as delicious as more complex dishes, and the easier it is to prepare a meal, the more hosts can mingle with their loved ones. The following recipe for "Roast Ham" from Lines+Angles requires minimal preparation but will be sure to please family and friends this holiday season.

### ROAST HAM MAKES 6 TO 8 SERVINGS

1 cup honey  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
4 apples, cored and quartered  
1 8-pound cooked ham, trimmed  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper

**Preparation time: 10 minutes**  
**Cooking time: 1 hour, 45 minutes**  
**Total time: 1 hour, 55 minutes**  
**Difficulty: Medium**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Warm the honey with the mustard in a heavy-based saucepan, stirring, until smooth and starting to bubble at the edges of the pan. Set off the heat.

3. Arrange the apple quarters in a large roasting pan and place the ham on top. Score a diamond pattern on the outside fat; brush with some of the honey-mustard glaze, seasoning with salt and pepper at the same time.
4. Bake the ham until the thickest part of it registers at least 160 F, about 1 hour 20 minutes; brush with more of the glaze from time to time.
5. Once the ham has reached 160 F, increase the oven temperature to 450 F and cook for a further 5 to 10 minutes until the top is golden brown and starting to caramelize.
6. Remove from the oven and let cool before slicing and serving. Can also be chilled and served cold.

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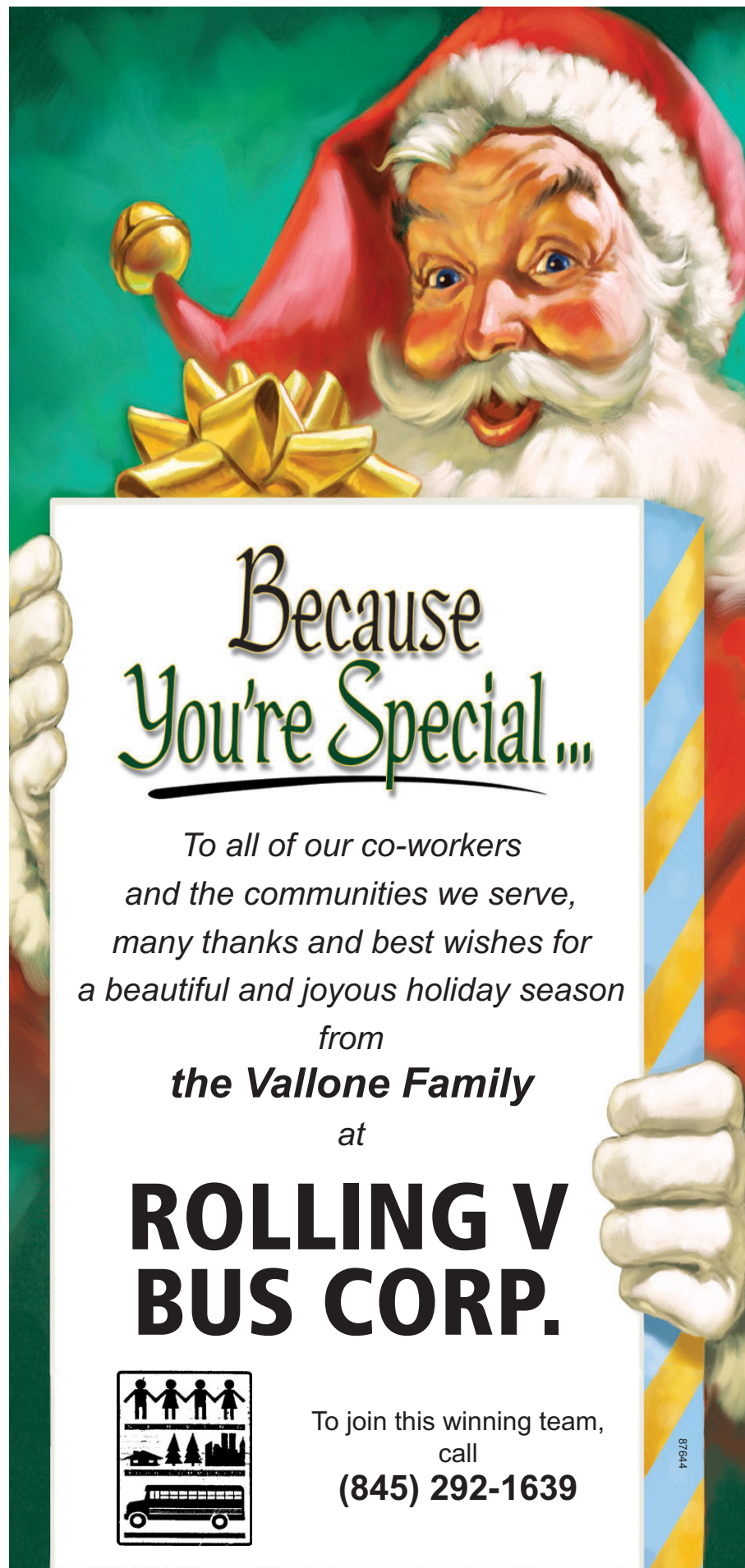
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# Experience the Magic of 'The Nutcracker' This Holiday Season!

The Monticello Central School District Performing Arts Department invites you to a spectacular, family-friendly performance of the beloved holiday classic, The Nutcracker! This FREE event is the perfect way to celebrate the season and enjoy the enchanting music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Performance Details:  
Date: Tuesday, December 17th  
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
Location: Arnold P. Hughs Auditorium (Snow Date: Wednesday, December 18th).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Nutcracker

## SCDW Holiday Stocking Stuffers and Raffle

STORY BY EILEEN KALTER

It's that time of year again as our thoughts turn to colder weather, and of course the holidays. Here at the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop ([www.scdw.net](http://www.scdw.net)) our thoughts also turn to our favorite place - the Rivoli Theatre.

As you probably know, SCDW owns and operates the Rivoli, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. This nearly century old building needs lots of work (don't we all as we get older).

You can help us get the money needed to make repairs and upgrades and get some of your holiday shopping done at the same time. Our annual NYS Lottery Raffle is on and you can get in on the winning. For \$10 you get a raffle ticket with a three-digit number on it. If that number is chosen as the New York State Evening Lottery Pick during January 2025, you win cash! You get 31 chances to win for just \$10. But what if your number never comes up? You win anyway! You already won when you bought the ticket! Your ticket, whether it wins cash or

not, is a free admission to any 2025 production (or \$10 off the cost of a ticket for our annual musical - Sister Act.) Since main stage tickets cost at least \$15, you get to see a show for just \$10. See, you won already. These make the perfect stocking stuffers for your friends and family.

If you'd like to get in on the winning, just email me ([ekalter@hvc.rr.com](mailto:ekalter@hvc.rr.com)) your name, address and phone number and send a check to SCDW, PO Box 433, South Fallsburg, NY 12779, and I will send you a ticket (or tickets). Checks must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, for your ticket to be eligible to win starting January 1. If it is postmarked later than Dec. 31, 2024, we will make your ticket eligible from the date of the postmark. If you have a lucky number, let me know and I'll get it for you! (Numbers must be between 000 and 999). If not, I'll pick a random number and send it along.

Any questions? Call me - 845-798-9854 . The address is: Eileen Kalter, PO Box 383, South Fallsburg, NY 12779

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# Enjoy allergy friendly baked goods during the holidays

BY CRYSTAL TWEED

One of the things you miss out on if you're someone who suffers with food allergies or sensitivities is sweet treats. During the holidays, it is especially challenging when everyone else seems to be enjoying their favorite sugary snack. Delicious allergy friendly treats are either hard to find, too expensive or the taste just isn't what you're expecting. County Road Bakery (CRB) in Callicoon is your one stop shop for "gluten-free everything."

Their mission since the first day was to be able to offer their delicious baked goods year-round that didn't break the bank.

CRB was started during the COVID shutdown. Initially founder Alex Matsu and head bakers Phil Matsu and Karen Matsu Greenberg would sell their yummy gluten-free treats at local farmer markets. But after five years of traveling to Liberty, Callicoon, Livingston Manor and Barryville, they now have a place to call home.

On busy Lower Main Street inside the Callicoon Marketplace you'll find them ready to serve their customers with a smile.

"The farmer market experience was really special and unique but moving into a permanent space

and anchor shop has been such a blessing for us. You can stop in and place a special order or discuss your family meal that you're planning. The Marketplace is a supportive, friendly environment and has a variety of shops that fulfill everyone's needs. It's the best shop in town", Karen said.

Sid Shigematsu handles social media for CRB so the whole family is involved.

Their kitchen space is dedicated gluten-free so customers who suffer from a gluten sensitivity or are diagnosed celiacs do not have to be concerned about cross contamination.

The holidays can be very challenging for celiac sufferers, but they don't have to be. Special order holiday menus are available, which will include holiday cookie platters, lemon bars, cakes, breads and bread blends are also available. CRB is also very accommodating. Think of them for your next birthday or special occasion cake. Many of their desserts can be made available as a vegan option too. Just ask!

Orders can be placed online, or you can visit the marketplace in person. Be sure to place your holiday order for yourself or someone special before December 20. CRB hours are Friday from 12:30-5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



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Karen Greenberg Matsu and Phil Matsu, owners of County Road Bakery in Callicoon.

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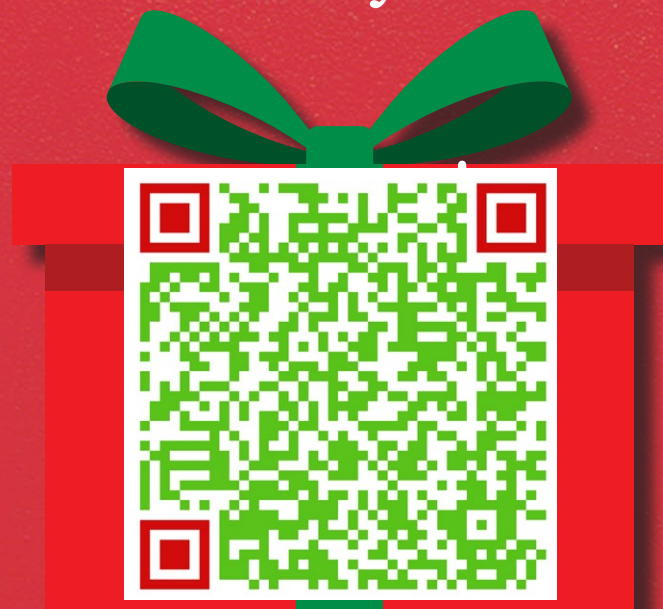


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