



THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 27 No. 12

COMPLIMENTARY COPY • Since 1989

DECEMBER 2015

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in the season
of light ~*



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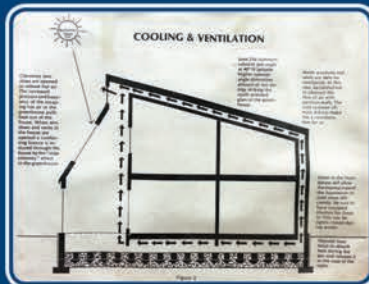
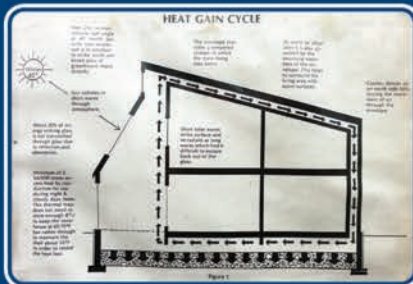
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Show Tickets only: Adults \$15 | Seafood Feast & Show: \$30



2400 E. Geneva St. | Delavan, WI | 800.338.5253 | LakeLawnResort.com  

225082

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Light up, everybody

No other season shines as bright as the holidays and proof of that is the Grand Geneva Resort’s annual Christmas in the Country display featuring 2 million lights. And if that isn’t enough to get you in the holiday mood, we’ve got you covered in this edition with our annual Geneva Lakes gift guide and a full list of holiday-related activities.





IT'S COMIN' UP

DECEMBER EVENTS

4 The Polar Express Christmas Parade, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in downtown Burlington. (262) 763-6044, www.burlingtonchamber.org

4 Tree Lighting and Santa Reception – 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Downtown Square in Elkhorn. Santa himself will light the town's own Christmas tree, then all will head over to the Matheson Memorial Library for crafts, cookies, hot chocolate and music.

4 Whitewater's Happy Holly Days – Lighted holiday parade on Friday night, family fun activities and holiday shopping throughout weekend. www.downtownwhitewater.com

4 Christmas Comes to Union Grove – 5:30-6:30 p.m., in downtown Union Grove. Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa on Village Square. (262) 878-4606

4-5 Trees on Parade and holiday shopping – 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., at St John's Catholic Church, 701 N Lake Ave, Twin Lakes. (262) 877-2557

5 Reindeer Run – hosted by the Elkhorn Parks and Recreation Department. (262) 741-5114

5 34th annual Christmas Card Town Parade – 1:30 p.m. Many floats, novelty acts, mascots and more parading through Elkhorn's Downtown.

5 40th annual Great Electric Children's Christmas Parade – 5 p.m., in downtown Lake Geneva on Broad Street. Local businesses and organizations light up the street. www.lakegenewawi.com

5 Holiday Art Sale hosted by the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its gallery, 647 Main St., in the North Shore Pavilion in downtown Lake Geneva. More than 100 area members have been invited to display and sell their artwork, prints, cards and ornaments for this one-day sale.

5 Waterford's Winter Wonderland Parade – 5 p.m., Main Street in Waterford. Santa and Mrs. Claus light tree in library after parade and greet children.

5 Breakfast with Santa – 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at The Masonic Temple, 1021 - 11th Avenue, Union Grove. Have a warm meal served by Santa's elves and meet Santa.

Purchase Breakfast with Santa tickets at the Union Grove Chamber of Commerce office. A ticket is needed for all, even infants. No tickets available at the door. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 3-11 years old, \$2 for children 0-2 years old. (262) 878-4606

5 Union Grove Holiday Gift and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Union Grove Elementary School, 1745 Milldrum Ave. Arts, crafts, pictures with Santa, live music, kid's activity area, refreshments and more. (262) 891-3477

11 An Irish Christmas, 7:30 p.m. with 6 p.m. dining option at Young Auditorium at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The Kerry Dance Troupe, as seen on PBS, was established with the intention of promoting and celebrating Irish culture and its rich traditions through dance. This troupe blends aspects of Irish folk dance with old and modern styles. Tickets costs range from \$24.50 to \$35.50

12 Family Laser Tag Nights – 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Geneva Lakes Family YMCA, 203 S. Wells St., Lake Geneva. The YMCA and Wisconsin Battlefield Live are teaming up to offer Family Laser Tag Nights at the Y. Cost is \$5/round, \$20/5 rounds. For ages 6 and older. (262) 248-6211 or www.lakegeneyymca.com

12-13 An Old World Christmas at Old World Wisconsin, S103 W37890 Highway 67, Eagle. Christmas in the 1800s with storytelling, live holiday performances, pictures with Santa and free horse-drawn bobsled rides. (262) 594-6300 www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org

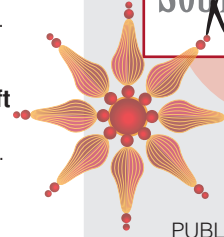
19 The Nutcracker Ballet – 2-4 p.m., at the Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. The Nutcracker ballet is based on the story "The Nutcracker and the King of Mice" written by E.T.A. Hoffman. It's the story of a young German girl who dreams of a Nutcracker Prince and a fierce battle against a Mouse King. Tickets are: \$19.50, \$17.50, \$15.50; UW-Whitewater students, \$15.50. www.uww.edu/youngauditorium

Although we attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you confirm events before you finalize your travel plans.

THE SPIRIT

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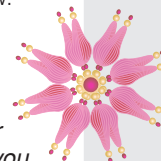
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THE SPIRIT

SOUTHERN LAKES
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Interior Designer Pam Juergens, owner of Absolutely Home, sits in a nautical-themed display, one of several in her store. The items she sells are intended for everyday use. Many of her customers need furnishings for vacation homes near Geneva or Delavan lakes.

A·B·S·O·L·U·T·E·L·Y *Marvelous*

For furniture and décor
with comfortable
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Home is the real deal

by **Janet Deaver-Pack**

CORRESPONDENT

The storefront is on the west side of Lake Geneva's Center Street, a block north of Broad Street. The modest displays in the windows give little indication of the treasures inside, overseen by a watchful life-sized resin and cast iron Labrador retriever named Rusty.

"Rusty has been here since we opened," said owner-manager-interior designer Pamela (Pam) Juergens. "Sometimes he startles passers-by when they notice him sitting there. He's our mascot. Everybody loves him."

Rusty welcomes customers from his sentry post in the small entryway. The store that opens to the right of his pointed nose offers

PHOTO BY BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Absolutely Home features several historical framed maps highlighting Geneva Lake. Captions around the shoreline list the owners of many of the estates according to the year the map was printed. The store specializes in maps like these and also pictures of "woodie" Chris Craft boats, antique motorcycles, and historic storefronts.

BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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customers from the southern Wisconsin area the finest in casual furniture, window treatments, carpets, area rugs, coffee and end tables, lamps, wall décor, and more.

The atmosphere is warm and friendly, and so are the furnishings. “The style here is casual elegance,” Pam said. “It’s livable, not untouchable.”

Pam has always had a talent for interior design. “It’s something I enjoyed doing for friends and family. I was self-taught.”

She was a stay-at-home mom while her children were in grade school. When they became middle schoolers, Pam decided to get a job. She and her sister, Kris Keyes, opened a residential and commercial decorating store called The Red Rooster in Elkhorn during 2001.

“I started doing faux painting, making walls or furniture look like marble or leather. I really loved it.”

One of her first contracts came from a local entrepreneur who hired Pam to design the interiors of condos at Geneva National’s Golf View Terrace.

Serving the clients

While working at The Red Rooster, Pam noticed that most of their clients came from the Lake Geneva area. When her sister wanted to retire from the business to take up another line of work, Pam decided to close the Elkhorn shop, move the business to Lake Geneva, and change the store’s name.

Absolutely Home has been open at its Center Street location since 2006.

“We love it here,” Pam said, then pauses to welcome a customer. Everyone who enters receives a warm genuine greeting. “We get all sorts of people in, from young mothers to builders and designers. (The shop is) on the edge of the downtown businesses, and has a parking lot just behind it. We can easily load things that need to be delivered, or put them right into people’s cars. It’s not small, but not too big.”

Like the children’s story of Goldilocks – it’s just right.

“We’ve got four people on staff,” Pam said. “Marcie has been with us eight years. And now my daughter, Danielle Wales, works here as an interior designer. She has a degree in that, and has been with us about a year. We’re all friends here. And we do it all.”

“All” means anything associated with interiors, both commercial and residential. Pam’s husband, Peter Juergens, owns Geneva Bay Construction. The two businesses often collaborate on new construction or remodeling projects.

Pam and her staff have been directly involved in decorating dentist offices, and the lobby at Geneva Towers. Absolutely Home has also assisted in decorating Simple Restaurant in Lake Geneva, the Waterfront Restaurant in the Delavan Inlet, and was one of the local businesses hired to help with the remodeling of Lake Lawn Lodge in Delavan.

“We were also involved in a partial remodel of Geneva Ridge,” Pam said.

Currently, the Absolutely Home staff



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This table setting is highlighted by the reds, oranges, and yellows of autumn. The solid wood table and chairs offer an eclectic style that fits most dining rooms.

is working on a new interior design for the Eagle River Inn and Resort in Eagle River.

Comfortable style

The style here is not gaudy or overcrowded. Several comfortable-looking displays offer a distinctly nautical atmosphere.

“You start out thinking your business should be one way, but it evolves to what your customers prefer,” Pam said. “We work on a lot of second homes, vacation homes. The people who own them want comfort, as well as something that brings back wonderful memories of their time at the lake.”

Absolutely Home offers a wide selection of Lake Geneva memorabilia, such as reprints of posters. Old Geneva Lake maps are also showcased here, some marked with the names of estates or their owners according to their year of publication. There are

historical boat pictures of beautiful Chris Craft woodies, and framed boat blueprints.

“Steve Shear finds our maps and frames them,” Pam said. “He also finds our Lake Geneva memorabilia; items from the early 1900s to the present. We have prints of historic businesses, such as The Surf Hotel, and Hotel Green from 1904. We also have (a print of) Pete’s Hideaway from the 1940s, and Hanny’s Restaurant.”

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BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Center Street storefront in Lake Geneva welcomes customers to Absolutely Home. Owner Pam Juergens and her staff believe in selling furniture and accessories that wear well and look good.

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We work on a lot of second homes, vacation homes. The people who own them want comfort, as well as something that brings back wonderful memories of their time at the lake.”

There are also doorstops made of knotted rope, silhouettes of fish on wood, signs that say “Beach” with directional pointers, and other items of nautical interest. Antique boat oars are affixed with hangers, intended for wall decoration. Hurricane candle lamps sit on ceramic bases made to look like rope.

And beyond nautical, no store this relaxed would be complete without a few framed prints of older motorcycle designs, perfect for a man cave, den, or a rustic family room.

Spelling it out

Pam says some of the most popular items in the shop are the word posters and signs. Two word posters hang on the wall behind the business counter – one is a sailboat on a lake, and the other shows part of the Chicago skyline. At first glance, especially from about 10 feet away, they appear to be regular artist’s renderings. On closer inspection, the focal points of each are comprised of words and short phrases associated with a sailboat or Chicago, such as “sailing on the breeze” and “the windy city.” The signs are lists of words on painted wood that relate to certain



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Maribeth is a local artist whose work is featured at Absolutely Home. Her hand-painted wooden bowls highlight each season of the year. These colorful decorative accents add a festive touch to the holidays, and make great gifts.

subjects, such as family.

Other popular items here are lamps featuring bases of metal, pottery, glass, and wood in many styles. Customers love the picture frames, and small art prints featuring dogs, florals, and nature scenes. Clocks of different styles keep track of time from walls and tables.

Pottery, wood, and metal statues of rabbits and squirrels populate the shop. “I like bunnies and squirrels, so we always have them,” Pam said. They bring an outdoorsy ambience to bookshelves, end tables, and consoles scattered throughout.

Another rustic touch is repurposed wood items. Frames and signs are made from weathered planks that were once part of barns. Old doors become backings for antique keys. Pam says she displayed a small armoire recently.

“It was built in the 1970s. We bought it, painted it, and it sold,” she said.

There’s a lovely console with small drawers with matched metal pulls sitting against one wall. Some tabletops are also made of reused wood.

Artistic accents

Very special items here include painted wooden bowls by artist Maribeth. The display on the floor currently features mostly holiday designs such as snowmen, sleds, Christmas trees, and Santa. The bowls come in several sizes, but nothing that can’t be settled happily as a focal point on a small



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This is one of the warm, inviting displays at Absolutely Home set up by Pam Juergens and her staff. They’re experts at putting together eclectic furniture, lighting, and decorating accents that are durable, comfortable, and livable.

table. The bright designs shout joy and spin a silent magical carol that mixes in the store's atmosphere. Maribeth provides other seasonal designs showcased at Absolutely Home throughout the year.

And yes, there are books of fabric and drapery swatches, and a large standing flip rack of artistic prints to choose from, as well as picture frames and mats of all styles.

Catalogs of lighting fixtures and furniture styles are only a request away, kept mostly in a workshop in the back. Marcie, Danielle, Pam, and the rest of the staff will happily bring them to the front to help a customer find the right piece of furniture, style of window treatment, or throw rugs/carpet that will add a bit of pizzazz to a room.

Discovering the perfect printed fabric that will bring everything in a room into a harmonious whole is always rewarding and fun. The designers here work with stellar companies like Rowe, Lexington, Sterling, the Crestview Collection, Pulaski, Hammari, Kincaid, and Loloi Rugs, among others.

Pam thinks for a moment when asked what her near-future plans for the business are: "I like the size the store is now – it's manageable. I'd like to expand our pictures and lamps, which are very popular. And we've dabbled in selling on the internet, but nothing serious. I'd like to expand that."

Check out Absolutely Home Interior Design at absolutelyhomestore.com or call (262) 248-8822 with questions. The store is near Lake Geneva's downtown at 262 Center Street.

And don't forget to say hello to faithful old Rusty standing just inside the front door.



BRUCE HEARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Absolutely Home's guardian and mascot Rusty maintains a post near the front door. His presence sometimes startles people who haven't noticed the life-sized metal and resin statue of the Labrador retriever. He's welcomed customers since 2006 when the store opened.

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the Christmas Barn

Like the holiday itself, this gift emporium is only around for a short time each year

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

With Christmas just around the corner, people are searching for those perfect gifts. Perhaps it's a quest for special gifts for family members and friends – preferably items that are one-of-a-kind and handmade by local crafters.

All that and more can be found at the Christmas Barn in Elkhorn.

For seven weekends, from the beginning of November through the weekend ending on Dec. 20, the Christmas Barn comes to life with a variety of handmade items for gifts, for holiday decorations or just a special treat.

Judy Halpin, owner, shared the story of the Christmas Barn from its inception over a cup of coffee after a workout. It has grown to a polished high-end winter wonderland. During a walk through the barn, she shared the story of its beginning while identifying some of the unique artistic displays and special works.

About nine years ago, Halpin was working out at her favorite health club with some of her friends. It was not long before the conversation turned to their favorite topics – crafts and Christmas. Too young to retire but at an age when they didn't want the grind of a full time job, these enterprising women came up with the idea of creating a showcase to offer local artisans an opportunity to sell their works in a retail venue.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Handmade candy is provided by owner Judy Halpin's daughter-in-law Maria. The goodies at the Sweet Shoppe are just what's needed to fill Christmas stockings.



Hand-painted bottles by Karen Ritzman and filled with miniature twinkling lights provide a decorative accent to a mantel or centerpiece.

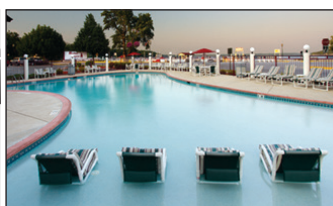
SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



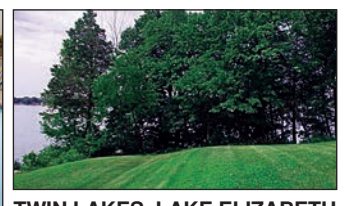
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The business would be called the Christmas Barn and would be open for seven weekends prior to Christmas. The first year they scurried around to find the type of crafters they wanted in their Christmas Barn. That year they found 25 crafters with interesting products who were willing to work with them.

“The first year we waited in anticipation when we held a first preview night for the crafters, friends and family. We did not know what to expect,” said Judy. “Surprisingly the doors opened and customers came and it never slowed down that weekend.”

Much as in the movie “Fields of Dreams,” they found that “If you build it, they will come.” They realized they had a good thing and put their efforts into improving it each year.

A permanent venue

The first few years the Christmas Barn was held in five different venues until it finally settled into a big white barn located next door to their now permanent location. While the barn worked well with the name – Christmas Barn – the space was not adequate for the growing business.

The original owners left for various reasons, but Halpin continued the business. In 2012, the Halpin family purchased a former restaurant that had stood empty for several years on Highway H, in Elkhorn. After a thorough commercial cleaning, painting and the addition of new wood floors throughout, the building has been renamed Heartwood and is now the permanent home of the yearly Christmas Barn.

During the year, Heartwood is available for business meetings, bridal and baby showers, family reunions, birthday parties and other private events. The Christmas Barn is now a juried affair with artists applying to be a part of the show. Only the best and most unique are accepted.

“We don’t accept a lot of artisans doing the same types of work. We try to have as much variety as possible,” Halpin said.

As visitors make their way through the festively decorated rooms, the spirit of the holidays takes over. Decorated tabletop Christmas trees are present at each display area. Some of these trees are theme decorated and ready for purchase. Other trees are more of a display of artistic ornaments to purchase and use on a home Christmas tree.

One tree, decorated with small beaded spiders, begs the question why anyone would want a tree with spiders. Halpin shared the reason for the tree. It was because of a children’s story. In this story a family placed a tree in their home but could not afford to decorate it. On Christmas morning, the family came down to find the tree sparkling in a white gauzy cloud. The spider on the tree had spun its web during the night to make the tree beautiful for the children.

While a full tree of spiders may not appeal to all, one spider ornament to recall this folk tale would be appreciated by many. The spiders are beaded except for one that has a body made out of amber.

Displays that dazzle

Throughout the showrooms, many of the stations had the items for sale displayed in antique china cabinets, on tables or in bookcases. The use of these antique items gives the room a polished look,



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Christmas Barn, at 4403 Highway H, Elkhorn, provides high-quality crafts, many from the Southeastern Wisconsin region.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

With so many Lake houses in Wisconsin, there is a corner that caters to Lake House items, including this welcoming oar, some nautical artwork and whimsical signs. The handmade lake house with its Adirondack chairs can be displayed year round.

almost as if shopping in a home. And yes, the antique furniture is also for sale.

“When they do sell a large piece like a china cabinet, relocating all the items on display is a very time-consuming job as they have to find a place where these items fit in attractively.

With so much interest in horses in the area, there is an equine corner. Artists Tom and Monty Bolfert display their products. Tom’s artwork includes portraits of horses. His wife, Monty, takes his original artwork and transfers it to a plastic medium, heats

them until they shrink down to a size that can be turned into pins, earrings and other types of jewelry. Another specialty jewelry item available is the braided horsehair bracelets for men and women.

Throughout the displays are whimsical signs that are compiled by Halpin’s daughter, Paige Sawar. While she does not paint the signs herself, she seeks out interesting items that fit with the displays. Another of Halpin’s daughters, Ali Adams, is responsible for creating many of the decorative boxes.

Tucked near the fireplace is the lakehouse

display, which is a necessity in the Southern Lakes area. A handmade cottage that can be displayed year round is displayed with Adirondack chairs on the porch. The chairs can be replaced with a sled or two for winter display.

Music floats on flutes

While shoppers browse, the soft sound of music can be heard. What they are hearing often is the music of flutist Su Ash Gustafson. This local musician has her CDs available for sale and on two weekends during the season,

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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she brings her flutes and plays live. This year's appearances occurred in November.

Jewelry is a popular gift item, especially the work of an artist who is nicknamed Silver Sue. Silver Sue is Sue Schroder, who produces quality sterling silver jewelry. Combining the artistry of her work with the sterling silver and gemstones, she creates one-of-a-kind necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings. Sue also creates a line of affordable holiday earrings made of Swarovski crystals in many holiday figures. Best of all, the holiday earrings are affordable.

Pets also get some love at the Christmas Barn. Countryside Trees of Walworth creates dog chews made from elk bones and antlers. There are also treats for cats and even reindeer food.

For those who like repurposed items, Larry Anderson makes beautiful boxes out of reclaimed wood which he sands and then applies tungsten oil and carnauba wax to bring out the grain. Any of his boxes would make a wonderful place to store special pieces of jewelry or other precious items. Beautiful, scenic paintings bring a sense of peace to any room. Local watercolor artist,

Joan Grommes Franzen has work displayed here and available for sale. Locally made jams, marmalades, bread mixes, and honey are available. Purchase the bread mix and bake it, and drop off the finished product to an elderly neighbor or just to someone because you want to do so.

Fifty-five crafters have their work on display at the Christmas Barn.

"We have created a business that is really a business made up of 55 smaller businesses," Halpin said.

She encourages everyone to come and appreciate the talents of their neighbors. "We are also encouraging products being produced in the United States especially here in Wisconsin."

The entire Halpin family is hard at work sharing this Christmas Barn and will help shoppers find the special gift for the special people in their lives. It's the perfect way to capture the holiday spirit.

The Christmas Barn is at N4403 Highway H, Elkhorn. It may be reached by phone at (262) 455-1264 or online at www.christmsbarn.com. The Christmas Barn is open weekends with their final day on Dec. 20. Friday and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Credit cards are accepted.



ABOVE: These snowy owls are perfect to place in a centerpiece or to be tucked into a Christmas tree. One of these penguins is dressed in a versatile reversible collar that can also be worn as a hat.



LEFT: Looking for a lamp to brighten up your family room. How about this leg lamp from "Christmas Story" for a real conversation piece?

PHOTOS BY
SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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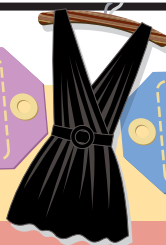
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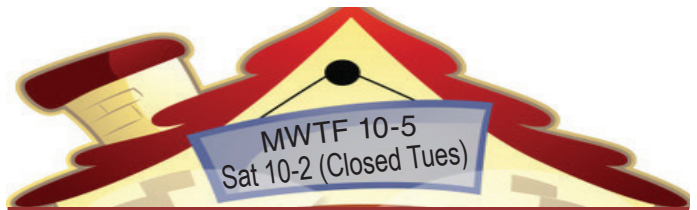
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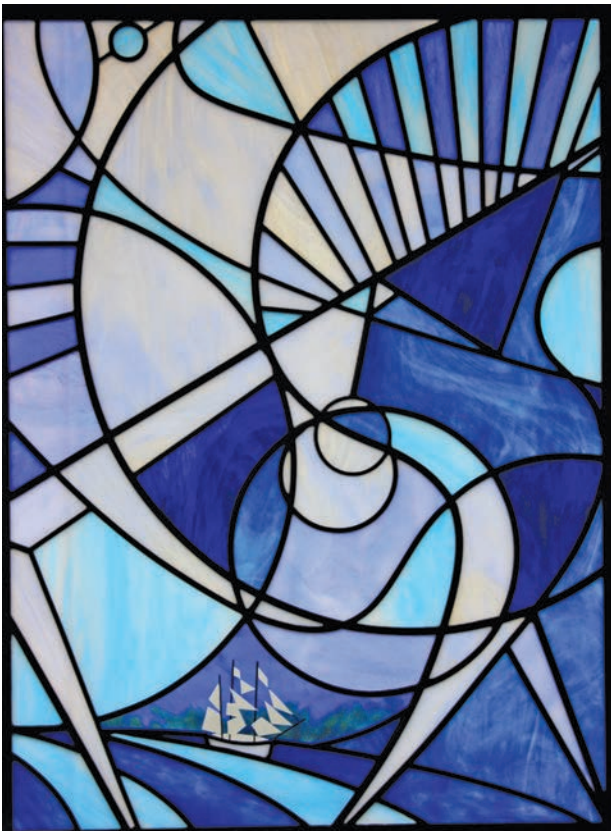
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GIFTS GALORE

Your guide to holiday shopping in the Geneva Lakes area

Diamonds, carved pearls, watches, cocktail rings, gorgeous necklaces, earrings – you'll find all this and more at Fontana Jeweler.



Prepare to be amazed by texture and color that fills two, sometimes three, dimensions. Gilbertson's Stained Glass keeps stretching the envelope of creative glass design, featuring everything from lighted shadow boxes to glorious full-sized panels, to brilliant Tiffany-style light fixtures.

How to fill your list with the best from local merchants

by **Janet Deaver-Pack**
CORRESPONDENT

It's that time of year again. The holidays are here, full of parties, digging for those made-only-once-per-year recipes, parades, visits with Santa, special concerts at school and in churches, caroling, and sending cards to relatives and friends no one has seen since a third cousin's wedding a dozen years ago. Along with these seasonal delights and duties come the rigors of gift shopping.

There really are a few people who are organized and motivated enough to take care of buying their holiday gifts earlier in the year, keeping a stash with a list. (The names of these individuals are a well-kept secret so they won't be forced into last-minute shopping with the procrastinators.)

As many do, you can leave buying presents until Thanksgiving weekend's Black Friday, convinced that a foray into thick crowds and impossible parking brings better bargains. A few individuals even shop in the middle of the night, wearing pajamas and carrying bed pillows or blankets to get an extra percentage off or prizes from stores that encourage such behavior.

Some folks even leave their shopping until the eve of Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or whatever celebration they need gifts for, taking the day to whip in and out of malls and concentrations of shops, armed with credit cards, growing tension, and exuding a peculiar terror fostered by not being able to find all the gifts they require in the few hours remaining.

(Fanfare, please!) This is where local shops come to the rescue. No matter what kind of shopper steps through their doors, no matter how stressed (except perhaps those still in pajamas), the following businesses

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can help keep at least the greatest part of holiday gift-giving tensions at bay.

Most of the owners have been in business for years, and understand the perils of buying for other people: Aunt Mary always criticizes everything; Uncle Walter likes cigars, but what kind? Mom can't decide whether her favorite color is blue or purple, and Dad always says, "Whatever you get me is fine." Then there's the close relative who has everything – what can you get him or her?

Employees and owners at these shops are waiting and eager to help. It's time for you to get out there and let them do what they're best at – assist even last-minute shoppers in their quest to find great gifts.

The following list by no means features all the excellent stores in the Southern Lakes area. It is meant as a guide to some of the best gift-buying locally available. Current telephone numbers and/or websites are included. Some shop names are listed more than once because they offer a wide variety of items, some of which match other listings.

Jewelry

- Fontana Jeweler (262-275-6363 fontanadiamonds.com)
- Biederman Jewelers (262-723-2685)
- China West (262-248-0304 info@chinawestjewelers.com)
- Ide Fine Jewelry (262-763-8685 www.idejewelry.com)
- Ginger Blossom (815-678-4015 www.gingerblossom.com)

Florists and gifts

- The Treasure Hut (262-728-2020 www.treasurehut.com, also Facebook and Weddingwire)
- Steinbrinks Floral (2 locations: Lake Geneva, 262-248-8798; Delavan, 262-728-2638)
- Lilypots (262-248-4200 www.lilypots.com)
- Gooseberries Floral (262-763-9698)
- Piggly Wiggly Floral (Lake Geneva 262-248-8798, Delavan 262-728-2638)
- Pick n' Save Floral (2 locations: Burlington 262-763-3695, Waterford 262-534-9596)
- Richter's Market Floral (2 locations: Burlington 262-763-3100, Twin Lakes 262-877-2155)
- Sentry Floral (262-275-0458)
- Wishing Well Florist (262-723-6677 www.flowerswishingwell.com)

Pools, Home Spas, Exercise Equipment

- Doheny's (262-654-3341 doheny.com)

Wine and gifts

- Bruno's Liquors (262-248-6407 www.brunosliquor.com)
- Staller Estate Winery (608-883-2100 www.stallerestate.com, also Facebook)
- Hill Country Market at Breezy Hill (262-537-4867 www.hillcountrymarket.com, also Facebook)



BRUCE HEARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Just a few miles away in Richmond, Ill., lies a place most people don't believe exists nestled between farms. Owner Ginger Blossom travels throughout the world and brings back intriguing exotic gifts, furniture, glassware, statues, rugs, and jewelry from five continents. If you can't find a present for someone here, it doesn't exist.



Moy's Restaurant, Elkhorn, has been a destination spot for those who enjoy oriental cuisine since it opened. A friendly staff serves cooked-to-order meals that bring the essence of China to Southeast Wisconsin.

DINNERS *Choice*

BINANTI'S TASTE OF ITALY

Enjoy Italian dining and fine wine in this friendly, intimate setting. "Everything is made the old fashioned way from scratch with the freshest ingredients and heartfelt passion," especially evident in their specialty dishes such as Pasta Di Casa, Rustico Stufato or one of chef Gaetano's delicious seafood, veal or chicken recipes. The bread is baked fresh every day and they make their own Italian sausage. Along with these delectable specials they also offer pizza and other traditional homemade lasagna and pasta dishes. All entrées are made to order and available for carry out as well; and they proudly provide ala carte and custom catering. 101 South Second St, in Silver Lake, WI. Dinner every day at 4 pm; closed Tuesdays.

262-889-8387

LUCKE'S CANTINA FOOD & SPIRITS

Open 7 days from 11am to close, Lucke's Cantina Food & Spirits offers an array of great food and drink choices. Choose from 15 draft beers along with a nice selection of wines and specialty drinks. Plus enjoy soups, salads, appetizers, burritos, chimichangas, enchiladas, fajitas, quesadillas, soft tacos, tostadas, burgers, dogs, desserts and more. Dine in or carry out. Call for catering.

262-245-6666

RIGA-TONY'S DELICATEZZI ITALIANO

Authenticity is what you'll find at Riga-Tony's in Delavan. From homemade pastas to a variety of USDA prime-aged meats, fresh salads, fresh pastries and more. Dine inside or out. Catering is a specialty with a variety of party trays hot and ready to serve or heat yourself. Check out their Friday and Saturday special menu items. Open Wed. thru Sun. Closed Mon. & Tues. Located at 5576-C state road 50 in the Dairy Queen Plaza.

262-740-2540

COLONY HOUSE

The Colony House is a full service restaurant and lounge in an old-world, elegant setting. Dinner is served Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 9:30, Friday and Saturday 4 to 10, and Sunday 3:30-8:30. Wonderful appetizers, homemade soups and salads, plus fantastic desserts. Banquet room available for parties up to 35. Located on Hwy JF in Trevor.

262-862-2076

FOLEY'S IRISH WOODS

Traditional Irish fare is featured on the menu including Shepard's Pie, Irish Lamb Stew and mussels. Special on Wednesday is corned beef and cabbage, lamb shanks on Thursday and their famous haddock fish-n-chips on Friday. The restaurant's location in the historic Irish Woods along with the rustic ambiance of the dining room add to the authentic Irish atmosphere. Open Wed. - Sun. 5-10 pm. The restaurant is adjacent to Foley's Bar & Grill, which is open 7 days a week at 11 am for their famous Foley Burger and pub food. Proprietors and Chef Ryan offer the Foley's Shepard's Pie Challenge: You finish it (2 quart) and he buys it!

262-245-6966

B.J. Wentkers Historic Fine Dining

Lunch Mon. - Fri. 11 am - 2 pm
Dinner Mon. - Thurs. 5 pm - 9 pm
Fri. - Sat. 5 pm - 10 pm

Closed Sunday

**230 Milwaukee Ave.
Burlington, WI
262-767-1514**

ZENDA TAP BAR & GRILL

The all new Zenda Tap offers delicious, Kick Butt Burgers, Champion pizzas and a great Friday Fish Fry. Enjoy all your favorite sports with specials and free food offerings. Happy Hour is Mon.-Fri. 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Open 7 days a week at 11 am. N560 Zenda Road, Zenda, WI (on the south side of Geneva Lake).

262-394-4100

THE GRANDVIEW RESTAURANT & LOUNGE AT GENEVA INN

Embrace the beauty of Geneva Lake at The Grandview Restaurant where every table offers a spectacular, breathtaking view. Enjoy outstanding seafood, delicious daily specials, an extensive wine list and terrific service. The Grandview Restaurant is located in The Geneva Inn, directly on the shores of Geneva Lake at Pier #804.

Featuring American Continental cuisine and a menu that changes with the seasons. Open 7 days a week for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Breakfast: Served Mon. - Sat. 7:30 - 10:30 am and Sun. 7:30 - 10:00 am. Lunch: Served Mon. - Sat. 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. Dinner: Mon. - Sat. from 5:00 pm and from 4:00 pm on Sunday. Sunday Brunch: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Live entertainment on special weekends. Private functions always welcome. Reservations recommended.

262-248-5690

www.genevainn.com

FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION

Featuring the Fitzgerald's famous fish boil year round, along with delicious ribs & honey barbecued chicken. Fitzgerald's also can accommodate your group or party for special get togethers in the Historic Octagon House. Open Wed. - Sun. (summer) and Thurs. - Sun. (winter)

HWY B GENOA CITY, WI

262-279-5200

MOY'S RESTAURANT

Moy's Restaurant has long been a popular destination for Chinese and American cuisine in downtown Elkhorn. Moy's serves luncheons and dinners. The restaurant also offers a fine selection of cocktails and tropical drinks. Carryout service is available. Located on the historic square at 3 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, Moy's is just 8 miles west of Lake Geneva. www.foodspot.com/moys. Open 6 days; closed Mondays.

262-723-3993

RESTAURANT



- Lake Geneva Country Meats (262-248-3339 www.lakegenovacountrymeats.com)
- The Elegant Farmer (262-363-6770 www.elegantfarmer.com)
- Apple Barn Orchard & Winery (262-728-3266 www.applebarnorchardandwinery.com)
- Appletreow Winery and Distillery (262-878-5345 www.appletreow.com, also Facebook)
- Gooseberries Market (262-763-5955 www.gooseberriesmarket.com, also Facebook)

Cheese

- Gooseberries Market (see Wine listing)
- Hill Country Market at Breezy Hill (see Wine listing)
- The Elegant Farmer (see Wine listing)

Toys, Hobbies

- HobbyTown USA (262-729-4053 www.hobbytown.com/Lake_geneva-WI)

Artisan-Craft Malls

- The Christmas Barn (seasonal www.christmasbarnlakegeneva.com)

Consignment, Resale

- Encore Consignments (262-248-2009)
- Geneva Upscale Consignment & Furs (262-248-3777 www.lakegenevafurs.com)

- Sandy's Upscale Consignment (262-275-8221)
- Inspired Again Resale Shop (262-275-2264 www.InspirationMinistries.org)
- St. Vincent de Paul Boutique, Thrift Store and Furniture Barn (262-818-2330)
- Reflections of the Past (262-473-6050)

Specialty Clothing

- West 20 (262-642-4272 www.west20.com)
- Oh My Gauze (262-248-2827 www.ohmygauze.com)
- Burlington Footwear (262-763-3050 www.burlingtonfootwear.com)
- Ginger Blossom (see Jewelry listing)

Entertainment

- Young Auditorium (262-472-2222 www.edu/youngauditorium, also on Facebook and YouTube)

Interior Design, Furniture, Home Accents

- Absolutely Home (262-248-8822 www.absolutelyhomestore.com)
- The Rustic Realm Lodge Décor Furniture Store (262-728-8241 www.therusticrealm.com, also Facebook)
- Laser Electric Supply and Lighting Gallery (262-275-5775 www.laserlightinggallery.com)



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Nothing is appreciated so much as a gift that's colorful, good looking, feels wonderful, and is easy to care for. That's exactly what you find when shopping for distinctive 100 percent cotton gauze ladies' clothing at Oh My Gauze in Lake Geneva.

- Verve Gallery (262-248-8771, also Facebook, YouTube)
- Ginger Blossom (see Jewelry listing)
- Paper Dolls Home Furnishings & Interior Design (262-248-6268 www.paperdollinteriors.com)
- Breezy Hill Nursery (262-537-2111, also Facebook and Twitter)
- Caravelle Lighting (815-678-4558 www.Caravellelite.com)
- Wells Spiral Stairs (262-279-5927 www.metalspirals.com)
- Gilbertson's Stained Glass (262-248-8022 www.stainedartglass.com)
- The Treasure Hut (see Florists listing)

Golf Clubs

- Evergreen Country Club (262-723-57212 www.evergreengolf.com, also Facebook)
- Hawk's View Golf Club (1-877429-5788 www.hawksviewgolfclub.com)

Specialty Foods

- Lake Geneva Pie Co. (262-248-5100 www.lgpie.com)
- Hill Country Market at Breezy Hill (262-537-4867 www.hillcountrymarket.net)
- Riga-Tony's (262-740-2541 www.rigatonysdelavan.com)
- Sorg's Quality Meats (262-724-5554, 262-742-3364)
- Burlington Health Foods (262-763-



BRUCE HEARD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Not only does The Treasure Hut furnish some of the finest special occasion floral arrangements in the Geneva Lakes area, it also offers gifts and home decorating accessories. Whether it's fresh or dried, silk, feather, or crystal, or a potted plant, owners Kevin and Stacy Hermann and their staff can help you find the right gift for that difficult-to-buy-for person.

7709 www.burlingtonhealthfoods.com
 • Chocolate Expressions (262-763-3905)
 • Apple Barn Orchard & Winery (see Wine listing)
 • Swiss Maid Bakery (2 locations: 815-943-4252 Harvard, 815-338-0414 Woodstock www.swissmaidbakery.com)
 • The Elegant Farmer (see Wine listing)
 • Rushing Waters Trout Farm (262-495-2089 www.rushingwaters.net, also Facebook)
 • Brightonwoods Orchard (262-878-3000 www.brightonwoodsorchard.com)
 • Hafs Road Orchard (262-279-3638 www.hafsroadorchard.com)

Antiques

• The Shy Violet Antiques & Collectibles (262-767-9390)
 • Always Remember That Antique Mall (RememberThatAntiques.com 262-843-1786)

Harness, Saddles

• West 20 Ranch and Saddle Co. (see Specialty Clothing listing)

Restaurants

• The Grandview Restaurant & Lounge at Geneva Inn (262-248-5680, also Facebook)
 • Lucke's Cantina (262-245-6666)
 • The Colony House (262-862-2076)
 • Zenda Tap Bar & Grill (262-394-4100)
 • Fitzgeralds Genoa Junction (262-279-

5200 www.fitzgeraldsfishboil.com)
 • Sperino's Little Italy and the Monte Carlo Room (262-723-2222 www.sperinos.com)
 • The Trout House at Rushing Waters Trout Farm (see Specialty Foods listing)
 • Moy's (262-723-3993)
 • Foley's Irish Woods (262-245-6966, also Facebook)
 • Binanti's Taste of Italy (262-889-8387 www.binantistasteofitaly.com, also Facebook)
 • East Troy Electric Railroad (262-642-3263 www.eastroyr.org, click on Dinner Train)
 • B. J. Wentker's (262-767-1514)
 • Staller Estate Winery (see Winery listing)

Spa Packages

• Lake Lawn Resort (262-338-5253 LakeLawnResort.com)
 • Avani Spa, The Abbey Resort (1-800-709-1323 www.theabbeyresort.com, also Facebook)
 • Grand Geneva Resort and Spa (1-800-558-3417 www.grandgeneva.com)

Baskets of assorted items make great gifts, especially if they're for a family, a group, or for a couple whose preferences you don't know. Pick a theme, like pets, chocolate, fruit, beer, movies, wine, or snacks, and get going. A great selection of items for these are in stock at local grocers, especially if they offer an "Imported" or "Specialty" section.

For instance, New Glarus Brewery offers a "taster" pack of six of their most popular brews. Make that the focal point of your gift, and gather things that go with it, such as pretzels, cheese, crackers, even beer steins, mugs, or glasses. Several other breweries also offer taster packs.

Shops and groceries often make up their own baskets, and have several on display ready for purchase. Other stores allow you to choose what you want to put in, then the staff will finish the basket with cellophane and a bow. This last option also allows you to give as little or as much as you can afford. Either way, a basket makes you a memorable



The Rustic Realm, Elkhorn, is bursting with unusual gift ideas, from beds, coffee tables, couches, and chairs, to antler wall hooks for clothing or equipment. Most of the items displayed here are one of a kind.

gift-giver. And all you have to add is a card and a smile just before setting it under the tree or on a table.

A gift card may be the best way out of your shopping dilemma. Most groceries, spas, restaurants, and other places offer gift cards. Doing this negates a lot of tension – you don't have to worry about colors, sizes, and other bothersome details. They're also easier to wrap.

So there you have it, stressed shoppers. And please remember, by shopping local you're supporting friends and neighbors, and also your immediate community. Your money stays in the area. You're likely to get better customer service, more thorough answers to your questions, and prompt responses to your phone calls just in case anything is wrong with your order.

Karen & Eugene
"Gooch" Stevens
and Bruce & Lisa
Francart



Colony House
RESTAURANT

**GREAT BARBECUED RIBS
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: colonyhouserestaurant.co

**Happy Holidays
to all Our Dear Friends**

Thanks for making 2015 another wonderful year. Best wishes for the New Year to come from all of us at The Colony House!
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Ringling for the Red Kettles

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SALVATION ARMY CAMPAIGN

The Salvation Army needs volunteers to ring bells for its Red Kettle Campaign that runs through Dec. 24.

Bell ringers are needed at four locations in Delavan – two kettles at Walmart and one each at Shopko and Piggly Wiggly.

Bells are rung from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at each location on 19 days through Dec. 23 and from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 24.

Delavan is one of six communities that host the Red Kettle Campaign in Walworth County. Bell ringers are also stationed at Sentry stores in Elkhorn, Walworth and Whitewater; Piggly Wiggly stores in Elkhorn, Lake Geneva and East Troy and Walmart stores in Lake Geneva and Whitewater.

Last year in the six municipalities, \$78,808 was donated during the campaign, said David Fieldstone, who coordinates the Delavan volunteers. More than \$35,000 was generated in Delavan alone, he said.

The funds generated throughout the county are distributed evenly among the six communities, Fieldstone said. He said 86 percent of the funds come back to the county, and each community has its own outlet that distributes the funds to people in their communities in need.

Funds in Delavan are distributed through Human Concerns. Last year, the organization received about \$14,000, which was not enough to meet the community's need, said Bill McKoy, a member of Human Concerns

Delavan Human Concerns distributes more than \$100,000 annually and runs out of Salvation Army funds by September, McKoy said.

Salvation Army funds are used to pay for housing and utilities for families in need. Each family may receive \$300 in assistance one time in a 12-month period.

From Oct. 1, 2014, through Sept. 30, the Salvation Army provided \$69,941.13 to assist 923 people in Walworth County. The



funds distributed were:

- \$22,977.90 for emergency lodging to 85 individuals and 45 families (231 people);
- \$20,839 in rental assistance to 43 individuals and 81 families (347 people);
- \$23,416.58 in utility assistance for 59 individuals and 96 families (304 people);
- \$1,837.81 for car repairs and transportation for 23 people;
- \$653.69 for medical prescriptions for seven people;
- \$216.15 for food assistance to 11 people.

Thirteen Delavan churches and organizations provide volunteers for the campaign. Among the organizations that will provide bell ringers this year are the Civil Air Patrol, 4-H clubs and Boy and Girl Scouts. However, the Salvation Army also needs individuals to volunteer to

man kettles for one-hour shifts. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact David Fieldhouse at (262) 728-6519.

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From beer to shipwrecks

LECTURE SERIES AIMS TO WARM UP THE WINTER

Black Point Estate is partnering with Horticultural Hall, Lake Geneva, for a winter version of its popular Veranda Views program series.

Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad Street, Lake Geneva, will host five programs this winter with topics that range from shipwrecks to beer.

The programs will be held Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 12; Jan. 16 and 23; and Feb. 6 and 13.

The cost is \$5 per event with the exception of Feb. 6 "Bottoms Up!" beer tasting, which is being offered at \$20 per person.

Black Point, the historic house estate on Geneva Lake offered a Chautauqua style series that included history, art and music this past summer.

"The series was so successful that we decided to continue this type of programming in the winter season," said site director Dave Desimone. "We have found that the residents of this area are very supportive of diverse cultural programs."

Since Black Point is closed in the winter another location was needed. Beth Gallagher, director of Horticultural Hall, responded by offering to partner with the estate.

"One of our goals is to offer more community based



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes
The World War I Christmas Miracle will be the topic of the Dec. 12 presentation.

programming at Horticultural Hall so this was a natural fit," Gallagher said. Both organizations have shared history through the Lake Geneva Garden Club. The lineup for the winter season is:

December 12

THE WORLD WAR I CHRISTMAS MIRACLE WITH ROCHELLE PENNINGTON

Join Wisconsin author and storyteller Rochelle Pennington as she discusses the factual account of the 1914 battlefield Christmas truce. The Christmas truce is the story of peace "breaking out" in wartime.

Pennington's program will detail the amazing circumstances surrounding the 100,000 enemy combatants who "met in the middle" on Christmas day and halted the war. This truce is remembered today as the most extraordinary event in military history.

January 16

SHIPWRECKS OF THE GREAT LAKES AND GENEVA LAKES WITH CAITLIN ZANT

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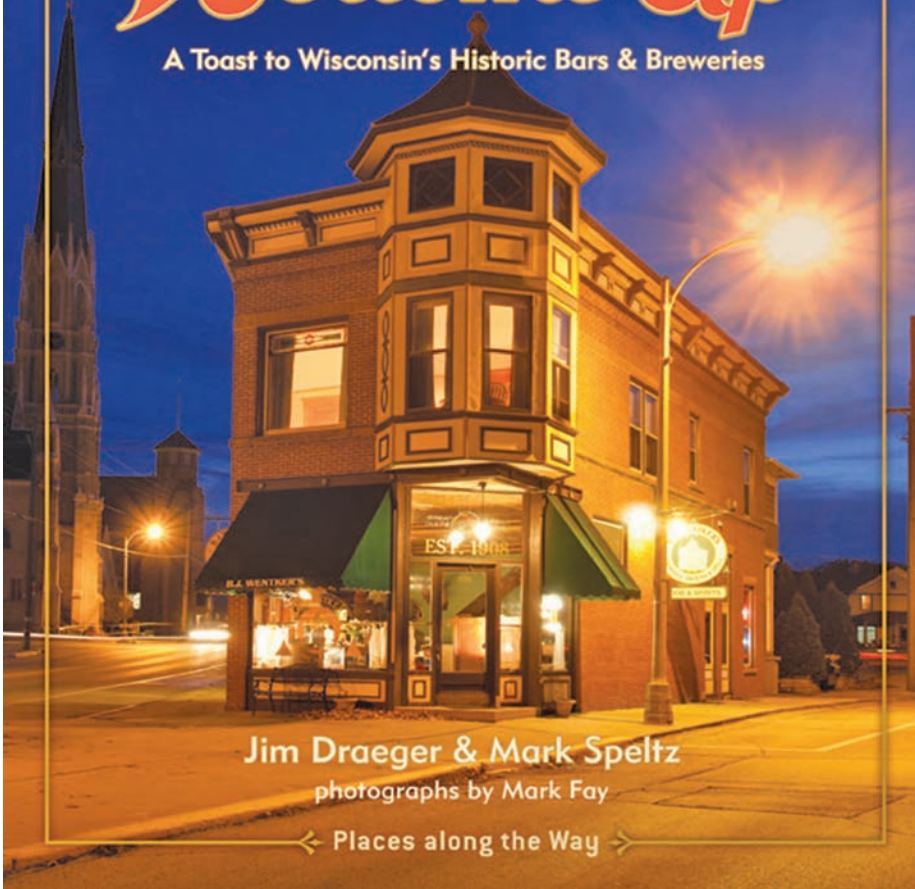
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Bottoms Up

A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries



Jim Draeger & Mark Speltz
photographs by Mark Fay

← Places along the Way →

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Author Jim Draeger will discuss his book, "Bottom's Up – A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries" during a special beer-tasting event Feb. 6.

Maritime archaeologist Caitlin Zant will discuss some of her favorites, including the Lucius Newberry and Lady of the Lake – both on the bottom of Geneva Lake. This program will include photos and video of some amazing shipwrecks.

January 23

THE SONGS OF LINCOLN WITH CHRIS VALLILLO

Abraham Lincoln's life spanned a period of great change, growth and struggle in the nation, and the music of his era movingly characterizes these remarkable times. Chris Vallillo chose the collection of music in this project to shed light on one of history's most beloved figures, not only as a remarkable leader, but as a man, who knew and loved many of these very songs himself.

The program is designed to be educational as well as entertaining including anecdotes about the songs and composers. A nationally recognized bluegrass artist, Vallillo will take attendees on a musical journey back through the land of Lincoln.

February 6

BOTTOMS UP! BOOK DISCUSSION AND BEER TASTING

Warm up on Winterfest weekend while learning about Wisconsin's historic bars and breweries with "Bottom's Up" author, Jim Draeger. No presentation about beer would be complete without a tasting. A tasting of



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six craft beers will be served as part of the presentation.

Draeger is an architectural historian and the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Wisconsin Historical Society with more than 25 years of historic preservation experience. From roadside architecture to Northwoods resorts, Draeger celebrates the importance of ordinary buildings to our daily lives through his research, writing, and lectures.

This program is for adults only and costs \$20 per person.

February 13

POLKA HEARTLAND WITH RICHARD MARCH

From polka's surprising origins as a cutting-edge European fad, to an exploration of the modern-day polka scene, Polka Heartland captures the beat that pulses in the heart of Midwestern culture, and offers up the history of how "oompah-pah" came to be the sound of Middle America.

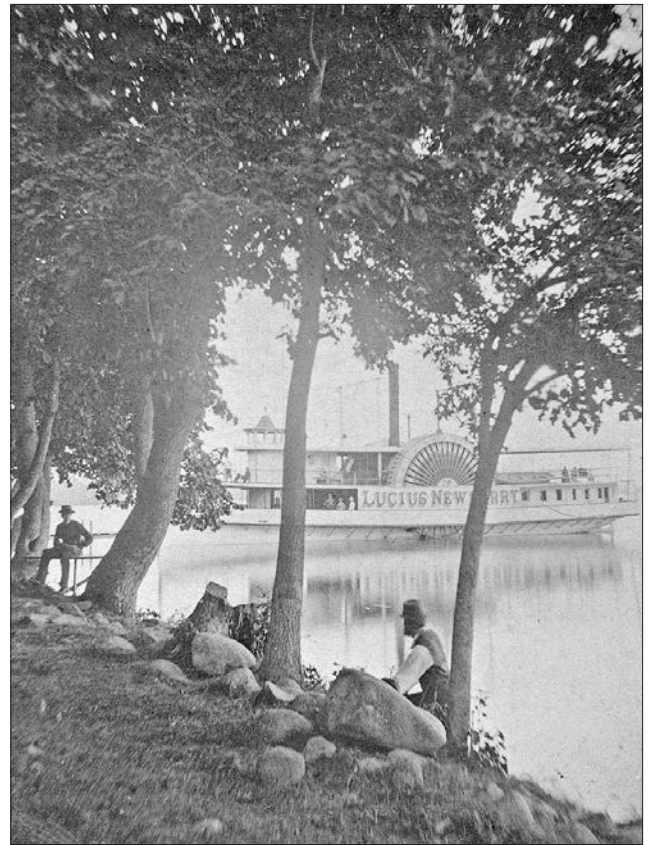
This history unites the images of photographer Dick Blau with author Richard March's cultural backstory to explain the polka phenomenon that plays out at Wisconsin wedding receptions, crowded festival dance tents, and off-the-grid Mexican dances. March explores the people, places, and history behind the Midwest's favorite music and describes some of the venues, instruments, and music-makers who have been pivotal to polka's popularity.

The Julida Boys will perform polka classics following March's talk.

For more information on these programs, visit Black Point Estate at www.blackpointestate.org. To purchase tickets call (262) 248-1888.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes
Polka in the heartland is the top-ic of the Feb. 13 presentation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes
The wreck of the ship Lucius Newberry on Geneva Lake is part of the Jan. 16 discussion on area shipwrecks

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Gingerbread houses created by area residents will be on display through the holidays at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa.

While Grand Geneva Resort and Timber Ridge Lodge and Waterpark are known throughout the country for hospitality, many

area residents make the resort grounds a seasonal destination for 2 million different reasons.

That's the number of holiday lights that illuminate the 1,300-acre grounds as part of the Lake Geneva area resort's annual Christmas in the Country display now celebrating its 21st year.

Christmas in the Country comes complete with a variety of activities from breakfast with Santa to classic Christmas tale readings and festival holiday teas that bring the season to life.

While many choose to book a stay and partake in one of the many holiday-related events at the resorts, others simply drive through the grounds to take in the beauty of the light display.

The six-week long celebration includes the following events and programming:

- **Breakfast with Santa** –Come in PJs or dressed in holiday best, the event features live holiday music, buffets for adult and kids, and fun seasonal activities. Every Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A horse-drawn sleigh ride through the 1,300-acre grounds at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa offers an up-close view of the area's winter splendor.

Prices range from \$8 (kids 2-5) to \$15 (kids 6-12) and \$25 for adults. Reservations are recommended by calling (262) 249-4788.

• **Christmas Musical** – “A Christmas Portrait.” Take a stroll down memory lane with this musical featuring your favorite holiday songs and moments that bring the season to life. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children 14 and under. Call the box office at (262) 203-8110 to reserve a seat.

• **Gingerbread House Display** – Area residents can display their candy-created masterpieces through the holidays.

• **Meet Santa!** – Visit with Santa and his elves in the lobby, and enjoy live holiday performances from local high schools, every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 19.

• **Photo Opportunities** – Capture the memory of the holiday season with a life-size, interactive gingerbread house

and polar bear photo stations. Visitors are invited to hop in the photo frame by the gingerbread house and pose by a frosted winter wonderland complete with a life size polar bear, frosted trees and sound effects.

• **Instagram-worthy Holiday Lights** – Don’t miss the light show on the 30-foot-tall Christmas tree using 14 million colors on display every day just before the trolley tour of lights. The 20-foot lobby Christmas tree is just as stunning, and even features a snow machine during the Elf Mail Run every day.

• **Classic Holiday Tale** – Relax and listen to a classic holiday story come to life every Friday evening at 8:30 p.m. in the lobby. Pajamas and slippers encouraged.

• **Elf Mail Run** – Drop off letters to Santa at a mailbox located in the main lobby of the Grand Geneva. See Santa’s helpers stop by to collect the mail at 4 p.m.

daily to deliver it to the North Pole.

• **Festive Holiday Tea** – Grand Geneva will serve special afternoon holiday tea daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Dec. 27. Reserve a table and take a step back in time and tradition by calling (262) 249-4788.

• **New Year’s Eve** – Ring in the New Year over a romantic meal in one of the resort’s restaurants, with a gathering of friends, or with family. Grand Geneva offers a variety of packages and dining options and a fireworks display.

Packages and discounts

For those seeking overnight packages during the holiday season, Grand Geneva’s Christmas in the Country includes: one night stay, two tickets to “A Christmas Portrait” and \$100 dining credit.



A musical presentation, "A Christmas Portrait," takes audiences down memory lane with a revue of favorite holiday songs and moments that bring the season to life. The show is presented throughout the holiday season at Grand Geneva.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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The "A Christmas Portrait" package at Timber Ridge Lodge and Waterpark includes: one night stay in a suite, four waterpark passes, and four tickets to "A Christmas Portrait."

In addition to the lights, shows and on-property events at Grand Geneva, the property includes The Mountain Top ski hill with 18 runs and a terrain park full of snow all winter long for skiers and snowboarders alike.

To kick off the season, ski for free opening weekend Dec. 5 and 6, at Mountain Top by bringing in a canned food donation, weather permitting.

The Frequent Skier Punch Card is back this year. With the purchase of one punch card for \$250, holders receive 10 lift tickets for use any time during the 2015-16 ski season.

With no limits on when or who can use the tickets, family and friends can partake in the fun. For more information, please call (262) 249-4726.

For more information on Christmas in

the Country festivities, The Mountain Top or reservations call (800) 558-3417 or visit www.GrandGeneva.com.

About Grand Geneva

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa is an award-winning all-seasons resort set on 1,300 acres in Lake Geneva. The property features 355 guest rooms; spa and salon; two championship 18-hole golf courses; The Mountain Top, a three-chair, 18-run ski and snowboard facility; 62,000 square feet of meeting and convention space and three restaurants.

The family-friendly Timber Ridge Lodge and Waterpark offers a collection of 225 one- and two-bedroom suites that are equipped with whirlpool baths, private balconies, kitchenettes and living rooms. The lodge also offers a 50,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor aquatic wonderland, Moose Mountain Falls, as well as a 3,600-square-foot arcade, 3,500-square-foot ballroom and a family barbeque restaurant.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Christmas in the County, Grand Geneva's annual celebration of the holidays, marks its 21st year in 2015. The outdoor light display features 2 million lights.

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Wisconsinites are fortunate to have abundant Christmas tree farms to provide fragrant and fresh trees for our homes. Many of them require that people harvest their own tree, making it as freshly cut as possible. A visit to the tree farm easily becomes part of a holiday tradition that families look forward to each year.

The Christmas tree as we know it began to appear in Germany in the 1500s. The early German trees were decorated with paper roses, apples, candies, nuts and accented with strips of red paper. Then candles were added to light the tree. With the addition of the candles, fire became a danger to these households.

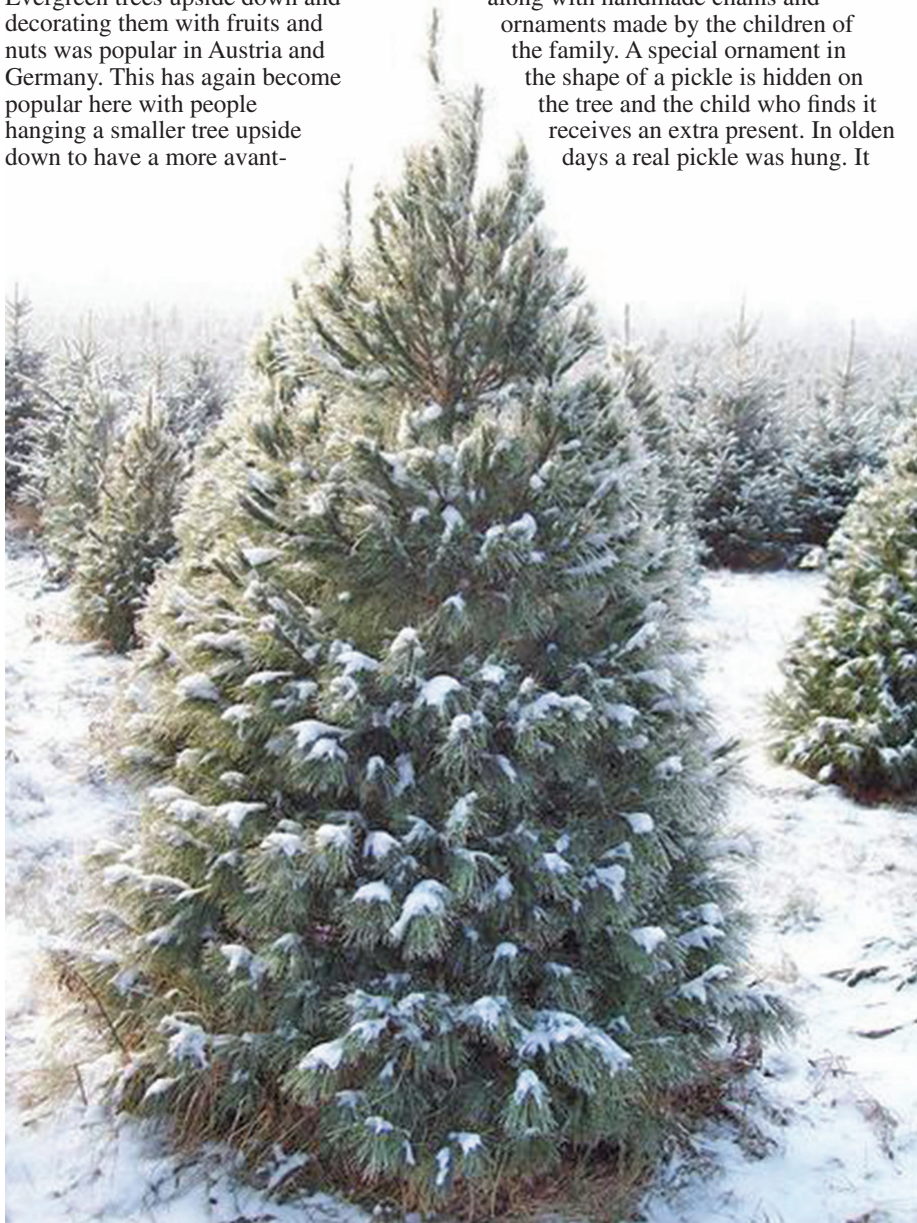
In the 17th and 18th centuries, the practice of hanging the tops of Evergreen trees upside down and decorating them with fruits and nuts was popular in Austria and Germany. This has again become popular here with people hanging a smaller tree upside down to have a more avant-

garde look to their decorating or for the more practical purpose of keeping small children and pets away from the tree.

By the late 1800s, hand-blown glass ornaments were produced in Germany and the area of Alsace-Lorraine (a small area on the border of Germany and France which has been part of each country over the years). Glass beads were strung together and used as garlands on the tree. These exquisite hand-blown ornaments became family treasures and were passed down from one generation to another.

Around the world

Today German Christmas trees are decorated with electric lights often in the style of the candles of old. Glass ornaments are the decoration of choice along with handmade chains and ornaments made by the children of the family. A special ornament in the shape of a pickle is hidden on the tree and the child who finds it receives an extra present. In olden days a real pickle was hung. It



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A whole field of evergreen trees lightly dusted with snow and waiting to become someone's Christmas tree paints an idyllic scene at Countryside Farms.



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would seem to be easier to locate because of the strong pickle aroma.

Like the early German Christmas trees, the people of France decorated the early trees with fruits, nuts, apples but also added dried cakes, pine cone dolls and colored paper shaped into flowers. Were these dried cakes the first of the holiday fruitcakes?

They began to use the glass ornaments after the 1858 drought left apples, cakes, and nuts in short supply. The glass blowers produced ornaments in the shape of the fruits that were not available. Of course candles, then electric light strings brought the tree to life. The tree was topped with a star symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem.

Queen Victoria of England brought decorated trees into the palace and, of course, the fashionable people of England followed the lead of the Monarch. Victorian-decorated trees with blown glass ornaments, jeweled ornaments and crystal or glass garlands and lit by candles gave the palace and the homes a very festive appearance. Victorian style trees are still popular.

From Eastern Europe colorful candles were added to the trees and birds were made from eggs to decorate the tree. The Ukrainians also decorated with eggs but painted intricate, exquisite designs and gave them as gifts to friends and family to decorate their trees.

In the early 1800s, the Scandinavian countries began the practice of decorating Christmas trees. Their trees had a very different look. White lights, first candles and then electric strings of lights, lit up the tree. Swedish or Norwegian flags would be attached to ribbons and hung from the top of the tree to the bottom. Straw ornaments in the shapes of stars, angels, or intricate designs were the most popular. Tole painting on wood often on a

Why buy a real tree?

Here are some facts to consider from the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association

- Christmas trees are grown as a crop for you, just like pumpkins and flowers.
- Christmas tree farming is sustainable: two to three trees are planted for every one that is cut.
- Trees are locally grown, keeping money in the local economy.
- Tree farming provides local jobs each year (planting, digging, re-planting, shearing, mowing, harvesting, delivery, sales, machine maintenance, wreath making, office personnel).
- Tree farms provide green space and habitat for wildlife. These farms are maintained in an early succession forest with young trees and plenty of ground covers. This provides habitat for deer and bear, ground birds such as turkey and quail, rodents, which bring in predators such as hawks, foxes, and bobcats, and flowering plants that help feed butterflies, bees and all manner of insects.
- Real trees are good for us. They utilize carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, and are recyclable through decomposition.
- Celebrating the holiday season with a real Christmas tree is a long-standing tradition. In 1856, Franklin Pierce, our 14th President, brought the first Christmas tree into the White House.

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piece of wood in the shape of a heart could also be found hanging on the tree.

The people of Norway each year since 1947 have given a Norwegian Spruce to the people of London in gratitude for their support in helping to protect Norway during World War II. The tree is usually 50 feet tall and 50-60 years old. It is displayed in Trafalgar Square in London with a very impressive lighting ceremony that is still well attended after all these years.

Closer to home

The early trees in America were usually decorated the same way as the family had decorated in Europe. Through the years our trees have taken on new looks. Today themed trees with ornaments all of one color or one type such as all snowmen, angels or Santas are popular. Victorian trees are always special.

For many, trees are a combination of ornaments from the past and present. We add new ones to the tree but continue to hold onto Grandma's glass ornament from Germany, the ones we purchased while on vacation, the ornaments given to children and those special ornaments made by our children.

Whatever the customs and traditions, Christmas trees are a fragrant reminder of the season.

Here's a listing of Spirit magazine's preferred area tree farms:

Countryside Trees

W7015 N. Walworth Road, Walworth. (262) 275-5105. www.countrysidetreeswi.com.

Cut your own trees or purchase freshly cut trees, freshly made wreaths and garlands available. Open until Dec. 24. Weekday hours Monday through Friday 10 a.m. until dark and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. until dark. Choose from white pines, scotch pines, blue spruce, Frasier fir and Norway pines. Assistance is available through the Upper Midwest Newfoundland Club and the Janesville/Beloit Kennel Club. The dogs will pull the sled to bring your tree to your vehicle. Check the website for days and times of the Kennel Club visits.

Evergreen Acres

N9171 Wilson Rd., East Troy, (262) 495-4502 www.evergreenacresllc.com.

Family owned and operated by Ann and Bob Fecht since 1975, Evergreen offers 33 acres of pine, spruce, and fir trees where you can choose and cut your own trees. Shaking and baling your tree is available as well.

Visit the heated barn where you will find a great selection of flocked trees. Flocked trees are preordered and available in many colors. Handmade wreaths, garlands, swags, arches, crosses, and candy canes from fresh cut greens are available. Enjoy complimentary cocoa and cider.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

If a tree has been freshly cut within the past 12 hours, there is no need to re-cut it before bringing it indoors for display. If a fresh cut is needed, remove a quarter-inch of the trunk before placing the tree in a water-filled stand.

Caring for your cut Christmas tree

by **Ricky Bates**

CONTRIBUTOR

The key to maintaining a live Christmas tree throughout the holiday season is to give it the proper care from the time it is purchased until the tree is removed from your home.

Maintaining a high moisture level in the tree is the single most important factor in reducing needle loss and keeping the tree fresh. This is accomplished primarily through the use of water-holding stands and maintaining the water level in the stand above the base of the tree.

Every year there are many articles written concerning the handling and care of Christmas trees. Unfortunately, they often contain erroneous information.

The following research-based guidelines will help you to maintain the freshness and aroma of your live Christmas tree this holiday season:

1. Use a tree stand with an adequate water-holding capacity. A tree stand should have a water basin that provides one quart of water per inch of stem diameter. For most Christmas trees, the stand should hold at least one gallon of water. A cut tree will absorb a surprising amount of water, particularly during the first week, so replenish the water daily.

2. The tree stand should fit your tree. Some stands have circular rings at the top, so the ring must be large enough for the trunk to go through the hole. Avoid whittling down the sides of the trunk to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in taking up water and should not be removed.

3. If the tree is to be stored more than a couple days before display, it is advisable to place its trunk in water and store it in a cool, shaded and protected area such as an unheated garage.

4. If the tree has been cut within the past 12 hours, it will not be necessary to recut the trunk prior to display indoors. If it has been longer than 12 hours since harvest, the trunk should be recut to improve water uptake.

5. Cutting off a disk of wood about a quarter-inch thick from the base of the trunk is all that is necessary before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also may reduce the amount of water available to the tree.

6. Keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters,

CONTINUED ON PAGE **38**

Open through Christmas Eve from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Cash and checks are accepted. Bring your own saw or use theirs. No chain saws allowed.

T.P. Pines

On Holy Hill Road just west of St. John's Church, Twin Lakes, (262) 877-2797 or (262) 877-2344.

Bob Livingston of T.P. Trees welcomes all to choose one of their freshly cut trees from an array of Fraser firs, balsam or white pine trees. He advises that Fraser firs are the "Cadillac of Christmas Trees" due to fragrance and needle retention. Balsam is also very fragrant and has a flat needle. White Pine is a basic lumber tree, which also works well as a Christmas tree if you have lightweight ornaments. Scotch pines with long needles are also available.

T.P. Pines will help load trees into vehicles or provide delivery within 10 miles. Prices vary depending on type of tree and size. It is open from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

heat vents, direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.

7. The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.

8. Check the stand daily to make sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.

9. Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.

10. The use of IV-type devices to supply water directly to holes drilled into the sides of the tree trunk is not as effective as displaying the tree in a more traditional, water-holding tree stands.

11. Applying anti-transpirants to the tree does not significantly reduce the rate of moisture loss. These products are marketed as a way to block evaporation from the foliage surface, but in reality they have little effect on a cut tree displayed indoors.

12. Adding water-holding gels to the stand is not beneficial and they can reduce the amount of water in the stand that is available to the tree.

13. Do not use additives in the water, including floral preservatives, commercial tree preservatives, molasses, sugar, bleach, soft drinks, aspirin, honey, and other concoctions. Clean water is all that is needed to maintain freshness.

14. Displaying trees in water with proper care is much more effective in reducing fire hazards than spraying trees with flame retardants. Some flame retardants can damage needles and actually increase the rate of moisture loss from trees.

15. Monitor your tree for dryness. Run your fingers across the needles to determine if they are dry and brittle. If the needles break easily or fall off in your hand, the tree is dry and should be removed from the house. A well-cared-for tree should normally remain fresh at least three to four weeks before drying to an unacceptable level.

Ricky M. Bates, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Horticulture at Penn State University. This article is provided by the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association.

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Mary Brensinger, owner of Burlington Footwear, is pictured in front of her store at 444 N. Pine St., Burlington. The store has been a destination for people looking to purchase high-quality footwear since 1923.

Stepping into quality

Burlington Footwear offers top brands in just the right style and fit

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

A peek into closets makes it clear that most people are in love with shoes.

For women, closets are filled with various types of shoes including high-heeled dress shoes, casual shoes, workout shoes and boots – both functional winter boots and boots to complete a high-fashion look.

Men also have an array of shoes and boots for work, dress, workouts, and to keep the snow off their feet in the winter.

In spite of having many shoes, some are seldom worn. Those beautiful extra-high heels that couldn't be passed up have been relegated to the closet because they don't fit correctly and are painful when worn. Those very flat sandals without any arch support may look cute but leave feet, legs and back hurting, so they are also relegated to the back of the closet.

And don't forget the shoes purchased because they were just too great a bargain to pass up, even though they were not the correct size.

So what is the answer to finding shoes that are fashionable and comfortable and don't leave feet aching? That answer begins with a visit to Burlington Footwear, at 444 Pine Street in historic downtown Burlington.

Burlington Footwear has been in business since 1923, first as Verick's Shoes and at its present location since 1954. Thirty years later in 1984, Art Verick sold his family business to Mary Brensinger. A change of name to Burlington Footwear followed, but the store has continued to provide high-quality shoes and top service.

Burlington Footwear is not a mega store but, rather, a friendly, family-owned specialty shoe store that focuses on providing shoes that are well made. Throughout the store are displays of

high-quality and well-known brands such as Dansko, Naot, Dromedaris, Clarks, Saucony, Taos, Jambu, Rieker, and Keen.

These are the shoes that won't be left in the back of the closet.

Proper fit is key

"When choosing footwear, it is important

to purchase shoes that are well cushioned and have arch support," said Mary Brensing, "and they must be properly fitted."

She went on to explain that all the shoes carried at Burlington Footwear are made by reputable companies and assures her customers that she only carries the best

lines of shoes. She added, "If I won't wear them, I won't buy them for customers."

Have you ever gone into a shoe store and found what you are sure is the perfect pair of shoes only to find that they do not have it in your size? That is something that rarely happens at Burlington Footwear. Their large inventory – boxes of shoes from floor to ceiling in the showroom – is just a small portion of the shoes available on site and includes most sizes in all styles. If they don't have your size in store, they will gladly order it for you.

Dansko is a brand that designs beautiful shoes in the European style. Originally, Dansko only manufactured clogs but today they produce a line of shoes that are popular with working women. The variety of Dansko styles on display makes it difficult to choose just one style. The shoes are comfortable and known for their cushioning and arch support.

For those with slightly wider feet, Dansko is a line that fits well. Shoes are available in a variety of colors including black, gray, brown, and even the harder-to-find navy blue.

For work or dressier occasions, many of the shoes have a slightly raised, tailored heel. High enough to give legs a good look, but not so high that they cause balance problems and back pain.

Some of the styles of Dansko shoes have been endorsed by the American Podiatric



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Colorful and warm describes these Taos clogs. While they are an outdoor shoe, many customers purchase them for use as slippers.

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Medical Association, which only grants its Seal of Approval to shoes that promote good foot health. Customers have reported to Brensinger that their back and foot pain is often relieved after switching to Dansko shoes.

With winter's arrival, Dansko offers a line of boots that includes ankle-high fashionable boots that are perfect for going out after work. They may be worn comfortably all day at home or at the office. Dansko also offers tall boots for that sleek, long-legged look this winter.

Brands for all needs

Naot shoes have become another popular brand and are especially favored by those who have narrow feet. The Naot brand comes from Israel where they are handcrafted. The company works to provide a healthful, comfortable and fashionable shoe.

Naot has developed a unique technology that allows them to build a foot bed that adapts to the individual foot shape. This foot bed is better able to absorb shock and helps absorb foot moisture.

Winter boots are a necessity when living in Wisconsin. Blondo is known for providing winter boots for the true outdoorsman or woman. These waterproof boots are designed to keep feet warm and dry. Many of Blondo's styles are lined with wool to provide that layer of warmth needed during the cold days of winter. Many are offered with slip resistant outsoles to help you keep your balance walking on ice and through snow.

"I think these boots are going to be the best seller this year," Brensinger said as she brought out a red, lace-up boot with a flat heel. This boot from Dromedaris is called Kara and also comes in turquoise.

Dromedaris is a Swiss Company that was founded in 2007. It is known for shoes that are built from highly ecologically friendly materials and manufactured in a green environment so as to leave a minimal carbon footprint from the manufacturing process.

The shoes present a unique level of comfort and embrace the latest in European fashions. These comfortable and stylish shoes and boots beg to be tried on and taken home.

Burlington Footwear carries shoes for the whole family. Clarks, Keen, Rockport, and Saucony styles are available for the men in your life. The Keen casual-style outdoor boots are warm and comfortable. Many men are pleased that some of Keen's styles are actually made here in the United States.

Not just for women

Just as women want comfortable shoes to wear in the office, so do men.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Keen outdoor boots are a popular brand of warm, casual footwear. Many of the styles are manufactured in the United States, making them popular with those who try to buy American made products.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The interior of Burlington Footwear is filled with a vast assortment of high-quality shoes and boots. The large inventory assures the availability of most sizes. In rare cases a size isn't available, it will be ordered.

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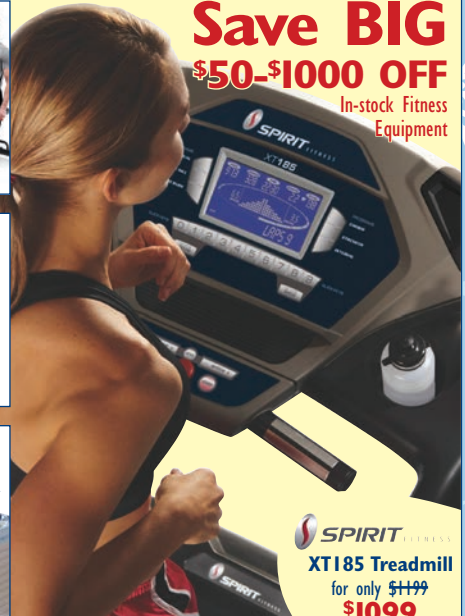
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Clarks and Rockport offer lines of attractive and comfortable dress shoes for that special occasion or to wear every day to work. They will go comfortably from a day at the office to an evening out.

Burlington Footwear specializes in providing proper shoe fitting not only for adults but also for children. The first pair of walking shoes is always a major milestone in a child's development.

When a toddler is ready for his or her first pair of shoes, Burlington Footwear can help choose the correct shoe to see that the fit is proper.

Physicians recommend that toddlers just starting to walk be allowed to walk without shoes. Allowing them to walk barefoot when safely indoors helps to develop their foot muscles and increases their balance. Obviously it is not always safe to be barefoot, especially when outside so purchasing a quality pair of early walking shoes with enough flexibility is important for their feet.

Here are some tips to keep in mind while shopping for those first shoes.

- Be sure to have proper fit. Visit a shoe store that has trained fitters, like Burlington Footwear, to assure that your child's toes have enough wiggle room to flex and relax so they can use their toes for balance.

While having adequate room for toes is important, don't make the mistake of purchasing shoes that are too large. Shoes too large will make walking difficult, as they may be unable to lift their foot high enough to prevent tripping. Shoes too small may be hard to put on their feet and may cause sores and blisters.

- Purchase your child's shoes at a store that will check their feet and the fit of the shoes. Stop in and have their feet checked even if you don't think they are ready for new shoes because a toddler's feet often grow a half size every two to three months.

- Purchase an age-appropriate type of shoe. Shoes should be more flexible when a child is first beginning to walk, firmer as walking skills develop.

- Once your child is walking well, pay attention to stride. Is he or she toeing in or out? Are the ankles rolling? If they are, have the shoes checked for proper fit. If that doesn't solve the problem take them to a physician. If orthopedic correction is needed, it is most successful if completed early.

- Lastly, it is common sense not to take a child shopping for shoes when they are tired or hungry. Just like most of us, they will be less patient and cooperative as you try to get them properly fitted. Bring a book or a toy along.

Stride rite and Jumping Jacks are longtime manufacturers of high-quality shoes for young feet and both brands are carried at Burlington Footwear. Other brands including Saucony, Keen, Jambu, and Merrell provide a variety of styles for children. Older children will also find styles



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Burlington Footwear features a large display of various styles of Dansko shoes and boots. Known for fine quality and great styles, this European company is also known for the arch support in their shoes.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Children's shoes like these come with a proper fitting at Burlington Footwear.



These colorful, lined boots in red or turquoise are set to become one of the most popular styles worn this winter, according to Burlington Footwear owner Mary Brensinger. These Kara boots are made by Dromedaris.

that they like and that fit well.

Burlington Footwear offers the right combination of quality, selection and expert advice for those who are ready to step into well-made shoes.

Burlington Footwear is online at Burlingtonfootwear.com or by telephone at (262) 763-3050. The store is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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H O L I D A Y Happenings!

Here's a look at the holiday events scheduled in communities throughout the Geneva Lakes area.

Dec. 4 – Lake Geneva's Festival of Lights – Visit the Riviera in downtown Lake Geneva for a tree-lighting, cookies and cocoa, and time with Santa. Festival of Lights continues Saturday with Santa

and reindeer on the lawn of Geneva Java, 252 Center St., from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and carolers throughout the downtown. Visitors will experience the small-town joys of the holidays. Info: (262) 729-9872

Dec. 4 – Elkhorn's Tree Lighting with Santa and Mrs. Claus Reception, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Afterwards, all are welcome to the Matheson Memorial Library for the Peoples Bank sponsored Santa and Mrs. Claus Reception. Enjoy free hot chocolate, cookies, music and crafts while the kids wait for their turn to tell Santa

what they want for Christmas. Parents don't forget to bring your cameras to capture this memorable moment. Info: (262) 723-5788

Dec. 4 – Sharon's Victorian Christmas Parade, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Step back in time to the 1800s during Victorian Christmas in downtown Sharon. The event includes a lighted horse drawn carriage parade and townspeople dressed in period costumes enhance the aura of the event. Visitors are also encouraged to dress in period

Elkhorn's 34th annual Christmas Card Town Parade steps off at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, in downtown Elkhorn. The parade features floats, bands, media personalities, novelty acts and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.



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Union Grove's annual Breakfast with Santa will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Union Grove Masonic Lodge. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling (262) 878-4606. For more information, visit www.uniongrovechamber.org.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

costumes. Visitors can take a stroll down Sharon's main street with its 19th century buildings and vintage lights and purchase freshly roasted chestnuts from the local street characters.

Dec. 4 – Burlington's Christmas parade and tree lighting, 6 p.m. – Lighted holiday parade, family fun activities and holiday shopping. Storytelling, cookie decorating, roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate. Tree lighting is at 7 p.m., immediately following parade, in Wehmhoff Square Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to do the lighting and then retreat to the Chalet where they will be meeting children eager to tell them what they want for Christmas. Also, in the park, will be the Door County Sled Dogs, Live Reindeer and music for all to enjoy. The Chalet will be open every weekend until Dec. 20. Hours are: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20; and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18. Info: www.burlingtonchamber.org.

Dec. 4 – "The Polar Express" Christmas Parade, 6:30 p.m., in downtown Lake Geneva. Info: (262) 763-6044.

Dec. 5 – Williams Bay's Festival of Trees lit every weekend until Jan. 4.

Dec. 5 – Geneva Lake Museum's Victorian Christmas Party, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Event

features decorated trees, cookies, games, arts and crafts, music and a Christmas basket raffle. Info: www.genevalakemuseum.org

Dec. 5 and 6 – Old World Wisconsin, Old World Christmas and Old World Holiday Breakfast. Breakfast seatings are at 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Old World Holiday Breakfast tickets are \$22 for adults, \$10 for children 5 to 12 years old and children 4 and younger admitted free of charge. Holiday Combo Ticket: Enjoy Old World Holiday Breakfast plus An Old World Christmas: adults, \$29; children, 5-12, \$14; children 4 and younger free. Reservations required and will be available online; until then call (262) 594-6301.

Dec. 5, 6, 12 – Christmas Tree Walk and Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Heritage Hall, 103 E. Rockwell St., in Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: (262) 728-5298

Dec. 5 – Lollapalooza Art Sale in Lake Geneva, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Geneva Lake Arts Foundation Gallery, 647 Main St., Lake Geneva. Info: (262) 249-7988.

Dec. 5 – Gingerbread House Creations, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Big Foot High School, 401 Devils Lane, Walworth. Cost is \$30 per family. Info: (262) 275-2117.

Dec. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20 – Ride the

Railroad's Christmas Train. Guests will board heated railroad cars, for the 10-mile roundtrip, half hour jaunt from the East Troy Depot, 2002 Church St., to Santa's Workshop, located at The Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago. At the workshop, children can visit with Santa, get a photo taken with the jolly old elf, work on a craft project and eat cookies. Departures are at 9:30 a.m., noon and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$17.50 for children 0-11. Tickets can be purchased at www.easttroyrr.org.

Dec. 5, 12 and 19 – Christmas in Downtown Lake Geneva. A Weekend of Holiday Celebrations - Santa, his Elves, and real Live Reindeer will be at Starbucks Dec. 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Dec. 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kids can sit on Santa's lap with their wish list and see his Reindeer. Bring a camera for free photos or purchase a professional photo. Stores will be offering Christmas shopping deals. Santa will also be strolling the street of Lake Geneva making visits to the downtown stores and restaurants on Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20. Gift-wrapping will be available Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20 from noon to 5 p.m., at 729 Main St. All donations will benefit local charities. Info: (262) 729-9872.

Dec. 5 – Phantom Lake YMCA Camp's annual Breakfast with Santa, 8 a.m. to 11

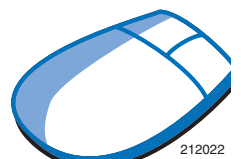


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ERIC KRAMER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in East Troy aboard the East Troy Electric Railroad Santa Train to kick off last year's holiday season. This year's Santa Train departs from Mukwonago and heads to East Troy on Saturday, Dec. 5.

a.m. All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with sausage. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children age 5 to 12. Children age 4 and younger eat for free. Event also features cooking decorating and photos with Santa (bring a camera). Camp is off of Highway J on YMCA Camp Road. Info: www.phantomlakeymca.org.

Dec. 5 – Mrs. Santa's Pantry, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Community Baptist Church, 35512 Washington Ave. (Highway D), Honey Creek. Cookies and candy are \$7 per pound. Enjoy craft booths and lunch at Mrs. Santa's Café, which includes barbecue, hot dogs, Coney dogs, chips, hot apple cider and desserts. Info: (262) 534-3585.

Dec. 5 – Mukwonago's Midnight Magic, sponsored by the Mukwonago Area Chamber of Commerce, runs from 10 a.m. until midnight at sites throughout the community. Event features parade, marketplace/craft fair, photos with Santa, gingerbread house contest, dog sled pull, nativity scene, vintage baseball game, holiday entertainment and fireworks. Info: www.mukwonagochamber.org.

Dec. 5 – East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Train departs from the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago at 5:30 p.m. The annual train ride is sponsored by the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mukwonago

Area Chamber of Commerce and the railroad. Tickets for the train ride, which must be purchased in advance, are available for \$10 each at easttroy.org. Info: (262) 642-3770 or (262) 363-7758.

Dec. 5 – Waterford's Winter Wonderland Parade, 5:30 p.m., downtown Waterford. Immediately following the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand at the Waterford Library for the tree lighting and to visit with children. Info: 262-534-9000.

Dec. 5 – Union Grove Holiday Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts, arts, gifts, potted plants, wreaths, live entertainment and kids activities at Union Grove Elementary School, 1745 Milldrum Ave. Proceeds from the 12th annual event help support local community charities and mission funds. Donations of non-perishable food items, hats and mittens are appreciated. Info: (262) 891-3477.

Dec. 5 – Holiday Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James United Methodist Church, 2945 Main St., East Troy. Sale features baked goods (homemade cookies, bread, etc.), Babe's Boutique (greeting cards, kitchen knives and crafts), handcrafted greeting cards, hand-knit items and miscellaneous Christmas items. Info: (262) 642-7642.

Dec. 5 – Cookie and Gift Walk, 9 a.m. to

noon, at Burlington United Methodist Church, 857 W. State St. Info: (262) 763-2288.

Dec. 5 – 40th annual Great Electric Christmas Parade, 5 p.m., downtown Lake Geneva. Info: www.lakegenewawi.com

Dec. 5 – Waterford Lioness breakfast with Santa; 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Waterford Union High School, 100 Field Dr., enter off Water St. Event features Santa secret workshop, crafts, entertainment, kids' play at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$5 at door. Tickets available at Associated Bank and local Community State banks; bring food item to be eligible to win giant stocking. Info: (414) 530-6296

Dec. 5 – Breakfast with Santa, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Union Grove Masonic Lodge, Union Grove. No tickets sold at door; for info or tickets, call (262) 878-4606 or visit www.uniongrovechamber.org.

Dec. 5 – Tri-County Model Railroad open house, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 1010 Vine St., Union Grove. All welcome but children must be accompanied by adult; members will be on hand to answer questions. Info: www.tricountymodelrailroadclub.com.

Dec. 5 – Elkhorn's 34th annual Christmas Card Town Parade, 1:30 p.m. in downtown Elkhorn.

Dec. 5 – Elkhorn’s Reindeer Run, 8:30 a.m. Start and finish at Sunset Park on a timed flat course. Event will be held regardless of weather conditions. No refunds. Race packets may be picked up starting Friday, Dec. 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Recreation Center at Sunset Park. The ugliest holiday sweaters and holiday spirit will receive a gift basket, as well as best dressed team prizes. Must be present to win. Info: www.ElkhornReindeerRun.com.

Dec. 6 – “A Christmas Carol,” 2 p.m., at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, W2493 Highway ES, East Troy. Michael Fields is teaming up with Walking the Dog Theater of New York to offer a public performance of the Charles Dickens’ classic. Appropriate for children age 10 and older. A \$10 donation per person is suggested. Info: www.michaelfields.org or (262) 642-3303, ext. 124.

Dec. 12 – Home Party and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Bret Miller Gymnasium at East Troy High School, 3128 Graydon Ave. Hosted by the East Troy Family and Community Resource Center. Features more than 70 different direct sale vendors and concessions with both breakfast and lunch items. Bake sale items will also be offered to benefit the Family Resource Center. Info: (262) 642-4900 or eastroyfamily@gmail.com.

Dec. 18 and 19 – “The Nutcracker Ballet,” in the Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. Performances will be at 10 a.m. on Dec. 18 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 19. Tickets are \$7 for the Dec. 18 performance and range from \$15.50 to \$19.50 for the Dec. 19 performance. Info and tickets: (262) 472-2222.

Dec. 19 – Cookie Walk, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Delavan United Methodist Church, 213 S. Second St., Delavan. Info: (262) 728-3644, www.delavanumcwi.org.



240° West earns Diners’ Choice awards

For the second time this year, the online restaurant reservation service OpenTable.com has announced 240° West as a recipient of its Diners’ Choice awards as a “Best of Lake Geneva” restaurant.

According to OpenTable.com, “Diners’ Choice lists are the best local restaurants as determined by thousands of local diners,” and “The large volume of responses we receive ensures our ratings and lists are not skewed extremes.”

Diners voted 240° West as being “Loved For” the following categories: Food; Service; Ambience; Special Occasions; Romantic, and; Overall.

240° West, is at 269 Fontana Boulevard, Fontana, inside The Abbey Resort. It is open seven days a week for breakfast beginning at 7 a.m. and for dinner beginning at 5 p.m.

Gallery to host holiday art sale

The Geneva Lake Arts Foundation will host a Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its gallery, 647 Main St., in the North Shore Pavilion in downtown Lake Geneva.

More than 100 area members have been invited to display and sell their artwork, prints, cards and ornaments for this one-day sale. It offers an opportunity to find unique gifts for special people.

This event will coincide with the “Christmas in Downtown Lake Geneva” event, and the “Victorian Christmas Party.”



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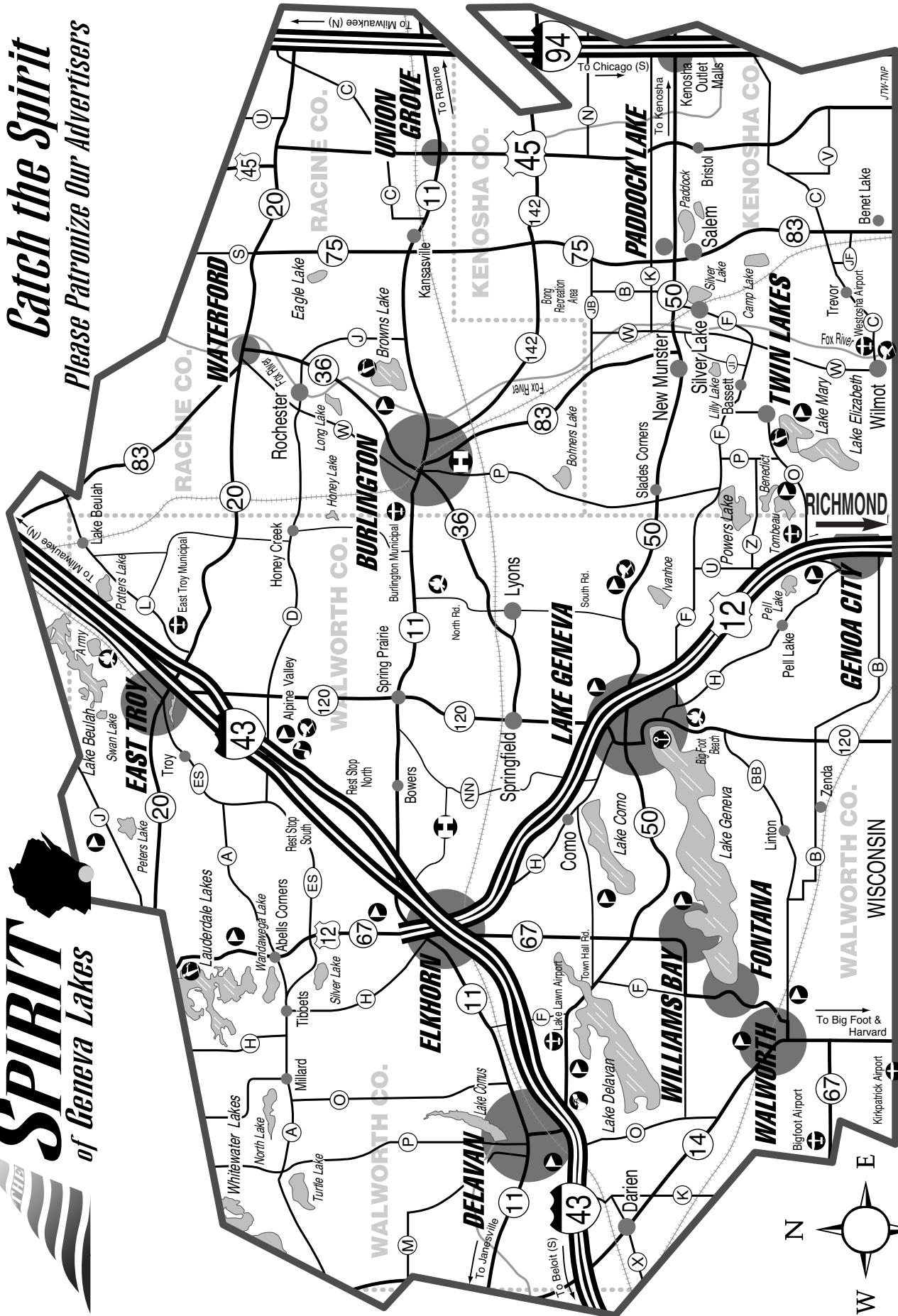
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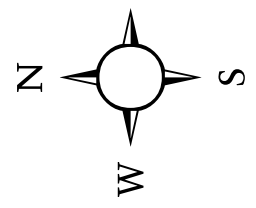
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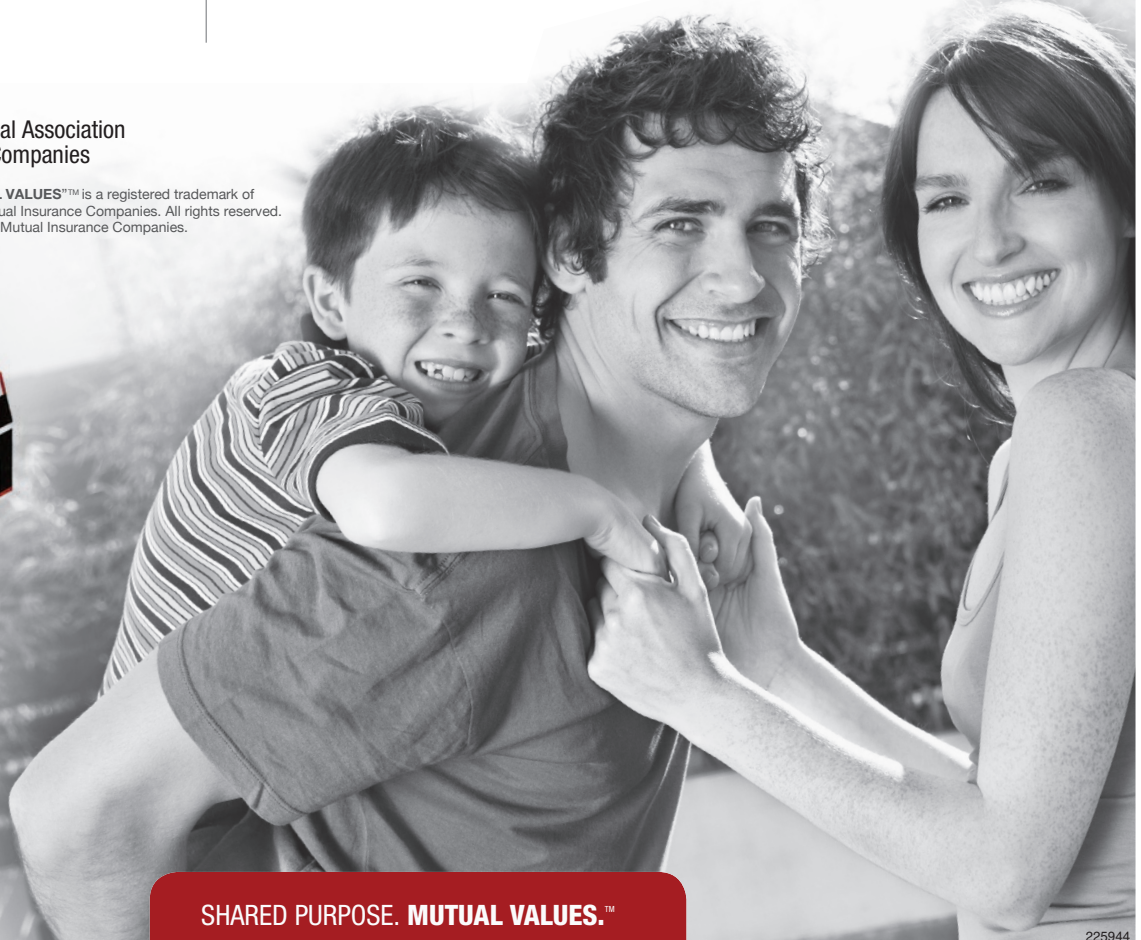
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Holiday Tea Lobby Lounge

Tea served from 11 am to 2 pm daily, Nov. 28

through Dec. 27 (tea will not be available on Christmas Day).

\$14.95 | Reservations required; please call (262) 249 - 4788.

Breakfast With Santa

Join us every Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 28 - Dec. 20, from 8 am - 12 pm for breakfast with Santa as well as holiday activities and live music. Reservations recommended; please call (262) 249 - 4788.

Adults \$25 | Kids (6-12) \$15 | Kids (2-5) \$8

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Area residents display their masterpieces throughout the holidays. Vote for your favorite at GrandGenevaGingerbread.com.

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Saturdays | Nov. 28 – Dec. 19 | Santa: 2 – 4 pm | Music: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

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Drop off your letters to Santa in our magical mailbox located in the main lobby and Santa will send a message back for the kids. Then, join us daily at 4 pm as Santa's helpers collect the mail to deliver to the North Pole.

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